



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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There Was Fun and Food for All at the August Picnic at Bretton Woods



These were the scenes at the annual Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents picnic held August 9 at Bretton Woods Recreation Center in Potomac, Maryland. At top left was the sign that greeted us at the shaded picnic grounds. The next three photos show family groups attacking the crabs, ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, and fresh corn, plus a tableload of watermelons and assorted desserts. At bottom left was host Gerry Gerard's staff magician, who fascinated the children with his bag of tricks, and at lower right are Mike McKenzie and Paul Barefoot in the smokiest spot of all, the barbecue grill.

We Meet Sept. 13 At Bonnie View C.C.

Our September meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, with golf starting at 11 a.m., immediately after the match play semifinals go off. Carts or caddies are available, and lunch will be available also, on a charge basis only. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. (the menu is sliced tenderloin, and the cost is \$15 plus tax and tip).

Superintendent Ken Braun had the following comments on his golf course:

Welcome to Bonnie View Country Club, which went through as tough a year as any I've seen. We've fared well through the summer months, as our overseeding during the past 8 years seems to have worked out well. This year we lost what poa annua we had early, and the ryegrass filled in real well. Our fairways are cut at 3/4" from spring until July 4; then we cut at 7/8" until the middle of August, cutting 4 or 4 times a week.

OSTERMAN TO SPEAK

Arrangements have been made by Jim Prusa, education director of the GCSAA, to bring national president Robert W. Osterman to Bonnie View on September 13 to speak at our meeting. He will give us a "GCSAA Update" and conduct a question-and-answer session. Don't miss this meeting!

This past year, contrary to the article in *Professional Golfer*, I had to water the fairways, but prior to overseeding in early August, we had only watered on six occasions. Then we watered to get germination and continued to water on an as-needed basis. Our greens are mixed poa and bent and are cut 7 days a week. The tees are a mixture of all varieties of bent, rye, and what little poa is left.

(Continued on page 3)

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President's Message

Another summer is almost down the drain, and this one set many records. After the wettest spring, we've had the most consecutive days above 90°. I would venture to say that July and August were probably the driest in the past 10 years.

I want to thank Gerry Gerard and Bretton Woods, our gracious hosts for the annual picnic, as well as all those people involved in making it another successful family get-together. During July, we also had the chance to wish Alex Watson and Vi a happy and healthy retirement in beautiful Virginia Beach.



Ken Braun, *President*

Bonnie View Site of Match Play Semis

Wayne Evans will meet Bob Orazi and Walter Montross will play Dave Kroll in the semifinal matches of the annual match play tournament at Bonnie View on September 13. The tournament foursome will tee off at 11 a.m. and will be followed by other association players competing in a low net, low gross stroke play event with an entry fee of \$3.00. Prizes will be merchandise certificates in the pro shop.

It's a Long Road to That Professional Image

by George Renault

We've come a long way in our profession—or have we? True, we don't dress in bib overalls and straw hats anymore, and we're rarely referred to as "greenskeepers." But have we come far enough to rest on our laurels and leave the future to itself? We have put a lot of effort toward changing our image, and much more is going to be needed if we are to be universally regarded as professionals.

Since I first joined this association 10 years ago, there have been many beneficial articles and discussions regarding what we should and should not do in order to achieve our professional goals. We are also aware that the best way of reaching our goal is to tackle the challenge with 110% effort and to do it well. We are aware of our image, our code of ethics (hopefully), and our turf. We learn by sharing our experiences — successful or unsuccessful. The nuts and bolts of our business are stressed time and again.

What we have, colleagues, is a product with no organized market. Stop and think for a moment: When was the last time you invited a club official to one of our meetings, except for maybe the pro for our Superintendent/Pro tournament? How better can we educate the people that count than to have them listen to Dr. Couch discuss pythium, helminthosporium, and resistant dollar spot, which is going to have a bumper crop this year? Or let them be on hand as an entomologist describes how grubs, ataenius, chick bugs, etc., are resistant to insecticides currently marketed? Not only would it make them aware of turf problems, but it would also emphasize just how serious we are about this profession and that a superintendent doesn't just grow and mow grass. It would foster a positive image with a guest who may in the future be in a position to help our profession along.

While our primary objective must always remain furthering our own education, an important secondary goal could be the education of other key individuals in the field. There is much to be done in this area. A meeting schedule is currently published monthly in our newsletter. We know the where and the when but not always who will be speaking or what his topic will be. Perhaps if this information were available well in advance, say 2 months, we could better determine which meeting would be most beneficial for which club member. We would certainly feel freer to invite guests if we were certain it would be a worthwhile meeting for them. We could carry this one step further and try to provide a master schedule of meetings, speakers, and topics at the beginning of each season. Our meetings could become invaluable public relations tools if we chose to take advantage of them.

This matter warrants considerable discussion. Why are so few club officials invited to our meetings? What could we do to turn this situation around? Our meetings provide a readily available forum for influencing those who could further our profession and its goals; we should take advantage of this fact.



George Renault, *Superintendent at the Chevy Chase Club*

LETTERS

To the Members of the MAAGCS:

You people are very special to me and my family, and I sincerely thank you from the bottom of my heart for sponsoring and attending my lovely retirement party on July 19 at Sparrows Point Country Club. The camera lens, monetary gift, and delicious retirement cake were also much appreciated.

Again, I wish each of you a happy future and thank all of you for your friendship and assistance given me over the past 23 years.

Please know that each of you has touched my life and has a place in my bag of memories.

Al Watson

SEPT. MEETING (Continued from page 1)

Fertilizing practices on greens, tees, and approaches are 4 pounds of N, all in the fall, with spoon-feeding during the growing season. Fairways receive 2 pounds of N, mostly in the late summer and early fall.

At the meeting after dinner (coat and tie, please), our speaker will be Bob Osterman, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Directions to Bonnie View are: Take Exit 22 off the Baltimore Beltway (695) onto Green Spring Road, turning left on Green Spring after exiting; go to the second stoplight (1½ miles after the first stoplight at Old Court Road) and turn left at Smith Avenue; club is one mile, on the right.