



Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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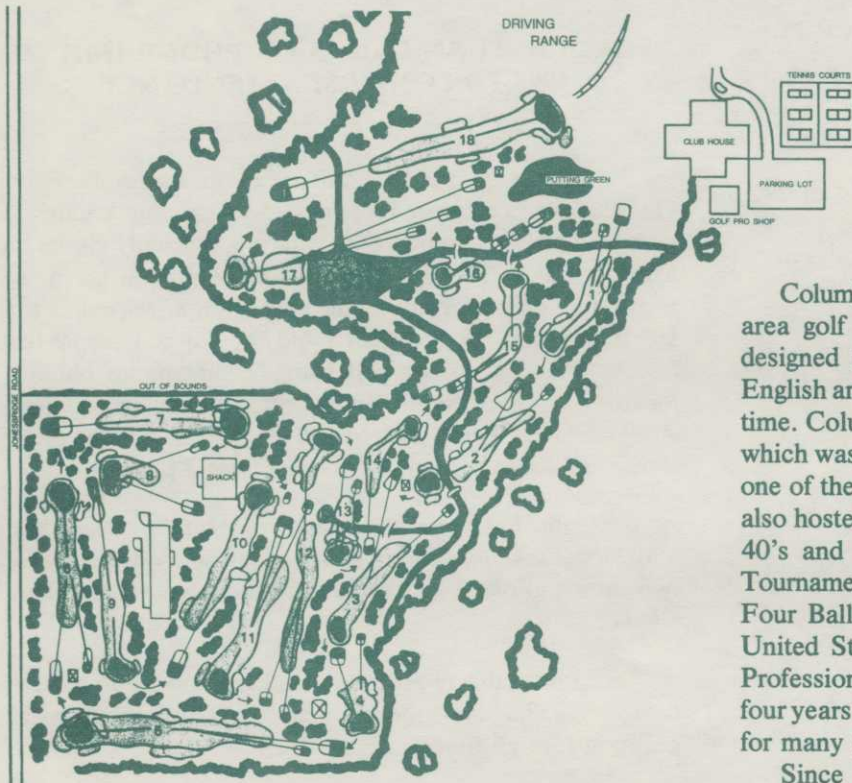
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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf course Superintendent through Education and Merit

Volume XXXIII

July 1980

Number 6



July 8 Meeting Columbia C. C.

Columbia Country Club is one of the original Washington area golf clubs. It was founded in 1909. Columbia was designed for the most part by Walter Travis, a notable English architect and one of the better amateur golfers of that time. Columbia hosted the 1921 U.S. Open Championship which was won by Jim Barnes, who was an Englishman and one of the longer strikers of the ball in that era. Columbia also hosted a Celebrity tournament on two occasions in the 40's and 50's. More recently we have had a Four Ball Tournament every October called the Fred McCloud Eastern Four Ball. It attracts many fine amateur players from the United States and Canada. Fred McCloud was the Golf Professional at Columbia for over 57 years before his death four years ago. He was the oldest living U.S. Open Champion for many years.

Since Columbia's golf course is 70 years old we have many old trees which make shot placement very important. Our putting surfaces are rather small, 3500-5000 sq. ft. on the old greens, number 5 and 18 greens were redesigned by Ed Ault in 1966 and are of more modern size and design. The greens are about 70% old mixed bents and 30% Poa annua.



George Thompson

The fairways were probably fescue originally and were seeded with everything imaginable since then. When I came to Columbia in 1963 a fairway program had been started with native Bermuda, but the winter of 1962-63 had killed a good amount of it. We replanted during the summers of 63, 64, 65 and 66. In 1966 we had about 85% Bermuda which was about all we could expect because of shade and north slopes. We were mowing the fairways down to 1/2" and they were beautiful in July, August, September and even October some years. However, we were starting to get spring dead spot and many members were unhappy with the brown turf in March, April and May. In many years it still looked poorly in June. To most people "Brown is Bad and Green is Good." The fairways were playing pretty well in the spring, especially when we were paraquating in March. They didn't look green

Presidents Message

Well, July is here. It is the month most of us Superintendents would just as soon do without, but that's not hardly possible. As all of us know, July and August separates the men from the boys in our profession.

The majority of us will spend countless hours and sleepless nights trying to save as many of those little grass plants; whether they are poa, crab, bent, blue or rye, as long as it holds up a golf ball and will survive the busy golf season. That's what you and I get paid for.

It is your obligation to give your membership the best possible playing condition under the worst weather condition within the budget provided.

Most of us have the manpower, equipment and chemicals to cope with just about any situation that may confront us. Get out on the golf course, stay on top of what is happening, it is your "responsibility".

George Thompson was brave enough to invite us to Columbia for the July 8th membership meeting. I'm sure George will show us how to maintain quality turf under the heat and humidity of Washington, D.C.

Ron

Continued on page 2

Columbia Country Club

Continued from page 1

like home lawns and even though you could almost putt on them in August, it didn't matter.

I started overseeding with Turf types Ryes in October of 1969, mostly for cosmetic reasons but also to get something to live on shady north slopes and in Spring Dead Spot areas.

The ryes have done a good job for us. Their playing characteristics are not as good as Bermuda and we have Rhizoctonia and Pythium problems, but we get our members started in good spirits in the spring. They like to see that green grass in March and April. We may still see 30% to 40% native Bermuda by midsummer but we are trying to manage for Rye, with fall feeding and maybe a little potash in May or June. If the Bermudas come through, all the better, these are areas we won't have to irrigate.

Russell Roberts installed a Moody Automatic Irrigation System in 1973. We found it efficient and simple to work on. Sometime in the future, I would like to install a triangular or rectangular system for our fairways to give more control over elevation differences. Columbia is very hilly and in some instances one side of the fairway may be 15' higher than the other. How do you irrigate this with a center row system?

We have many management problems not associated with more modern constructed courses. Many steep slopes require a lot of hand maintenance. One of our greatest problems is thatch. We have many spongy areas on tees and collars. Because of the excess thatch, we are seeing unusual insects and fungi, such as many species of Rhizoctonia and another one called Southern Blight (*Sclerotium rolfsii*). We have had it on our # 1 championship tee for three years and to date have not been able to effectively control it. I have seen winter brown patch since 1967 and I have had *Ataenius* for two years before Ohio State even started to mention it. Last fall we found in addition to *Ataenius*, larva from the Northern Masked Chafer, Asiatic Garden Beetle and the Japanese Beetle; 1980 could well be the year of the insect at Columbia.

We have a considerable amount of construction going on now. Parts of four holes have been torn up since January with a 60" W.S.S.C. water line. This 60" line crosses # 1 fairway, goes through 15 and 16 greens, across 17 fairway and through 18 tee drive. We will be playing only 15 holes until May or June of 1981. Algie Pulley has been contracted to rebuild 15 and 16 greens, five tees and some additional improvements. The 60" water line has been installed, however the contractor is still on the job building two lakes, two concrete dams and enclosing two streams. He is also restoring stream banks with Rip-rap and Gabions.

George B. Thompson is a native of Massachusetts. Started caddying at Pittsfield C.C. in Pittsfield, Mass. at the age of 10. Later worked on courses in Massachusetts, Florida and Chicago. After a hitch in the U.S. Navy, he enrolled in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Mass. in 1961. Graduated in 1963, and hired as Assistant Superintendent at Columbia in June of 1963 under Dick Watson. Promoted to Superintendent in October 1964. George and his wife Jacqueline have four children, Julie, Tom, Regina and Sara. The Thompsons live in Gaithersburg.

Program for the Day

Golf – After 10:30 a.m.

Cocktails – 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner – 7:00 p.m. — \$13.00

Speaker – Frank Lamphier, Golf Course Superintendent, Aspect Valley C.C., Connecticut

PLEASE RETURN CARDS OR PHONE (301) 656-4995 TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE

Bill Strausbaugh and his staff are anxious to be of service. Our club manager, Jim Troppman, was gracious enough to open and staff his dining room, which is normally closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Lunch can be purchased in the men's grill, on the terrace by the pool or the snack bar at # 8 tee. If you choose to come early and not play golf, please feel free to drive out to our golf course maintenance building located off Manor Road ½ mile north of the club on Conn. Ave., or have a drink in the Mixed Grill located on the lower level near 18 green and the first tee after 3 p.m.

Columbia has a very good caddy program, we prefer that a foresome take two caddy's or one cart and one caddy, or two carts and one caddy to be of service. No pull carts are allowed.

Our policy also requires that jackets be worn in most of the lounges and dining rooms other than the mixed and mens grillrooms, at all times.

Directions: From Baltimore, take Balt.-Wash. Parkway, Route 95 or Rt. 29. Take 495 Washington Beltway West to Conn. Ave., South. Club is approx. 2½ miles on right. From Virginia, take 495 north into Md. take exit 20 south to Conn. Ave., the club is two miles on your right.

For Sale

- 1970 Jacobsen 62" Greensking – Good condition
- 1971 International Cub Cadet– Model 127 Hydrostat w/48" mower deck and trap rake, average condition
- 1967 Massey Ferguson 2135 Turf Special tractor w/3 pt hitch – needs engine overhaul

Contact: Jerry Gerard
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Around the Mid-Atlantic

Attendance at Mid-Atlantic Meetings has been quite good. Just check these attendance figures –

March – 70

April – 69

May – 119

Congratulations to Ray Midkiff, Supt. at Annapolis Roads C.C. on the birth of a daughter.

On a recent visit to Congressional C.C., we found Bill Black "resting comfortably". He said that he actually enjoyed having the Kemper and that working now is a breeze compared to the week of the Kemper.

To anyone thinking about putting Bermuda in their fairways, take a trip over to Burning Tree and take a look at Virgil Robinson's beautiful P-16 fairway.

There was an interesting article in the May Finger Lakes News & Notes entitled Super Wives. The superintendent's wives have formed an association of their own complete with president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The wives, girl-friends or daughters over 18 meet once a month from April to October at different homes where they conduct a short business meeting and then get into some type of project from Disco dancing to Plants to Gourmet cooking. They hope to promote good fellowship and aid the men's association when they need it.

The GCSAA has sent out a second notice to all chapters calling for nominations for GCSAA office. There has also been a second call for nominations for the Distinguished Service Award. If you have any nominations, please contact any Mid-Atlantic officer or director.



Mark Herrman – Ben Stagg are winners of Pro/Supt. Tournament

Cooperation – How Nice It Is

By Greg Bayor

One of the very special things about being a member of the Mid-Atlantic is the excellent cooperation I've received from other Mid-Atlantic Members. Most of the time, a small verbal "thanks" is the most any member superintendent receives, but I thought it would be nice to give a THANK YOU in print; as they say, this and 50¢ will get you a cup of coffee, so its only real value is sincerity, and to me that's worth a lot.

There were numerous times this past year when we "lowly" public courses (specifically, Mt. Pleasant, Clifton Park and Pine Ridge) have, at times, been without necessary equipment, supplies or manpower. It's been during these times that the call for help to the private clubs has been wonderfully responsive.

True, it's probably expected of all Mid-Atlantic members to lend a helping hand, but when everyone is working at their maximum capability, it's especially amazing to see this maximum stretched further in the interest of goodwill. A fine example of this was during last year's LPGA event at Pine Ridge. The fairways were "blitzed" by dollar spot. Under the pressure and expediency of a national tournament, the City's crew was unable to act on this problem: to the rescue came Bonnie View C.C. with their fairway sprayer and operator. This act of cooperation really was a life saver that kept the tournament a success and was very appreciated by all parties.

Another good example of this great cooperation is that my courses do not have an abundance of specialized equipment. When we've had the need, we've borrowed items such as a Cushman aerator from Eisenhower G.C., a tractor powered hole digger from Surburban Club, a topdresser from Green Spring V.H.C. and a Howard rotivator from Bonnie View C.C. This may not seem like a big deal to a lot of you, but by these clubs generosity I was able to get a lot of work done, and very importantly, I was able to show the benefits of these machines and now proudly own a Cushman aerator and Howard rotivator. This really proves cooperation pays off.

Additionally, I feel I owe a lot to the Mid-Atlantic members from whom I borrowed their expertise. I'm not ashamed to admit that I don't know all of the answers, but by calling around I've received great advice that's been very productive.

Again, I suppose all of these types of cooperation is expected of us, but every time it happens I find it especially rewarding. So to all of you Mid-Atlantic helpers – THANKS.

Deadline for articles and information for the August Newsletter July 15, 1980

New Members

The following names have come before the Board of Directors to be considered for Membership to the Mid-Atlantic. According to the bylaws, if there is no written objection to these men becoming members within 15 days of receiving the Newsletter, they will become members.

Greg Borzok, Supt.
Colonial C.C.
162 Byron Ave.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17109

Michael Witt, Supt.
Wakefield Valley G.C.
1246 Old New Windsor
Pike
Westminster, Md. 21157

Edward Porterfield,
Assistant
Indian Spring C.C.
2401 Glenallan Ave. Apt. 3
Silver Spring, Md. 20906

Kevin Pryseki
Mt. Pleasant G.C.
143 Stanmore Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21212

Dennis Crehan
Clifton G.C.
5415 HillBurn Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21213

Reclassification
Ray Evans - Class B to A

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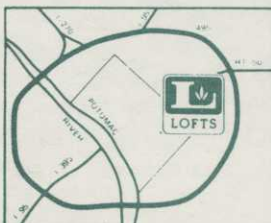
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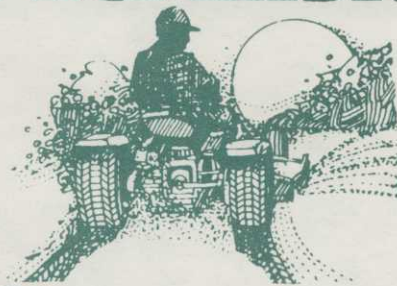
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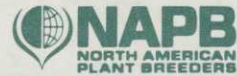
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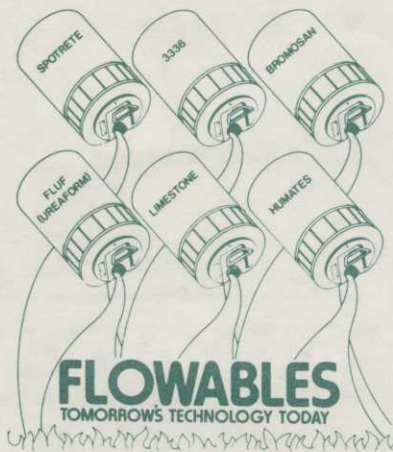


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1980 Meetings and Dates to Remember

- March 6 USGA Green Section Regional Conference
James River Country Club
Newport News, Virginia
- March 11 Bretton Woods Recreation Center
Germantown, Maryland
Gerald G. Gerard, Jr. CGCS — Host
- March 20 USGA Greens Section Regional Conference
Oakmont Country Club
Oakmont, Pennsylvania
Green Hill Yacht & C. C., Lou White, Host
- April 8 Maryland Golf and Country Club
Bel Air, Maryland
Ronald Hall — Host
- May 13 Annual Superintendent/Pro Tournament
Sparrows Point Country Club
Baltimore, Maryland
Alex D. Watson, CGCS — Host
- June 17 Columbia Country Club —
Chevy Chase, Maryland
George B. Thompson, CGCS — Host
- August 12 Annual Mid-Atlantic Picnic
September 9 Philadelphia Association host for the Annual
Joint Meeting. Site not determined as yet.
- October 14 Hillendale Country Club
Phoenix, Maryland
Michael Larsen — Host
Annual Superintendents Tournament
- Nov. 11 Chevy Chase Club
Chevy Chase, Maryland
William J. Emerson — Host
- Dec. 9 U. S. Naval Academy Golf Club
Annapolis, Maryland
Election Meeting
Michael B. McKenzie — Host

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

First Class Mail

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