



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXIV

JULY 1986

NUMBER 5

Lunch Meeting Set For July 8 at Eisenhower

What better name for a busy public golf course than "Eisenhower"? The soldier-president did so much to make golf popular during its growth period in the 1950's and 1960's, and the course named for him was built in 1966 to Eddie Ault's design in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Eisenhower will be the scene of the July 8 MAAGCS meeting, which will be one of our infrequent lunch meetings, starting at 11 a.m. Since no dinner is involved, reservations are unnecessary, but the pro shop must be called (301-849-8221) for starting times, which begin at 1 p.m. Golf activities will feature the third round of the match play championship and open play for all others.

Superintendent Lou Rudinski, our host on July 8, has been at Eisenhower since 1977. He describes his course as a combination of wooded and open, over rolling land, with water hazards on the first four holes. Additional water will be provided by the installation of 7 to 8 acres of wetland by the State of Maryland, which should increase the challenge of the course by 1987.

Eisenhower, which absorbs up to 45,000 rounds of golf per year, is maintained by Lou, two full-time staff, three seasonal, and three summer employees (plus a trainee slot, yet to be filled). The Penncross greens are cut four times a week to 3/16", the mixed poa, rye, and
(Continued on page 3)

President's Message

I have put off writing this month's President's Message just as the weather has put off providing us with the much-needed rain we have all been waiting for. Maybe by the time this newsletter reaches you, it will have rained on our golf courses; so far this year, we're way behind.



Just because summer is here, I hope it won't serve as an excuse for you to miss any of our meetings. I want to thank Don Rozinak for his hospitality at the Country Club of Swan Creek in June. Remember, the July meeting at Eisenhower Golf Course will be a luncheon and not a dinner meeting and that you should call the course for starting times for golf. If just coming for the lunch and meeting, please reserve by calling our office number 964-0070 (call collect if outside the area).

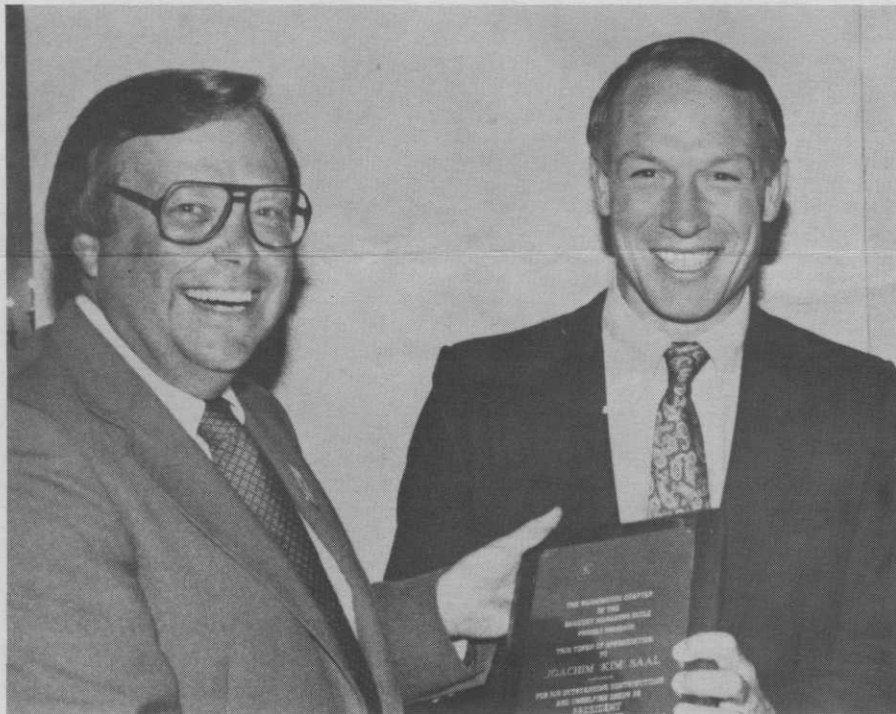
Don't forget to plan now to attend the annual August picnic, which will be at Hobbits Glen this year; it's shaping up as one of the best picnics ever.

Jerry Gerard, *President*

Regan Lengthens His '86 Match Play Lead

Good rounds at Swan Creek enabled Tom Regan to stretch his Match Play Championship lead and Nick Vance to move up to a close second. His 74 on June 10 upped Tom's point total to 18½, while Nick's 71 jumped him to 16 points from his previous 6. In third place with 12½ points is Tom Walsh, a whisker ahead of Ken Ingram and Grant Pensinger, each with 12. Virgil Robinson dropped from second to fifth with a 9 point total.

(Continued on page 2)



A singular honor for an MAAGCS member was announced at the recently completed Kemper Open, when Bill Buchanan (L.), PGA Tour agronomist, presented the GCSAA and PGA Tour Citation of Performance to Bill Black (R.), Manager of Greens and Grounds at Congressional Country Club. The award was based on the outstanding condition of Congressional as Bill had prepared it for the 1985 Kemper Open. Black has been Congressional superintendent since 1980, moving there from Fountainhead C.C. in Hagerstown, Md.

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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

The report on British course maintenance in the current GCSAA magazine struck a responsive chord from your editor, who returned June 18 from two weeks of golf and high-speed driving (the speed limit on the motorways is 70 mph, but the fast lane moves at 90 and above). It's too obvious a remark to say that the methods of British greenskeepers and American superintendents reflect the views of their respective golfing populations, but to a certain extent, that is very true. Both English and Scottish courses are very firm, including the greens. Most high-flying wedge shots to their greens continue to fly — bouncing over in the rough or gorse behind. Therefore, over the years, British golfers have continued to play running approach shots, hitting short and rolling on, and the golf courses reflect the universal acceptance of these techniques.

American golf has revised these methods to allow players to hit to the pin and expect the ball's descent to be cushioned so that it will stop, and architects and superintendents have had to go along with the trend. As a result, on many U.S. courses, it's impossible to run an approach shot anywhere near the hole. A few rounds of golf in England or Scotland will make these basic differences all too clear.

The grasses in use, especially on seaside courses (or "links"), seem to require less mowing than ours, aided by their generally fast-draining soil. Some parts of England, however, have chalky soil, which calls for a different approach;

Are We Superintendents Masochists?

by George Renault
Superintendent, Chevy Chase Club

"Masochist" is a term often applied to superintendents, not without some validity. Sure, we talk business at meetings. That's to be expected. We also spend more time on the job than many other professionals, with the exception perhaps of obstetricians. That's also expected, given Mother Nature's usual cooperation — nil.

But have you ever listened to the conversation at our purely social gatherings? Oh yes, we talk about the family and hobbies, but sooner or later (typically, sooner) the talk comes back to business. We play golf for fun, but it's too close to business to really be an outlet for the pressure.

Those of us who are not masochistic by nature become masochistic by design. Having to contend with Mother Nature and an infinite variety of members' temperaments is not exactly conducive to personal security. And so, we live life in the fast lane, juggling our personal lives and the demands of the job, while the stress builds up. The longer we're at the same course, the more insecure we become. Let's face it, longevity is the exception rather than the rule in our business — and the stress continues to mount.

On the surface, from a stress factor point of view, those at public courses would seem to be better off than those at private courses. Taking direction from one person certainly involves less pressure than from a committee. Also, there has to be some consolation in knowing that the individual public course golfer has no direct influence on your job. But this is all guesswork, and the difference in stress between the public and the private course superintendent is probably minimal.

Possibly what we need is to rethink how we approach our jobs — not the individual tasks that comprise our overall responsibility, but how we react to those demands placed on us by work and family.

It is said that to give thought to anything other than what we are doing at the present moment is to cheat ourselves of that moment. Who among us has time to waste? Carry this over into our personal lives, and I'll bet we've lost more than we care to admit. It takes effort to make each moment count, to forget about our personal lives and put total energy into the job when on the job, and to forget about the job when playing with our kids or enjoying some moment of pleasure.

Experts claim that outside pursuits are crucial to neutralize stress. But finding one takes time, usually more than we think we have. When you think about the stress-induced alternatives — ulcers, heart attacks, strained or broken marriages, burnout — you'd think we'd jump at any straw that reduced stress and offered a chance at a balanced life. Most of us don't. We race along in our old routines, working golf and playing golf.

Those of us who have taken the time and the effort deserve everyone's sincere admiration. Those of us who won't take the time or expend the effort can add another adjective to masochistic — martyr. But, unless you're Catholic and 200+ years old, that won't get you a plug (nickel or sod).

the greenskeeper at Salisbury Golf Club told me he aerifies as often as possible, using a knife-type aerifier that leaves a 5-inch-long cut in the turf. Seldom does topdressing follow this procedure, alt-

though at Broadstone Golf Club in Dorset, the staff had just slice-aerified and then topdressed the greens with almost pure organic matter, making them look black from a distance.

Meeting Schedule 1986

August 12 — Picnic, Hobbit's Glen, Bill Neus, host
September 9 — Open
October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselman, host
November 11 — Diamond Ridge G.C., Howard Gaskill, host
December 9 — Open (Annual election meeting)

REGAN (Continued from page 1)

Net leaders at Swan Creek were Stan Lawson with 74-14 for a 60, Tom Walsh with 83-21 for 62, and George Renault with 83-16 for 67. Nick Vance led the gross division with his 71, trailed by Tom Regan with 74 and Jef Yingling with 78. Third round of the 1986 event will be played July 8 at Eisenhower Golf Course.

Turfgrass Field Day Is Wed., August 6

This year's Maryland Turfgrass Research Field Day and Equipment-Products Show will be held Wednesday, August 6, at the University of Maryland's new research facility next to the Hopkins Plant Research Farm on Cherry Hill Road near Beltsville. Tours of the research plots begin at 9 a.m. and last until 12:30 p.m. when lunch will be served (cost about \$7). Demonstration of turf products and equipment will be held during the afternoon.

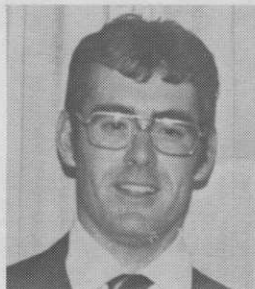
The tour will cover research being conducted in connection with the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program, weed control, disease control, plant growth regulators, and general management studies. Practical information developed during this research will be featured, along with updates on chemicals, equipment, plant varieties, management practices, and specific problems to be diagnosed. Questions regarding this field day should be addressed to Peter H. Dernoeden, Department of Agronomy, U. of Maryland (301-454-3717).

To reach the farm, leave the Beltway at Exit 23N (Rt. 29) if coming from Frederick, Rockville, or Rt. 240; head north, turn right at Randolph Rd. traffic light, proceed 1 mile to farm. Coming from southern Maryland, Eastern Shore, or Rts. 4, 50, or 202, leave Beltway at Exit 27 (Rt. 1). Head south toward College Park, turn right at first traffic light (Cherry Hill Rd.), and follow signs for 4 miles to farm on left.

Collecting Grasses for the USGA-GCSAA Research Program

by Patrick M. O'Brien
USGA Green Section, Mid-Atlantic Region

Did you ever want to discover a new grass? This opportunity is very possible for anyone who looks carefully at their grasses. The Mid-Atlantic region of the United States is an excellent area for collecting both cool and warm season grasses for our plant breeders. The extreme climate causes good variability in most grass species.



Probably the best locations on any golf course to search for improved grasses are the fairways and putting greens. The give-away to the searcher is usually a circular patch of grass with a slightly different color. I have observed many of these patches as large as four to five feet in diameter.

Obviously, if you spot some different-looking grasses, they should have some desirable characteristics. The most desirable traits include the following:

1. Dark green color
2. Heat tolerance
3. Cold tolerance
4. Drought tolerance
5. Vigorous growth

In my travels I have seen some grasses which exhibit some of these characteristics. I observed Bermudagrass growing in a fairway in Erie, Pennsylvania, and a very fine textured Bermuda on a fairway in Philadelphia. There is also a very vigorous strain of bentgrass growing in a fairway in Butler, Pennsylvania. I have also seen some nice looking perennial *Poa annua* types on putting greens in Virginia and in the Carolinas.

Historically, some of our finest grasses today were found by golf course personnel. Richie Valentine showed me the location adjacent to the No. 17 tee on the Merion East Course where Merion Kentucky bluegrass was discovered. Tommy Davis, a laboratory technician at Virginia Tech, discovered the Vamont Bermudagrass variety while he was working at the Oak Woods Country Club in Wilksboro, North Carolina. This valuable Bermudagrass was growing naturally on his No. 17 fairway. I am sure there are many valuable grasses like these now growing unnoticed at many golf courses.

MEETING (Continued from page 1)

bluegrass fairways three times a week to 3/4", and tees and collars to 5/8". Greens are treated under a spray program using Turf Cal (3 1/2 qts. per 1,000), with plans to include fairways later this year. Repaving the cart path system is projected for this summer, and a new clubhouse is planned for three or four years down the line.

Host Rudinski is a 1961 graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture. After further training under the late Richard Silvar in New Jersey, he came to Maryland in 1969, working at Bonnie View and then Baltimore C.C.'s Five Farms course. He says that a heart attack in 1977 caused him to rethink his life goals, and he then moved to Annapolis and the Eisenhower post.

Directions to Eisenhower are as

follows: From the Eastern Shore, take Rt. 50 to Annapolis (Rt. 450 exit), turn left at the stoplight, stay on West St. (don't turn left at 450), to the course 3 miles on the left. From Baltimore, take the Beltway to Rt. 3 south, Rt. 3 to Rt. 178 (Crownsville), turn left on 178, to course about 6 miles on the right. From Washington, take the Capital Beltway to Rt. 50 east, leaving Rt. 50 at the Annapolis exit and turning right onto West St. (Rt. 178); course is on the left after 3.2 miles.

July 8's program is:

Lunch - 11 a.m. (cost, \$12; no coats or ties)

Meeting - 12 noon

Golf - 1 p.m. (call for starting times, identifying yourself as MAAGCS member; crossover system in effect, using both #1 and #10 tees)

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Assistant Superintendent
Hobbitts Glen Golf Course
Columbia, Md.

Charles R. Tasker, Class F
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