



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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## September Meeting Is At Chevy Chase

For the first time since 1980, the Mid-Atlantic Association returns to Chevy Chase Club's famous old course for a meeting on Tuesday, September 11. At 6,500 yards, par 69, it is still considered one of the best tests of golf in the Washington metropolitan area, and a large field of MAAGCS players are expected.

Superintendent George Renault reports that his course's bent and poa annua greens are routinely mowed six times a week to 5/32", while his fairways, a mix of ryegrass, Bermuda, poa, and bluegrass are cut three or four times a week to 11/16" in the spring, 3/4" in summer. Tees and aprons are mowed three times a week to 7/16", while the rough is cut twice a week to 2 1/2".

The schedule for September 11 includes golf anytime after 9 a.m., with lunch available in the outdoor snackbar after 10 a.m. (charge or cash) and in the clubhouse after 12 noon (charge only). Cocktails will be served (cash bar) after 5:30 p.m. in the ballroom, and dinner will follow at 7 p.m. (cost will be \$20, and checks should be made payable to MAAGCS). The meeting will be immediately after dinner, and coats and ties are required after 5 p.m. Be sure to call the MAAGCS office in Columbia to make reservations: 964-0070.

To get to Chevy Chase from either Va. or Md., take the Capital Beltway (I-495) to Connecticut Avenue, using the south exit (toward town rather than toward Kensington). Go past Columbia Country Club on the right, and then immediately after passing Bradley Lane, which is a stoplight, take a right-hand turn through the gate in the stone wall.

### PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 11

Lunch: Available anytime after 10 a.m.

Golf: After 9 a.m.

Cocktails: After 5:30 p.m., in ballroom

Dinner: 7 p.m. (\$20)

Meeting: After dinner (coat and tie)

## The Chevy Chase Club — A Short History

Back in the early beginnings of golf in the Washington, D.C., area, before the turn of the century, the Chevy Chase Club built a 6-hole course that was completed in 1895. A new 9-hole course was completed the following year, making the club one of the pioneers in American golf. Another nine holes were added in 1898, and this addition plus some improvements in the existing nine cost the club the grand sum of \$500 (the first nine had been less expensive; its building costs were only \$250). The club became one of the early members of the United States Golf Association in December 1898.

In 1909, the club purchased the land on which the present course is situated, and Donald J. Ross, the famed native of Dornoch, Scotland, who built so many fine American courses, was hired to lay out the new course on the 195-acre site. The old course was abandoned when the new one was completed in 1910, at a total cost of \$7,577.

The club commissioned a remodeling of its course in 1921, and a well-known British firm of architects that included Harry S. Colt, Charles H. Alison, and Alister Mackenzie was employed to do

the job. Alison, an Englishman, is generally given credit for doing the bulk of the design work, since he handled most of the company's North American clients. Completed in 1923, the renovation job cost the club \$25,676.

Although Chevy Chase's course remains much the same today as it did in 1923, another noted architect, Robert Trent Jones, was brought in as a consultant in 1947 to make some recommendations for modernization. His ideas were mostly concerned with the rearrangement or elimination of Ross's bunkers, plus the redesign of several holes, including making No. 11 into a par-5. Not all of his suggestions were implemented, but the plans remain on file for possible future use.

Thus, the Chevy Chase Club has had the benefit of a variety of golf course architects who are regarded as being in the very top rank. Donald Ross courses are generally highly thought of by golfers of all skill levels, and the work done by Colt, Alison, and Mackenzie has involved some of the world's great courses. The latest architect to be involved, Robert Trent Jones, is a byword in American golfing circles.



### EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Early registration at a discount, introduced during the 1984 National Conference and Show, will be in effect for the 1985 conference here in Washington, according to James Timmerman, GCSAA president. Under Early Bird registration, members are allowed a 10% discount on all conference fees, a 25% discount on purchases of educational tapes, preferential banquet seating, housing assignment, and seminar assignments. Final date for early registration is Sept. 15, and special forms were mailed to all members around July 15. If you did not receive the forms, call Bonnie Stephenson on 1-800-GSA-SUPT.

## 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 look at the brief history of Chevy Chase Club, where we will be playing in September, reminds us that golf courses are never static but ever changing. This is particularly true of the early courses in this country, which were often hurriedly laid out at amazingly low costs, even for those times. By the 1920's, most historic courses in America were pretty well fixed on their existing land, although many of them have been modernized or redesigned from time to time as fashions changed, as better equipment and instruction improved the caliber of golf, or to meet the requirements of holding major tournaments. Much of the work of golf course architects these days comes from re-doing established golf courses, many of them of excellent reputation.

Then, too, a number of courses have been forced to rebuild or reshape some of their holes by freeways, beltways, and superhighways encroaching on their land; Agawam Hunt Club in Rhode Island is an excellent example of a fine old course that lost a large portion of its land to highway construction, forcing it to replace a number of its holes.

The Old Course at St. Andrews is, perhaps surprisingly, another example of a course that has been in a process of continuous evolution. Shaped by nature, it has been modified by man, in bits and pieces. When first played, the course was only 40 yards wide, and golfers played to the same greens and cups coming back as they had going out in the loop. In 1764, the number of holes

## The President's Message

The month of September marks our arrival at the downhill side of yet another golf season. August was a tough month, once again reminding us of how unpredictable the weather can be in our Mid-Atlantic region. But, by now many of us are into our fall renovations and looking forward to cooler weather.

The association's family picnic on August 14 was again a complete success, despite the threat of rain. Every year the annual Mid-Atlantic picnic continues to grow, which is testimony to its increasing popularity. My personal thanks to Bill Neus and to our host at Bretton Woods, Gerry Gerard, as well as to all those others who worked so hard to make it such an enjoyable day.

Remember, if you plan on volunteering a part of your time during our upcoming National Conference in Washington, D.C., please fill out the volunteer form that was enclosed with your August Newsletter and return it to me as soon as possible.

Our September meeting will be at the Chevy Chase Club, and MAAGCS Director George Renault will be our host. Remember to call the Mid-Atlantic office at (301) 964-0070 to make your reservations for golf and dinner.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*



was cut from 22 to 18, the figure that then became the standard for golf courses (however, much later, Prestwick had only 12 holes when the first Open was played there by Scottish professionals). Until the 19th century, there were no tees; golfers simply drove from the green they had just putted on (that's a happy thought for superintendents!). Now, of course, added irrigation is available on the Old Course, though judging from some of the dusty spots visible during the TV broadcast of the 1984 Open, it has not been extensively used.

Also, the old drying sheds by the 17th hole, once railroad buildings with notched roofs that were torn down when the Old Course Hotel was built, have been reconstructed, and it is across these roofs (which are out-of-bounds) that you must drive in order to have a chance to reach the green in two. So even on one of the most famous (and feared) holes in golf, change is still taking place.

Deadline for nomination for the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award is September 1, and the names of candidates who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of golf course superintendency, both regionally and nationally, should be sent to James H. Taylor, Sr., chairman of the Communications/Awards Committee. Last year's winners were Warren Bidwell and Keith Nisbet.

It's not exactly hot news by now, but Billy Buchanan has left the Richmond office of the USGA for the PGA Tour post of Head Agronomist. He'll not only be concerned with Tour courses — those on which events are scheduled — but will be involved in the agronomical side of all those Tournament Players Courses

the PGA Tour is building. One of the most recent to open was the TPC of Connecticut, where the Sammy Davis, Jr.-Greater Hartford Open was held last month. This was a public course converted to the stadium golf concept by Pete Dye, and from the views shown on TV, he made a pretty severe track out of it, despite all those 63's the pros shot.

A note of apology is due all readers (but Bob Orazi in particular) for the statement here last month that Hunt Valley is part of the Club Corporation of America. Not so; it is under the management of the American Golf Corporation, and your editor should have known better.

The USGA's next effort promises to be all-out war on "sandbaggers," the crooks who inflate or otherwise distort their handicaps. One way to go about this is to identify scores posted in tournaments, where the payoff is for all those deliberately missed putts; if it shows up on the computer that a golfer does consistently better in tournaments than he does in casual rounds, he's due for a little chat with his handicap chairman. In Britain, they learned how to deal with this years ago; there, only rounds posted in competition are considered in establishing a handicap.

### 1984 Meeting Dates

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

## GCSAA, NGF Conduct Maintenance Survey

The current golf season finds GCSAA and the National Golf Foundation cooperating to conduct a comprehensive, nationwide survey of golf course maintenance activity. Superintendents at every course in the country will be asked to share information on their turfgrass maintenance practices, operating and capital equipment budgets, equipment use and needs, and many other matters involved in caring for some 12,197 golf facilities.

The survey project, which grew out of discussions between NGF president David Hueber and GCSAA associate executive director Jim Prusa, will result in a major new publication, "1984 Golf Course Maintenance Cost Profile," available to superintendents through their organization and to the golf industry through the foundation. It is regarded as the pilot project in a long-range cooperative program involving the two organizations.

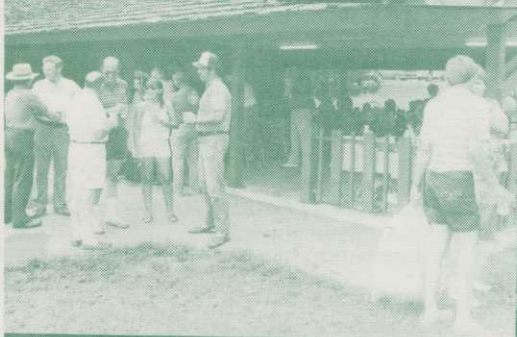
New GCSAA president Jim Timmerman recently said: "This joint effort between the GCSAA and the NGF is an historic undertaking certain to have synergistic results. It is yet another example of how GCSAA is demonstrating its determination to cooperate fully with other allied golf associations for the betterment of the game and business of golf."

Questionnaires for the project were developed by the association and distributed by NGF in June. The resulting data will be analyzed at the University of Kansas, and the resulting publication will be disseminated by both organizations in late summer or early fall.

## GCSAA Magazine To Cover D.C. Courses

Golf courses in the Washington, D.C., area will be covered in a survey article done for GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT magazine in its September issue. Written by your editor at the request of the GCSAA public relations staff as part of the background material on the 1985 National Conference, it describes or mentions some 40 courses, concentrating as might be expected on those best known. Thanks go to Ken Ingram of Columbia, Virgil Robinson of Burning Tree, Bill Black (and the Kemper Open office) of Congressional, and others who contributed color slides of scenic holes.

## Picnic 84: Crabs, Corn, Ribs, Beer For All



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