

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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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-

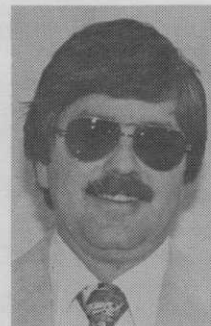
President's Message

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

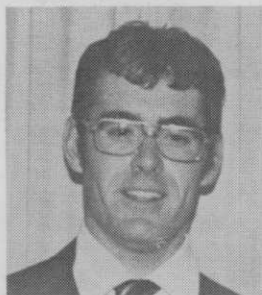
Sean Remington, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Chevy Chase Club
Chevy Chase, MD

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

THE USGA-GCSAA Research Reference Library

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

One of the first steps in the USGA-GCSAA Research Program aimed at developing better grasses for our golf courses was a turfgrass computer data base library. This project was assigned top priority at the initial Turfgrass Research Committee meeting on March 1, 1982. This certainly makes sense, since our researchers must know what has been accomplished to-date.



The first decision of this important project was to choose the site of the library. It was a unanimous decision of the Research Committee to select Michigan State University, where the famous O.J. Noer Turfgrass collection of early books and manuscripts was already located. We were thus able to start at a library with one of the best turfgrass book collections in the world.

The next step was to hire a librarian to organize and collect our literature. Dr. Richard E. Chapin, the Director of Libraries at Michigan State University, and Peter LePoer, the Turfgrass Information File Project Coordinator, were chosen. Their work began in the spring of 1984, and Peter Cookingham, who holds an M.A. degree from Illinois, is the new Project Manager.

These men have made tremendous progress. The library has purchased an Alpha Microsystems Computer, which has a capacity of 70 megabytes. They have now entered over 7,500 citations which have used up about 24 megabytes. Over 95% of the file entries have been published since 1968, reflecting the emphasis on recent information. Hopefully, over 20,000 entries will be in our computer. The STAR information software runs the computer.

There are now over 2,000 data bases like the USGA-GCSAA Reference Library. It is a big business now. The key selling point is access to information quickly, and the system is making index cards obsolete. The goals of the Research Library are as follows:

1. To develop and maintain the O.J. Noer collection.
2. To provide computer access to the entries in the collection.
3. To deliver documents or copies from the collection to the user.

Golf course superintendents, researchers, extension specialists, and anyone else who might need this information now have access. Simply call the Michigan State University Library at (517) 353-7209 and ask for Peter Cookingham, or write him in care of the Turfgrass Information Center, W-212 Library, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824. This valuable facility will be even more useful as the librarians continue to add to the data base. The scope of the file is now quite extensive. Over 70 journals are now being processed. By the way, the books are rarely added to the file, since their information is not considered to be on the cutting edge.

The librarians are currently developing a program that will permit access to the Alpha computer via an IBM personal computer or other computers compatible with the IBM. Information on how to connect to the system will be distributed once everything is working. An electronic mail and bulletin board system will also be available by computer. This software will probably be available within the next 60 to 90 days. This is just another excellent justification for a personal computer as a standard tool for the golf course superintendent.

You as a golf course superintendent can help this program. Please contribute any materials written, edited, or distributed by yourself, club, association, or corporation. The more information processed by the Center, the more that is online. Please place Peter Cookingham on your mailing list, or send to him reprints of your publications.

Over \$224,000 will have been appropriated to the Research Library by the end of this year. This is approximately 18% of the total USGA-GCSAA Turfgrass Research budget through 1986. It has been money wisely spent.

Finding "Arm Pit" Of Turf Growing

by Douglas T. Hawes

Although the St. Louis area has been referred to by experts as being the "arm pit" of turf growing, that is, the worst place to manage creeping bentgrass greens, I would add Tulsa, Kansas City, Dallas, and Washington, D.C. as close contenders for that dubious claim to fame.

Dallas makes the list more on length of season than humidity, and St. Louis is probably more consistently hot and humid than the others, but let's look at some weather data. If we use Toro's Rainfall-Evaporation Data for these cities, we find that the Washington area has the least difference between evapotranspiration and rainfall in the summer months, which allows superintendents there the least potential for cooling off greens by evaporation from a light syringing.

The chart below shows the potential inches of water that could be lost to evapotranspiration above average rainfall from June through August, using one location just west of Washington and one just east:

Arlington, Va.	— 6.60 inches
Hyattsville, Md.	— 6.84 inches
Kansas City	— 8.20 inches
St. Louis	— 9.21 inches
Tulsa	— 11.76 inches
Dallas	— 17.46 inches.

Other factors that must be considered are average night temperature and humidity, plus the length of the summer as measured by night temperatures above 70°F. The lack of sunshine during humid weather can be a factor, since a series of warm cloudy days can be very detrimental to the cool-season grasses. Of these cities, Washington tends to have slightly less hours of actual summer sunshine than St. Louis, and the other three cities receive more sunshine. Washington has slightly higher humidity than St. Louis, and Dallas and Tulsa are hotter than the others and less humid.

Based on this evidence and personal experience, I'll vote for Washington, D.C. as the true "arm pit" of turf growing. What's your choice?

NEW MEMBERS (Continued)

Jack D. Ellinger, Class D (NR)
Assistant Superintendent
Spottswood Country Club
Harrisonburg, VA

Thomas S. Lipscomb, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Penderbrook Golf Course
Fairfax, VA

Michael A. Hambach, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Evergreen Country Club
Hay Market, VA