

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.

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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%.