



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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'84 Season Closes Dec. 11 at Lakewood

Lakewood Country Club, where Jerome Robine is golf course superintendent, will be the site of the Mid-Atlantic's final meeting of 1984 on December 11. The club's golf course, designed by Edmund Ault, was dedicated in September 1960 by a match between Sam Snead and Arnold Palmer that was ended by a vicious thunderstorm. That storm was a forerunner of things to come, as the members battled the promoters for 3 years in the courts before obtaining control of their club.

Ever since then, Lakewood has annually hosted a major tournament for either the Maryland State, Middle Atlantic, or Washington Metropolitan Golf Associations. Its biggest tournament, the National Challenge Match in 1965 featured three top pros, Nicklaus, Palmer, and Player, and three leading amateurs, Deane Beman, Bill Campbell, and Dale Morey. Gary Player's back-to-back 64 and 63 are still Lakewood's greatest rounds.

As a golf course, Lakewood has fine natural features: partially wooded, rolling terrain with two streams and six lakes, all making for a variety of scenic golf holes that total 6,375 yards from white tees, 6,835 from the blues. For many years, it has followed a golf course master plan, which is updated every five years. After inputs from the Green, Golf, and Women's Golf Committees, various landscape and golf course architects, golf course superintendents, and pros are consulted. Russell Roberts currently serves as the club's consulting architect.

Over the past 20 years, Lakewood has added some 2,500 trees to the course, built new women's and championship tees, added or changed bunkers, rebuilt greens, realigned fairways, and added asphalt



Tom Meeks, USGA Director of Rules and Competitions, illustrates a point on how the Rules affect bunker play, as Les Barker, (chin in hand), USGA section chairman for this area, watches. More than 30 superintendents were on hand at Columbia Country Club on October 29, as Tom Meeks lectured and gave practical demonstrations for more than 5 hours on the Rules and course marking. Anyone who missed it, shouldn't have.

cart paths as part of the overall improvement program. The master plan is currently being reviewed to locate the more than 3,000 young white pines now in nurseries that will be transplanted to the course in coming years.

Turfwise, Lakewood started with bluegrass fairways and bent (C-1 and C-19) greens. Initially lacking a complete watering system, the club experimented with various Bermuda strains on fairways and tees, but these did not survive winter cold. A complete watering system was installed in 1969-70, and since then, new strains of ryegrass have been overseeded to fairways and tees.

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Nominating Committee Picks the Slate for 1985

New MAAGCS officers will be elected at the December 11 meeting at Lakewood, and the Nominating Committee under the chairmanship of past president Ken Braun has presented the following slate: for president, Gerry Gerard; for vice presi-

The President's Message

This month's newsletter is my last as President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and looking back, I feel that we had a good year. Our monthly meetings, Ladies Night, and the family picnic were all very successful due to the efforts of the Board of Directors and many interested members.

Personally, I appreciate the confidence and support the membership was shown throughout the past year. I'll always be proud to have been President of the Mid-Atlantic, an association that has survived good times and bad since 1922.

Winter usually is the time of year that job opportunities become available in our profession, and in that connection, it's a good idea for all of us to review the association's Code of Ethics, which is printed on the back inside cover of our membership directory. Observing this Code of Ethics can only serve to elevate our association and profession.

The final meeting of 1984 on December 11 is at Lakewood Country Club, where Jerome Robine will be our host. Because this is our annual election meeting, all of us should attend and vote. Remember to register by calling the office at 964-0070.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*

dent, Wayne Evans; for secretary, George Renault and Walter Montross; for treasurer, Lee Dieter; for the two vacancies on the Board of Directors, for 3-year terms: Dick Gieselman, Joel Ratcliff, Virgil Robinson, and Nick Vance.



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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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Season Closes Dec. 11

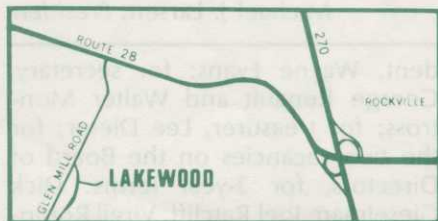
(Continued from page 1)

Jerome Robine, a Penn State graduate in agronomy, has been superintendent for 12 years; he previously served for 1 year as assistant to Dave Fairbank. His greens are cut six times a week to 5/32" in the spring, to 3/16" in summer, and to 1/8" in fall. Fairways are cut three times a week to 3/4", and rough is cut twice a week to 2". Fertilizing is 4# of N per thousand each year on greens, 2½# per thousand on fairways.

Directions to Lakewood are as follows: from Baltimore, 695 to I-95 to 495, right to 270N to Rt. 28, Rockville exit, go west on Rt. 28 1.4 miles to Glen Mill Road, turn left at light, club entrance a quarter-mile on the left; from Washington, 495 to 270N to Rt. 28, then as above. (See map)

The program for December 11 is as follows:

- Lunch — After 11 (no cash - charge to your club)
- Golf — Anytime after 11 - net & gross prizes
- Cocktails — 6 p.m. (cash bar)
- Dinner — 7 p.m. (\$20 - coat & tie required)
- Meeting — 8 p.m. (call 301-964-0070 to register)



This year's net winners in the Musser Turfgrass Tournament at Suburban Country Club, left to right, George Renault, Gary Ferdyn, Sean Remington, and Norman Norman hold their individual plaques while Dr. Fred V. Grau, center, holds the Grau Trophy.

Musser Musings — At 6th Annual Tourney

by Fred V. Grau

October 12 was a dream day, 83° at 3 p.m., and Bob Miller had his Suburban Club course in fine shape. The many trees on the course stand as a memorial to the late Jim Reid, the former superintendent, and the acres of fairways cry out to me for conversion to seeded zoysia and tall fescue. In this area it seems the ultimate combination for low-cost maintenance and conservation of

water, fertilizer, chemicals, and labor, while still providing a quality playing surface.

At the meeting following a perfect dinner, the beginning and operation of the Musser Foundation were traced, including the \$4,000 grant to the University of Maryland for research on wetting agents for turfgrasses. The annual Musser Tournament is one of several ways money is raised to sponsor research of universal value to all who grow turf.

Ex-President Thomas Doerer Dies at 72

Thomas Doerer, an honorary life member of the MAAGCS and president of the association in 1964-65, died in Tappahannock, Va., on Nov. 10, at the age of 72. He had retired as an active superintendent in 1976 after serving in that capacity at the Ft. Belvoir Golf Club for 19 years. Previously he had been superintendent and manager at the Fredericksburg Country Club, was at Riverside Golf Club near Tappahannock in a similar capacity, worked for the Loeffler Brothers at East Potomac and Rock Creek Park, and represented



the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and daughters Barbara Garland and Jeanne Davis, plus a number of grandchildren, all of Tappahannock. Members of the MAAGCS Board of Directors represented the association at the funeral on November 13.

Maryland Turfgrass '85 Set for January 7-9

Maryland Turfgrass '85, for which MAAGCS is a sponsor, will again be held at the Baltimore Convention Center, and the program features an excellent mix of national figures, local researchers, and Mid-Atlantic superintendents. Registration mailings will be going out shortly to all MAAGCS members, including details on the morning general sessions and the afternoon golf course sessions.

Thoughts on Being a MAAGCS Member

by Nick Vance

I have been an MAAGCS member for almost 10 years, and for 5 of those years, I was just that — a member. I didn't really appreciate what the association is and does for us as professionals and individuals; I attended meetings only when it was convenient and never made the extra effort. I know now that was my loss.

Looking back over the associations I have belonged to in the past, I can't remember one that is more devoted to its members or that has a better reason to exist.

I'm sure many of us know a lot of people who are really not happy with what they are doing, but I don't know any golf course superintendent who wants to change professions. I think most of us are not only happy with what we are doing but are proud of it, too, and that is what makes the MAAGCS so strong.

That is why just being a member is not enough. Understanding the association, knowing what it does, and helping whenever we can is what it takes for us to continue as a strong and healthy membership. I have found in the last few years just how important the association and its Code of Ethics are to our existence, and making them a part of our everyday life bring us closer to each other and our profession.

The holding of the annual GCSAA meeting in Washington, D.C., this year will give us a chance to show others what a great association the MAAGCS is: as the host chapter, we must strive to let everyone know that we have a great organization and are proud to be among its members.

Monday morning at 9, the General Pesticide Session will start, with the Trade Show following at 12. Tuesday's general session will be followed at 2 p.m. by a golf course session covering a variety of topics and concluding with a panel led by Mike Larsen, Bill Neus, and Pat O'Brien of the USGA. On Wednesday, Jan. 9, the general session will cover a number of topics of interest to superintendents, and the golf course session at 1:30 p.m. will cover fungicides, topdressing studies, water management, and a panel discussion that includes George Thompson, Ken Braun, and Merrill Frank.

Meeting Today's Demands: Fairway Maintenance and Improvement

by Bruce R. Williams, Bob O'Link Golf Course

Aeration

Aeration equipment came a long way during the 70's. The new equipment allowed us to take more cores and have deeper penetration into the soil.

Some superintendents actually used a greens aerifier for troublesome spots on the fairways. Well, if the Greensaire was beneficial to the worst parts of the fairway, why couldn't it improve the entire fairway?

Again we followed the lead of several other superintendents and used the Ryan Greensaire to aerate all of our fairways beginning in 1980. Using four aerifiers, we aerate two fairways per day. Machines are lubricated hourly and oil changed daily.

Plugs are dragged with a cyclone fence drag mat. The residual thatch and vegetative matter are then blown to the center of the fairway for pickup.

The deep penetration and close proximity of holes gives us a super job. Using this method once a year in the spring, we have reduced our thatch level and aided water penetration into the soil.

Pest Management

Weeds have not been a problem in our fairways — with the exception of an occasional patch of clover, which we spot-treat.

Insects had never been a problem on our fairways, but along with the 80's came a new pest: *Ataenisu spretulus*. We treat our fairways with 40 lbs. per acre of Oftanol 5G to solve this problem. Last season, we also treated the fairways for cutworms after finding populations as high as 15 per square foot.

Our disease control program is preventative using alternating applications of contact and systemic fungicides.

A typical season would start off with two applications of Actidione RZ at 1.2 oz./m in the spring. This would be followed with:

- Bayleton 1 oz.
- Daconil 2787 3.7 oz.
- Bayleton .6 oz. + TGF ½ oz.
- PMAS .8 oz. + AD Thiram 2.14 oz.
- 26019 1.5 oz.
- Bayleton 1.0 oz.
- PMAS 1.0 oz. + Thiram 4 oz., applied for snowmold control.

Until 1983, *Pythium* was not much of a problem and we only spot-treated when *Pythium* was visible. However, with more than 40 days in the 90s last summer, *Pythium* became probably our largest fairway problem and we made five applications of Banol or Subdue at 2 oz./m. Fairways with clippings removed had less *Pythium* pressure than those mowed with conventional gang units.

Root Pruning

Root pruning has become necessary since the height-of-cut has been reduced and the application of water has been limited. The trees that cause the fairway turf the most problems in their struggle for moisture are elms, willows and cottonwoods.

Whenever we see a localized dry spot in a fairway with one of those trees nearby, we immediately root prune. A trench is dug in the rough at a depth of 2-3 feet. The trench is lined with tarpaper and then back-filled with gravel.

The Program in Retrospect

Our long-range plan for fairway improvement has been quite successful. Our members are pleased with the playability of the fairways. The ball gets more roll and flier lies have been eliminated.

It is certain that such a program is not inexpensive. Yet, the cost of improved fairways is not prohibitive. Once the permanent improvements of drainage and irrigation were completed — at a cost of \$130,000 — then we were only dealing with three increased expenditures annually:

- Mowing with clipping removal (costs an additional \$6,000).
- Aeration with Greensaires (costs an additional \$6,000).
- The use of wetting agents (costs \$3,000).

The key to our program is that we have employed a number of different procedures to accomplish our objectives. We are using a variety of methods which have been proven effective by other superintendents. Using all of these professional practices together in a holistic approach, we benefit from a synergistic effort — our fairways are healthier and easier to maintain during stress periods.

Reprinted from *The Gateway Green*

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Claud Corrigan, Editor
2236 Malraux Drive
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(703) 573-4931

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