



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXVIII

AUGUST 1985

NUMBER 6

President's Message

Last month in my President's Message, I cited the importance of leisure time to all of us in our profession.

Next month, members of the Mid-Atlantic will be afforded an opportunity to unwind from the day-to-day hectic pace of July and August by attending



our association's annual family picnic. The ever-increasing level of participation attests to the popularity of this event. An important aspect of the picnic is that it allows members and their families to socialize and enjoy one another's company. Again this year Gerry Gerard has offered the fine facilities at Bretton Woods for the site of our picnic. If you have any questions about the picnic, contact Bill Neus, and remember to let us know if you plan to attend by calling our office at 964-0070.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*

Match Play Results From Winters Run

Much golf was played at our July meeting at Winters Run, including a number of match play championship encounters. Results in this category included Ben Stagg's forfeit win over Ken Keller, giving him 3 plus 2 points; Johnny Johns victory over Jeff Yingling for 2½ plus 1; Virgil Robinson's defeat of Nick Vance for 3 plus 3; Bert Yingling's win over Ken Ingram for 2 plus 1; Jeff Miskin's forfeit from Walter Montross, 3 plus 2; George Renault's victory over Bill Neus by 2 plus 1; Dan Rosnick's forfeit from Steve Cohoon for 3 plus 2; and Mike Larsen's forfeit from Lee Dieter for 3 plus 2.

(Continued on page 2)

YOU'RE ALL INVITED

To Our

1985

ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC AGCS FAMILY PICNIC

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1985

BRETTON WOODS RECREATION CENTER

GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

Gerald G. Gerard — Host

Golf • Tennis • Swimming • Games • Playground

BEER

SWEET CORN

SODAS

RIBS

CRABS

HAMBURGERS

HOT DOGS

1:30 P.M. - UNTIL FREE!*

Directions: Take the River Road exit from the Beltway (495) and go 11½ miles toward Potomac, to the northwest; the club is on the left side of River Road.

*To members and their immediate families; guest fee is \$5.

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

Nearly half of the new TPC at Avenel has been sprigged with zoysia, and some 25 Mid-Atlantic members were guests of Brian Finger of Summit Hall Turf Farm on July 18 for a preview of the operation. For anyone who missed this outing and who is interested in the process, a visit can probably be arranged.

The Water Hog, a machine designed to remove standing water from turf, came in very handy on the final day of the U.S. Open at Oakland Hills in Birmingham, Michigan in June. Superintendent Ted Woehrlé said afterwards, "The Water Hog saved us. Without it, we would not have been able to mow all the fairways. Water was removed from seven fairways in less than an hour, and in some spots there were six inches of standing water that it removed with ease." The machine was developed by Phelan Investments of San Diego and had been used at the British Masters the week before being called into service at the Open, its first trial in the U.S.

Bill Love, who is affiliated with local golf course architectural firm Ault, Clark and Associates, has been elected to regular membership status in the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Congratulations to Bill, who is a MAAGCS member.

Keynote speaker at the GCSAA Mid-Year Turfgrass Conference and Show in September will be Bart Starr, former quarterback and coach of the Green Bay Packers; the occasion will be the show's luncheon banquet on Friday, Sept. 20.

Much Praise for Prairie Dunes

by Douglas T. Hawes

My favorite golf course is Prairie Dunes, a Perry and Press Maxwell design nestled in the sand dunes of Hutchinson, Kansas. It was love at first sight for me. I had moved from Maryland to Dallas about one month before I first saw it. After a month of flatness, to be suddenly exposed to such a beautiful layout amongst sand dunes and unusual vegetation that appeared to me to have been moved from Cape Cod, near my birthplace in Massachusetts, was too much — I thought I was home again.

To fully appreciate this little gem, you'll have to go there yourself. But, I'll attempt to give you a little insight. "The Dunes," as it is called locally is built on enough land so that there is a good separation of holes. Also, the club has seen fit to maintain only greens, tees, fairways, and very moderate amount of rough. The rest is native plum bushes, yucca, cottonwoods, and wild flowers.

Thus, almost every hole presents you with a narrow expanse of manicured green turf contrasting beautifully with the surroundings. On many holes, Doug Petersen, the superintendent, and the members have added a new back tee. Typically, these tees have been placed up on a sand dune so that you look down on a spectacular view. The best way to enjoy all this is to walk or ride around the golf course without your clubs. Attempting to play it can make you feel the rough is something other than beautiful, unless you only stray a bit and are able to stay in the band of rough that is occasionally mowed.

The greens (called "Maxwell Rolls") are not overly large, averaging 4,500 square feet. They are very definitely undulating, a characteristic of Maxwell design. Even at a 7½-foot Stimpmeter speed, they are never dull to putt, although Doug rarely lets them slow down to that speed. The resulting small number of pin placements, combined with heavy play from members and visitors, makes maintenance of these old, soil-base greens difficult, although a sand topdressing program begun in early 1980 has helped considerably.

From a maintenance point of view, the course has some problems. Hutchinson, Kansas, is not the coolest spot in the nation in July, and even though sand hills surround the fairways, the soil in the fairways is most often a clay loam.

With the fairways located below the surrounding rough, drainage is a problem. Most of the drainage problems have been solved in recent years by an extensive system of drains. Now all the course needs is zoysia fairways, something Doug (and I) would like very much to see.

The new "Golf Course Maintenance Report," a joint study conducted by the National Golf Foundation and the GCSAA, reports that U.S. golf courses spend \$1.7 billion a year to maintain their facilities. Of this amount, \$137 million is expended for new equipment and \$103 million for projects to improve existing facilities; the remainder, almost \$1.5 billion, represents annual operating costs. The some 2,300 golf courses that responded to the survey have a maintenance equipment inventory valued at over \$1.8 billion. The study will be repeated every two or three years to keep the industry up to date on the changing nature of their business.

MATCH PLAY (Continued from page 1)

There were 41 open golf entries, and Virgil Robinson was the low net winner with 66, followed by Steve Nash with a 67 that matched out a similar score by J. Blick. Low gross honors went to Jack Montecalvo with a fine 75, trailed by Harry Allen with 76 and Doc Sands with 78.

Meeting Schedule, 1985

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 Valley G.C., Bob Orazi, Host
December 10 — Naval Academy, Mike McKenzie, Host

NEW MEMBERS

Ronald Lee Ponton, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Hillendale Country Club
Phoenix, Maryland

Dwight R. Wiggin, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Columbia Country Club
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Benefit Tourney Set For Crooked Stick

The first annual GCSAA Turfgrass Research Benefit Golf Championship will be played at Crooked Stick Golf Club, a Pete Dye course usually rated among the country's top 50 layouts, on September 24 in conjunction with the GCSAA Mid-Year Turfgrass Conference. Open to anyone wishing to participate, the tournament has an entry fee of \$120, which includes golf car and green fees for the championship, range balls, and bag storage. Practice on the 23rd is free, but the \$10 golf car rental must be paid. The field is limited to 144 participants, who must have a USGA handicap and register before August 19. Format is 18-holes of stroke play with prizes for three places in both gross and net. Prizes and trophies will be awarded at a cocktail reception at the Crooked Stick clubhouse at 5:30 p.m. following the round. Proceeds of the tournament will go to further turfgrass research.

GCSAA Gives \$12,000 For Turf Research

On behalf of the GCSAA, new president Eugene D. Baston presented a check for \$12,000 to the United States Golf Association to be used for turfgrass research. The check represents GCSAA's commitment to the two organizations' objectives of developing improved turfgrasses that use 50% less water, require 50% less maintenance, and yet remain green and pleasing to the eye.

In accepting the contribution at the USGA's annual Golf Writers Dinner at the 1985 U.S. Open in Birmingham, Michigan, USGA President Jim Hand said, "We look forward to continued success in our working relationship with our good friends at the GCSAA. On behalf of the USGA, I pledge our continued commitment to achieving the joint objectives of the Turfgrass Research Program."

The underlying reasons for the research program are the increasing demands for ever more scarce potable water and the rising cost of maintaining golf courses.

SUPERINTENDENT WANTED

Salary negotiable, Two-week Vacation
Apply Golden Triangle Golf Course
(Mr. Hendrie)
5231 John Hopkins Road
Gambills, Maryland 21054



This hydraulic-powered tree spade is transplanting trees for future use on the new golf course under construction on remote Daufuskie Island.

Managing a Forest to Build a Golf Course

A new Rees Jones-designed golf course is being built on Daufuskie Island, which unlike nearby Hilton Head has no bridge or car ferry from the South Carolina mainland, by the International Paper Realty Corporation of South Carolina. A subsidiary of the International Paper Company, it bought over 1,000 acres at Haig Point as the site of a golf-oriented "retreat community" on this isolated island, best known in the past because of a movie about a white schoolteacher at the two-room schoolhouse maintained for children of the 60 full-time residents of Daufuskie.

International Paper Company's knowledge and experience with trees has been extremely useful in the construction of the golf course. Daufuskie has an abundance of trees, many of them ancient, moss-draped live oaks, but a number of these must be removed to make room for the greens and fairways. The usual solution is bulldozing and burning, but this has not been so at Haig Point.

All trees in the area have been inventoried and divided into five categories. One group will be transplanted, three will be harvested and utilized, and only one will be burned in the field. Transplantable trees, those that can be used in landscape nurseries and in areas needing forestation, are being moved with hydraulic tree spades in line with the company's concept of resource management and utilization. A second classification, marketable pine, includes trees that are removed, stockpiled, and then barged to the Georgia Pacific plant in Savannah to be converted to plywood, lumber, or paper. Profits from this operation will be shared with the Daufuskie Island Cooperative in the restoration of historic ruins and other sites on Haig Point.

A third classification of trees is the hardwoods, which are also to be removed and barged to Savannah to become commercial grade building lumber, which will then be sent back to Daufuskie to be used in restoring the 1873 Haig Point lighthouse and to build the Great House Inn and other projects in connection with the development.

Trees too small to be marketed and too large to transplant make up the fourth category, firewood. These will be cut up and given to the islanders for use in heating their homes. The final group, "slash," includes brush, stumps, limbs, and other unusable vegetation and will be burned.

Building a new golf course on a remote island is a tough job, since all equipment, supplies, and fuel must be brought in by boat. When asked why the International Paper Realty Corporation is doing things its way instead of just bulldozing and burning, company president Mike Ross said, "Because it's the right thing to do. If you were to walk in the woods of Haig Point as I have, you wouldn't want to do it any other way either. I wouldn't be a part of anything less."

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Don Turner, Lynn Matson, Bill Hughes, Gary Phillips, Bob Lynch, Paul Standerfer
Wash: 301-621-2975 Balt: 301-796-5576

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First Class Mail

