



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVI

DECEMBER 1983

NO. 10

## Final '83 Meeting Is Dec. 13, BHCC

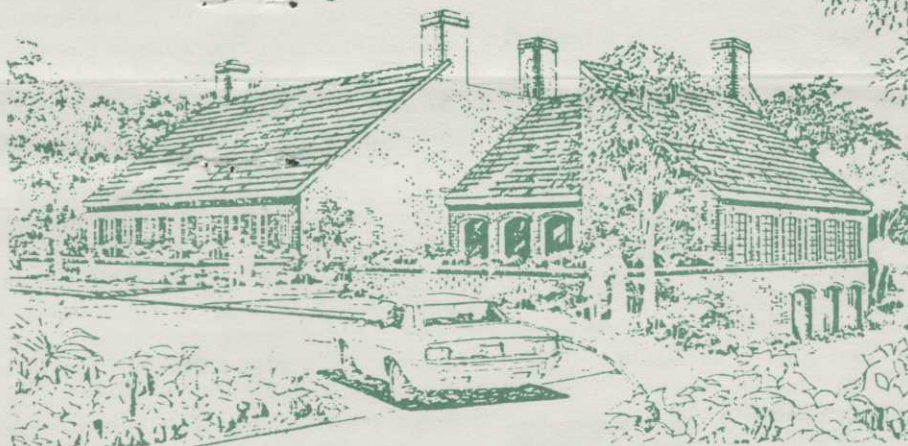
Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, Virginia, will play host to the Mid-Atlantic Association's final meeting of the year on Tuesday, December 13, with Superintendent Jim Meier doing the honors. Weather permitting, golf will be available, and reservations for dinner should be made by either phoning 765-5448 or returning the enclosed card.

Built along Hunting Creek and separated from the Potomac River by the Mount Vernon Parkway, Belle Haven was designed by Leonard Macomber, the last course done by this Massachusetts architect before his death in 1954. Homes have been built on 141 of the original 300 acres, leaving 159 acres for the course. In 1969, four new holes designed by Eddie Ault were built on filled land along Hunting Creek, the old 10th and 13th holes became the practice driving range, and old Nos. 11 and 12, across Ft. Hunt Road, were allowed to go to seed. Five of the original greens are still in use today. The course has a par of 72 and plays 6,625 yards from the blue tees, 6,344 yards from the white.

Of the fairways, 13 are mid-iron Bermuda, while the rest are a mixture of grasses. Superintendent Meier, who has been at Belle Haven since 1979, cuts fairways, tees, and collars three times a week to 1/2" and greens six days a week at 3/16". Fairways get about 3 pounds of N a year, tees 2 pounds, and greens 4-6 pounds. The fairways are being overseeded annually with perennial rye. Green sizes vary from 2,600 to 8,000 square feet.

*Mrs. Bob Shields, assisted by Chips Cantor, unveils a plaque behind Woodmont Country Club's first tee honoring her late husband, who was Woodmont's superintendent for 30 years before his death in 1982. Looking on are Mike Larsen, currently the superintendent at the Rockville course, and Dr. Fred Grau, president of the Musser international Turf-grass Foundation.*

## Belle Haven Country Club Alexandria, Virginia



A busy course which annually stages the well-known Belle Haven Four-Ball Championship each Spring, the layout recorded nearly 50,000 rounds in 1982.

Directions to Belle Haven are as follows: From the north, take the Capital Beltway (Route I-495) across Woodrow Wilson Bridge, then Rte. 1 south toward Ft. Belvoir; stay in the right-hand lane because you will bear off to the right at the first traffic light you come to in order to make the left turn at Ft. Hunt Road. Follow Ft. Hunt Road a few

blocks to the club on your left. From the south, follow 495 to Alexandria, take Route 1 south toward Ft. Belvoir, then proceed as above.

### Program

- Golf — Anytime
- Lunch — Available by club number or cash
- Directors meeting — 3 p.m.
- Cocktails — Cash bar at 6 p.m.
- Dinner — 7 p.m. (cost: \$15; coat and tie required)
- Meeting — 8 p.m.





## Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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

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

### 1983 Officers and Directors

*President* . . . . . Ken Braun  
*Vice President* . . . . . Mike Larsen  
*Secretary* . . . . . Paul O'Leary  
*Treasurer* . . . . . Gerald Gerard  
*President-Emeritus* . . . . . Ben Stagg  
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*Membership Chairman* Robert Lambert  
*Golf Chairmen* . . . . . Walter Montross &  
George Renault  
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*GCSAA Chapter Relations* . . . . . Bill Emerson

## President's Message

At the beginning of the year, the Board of Directors was asked by the membership to do a feasibility study on hiring an Executive Director. The committee appointed to conduct the study spent many hours looking into what would be accomplished by such an employee, what it would cost, and how the necessary funds could be raised. After discussing their report in a number of meetings, the Board unanimously agreed in November that something must be done to provide our members with the professional services we need.



On the practical side, during the past month the executive committee met with an organization that would be able to provide us with a central office and other amenities. We would have to arrange for funding, but personally speaking, I believe we have to start someplace and, like an infant, crawl before we try to run. The arrangement we are considering would represent the infancy stage, but it would be a start.

The membership also asked for a salary survey last year, and this has been completed. We also reviewed the by-laws, and the proposed changes will be voted on at our upcoming annual meeting in December, along with the election of officers and new directors.

This past year has been a very inter-

## The Bad Days of Summer '83 . . . Our November Panel

A feature of the November meeting at Leisure World was a four-man panel that discussed how the summer of 1983 had affected their respective golf courses—sort of a “How I spent my summer fighting the elements” for superintendents. The four were Jim Christy of Shannon Green, Ken Braun of Bonnie View, Walter Montross of Springfield, and Pat O'Brien of the USGA Section in Richmond.

Jim Christy led off, saying that his initial problems involved getting the equipment at the course he had taken over back into shape. Then, when the drought of mid-summer came along, it brought problems of insects attacking the irrigated areas. The water shortage meant he couldn't water tees or fairways and was reduced to hand-watering the greens to keep them going. A spell of cool weather at the end of August enabled him to fertilize and water the greens, which brought them back. Then, the irrigation system wasn't working properly because of controller problems, and a large turtle getting stuck in the intake pipe more or less topped the summer off.

Walter Montross stressed the personal problems that developed as summer grew hotter and drier. One thing that showed up was his own loss of patience and irritation with his crew. Because of the lack of rain, there were no breaks for either superintendent or crew, and he found that the situation had a bad effect on attitude and morale, the causes of which he did not immediately recognize at the time.

Ken Braun kept track of what the weather was like in Baltimore, and he recorded 57 days above 90° and 11 days above 100°. The USGA had told him that shutting the water off would get rid of the poa annua, and it did. Because Bonnie View is on city water, he watered fairways only 11 times, but when he did water, he used a lot of it—one hour per set. This past summer demonstrated the ineffectiveness of the greens watering system—where the sprinklers didn't overlap, there was poor coverage, and it showed.

Lee Dieter talked about his fight against goose grass. He put on two applications of Betasan, which kept it down, but he thinks that cutting the greens lower, using more topdressing can contribute to the spread of goose grass. Farmington tested Betasan and Ronstar together; 50 pounds per acre of Ronstar on year-old Penncross and some older, mismatched varieties, cut to 5/32", gave 95% control of goose grass. Bob Lambert commented that he had used 65 pounds per acre on greens with a history of goose grass infestation and got 90-95% good results. Various members commented on the causes of goose grass moving in, in addition to Lee's view that cutting too close is the major factor, but Pat O'Brien thought the Ph of the green had a lot to do with it, while Mike McKenzie felt heavy play resulting in more compaction was a factor.

Pat O'Brien spoke in general terms of the courses he had visited in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia over the summer, all of which had weather just as hot as Baltimore. The effects of dry weather showed up in diseases of fairway grasses, and a lot of money was spent on fungicides to combat diseases that came in the water that had to be applied. Problems with night watering pointed up the inadequacies of manual watering systems. Many annual weeds multiplied more than usual, and tree root problems were more evident this summer. He also found a lot of equipment trouble, as many clubs had apparently not replaced old equipment over the last four years.

esting one for me as president. I have appreciated this opportunity to serve the membership that elected me, and I would like to thank each member of the Board for the help and support they have given me this year; I have enjoyed working with them.

Ken Braun, *President*

## Voter on Officers, By-Laws Are Slated

Key items of business at the December 13 meeting are election of new officers for 1984 and approval or disapproval of the by-laws changes that were

carried in the September newsletter, plus a discussion of the issue of an executive director or executive secretary for the association.

The following slate was proposed by the nominating committee composed of Ben Stagg, Mike McKenzie, and Ron Hall:

President — Mike Larsen  
Vice President — Gerry Gerard  
Secretary — Wayne Evans  
Treasurer — Lee Dieter

In addition, two directors will be elected to three-year terms from these four candidates: Bill Neus, Tom List, Ken Ingraham, and Nick Vance.





Winners of the 1983 Musser Invitational tournament which benefits turf research were these golfers from Hunt Valley Golf Club, (l. to r.) Bruce Baker, professional John Haines, John Banks, and superintendent Bob Orazi. Dr. Fred Grau, in front, holds the Musser Trophy.

## More Golf Courses Being Developed

Golf's growing popularity and lower interest rates have combined to fuel a surge in new course construction, according to President Ted Robinson of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, who says that the group's members report increased activity across the board—municipal, daily fee, private and real estate development courses.

In addition to the new course activity, Robinson adds that many older clubs are remodeling their courses so that they provide more of a challenge to today's golfers.

"Golf is reacting much like the housing and auto industries," Robinson states. "There is a pent-up demand out there, and when the interest rates began to become more reasonable, those with ideas and plans decided to move ahead. If conditions remain stable in the next year, the golf boom should continue to grow."

### Job Opening

PEST CONTROLLER, WG-08, \$9.10 per hour.

Manage total pesticide program, including indoor and structural pest control, horticultural and turf. Must become certified in D.C., and be physically able to do the majority of the spraying and trapping duties necessary. Successful applicant should have broad experience in either horticultural, turf, or structural pest control and/or related education.

Contact: Dorothy Clemons (202 722-3215 or 722-3210 or send SF-171 to U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, Washington, D.C. 20317

## GCSAA "Old Tom Morris Award" Goes to Bob Hope

Bob Hope has been selected by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America to receive its Old Tom Morris Award, one of the most exclusive major honors in the world of golf. Selection of award winners is made on an unscheduled periodic basis, and Hope will be only the second recipient. The first was Arnold Palmer.

In announcing Hope's selection, GCSAA President Robert H. Osterman also outlined the background of the award: "This Association established the Old Tom Morris Award to satisfy the need for a significant international honor that would help identify with the true heritage and traditional founding of the game. 'Old Tom' Morris—the first 'superstar' of golf—was a green-keeper, golf professional, club and ball maker, golf course architect and accomplished player who won four British Open Championships between 1861 and 1867."

When notified that he had been chosen to receive the award, Hope recalled that back in 1939 he had personally shot movies of Old Tom's headstone at St. Andrew's Cemetery in Scotland. "I've never seen a headstone with a fellow in a golf pose before," Hope said, "but it sure pleases a lot of us."

If anyone has helped to immortalize the golf swing, it's surely Bob Hope. He has swung a golf club on more stages than most people have on golf courses. His swing has taken him literally around the world many, many times as he brought laughter and cheer to our troops overseas in three wars.

Selection of Hope as the second recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award was entirely in keeping with the intent of the award, according to GCSAA President Osterman: "Besides being a 'superstar' in his own time, much like 'Old Tom,' Bob Hope has displayed a continuing, selfless commitment to golf and furthers the welfare of the game in a manner similar to that of 'Old Tom.' Bob Hope's promotion of the game around the world—and the continuing popularity of his own Bob Hope Desert Classic—provide highly visible evidence of his commitment to the game and its continued welfare."



More than a thousand highly prestigious awards and citations have been presented to Hope. The presentation of the Old Tom Morris Award completes the "Grand Slam" of golf awards which includes his previously collected honors of the USGA's Bobby Jones Award in 1978 (jointly with Bing Crosby), the Golf Writers' Richardson Award in 1953, and his recent induction into the Golf Hall of Fame at Pinehurst.

Hope is scheduled to receive the award during GCSAA's 55th International Turfgrass Conference and Show to be held in Las Vegas, Nev., Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 1984. The presentation will be made at GCSAA's annual banquet the evening of Feb. 3 at the MGM Grand Hotel.



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## Directory Questionnaires

If you haven't returned the membership directory questionnaire mailed out last month, please do so as soon as possible so that we can put together an updated directory for 1984.

Please Support these Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Supporters as often as you can.

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First Class Mail

