



CHARTER

# Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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## The Perils of Playing on Freeze-Dried Greens

By Joe Gambatese

Golfers anxious to loosen up their winter-rusted swing were delighted this week when the temperatures rose into the 50's and 60's. But not the golf course superintendent. He was in a tough spot and deserved sympathy and understanding rather than being the target of criticism.

Its the superintendent's job to keep golfers happy by providing greens that are in good condition during the playing season. Naturally, he wants to keep them from being damaged during the winter. There is no problem in cold weather; walking on frozen greens by a few golfers causes little damage. But when the surface thaws and the turf underneath remains frozen, as happened this week, watch out.

"When frozen greens get mushy, walking on them does more than create bumps," says Dr. Fred V. Grau of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, former director of the USGA Green Section. "It disrupts the root system, which can't be repaired until spring."

Woodmont's superintendent, Bob Shields, national president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1965, feels that surface damage – the footprints – are not a big problem.

"We can fix footprints," he explains. "But we can't fix the grass roots which die because walking on thawed greens breaks the stems from the roots that are frozen in the ground."

Bill Black has warned his Congressional members of the compaction that results from walking on a frozen green whose surface has thawed.

"Fertilization becomes less efficient, water cannot penetrate properly, and the green will no longer support a quality bentgrass much less a well-hit golf shot," he wrote in the club's newsletter.

At Columbia, George Thompson builds good temporary greens in the fall, top-dressing and seeding them with rye grass so that the members will more readily accept them when their use becomes necessary.

"We shouldn't let a few winter golfers spoil the greens for the greater number of members who want to enjoy good greens in the spring," he contends.

At Kenwood, where temporary greens – and tees – are used all winter regardless of any thawing, members have divided opinions.

"Temporary greens stink," exclaims Marty McHugh.

"I don't mind them," says Jack Weber, with support from Perry Lippitt.

"If I can't play the regular greens," says Fred Parson, "I don't play at all."

The final word, of course, belongs to Kenwood superintendent John Henley and

Mike

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## April 14th Meeting Talbot C. C.

The April 14th meeting will be at the Talbot Country Club, Easton, Md. Your host, Ralph McNeal, was born and raised in Talbot County and was a dairy farmer before going to work at the country club in June



1963. Ralph, being a farmer and hard worker, knew how to make things grow. Through self-education in the turf field and the services of the USGA representative, Holman Griffin, he has done an outstanding job.

The golf course was originally a nine hole course and was opened in 1910. In 1962 the services of Edmund Ault was acquired to add nine holes and re-arrange the original nine holes into an 18 hole championship layout. The work was begun in 1963 and the course opened for play in the spring of 1964. All work was done by Ralph McNeal through a local contractor, Mr. Robert Coleman. The greens average about 9,500 to 10,000 square feet and are Penncross Bent, cut 3/16 of an inch. Tees were Merion and creeping red but over a period of time have become part bermuda and it is Ralph's thoughts to encourage the bermuda.

The fairways are rye, red top and creeping red fescue, mowed about 1 1/4 inch. The rough is a tight set of K31 fescue and mowed about 2 1/2 to 3 inches. The irrigation system is manual.

Every winter six or seven fairways are spread with horse manure from Ralph's wife's riding school and horse farm. In addition, there are all the wild goose droppings from thousands of wild geese that find Talbot Country Club to be their home away from home. It is not uncommon to see the course, including clubhouse lawn, swimming pool area and practice green completely covered by geese. Can you imagine the odor and the pile around the shoe cleaning brushes at the locker room entrance? How about the operators of the cutting units? They eat outside where the air can circulate.

At the pro shop you will be greeted by a very congenial golf professional, Frank Hepler. He or his people will collect your car rentals, tournament fees and dinner costs.

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## President's Message

I'd like to thank the membership for electing me president for 1981. I will serve to the best of my ability. I'd also like to congratulate last years educational chairman, Bob Orazi and the Maryland Turfgrass Council



for putting on another great Turfgrass 81.

The March meeting was a great success. My thanks to our host at Farmington, Dick Fisher. Educational Chairman, Jerry Gerard arranged to have Houston Couch as speaker. He reviewed many fungicides, there uses and how often we should use them.

As always, the Mid-Atlantic looks forward to traveling to Talbot Country Club. Ralph McNeal always hosts a great meeting. It will also be the start of our annual Match Play Tournament. Let's have a big turn out and enjoy another dose of that great eastern shore hospitality.

Looking ahead to next month, be sure to make arrangements with your Golf Professional to play in the Superintendent-Pro Tournament on May 12, at the Naval Academy. This is the opportunity for you and your Pro to get out and enjoy a day together.

See you at Talbot,

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## Business Cards

Anyone interested in having business cards printed with the Mid-Atlantic crest, like the one above, contact the Editor. Cost 500 cards for \$23.00.



19469 BRASSIE PLACE  
GAITHERSBURG, MD 20760

STEVEN A. NASH  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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## The Perils of Playing on Freeze-Dried Greens

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Nick Carosi, green chairman: "If we use the greens now, we'll be sorry in June and July."

At courses which do keep the greens open when the surfaces are frozen, it becomes a day-to-day and sometimes hour-to-hour decision on whether there has been sufficient thawing to require their being taken out of play. And even when play is allowed on the greens, some courses resort to using two holes on each green, with the flagstick being switched from one hole to the other by the foursome. This cuts down the amount of traffic around the holes.

Even where greens are open, they must be guarded from damage caused by walking on them when they are covered with morning frost. In that case, as happened at Bethesda and other courses this week, the entire course is closed until the frost is gone.

Reprint from the *Montgomery Journal*,

## April 14th Meeting Talbot C.C.

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In the clubhouse to see to your wellbeing is Pat Bodder, club manager. Pat assures us an enjoyable evening at the club with good food and cash bar.

The club prefers that everyone pay as you go, so come prepared to pay cash for everything.

### Program for the Day:

Golf after 11:00 a.m. - Carts-\$12.00  
Lunch at the grill - Cash  
Cocktails - 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:30 p.m. \$12.00  
Speaker: Jack Murray USDA Beltsville Research

**Directions to the Club:** From the Bay Bridge, go south on Rt. 50 to the Airport on your left. One half mile further down the road is a by pass to your right. Follow this through to the third traffic light. Turn right on Oxford Rd., Route 333. Cross Peach Blossom Bridge and the third road to the right will be Country Club Drive, which will lead to the Clubhouse.

## The 1981 Mid-Atlantic Match Play Tournament Begins -



By Paul O'Leary,  
Golf Chairman

The Third Annual Mid-Atlantic Match Play Tournament will start at the April 14 meeting, at Talbot C.C. The first round pairings are as follows:

11:00 am Bob Orazi (18) vs Ken Braun (20)  
Bill Shirk (9) vs Grant Pensinger (18)

11:08 Dave Kroll (12) vs Bill Emerson (16)  
Harry Allen (9) vs Bob Miller (16)

11:16 Ben Stagg (27) vs Mike Larsen (40)  
Tom List (27) vs Gene Dyke (23)

11:24 Starters Time

11:32 Al Watson (25) vs Wayne Evans (40)  
Steve Nash (22) vs Mike McKenzie (32)

11:40 Earl Mason (17) vs Jerry Gerard (35)  
George Thompson (27) vs Bill Neus (28)

11:48 Lou White (29) vs Walter Montross (22)  
Dave Fairbank (29) vs Lee Dieter (40)

11:56 Starters Time

12:04 Harold Parr (12) vs Virgil Robinson (13)  
Ron Hall (14) vs Jack Montecalvo (13)

12:12 Stanley Lawson (22) vs Sam Kessel (19)  
Tom Turner (15) vs Paul O'Leary (9)

12:20 Open Time

12:28 Starters Time

12:36 to ? Open Time

These matches will be played according to USGA rules. *All matches will tee off on time!* Late arrivals will lose holes depending on late you are. If your match is on the 4th hole by the time you get there then you will have lost the first four holes. **SO DON'T BE LATE.**

Each hole must be played to completion. Your scores will be used to compute future handicaps. There will also be a blind bogey. If you have any questions call Paul O'Leary at (301) 252-6026.

## Shirts, Sweaters & Jackets

The Mid-Atlantic is again showing what a first class organization it is by offering shirts, sweaters and jackets with an embroidered Mid-Atlantic Crest. Prices are very reasonable - shirts for \$12.00 and sweaters for \$15.00. Starting at the March Mid-Atlantic meeting, jackets will be offered along with the shirts and sweaters. To order yours, contact Wayne Evans at 301-871-1070.



Photo by Joe Gambatese

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to John Drew, Superintendent at Winters Run Golf Course, at Turfgrass 81. This Award is presented to the Superintendent who has done an exceptional job at his course and is a credit to the profession.

### For Sale

1 - Hahn MC 5C Green Aerifier - like new  
 1 - Jacobsen 30" 5 blade rough unit - completely rebuilt

1 - Cushman Truckster - w/PTO - completely rebuilt

Contact: Wally Stedding, 5508 Windsor Mill Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21207 - 298-3054 944-2202 after 6 pm.

One (1) three wheel 18 HP Cushman Truskster, 10 years old, rebuilt engine in 1979. \$400.00

Contact: Thomas List, Director of Maintenance, Ocean Pines Association, Inc., 2700 Ocean Pines, Berlin, Md. 21811

Phones: (301) 641-3225 or 641-4425

Do you have equipment just sitting around your maintenance shop taking up valuable space? How about advertising it for sale or trade in the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter. Cost - \$5.00 per item - Contact the Editor.

### Last Dues Reminder

Pay Up - Your Dues are Overdue  
 Ken Braun  
 Treasurer

### IAA Alumni Banquet

On April 25, 1981 the Institute of Applied Agriculture will be holding an Alumni Banquet. The Banquet will be held at the New Carrollton Sheraton at 8:00 pm. All Institute Alumni are urged to attend. Cash Bar - Meal - \$16.50 includes tip & entertainment.

For reservations call the Institute office - 454-3938.

### Around The Mid-Atlantic

Congratulations go to Mike Burckholder who received his 25 year pin from the GCSAA.

Jack Montecalvo is now Superintendent at Shannon Green in Fredericksburg, Va. His former position at Woodholme C.C. is now in the hands of Kenneth Ingram.

Ken comes to Woodholme from Columbia C.C. where he was the assistant to George Thompson.

About April 1, Angie Cammarota will be welcoming two new assistants to Hobbits Glen and All View. Bill Neus will be at Hobbits Glen and Wally Stedding will be at All View. Congratulation to all.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven A. Nash would like to announce the birth of Jessica Lauren on February 9. Jessica checked in at 9 lbs. 3 oz.

### New Mid-Atlantic Supporters

The Mid-Atlantic Newsletter would like to welcome its new Supporters. First time Supporters are Applied Biochemists Inc., Eastern Yamaha Golf Cars, Lakeshore Equipment & Supply Co., Pro Lawn Products, Turf Centers Inc., Lyons & Lyons Sales Co., Share Corp., Turf Equipment & Supply Co., and Velsicol Chemical Corps.

As always, please support these companies along with our long time Supporters, as often as you can.

### Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Supporter

Do you know of anyone who would be interested in being a Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Supporter? Cost - \$150.00 per year or \$20.00 per month. Contact the Editor.

### Beginning Handicaps - 1981

#### Class A & B

Allen, Harry	9
Baker, Fred	12
Barefoot, Paul	40
Bayor, Greg	24
Braun, Ken	20
Burckholder, L. M.	20
Cammarota, Dave	40
Claffey, Mike	40
Deiter, Lee	40
Drew, John	40
Dyke, Gene	23
Emanuel, Joe	23
Emerson, Bill	16
Evans, Ray	40
Evans, Wayne	40
Fairbanks, Dave	29
Frank, Merrill	21
Gerard, Gerry	35
Hall, Ron	14
Haske, Tom	36
Heinlen, Fred	20
Helm, Dick	21
Kessel, Sam	19
Kroll, Dave	12
Lambert, Robert	36
Larsen, Michael	40
Lawson, Stanley	22
List, Tom	27
Mason, Earl	17
McKenzie, Mike	32
McNeal, Ralph	40
Midkiff, Ray	34
Miller, Bob	16
Montecalvo, Jack	13
Montross, Walter	22
Nash, Steve	22
Neus, Bill	28
O'Leary, Paul	9
Olinger, Cliff	20
Orazi, Bob	18
Parr, Harold	12
Pensing, Grant	18
Robine, Jerome	30
Robinson, Virgil	13
Rudinski, Lou	40
Shirk, Frank	9
Staffieri, Frank	26
Stagg, Ben	27
Strouth, Ralph	37
Thompson, George	27
Tutich, John	24
Watson, Al	25
Witt, Mike	34
Whetsell, Buck	24
White, Lou	29

#### Class C

Buchanan, Bill	12
Hewitt, John	26
Turner, Tom	15

#### Class D

Brown, William	31
Pensing, Phil	34
Wagner, Scott	12
Vance, Nick	20

#### Class F

Bull, Russ	40
Comalli, Tom	8
Gaskill Howard	40
Hanna, Mike	40
Harris, Tom	36
Lea, Herb	21
Malehorn, Tom	18
Schoening, Carl	18

Handicaps where determined by averaging 1980 scores. Where only one score has been submitted it stands as the handicap score.

# The Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Supporters

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Citrine-Plus Algaecide (Liquid & Granular),  
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Spreaders  
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Washington 621-2975

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## Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

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