



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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MAY 1983

NO. 3

May 10 Meeting Follows Superintendent Pro Tourney at Washington Golf

The May 10 meeting of the Association will follow the annual Superintendent-Pro tournament to be played at Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. Cocktails will be at 6 and dinner at 7, with the meeting to follow. Because play at the course is restricted to tournament competitors, open play at nearby Virginia clubs will be arranged by the Golf Committee if you so indicate on your return card or when you call Lee Dieter at 532-5259.

If you're entered in the tournament, you will be able to have lunch at the club prior to the 1 p.m. shotgun start. Lunch will be buffet style, which should speed things up for the superintendents and their golf professional partners.

Site of the tournament, Washington Golf and Country Club can trace its beginnings back to 1894, a very early date in American golf, but it moved to its present location in Arlington in 1908, where Donald Ross is credited with having laid out the original course plan. It was redone in 1919 by Toomey and Flynn and has had additional design work done by local architect Algie Pulley, who designed five new greens

and enlarged all the tee complexes starting in 1969. A relatively short (5,812 yards from the white tees, 6,104 from the blues) hilly course, it requires considerable local knowledge for proper placement of tee shots on a number of holes.

Lee Dieter has been superintendent at Washington G&CC for 22 years, starting there on March 2, 1961, after leaving the Bolling AFB Officers' Club course at South Wales. In addition to routine maintenance, he has overseen the rebuilding of new greens at Nos. 4, 9, 11, 17, and 18 as well as the renovated

tees. He began overseeding his fairways with rye grass (Manhattan and Pennfine) 10 years ago and feels it has been a successful move.

Lee's greens are bent grass with the usual poa annua infiltration found in this part of the world, and they're cut to 9/64" six days a week. Fairways are cut three times a week, as is the intermediate rough. Longer rough is cut once a week or every 10 days. Of his tees, 13 are bentgrass, while the other five are overseeded annually with perennial rye, as are the approaches. The club's ambitious tree-planting program is in its 20th year.

The best route to the club is via newly opened Route 66, taking the Glebe Road exit north, toward the Potomac. The club is at 3017 Glebe Road, on your right shortly after crossing Lee Highway and Old Dominion Drive.

The May 10 program is as follows:

Lunch - 11 to 12:30 p.m.

Golf - 1 p.m. shotgun (Non-contestants play at another course)

Cocktails - 6 p.m. (cash bar)

Dinner - 7 p.m. (\$18.50)

Meeting - 8 p.m.



President's Message

Spring is here, we think, and this one may go down in history as being one of the wettest Springs to hit us, something like the one in 1979. That much water creates problems for all of us.

We would like to express our thanks to Leslie Hawkins and the rest of the staff at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket, Virginia, for hosting our April meeting. Despite the recent heavy rains we were able to play golf, enjoy a great dinner, and listen to an interesting guest speaker, Dr. John Davidson, whose gypsy moth



DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The May meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, May 5, at 1 p.m., at the Woodmont maintenance building. Also, the June meeting will be on Thursday, the 9th, also at Woodmont.

talk is summarized in this newsletter.

Our next meeting will be with Lee Dieter at Washington Golf and Country Club, immediately following our annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament, which incidentally was started 11 years ago at Washington G&CC. Plan on spending a day with your golf pro for golf education, and let's make sure we have a full field.

Ken Braun, *President*

Match Play Event Reaches 2nd Round

The first round of match play was completed on April 12 at Evergreen, with the exception of two matches yet to be played, and the second round will take place on June 14 at Andrews Air Force Base course. First round results were as follows:

Bill Neus defeated George Renault, 4 and 3; Craig Rhoderick won by default from Paul O'Leary; Tom Regan edged Harry Allen, 1 up in 19 holes; Alex Watson defeated John Tutich, 2 and 1; Sam Kessel won by default from Lou White; Bob Orazi also had a default, from Bill Shirik; Dick Gieselman defeated

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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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Schedule of 1983 Meetings

May 10 — Washington Golf & Country Club
June 14 — Andrews AFB Golf Club
July 12 — Mount Pleasant
August 9 — Annual Picnic
September 13 — Bonnie View Country Club
October 11 — Ocean City Yacht & Country Club
November 8 — Leisure World
December 13 — Belle Haven Country Club

All 1983 monthly meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month with the exception of the July meeting, which will be on the first Tuesday.

NEW MEMBERS

Rhys Arthur, Class B
Woodlawn Country Club
Superintendent

Gary Crone, Class D
Indian Springs Country Club
Assistant Superintendent

Change from Class D to Class B
William Conslor
Lakewood Country Club
Assistant Superintendent

Gypsy Moths - They're Coming, For Sure

The voracious gypsy moth is heading our way in force, slowly but surely, said Dr. John Davidson of the Entomology Department of the University of Maryland at our April 12 meeting at Evergreen Country Club. In fact, he predicted that if 50% of your trees are oaks or sweet gums, you definitely will have gypsy moths.

Using colored slides, Dr. Davidson described the life cycle of the moth, whose larvae or caterpillars are attracted to light and repelled by gravity. As a result, they climb high in trees, spin silky threads, and "balloon" to other trees in large "fronts." Larvae also travel by hitching rides on campers, but whatever the method, the moth has continued to move south at the rate of 15-20 miles per year since it started in New England in the 1960's.

The current procedure of spraying after ballooning has occurred is why the moth isn't being stopped. Each of the larval stages is larger than the last, shedding its skin and showing a different pattern. Spraying is most successful when done in the second or third larval stages, during the first three weeks of May. The final stage is the familiar 2½" caterpillar with three double rows of blue dots and six rows of red ones on its back. This caterpillar is the one that does most of the defoliation before turning into a pupa from which the adult moth emerges.

Male moths emerge first, Dr. Davidson said, and fly only during the day, looking for the larger, non-flying females who can lay up to 1,000 eggs in the fuzzy, yellow egg masses from which the larvae hatch in late April. Although moth traps using a sex chemical as a lure are sold, they don't control the moths but are evidence of their presence. Dr. Davidson described two controlling chemicals: demilion, an insect hormone that keeps the young caterpillars from shedding their skins and developing further, and BT, a bacteria that attacks the caterpillars. Both involve helicopter spraying, which can disturb environmentalists and restrict spraying to largely uninhabited areas — a problem for suburban golf courses. Maryland has been using demilion since 1971, but much defoliation still takes place. Spraying at the proper time is the best way to protect the trees on your golf course.



Dr. John Davidson

Musser Tournament At Woodmont, Oct. 14

The fifth annual Musser Invitational Tournament is scheduled for October 14 at Woodmont Country Club and will be dedicated to the memory of the late Bob Shields, according to Musser Foundation President Fred V. Grau. Dr. Grau will serve with Mike Larsen, Bill Emerson, and Bill Black as the tournament committee, which will announce full details on the event later in the summer.

In the meantime, superintendents are being asked to consider a fund-raising plan for the Foundation through which they will ask their club boards to permit non-members to play their courses one day for a fee, which would go to the Musser Foundation in order to carry out its turf grass research. Each superintendent, in cooperation with his club's golf pro, would handle publicizing the day, collecting the fee, etc., as part of a fairly painless way of raising money without asking for donations or selling advertising — and all for an excellent cause.

Osterman is New GCSAA President

Elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the annual meeting in Atlanta on Feb. 24 was Robert W. Osterman, superintendent of the Connecticut Golf Club. James W. Timmerman, superintendent at Orchard Lake Country Club, Michigan, was named vice president, and two members of the Board of Directors were elected—Richard V. Slivinski, superintendent of golf courses for Phoenix, and Donald E. Hearn, superintendent of Weston Golf Club in Massachusetts. Eugene D. Baston of The Country Club of Birmingham, Ala., was appointed secretary-treasurer.

Give Some Thought To Your Crews, Please

by Walter C. Montross

As I sit here contemplating an article, my thoughts reflect back over this last winter's activities. Most of us had the opportunity to attend some excellent local conferences as well as the National. Also, many of us have spent the winter behind a desk—budgeting, inventing, and organizing for next year. But as I reflect, I become more and more appreciative of the people who allow me this time, the golf course maintenance crew. We as superintendents rely almost exclusively on these people to turn out a product that ultimately enhances our reputations. Yet, with the many monetary restrictions imposed on us, how do we encourage these people?

As many management theorists contend, once the basic needs are achieved by money, money no longer becomes the great motivator. As we ourselves respond to praise and encouragement, so does the crew. At Springfield Golf and Country Club, we try to do many things that further the enjoyment of a job well done. One thing I encourage is that any correspondence from the club offering praise includes a reference to the crew. I make sure all of this is posted. Another thing is to offer fair praise and, if needed, constructive criticism. The point is to be consistent and fair.

I think it is our duty to educate those who work for us. If they understand why they are doing something, they will generally perform better. We have tried to develop good camaraderie within the crew by organizing softball games against other club's maintenance crews. In the future maybe we could do things such as golf matches or bowling. Other things such as Christmas parties or taking the crew to a ballgame would let these people know you care. In conclusion, everyone has his own ideas on management, but let us not forget our most valuable resource, the golf course maintenance crew.

MATCH PLAY (Continued from page 1)

Dave Fairbank 5 and 4; Mike Larsen crushed Jim Meier, 9 and 7; Dave Kroll beat Ron Hall, 3 and 1; Ken Braun defeated Bill Emerson, 4 and 3; Gerry Gerard beat Lee Dieter, 2 and 1; Wayne Evans won by default from Mike McKenzie; Grant Pensinger defeated Ken Ingram, 4 and 3; and, Walter Montross edged Stanley Lawson, 1 up.

Still to be played are matches between Ben Stagg and Earl Mason and between



Past President Stagg and his guest, Peter J. Williams of Royal Melbourne Golf Club, at the Evergreen meeting.

Supt. Peter Williams Visits From Australia

by Ben Stagg

At our April meeting at Evergreen, we were honored to have an unusual visitor from the land called "Down Under," Australia. The visitor was Peter J. Williams, who is superintendent — with the title of "Course Manager" — at Royal Melbourne Golf Club, one of the great golf courses of the world. Peter is in the United States as a 1983 Churchill Fellow, making a 10-week tour of golf courses and installations that will add to

his experience and knowledge.

Peter Williams started at Royal Melbourne as a lad of 14 and spent the next 6 years earning his qualification, including courses in horticulture, turf management, and landscaping taken at night or on weekends. His career was interrupted by two years of army service (he was with the Australian contingent in Vietnam), but he came back to Royal Melbourne to work four years as assistant superintendent before becoming superintendent. With 8 years in that post, he has a total of 23 years at RMGC. Married, Peter has three children, two girls, 10 and 4, and a boy, 8.

His 10-week trip is taking him to 10 states. He flew into San Francisco and visited Olympic Club and Monterey Peninsula. He drove up to Davis to look in at the University of California's agricultural school, then went to Los Angeles to see Riverside and Industry Hills before going to Lawrence, Kansas, for a visit at GCSA headquarters. Still on his agenda are a trip to the New York-New Jersey area and one to Florida, where he will consult University of Florida specialists on nematodes and visit West Palm Beach. Knowledge that he picks up on the trip will be disseminated in Australia through the university system and turfgrass extension service.

Peter was quick to point some of the major differences in golf here and in Australia. Motorized carts are a big variation; Royal Melbourne has only two, for use by physically handicapped players. Golfers there like to walk, for health and companionship and pride themselves on playing in 3½ hours or less.

Nick Vance and Virgil Robinson.

Pairings for June 14 are:

Bill Neus vs. winner of Stagg-Mason match

Craig Rhoderick vs. Tom Regan

Grant Pensinger vs. Walter Montross

Alex Watson vs. Sam Kessel

Bob Orazi vs. winner of Vance-Robinson match

Dick Gieselman vs. Mike Larsen

Gerry Gerard vs. Wayne Evans

Dave Kroll vs. Ken Braun

There will be a blind bogey for all non-contestants who play at Andrews on June 14, and other tournaments will be run in the future while the match play tournament is being completed. The \$5 entry fee for the match play event is a one-time fee, Golf Co-Chairman Walter Montross announced. Members not playing the superintendent-pro should check with Walter for arrangements to play at another course on May 10.

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