



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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It's Piney Branch For Our July 10 Meeting

It was July 1981 when the MAAGCS last visited Piney Branch Golf and Country Club in Hampstead, Md., and host Gene Dyke has extended a warm invitation to come out and enjoy some Baltimore and Carroll County hospitality at our July 10 meeting.

Piney Branch, which was designed by Eddit Ault, was built on 206 acres of rolling farmland. Its first nine opened in 1965 and the full 18 in July 1971. The course measures 6,850 yards from the blue tees, 6,508 from the whites, and lies in a secluded woody area of rolling terrain. Its greens are Penncross mixed with Poa, average 708 square feet, are cut 5 to 6 times a week to 5/32" or 3/16", and receive 4-5 lbs. of N per year. The tees, originally Merion blue and Pennlawn, have been overseeded in rye and are cut 3 times a week at 3/4". They receive 3-4 lbs. of N per year. Fairways, whose original seeding was Kentucky blue and red fescue, have been overseeded with ryegrass, are cut 1 1/4" 3 times a week, and receive 2 lbs. of N each year. Roughs are K-31.

Irrigation is manual, with water source a 5 1/2-acre lake and two ponds, all springfed. Facilities include a practice trap, green, and range. Shower facilities are available in the clubhouse, and towels will be provided.

Eugene Dyke has been associated with Piney Branch for 16 years. Prior to that, he spent 4 years at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club in Charles Town, W. Va., and worked in the maintenance department at various clubs in the Winchester, Va., area. He is a self-taught superintendent who doesn't claim to know all the answers. Gene and his wife of 20 years reside in Manchester, Md., and have one son, aged 12.

For those who don't want to play golf, golf carts will be available to tour the course. Points of interest include the complete reconstruction of No. 12 green by Gene's crew, who also built the 42' steel bridge at No. 7. The course is a

busy one, with some 72 golf outings and nearly 40,000 rounds being played.

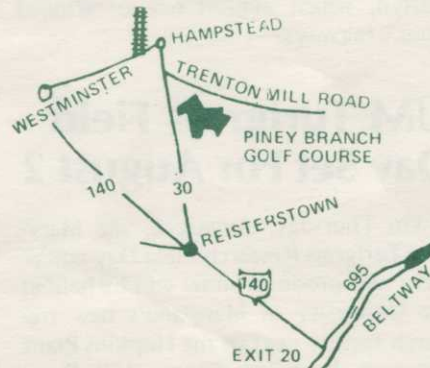
To get to Piney Branch, take the Baltimore Beltway (Rte. 695) to Exit 20, Reisterstown Road, go north to Rte. 30, continuing north for 8 miles, with the club being on the right. An alternate route is 495 to 270N, go right on Rte. 27 to Hampstead, Md., right on Rte. 30 for 1 1/2 miles, to the club on the left.



PROGRAM FOR JULY 10

Golf — After 11 a.m.
Lunch — cash basis
Cocktails — 6-7 p.m. (cash bar)
Dinner — 7 p.m., top sirloin and crab cakes (price, \$16)
Meeting — 8 p.m. (coats and ties)

Free beer will be available on the patio to all Mid-Atlantic members. Don't forget to call 964-0070 with your reservation.



AHEAD—THE PICNIC

Don't forget, on August 14 our annual picnic will be held at Bretton Woods, with food and fun for the whole family. Full details will be in next month's newsletter.

The President's Message

During the past month I have had several meetings with representatives of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America concerning our upcoming National Conference. Recently, I also met with Bonnie Stevenson and several interested wives of Mid-Atlantic members. Many excellent ideas and suggestions were relayed to Bonnie, and initial planning for the spouses' program is underway.



Along with next month's newsletter, we'll be sending you a list of the various National Conference committees for which the Mid-Atlantic is responsible, and you'll be able to use it to let us know how you plan to volunteer your time and effort to help make the 1985 meeting the GCSAA's best. The participation of wives in the many host activities is both welcomed and encouraged. If everyone cooperates and does his or her part, I'm convinced that this forthcoming conference in the nation's capital will be a most memorable one.

Our July meeting will be at Piney Branch, with Gene Dyke as host. For the June meeting, 80 out of the 83 who attended registered in advance, an excellent record. Keep up the good work and let us know at (301) 964-0070 if you plan to be on hand.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*

Meeting Schedule, 1984

July 10 — Piney Branch Golf Club
August 14 — Annual Picnic at Bretton Woods
September 11 — Chevy Chase Club
October 9 — Maryland Golf & C.C.
November 13 — Hobbits Glen
December 11 — Lakewood C.C.

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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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From the Golf World

Few who walked the course would doubt that Winged Foot Golf Club's West Course was in the best shape possible for mid-June. The fairways were close-cropped and immaculate, and the greens were fast without being glassy, as they were in 1974. Considering the amount of contour that Tillinghast built into those greens, it isn't really necessary to make them superfast; the breaks and rolls are torment enough. After 72 holes, Zoeller and Norman were tied at four under par, a considerable improvement over Hale Irwin's winning seven-over when he won 10 years ago.

Incidentally, Winged Foot brought Sherwood Moore back from a short "retirement" (he's now superintendent at the new Captain's Club on Cape Cod) to work with his successor, Bob Alonzi, to prepare the course for the Open. He served the old Mamaroneck club for 16 of the 45 years he has been involved with golf courses. Whether you saw the Open on TV or were there in person, you'd have to call their joint effort an unqualified success.

A lot of rain fell on Winged Foot the week before the Open and in heavy thunderstorms on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, which made things tough for the East Course that served as the parking lot for all those thousands of cars. The turf will come back, most certainly, but it was painful to see all those tire tracks on that bentgrass.

Plenty of GCSAA leaders were on hand for the Open, including President

A Mid-Summer Turf Quiz . . . By Bill Neus

This short quiz was designed to help us through these dog days. Only one answer per question can be accepted.

1. My Poa Annuua (A) ___looks super; (B) ___looks good; (c) ___looks O.K.; (D) ___went on vacation.
2. Identify the most prominent grass in the Mid-Atlantic area in the summer: (A) ___rye; (B) ___bent; (C) ___crab; (D) ___annual blue; (E) ___occasional.
3. What has a white, cottony, irregular shape and is plainly visible on fairways on hot humid mornings? (A) ___ misplaced snow; (B) ___bird droppings; (C) ___left-overs from last night's party; (D) ___what fairways?
4. I mow my fairways under 5/8" because: (A) ___crabgrass can handle it; (B) ___I'm nuts; (C) ___my membership says it's necessary; (D) ___i really don't, but it sound impressive.
5. Why hasn't Ken Braun watered his fairways in the last 10 years? (A) ___it rains at Bonnie View every third day; (B) ___Astroturf doesn't need it; (C) ___he lies; (D) ___what fairways?
6. Aerification allows us to: (A) ___get back at the golfers; (B) ___hear more complaints; (C) ___buy more aspirin and antacid; (D) ___cover our mistakes.
7. How fast are my greens on the Stimpmeter? (A) ___3.1'; (B) ___8.6'; (C) ___10.2'; (D) ___19.7'; (E) ___who cares?
8. What noxious growth proliferates in the hot, dry summer? (A) ___Mid-Atlantic bent; (B) ___cactus; (C) ___my greens chairman; (D) ___I have so much I didn't know it was noxious.
9. Superintendents are: (A) ___in this business for the money; (B) ___anonymous; (C) ___better known as greenskeepers; (D) ___an interesting breed of machochistic tribesmen who love to aggravate people wearing funny clothes with sticks in their hands.



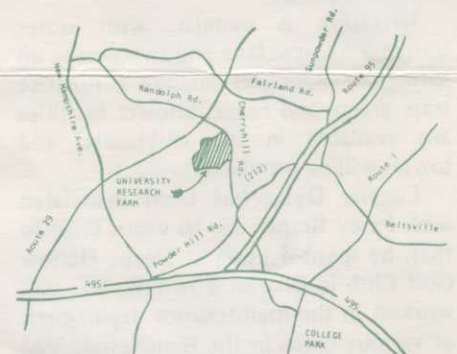
All answers should be sent to Lee Dieter, who will tabulate the results and announce them at Turfgrass '85. Anyone scoring poorly will be awarded a 1-year subscription to the GCSAA employment referral service.

Jim Timmerman, Executive Director John Schilling, Associate Executive Director Jim Prusa, Director of Communications Clayton Loyd, and public relations man Billy Shelton. They hosted a reception at the home of Warner B. Herlyn, which adjoins one of Winged Foot's fairways.

noon, and research plots will be opened and monitored for informal discussions.

UM Turfgrass Field Day Set For August 2

On Thursday, August 2, the Maryland Turfgrass Research Field Day equipment and products show will be held at the University of Maryland's new research facility next to the Hopkins Plant Research Farm on Cherry Hill Road near Beltsville (see map). Registration is free and begins at 8:30 a.m., with the tour of research plots going from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A crab feast will be served at 12:30 p.m. (cost, about \$5.50), turf products and equipment will be demonstrated during the after-



Research is being conducted in the areas of fertility, weed control, disease control, plant growth regulators, non-target effects of fungicides, tall fescue seeding rates, zoysia establishment and management, cold-hardiness of bermuda, Kentucky bluegrass and perennial-rye cultivar evaluations, and rooting effects of transplanted sod treated with antitranspirants and wetting agents.

Summertime - Irrigation at Its Most Critical

By J.R. Hall, III
Extension Agronomist, Virginia Polytechnical Institute

Although working on the end of a hose may not sound or look important, it is a job that if left to the untrained can lead to job hunting for golf course superintendents. Water management is critical in hot, wet summers.

Timing of irrigation is important in relation to disease activity in that the length of time that leaf surface and thatch remain wet likely affects fungus spore germination and therefore success of fungal entry. Irrigation is most beneficial when applied in the cool, early morning period as leaf blades can dry before mid-day temperatures rise and sugar-laden guttation droplets are washed off the leaf blades, reducing available fungal substrate.

Water movement into and through a soil is affected by soil texture, topography, thatch accumulation, soil moisture, compaction, and other factors. The water available to the turfgrass plant will vary depending upon rooting depth and type of soil mixture. In a sand green, plant available water may range from 0.4 to 1.0 inches of water per foot, whereas in a clay loam the range would vary between 1.8 and 2.1 inches of available water per foot of soil. Obviously the sandy soil will require more frequent irrigation if the rooting depth and turfgrass density are equal. Frequency of irrigation will also be affected by evapotranspiration rates which average from 0.11 to 0.16 inches per day from April to September in most areas of Virginia. This represents roughly 3000 to 4400 gallons of water lost per day that must be replenished by rainfall or irrigation if the soil moisture reservoir is inadequate.

Syringing is an important method of cooling turf areas that are entering drought or heat stress. It is different from normal irrigation in that it is not designed to wet the soil, but to mist the plants. Turfgrass plants with limited root systems incapable of absorbing adequate amounts of water can rapidly develop internal water deficits which, if not corrected, can lead to death of the plant. Bentgrass and annual bluegrass are very prone to this dry wilt death.

The practice of syringing is an art and should not be relegated to anyone without good common sense. When an untrained individual is faced with the impending death of turf due to dry wilt, there is a great tendency to overwater the turf and throw the plants into "wet wilt," which is just as deadly as "dry wilt." Wet wilt commonly occurs on poorly drained areas where the soil is saturated and the plant cannot absorb water because of a combination of a lack of oxygen in the warm soil and very low transpiration rates due to extremely high humidity near the leaf surface. It is thought that the lack of oxygen decreases respiration in the roots leading to root die-back and the possibility of disease interaction.

The theory of syringing is to simply place a mist of water on the surface of the leaf. The cooling effect arises from the fact that the water absorbs some of the sun's heat. Obviously, the cooler the water, the greater the cooling effect. However, as the sun's rays impinge on cool or warm water on the leaf blade, it is converted from the liquid state to a vapor state. This conversion of water from a liquid to a gas requires approximately 539 calories of energy for every gram of water converted. If the water were not present on the blade of grass to be converted to gas, this same energy would simply hit the blade and increase the leaf temperature.

If well-drained sandy greens are exhibiting dry wilt symptoms, more than a syringing may be necessary, especially if the roots at a 6- to 8-inch depth are dying back because of lack of moisture. Likewise, the decision to irrigate on a poorly drained soil, when a syringing was really what was needed, could lead to death of the turfgrass plants. It is essential that the individual making the decision about whether a green needs to be syringed or irrigated have a soil probe. This will allow the individual to observe soil moisture conditions, rooting depth, and health and to make an informed decision about whether to syringe or irrigate.

Making informed decisions about whether to syringe or irrigate is essential to successful golf green management in Virginia. It demands good common sense, a detailed knowledge of the soil types being irrigated, evapotranspiration rates for the area, and the depth of the root system being managed.

Reprinted from the *Old Dominion Spreadsheet*.

Nick Vance Reaches Match Play Semis

Nick Vance defeated Walter Montross 5 and 3 at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club on June 12 to reach the upper bracket semifinal of the annual Match Play Championship; he will play the winner of the postponed John Tutich-Frank Shirk match, which will be played at Piney Branch at 8 a.m. on July 10. In the lower bracket semifinal, Dave Fairbank defeated George Renault to win the right to meet Gerry Gerard, a second-round winner over Dick Gieselman. The foursome of semifinalists will go off at 11 a.m. on July 10. Other golfers will participate in a low net and gross stroke play event with a \$3 entre fee.

Winners in the open play tournament at Green Spring Valley were Tom Turner, who took low gross with 77, matching out Robby Nelson; Paul O'Leary was third with 80. In the net division, Bill Neus won with a 70, two strokes up on Ken Braun and Bob Miller.

MAAGCS Mourns Dick Watson



Richard Watson, known to friends as Dick and the last living charter member of MAAGCS, died at age 87 on May 28 in NIH. Before retirement in 1970, he had been superintendent at Chevy Chase Club for 38 years and had served as a consultant in the building and maintenance of a number of area courses, including Burning Tree, Congressional, Columbia, Belle Haven, and Army Navy. Dick came to the U.S. in 1922 from his homeland in Scotland, after serving in the British Army in World War I, and worked on golf courses for his cousin, Robert Pryde, in New England. His first local superintendent's post was at the old Indian Spring Country Club, starting in 1927, and he thus was on hand for the founding of the MAAGCS in 1928.

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