



CHARTER

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McKenzie's —

Believe it or Not

by Mike McKenzie

Not many golf courses anywhere have an antenna field throughout their course. The United States Naval Academy Golf Course is such a place; containing numerous poles, antennas, and towers, ranging from 20 feet to 800 feet. Most of this towering spaghetti web is now past history. Today only one remains; the giant 800 foot tower behind our #8 green. All of the other antennas have been removed and I must say the course looks quite different.

By now your probably asking yourself how an 800 foot tower behind a green can cause problems: let me explain. In May and June of this year the tower and it's support lines were painted. The paint was applied by brush and gloves; a primer yellow, five sections of red and four of white. We had

several greens and tees with a lot of paint on them, but nothing too serious. Number eight green had to have some spots cut out with a cup cutter.

A bigger headache was that the painters worked Saturday and Sunday during the Club's Championship Medal Play. The painters wanted us to close the golf course that weekend! Of course the decision was to play, regardless of the conditions. Besides an eventual Club Champion, many members won paint splattered sweaters and jackets.

A few weeks later on May 11, an antenna worker was trapped for three hours by his safety lines, and had to be rescued by the Maryland State Polices' Sikorsky Helicopter. It was a breathtaking rescue which lasted about fifteen minutes. The helicopter lowered a cable to the worker and after he was safely hooked up, he swung out over our #18 tee and pulled into the helicopter. To compound this, there was the added congestion of two assistant helicopters resting on our #9 fairway, along with rescue vehicles from the fire department, police, rescue squad, marines, paramedics, and the usual gawkers.

If all this isn't enough, this final episode should provide the Coup de grace to the story. The man that mows the fairways for me came in and told me that the painters had spilled large amounts of red paint and that the wind had blown the paint onto our #12 tee and the surrounding rough. I went out and looked at the paint damage; it did not look too serious, so I kept on driving. A few days later Tom Malehorn, salesman for Pro-Lawn Products, visited the course and he was talking about the courses in the area having Red Thread. I suddenly realized that I had made a hasty decision about the paint damage in the rough. Tom and I went out and looked again and sure enough, it was Red Thread. The old adage still holds true; get out and give the area a thorough going over — on your hands and knees if necessary!

President's Comment:

The weather so far this summer has been different to say the least. So far we have used very little irrigation compared to other years. For those on city water, that sure helps the budget. But those who have been around a while haven't relaxed much. They are still waiting for the August let down.

August brings our annual Mid Atlantic Picnic. I hope everyone plans to attend and enjoy the facilities.

Our June meeting started a Match Play Tournament, and was enjoyed by all who played. It will be interesting to see who the best Match Play player is. Thanks to Kenny Braun for the work involved.

Participation at most of the meetings has been good. If you know someone who is not attending, give them a call, and try to get them to the next meeting.

Remember to notify your host, if you plan to attend a meeting.

Sam Kessel

**ANNUAL
M A A G C S
FAMILY PICNIC**

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Future Meetings

- August 14 Gunpowder Golf Club, Laurel, Md.
Host — Bob Milligan, owner
Event — Annual Mid-Atlantic Picnic

- August 21 Indian Springs C.C., Silver Spring, Md.
Host — Herbert H. Heinlein, CGCS
Event — Mid Atlantic Booster Tournament

- August 22 Beltsville Agricultural Research Center,
Beltsville, Md.
Host — U.S. Department of Agriculture
Event — Turfgrass Field Day

- Sept 19 Woodholme C.C., Pikesville, Md.
Host — Jack Montecaluo, CGCS
Event — Joint Meeting with the
Philadelphia Assoc.
Speaker — Dr. Nichole O'Neill, U.S.D.A.

- Oct. Woodmont C.C., Rockville, Md.
Host — Robert Shields, CGCS
Event — Annual Mid Atlantic Tournament

- Nov. Loudoun Golf and C.C.

- Dec. Marlton C.C.

Its that time of year again when the worries can be the greatest, but there is that one very special carefree day: our ANNUAL PICNIC! This event is undoubtedly the best all around fun for yourself, and more importantly your FAMILY, to get out and share good times with fellow superintendents and their families. This is our fifth time at the Gunpowder Country Club, with each past time proving better and better; so this year stands to be really special.

Our host, Bob Milligan, should be known as "Super Host," he provides a great facility, with outstanding contributions to his job as MR. Everything at this club. Add to this, the golf, swimming, games, and especially the FOOD, along with the comradery, you end up with a pleasant day to forget about drudgery of responsibility.

As in the past, this picnic is a cooperative: *Families are asked to volunteer either a cover-dish* (Picnic salads, macaroni, potato, etc., or dessert,) hopefully enough to serve approximately 10 to 15 people. Along with these homemade delicacies, there will once again be on hand the super sweet corn, and eastern shore crabs.

TIME TABLE: Golf and Swimming Anytime
Picnic 2 p.m.
Crabs and Corn 5 p.m.

Directions: I-95 to Beltsville exit Md. 212, towards Beltsville. Go 1/4 mile to Gunpowder Road. Turn left to the Club — 3 miles of the left.

If you have any questions call:
Mike Larsen 357-8805 (301)
Paul Barefoot 653-2095 (202)
Ken Braun 653-1365 (301)
Ben Stagg 822-4479 (301)

ANNUAL

M A A G C S

FAMILY PICNIC

August 14, 1979

GUNPOWDER COUNTRY CLUB

Hand Plugging Tool For Turfgrass

Localized dry spots on golf greens and failure of rainwater to soak into lawn soils are familiar turfgrass management problems. These problems are too important to neglect, but not large enough to justify renovation, which involves the purchase or rental of larger pieces of equipment. Now there is a hand plugging tool available for opening up the turf and allowing air and water to enter.

The plugger is light and easy to use —

The unit consists of standard 3-inch aerator tines slipped into bushings which are screwed to a 2-inch diameter steel housing. The housing is 10 to 15 inches long depending on the number of aerator tines on the unit. A piece of 3/4-inch diameter galvanized pipe is attached to the housing and capped with a handle at a convenient height for operation. The tool is produced with 4, 5, or 6 aerator tines per unit. It can be used to remove soil cores by either stepping on the housing and forcing the coring tines into the soil or by stabbing the unit into the soil. This is especially effective if it is necessary to remove any relatively shallow cores of 3/4-inch to 1-inch depth. In either case, it is important to thoroughly moisten the soil before starting the aerification job.

Turfgrass Growth Improved By Plugging

Golf greens with localized dry spots on crowned areas where irrigation water or rain runs off rather than into the soil are good examples of places where the hand plugger will be useful. There are many places where aerification is

needed, but the use of large equipment is not justified. Other examples are heavy wear areas on baseball diamonds or in front of field hockey or lacrosse goals where compaction is frequently experienced and the soil oxygen so essential for good root growth is in short supply. Lawns with steep slopes or terraces often shed the rain from summer showers. Removal of soil plugs with the hand plugger will help to trap some of this water.

A simple procedure to follow:

1. Identify problem areas where use of the plugger will improve turfgrass growth.
2. Mow grass as short as possible and remove clippings (only if reseeding is planned.)
3. Thoroughly irrigate to soften soil in areas to be plugged.
4. Remove soil cores. As cores collect in the housing of the plugger, place them in a pail as shown in the photo.
5. On fine turf, topdress with an appropriate soil mixture. On lawns, collection of cores and topdressing may not be necessary.
6. Repeat the coring treatment as needed.

For more information, from the source, on the Turfgrass Hand Tool Plugger contact:

Mr. Frank Staffieri
300 Adams Dam Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19807
302-656-3456
302-655-3337 (Office)

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“Organize a Junior Golf Program. It’s a great place for kids to play a round.”

Youngsters face a lot of temptations and frustrations growing up today. And that’s why I think it’s more important than ever to get boys and girls involved in golf. It’s not only a game they can enjoy for life, but a great teacher of self-reliance and self-discipline.

If you’re interested in starting a Junior Golf program at your golf club, or in your schools, the National Golf Foundation would like to help you. I hope you’ll write to them for details.



NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION



Please send me information on these National Golf Foundation activities:

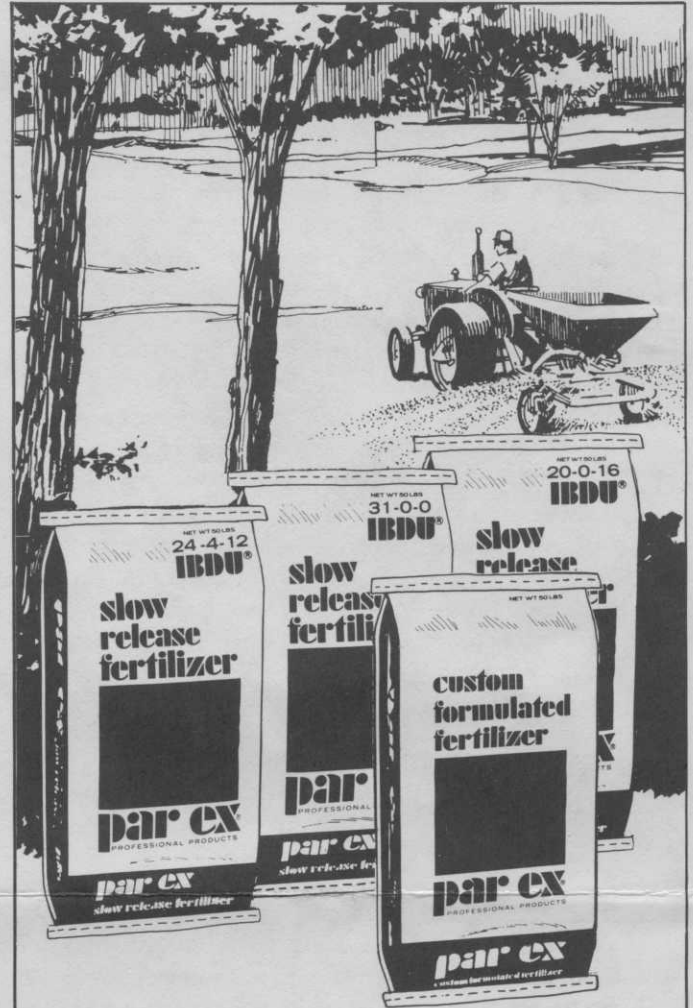
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