



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXIV

AUGUST 1986

NUMBER 6

## YOU'RE ALL INVITED

To Our Big

1986

## ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC AGCS FAMILY PICNIC

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1986

HOBBIT'S GLEN GOLF COURSE

COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

Bill Neus — Host

Golf • Tennis • Swimming • Games • Playground

BEER

SWEET CORN

SODAS

RIBS

CRABS

HAMBURGERS

HOT DOGS

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

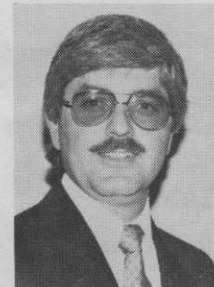
**Directions:** From Baltimore: Take 70 West to Rte. 29 South, turn right off 29 at Rte. 108, then go 3½ miles to Harpers Farm Road; turn left, go ½ mile and turn right on Willow Bottom Dr. — club is on the right. From Washington: Take Rte. 29 North about 20 miles to Columbia, turn left on Rte. 108, go 3½ miles to Harpers Farm Road, turn left and go ½ mile, turn right on Willow Bottom Dr., and look for club on right.

\*To members and their immediate families; guest fee is \$5. Members are asked to bring one covered dish per family. Golf available after 10 a.m.; call in advance for tee times (301-730-5980).

## President's Message

I hope that most of you have received your Early Bird registration forms for the 58th International Golf Course Conference and Show to be held in Phoenix, Arizona, Jan. 26 - Feb. 2, 1987. I strongly urge you to register now in order to take advantage of the available discount. This year's conference looks like it will have another record-breaking attendance, which is another reason for registering early.

Our thanks go to Lou Rudinski for the successful July luncheon meeting that he hosted at Eisenhower Golf Course. Thanks also go to John Whittemore and



(Continued on page 2)

## Tom Regan Retains An Eight-Point Lead

The field fell a little farther behind leader Tom Regan in the on-going point tournament, as he shot an 80 on July 8 at Eisenhower Golf Course, raising his point total to 28. Nick Vance picked up 4 points that day to bring his total up to 20, still good for second place. Tied for third at 16½ points are Tom Walsh and Stan Lawsen, while Virgil Robinson moved up to fourth with 15 points. In fifth place is George Renault with 14½, and Ken Ingram is sixth with 13.

In monthly open play at Eisenhower, Tom Regan's 80 gave him low gross honors, one stroke ahead of editor Corrigan. Low net went to Steve Cohoon with 80 less 10 handicap for 70 (Tom matched him out for gross), while George Renault was second with 86 less 14 for 72.

# 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*

## 1986 Officers and Directors

President . . . . . Gerald Gerard  
Vice President . . . . . Lee Dieter  
Secretary . . . . . George Renault  
Treasurer . . . . . Walter Montross  
President-Emeritus . . . . . Mike Larsen  
Educational Chairman . . . . . Ken Ingram  
Member Chairman . . . . . Virgil Robinson  
Golf Chairman . . . . . Nick Vance  
Social & Benevolence . . . . . Bill Neus  
Editorial & Publicity . . . . . Lester Tanner  
Finance Chairman . . . . . Steve Nash

## From the Golf World

A subject of much sensitivity among superintendents these days is pesticides, and it appears we're just beginning to learn about some of the things that could befall us in terms of being able to counter the enemies of turf. A recent article in the "Health" insert in the *Washington Post* pointed out that the EPA is facing up to the task of reassessing the health risks of about 600 chemicals that are the active ingredients in some 50,000 pesticides. To date, only 19 of the 600 have been reevaluated and reregistered, so you can see what sort of a job it's going to be (and how long it's going to take).

Things may not be as bad as they sound, however, since the only case involving golf course pesticides that the media have focused on (in a "20/20" TV show and a *People* magazine article) was the local episode involving Daconil. The bad news, of course, is that they're still talking about it.

The article on controlling Canada Geese in this issue comes to us from Pat Lucas, who is the editor of *Tee to Green* and himself a busy superintendent. He wrote, "Your readers may want to know that there is a way to control Canada Geese, providing one wants to take the time and make an effort to put a program in place." His course, Innis Arden, has been goose-free for five years, so we would do well to pay attention to the procedures he recommends. He sent the article along after reading a recent humorous item on geese in these pages.

# It's People That Make Our Business What It Is

by Bill Neus  
Superintendent, Hobbit's Glen Golf Course

Sometimes, when we trudge through a difficult and trying year such as this one, we might find cause to question why we're in this crazy business. I've always contended that part of the reason is the great people in the industry who are always ready to help.

We currently have a member who is out of work due to an illness. When his situation became known early this Spring, some area superintendents began working with that club's green committee chairman on a day-to-day basis to help the club through the crisis. Then, when it became apparent that the illness might be prolonged, these same superintendents helped the club to find someone qualified and able to devote the necessary time to the course through the summer.

Can you imagine Ford or General Motors cooperating in this sort of spirit? Try to picture something similar happening in almost any other industry. Let's face it, we are unique — something special. And, all of us can be tremendously proud of the intangibles that we bring to the golf course business.

The GCSAA advises that if anyone of us in the vicinity of Park City, Utah, on August 22, we're invited to a reception in honor of GCSAA president Riley Stottern, who is the host superintendent for a PGA Senior Tour event at his Jeremy Ranch Golf Course August 21-24. You can also attend this PGA Senior Tour event for free by showing a current gold membership card.

## LETTERS . . .

July 2, 1986

Dear Mid-Atlantic Superintendents:

I am writing to say that my husband, Parker Shirling, died several months ago after two severe strokes. Since he retired from Princeton Turf 10 years ago, it is quite possible that the people he worked with are no longer active in the field of cultivated sod. Still, he much enjoyed being on your mailing list for so long; even after his contributions to the business had ended, his interest remained.

Sincerely,  
Ruth Shirling

## NEW MEMBERS

E.L. "Jack" Oulla, Class D  
(Non-Resident)

Seymour-Johnson AFB  
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Steve Cohoon, Change to Class A  
Supt., Penderbrook Golf Course  
Fairfax, Virginia

Jeff Granger, Change to Class A  
Supt., Fauquier Springs Country Club  
Warrenton, Virginia

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Norman Burch of the Golf Collectors Society for bringing out their specimens of old clubs, balls, and books and filling us in on some of the early history of golf equipment.

Once again, August is upon us, and that means it is time for the annual picnic. This year the picnic moves out to Hobbit's Glen in Columbia, where Bill Neus will be our host. For those of you who have never attended a picnic or haven't attended one for many years, you are missing out on a great Mid-Atlantic function. I hope to see everyone there, so come on out and bring your family and guests. No reservations are necessary.

Jerry Gerard, *President*

## Budget Cuts Could Hit Extension Program

The Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing bill passed by Congress has reduced the Virginia Extension Program for 1986 by 4.3%, and the second year of the bill could create even more serious problems for the program, since 84% of the Federal budget is protected from cuts. The bottom line for Virginia Extension is that if the President's budget is enacted with that protection covering 84% of its amount, significant staff reductions will take place, including the release of 33 faculty members, 73 Extension Agents, and 122 secretaries or technicians, respective reductions of 16%, 18%, and 30%.



# Yes, You Can Control Canada Geese On Your Golf Course

by Patrick Lucas, Innis Arden Golf Club, Old Greenwich, CT

The purpose of this article is to discuss some of the problems Canada Geese are causing and to share some of the lessons I've learned in controlling them. With the onset of fall, their migration south will commence once again. Originally, most Canada Geese were migrators, using corridors or flyways for travel, going south in winter and coming back north in the summer. We here in the Northeast are located on the Atlantic Flyway, where some one million birds migrate annually.

Today, Canada Geese can be placed in two categories. The first are the migrators, or those geese which still migrate annually. The second category, "resident" geese, are those geese who have stopped migrating and stay in one location year-round.

The numerous problems caused by large flocks of Canada Geese include eating fine turf to a stubble, making reseeding necessary; the droppings they leave behind are unhealthy, ruin the grass, pack mowing equipment, and make putting impossible; and, they leave feathers in the water. If the lake or pond they are inhabiting is used for irrigation purposes, eventually their feathers can clog irrigation suction line strainers.

Why are Canada Geese invading our golf courses and public parks? To answer that, let's look at some of the basic requirements of Canada Geese or what I refer to as their "drawing cards." The first is **FOOD** and what could be more tasty than our fine turf? The second requirement is **WATER**, needed for drinking, landing, protection and sleeping. And the last requirement is **PROTECTION**, or relative safety from being hunted.

Does your course offer these "drawing cards" to Canada Geese? If the answer is yes, than your course can become a resort . . . for Canada Geese.

Your geese removal program must concentrate on altering these conditions which brought geese to the area in the first place. The most important factor in your geese removal program will be **TIMING**. The longer Canada Geese are allowed to inhabit an area, the more comfortable they will become and the harder it will be to get them to leave.

Let's look at water, remembering that water is necessary to Canada Geese for: a. drinking, b. landing, c. protection, d. sleeping.

Your goal will be to make your lake or pond look unwellcome from the air. Some of the ways in which this can be achieved are:

**WIRE GRIDS:** Wires can be strung across the lake in a grid-like pattern about 14 to 18 inches above the water level. This will effectively deprive Canada Geese of using the water. If the span is great, use floats as needed for mid-way support.

**ROPE OBSTACLES:** Yellow rope can be strung between high trees, across favorite flight paths near the body of water. Keep the ropes somewhat loose to sway in the wind. This will create obstacles in what used to be favorite landing or taking off flight paths.

**BLACK FLAGS:** The Fish & Wildlife Service reported on the use of a flag-like device made from a black plastic trash bag fixed to a tall pole to deter geese from feeding at their ease. It is said to work especially well in grain fields in the midwest. The Service notes that geese don't like to feed in areas where they sense a threat from overhead, which is what the fluttering "flag" represents to them. These could be installed in and out of play areas, or even in the pond itself.

**SWAN SCARECROWS:** Swan families and their babies (or cygnets) are vicious to Canada Geese and most geese are aware

of this. Consider using replicas of swan families as "floating scarecrows" to deter geese from landing.

Lastly, consider the aspect of safety and security. Canada Geese are smart, staying close to metropolitan areas to avoid being hunted. This protective "comfort zone" which they enjoy must be removed.

If you have Canada Geese, you can remove their "comfort zone" and get them to leave at the same time by using what I call the **HUNTER AMBUSH APPROACH**. Your goal is to make the Canada Geese feel they are genuinely being hunted and that their welfare is being threatened. A point to remember: this is **not** a form of harassment which probably the geese have had to contend with in the past. This is an entirely different approach which makes them feel their very survival is threatened. Here's how to do it:

You will need a loud blank gun and a trusted member of your crew as your "hunter." Have the hunter stalk the feeding geese either early in the morning, or at dusk, slowly creeping up on them, inch by inch. It may take the hunter 15 or 20 minutes to cover say about 200 yards as he approaches the flock, during which time several things will begin to happen.

The first and most obvious is that the sentinel or lookout geese will begin to look in the direction of the approaching hunter. Next, the majority of the flock will begin to stop feeding and "aim" in one direction. All this time the hunter is getting closer to the geese. As they become more nervous, the geese will begin to squawk and flap their wings, because someone or something is approaching them in a way which is strange and unfamiliar. It is exactly at this point that they are ready to go and the hunter (very close now) should begin firing. Or, at any time during the day that the geese are observed attempting to land, the hunter should begin firing when their wings are locked-in on their approach.

The library of Natural Sounds, Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. has available a cassette audio tape of Canada Geese distress call. Consider using it in conjunction with your "**HUNTER AMBUSH APPROACH**" for greater effect.

Once properly done, you will receive another bonus besides getting the geese to leave. Research has shown that Canada Geese are unlikely to return to a spot where they have been ambushed.

Remember, when geese fly over they look for "signs", signs below telling them everything is all right, it is okay to land. Other waterfowl (ducks, egrets, kingfishers, etc.) are such signs and must be frightened away. We want our lake or pond to look unwelcome from the air.

Clean out all brush areas which have been favorite nesting grounds in the past. Once the geese have nested in the spring, it is very difficult to get them to leave.

In closing, success can be achieved by a combination of understanding the basic requirements of Canada Geese and implementing a program of action.

## Meeting Schedule 1986

September 9 — Falls Road G.C., Ralph Strouth, host  
October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselman, host  
November 11 — Diamond Ridge G.C., Howard Gaskill, host  
December 9 — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, Grant Pensinger, host

# Mid-Atlantic Newsletter Supporters

## Aqua-Flo, Inc.

Irrigation Equipment, Buckner Irrigation Systems, Cusom Built Pump Systems.  
Philip F. DeMarco 1-800-524-0895  
Rick Hill, Front Royal, VA 609-561-1777

## Centreville Sod Growers

Bluegrass, Sod Blends and Turf-type Tall Fescues.  
Sheldon & Craig Betterly 703-361-8338

## Conway, Inc.

Honda Generators, Sandancers, Shindaiwa Gas Trimmers, Ransomes Bob-Cats, Hanson Sprayers, Turf Vac, Terra Aerators, Chain Saws and Pumps.  
Dick Jones, Jim Duval Wash: 301-953-9220  
Jacqui Kildale Balt: 301-792-7383

## Cornell Chemical & Equipment Co., Inc.

Golf Course Chemicals.  
Cliff Case, Donald Klein 301-636-2400

## Egypt Farms, Inc.

Golf Green Topdressing, Construction Mixes, White Trap Sand, IBDU & Par-Ex Fertilizers, R&R Parts, Warren's Spunbond Fabrics, Gypsum and Mulch. Rich Piatnek  
John Strickland, Carroll Davis 301-335-3700

## E-Z Go Mid-Atlantic

GXT-7, GXT-800 and GXT-300 Turf Utility Vehicles, New and Used Golf Car Sales.  
Rick Arnold, Bob Post, Roscoe Shupe  
301-948-2920 (Baltimore) 301-792-4699  
(Richmond) 804-262-3275

## Jonathan Green & Sons, Inc.

Grass Seed Mixtures, Chemicals, Fertilizers, and 150-yard Markers. David Young  
301-428-1421 1-800-526-2303

## G.L. Cornell Company

Jacobsen Turf Equipment Tom Harris  
Cushman Turf Trucksters Russ Bull  
Ryan Turf Equipment Terry Hill  
Bean Sprayers, National Mowers Bob Lynch  
Standard, Par Aide Golf Supplies Bill Brown  
Club Car, Columbia Par Car Randy Reed  
301-948-2000 800-492-1373

## Hartford Industrial Minerals, Inc., Joppa Md.

Precision Topdressing and Bunker Sand.  
Jack Montecalvo Baltimore: 301-679-9191

## Lea's Green Meadows, Inc.

Fertilizers, Chemicals, Grass Seed, Spreaders, Power Sprayers, Tools, Safety Equipment and Supplies.  
Herb Lea, Harry Fridley 202-488-1818

## Lebanon Total Turf Care — A Division of

Lebanon Chemical Corporation  
Manufacturers and Formulators of Country Club, Greenskeeper and Lebanon Professional Turf Fertilizers. (PA) 717-273-1687  
Junior Ruckman 703-869-2628  
Ed Price 800-233-0628

## LESCO, Inc.

A Complete Line of Quality Professional Turf Maintenance Products. Ask Us About the New LESCO Greensmower.  
Vanessa Jensen Toll Free: 800-321-5325

## Lofts/Maryland

Grass Seed and Fertilizer.  
Joe Yudin, Riley Barber Wash: 301-937-9292  
Ed Pacilio, Kevin Driscoll Balt: 301-323-4444

## Moore Golf, Inc.

Construction of Golf Courses, Turf Irrigation Systems, Parks and Athletic Fields.  
David Canavan, Bob Ryan  
Lyle Thompson 703-825-9211

## Newsom Seed Co., Rockville, MD

Grass Seed, New Varieties, Custom Mixes, Fertilizers and Chemicals.  
Strick Newsom 301-762-2096

## Par-Ex Professional Products

Slow Release Fertilizer with IBDU, IBDU/SCU  
R.A. "Dick" Doyle 301-357-8056  
Estech, Inc., P.O. Box 512, Winter Haven, Florida 33882-0512 813-294-2567

## Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.

Technical and Planning Services, Professional UF & SCU Fertilizers, Pesticides (Fungicides, Herbicides, Insecticides, etc.), Turf Seeds (Bents, Ryes, Blues, Fescues, etc.), Soil Amendments.  
Tom Malehorn 301-876-7474

## Russell Roberts Co., Inc.

Golf Course Design, Construction, Irrigation and Tree Moving  
Jack Roberts 301-253-4066  
James Roberts 301-762-3270

## Scott's Proturf Division

Slow Release Fertilizers, Controls, Seed and Spreaders.  
Mike Layle 804-565-2763  
Ken Cominsky, 668 Marr Dr., Warrenton, VA 22186 703-347-4210

## Seed Corporation of America

Over 100 Varieties of Turf Seeds, Fertilizers & Turf Chemicals. Over 50 Years in Business.  
P.O. Box 27174, Baltimore, MD  
Nancy Gross, Joe Getzendanner 301-685-6900  
Jesse Yopp, Bill Daniels 1-800-482-4455

## Share Corporation

Liquid Turf Maintenance Products, Vehicle Maintenance Products.  
Ed Howser 301-465-8154  
Milwaukee, WI 414-355-4000  
Tom Howser  
Shenandoah Area 301-729-1206

## Summit Hall Turf Farm, Inc.

Meyer Z-52 Zoysia (Sod or Plugs), Premium Bluegrass Blend (Sod), Improved Tall Fescue Blend (Sod). 301-948-2900  
Brian K. Finger and Frank H. Wilmot

## Turf Center, Inc.

Premium Turf (Bluegrass, Tall Fescue, Bermudagrass, Zoysia), Vaughan's Grass Seed.  
Diana Patton, Emory Patton 301-384-6300

## Turf Equipment and Supply Company, Inc.

Toro Turf Equipment and Irrigation Products, Olathe Turf Equipment, Giant Vac Blowers, Vacs, Truck Loaders, Daihatsu Utility Vehicles and Snowco Trailers.

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

## Turf Services Co.

Installation and Renovation of Golf Course Irrigation Systems and Pump Stations.  
G. Levering Dalton 804-359-5507

## Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Claud Corrigan, Editor  
2236 Malraux Drive  
Vienna, VA 22180  
(703) 573-4931

First Class Mail

