



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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Sept. 9 Meeting Is At Falls Road

A busy public golf facility in the Maryland suburbs of Washington will be the site of the September 9 MAAGCS meeting. Falls Road Golf Course is convenient to the Capitol Beltway and, like most Eddie Ault-designed layouts, it provides an interesting test of golf. Host for the meeting is Ralph Strouth, who because of the lack of full dining facilities at his course has arranged for the dinner meeting to be held in the Terrace Room of the Normandie Farm restaurant at 10710 Falls Road, near the golf course.

Falls Road Golf Course was built in 1960 to architect Eddit Ault's design, and Ralph Strouth has been at the course for his entire career, succeeding his father, Bradley Strouth, as superintendent some 14 years ago. The course belongs to the Montgomery County Revenue Authority and is very popular with golfers from Rockville, Potomac, and other communities. When calling the MAAGCS office (964-0070 - call collect if out of area) for dinner reservations, which must be made by September 4, also give your approximate starting time for golf so that a block of times can be set aside.

Because we will have a private room at Normandie Farm and because many members will be coming directly from the golf course, informal attire is all right for the meeting, although jackets are encouraged. Directions to the course and restaurant are as follows: From Baltimore, Washington, or Virginia, take the Beltway (495) to River Road, exit toward Potomac. Go past Congressional C.C. to Falls Road, turn right, and go approximately a mile to the course.

The day's program is:

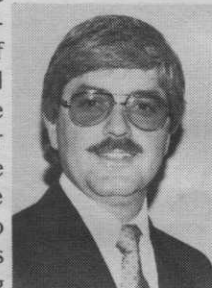
Lunch - 11 a.m. on (snack bar)
Golf - 11:30 - 1 p.m. (carts \$12 for 2)
Cocktails - 6:30 (cash bar)
Dinner - 7:30 (\$26.50)
Meeting - 8:30
Reservations - Call 964-0070 by Sept. 4



Cool weather - a welcome change from the heat at our last picnic - made the August 12 annual MAAGCS picnic a fun event for all, as everyone partook of hamburgers, hot dogs, steamed crabs, barbecued ribs, and fresh-picked white corn, not to mention a tent full of salads, desserts, and other goodies prepared by members' wives. More pictures of the crowds around the tents at Hobbit's Glen are on page 3.

President's Message

This year has been a very tough one for many superintendents. Our most severe problem is not disease, drought, or insects but job-related stress. Because of the many factors that are beyond our control but that affect our end product, a perfect golf course, we take all the weight of these factors on our shoulders in the form of stress. We need, of course, to unload such stress factors, putting them into their proper perspective and understanding that we are only human. With that in mind, we can then do the best job of which we are capable. Without the stress, our jobs will be easier and we can become more effective and productive.



The thanks of all of us go to Bill Neus, who hosted and organized this year's annual picnic at Hobbit's Glen, another great success. I would also like to thank the individuals and organizations that contribute their time and money each year to make this picnic an event to look forward to: we appreciate it!

For those who did not receive the flyer in the mail, this year's Musser Tournament will be held on October 27 at Manor Country Club in Rockville. Proceeds from this annual benefit go toward research and education, with emphasis this year on education of those who manage sports turf.

Remember, early reservations are a must for the September meeting, since we have to give the restaurant a firm commitment by the preceding Friday.

Jerry Gerard, *President*

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Claud Corrigan, *Editor*
Joe Gambatese, *Photographer*

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From the Golf World

The word is now appearing in various places that the makers and distributors of Daconil 2787 are disclaiming responsibility for the much-publicized death of a Washington-area golfer five years ago. The position statement being published states: "Recent media coverage has wrongfully implicated Daconil 2787 fungicide as the cause of the tragic death of Navy Lt. George Prior in September 1982. Daconil 2787 was not the cause of Lt. Prior's death. He died from Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN), a condition not associated with Daconil 2787. The media's association of Daconil 2787 with Lt. Prior's death is without merit, and will be clearly and unequivocally demonstrated in court."

Billy Buchanan, now the agronomist for the PGA Tour, gave an excellent summary of the superintendent's position in a recent broadcast of the popular golf TV show (on ESPN), "Inside the PGA Tour." He pointed out that the superintendent's job is to keep a proper balance between what is best for the turf on his golf course and that which is best from the golfer's point of view, since the two are rarely identical. The show was just one more example of the excellent media coverage superintendents have been getting (broadcasters now rarely fail to mention the superintendent when discussing a tournament course), which may indicate that the national's public relations efforts are paying off. Keeping the media informed on the duties and responsibilities of

DOUG HAWES DOES NEW STUDY OF THE ICE THREAT TO ZOYSIA FAIRWAYS

With Meyer zoysia being installed more frequently in the Mid-Atlantic region, there should be considerable interest in a new study by Dr. Douglas Hawes into ice sheet damage last winter to zoysia fairways on seven Kansas City area courses. Reduced to its essentials, Doug's article emphasizes that certain conditions predisposed some zoysia to severe setback or even loss, while other zoysia survived quite well despite all the courses in question being under a 2-inch ice sheet for 45 or more days.

What were the factors that allowed some zoysia to come through those rigorous winter conditions nearly unscathed? First, the zoysia that came through the best was newly established and free of thatch, situated in full sun on a slope facing south or west and with good internal drainage. It had not been treated with Balan every year for the last five, and it was free from winter traffic in the weeks before the ice came and after it melted.

Conversely, zoysia in shade, with northern exposure and poor drainage was weaker in winter because it had stored less food as a result of less sunlight having been received. Golf car traffic was a definite contributing factor, with the most heavily played courses suffering the most damage. In areas of concentrated car traffic, zoysia kill was more complete than in less traveled spots.

Amount of thatch was also a factor but less consistently so, in that it was more prevalent in areas that were killed more completely than other factors

superintendents has been a major GCSAA goal over the past few years.

This is probably not news for any of us, but the National Golf Foundation has discovered that a fairly small group (25% of the total) of avid golfers account for the great majority of rounds played — some 77%. These are the folks we see every weekend and a lot of weekday afternoons on our courses. On the other hand, the nearly 50% of all golfers who play less than eight times a year are responsible for only 7% of the rounds played. In 1985, 8% of all Americans played golf at least once, while the average golfer played between 8 and 24 times.

would account for. Prolonged use of Balan (benefin) to control crabgrass and goosegrass, for five years or more, resulted in zoysia that came through in poorer condition than grass under other, similar circumstances except for the herbicide. Previous research has shown that Balan tends to reduce the winter hardness of Bermuda and zoysia.

As to prevention of future zoysia losses, one possible (though improbable) approach would be to remove golf cars from fairways for the period January through May. In bad years, cars could even be kept off fairways until the end of May. For fairways where ice or snow accumulation has been a problem over the years, putting two cups of powdered graphite in three gallons of water and spraying the frozen cover with a backpack sprayer will blacken up to 5,000 sq. feet to get faster melt (providing some sunlight is getting through).

Dr. Hawes also suggests using a pre-emergent other than Balan, perhaps a Ronstar-Betasan combination. Aerification can help to control thatch, in late June or early July for zoysia, by making three or more passes with the aerifier and dragging a piece of chainlink fence or other device to break up cores. Letting the soil from the cores work back into the turf will assist in thatch decomposition. The tendency to create summer weed problems as a result may be offset by a second, smaller application of pre-emerge, or by application of one of the methyl arsonate postemerge crabgrass herbicides 10 days after aerification.

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Meeting Schedule 1986

October 14 — Hidden Creek C.C., Dick Gieselmann, host
November 11 — Diamond Ridge G.C., Howard Gaskill, host
December 9 — Green Spring Valley Hunt Club, Grant Pensinger, host

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