



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

May of each year marks our association's annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament. At any country club, the golf course is the center of activity. If the club's golf program is to succeed, it will do so through the cooperation and joint efforts of the Golf Course Superintendent and the Golf Professional. Having been a superintendent for 12 years, it has been my pleasure to be associated with two outstanding golf professionals, Tony Marlowe and Bill Clarke. The key to our successful relationship has been our ability to communicate. Our daily contact gave us an opportunity to keep one another informed about maintenance on the golf course, upcoming golf outings, or membership inquiries or complaints.



An important step in building this rapport is inviting the golf professional at your club to join you in participating in our annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament. Occasions such as this foster the necessary mutual understanding and respect between our two closely related professions.

A personal note of thanks goes to Bill Neus for all of his work in organizing another successful Ladies Night. On a more serious note, disgraceful is the only word that describes the fact that only 33 members out of 82 who attended called to register for our April meeting at Hog Neck. I can't emphasize how important it is for the association and the host club that you call our office at 964-0070 and register your attendance for our meetings.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*

Annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament Set For Woodmont C.C. on May 14

The North Course of Woodmont Country Club in Rockville, Md., will be the scene of the 14th annual Superintendent-Pro Tournament to be played May 14. Superintendents and their professionals will tee off in a shotgun start at 1 p.m. in quest of the title won last year at Indian Spring by Earl Mason and Don Skacan of Gibson Island Club.

The tough North Course, built in 1950, was designed by the noted English golf course architect Alfred Tull. With a par of 72, it has a course rating of 70.9 from the white tees (5,250 yards) and one of 73.1 from the blue tees (6,963 yards). Its Slope ratings are 123 and 127, respectively. Woodmont's tree-lined fairways traverse gently rolling land, and their mix of ryegrass, Bermuda, and poa annua is cut three times a week to 3/4". The bentgrass greens are cut six times weekly to 5/32", the rough is mowed weekly to 2", and the tees are cut to 1/2" three times a week. The fertilizing schedule is 3 1/2# N per 1,000 square feet each Fall on the greens, 2# on fairways, and 3 1/2# on tees. The course has a fully automatic irrigation system.

MAAGCS president Michael Larsen has been superintendent at Woodmont since January 1983. Prior to coming to the Rockville course and its 36 holes of golf, he was superintendent at Hillendale Country Club in Baltimore for 10 years. Mike did his summer placement training and was the assistant at Baltimore Country Club for two years after graduating from the University of Maryland's Institute of Applied Agriculture.

Directions to the course are as follows: From Virginia, take the Beltway (495) east to exit 38 North on Rte. 270 toward Rockville and Frederick. Take the Montrose Road exit off Rte. 270, go east on Montrose, turn left on Rockville Pike and go 1.3 miles to Woodmont on the left (directly across from Tom Hatton Pontiac). From Maryland, take the Beltway west to exit 34, heading north on Rockville Pike (Rte. 355). Go approximately 3.8 miles to Woodmont on the left.

The program for May 14 is as follows:

11:30 a.m. on — Lunch in men's grill (sign ticket)

1 p.m. — Shotgun start (golf bags should be dropped off in front of clubhouse)

6:30 p.m. — Cocktails (cash bar)

7:30 p.m. — Dinner (\$25), coat and tie required

8:30 p.m. — Meeting. Speaker is Mark Guttenberg, PGA Professional at Penderbrook Golf Course.

Phone 964-0070 (MAAGCS office) for reservations.

A Short History of Woodmont Country Club



Woodmont Country Club traces its beginnings to January 26, 1914, when the Washington Suburban Club was organized. It leased a small tract of land at Georgia Avenue and Decatur Street, N.W. in Washington, D.C., on which it built a 9-hole golf course, two tennis courts, and a small clubhouse containing a ballroom, dining facilities, and locker rooms for men and women.

In 1916, two well-known social clubs, both of which included a number of Washington Suburban Club members, merged into a new organization called the Town and Country Club, which was incorporated in the District. In 1922, the club moved to a new location on Rockville Pike at what is now the site of the National Institute of Health. An old manor house on the land was remodeled into a clubhouse

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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 Views On Those Championship Greens

by Douglas T. Hawes

There are a few points I would like to elaborate on in connection with any discussion of championship greens. Two pounds of nitrogen per year per thousand square feet seems to be adequate for that part of the country north of a line drawn from Denver through Omaha to New York City. The four-pound line appears to be down to Tulsa, while six pounds is for those poor superintendents trying to grow creeping bentgrass at the southern limits.

Potassium is definitely a key element, with using as much or more potassium than nitrogen a very important aspect. Get soil test levels in high range and keep them there. What are high potassium levels? Some soil test results are stated for potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sodium as percent of the cation (or base) exchange capacity. When looking at soil tests expressed in that manner, I call anything from 4% to 7% high.

I have seen greens with soil test results ranging from 0.1 to 10% of the base exchange capacity as potassium. I have come to the conclusion that until you get 3%, you do not have sufficient potassium to maintain good, healthy bentgrass greens. Those having high sodium levels need to keep the combined potassium and sodium percentage below 15%.

Dr. Richard Schmidt of Virginia

From the Golf World The Masters

The Augusta National Golf Club has become a totally different golf course, Jack Nicklaus told the golf writers assembled in front of him in a final interview on the Wednesday before the tournament started. It's not the course he won five Masters on, and the reason is that it is constantly being changed, he said. For example, five of Augusta's greens have been completely rebuilt to USGA specifications. They are much firmer, and when a shot comes in to them, it will bounce forward. The other 13 greens are softer; they hold too much water, and when the ball hits, it bounces back. Nicklaus believes that Augusta will continue to re-do its greens, and he wonders why they just don't do them all one summer, when the course is, as usual, closed. He has heard that the money to do that is a problem, which seems improbable.

One thing that Nicklaus, Watson, and a number of other players were negative about was the job done on Augusta's bunkers. To keep the sand from mixing with the red clay underneath (a familiar problem), they were cleaned out and plastic liners installed. However, many of the bunkers have steep faces, and the sand kept sliding down, exposing the plastic. To keep the sand up, it was being constantly raked, which contributed to its fluffiness as well as a tendency for the ball to bury, in some cases out of sight. The pros don't believe that the liner is a good idea.

Following instructions to the letter, the superintendent and his staff had Augusta in immaculate shape and the greens in glass-like condition. Nicklaus felt that they were in the 12' to 13' speed range on the Stimpmeter, although he said that the real problem was not the speed but the slope; he joked that on some of the greens the Stim readings would be 48' in one direction, 3' in the other. The tournament committee apparently agreed with Watson, Nicklaus, and Crenshaw on the speed of the greens; they slowed them down a little for the four days of the tournament.

Sam Torrance is a Scots pro, who was playing his first Masters. His father, who has been a professional as well as "greenskeeper" in Scotland, came over with him for the tournament. He said that in walking the course for six days with his son, he had yet to find a weed of any description. Needless to say, he was impressed.

The most unpopular green on the course was the one at No. 13, re-done two years ago by Nicklaus' golf course design and construction team. The major change in configuration was a shallow valley around three sides of the new green, almost a little continuous grass bunker, where before there had just been level collar. The effect has been to put a premium on not going over that green. When the pin was in the back, the approach shot from that little valley became a real problem — land the wedge shot on the green, it rolled past the pin and down to the lower terrace; hit the fringe, and the ball would stop. As a result, a lot of players thought twice about going for that par-5 in two; if they fall short, they're in the creek in front, if they hit the firm green and roll on over, they're in that deadly little valley, short of the bunker. Don't forget that No. 13 was the hole that probably cost Curtis Strange the Masters title.

GCSAA Will Cover Tourney Preparation

In 1985, the GCSAA plans to provide information concerning course preparation by the golf course superintendents at the site of the LPGA Championship, the U.S. Open, and the PGA Championship as well as other events. The objective is to provide information on the course and the tournament preparations to the sports news media that are covering the tournament, providing them with a different angle on the course. New GCSAA president Eugene Baston commented: "The golf course superintendent does a tremendous

claims high potassium levels encourage *poa annua*. At medium to high nitrogen levels, I'm sure it is a factor; they also encourage clover.

job in preparing the course for tournament play, as he knows his job can affect the outcome of the tournament. The superintendent many times is not recognized for his major role in golf and in tournament play, and through our efforts, we hope he will achieve more recognition through the articles by golf writers." Bill Shelton, GCSAA Media Relations Manager will cover the major tournaments this year and provide current information each day on course preparation and conditions.

New Members

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Rocky Gorge Golf Fairway
Laurel, Maryland



Dobereiner Picked For Ross Award

The Donald Ross Award, given by the American Society of Golf Course Architects, was presented to Peter Dobereiner, golf writer for the London Observer and columnist for Golf Digest magazine at the annual meeting of the society held on April 20 at Park County House in Killarney, Ireland. He was honored for raising the awareness level of golf course architects through his writings.

Previous Ross Award winners are Robert Trent Jones, Herbert Warren Wind, Herb Graffis, Joe Graffis, Joe Dey, Gerald Micklem, James Rhodes, Geoffrey Cornish, Al Radko, and Dinah Shore.

Meeting Schedule, 1985

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

An Architect's View Multiple Tees

by Bob Lohmann

A well-designed golf hole is playable by all classes of golfers, is easily maintained and is pleasantly attractive to the eye. In our highly geometric and mechanical society, the golf course should provide a desirable diversity of natural landscape. We require diversity in the landscape. If we build a home in the forest, we will clear the backyard; if we build a home in a farmland subdivision, we will surround it with trees and shrubs. When people go to a golf course, it should be scenic and orderly as well as diverse. The order present in a golf course is the progression from tee to green to succeeding tee. The diversity of the golf course is the different sizes, shapes, and locations of the design elements. This combination of order and natural diversity, if designed and built properly, is what makes a pleasingly scenic golf course.

As in everything, you have to start someplace, and as we all know, a golf hole starts with a tee. In earlier years, the tees were known as "starting boxes." Many people today still refer to them as "tee boxes." As I travel to many courses, especially older models, I see many of the "tee boxes." They are small, square or rectangular, and lack the natural beauty that should be present on a golf course. Not only are they unattractive, but they are hard to maintain as well. Because only one small tee is used, the superintendent is limited to where he can place the tee markers. He never has the opportunity to close off or rest part of the tee to allow the grass to grow properly.

The tees on the older courses have become surrounded by older trees that are large, full shade giving, and air blocking. No one enjoys removing trees, especially an older specimen. But the lack of air circulation and sunlight makes it extremely difficult to grow

Woodmont Country Club (Continued from page 1)

grass on a small tee that is watered at night and walked on and cut up all day.

with full facilities, and a 9-hole golf course was built, along with two tennis courts. Town and Country Club changed its name to Woodmont Country Club in 1930, and in 1947 the club added another 9 holes to the golf course.

In 1948, however, faced with the desire of the U.S. Government to expand NIH, Woodmont purchased its present site of some 550 acres in Rockville and opened at the new location in August 1950. The clubhouse built at that time has been enlarged and refurbished three times since 1950, a third 9 holes were added to the original 18-hole course in 1956, and a fourth 9 was completed in 1960. The club, which now has 22 tennis courts, is one of the largest country clubs in the United States, with approximately 1,100 families making it among the busiest as well.

Bert Yingling Leads In Match Play Event

In the first round of the annual Match Play Championship, played at Hog Neck Golf Course on April 9, Jeff Miskin defeated Dan Rozinak, Ken Keller beat John Johns, Virgil Robinson won over Jeff Yingling, Bert Yingling defeated Walter Montross, George Renault beat Mike Larsen, Lee Dieter was the winner over Steve Cohoon, Bill Neus defeated Dave Fairbank, and Nick Vance won over Ken Ingram.

The point standings after the first round are as follows: Bert Yingling, 3+4; Bill Neus, 3+3; Nick Vance, 3+2; George Renault, 3+2; Virgil Robinson, 3+2; Ken Keller, 3+2; Jeff Miskin, 3+2; Lee Dieter, 2½+2; Steve Cohoon, ½; Dan Rozinak, 0; John Johns, 0; Jeff Yingling, 0; Walter Montross, 0; Mike Larsen, 0; Dave Fairbank, 0; Ken Ingram, 0.

In second round matches, to be played June 11 at Montgomery Country Club, Miskin will meet Dieter, Rozinak will play Stagg, Johns will take on Neus, Keller will go up against Fairbank, Robinson will meet Ingram, Jeff Yingling will play Vance, Bert Yingling will take on Larsen, Montross will meet Renault, and Cohoon will play Gieselman.

Tuula Wright New Sales Manager

Executive Director John Schilling of GCSAA has announced the appointment of Tuula K. Wright as Sales and Production Manager, with primary duties in the area of advertising sales for *Golf Course Management* and exhibit booth sales for the association's mid-year and annual conferences. She has had extensive experience in this field as well as in publishing and printing.

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(To be continued in the next issue)*

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