



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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Sept. 10 Meeting Set For Hobbits Glen

Hobbits Glen Golf Club in Columbia, Md., will host the September 10 MAAGCS meeting that includes another round of the match play championship. Bill Neus is superintendent at the Eddie Ault-designed course, which was built in 1966 and which has been the site of a number of local golf tournaments. Its front nine is fairly open, with the back nine becoming more rolling and wooded. The course has four sets of tees and stretches 7,226 yards from the blue, 6,901 from the white, 6,292 from the gold, and 5,634 from the red tees.

Bill Neus and his crew cut the Penn-cross bent greens six times a week to 3/16", the ryegrass fairways three times a week to 13/16", and rough once a week to 1 3/4". His fertilizing schedule is 5# N per year on greens, 1 3/4# N on fairways. Some 6,800 feet of cart paths have recently been installed, three new tees build, nine bunkers rebuilt, and a new snack bar, pump station, and auto-



matic tee irrigation have been added. The greens at No. 1 and No. 5 are scheduled for rebuilding this Fall.

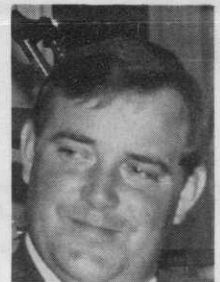
Directions to Hobbits Glen from Baltimore are: take 70 west to Rte. 29 to Columbia, turning right at Rte. 108; go 3.2 miles to Harper's Farm Road, turn left, then take first right on Willowbottom Ave., going several blocks to club on the right. From Washington, take 495 (Beltway) to Rte. 29 north to Columbia, turn left at Rte. 108 and continue as described above.

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President's Message

The 1985 season will be remembered as one of extremes here in the Mid-Atlantic. April

was the driest ever while June was the coolest on record. Many clubs suffered from near-drought conditions at a time when nearby clubs were receiving record amounts of



rainfall as thunderstorms dodged about the area. But, by now many of us are well into our annual renovation programs and can begin to look forward to cooler weather and the less intensive day-to-day pace of Fall. I think we all agree that there isn't anything much nicer than being on a golf course during the Fall months.

A special note of thanks goes to Bill Neus for organizing and to Gerry Gerard for hosting another successful family picnic. The continued growth of this annual event is testimony to its popularity.

Our September meeting will be on the 10th at Hobbits Glen with Bill Neus as our host. It's been many years since the Mid-Atlantic has met at Hobbits Glen, and I anticipate a good turnout. Remember to register by calling our office at 964-0070.

Michael J. Larsen, *President*

It was picnic time at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center, and one of the largest groups ever of MAAGCS members and their families gathered to enjoy Chesapeake crabs, hamburgers, hot dogs, fresh corn, and tables full of homemade goodies - not to mention a few kegs of brew. At top left, host Bill Neus welcomes some new arrivals; top right, past presidents Mike McKenzie and Ben Stagg tell their latest fishing story; bottom left, there was plenty of everything, even this large a crowd; bottom right, George Renault and Mike Larsen hold an impromptu Board meeting.



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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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From The Golf World

It should come as no surprise to learn that JoAnne Carner has been chosen by ballot of the Golf Writers Association of America to become the 47th member of the World Golf Hall of Fame down in Pinehurst. JoAnne, the all-time LPGA money winner and thrice player of the year, will be inducted into the Hall, now run by the PGA, at the Hall's Invitational Pro-Am Nov. 1-3.

One of the events going on at the same time as the GCSAA Mid-Year Conference and Show in Indianapolis will be the annual meeting of the GCSAA Certification Committee on Sept. 22 and 23. To get valuable input from members on the certification program, an open forum has been scheduled from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 22 in the Indiana Convention Center. Dennis Lyon, chairman of the Certification Committee, is interested in hearing member concerns as well as personal thoughts and ideas for continuing the growth and improvement of this program.

Also meeting in Indianapolis on Sept. 21-22 will be the GCSAA Nominating Committee, which will open its session on Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. for comments concerning nominations from any GCSAA member. This open meeting is designed to include GCSAA members in the nominating process and to receive other input from them.

A GCSAA team will compete in the International Superintendents Golf

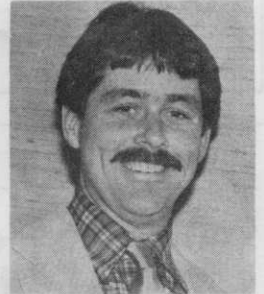
Flex-time: Can We Use It?

by Ken Ingram, Superintendent, Columbia Country Club

After years of watching Connecticut Avenue traffic, I was intrigued recently when Congress made Flex-time permanent for some government employees, after years of experimenting. The Flex-time program sought to break the rigid 9 to 5 work hour schedule in order to relieve traffic congestion during rush hour while at the same time allowing employees to adjust their own schedules to get children off to school or baby-sitters, etc. Basically, Flex-time allows employees to arrive whenever they want before 9:30 a.m., and when their 8 hours are up, they can leave. Attendance between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. is called "core time" and is mandatory.

I see some applications for Flex-time on the golf course. Most of us work religiously from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. How many times have you left jobs unfinished or had to finish them yourself because everyone left at 3:30? All of us have guys that would love to start work at 5:30 a.m. if they could leave at 1:30 or 2, plus those at the other extreme. Our core time might be 8 to 12, and it would certainly be advantageous to have the course staffed for more daylight hours on long summer days. I've often wondered how much night-time vandalism didn't actually occur late in the afternoon when no one was around. Also, we might be surprised to learn how many jobs are better done in the afternoon. We all know that grass mows better without the dew, and I'd swear we'd get a better cutworm kill by spraying at night rather than in the morning. Also, there probably is an entire league of late afternoon golfers we've never seen. Finally, have you ever noticed how often the phone rings between 3:30 and 5 in the afternoon? I don't mean the "gallon of milk, loaf of bread" calls from crew members' wives but rather the important calls from the golf shop and businesses, for whom 3:30 p.m. is a strange quitting time.

Of course, the plan is not without drawbacks, including unsupervised subordinates, increased disturbance to play, greens cut too early in the morning re-dewling, tee markers moved in late afternoon getting tossed into the creek at night, a longer day for superintendents, plus who's going to lock the barn? It might work for some of us, though, and a maintenance building that bustles with activity is great public relations.



Team Championship as part of the Turf Management Conference in St. Andrews, Scotland, on October 6-9, and a "travel-only" package has been organized for other members wishing to attend. The team includes 1985 GCSAA champion Dave Powell, Richard Stuntz, Kevin Downing, and Eugene D. Baston. If interested, call Vickie Shelby at 801-486-2336, or Bonnie Stephenson at 1-800-GSA-SUPT.

The two-day golf course design seminar given by Geoffrey Cornish and Robert Graves at the GCSAA annual conference in Washington will be repeated at the Indiana Mid-Year Conference. The two architects also put on the seminar at Harvard on June 27-28 under the sponsorship of the Graduate School of Design.

Dr. Richard C. Skogley of the U. of Rhode Island has received the Man of the Year Award from the Oregon Seed Trade Association for his many years of work in producing and marketing grass seed varieties, including Exeter, Colonial bent, Kingstown Velvet bent, and Jamestown Chewings fescue. He is

currently developing a Georgetown Kentucky Bluegrass variety in cooperation with VPI and Loft's Seed Co.

Seminar Is Open to GCSAA Members

A seminar in "Business Communications and Assertiveness Techniques" will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, on October 22 and 23 under the sponsorship of the GCSAA and the Central Pennsylvania GCSA. The two-day seminar, to be conducted by John P. Meszaros, a former superintendent and landscape architect, will cover verbal communications, managing conflict and stress, effective persuasive presentations, and asserting yourself without aggression. It offers two CEU's and the price is \$95 for GCSAA members and \$120 for nonmembers. Registration forms can be obtained by calling Betsy Evans at the GCSAA's toll-free number, 1-800-472-7878.

Musser Tournament Set for October 15

The 7th Annual Musser Tournament, sponsored by the Maryland Turfgrass Council and the MAAGCS, will be held Tuesday, October 15, at the Country Club of Maryland, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. The entry fee of \$250 per four-man team covers green and cart fees, individual and team (two net best-balls of foursome) prizes, plus longest drive and closest to the pin awards, and dinner (at 6:30 p.m.).

The Musser International Turfgrass Foundation, of which Dr. Fred V. Grau has been president since 1969, is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, charitable, and educational organization that provides grants for needed research in any part of the turfgrass industry and furnishes help to graduate students at turfgrass-oriented institutions in order to provide well-trained professionals as future leaders in the industry.

Mid-Year Conference To Aid Assistants

A new training seminar designed especially for experienced assistant golf course superintendents and young golf course employees who are potential assistants will be offered at the GCSAA first Mid-Year Turfgrass Conference and Show September 19-24 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

The seminar, entitled, "The Assistant Superintendent: Functions and Responsibilities," will be taught by Mary T. Rau and Bruce R. Williams and will address such management concerns as delegating tasks, motivating employees, handling problem situations, making decisions, and managing time. The one-day seminar begins at 8 a.m. Friday, September 20, and all new members who join GCSAA before August 19 will receive free admission to it as well as to the entire Conference.

Bruce Williams, superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Ill., regards the seminar as a rare opportunity for assistants to meet as a group and discuss ideas, pointing out that as the superintendents of the future, they are the lifeblood of the association.

NEW MEMBER

Jeffrey B. Yingling
Change classification from D to B
Superintendent, Yingling's Golf Center
Hagerstown, MD

The Finger Points Again

Something a bit disturbing happened in big-time golf in August. After a good year of widespread public appreciation of the golf course superintendent and his job, with every tournament winner on the Tour thanking the superintendent on TV for getting the course in such terrific shape, suddenly a superintendent found himself taking a lot of heat. The tournament was the PGA, the course was Denver's Cherry Hills, and the superintendent getting the bad press was Armen Suny.

The first murmurs of unhappiness with the condition of the course began on Saturday, the third day of the tournament, when the greens to all intents and purposes stopped holding the ball. Shots would hit the putting surface and just take off. Short putts that missed the center of the cup would lip out and run 5 feet past. On some of the more sharply sloping greens, a long putt was an invitation to take two (or three) more. The pros began to complain, on the course and in the press tent. In stories coming out of Denver after the last round in which Hubie Green emerged as the winner, two shots in front of Lee Trevino, Lee and other players were not hesitant to speak their minds to the writers. Steve Hershey in USA TODAY quoted Lee as saying, "I hit six good shots to greens, and they all bounced over the back. There is no way they could have gotten that hard in one night unless they rolled them." Fuzzy Zoeller, generally regarded as a good-natured sort, said, "I've never seen such a difference in the condition of the greens. One day they were soft and holding and the next day they were like a parking lot."

With these verbal attacks reverberating around the club, Superintendent Suny called a news conference at which he said that he had indeed rolled the greens, not to harden but to smooth them. Dick Taylor, writing in GOLF WORLD, accused Suny of being overprotective of his golf course after Thursday's low scores. Taylor's view was that Suny took it personally and proceeded on Saturday morning to double-cut the greens and roll them with a 60-pound roller. He also decided not to water them, and when strong winds came up Saturday to dry them out even more, the greens would no longer hold an iron shot. Taylor went on to describe the writers at Suny's press conference as "stunned at his belligerence" and "flabbergasted when the man said, 'they (the pros) finally realized where they were, in the third round of a major (championship).'" For the moment, at least, the honeymoon between superintendent, players, and press seemed to be over.

What does all this mean to a country club or public golf course superintendent in Maryland or Virginia who may have to prep his course once in every few years for a local association championship or, more often, for a pro-am? Obviously, not very much. But, more than one superintendent has taken the rap for a green committee chairman who wanted the course toughened up for a local event, with disastrous consequences for players and course. And how about a situation in which a committeeman wants the greens or fairways cut shorter than they should be, considering the humidity and temperature? Where does the blame go when the greens turn purple, then brown? Such things have happened in these parts and could happen again. The point being made, and it applies to Cherry Hills as well as to Valley Muni, is that there must be two-way communication between the superintendent and club or tournament officials to avoid situations like the one that developed at the PGA. That episode may be reverberating for a long time, to no one's credit. — C.C.

Meeting Schedule, 1985

- September 10 — Hobbits Glen G.C., Bill Neus, Host
- October 14 — International C.G., Steve Nash, Host
- November 12 — Hunt Valley G.C., Bob Orazi, Host
- December 10 — Naval Academy, Mike McKenzie, Host

Sept. 10 Meeting

Continued from page 1

The program for September 10 is as follows:

- Lunch — Available (cash)
- Golf — After 11 a.m.
- Cocktails — 6 p.m.
- Dinner — 7 p.m. (cost, \$15)
- Meeting — 8 p.m.
- Reservations — Call MAAGCS office, 964-0070

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