



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

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Number 12

## December Meeting

On December 12th the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be holding its annual Election Meeting at the United States Naval Academy Golf Course in Annapolis, Maryland.

Your host will be Mike McKenzie. Mike has been Golf Course Superintendent at the Naval Academy since March of 1973.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow Members:

This being my final President's Message to you I would like to say "thanks" for entrusting the leadership of our Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents these past two years to me. I learned and for the most part enjoyed being

Association President. The close involvement with some really super people, for the good of the group, was challenging and rewarding. Again thank you.

Our final 1978 meeting will be held at the United States Naval Academy Golf Course in Annapolis, Maryland on Tuesday, December 12th. Mike McKenzie is our host and he along with Larry Ringer, Navy's golf pro, always treat the Mid-Atlantic better than family. The highlight of our December meeting is our annual election of officers—so bring your pencils and tomahawks and enjoy what should be an exciting meeting.

Yours for finer turf for better golf.

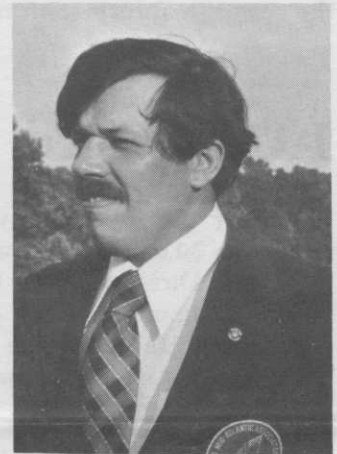
Bill Emerson

The U.S.N.A. Golf Course is located just outside the City limits of Historic Annapolis, close to the Western shores of the Chesapeake Bay and the Northern shores of the Severn River, in an area known as North Severn.

In 1940 the Naval Academy took over the abandoned nine hole course known as Greenbury Point Golf Course in North Severn. During 1942-43 a second nine was added to bring the course to eighteen holes. In 1955 two holes, 12 and 13, were relocated, and a driving range and practice putting green were completed in 1956.

The Course is operated by the U.S.N.A. Golf Association which is made up of Military and Civilian personnel and headed by the U.S.N.A. Director of Athletics, J. O. Coppedge, Capt. USN (Ret.).

Golf can be played anytime. Social hour will start at 5:00 P.M. and Dinner will begin at 6:00 P.M.



MIKE MacKENZIE

#### DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB:

From Washington go East on Route 50, cross the Severn River Bridge, and take exit Baltimore - Naval Academy, keep right (Route 450). From Baltimore take Route 2 toward Annapolis, follow signs to Naval Academy (Route 450). From Eastern Shore take Route 50 to 450. Follow 450 to light, turn left. At the first stop sign bear to the right - straight through the next stop sign to the golf course. NOTE: Radar Trap through the golf course Speed Limit 30 mph.

#### DIRECTIONS TO DINNER AND MEETING:

From Route 450 cross Old Severn River Bridge and turn left at first light (Gate 8). Go to the bottom of hill - first building on the right; Hubbard Hall (up stairs, N. Room).

# Government News

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has revised its' rules permitting a worker access to the employers' log of job-related injuries and illnesses. Under the law all employers with eleven or more employees are mandated to keep such records.

The Mandatory Retirement Age has been raised to 70 for most workers. The new law applies to all private employers with 20 or more workers. Federal employees have been exempted from mandatory retirement at any age.

According to Dr. Elizabeth M. Whelan, Executive Director of The New American Council on Science and Health, they, the council, will fight Cancerphobia and Chemical-phobia. She said the council would "provide the scientific information needed by the new breed of

(continued on page 6)

# 1979 Board Elections

As per our By-Laws, we are bringing a slate of nominees 30 days in advance of our annual elections for Board of Directors. The following people have been placed in nomination by our nominating committee. The committee is made up of Chairman George Thompson, Angie Cammarota, and David Fairbank. The nominees are:

President ..... Sam Kessel  
 Vice President ..... Ron Hall  
 Secretary ..... Wayne Evans  
 Treasurer ..... Mike MacKenzie  
 Directors (2 for 3-year terms) ... Gerry Gerard  
 Tony Goodley  
 Mike Larson  
 Steve Nash  
 B. Edwin Wilson

These nominees will be placed before the membership at the December meeting at the Naval Academy December 12th. Other nominees will be accepted from the floor for any of these offices.

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# "The Golf Superintendent" Magazine Will Present 'New Look' in January

With the first issue of 1979, *The Golf Superintendent*, official publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, will unveil a new format. The new design will improve its attractiveness, readability and usefulness to superintendents and course officials.

Highlighting the modifications is the development of an "Association News" department, devoted exclusively to news about GCSAA, superintendent organizations and individuals. The president's message will conclude this section and be located just opposite the highly visible inside back cover.

Initiated by GCSAA's Organizational Study Committee (OSC) more than 18 months ago, the "new look" will reorganize many of the publication's existing departments, placing similar items in closer proximity to each other. The technical feature articles will continue to hold their primary position in the journal and will be followed by segments devoted to industry-wide news—including upcoming tournaments; and personal/personnel assistance—including new products, employment assistance, student directory, classified advertising and the advertisers index. The next segment will be devoted to educational matters and contain the research and literature review columns, upcoming conferences and be concluded by the popular, "Questions from the Floor." This will lead directly into the "Association News" department.

Following study by the OSC, Editorial and Executive Committees as well as staff members and outside consultants, it was determined that alterations were in keeping with the association's desire to provide a highly useful publication to as many golf course superintendents as possible. In addition to providing a more modern format to readers who are already familiar with the 50-year-old publication, the modifications are intended to make the journal more attractive to new readers, while it continues to fill a major role for the advertising community.

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## Turf Management

Charles H. Darrah, Extension Turf Specialist

### The Furor Over Dioxin

In early August, ABC-TV's "20/20 New Magazine" aired an account of "the domestic harms that may now be traced to what was the deadly component in Agent Orange, dioxin." Agent Orange, a mixture of the herbicides 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, was used in the Vietnam war as a defoliant. Although the program dealt with the present agricultural uses of 2,4,5-T, the component containing dioxin, in one of the telecast leads a Chem Lawn truck was shown. The implication of its use in the lawn care industry has led to a considerable backlash in the turf industry. Numerous lawn care operators have reported lost accounts or complaints which were resolved when the facts were presented. Several inquiries have been received from golf course superintendents, golfers, homeowners, sod growers and neighbors of sod growers as well as grounds managers.

The herbicide 2,4,5-T is in the class of herbicides known as the phenoxy compounds. Several of the phenoxy herbicides have been or are used in turf for broadleaf weed control (Fig. 1).

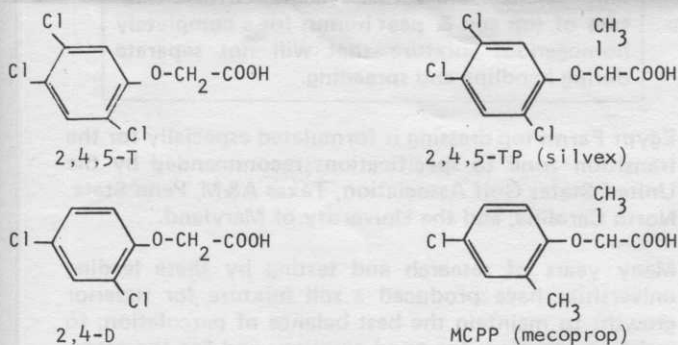


Figure 1. Chemical structure of four phenoxy herbicides.

2,4,5-T was used in turf up until the early 1970's when it was banned for homelawn use. Partly because of its dioxin content and partly because other herbicides were as effective for broadleaf weed control in turf and were also less phytotoxic. Several relatives of 2,4,5-T however are still widely used in turf. The closest relative of 2,4,5-T is 2,4,5-TP or silvex. Because of similarities in the manufacturing process between 2,4,5-T and 2,4,5-TP, dioxin would be expected to be found in 2,4,5-TP. Recent analytical procedures have detected dioxin in silvex in the range of .020-.070 ppm (parts per million). The EPA allows no more than 0.1 ppm dioxin content of the active ingredient in 2,4,5-T and 2,4,5-TP. Thus far no dioxin has been detected in 2,4-D or MCPP. These

two phenoxy herbicides are manufactured using different starting products and the occurrence of the highly toxic dioxin, TCDD, is unlikely.

There are many types of dioxin compounds. It is the highly toxic dioxin, TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin) that has caused the greatest concern. Dioxin (TCDD) is a highly toxic manmade substance with a toxicity of 10,000 times greater than that of sodium cyanide (but only 0.0001 times greater than that of tetanus toxin and 0.00003 times as great as that of botulinum toxin, both natural bacterial toxins) (2).

According to the recently published CAST (Council for Agriculture Science and Technology) report the ABC television program consistently confused the toxicity of the compound with the dose. Annual applications of dioxin in Agent Orange in Vietnam were 3,000 to 30,000 times greater per acre than in current applications of 2,4,5-T in the United States (3). Day, Akesson, Bode et al. (3) also point out that to obtain a toxic dose of dioxin, from 200 to 2,000 toxic doses of the moderately toxic 2,4,5-T would have to be injected (depending on the test species).

Spraying a turf area with 2,4,5-TP (silvex) containing the maximum allowable dioxin content at the rate of 1 pound per acre would result in only 4.5 micrograms of dioxin per acre. The CAST commentary cites an incident in which fallout from an accidental release of chemicals from an Italian factory contaminated an area with amounts of dioxin in excess of 52,000 micrograms per acre (1). The medical records from 623 pregnant women in the contaminated area showed that the number of spontaneous abortions and the number of children born with birth defects were below normal. In this instance exposures were more than 10,000 times greater than those that could be expected to occur with the prudent use of 2,4,5-TP on turf.

Nevertheless, there is always the argument that introducing any amount of a toxic substance into the environment is not good. Fortunately, there are other weed control alternatives that could replace the use of 2,4,5-TP without seriously affecting the degree of weed control obtained. MCPP is active on most of the same winter annual weeds as 2,4,5-TP, but in some cases to a lesser degree. In many of the more resistant winter annual however, combining MCPP with 2,4-D and/or dicamba will provide excellent weed control.

1. Behrens, R., D. E. Davis, R. W. Fogleman and M. Newton. "Commentary on Dioxin." Council for Agric. Sci. & Technol., Aug. 25, 1978.
2. Davis, D. E., R. Behrens, L. K. Binning, et. al. "Commentary on Agent Orange." Council for Agric. Sci. & Technol., Aug. 25, 1978.
3. Day, B. E., N. B. Akesson, L. E. Bode, et. al. 1978. "The phenoxy herbicides." Second Edition. Council for Agric. Sci. & Technol., Rpt. 77.

## Government News

(continued from page 2)

consumer advocate . . . who wants decisions based on the classic scientific method, following the standard guideline which compares benefit and risk." The group will issue position papers, examine pesticide issues and deal with OSHA's proposed rules on Carcinogens in the workplace. She commented that Chemical & Cancer-phobia have damaged the country already and that unless arrested, it would cause even more damage.



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## Dates to Remember

DECEMBER 12th  
Annapolis Naval Academy  
Election Meeting

JANUARY 7th-11th  
Turfgrass '79  
Baltimore Hilton

JANUARY 23rd-24th  
Virginia Turfgrass Conference  
Williamsburg, Virginia

FEBRUARY 4th-9th  
GCSAA 50th International Turfgrass Conference and Show.

## A Course in Golf History

by Dave Kohl

Although such modern-day terms as "fore," "handicap" and "sand trap" are widely used, few golfers can tell you where the words originated.

Dave Thomas of San Bernardino not only has one of the world's greatest private golf collections but is also one of the foremost golf historians. Thomas, who is also a PGA pro, explained the origin of the above terms during a golf match recently.

"The terms 'fore,' 'handicap' and 'sand trap' actually originated at St. Andrews in Scotland," explained Thomas.

"In the 1770s, all golfers were required to wear red and before each shot had to yell, 'thou are forewarned.' Over the years, the expression was shortened to 'fore.'

"Surprisingly enough, sand traps, a nightmare for even today's finest golfers, came about because of sheep. In the early days and even today, sheep were allowed to graze over the St. Andrews course. The herdsmen, however, discovered that a number of their flock were dying off because of the strong, cold north wind that swept across the course. To protect the sheep, the shepherders dug giant ditches to shelter the animals from the wind.

"Most of today's golfers have handicaps when they play but few could tell you where the word originated. It seems that in the early days at the private golf clubs when a less skilled golfer played another he had to wear a cap with a colored ribbon around to signify that he had been given so many strokes by his playing partner. Different color ribbons meant different strokes. The caps were kept at the clubhouse and placed in a long row so that they would be handy for the golfers. They became known as 'handy caps.'

"Some strange orders have also been handed down over the period of centuries to golfers to stop playing the game and practice archery. It seems their skill as archers was more in demand than their skill as golfers. They were needed to defend the country."

**Credit - Divots, Calif. 1977**



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## Practical Hints

Are special measures necessary to remove residue from clothing worn while spraying or mixing pesticides, or will regular washing take care of the problem? According to a recent study conducted at Iowa State University, the normal procedures used for laundering heavily soiled clothing are sufficient to take care of 99.8% of pesticide residues.

Since pesticides can easily enter the body through the skin, it is important to give careful attention to clothing contaminated with pesticides, especially any that may have been heavily contaminated through drift or spills. It is also important to protect other family members from coming into contact with any pesticide residues on the soiled clothing.

Any clothing which may contain pesticide residues should be washed daily and separately from other family laundry. This clothing should not be kept with other soiled family clothes before washing. It should either be placed directly into the washer after removing or into a plastic and secure bag if laundering cannot be done immediately.

A full or normal level of hot (140 degree) water and the recommended amount of heavy-duty, phosphate-based detergent should be used. Clothes must be dried before wearing. As a possible extra precaution to remove residues from the washer a complete washing cycle may be run afterwards using detergent and water, but with no laundry in machine.

In the study the test fabrics used were a heavy weight denim of 100% cotton and a polyester cotton blend chambray, the herbicide atrazine and the insecticide thimet were the pesticides. The pre-washed fabric was contaminated with pesticide and then washed and dried, using normal household procedures. Fabrics and water samples were tested for residues.

## Ramblin' with Hertwig

Bill Nuessle who left Lake San Marcos C.C. to build a new course at Wilsonville, Oregon has returned to take over his old position at Lake San Marcos, replacing Ron LeTourneau who resigned to accept a position with the Parks dept. of the City of San Marcos. Welcome home Bill.

For a change of pace the Central California Chapter of G.C.S.A. formed a group and chartered a bus to attend our Southern California Turf and Equipment Show at Orange County Fairgrounds.

Vacation time; Leo Renteria and family home again after a delightful trip to Spain.

Nick Del Selva also back on deck after a touring trip to Northern California.

Steve Carlton of Los Coyotes C.C. reports that they will install a new irrigation system.

## Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

WAYNE EVANS  
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