



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Volume XXXVII

APRIL 1983

No. 2



This panel, composed (l. to r.) of Sam Kessel of Country Club of Fairfax, Pat O'Brien of the USGA Greens Section (Middle Atlantic Region, Richmond), and Lee Dieter of Washington Golf and Country Club, which discussed bunker sand, with many contributions from the membership at the March meeting in Fairfax. A lot of opinions were expressed, but there seemed to be general agreement that sand must be 6-8" deep if power rakes are used, to avoid mixing it with clay; that sand of uniform size packs less, while balls tend to bury in closely graded sand; that irrigation causes sand in greenside bunkers to pack; that fairway bunkers should have finer sand than bunkers around greens; that in mixed sand, the coarse stuff comes to the top; and, that most golfers are never happy with whatever sand happens to be in the bunkers, especially the ones they frequently hit balls into.

President's Message . .

With Spring in the air, we are all looking forward to the lengthening of the days so that we can start back on some more serious work on our courses, including trying some of the new materials and chemicals released this past year.

It was a shame we were rained out last month at Penderbrook, but we have April 12 to look forward to, when we will start our fourth annual Match Play Tournament at Evergreen Country Club. Our host this month will be Leslie Hawkins, and please remember to call Leslie or send the card confirming your reservation for golf and/or dinner.

Ken Braun, *President*

(Reminder: All male members and guest must wear a jacket and tie in order to attend the Association meeting.)



Supt.-Pro Tourney Scheduled May 10

Our annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament will be held May 10 at Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, and entries will be limited to the first 50 teams who sign up (an official entry blank is enclosed with this newsletter). It's a best-ball event, with both net and gross prizes, and 80% of handicap will be allowed; there will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start, and the entry fee is \$65 per team, which includes cart, prizes, and dinner. If either the superintendent or the pro is unable to play, he may designate his assistant to play in his place. The May 10 dinner (to be followed by the monthly meeting) is open to all members, at a cost of \$18.50, and golf at other local courses can be arranged for non-entrants by golf co-chairmen Walter Montross and George Renault. Don't forget to turn in all your scores if you want a Compu-Golf handicap this year. The charge is \$4.00

Evergreen is Site Of April 12 Meeting

Mid-Atlantic members, golfers and otherwise, will trek down to Haymarket, Virginia, on April 12 to play and/or to meet at Evergreen Country Club at the foot of Bull Run Mountain. With Spring weather already greening up the course, it promises to be a splendid outing on a challenging layout.

Built in 1968, Evergreen was designed by local golf course architect Algie Pulley; from the white tees, it plays to 6,560 yards (be glad you're not playing the blues, which stretch out to 7,060 yards). Leslie Hawkins, the golf course superintendent, has been at Evergreen two years, having moved down from Goose Creek Country Club in Leesburg. The golf professional is Mike Wynn, a former Tour player who has been a strong contender in MAPGA tournaments and in the Virginia Open. Vince Hendrickson is the club manager.

Evergreen's tees and greens are bentgrass; the fairways, like most northern Virginia courses, are a bluegrass mixture. Leslie fertilizes tees and greens with 5 pounds of nitrogen (IBDU 20-0-16) a year, fairways with 3 pounds (IBDU 29-3-10). Greens are mowed daily to 3/16", tees three times a week to 1/2", and rough once a week to 1 3/4"

Lunch will be available at the club, but the staff would like for our tee times to begin at 11 in order to leave some starting times for members. Golf will consist of the first round of the match play championship for those entered, plus stroke play for non-contestants. Cocktails will be available from 6 to 7, and dinner will be at 7, with the meeting starting at 8.

There are several ways to reach Evergreen. If you take the Beltway to Virginia, get off on the 66 to Front Royal exit (or pick up 66 in Arlington). You can get off at Rte. 234 in Manassas and follow that road until in deadends at Rte. 15. Then jog left a short half-block and turn right (there's an Evergreen C.C.

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Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

Claud Corrigan, *Editor*
Joe Gambatese, *Photographer*

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LETTERS . . .

Fellow Members:

Over the past 20 years as a MAAGCS member, I have written many times to the membership, but this is by far the most difficult. To acknowledge to you, my fellow members, my inability to accomplish what I set out to do is very painful.

It is apparent to me, and I'm sure to you, that GCSAA is not ready for my style, methods, or approach, to the future of the golf course superintendent. I must say, truthfully, after being part of the Pre-conference GCSAA Executive Committee meeting held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, that GCSAA had lost some of its luster to me. I didn't go away from that meeting with the kind of vibes I would call positive, and after the fiasco with the "Coalition of Concerned GCSAA Members" in Atlanta, GCSAA's image became even more tarnished to me.

I am convinced that GCSAA is capable of destroying itself from within before it ever has a chance to prove the true value of the golf course superintendent to the rest of the golf industry. I feel that this is a real possibility.

The Cliff and Bob, dog and pony show, put on by the Coalition prior to and during our Atlanta Conference, coupled with the fact that this Coalition caught our esteemed GCSAA Board with their collective trousers around their ankles, should just about negate the progress GCSAA has made over the



Paul Barefoot presents a service plaque to John T. Lea (r.) of Lea's Green Meadows, Inc., at the March meeting.

New Job Openings

Local

Assistant Superintendent
Country Club of Maryland

Out-of-Town (through GCSAA)

Superintendent, Indian Hills C.C.
Fort Salonga, N.Y.
Superintendent, The Creek
Locust Valley, N.Y.
Assistant Supt., Desert Inn & C.C.
Las Vegas, Nev.
Pro/Supt., St. Marys C.C.
St. Marys, Pa.

Call or write Ben Stagg for details

DIRECTORS' MEETING

The April Board of Directors meeting will be Thursday, April 7, at 1 p.m. at the Woodmont maintenance building; the May meeting will also be there, 1 p.m., Thursday, May 5.

past two or three years. GCSAA continues to take two steps forward and three back.

Sour grapes you say—Yeah, I say—Who's got a better right? My best to GCSAA winners—they'll need it!

Thanks to you, the members of the MAAGCS, for allowing me the privilege of representing you as a candidate to the GCSAA Board these past two years. I'm putting my political aspirations in mothballs and I suggest you find someone electable to endorse.

"I came to the forum twice and I lost," or did I?

Thanks again.

Your Fellow Member,
William J. Emerson

UM Offers Turf Disease Workshop

A turfgrass disease workshop will be held on April 7 at the University of Maryland in Room 1216 H.J. Patterson Hall with Peter Dernoeden of the Department of Agronomy and Ethyl Dutky of the Department of Botany as instructors. The workshop starts at 8:30 a.m., and covers cultural practices and turf disease, diagnosing major turf diseases, and isolation and microscopic identification of causative fungi. The cost is \$20 per person (checks payable to Maryland Turfgrass Council), there is space for 15 persons, and questions should be directed to Dr. Dernoeden at (301) 454-3715.

EVERGREEN MEETING

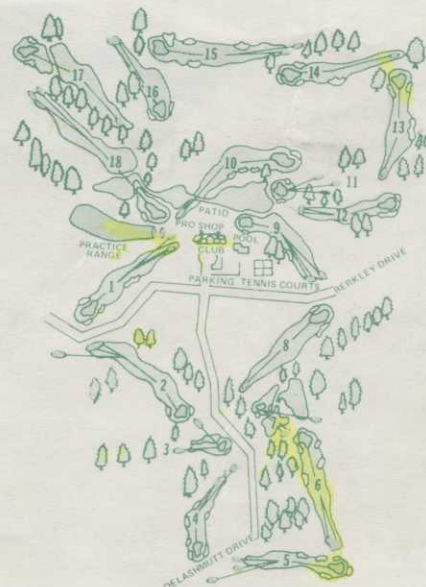
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sign across Rte. 15). Proceed less than a mile to the first right-hand turn (also with a sign) and follow that road to Berkeley Dr., where you turn left and drive a few blocks until you see the clubhouse on the right. The other route is to stay on 66 until you reach Rte. 15, turn right and follow it until just before the intersection with Rte. 234, turning left at the Evergreen sign and proceeding as above. If coming from Leesburg or the north, take Rte. 15 all the way to the Rte. 234 junction in Haymarket.

MEETING PROGRAM — APRIL 12

Lunch — Before 11, in clubhouse
Golf — 11 a.m.
Cocktails — 6 p.m. (cash bar)
Dinner — 7 p.m. (\$13.50 each)
Meeting — 8 p.m.

(Speaker "Gypsy Moth Update")



Want to Improve Your Image? Go APE!

by Wayne Evans

Today's golf course superintendent has come out of the closet — he no longer is "the best kept secret in the club." As a result of the last 20 years of progress, we, as superintendents, are getting the recognition we deserve and are beginning to be seen as not only highly dedicated individuals but also as the best educated and informed executives in the club business. Still, you can hear superintendents say, "How can we improve our image?" Improving our professional image, of course, has to start with each one of us at our respective clubs, and I have found that the letters APE stand for six very important words that affect how we look, think, and act professionally.

The "A" stands for Attitude and Appearance. Your appearance generally reflects your attitude. A slovenly or unkempt appearance gives others the impression that you have a "don't care" attitude. If you appear rumpled and rag-tag, your members have a right to ask how you can keep an orderly golf course if you can't keep yourself orderly and clean-cut. A disheveled or dirty appearance, in addition to showing your lack of concern for detail, filters down through your crew, with undesirable results. But, appearance does not always reflect attitude; the best-dressed superintendent can still have a bad mental attitude toward his work, and this may reflect personal problems that are affecting him adversely. Negative attitudes are always counterproductive; your crew will notice them and be affected, and your members will watch carefully to see if your negative approach shows up in their golf course.

A positive attitude and a clean, neat appearance are essential to your successful image; improve them, and your image goes up. And if your attitude means you don't like your job, it's time to change jobs.

The "P" in APE stands for Personality and Poise, two highly important attributes of any superintendent. Poise shows we are relaxed and sure of ourselves under any circumstances, and being prepared for any circumstance, good or bad, adds to poise. We are most flustered by situations that are hard to handle because we haven't prepared for them. If you know your job and plan your work, you should never lack poise, whatever the situation. Personality, on the other hand, is formed early in life, when we develop the character traits that identify us and form our personality. The importance of personality is shown in a recent study at a large university regarding success — 85% of success was found to be based on personality and only 15% on ability. This means that two superintendents of equal ability will be judged essentially on which has the best personality. Try to determine your positive personality traits and nurture them, and do your best to eliminate or improve what you see as your negative traits.

Expression and Education are represented by the "E." Expressing yourself clearly and intelligently, both in writing and orally, is vital in communicating with your workers and members and enables you to explain the reasons behind your various programs on the course. Admittedly, oral expression is very tough for some of us; while it may be hard for us to talk to people on a one-to-one basis, speaking before a group can turn us into basket cases. An evening class in public speaking can do wonders for your poise and self-confidence, and such training will help you in your daily work even if you are rarely called on as a speaker.

The importance of education for the superintendent need hardly be explained. We should be continually adding to your technical skills, and with so many sources of added knowledge available to us, this is not a difficult task. Local and national meetings and seminars, the volumes of written material in books and magazines, and the everyday give and take with fellow superintendents all offer a wealth of knowledge. Staying abreast of current ideas and applying them to improve our job skills adds greatly to our self-confidence.

Improvement in these six areas, then, is the key to an improved professional image. Improving that overall image of the superintendent relies on what each of us can do to improve ourselves — that's where it starts. Come on, men, go APE!



Wayne Evans

1st Round Pairings In Match Play Event

Listed below are pairings and tee times for the first round of the annual Mid-Atlantic Match Play Tournament, to be played at Evergreen Country Club on April 12, using the full difference in handicaps, which are shown. There were not enough entries for Division II, but it will be set up if renewed interest is shown.

11:00

George Renault (26) vs. Bill Neus (27)
Ben Stagg (27) vs. Earl Mason (25)

11:08

Paul O'Leary (3) vs. Craig Rhoderick (10)
Tom Regan (5) vs. Harry Allen (8)

11:16

John Tutich (17) vs. Alex Watson (25)
Sam Kessel (22) vs. Lou White (20)

11:24

Bob Orazi (12) vs. Bill Shirk (13)
Nick Vance (12) vs. Virgil Robinson (14)

11:32

Dick Gieselman (30) vs. Dave Fairbank (30)
Jim Meier (27) vs. Mike Larsen (32)

11:40

Dave Kroll (11) vs. Ron Hall (11)
Bill Emerson (11) vs. Ken Braun (11)

11:48

Lee Dieter (40) vs. Gerry Gerard (40)
Mike McKenzie (34) vs. Wayne Evans (33)

11:56

Ken Ingram (16) vs. Grant Pensinger (17)
Walter Montross (16) vs. Stanley Lawson (16)

GWGCSA '83 Meeting Schedule Announced

The Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association has announced its schedule of programs for coming season, as follows:

March 14 — Dr. Wayne Bingham, update on Ronstar on bentgrass putting surfaces.

April 16 — Gary Shore of WJLA

May 24 — Annual Picnic

June 28 — Dr. Houston Couch, fungicide update

July 26 — Dennis Brown, seed testing, is it worth it?

Aug. 26 — Dr. Jack Hall, natural rye grass turf plots

Sept. 27 — Dr. Roger Radcliff, ornamental and turf grass plots

Oct. 25 — Pro-Superintendent discussion panel and elections

Annual dues are \$20, and George Renault (273-7637) or Dick Gieselman (471-5291) can be contacted for details.

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