



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVII

AUGUST 1984

NUMBER 6

YOU'RE ALL INVITED

To Our

1984

ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC AGCS PICNIC

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1984

BRETTON WOODS RECREATION CENTER
GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

Gerald G. Gerard — Host

Golf • Tennis • Swimming • Games • Playground

BEER
SWEET CORN

SODAS
RIBS
CRABS

HAMBURGERS
HOT DOGS

1:30 P.M. — UNTIL

FREE!

Directions: Take the River Road exit from the Beltway (495) and go 11½ miles toward Potomac, to the northwest; the club is on the left side of River Road.

1984 Meeting Dates

August 14 — Annual MAAGCS Picnic at Bretton Woods, Gerry Gerard, Host
September 11 — Chevy Chase Club, George Renault, Host
October 9 — Maryland Golf and Country Club, Ron Hall, Host
November 13 — Hobbits Glen Golf Course, Bill Neus, Host
December 11 — Lakewood Country Club, Jerry Robine, Host

President's Message

Enclosed along with this newsletter is a list of the specific responsibilities of the Mid-Atlantic during our upcoming national conference of the GCSAA in February. It's my hope that everyone will volunteer a portion of his or her time to help ensure a successful conference in Washington, D.C.

Remember, the national organization has asked very little of us with regard to this conference. The executive staff has made frequent visits to Washington to make the necessary arrangements for the products show and the meetings, and our duties, as you will see from the volunteer form, are part of acting as hosts to our fellow superintendents and their families.

Since we are the host association, I'm certain we'll incur some unexpected expenses. Turf-Seed, Inc., of Hubbard, Oregon, offers a promotional incentive on a number of their varieties. If we save the Oregon Blue Tags that certify the seed, the association can receive 50 cents or more per tag to help defray conference costs. Please understand that it isn't my intention to promote the use of Turf-Seed products, but if you use any of their varieties as part of your annual overseeding program, it would be appreciated if you would save the tags for your association (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

It's August, which means that it's time for our annual family picnic. With each year, the picnic has become an ever bigger success. Remember, the picnic is a cooperative effort, so please bring a covered dish or dessert that will serve up to 15 people. If you have any questions about the picnic or what to bring, call Bill Neus at 730-5962 (work) or 044-4938 (home).

Michael J. Larsen, *President*



**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*

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From the Golf World

A local Baltimore sportscaster may not have known who it is that keeps Hillendale in such great shape, but the boys who broadcast golf for CBS most certainly knew who was responsible for the remarkable turnaround in Butler National in Illinois where the Western Open was played July 5-8. They gave full credit to the superintendent, and the professional golfers also praised the condition of the course, saying it was in the best shape of any they had played on this year. What's remarkable about this, of course, is that Butler National had the hated bluegrass fairways, plus several years ago its old German Bent greens were attacked by a disease that literally wiped them out shortly before the Open. At any rate, Ken Venturi, Tom Weiskopf, and Pat Summerall, doing the announcing for CBS, couldn't say enough good things about Butler National's superintendent.



This is the new logo of the National Golf Foundation, replacing the old tricolor flag, circle of stars, and name-bearing ribbon. It will appear on all NGF publications, manuals, and official communications. You'll be seeing a lot of it in years to come, since the Foundation is the basic source of information

A Letter to Chris Thomas . . . and all Sports Reporters

July 10, 1984

Mr. Chris Thomas
WBAL-TV

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Dumbfounded, flabbergasted, "I cannot believe he said that," are just a few of the words to describe my feelings following your broadcast of July 1 after the completion of the Greater Baltimore Open at Hillendale Country Club.

Your report stated that on Saturday night this area received 4½" of rain and despite this the course was in outstanding condition (shape). However, you gave Bill Clarke sole credit as the person responsible for the condition of the golf course. This letter is not an attempt to discredit or embarrass Bill Clarke. I will be the first to acknowledge that Mr. Clarke is an asset to Hillendale and the golf community within Maryland and is a model professional. However, the conditioning of the golf course is the responsibility of the Golf Course Superintendent — in Hillendale's instance, John Hoover.

This error on your part further illustrates how unaware some sports reporters are of the qualifications and the role of the Golf Course Superintendent. Name one other sport where the playing surface is as important to the game itself, other than golf.

One of the primary reasons for selecting a particular course to host a tournament of this caliber is the excellent playing conditions, which are achieved through the dedicated efforts of a well-trained greens staff, under the leadership of the Superintendent. Today's Golf Course Superintendent is a college-educated professional possessing many technical and managerial skills. It is time the media and sports reporters realize that the Golf Course Superintendent is the true unsung hero of golf. Hopefully, with your cooperation, the Golf Course Superintendent will not remain, the "BEST KEPT SECRET AT THE COUNTRY CLUB."

Your response to this letter is welcome, and I extend to you an open invitation to attend one of our Association's monthly meetings. Please contact me at your convenience.

Yours truly,
Michael J. Larsen
President, Mid-Atlantic Association
of Golf Course Superintendents

about new courses and trends in golf in general.

NGF makes a number of outstanding service awards each year, and the latest will go to two widely known golf course architects, Geoffrey Cornish of Amherst, Mass., and Bob Baldock of Costa Mesa, Calif. The award recognizes the more than 600 golf courses that these two men in their 70's have designed (working separately, of course, at opposite ends of the country) and the many additional services they have provided to the game. Cornish's definitive book, *The Golf Course*, is now in its third printing and will continue to expand as more information becomes available and is added.

The famed golf complex at Pinehurst, after spending several years in the hands of the banks who took it over in receivership, has been sold to the Club Corporation of America, a Dallas-based company that already operates Firestone Country Club, Inverrary Country Club, and many more country and golf clubs around the country, including Hunt Valley in this area.

One of the last barriers to the build-

ing the TPC course on the Avenel Farm tract near Congressional was passed on June 26 when the Montgomery County Council approved the building of the course, which will be a buffer to the planned Rock Run water and sewage treatment facility that the WSSC plans to build in the future. Developers will then build luxury homes around the perimeter of the course, which will be managed by the PGA Tour and which will be the site of the Kemper Open, probably in 1987 for the first time.

TURFGRASS FIELD DAY

Don't forget the Maryland Turfgrass Research Field Day on Thursday, August 2, at the Hopkins Plant Research Farm on Cherry Hill Road, between Rts. 29 and 212 near Beltsville. A tour of the research plots begins at 9 a.m. and covers a variety of research into fertility, week and disease control, plant growth regulators, nontarget effects of fungicides, tall fescue seeding rates.

What to Do About Those Course Abusers

Noticed any ball marks on your greens lately? How's the litter around the litter basket; has it found a home inside the barrel or are your members off the mark again? How about the trees; are the rough riders still making figure-eights with tire marks?

If you accent the positive in response to these on-going questions of the incidence of much-ignored golf etiquette, maybe it's time to raise the possibility of subjecting frequent offenders to a clinic of another kind.

Golf clinics, as know them, are confined to the intricacies of the golf swing. There, the pro tells you how to grip the club properly, how to take it away in a straight line, come back with a lateral return — all the little things that go into hitting a golf ball far and straight.

This type of tutoring is very nice and essential, especially if the golfer doesn't know the difference between the Vardon grip and the pro putting side of the cup. But it takes in only half of a golfer's education. The other half, or appreciation of the golf course, usually is left to work itself into the player's head by accident or chance. How unfortunate — for the golfer and the golf course superintendent.

Some of the scenes on the golf course are cause for alarm, not to mention cause for the superintendent to wonder if those playing the layout realize they have an obligation to treat it as they do their own homes and places of business.

There are countless ways to abuse the golf course. A foursome of junior golfers race out of the clubhouse — their pockets stuffed with candy bars and their hands full of soft drinks. Before a second or third shot is taken, the fairway looks like the city dump with papers flying in all directions and paper cups challenging the grass for squatters' rights.

Tees are a particular sore spot, a locale where golfers do more damage with their pull carts than they do with tee shots. It's almost automatic for a golfer to drag his cart across the tee, select his club, make the shot, and then rip his way back to the fairway. Abuse? What takes a superintendent months to transform into a smooth and inviting area is turned into a scarred battleground in a matter of hours.

Greens constitute another area where golfers, whose minds are stuck on a single track of making their putt, ignore ball marks and perform other acts that inflict damage on the most significant product of a superintendent's maintenance efforts. It takes only a few seconds to repair a ball mark, but weeks of conditioning are needed to restore that spot to its original state if the golfer allows the penetration to go unattended.

One could go on and on with examples of course desecration, most unintentional but recurring because the golfer refuses to take a few moments to appreciate the grounds on which he plays. How many burnt-out cigarettes work their way into your delicate turf? Don't count them. You'll be there forever.

These and other forms of course abuse never will be completely eliminated. However, a course appreciation clinic could help to keep it to a minimum. But it does take cooperation and the makings of a new and constructive relationship between player and superintendent.

Starting with the juniors seems sensible. By no means are the newer golfers the only perpetrators in the act of abusing a golf course. However, they would be logical participants in a course appreciation clinic because of their impressionable status.

Sure, it sounds like a dead horse is being beaten because this same subject has been touched on here in the past. However, the incidents of abuse continue and have gone unchecked to the point where competition between golfers damaging the course and superintendents trying to preserve its playing condition has developed.

Actually, the highest station of responsibility lies with the country club officials or park commissions that administer municipal courses. Public courses are a separate entity. Their owners usually wield a heavier hand in demanding cooperation from players.

The golf course appreciation clinic, then, deserves to be explored and employed. There is nothing uglier than a course bent out of playing an aesthetic shape because golfers refuse to take part in retaining the condition a superintendent effects. If going to school will remedy the situation, so be it.

Reprinted from: Newsletter of GCSA of New England.

The Oregon Blue Tag Program—the Details

To promote the recognition and desirability of Oregon Certified Seed, the Turf-Seed Corporation offers points toward either prizes, or in the case of qualifying turf associations, cash redemption. Points are awarded for each Oregon Blue Tag that carries the variety name or seed mixture name of a Turf-Seed, Inc., proprietary, with different kinds of seeds carrying different point values. These point values are as follows: CBS-1, Citation-1, Omega-1, Birdie-1, Oregon-1, Manhattan II-1, Birdie II-1, Columbia-2, Shasta-2, Midnight-2, N-535-2, Fortress-2, Shadow-2, Waldina-4, Aurora-4, Olympic-1. Tags saved should be forwarded to MAAGCS.



**Save your
blue tags**

Gerard Meets Vance For Match Play Title

Gerry Gerard defeated Dave Fairbank 2 and 1 in their semifinal match played at Piney Branch Golf and Country Club on July 12, and Nick Vance advanced to the final on a default when John Tutich and Frank Shirk failed to play their quarterfinal match before that date and were eliminated. Gerry and Nick will meet for the 1984 Match Play Championship, probably on September 11 at the Chevy Chase Club.

In the open play at Piney Branch, Bob Miller had an 80 less his 16 handicap for a 64 to win low net, while his son Tom, on leave from the Army, posted a 76 to tie Ed Cashman for low gross honors. Jerry Robine was second net with 65, Steve Cohoon had 67 for third, and George Renault was fourth with 71.

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