



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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March 12 Meeting at Westwood Opens 1985

When MAAGCS members gather at Westwood Country Club on March 12 for their first meeting of 1985, they will find quite a different golf course if the weather permits them to play. The 30-year-old Vienna, Virginia, layout has completed a 12-year greens rebuilding program that converted its old, clay-based greens to USGA specification greens, and the new Eddie Ault designs have convinced Westwood members that their course now ranks among the area's best.

Westwood began its life in 1954 as Westbriar Country Club, a proprietary club built by a land developer on an old dairy farm on the eastern edge of Vienna, a pre-Civil War town that is now a busy suburb. The original course was designed by Alfred H. Tull and built on relatively flat land, bisected by a flood plain. All but two of the new greens were Ault designs that incorporate challenging contours. Several thousand trees have been planted on the course in the last 20 years; its length is 6,384 yards from the white tees, 6,715 from the blues. All greens are Penncross bent, as are many of the tees, while fairways are mixed ryegrass, bluegrass and poa annua.

Larsen Is Re-Elected As MAAGCS President

Nominated from the floor for a second term, Mike Larsen was re-elected as president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents at the December meeting at Lakewood Country Club. Gerry Gerard was re-elected as vice president, George Renault was voted in as secretary, Lee Dieter remained as treasurer, and Virgil Robinson, Nick Vance, and Dick Gieselman were named to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Ken Braun will remain on the Board as immediate Past President.



Westbriar ceased to exist in late 1961 when lenders foreclosed on the developer, but the members banded together to buy the club and re-open it as Westwood in 1962. Now wholly member-owned, the club has an Olympic-size pool, 10 tennis courts, and a clubhouse kept busy by the 900 members.

Tom Haske, CGCS, has been superintendent at Westwood for more than 10 years. His mowing schedule is to cut the greens six times a week to 3/16", fairways three times a week to 11/16", and rough once a week to 3". Fertilizing schedule is 4½# N annually on greens, 3# N on fairways.

On March 12, golf will be available from 11:30 a.m., and cocktails will be

served (cash bar) starting at 6 p.m., along with hot hors d'hoerves. Prime rib with wine is at 7 p.m., followed by the meeting, at which the speaker will be Jack McClenahan, himself once a Westwood superintendent, on the topic, "High Tech, High Touch, and Answering the Bell."

Directions to the club from the Capital Beltway are to take exit 11S at Tysons Corner to Rte. 123, going south approx. 1 mile and passing three traffic lights before reaching the club on the right, just before entering the town. From the south, take Rte. 123 (an exit on Rte. 66) through Vienna to the club on the left.

Program is as follows:

Golf: From 11:30 a.m.

Lunch: Available in the Grill (charge only)

Cocktails: 6 p.m.

Dinner: 7 p.m. (Cost \$18) (coat and tie)

Meeting: 8 p.m.

Reservations: Call MAAGCS Office
(301) 964-0070



Faithfully manning the host booth at the convention center were a number of our MAAGCS volunteers. This time, Joe's camera caught Ben Stagg and Lou White on duty. Note the many flags of Mid-Atlantic Clubs.

**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*

1985 Officers and Directors

- President Mike Larsen
- Vice President Gerald Gerard
- Secretary George Renault
- Treasurer Lee Dieter
- President-Emeritus Ken Braun
- Educational Chairman . . . Ken Ingram
- Membership Chairman . Virgil Robinson
- Golf Chairman Dick Gieselman
- Social & Benevolence Bill Neus
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- Finance Chairman Nick Vance

From the Golf World

The show at the convention center was an unmatched opportunity to review the very latest in equipment, supplies, chemicals, and just about anything that can be used on a golf course. It also gave us a chance to collect not only souvenirs but catalogues of every description. Attendance did not quite hit

The President's Message

By all accounts, the GCSAA's 56th International Golf Course Conference and Show was the largest and most successful ever. Without exception, the Executive Board and members of the GCSAA staff acknowledged the overwhelming cooperation they received from the members and spouses of the Mid-Atlantic. The degree of response and level of participation among our members was exceptional. My personal thanks go to everyone who assisted, especially to those who manned the host booth, helped with the spouses program, and served as aides at the educational sessions. Make no mistake about it: our association has survived good times and bad since 1928 because of the willingness of our membership to participate. Again, thanks to all of you.

Our first meeting of 1985 will be Westwood Country Club on March 12, and Tom Haske will be our host. In the coming year, let's all resolve to register in advance for our meetings by calling our office at 964-0070. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at Westwood on the 12th.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*



the expected 10,000, but it came very close.

On display at the GCSAA booth on the show floor was a poster citing MAAGCS treasurer Lee Dieter for his recruiting efforts, an unanticipated recognition for one of ours.

Several superintendents and your editor attended the kickoff luncheon for the new TPC course at Avenel, scheduled to be open in 1987 or before. Deane Beman, the PGA Tour commissioner, came back home to head the list of speakers, and two categories of cor-

porate membership were announced, single at \$40,000 initiation fee and multiple at \$75,000. Both are aimed primarily at major corporations and firms who will be able to entertain executives and customers at the new course. Yet to be disclosed are the individual or associate fees, or the green fees that such members will have to pay.

We were happy to get, the other day, a letter from an old friend of many MAAGCS members, Harry Eckhoff, who is Director, Golf Facility Development and Member Relations of the National Golf Foundation. As an honorary member, he's been on the mailing list since he moved to Florida, and he says the newsletter almost seems like a letter from home.

Finally, have you noticed how much credit superintendents are getting these days? The USGA went out of its way to say fine things about Sherwood Moore and Bob Alonzi, who got Winged Foot ready for the 1984 Open, and television commentators covering PGA Tour events almost always praise the course superintendent for the fine condition of the track the pros are playing.

Turf Insect Update

The first of 1985's educational seminars will be held Tuesday, March 19, at Columbia Country Club, where Dr. Lee Hellman of the University of Maryland will provide an update on turf insects. The seminar starts at 8:30 a.m., lasts until noon, and the \$10 registration fee includes coffee and doughnuts. Call your reservations in to Ken Ingram at 951-5060 or drop him a note at Columbia.



Retiring GCSAA president Jim Timmerman receives two \$1,000 checks from the Mid-Atlantic's G.L. (Larry) Cornell Jr., for the association's scholarship fund, presented on behalf of Jacobsen Distributors and Jacobsen-Textron.

Championship Green Secrets Revealed

by Douglas T. Hawes

Just before he left the USGA to join the PGA Tour as agronomist, I called Billy Buchanan to ask him for the secrets of maintaining championship greens. He said, "Doug, you're not going to believe it, but the secrets of championship greens aren't all that secret. Many superintendents maintain their greens this way all the time."

Well, I acted real innocent and said, "Billy, if that is the case, maybe you could tell these secrets to me before you leave." He said, "I would love to," and this is what he told me:

"You throw all the fertilizer spreaders away and buy a large spoon. Once a week during the growing season, you stand downwind about 10 yards off the edge of each green and throw a spoonful of fertilizer up in the air. Use a little left-to-right motion to help spread it and keep the spoon about head high. The ideal wind is one blowing about 15 miles an hour. In West Texas, you may have to hold the spoon lower, because the wind probably doesn't ever blow that gently."

He went on to say that after about 2 years of feeding the grass this way, you will note that the grass never lies down when anybody comes within 10 yards of it. It stands tall, hoping to catch at least one particle of fertilizer that gets thrown its way each week. Thus, grain problems are solved. As the grass is not growing, daily mowing just trues the surface like a light rolling, and superintendents have no messy, wet clippings to deal with. They just empty the baskets every few greens.

Now, you may not believe every word of the above, but the next time you hear of a superintendent spoon-feeding his greens, check it out. He will probably be applying no more than a quarter pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet. He may be putting one pound of urea (45-0-0) in his spray tank each week and covering 30-40,000 square feet with that tank full. That amounts to less than one ounce of nitrogen per thousand square feet—a "sniff." He might well use potassium nitrate (saltpeter) or ferrous ammonium sulfate instead of the urea. A program this light he probably calls his summer feeding program. Many managers of championship bentgrass greens do not feed them at all from late June to early September.



Former President Gerald Ford tells the banquet audience about Bob Hope's claim that Mr. Ford had even lost two balls in the ball washer at the Hope Classic, as new GCSAA president Gene Baston looks on.

Match Play Event Starts in April

This year's Match Play Championship will get underway in April, according to Golf Chairman Dick Gieselman, who also announced a new scoring system for the tournament. This year, each match will have 3 points—1 for the front nine, 1 for the back, and 1 for winning the most holes in the match. The 18-hole total will be used as a possible tiebreaker.

NEW MEMBERS

David J. Seidenberger, Class D
Assistant Superintendent,
Hunt Valley Golf Club

John J. Davis, Class F.
Sales Manager
T.E.I., Construction Fabrics Division

Charles Dewey (Dee) Robinson, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Cedar Crest Country Club

Robert D. Wilbur, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Army Navy Country Club

Peter R. Schmidt, Class D
(Non-Resident)
Assistant Superintendent
Shenandoah Valley Golf Club

Bert C. Amidon, Class D
Superintendent
Lake-of-the-Woods

Mark S. Merrick, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Towson Golf & Country Club

Lentz Wheeler, Class A
Superintendent
Reston South Golf Course

Doug Stanley, Class A
Superintendent
Medal of Honor Golf Course

Wayne R. Sasser, Class A
Superintendent
Chantilly National Golf & CC

Richard A. Piatnek, Class F
Sales Manager
Egypt Farms, Inc.

Meeting Schedule, 1985

- March 12 — Westwood C.C., Tom Haske, Host
- 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

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Distributor of Bunton Commercial Mowers, Yard Man Riders and Tractors, Ryan Turf Care, Milorganite, Broyhill Sprayers, Standard Pro-Line, Par Aide and Lewis Line Golf Course Accessories.

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Wash: 301-621-2975 Balt: 301-796-5576

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First Class Mail

