

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.