



CHARTER

# Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



PUBLISHED BY:

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the  
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

Volume XXX

May 1977

Number 5

## May Meeting

The May meeting of the M.A.A.G.C.S. is our annual Superintendent-Pro tournament. The tournament will be held at the Hog Neck Golf Course in Easton, Maryland with superintendent Ben Stagg as our host.

Ben has been superintendent at Hog Neck since August of 1974. Prior to coming to Hog Neck, Ben was superintendent at the Nassainango Country Club in Snow Hill, Maryland. Ben worked for George Gum at the Ocean City Country Club for a while in 1969. Before that, Ben was a dairy farmer. Ben has been at the Hog Neck course all through its construction and opening in July 1976.

The Hog Neck Golf Course was built on the site of the Hog Neck farm which was owned by Mrs. Alton Jones. Mrs. Jones financed the construction of the golf course and upon completion turned the course over to the Talbot County Park Board.

The Golf Course was designed by Lindsay Ervin and is his first attempt on his own. He is employed by Greenhorne and O'Mara of Greenbelt, Maryland. The Golf Course has already gained the reputation as being

one of the best in the Mid-Atlantic section.

Bring your Pro out to a beautiful Golf Course and spend an enjoyable day.

### PROGRAM FOR THE DAY:

- GOLF - You will be appointed tee times
- LUNCH - Cold Cuts Sandwich Bar and Beer
- DINNER - Tidewater Inn  
Roast Top Sirloin, Hors d'ouerves and  
Raw Bar

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members:

In our April newsletter, Ben Stagg wrote an article telling how "Teamwork" between his Golf professional, John Medved, and himself had paid dividends to each of them. More importantly, he also stated because John and himself were able to work so well together, that their superiors had confidence in both of them and professional duties with a minimum of interference.

Our May 10th Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents meeting, to be hosted by Ben Stagg at Hog Neck Golf and Recreation Area in Easton, Maryland, is highlighted by our annual M.A.A. of G.C.S. sponsored Superintendent-Pro tournament. Thank your golf Pro for his efforts in making your job as superintendent a little easier. Entertain him to a well-planned day of rest, recreation and education at what many consider to be one of the finest golf courses in our Mid-Atlantic area.

The team that works together should play and win together, at least once a year.

Yours for finer turf and better golf through "Teamwork".

Bill Emerson



Pictured are Ben and Hilda Stagg, rear, with children Bill 18, Judy 15, Charlotte 16, and Tim 11.

# The Golfing Superintendent

by RONALD E. HALL, CGCS

In these modern times, a golf course superintendent has to take every opportunity to stay on top of his profession, use all the resources available to him to satisfy the golfers' demands.

Our local and national associations have done an outstanding job of keeping us informed on just about every aspect of our profession. However, there is one very important tool that our association and educators need to put more emphasis on; the importance of a golf course superintendent playing golf and taking the game seriously, so he understands his profession and responsibility completely. I emphasize, take the game seriously, because the only way a superintendent can understand a golfer's feelings and demands is to be one. "If you can't beat them, join them."

My definition of a serious golfer is, whether a 0 or 40 handicapper, he is constantly trying to improve his or her game, plays every opportunity he has and participates in tournaments for the competition or enjoyment.

Some superintendents claim they are avid or serious golfers, but they don't play more than a few times a year. To get the true picture, he should be playing his course at least once a week.

A superintendent playing his own course is like your chef sampling his most popular dish before serving it; or

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# WAYNE'S PLACE



Bill Emerson has been corresponding with State Senator Smelzer on the addition of a new turf position in extension at the University of Maryland. He has received a letter from the Senator stating that the Senator's committee on Education and Human Resources has approved the new turf position. This addition will now go to the Governor for his budget and then for final approval.



Doctor Doug Hawes from the University of Maryland has asked for some feedback from us superintendents on bermuda and its winterkill at our respective golf courses. He would like to know what areas experienced the most kill following the most *brutal* winter in years. Your fertilization, watering and mowing programs on these areas will be of help. Any information will be appreciated and should be forwarded directly to him at the University of Maryland, c/o The Agronomy Department or call him at (301) 454-3716. Doctor Hawes intends to do a complete study on this year's losses, including the loss of his own Tufote lawn.



Not long ago, Superintendent Ken Braun from Bonnieview Country Club was interviewed on T.V. by

sportscaster Vince Bagli on what detrimental affects, if any, this past winter had on the local golf courses. It was a pleasure to see these questions brought to light on T.V., and to see the local media asking one of the superintendents, who really *knows* the answers, to talk about this subject. Ken came across very well, and really showed his professionalism. When Ken was asked if his T.V. exposure had changed him any, he replied that he hadn't changed at all. You'll recognize Ken the next time you see him, he's the one with the green ascot and sunglasses.



This winter undoubtedly was tough on Bermuda. This is a shame for many reasons. One of which is the fact that when Bermuda is growing it doesn't really need much water and, apparently anyone with an irrigation system has just that, not much water. Irrigation repairs this year have been ridiculous. Even those of us who drain and blow out our systems have had problems. Some irrigation experts have told us that the early winter rains and melting snow in late winter may have pushed water back down through irrigation nozzles and risers where they couldn't drain through valves, and there the water froze again, thus causing problems. Some fellows have reported that lengths of pipe, 40 and 60 feet long, were totally crushed from ice. This has brought about a dubious competition among supers as to who has the most breaks. So far, Alex Watson with eighty-two, seems to be leading. Ben Stagg is close behind with seventy-five, and yours truly has about sixty. We thought Sam Kessel would be a contender, but when we asked him about his breaks, all he did was close his eyes, bow his head, and mutter incoherently something like, "broken pipes, broken pipes, broken pipes."



Mike MacKenzie, our membership chairman, tells us that our new membership directory is in its final stages before going to print. If any members have any address changes they have not reported, please let Mike know before printing.



Congratulations to Craig Stottswood and Jack Montecaluo. Craig recently accepted a position at the U.S. Soldiers Home with Paul Barefoot. Craig will be in

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# Coping with a Water Shortage

by DR. JAMES R. WATSON  
Vice President - Agronomist  
The Toro Company

Maintenance practices on golf courses and other large turf areas may need to be altered during periods of water shortages and, in some circumstances, drastic changes may be necessary. If the facility depends for irrigation on municipal water and that supply is terminated or restricted, or if water available from other sources is severely limited, steps should be taken to:

- Reduce the need for moisture.
- Make certain all available moisture, including dew and rainfall, is utilized with maximum benefit and with maximum efficiency.
- Improve moisture retention of the soil.
- Find new sources of water, such as treated sewage effluent, brackish or other marginal quality water.

Here is an eight-point program that will help to conserve water and reduce the need for irrigation, while the search is made for alternate sources.

**1. Establish watering priorities.** Give the highest priority to the most intensively managed areas; for example, on a golf course, the greens, the most valuable part of the course, and where the most critical play takes place. The greens also are the most difficult to revive following periods of extreme moisture stress, especially if the stress causes dormancy or turf loss. On a golf course, give lesser importance, in descending order, to tees, fairways, clubhouse grounds, rough. If there are specimen plantings or trees or plants that have special significance, (e.g. those imported at high cost or a gift) give them the same special attention as the greens.

**2. Alter irrigation practices.** (This is much easier to do if the course has an automatic irrigation system.) Use only enough water to sustain life, not to stimulate growth. Irrigate when there is the best combination of little wind, low temperature and high humidity. In any 24-hour period, that combination most often exists just before dawn.

When there is dew on the ground, use a surfactant ("wetting agent"), or drag a hose across the grass to break the surface tension of the dew and send as much

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## EMPLOYMENT REFERRAL SERVICE

Golf Course Superintendents  
Association of America  
April 4, 1977

**TEMPLE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, Nashville, Tennessee**

**Title of Position:**

Golf Course Superintendent

**Duties:**

Golf course maintenance, golf course budget, purchasing responsibility, clubhouse lawns and trees & shrubbery. The superintendent will be directly responsible to E. E. Johnson, President/Golf Director.

**Annual Basic Salary Bracket:**

\$20,000

**Fringe Benefits:**

Club paid health, paid annual vacation, dues paid for membership in GCSAA, vehicle provided, and expense involved in attending education conferences.

**Course Description:**

Private membership, 27 hole, Penncross Bentgreens, 419 Bermuda tees and fairways, and automatic irrigation system.

**Grounds Crew:**

7 Regular, 5 part-time

**Requirements:**

High school education or more. Agronomy background. Must have experience as Superintendent and mechanical background. Must be strong working man.

Will pay travel expenses of applicants interviewed.

**Send Resumes To:**

E. E. Johnson, P.O. Box 50027, Nashville, TN 37205

**Deadline Date For Applications:**

May 1, 1977.

NOTE: Please refer to the GCSAA Code of Ethics before making application for this position.

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## Dates to Remember

**JUNE 7**  
Sparrows Point Country Club

**JULY 12**  
Hunt Valley Golf Club

**AUGUST**  
Ladies' Night

**SEPTEMBER 20**  
Suburban Country Club

**OCTOBER 11**  
Woodmont Country Club  
Superintendent's Tournament

**NOVEMBER 11**  
Maryland Country Club

**DECEMBER 13**  
U.S. Naval Academy  
Election Meeting

## June Meeting Change

The June meeting at the Sparrows Point Country Club will be held June 7, 1977 instead of the 14th. This is due to a scheduling difficulty.



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## Water Shortage

(continued from page 4)

moisture as possible to the root systems. When watering trees and shrubs, use probes so the water will penetrate deeply.

3. **Reduce, or avoid where possible, other causes of stress.** Be alert to salt build-up, especially in arid or semi-arid regions. Make certain there is adequate drainage. On golf courses, alter locations of tees and flags, and restrict golf cart use to paths and trails, keeping them off turf areas.

4. **Alter mowing and cultivation practices.** Initially, test the soil to ensure adequate fertility, especially for phosphorus, which encourages root system growth--deeper roots, thus expanding the area from which the turfgrasses can draw nutrients and moisture. Use calcium if there is a deficiency, to bring pH to a range of 6.5 - 7.2. Maintain a constant and uniform supply of nitrogen at a low to medium level to avoid unnecessary leaf growth. Consider slow-release materials; otherwise apply soluble materials at low rates frequently, rather than at higher rates infrequently. The latter will stimulate excessive leaf growth.

Raise the height of cut for all areas. Although this enlarges the surface area through which moisture is transpired, and under normal moisture conditions may result in stepped-up activity for disease-producing organisms, the benefits gained--mainly root extension--are most important. Raising the height of cut on a golf course green as little as 1/32 of an inch can have a significant effect on the ability of the green to tolerate stress from lack of moisture.

Mow less frequently. The combination of reduced irrigation and fertilization, higher height of cut and less frequent mowing can induce "hardening" of the turfgrasses.

Increase frequency of spiking or cultivate--if temperatures are not extreme--to trap moisture and hold it longer in the vicinity of the root system.

5. **Expand use of mulch.** Apply heavy layers of mulch--any organic debris that's available--around the base of trees, shrubs and flower beds, to hold in moisture.

6. **Erect wind barriers, especially where there are large expanses of open spaces.**

Less than 3 percent of the water absorbed by a turfgrass plant is utilized by the plant. Most of it--the other 97 percent is lost into the atmosphere by transpiration. And the rate of transpiration will rise with an increase in wind speed, radiation or temperature and by reduction in humidity. (Some of the same practices used to trap snow in the northern regions can be applied to reduce wind velocity.)

7. **Aggressively seek additional sources of water.** Among the several possibilities are wells and ponds, collections of marginal water and--the most abundant and most often wasted supply--treated sewage effluent. There are many golf courses throughout the country successfully using recycled wastewater for irrigation.

8. **Experiment with anti-transpirants.** Although techniques for inhibiting transpiration have had mixed results, some reduction in moisture loss through transpiration might be accomplished with the use of chemicals, emulsions or films.

Water, as it does for all living things, performs many vital functions necessary to the life of turfgrass. It is the transport medium that carries nutrients to the plant. It plays an essential role in the photosynthetic process, metabolic process, in hydrolysis and in thatch decomposition. Seeds cannot germinate without it.

Denied water indefinitely turfgrass, trees--all vegetation--ultimately will die. But under sound management practices geared to water conservation, the life of plants on a golf course and other large turf areas can be

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# Mid-Atlantic Superintendent Pro Tournament

Tuesday, May 10, 1977

Hogs Neck Golf Course  
Easton, Maryland

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## Wayne's Place

(continued from page 3)

charge of all indoor and outdoor pesticide applications. He will also have responsibilities extending to the Golf Course and Greenhouses.

Jack Montecaluo is new to our area. He is the new Superintendent at the Woodholme Country Club in Baltimore. Jack comes to us from New Jersey and is currently applying for membership in our organization.

WAYNE EVANS

## Water Shortage

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extended, perhaps even sustained, until it rains, the water shortage subsides or water is delivered from alternate sources.

If turf must be replaced and it appears likely water will be in short supply indefinitely, replace with more drought-resistant turfgrasses. James Beard, in his book *Turfgrass Science and Culture*, gives the relative drought resistance of 22 turfgrasses. He rates Buffalograss, Bermudagrass, Zoysiagrass and Bahiagrass as "excellent" and crested wheatgrass, hard fescue, sheep fescue, tall fescue and red fescue as "good." Less drought resistant--in the poor-to-medium range--are the bluegrasses, ryegrasses and bentgrasses.

## May Meeting

(continued from page 1)

PRICES - Team: \$44.00  
Single: \$22.00  
Dinner: \$12.00

Cards must be returned or call Ben Stagg at (301) 822-7467 to reserve tee times.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB:** Take Rt. 50 East across the Bay Bridge. Continue to Easton, Maryland. Turn left on Hog Neck Golf Course Road and follow the signs.

## Golf Superintendent

(continued from page 2)

your own mechanic trying out a piece of equipment to see if it is functioning properly. A superintendent should do the same thing, maybe not as often as the chef or mechanic samples their product, but more than most of us do.

There are quite a few superintendents, young and old, who don't play golf and have been very successful in keeping an excellent golf course, and his membership satisfied with his management practices. I have all the respect in the world for these individuals and would like to congratulate them for their success. I feel these individuals were born gifted to be a good golf course superintendent, or as the old saying goes, "Every blind squirrel finds an acorn once in a while."

By playing golf, I feel it makes my job easier. I understand the golfers' demands and feelings much better, and it makes me more conscious of my management practices and decision-making.

Your golfing membership will have more confidence and respect of your decisions knowing you are an avid golfer.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Applications and Changes

JACK MONTECALUO - Applying for Class A Superintendent  
Woodholme Country Club  
300 Woodholme Drive  
Pikesville, Maryland

### Changes

EARL MASON - Gibson Island Golf Course D to B  
JOHN DEW - Winter's Run Golf Course B to A

These changes are being published here in accordance with our by-laws. Unless written application is received within 30 days after publication, these men will become active members with their requested classifications.

## Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

WAYNE EVANS  
1804 Ironton Drive  
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20021  
301-567-9386

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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