



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXX

AUGUST 1987

NUMBER 3

## President's Message

I'd like to use my President's Message this month to extend a special invitation. I'd like to see every Mid-Atlantic member and his family at our annual picnic. Some of us that have been attending for so many years and enjoying the personal relationships that we have developed with our business associates evidently have not spread the word. The picnic is a lot of fun, with plenty to eat and drink, and there will be entertainment for the kids. The day offers more than that, the most important thing we have to offer is the chance for our families to meet each other. Your family will realize that they aren't the only ones that have a different summer than it sometimes seems the rest of the world does, that their Dad (husband) is a part of a small group of dedicated professionals that give a lot of themselves to their chosen work. The ladies get to know each other and will want to attend other functions like ladies night and our national meeting to see their new friends.

Take it from me, the friendships developed over the years can be a great asset to you and your family. I'm proud that my families' closest personal friends are Golf Course Superintendents and their families. Come to the picnic and find that some of your close business associates can be your best friends.



Lee Dieter, *President*

## Walk a Mile for a Camel?

If you would or wouldn't, surely you would travel 12 miles from the Beltway to picnic at Bretton Woods. It's that time again — the annual event for family and friends. An IMPORTANT change to note is the correct date is Wednesday, August 12. So change the calendar and plan to have a great day!

Bretton Woods is a recreation center created for the enjoyment of employees and guests of the International Monetary Fund. The facility offers golf, swimming, tennis, playground areas, basketball courts, as well as soccer fields and volleyball courts.

The golf course was built by Ed Ault and predominate grasses are bentgrass greens which are mowed six days a week. The fairways are a combination seeking survival with any combination that will take bordering the Potomac River, floods and typical humidity problems only to mention a few related job stress factors. Fairways are overseeded with perennial ryegrass and mowed three times weekly.

Gerald Gerald, C.G.C.S. has been employed as Superintendent, since graduating from the Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland in 1968. Gerry received the GCSAA Scholarship

Award in Fall of 1967 and accepted his present position before graduating in 1968. 1975 was a good year for Gerry, bringing him certified status and the responsibilities of President of the Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association. His credentials include Past President of the Association (1986), and Board member (1980). President in 1986. Gerry and his wife Judy reside in Germantown, Maryland.

As in the past, families should bring a covered dish to serve one assistant superintendent or a group of say 10-12 superintendents which have been stranded on a desert oasis for the months of July and August. While there is no charge for immediate family members or a single guest, other guests are invited at a \$5.00 fee to be collected in the buffet line. Serving starts around 1:30 p.m., so please have your covered dish with serving utensils there earlier. Remember, the early bird gets the crabs in this instance. Play golf, swim and enjoy.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the River Road exit from the Beltway (495) and go 11½ miles toward Potomac. Club is on the left side of the road. Road ends 12 miles so you can't miss it.

## On the Tee . . .

Given the increasing professionalism of our field, I think it's time we give some thought to the process leading up to our MAAGSC elections. MAAGCS now boasts 250+ members from a widespread area. While there are fast friendships among members, it is unrealistic to assume that everyone knows everyone else well. As voters we have an obligation to elect the best man for the job but this is difficult when a candidate's qualifications are known only by word of mouth. This need not be the case when we have an ideal vehicle for dispersing such background information — your newsletter. Just as newspapers carry bio's on national candidates, we could run a picture and a short bio on nominees for MAAGCS elections. Give it some thought. If you're contemplating running for office, it might not be a bad idea to announce your intentions at our upcoming picnic. Gerry Gerard, our host for that event, is also Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Get involved.

Flash! Flash! A new animal was recently added to the endangered species list. Found in abundance through the past decades, this nonpredatory species appears to be in dramatic decline, particularly in metropolitan areas. It is the golf course worker! Once again, prosperity and an upward lifestyle are blamed. Hope your labor situation is better than what I'm finding in town!

Cicadas have really been doing a number on oaks, chestnuts and most new plantings. Coupled with drought conditions over the last several years, the only good news is that they won't return again until the year 2004. Gypsy moths are now profuse in town. Females could be observed depositing their egg masses all over. While this spring, larvae were only sporadic, egg masses aren't! Early detection is helpful but community effort is essential. Educate your members to the consequences and assist local extension services. Most have hot lines for gypsy moth problems. Northern Virginia and surrounding areas hang on to your . . . trees.

*Continued on page 2*

# 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.

George Renault, C.G.C.S.  
Editor

## 1987 Officers and Directors

President ..... Lee Dieter  
Vice President ..... George Renault  
Secretary ..... Bill Neus  
Treasurer ..... Walter Montross  
President Emeritus ..... Gerald Gerard  
Educational ..... Steve Cohoon  
Membership ..... Russell Bateman  
Golf ..... Nick Vance  
Social & Benevolence ..... Steve Nash  
Editorial & Publicity ..... Lester Tanner  
Finance ..... Tom Regan

## On The Tee . . .

Continued from page 1

It seems to me that given the increasing costs, travel time and time away from work and family, some changes to our concept of meetings might be warranted. Consider this: a local meeting with attendees from the same area with similar problems, soil, temperature, etc. The meeting could be held during the day on a smaller scale to what we now have. The result would be less cost to both the club and individual members, less time away from work and family, and problems that might more easily be discussed in a smaller framework. It's a proven fact that small workshops are the most productive. These local meetings could be augmented with what is currently our monthly meetings which involves all MAAGCS members (call this a "regional" meeting).

Try to visualize the concept: the mid-atlantic area is separated into four local areas, Eastern Shore, Baltimore and vicinity, Washington, D.C. and vicinity, and the Shenandoah and southern Virginia area. Each group meets once a month on a prescribed day. Such a local meeting schedule could then be integrated into a revised overall meeting termed a "regional" meeting. A consolidated meeting schedule might appear as follows: March: regional meeting; April: local meeting; May: regional meeting (Supt./Pro Tournament); June: local meeting; July: local meeting; August: regional meeting (picnic); Sept.: local meeting; October: regional meeting (Annual Tournament); November: local meeting; December: regional meeting (elections).

Yes this is a radical idea — but so was the automobile and calling greenskeepers superintendents. Just consider it and make your point of view known.

★ ★ ★

Note the date change for the Picnic —  
Wednesday, August 12th!  
Bring a covered dish and plan to have  
fun, fun, fun!

★ ★ ★

Have you heard about Form I-9? This form is filed with the U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). As of June 1, 1987, all firms are required to file an I-9 for every new employee hired after 11/6/86. It is designed to verify an employee's eligibility for employment given the concern over illegal aliens. Questions should be directed to INS at (800) 777-7700.

Two educational tapes available on VCR, and distributed by The Idea Bank as a single package is titled "Controlling Pests & Diseases — Turf Edition." Both were critiqued in a recent edition of "TURFCOMS" edited by Dr. Douglas Hawes. While both were informative, the number of clear picture closeups were too few to make it a good tool for you, the professional. Dr. Hawes noted they could be used to provide an overview for club members, but does not recommend it for training new crew members. "TURFCOMS" is published by Dr. Hawes and can be received by mailing requests to: Dr. Douglas T. Hawes, 2408 Roundrock Trail, Plano, Texas 75075. (214) 867-0176.

## Equipment Replacement

by Steven A. Nash, C.G.C.S.

I believe that an equipment replacement program is a must for any type of golf course maintenance situation. It doesn't matter if you have unlimited funds to operate on a shoestring, a systematic schedule of replacement of major turf grooming equipment should be designed and followed.

When I arrived on the scene at International, I faced what seemed to be an impossible equipment situation. All of the major turf grooming equipment was old and in much need of repair, especially if I was to maintain this golf course the way that the membership expected it to be maintained. During my first year, 1984, I drew up an equipment replacement program that would systematically replace all major pieces of equipment at the end of their projected life. This schedule went into the year 2003, and by following it we would be assured of having good reliable equipment. This equipment would be necessary in order to provide the membership with the best possible golf course condition.

The replacement program was presented to the Board of Governors and after a brief explanation, was overwhelmingly approved. They would do their best to fund the schedule as required and to date everything has gone according to plan.

Each year at budget time I review the replacement schedule and decide if any adjustments need to be made before requesting money for the coming year. An additional benefit of this schedule is knowing that a piece of equipment is going to be replaced. I can decide if it is better to spend a little more money to repair a piece that is going to be kept for a couple of years or spend just enough to get it through the end of the season and then replace it.

The schedule works like this: A greens-mower will be purchased each year. The first two years it will mow greens, the next two years it will mow either tees or collars, the fifth year it will serve as a back up and, in the sixth year, it will be traded in for a new one. Other pieces of equipment will be replaced as determined by their expected life. The schedule itself is drawn up on a piece of graph paper with the major pieces of equipment listed across the top and the years listed down the side. A mark can then be placed under each piece of equipment at the year it would be replaced. This serves as a guide for future planning.

At International in 1984, our major pieces of equipment had an average age of 11 years. By following our schedule, along with the help of a \$70,000 loan in 1985, our average age in 1987 is now 3.5 years. Our cost of equipment repairs in 1984 was \$17,000 and in 1987 we are projecting to spend \$9,000. We are well into our equipment replacement program and we feel very confident that by following this schedule there will be very few equipment problems in the future and that we can concentrate our attention to other areas of the management of the golf course.

## A Look Ahead . . .

September 8, Buck Whetsell-host; Tom Turner on Turfgrass issues; Twin Lakes Golf Club.

October 13, Jim Meier-host; Annual Memorial Tournament; Speaker TBA; Belle Haven Country Club.

November 10, John Tutich-host; Final round match play; Speaker TBA; Haddon Centennial Golf Club.

December 8, Dave Fairbank-host; Election Meeting; Army Navy Country Club.