



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXVIII

DECEMBER 1985

NUMBER 10

The President's Message

This being my last President's Message, I spent a lot of time reflecting about the events of the past two years. Without a doubt, the highlight was the Mid-Atlantic being the host for our GCSAA International Conference and Show. Certainly, it took a lot of work, but our Mid-Atlantic members responded overwhelmingly. National directors, GCSAA past presidents, and members of the national staff all acknowledged the enthusiastic participation of our membership. Make no mistake about it — the willing participation of our members is the reason the Mid-Atlantic has prospered over the years and come to be recognized as one of the leading associations in America, proving once again that an organization is only as good as its members.

As president during the past two years, I have been able to meet new people, make new friends, and fully appreciate our association and its benefits. Being president has often been time-consuming but always rewarding. All good things must come to an end, but the pleasure has been all mine. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

In my November message, I reported that George Cleaver had suffered a heart attack. Since then George has undergone triple-bypass surgery and is now recovering at home. We all join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

December marks our annual election meeting, which will be held at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis with Michael McKenzie as our host. This is a most important meeting for all Mid-Atlantic members, and I urge everyone to attend. Remember to register by calling 964-0070.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*



Explaining "Wear Factor" To Green Committeemen

The October issue of *Northern Ohio Turf* contains an interesting view of the problem of replacement of golf course equipment, which it calls one of the most difficult expenditures to be understood by board and committee members. It can be most effectively explained by the "wear factor," in terms of the miles put on mowers, tractors, etc.

Most auto enthusiasts understand, says *Turf*, that when your car reaches 100,000 miles, it is about worn out. Most American cars are driven on the highway at speeds approaching 60 mph, using high gear with engine rpm of about 2,100, so that by driving three hours you would cover 180 miles or so.

Using this wear factor, hours of use on a mower or other equipment can be converted to miles. Although such equipment usually operates at only 5 or 6 mph or less, engine rpm is still 2,100 and higher on one- and two-cylinder

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1985's FINAL MEETING DECEMBER 10 AT ANNAPOLIS

The year's final opportunity to play golf with fellow superintendents will be December 10 at the Naval Academy Golf Course in Annapolis, if the weather continues to be kind to us. Following golf, the dinner and meeting will be held at Hubbard Hall in the second-deck "N" Room.

The challenging Naval Academy Golf Course dates back to pre-World War II days, when the original layout was remodeled by a well-known golf course architect, William S. Flynn. Flynn, who had been a golf course superintendent in Pennsylvania, first entered the architect field when he assisted in designing and building the East Course at Merion Golf Club. He also remodeled several other golf courses in this area, including Woodmont, and he designed such famous courses as Cherry Hills in Denver and Atlantic City Country Club. During his career, he continued to be interested in the superintendent's art, writing a number of articles and pamphlets on greenkeeping and starting a number of young men in the profession. Additional redesign work at the Academy course is being done by Lindsey Ervin.

Michael S. McKenzie, golf course superintendent at Annapolis, describes his course as rolling and open on the front

nine, rolling and wooded on the back. Mike mows his bentgrass and *poa annua* greens four times a week to 3/16" and his bluegrass, bermuda, and rye mixture fairways three times weekly to 3/4". Rough is cut once a week to 2". Fertilizing schedule is 4# of N annually on greens, 2½# on fairways.

This will be the MAAGCS' sixth meeting at the Naval Academy, with earlier sessions being held there in 1973, 1977, 1978, 1980, and 1981.

Directions to the golf course are: From Baltimore, take Rte. 2 toward Annapolis, follow signs to Naval Academy. Turn left before crossing Severn River Bridge, go through the traffic light to the course and pro shop (on the left). From Washington, go east on Rte. 50, cross Severn River Bridge and take exit for Baltimore-Naval Academy; keep right (Rte. 450) and turn left before crossing Old Severn River Bridge. Follow along to the light and go straight through to the course.

If going directly to the dinner and meeting, from Rte. 450 cross Old Severn River Bridge and turn left at first stop light (Gate 8). Go to the bottom of the hill, and first building on the right is Hubbard Hall; meeting will be upstairs in the "N" Room.

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