



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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Hog Neck Is Site Of April 9 Meeting

Hog Neck Golf Course, where MAAGCS members will gather on April 9, is one of the most unusual courses in the country. For one thing, it has long been recognized by *Golf Digest* magazine as one of the top 50 public courses in the United States. For another, it is a perfect example of philanthropy in action, in that both the land and the design and construction costs were donated to Talbot County, Maryland, and its golfers by Mrs. W. Alton Jones. Mrs. Jones, widow of a prominent golfer who had been a member of Augusta National Golf Club, arranged for the W. Alton Jones Foundation to give Hog Neck Farm, which she had owned for 25 years, as a golf course site back in 1974.

Working with the chairman of the Talbot County Park Board, Bill Corkran, she arranged for the course to be designed by a young Eastern Shore golf course architect, Lindsay Ervin, who had been working with the firm of Greenhorne and O'Mara. The planners also had the benefit of sound advice from Harry Eckhoff of the National Golf Foundation. The construction firm that built the course was Charles Maddox, and the job was completed on schedule, as the course opened on July 17, 1976.

In laying out the course, Ervin planned an open front nine with wind and water as sources of trouble and a tight back nine in the woods. The course plays to 6,418 yards from the gold tees, 5,982 from the blues, 5,403 from the whites, and 4,968 from the reds. It has water hazards in the form of bordering lakes on the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th holes, while a stream crosses Nos. 10, 11, 16, and 18.

Ben Stagg, a MAAGCS past president, has been superintendent at Hog Neck since construction got under way in 1974. Prior to taking on the new course, he was superintendent at Nassa-

The President's Message

Again in 1985, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents is sponsoring a seminar that will help our members to stay abreast of new developments and research affecting our profession. The recent turf insect seminar held at Columbia Country Club was a solid success, and a special note of thanks should go to Educational Chairman Ken Ingram, who was also the host for that event. Two additional seminars are being planned for this year, but your help and support are needed. Primarily, we need some input from the membership as to what topics and speakers they would be most interested in. While it is the Board of Directors' responsibility to provide you with the speakers and subject matter that will keep us current with the many new ideas and methods useful in the superintendents' profession, we need and welcome your suggestions.

Next month marks the first round of our annual Match Play Tournament. Remember to sign up early so that you won't be left out of this, the first event of our golf season.

The April meeting will be at Hog Neck Golf Course near Easton, Maryland, and our host will be our good friend and past MAAGCS president, Ben Stagg. Ben always goes out of his way to provide Mid-Atlantic members with the finest in Eastern Shore hospitality, and you won't want to miss this meeting. Remember to register for golf and dinner by phoning our office at 964-0070.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*



wango C.C. in Snow Hill, Md., after being introduced to golf as part of the crew at Ocean City Country Club. He cuts his Pennncross greens four or five times a week to 5/32", while the bluegrass and rye fairways are mowed two or three times a week to 7/8".

Because eating facilities at the course are not up to handling a large meeting, Ben has arranged for a Maryland-style oyster roast at the Salty Oyster Seafood Restaurant in St. Michaels, Md. The menu will include oysters (raw, steamed, and fried), crab soup, fried chicken, bar-

becue beef on buns, potato salad, and coleslaw. Because the restaurant is informal, Ben says to walk off the golf course and come as you are.

Directions to Hog Neck are: Take Route 50 south from Bay Bridge approx. 26 miles to Rabbit Hill Road, turn left there and then right at the first crossroad, to the front gate. From Hog Neck, the Salty Oyster is reached by returning to Rte. 50, proceeding south on 50 to Rte. 322, going to Rte. 33 (St. Michaels Road) and turning right; the restaurant is approx. 8 miles on the left.

Program

- Golf — Any time (1st Round, Match Play Tournament)
- Lunch — Cold sandwich buffet in pro shop (cash)
- Cocktails — 5:30 p.m. at Salty Oyster (cash bar)
- Dinner — 6:30 p.m. (cost, \$14, at the door) Coat and tie *not* required.
- Reservations — Call MAAGCS office, 964-0070



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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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More Word From Dr. Doug Hawes

In his latest newsletter, "Turf-comms," Dr. Douglas Hawes comments from Texas that the plant growth regulators (PGRs) Cutless and Embark appear to be able to assist in giving bentgrass the upper hand over poa annua. Some superintendents have already used 6 to 8 ounces of Embark per acre, on greens. While he does not recommend it for putting green use, he states that if some can use it safely on greens, then using it on fairways at those rates should be safe enough. Do not respray the same spring, he adds. Cutless shows as much if not more promise than Embark for bentgrass fairways.

Employment Referral

Walter Montross has been designated as the official contact for the national employment referral service of the GCSAA. Anyone interested in obtaining employment information through this service should call Walter at 703-451-6619.

MAACGS secretary and Chevy Chase Club superintendent George Renault, left, looks on as the Washington Metropolitan Golf Association's course rating team discusses his third hole during a March rating session. Others in the photo include CCC member Hap Halliday, Ed Dosek, Don Olmstead, MAAGCS editor Claud Corrigan, Bob Gillham, Art Hagar, and Chevy Chase golf professional Ward Burgess.

Developing a Use for the Stimpmeter, or, Just Something to Think About

by Dick Gieselman

Have we bypassed the perfect turfgrass or are we barking up the wrong tree? Why are the USGA and GCSAA funding research to find the perfect turfgrass? In any other field there is a certain scientific method to solving problems. One of the key ingredients to problem solving is to investigate all possible solutions to a problem. Before we even got used to the advantages of seeded bentgrass varieties and their year-round successful management, the race was on to see what we, as country clubs, could do to (enhance?) playing conditions. There have been questionable reports that one green received tip burn from the speed at which a golf ball traveled across its putting surface. Greens have become so fast and slick that it has been reported that one superintendent has a green so speedy that he is considering entering it in the Spring Nationals at a drag strip in Southern California. The Green Committee would naturally serve as pit crew, but there is a question as to whether the Green Committee chairman or Golf Course Superintendent would be in the driver's seat. The logistics of moving the green to California still have to be worked out, but keep your eyes open, ladies and gentlemen, it may still happen. Just think, in 1992 wouldn't it be great to have the Golf Digest Annual Bentgrass Drags, instead of the GCSAA national conference? Naturally, all of the competition would be sanctioned by the USGA and GCSAA.

It may sound crazy, but I'm sure anything is possible once we find the perfect turfgrass. When a person or group spends or wastes enough money, he can usually find or develop anything he wants. Why once we spend two billion dollars, we might have totally friction-free putting, so that even club members with arthritis might putt the golf ball with relative ease, plus with less frequent use of Preparation H (or is that Ben Gay?).

But wait a minute, what did I say? I believe I mentioned the word or phrase, whichever way you English majors prefer it, I did mention golf balls. Why would I mention golf balls in an article on the stimpmeter? Because ladies and gentlemen, I think we are barking up the wrong tree when we blame beautiful greens for the speed of the golf ball. Bentgrass greens aren't slow or that costly to maintain, but golf balls are slow. Companies have put dimples on and taken dimples off, put hexagonal dimples on, changed the colors, but golf balls are still slow!

The fact is that a lot of research has been done on compression and flight characteristics but to my knowledge very little has been done on the speed at which a golf ball rolls on a putting surface. I have put three golf balls on a stimpmeter and rolled them off, and you know what, they all rolled different distances. So now we have really found what the stimpmeter does, and that is measure roll (speed) of a golf ball and not a golf green. Why not develop golf balls with their stimpmeter readings printed on the side? That way a member who preferred fast greens could buy a ball with a stimpmeter reading of 10 feet 6 inches, and another golfer who preferred a

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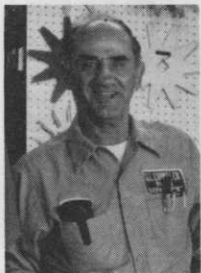
Deadline for Match Play Tourney Near

You only have until April 1 to get your entry in for the 1985 Match Play Championship, whose first round will be played April 9 at Hog Neck Golf Course. The second round will be delayed until June 11 because of the May 14 Superintendent Pro Tournament scheduled for Woodmont Country Club. Third round will take place July 9 at Winter Run, the fourth round at Hobbits Glenn on September 10, and the final round on Nov. 12 at Hunt Valley.

Open play, with low net and low gross, is scheduled for August 13 at the picnic at Bretton Woods, for December 10 at the Naval Academy, and at the above courses for those not entered in or having been eliminated from match play, according to Golf Chairman Dick Gieselman.

Parts-Man Orlando Dies in February

Renny Orlando, who worked in the parts department of the G. L. Cornell Co. for the past 15 years and who retired in 1983 after over 35 years with that company, passed away on February 17. He had started as a delivery man, became a lawn mower repairman in the in the shop, and was assigned to the parts department after a slight heart murmur was detected. Many area golf course superintendents came to know him well as an extremely knowledgeable parts-man with a friendly, helpful manner.



Course Architects Head for Ireland

April will see the American Society of Golf Course Architects holding their 1985 annual meeting in Ireland, where they will stage a series of professional development seminars at Irish courses, including Killarney, Tralee, Ballybunion, Lahinch, Royal County Down, County Lough, and Portmarnock. Irish architects, agronomists, contractors, and irrigation consultants will be among the speakers, and the Society will present its Donald Ross Award to golf writer Peter Dobereiner at an April 20 banquet in Killarney.



MAAGCS member Angel Cammarota was given the R.D. Cake Memorial Award for outstanding service to the turf industry at the recent Virginia Turfgrass Conference. Lee Dieter, shown here presenting the commemorative tray, says that Angelo has attended all 25 of the conferences held to date.

Meeting Schedule, 1985

- April 9 — Hog Neck G.C., Ben Stagg, Host
- May 14 — Woodmont C.C. (Supt.-Pro Tournament), Mike Larsen, Host
- June 11 — Montgomery C.C., Jeff Miskin, Host
- July 9 — Winters Run G.C. (luncheon meeting), John Drew, Host
- August 13 — Bretton Woods, Annual Picnic, Gerry Gerard, Host
- September 10 — Hobbits Glen G.C., Bill Neus, Host
- October 14 — International C.C., Steve Nash, Host
- November 12 — Hunt Balley G.C., Bob Orazi, Host
- December 10, Naval Academy, Mike McKenzie, Host

Wayne Jerome Made Honorary Member

Wayne Jerome, former superintendent at Congressional, Cedar Crest, and Montgomery Village in this area, and at Big Cypress Country Club in Florida before his retirement, was made an honorary member of MAAGCS at the March 12 meeting at Westwood.

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little slower speed could buy one with a stimpeter reading of 8 feet 6 inches. This would allow golfers of who liked a little faster roll to do so while not penalizing those that preferred a golf ball with average speed. This is where I believe the research needs to be done. The fault is in the ball and not in the green. I hope to elaborate on this concept in a magazine article at a future time, but until then I think that on the whole we, as Golf Course Superintendents, do a great job, and I hope in this article, I have given you "just a little to think about!"

Ladies Night Set For Sat., April 13

Ladies Night has been arranged for Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia at 6:30 p.m., April 13, with a buffet dinner and a musical production of "Baby." Chairman Bill Neus has already sent out a mailing to all members, with complete information on menu, location, and cost (\$50 per couple). Checks should be mailed to Bill at 4720 Williston St., Baltimore, Md. 21229 to confirm reservations.

From The Golf World

The GCSAA has announced that attendance at the 1985 conference and show in Washington was almost 9,000, breaking the record set last year at Las Vegas, and that the trade show was 25% larger than Las Vegas'. More than 1,000 registrants took advantage of the 330 hours of instruction offered, and more than 100 superintendents took the certification exam.

Don't forget, if you're able to get away for the Masters down in Augusta, your GCSAA membership card gets you in, just like those impossible-to-get series badges.

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