

## 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*

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### From The Golf World

Ken Ingram's provocative article in this issue should strike a number of responsive chords among club officials and staff. It certainly hit the mark with me, recalling a recent incident at my own club where I spotted a golfer playing ahead who was hauling his pull cart along the collars of the greens. After a few holes of watching this, I finally yelled at him. He waved and walked on, but I ran into him when I finished, and he said, "What were you shouting at me about?" When I told him I was trying to ask him to keep his cart away from the greens, as our club's rules specify, he grumped, "Who appointed you sheriff? If I'd known that's what you were saying, I'd have come back and punched you in the nose!" And that's a typical response to a member's attempt at enforcement. All too often, when a committee ventures to write a member a letter about a rules violation on the course, the answer will be a note from the guy's lawyer, demanding a jury trial.

This year's Masters was a very eventful tournament, in more ways than one. Two of the most testing greens on the Augusta National course were rebuilt over the summer. No. 9's slope was leveled off to some extent, although shots hitting into the front portion still rolled back off the green; putts from above the flagstick no longer rolled on down and turned into chips coming back, however. And, No. 18 was lowered several feet, extended 15 feet or so in back, and generally made less severe. Also, Bill Fuller, the superin-

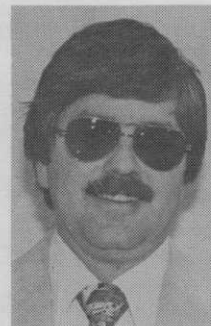
## President's Message

One of the biggest and most successful events sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents each year is the annual Superintendent-Pro golf tournament. This is the occasion for us, as superintendents, to show our professionalism and invite our club's golf professionals to take part in an outstanding joint event. Walter Montross and Springfield Golf and Country Club will be hosting the tournament, and they have a super program planned for the entire day. If you have not already received your entry blank for the tournament, no further reservations through our office are necessary.

For those of our members who will be playing in the tournament, no further reservations through our office are necessary. For those not playing but coming to the dinner meeting, please be sure to call 964-0070 to make a reservation. At its March meeting, your Board of Directors, concerned about the number of members who did not make reservations but who show up for golf and dinner, voted to add a \$5 fee for those who do not call in a reservation, commencing with the June meeting.

Early in April, along with six other golf course superintendents I attended a meeting of the Turfgrass Subcommittee of the Horticulture Technology Curriculum Advisory Committee of Northern Virginia Community College. This committee is trying to initiate a program geared to golf course and green industry employees that will give them the basic training needed to take part in our business. Graduates of the 10-week course will receive college credits as well as a turf care certificate. As planning for this program progresses, I will try to keep everyone informed of developments.

Jerry Gerard, *President*



### ENFORCING THE RULES (Continued from page 1)

for the chairmen of the Green and Golf Committee to be watchdogs, but how often are they on the course? As for the golf professional, I can only say that I've worked with great ones who always were willing to do their share of enforcement, but they're usually in the shop or on the lesson tee rather than out on the course where the rules are being broken. After all, the pro's real job is to supervise his staff, including the starter, and to provide service to his members.

It might help if we were all hard-nosed, like some of the great figures in golf in the past who were harsh masters but who ended up being loved and respected. Think about the great clubs that have been dominated by one menacing figure—Cliff Roberts at Augusta National, William Fownes at Oakmont, John Arthur Brown at Pine Valley, and, locally, maybe Jack Emich at Baltimore Country Club—nobody breaks rules when Jack's around. Columbia used to have a mean starter named Reds Branagan, who once kept Nixon waiting for two hours. The women would say, "Good morning, Reds," and he'd answer, "Yeah, what's so good about?" Still, everyone loved him, and after he died, they named the first hole and one of the bridges after him. Old Carroll Hitchcock who was superintendent at Woodholme Country Club for years was the same way, but they still talk about him, even though he's been dead for 20 years.

So, where do we, as superintendents, stand? I always enforce the rules with the juniors. I'll give them hell for playing with range balls and then throw them a couple of Titleists that are always rolling round in the Cushman somewhere, and they probably think I'm nuts. If a member's actions make me so mad that I start talking to myself, I'll usually go over and say something to them, but most of the time that's the only enforcing of the rules I do. I don't really think it's our job, but somebody should be doing it.

tendent at Augusta for the past five years, has advised the club that he is leaving to become Director of Golf at the Port Armor Club in a development east of Atlanta; he also plans to start a turf consulting business. Replacing him at Augusta will be Paul Latshaw, who will be coming from 10 years of service at Oakmont Country Club in Pittsburgh, where he prepped that famed course for a PGA Championship and an Open.

### NEW MEMBERS

Sean Remington, Class D  
Assistant Superintendent  
Chevy Chase Club  
Chevy Chase, MD

Dean M. Graves, Class B  
Superintendent  
Kenwood Golf and Country Club  
Bethesda, MD