



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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Election Highlights Dec. 9 Meeting At Green Spring Valley

Highlight of the December 9 MAAGCS meeting at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club in Garrison, Md., on December 9 will be the election of 1987 officers and two new directors for three-year terms. The nominee for president is Lee Dieter and for vice president, George Renault. Bill Neus and Ken Ingram will contest the secretary's position, Walter Montross is the nominee for treasurer, and Steve Cohoon, Howard Gaskill, and Tom Regan are running for the director spots.

Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, where Grant Pensinger CGCS is superintendent, is an older course, its first nine having been built in 1912. Those nine holes were rebuilt and another nine added in 1955 by Robert Trent Jones.

(Continued on page 2)



The Woodholme Country Club team of (l. to r.) Wally Stedding, Supt. Steve Potter, Assistant Wally Whetsell, and Bob Stiffler won the eighth annual Musser Tournament at Manor Country Club on October 27. Holding the Grau Trophy is Dr. Fred V. Grau, president of the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation. The winning team had net twin best ball of 118, 10 shots in front of the team headed by George Renault of Chevy Chase Club and Sean Remington, Brian Keck, and Dave Hilliard.



"Killer Courses" - An Unnecessary Attempt to Frighten Golfers

A national golf magazine is an odd place to find an article devoted to the danger to humans of the pesticides used on golf courses. A publication of fanatical environmentalists or natural food advocates might be a more logical outlet for that kind of assault on golf course maintenance practices, so it was a distinct surprise to see in the December issue of GOLF magazine a piece by Bob Condor (not a golf writer, by the way) entitled "Killer Courses" and illustrated with a photo of a large black bottle bearing the skull and crossbones. And what was the article based on? Primarily the episode involving the use of Daconil on a Mid-Atlantic golf course and a death that has been blamed on the chemical, with an ensuing lawsuit by survivors that is still in litigation.

Taking off from there, the article then discussed Billy Casper's well-known range of allergies, primarily to certain foods but which apparently included a sensitivity to a weed killer, touched lightly on the EPA's re-registration program for chemicals, and passed on some simple hints about not licking golf balls and paying attention to possible allergy or poisoning symptoms. The author also quoted a USGA official on the potential for antipesticide sentiment turning into a witch hunt, as well as comments from a Massachusetts superintendent to the effect that it would be more economical not to have to use pesticides and fertilizers.

That, of course, is very true, however unrealistic. Chemicals and fertilizers cost a lot of money. But, given the preference of today's U.S. golfers for lush green fairways and soft, well-watered greens, it seems safe to say that most superintendents couldn't get along without their chemicals, whatever the cost. If fashions were to turn around and firm, dry, brownish-green golf courses that resemble those in the British Isles were to come into favor, it would be a different story. It's the watered, verdant golf course that makes a prime target for fungus and insects.

What the editors of GOLF plainly never considered is that scaring golfers away from their courses by referring to one unproven fatality blamed on a commonly used, EPA-approved fungicide, out of the millions of rounds played by American golfers each year, is not exactly in the best interests of a magazine for golfers. If there were a more solid basis for such dire warnings, it would be a different matter, but to point to rare allergic reactions, which are highly individualistic in any case, as something likely to be encountered by anyone, anytime, is doing the golf industry and golf course superintendents in particular not just a disservice but grave potential harm as well. The article was sketchy, not well researched, and slanted to raise unwarranted fears. Clearly, it should never have been written or published. — C.C.

**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

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From the Golf World

A number of interesting ideas came out of the "Golf Summit" held in October at Westchester Country Club in New York by the National Golf Foundation. Almost every organization involved in some way with golf took part, including the USGA, PGA, all three Tours (PGA, Senior PGA, and LPGA), GCSAA, and so on. One presentation, seeking to look into the future, predicted that golf would have to go through a process of "MacDonaldization," that is, make available a fast-food version of the game so that it could be played quickly and without undue involvement in what was going on. Courses would have to be short, open, and simple, with nothing like bunkers, hazards, or OB to hold up or penalize any player. Were that to take place, they would find, we fear, that golf at that level would bore most people silly, would present little or no challenge, and would be quickly abandoned.

Although nobody came out and said it, presumably the Rules of Golf would be made simpler and less binding, and all nature of technical advances in clubs, balls, and other equipment would be permitted as a means of making the game that much easier — and faster. It would be just about as satisfying as one of those fast food sandwiches, too.

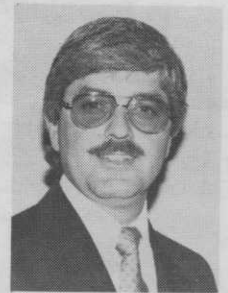
The other idea, a surprise put forward by Deane Beman, the PGA Tour Commissioner, was not only practical but very farsighted. He announced that all the TPC courses would soon be renting individual powered carts to

President's Message

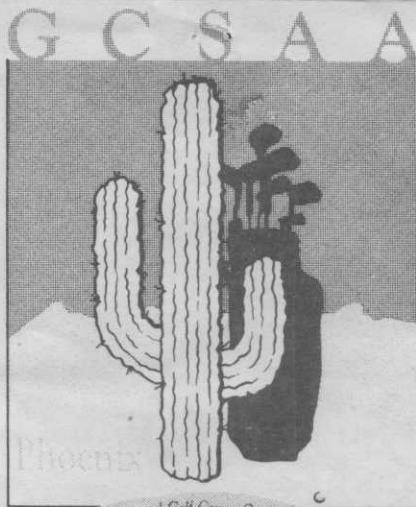
This message will be my last as president of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The past year of serving as your president has been a very memorable and rewarding experience for me. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Board of Directors for the hard work and time they have devoted to our association. I would also like to thank Claud Corrigan for his outstanding service as newsletter editor.

Even though it rained and we couldn't play Diamond Ridge, I want to thank Howard Gaskill for his efforts as our host for the November meeting. Hopefully, Howard will invite us back soon.

The upcoming election meeting will be held at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club with Grant Pensinger, CGCS as host. Please come and vote for the candidates of your choice. Remember, call our office at (301) 381-0030 to make reservations for golf and dinner.



Jerry Gerard, *President*



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carry bag of clubs while the golfer walks, thereby preserving the benefits of exercise without the task of lugging or pulling a sack of clubs around. Since few courses these days have enough available caddies, the majority of golfers ride carts to solve the clubs problem. Many resorts, of course, require the use of carts, but that is primarily revenue oriented. The battery-powered golf carts would rent for one-half the golf car fees, thus preserving the income that either the pro or club (or both) have come to depend on. The initial investment in a caddy cart is about one-fifth that in a golf car, so the pro or the club is ahead of the game financially from the start.

SKI TRIP PLANNED

In the planning stage for Mid-Atlantic members is a two-day ski trip to Bryce Resort in February. Further details will be furnished in a separate mailing as they become available, according to Bill Neus, who is handling arrangements for the trip.

DECEMBER 9 MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

The course is heavily wooded and has fairly small bentgrass greens and rye fairways. Grant has been at GSVHS for the past 13 years, having moved there from Scotland, Pa., his home town and the location of Chambersburg Golf Club, where he served as superintendent for seven years.

On the 9th, lunch will not be available at the course, but, weather permitting, golf can be played any time during the day. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be on hand from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a dinner of mushrooms forestiere, spinach salad, chicken breast stuffed with crabmeat, vegetables, and blueberry mousse.

Directions to the club are as follows: Take the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) to Exit 20, Reisterstown Road. Go north (left) on Reisterstown Road to Green Spring Valley Road, turn right, and go a half block to the course.

The program for December 9 is:

- Lunch - None
- Golf - Anytime
- Cocktails - 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Dinner - 6:30 p.m. (cost: \$20)
- Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- Reservations - Call (301) 381-0030 collect

CHIPCO ALIETTE: A NEW APPROACH

by Tom Walsh, Superintendent
Chartwell Golf & Country Club

The increased use of Prograss for annual bluegrass control in fairway turf has brought on an increasing occurrence of pythium blight and brown patch. Recently, after careful experimentation, I started a Prograss program in my fairways for poa control. With it came beautiful seed-head free turf and reduced occurrence of dollar spot. But, as summertime approached, it brought more pythium and brown patch. This was a whole new ball game for me. More and more superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area are facing the same costly predicament of having to spray their fairways for this deadly disease.

Philippe Ourisson, research and development representative for Rhone-Poulenc Inc., has been doing extensive pythium research here at Chartwell for the last two years. Philippe wanted to demonstrate their new chemical Chipco Aliette vs. other leading pythium controls. This experiment would examine the type of chemical to use, rate, and length of control. The three chemicals tested were Chipco Aliette, Subdue, and Terredec SP (alone and tank mixed). Philippe also wanted to determine if tank mixing Chipco Aliette with Subdue or SP at lower rates could give better control.

The chemicals and rates for 1986 are as follows: (untreated Check, Chipco Aliette 4 oz./1000, Chipco Aliette 4 oz. + Subdue 0.5 oz., Subdue 1.0 oz.; Terredec SP 2 oz. + Chipco Aliette 4 oz., Terredec SP 4 oz.). There was approximately 60% infection at the end of the experiment.

Conclusions showed that although all chemicals and rates initially stopped pythium, Terredec SP alone showed a very short residual. Twenty days after application, all other chemicals and rates still showed adequate control. Subdue may have shown slightly better results over Chipco Aliette, but more research must be done to be more conclusive. Although this experiment did not show much difference between Chipco Aliette and Subdue, it may shed some light on alternative methods of pythium control.

For further information or data contact me at (301) 987-1982.

Meeting Schedule For 1987 Announced

A schedule of 10 meetings, evenly balanced between Maryland and Virginia, has been approved by the Board of Directors, with the opening meeting of 1987 set for Fredericksburg Country Club on March 10 with Ron Barley as host. The remainder of the year will be as follows:

April 14 — Redgate Golf Course, Raymond Evans, host

May 12 — Pine Ridge Golf Course, Lynnie Cook, host

June 9 — Green Hill Yacht and Country Club, James Kelley, host

July 14 — Columbia Country Club, Ken Ingram, host

August 11 — Bretton Woods Recreation Center, Gerry Gerard, host

September 8 — Twin Lakes Golf Club, Barclay Whetsell, host

October 13 — Belle Haven Country Club, Jim Meier, host

November 10 — Herndon Centennial Golf Course, John Tutich, host

December 8 — Army Navy Country Club, Dave Fairbank, host

Winter Golf Can Do Lots of Harm

Dr. Doug Hawes passes along to us the rationale that a club in the northeast used in closing its course for the winter, citing the damage done to bentgrass after its growing season ends. Winter golf, the green committee said, when the bentgrass are frozen and dormant, totally favors the spread of *Poa annua*, which takes quick advantage of any bluegrass weakness. Playing in winter compacts the soil, which then requires more aeration during the spring and fall golfing seasons, plus heavy topdressing, both costly budget items. In winter, the soil under the turf freezes to depths from a few inches to several feet, depending on the cold. Once soil freezes, it negates all underground drainage until it has thawed completely. To compound the problem, part of the upper inch of soil thaws on sunny days, causing excessive wetness from trapped water above the frozen soil. This combination of circumstances results in severe compaction when play is allowed, because the thawed soil is compressed, vise-like, by foot pressure on the solid ice below the thaw.

Tom Regan Captures 1986 Point Tourney

Because of the rainout at Diamond Ridge in November, the final standings in the 1986 point tournament will remain as they were at the end of September, with Tom Regan well out in front with 38 points. Nick Vance finished second with 27, Virgil Robinson was third with 24, and Tom Walsh was the final prizewinner with 19½ for fourth place. Other high finishers were George Renault with 18½, Dave Fairbank with 16½, Ken Ingram with 13, and Grant Pensinger with 12.

An Update On Spin Grinding Technique

by Steven A. Nash, Superintendent
International Country Club

In the April newsletter, I briefly explained a new way to spin grind mowing reels using a regular Foley grinder. Since that article appeared, I have received many calls asking me to describe in detail how to set it up and how to work it. In this article, I will attempt to describe exactly how to set it up.

Using your present manual Foley grinder, you need to mount a platform about 15" square to the right hand side of the Foley, as you stand in a grinding position. On top of this platform you sit your back-lapping machine. Remove the guide finger from the grinding stone, and you're ready to spin grind. Mount the reel in the normal position, making sure it is square to the grinding wheel. The grinding stone must just barely touch the reel from the lowest possible spot. The back-lapping machine must turn the reel in a direction coming over the top and down toward the stone. As the reel turns, move the spinning grind stone across the reel. Continue grinding until the sparks almost stop, then readjust the stone. It is very important to readjust the stone gently, because a real hard grind makes for an uneven grind. Take everything slowly the first time. Once reels have been ground by this method, they are much easier to regrind the next time. Grind the reel until it is sharpened all the way across and keep grinding on the last adjustment until there are practically no sparks. This puts a final smooth grind on the reel. A good spin grind on the reel is no good unless you have also ground the bed-knife properly.

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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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GOOSE CHEMICAL?

Any MAAGCS member interested in participating in a request for a temporary use permit in Maryland of a chemical designed to control Canada geese should call (collect) Russell Bateman at 301-444-4933 as soon as possible.

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