



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

