



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVII

MARCH 1984

NO. 1

## The President's Message

Hopefully, everyone who attended the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show in Las Vegas had an enjoyable and profitable time. In 1985, this annual Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., and GCSAA Executive Director John Schilling is expected in Washington shortly to make the final arrangements for the meeting. As expected, the Mid-Atlantic Association will share some of the responsibilities associated with the Conference, and by April, I hope to have a clear understanding of just what these will entail for us.

I appreciate your support in electing me president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and I look forward to the challenges of 1984. Our schedule of monthly meetings begins in March, so shake that case of cabin fever and join us at the Country Club of Fairfax, where Past President Sam Kessel will be our host.

In what could be an important step, the MAAGCS is, on a trial basis, sharing office space with the Middle Atlantic Section of the PGA in Columbia, Md. One initial benefit is a central office capable of taking messages. If you plan to attend the March meeting, call our number at the PGA, 301-964-0070, and register with the secretary.

Sincerely,  
Michael Larsen, *President*



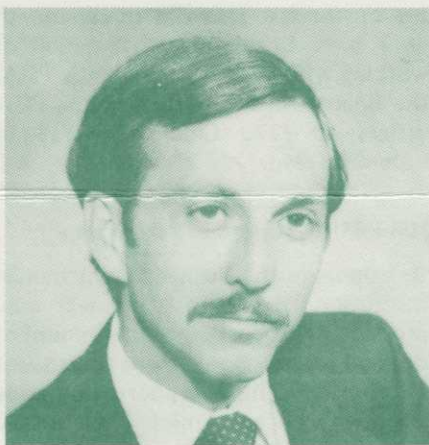
## March Meeting Is 13th at C.C. of Fairfax

The Association's first meeting of 1984 will be held March 13 at the Country Club of Fairfax in Virginia, and, weather permitting, open play on the course will begin at 12 noon. Reservations for golf and/or dinner should be made by calling the MAPGA office, (301) 964-0070; reservation cards will not be used this year.

Sam Kessel, who has been superintendent at Fairfax since 1963 and who served as MAAGCS president in 1979, reports that his club, originally formed in 1950 as Courthouse Country Club, opened with six holes in play. The first

### MANAGER'S WORKSHOP

Reinforcing a mailing done early in February, MAAGCS members are reminded that a High Performance Manager Workshop sponsored by the Association will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Arlington on Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jim Pfafflin of the Performance Institute of Washington, D.C., who spoke last year at the Andrews AFB meeting, will conduct the workshop, which is aimed at improving management/people skills. For further details, contact Lee Dieter.



*Jim Prusa*

## Jim Prusa Named Associate Ex. Director

GCSAA Director of Education for the past two years, James G. (Jim) Prusa, was promoted to the post of Associate Executive Director in January. In addition to becoming the Association's second in command, he will continue to serve in his education job.

A professional golf course superintendent who had been managing the well-known Pasatiempo course in Santa Cruz, California, before joining the GCSAA staff, Prusa had been an active and outspoken member of the Association. A B.S. graduate of Cal Poly in horticulture, he has taken graduate work in management and marketing and served in Vietnam during his four years of active military service. Concerning his new responsibilities, he said:

"As a profession, we have tremendously unsatisfied needs in the areas of self-promotion and quality assurance — and an insatiable hunger for information

*(Continued on page 2)*

### DIRECTORY IN WORKS

The new directory of members of the MAAGCS is ready for the printer and should be distributed sometime in March. Past President Ken Braun has used his computer to set the pages up, and the revised by-laws will also be included in the 1984 directory.

18 holes were designed by Reuben P. Hines, Jr., and William F. Gordon and R.T. Jones were used as consultants. Five new holes were added in the late 1960's, designed by Edmund Ault and completed in 1968, and the 3rd green and 4th fairway were redone in 1974 on the basis of designs by Algie Pulley and Buddy Loving. The most recent work on the course took place in 1977 when Russell Roberts reconstructed No. 14, adding a large lake for storage of irrigation water and redoing the tees at No. 8 and No. 17.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 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*

### 1984 Officers and Directors

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### News of the Golf World

The new executive director of the National Golf Foundation is Sheridan (Joe) Much, who first joined the NGF staff in 1968; David Hueber is the new president of the NGF . . . No series badges are available for the 1984 Masters to be played in Augusta, Ga., on April 12-15; practice round tickets at \$10 each will be available for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of that week, however, and a limited number of \$15 tickets that allow the bearer to watch the par 3 tournament on Wednesday will be sold at the gate . . . Larry Gilhuly of Bothell, Wash., is the new director of the Western Region of the USGA Green Section; he will be based in Placentia, Calif., and will make turf advisory visits in that state as well as in Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, and Alaska (Larry is a GCSAA member).

### Save Those Blue Tags For Musser Foundation

The Musser Foundation will receive 50 cents for every blue tag taken from seed bags, the money to be used for research and education. Donors are Tee-2-Green and Turf-Seed, so please save all your blue tags, bundle them in 25's, and sent them to:

Fred V. Grau  
P.O. Box AA (for UPS, use  
4604 Amherst Rd.)  
College Park, MD 20740-1014  
Dr. Grau and the Foundation will appreciate every tag collected.

## '84 Season Golf Schedule is Set

Although the MAAGCS golf season starts with open play at the Country Club of Fairfax on March 13, the tournament schedule doesn't get underway until April 10, when the first round of the Match Play Championship will be played at Talbot Country Club, according to Golf Chairman George Renault.

The annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament will be played May 8 at Indian Spring Country Club, and the match play event goes into its second round on July 10 at Piney Branch Golf Club, skipping August because of the picnic and moving to Chevy Chase Club for the fourth round of match play on September 11. The annual Superintendents' Championship will be played October 9 at the Country Club of Maryland, and the final round of the match play championship will take place November 13 at Hobbits Glen. For those not playing in matches, there will be low net and gross prizes on all scheduled dates. The season will wind up on December 11 at Lakewood Country Club, with open play.

#### MARCH MEETING (Cont. from page 1)

All nine new greens are Penncross bent, while the nine original greens still in play are a mixture of C-1, C-7, and C-19. The fairways, once bluegrass, are now primarily perennial rye blends after 12 years of overseeding. Greens are cut a minimum of six times a week to 5/32" or 3/16", depending on the season, and fairways are cut three or four times a week to 11/16". Fertilizing is primarily done on a Fall schedule, with fairways averaging 3 to 4 pounds of nitrogen, greens 4 to 6 pounds.

The course is relatively hilly and plays to 6,466 yards from the white tees, 6,712 yards from the blue; course ratings are 70.5 and 71.5 respectively (reratings by the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association will not be available until April).

Directions to Country Club of Fairfax: From Washington Beltway, take exit 11S, to Route 123, through Vienna and Fairfax; course is on the right after passing the Braddock Road stoplight; from Route 66, take Fairfax exit to Route 123, proceed as above.

Program schedule is as follows:

Golf — 12 noon  
Cocktails — 6 p.m. (cash bar)  
Dinner — 7 p.m. (Cost \$15)  
Meeting — 8 p.m.

## NEW MEMBERS

James R. Kelley, Class D  
Assistant Superintendent  
Green Hill Yacht & Country Club  
Salisbury, MD

Steve Nash (Reclassified as Class A)  
Superintendent  
International Town & Country Club  
Fairfax, VA

L.G. Stancill, Class F  
President, Harford Industrial  
Minerals, Inc.  
Joppa, MD

Diana Lee Patton, Class F  
Sales Manager  
Turf Center, Inc.  
Spencerville, MD

### Meeting Schedule, 1984

March 13 — C.C. of Fairfax  
April 10 — Talbot C.C.  
May 8 — Indian Spring C.C.  
June 12 — Green Spring Valley Hunt  
Club  
July 10 — Piney Branch Golf Club  
August 14 — Annual Picnic at Bretton  
Woods  
September 11 — Chevy Chase Club  
October 9 — C.C. of Maryland  
November 13 — Hobbits Glen  
December 11 — Lakewood C.C.

In 1984, Board of Directors meetings will be held in every month but December on the last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. During the trial period of working with the Middle Atlantic PGA, the Board will be meeting in the PGA offices at 7270 Cradlerock Way in Columbia, Md.

#### JIM PRUSA (Continued from page 1)

to help us in the field. Like any human institution, the Association will only produce in proportion to the amount of demand placed upon it by its constituent membership. This is supported by some basic laws of economics. I am totally aware of a sense of urgency my member colleagues have for greater productivity and performance from their Association. They turn to us because the industry, the game, and their employers have placed greater management demands on them. For us to achieve success as an association, our members' needs must be met and they must ultimately hold their Association accountable to that end. This is my hope for our future, and my objective is to facilitate and accomplish it."

# Early Golf in Virginia: The Pioneering Clubs

by Lee Dieter

The golf books and memorabilia that I have collected over the years were a major source of my research into early golf in the Old Dominion State, reinforced by my many years as superintendent at Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, one of the pioneering Virginia clubs. New information is still coming to light, as I shall explain later.

The first mention of organized golfing activities in Virginia appeared in the *Alexandria Gazette* for November 9, 1792, over the signature of Jonathan Swift, who has been identified as a merchant who served as treasurer of the city of Alexandria. This information was uncovered by Victor Vaughn of Arlington, a fellow member of the Golf Collectors Society and a longtime friend. Many Scots had settled in and around Alexandria in the 18th century and before, and they apparently were playing golf in North America at about the same time as were their fellow countrymen in Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia. Swift's notice read:

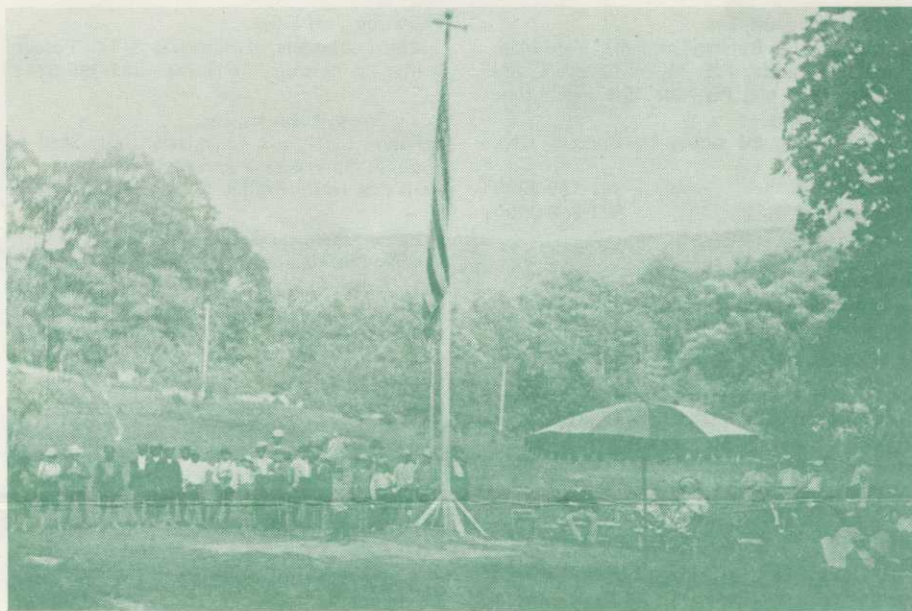
"Meeting of the Golf Club to be held in their rooms at Gadsby's Hotel."

The old tavern known as Gadsby's has been restored and still functions in the old town portion of Alexandria, but it is likely that the War of 1812 and the prevailing anti-British sentiment served to discourage the growth of golf activity in the former colonies until later in the 1800's.

Still, it seems improbable that golfing Scots and their descendants in Virginia would give up club and ball, and 1894 found a group of these men who owned



This photo of members of the Washington Golf Club was taken in 1896. Last year the author located and purchased a putter with silver head and grip given as a prize in competition at this club in the 1890's; two of the men whose names are engraved on the grip of the prize putter, Edward Riggs and Frederick May, are in this picture. The man in the hat holding the bag of clubs at the right is a caddie.



An early golfer tees off at the Homestead in Hot Springs, where this original 1st tee is still in use. Note the crowd of caddies on the left and the well-dressed spectators on the right.

country estates and engaged in fruit growing and lumbering in the White Sulphur Springs area playing a regular competition for the Oakhurst Medal. Among them were Alexander and Robert McLeod, George Grant, and Lionel Turrin, who with their friends and compatriots played at Oakhurst, the home of Russell Montague, a transplanted New Englander. Summer vacationers from White Sulphur and Hot Springs would stop by to watch the activity, and some even tried their hand at the game themselves. This may well have been the forerunner of the Hot Springs Golf Club, where golf started in 1896 and where the oldest tee in continuous use in Virginia, the first tee at the Homestead, is still in play. Fay Ingals, whose family ran the Homestead for many years, played at Oakhurst in those early years and wrote about it in his book, *Valley Road*.

The *Harpers Golf Guide* for 1901 lists 1893 as the founding date of the Lakeside Club in Richmond, along with the following courses and the year they came into existence: Washington Golf Club (1894), Hampton Roads Golf and Country Club (1894), Hot Springs Golf Club (1896), Norfolk Country Club (1896), University of Virginia Golf Club (1897), Charlottesville Golf Club (1898), Bedford City Golf Club in Norfolk (1899), Lynchburg Golf Club (1899), Mettawn Golf Club (formerly Paradise Creek) (1899), Alexandria Golf Club (1900), and Hermitage Golf Club (1900). The guide notes that Virginia

Beach Golf Club was in a state of dissolution in the late 1890's and would reorganize in 1901 with a new course.

Also in 1894 an article on golf appeared in a Richmond newspaper, featuring men and women in proper golf attire of those times. Similar articles in magazines like *Outing*, *Harpers*, and *Century* helped to generate increased interest in the game. But, golf did not develop as fast in Virginia in the early 1900's as it did in the rest of the country, perhaps because of problems with growing grass in the state. The heavy prescribed attire may have discouraged many possible players, and the history of the Washington Golf Club notes that the golf season in northern Virginia was October through May, with one major competition being held over the Christmas holidays. Golf was clearly not a warm weather sport in Virginia, except at the highland resorts where the affluent spent their summers.

Evidence for this slow early growth can be found in the fact that by 1920, the Virginia State Golf Association had less than 20 members. Golf did not grow suddenly in Virginia, by leaps and bounds; it started slowly, delaying its growth until much later in the century.

## POSITIONS OPEN

Golf Course Superintendent  
Larchmont Golf Course  
Missoula, Montana  
Available March 1. Call MAAGCS  
office, 964-0070, for details.

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Golf Course Superintendents  
NEWSLETTER**

Claud Corrigan, *Editor*  
2236 Malraux Drive  
Vienna, VA 22180  
(703) 573-4931

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