



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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President's Message

Our thanks again to Jim Kelly, our June meeting host, for showing us so much of that great eastern shore hospitality. The meeting, speaker, lunch, and golf all went well, until — we can hardly blame Jim for the rain, can we? Those of you that didn't stay for a few crabs at the Red Roost missed a real treat. That was a long ride home though, it once again made me realize what our members on the shore do each month to attend our meetings. I want to extend a special thanks to the members that made the trip, we wanted to prove that it works both ways.

Those of you that didn't attend the meeting missed the awarding of a plaque and honorary membership to our long time friend and member Lou White. Lou was the Superintendent at Green Hill when he retired after over 20 years of service to his club and our association.

Columbia Country Club and Dr. Houston B. Couch have set us up for a record turn out for this July meeting. Reservations are again a must if you want to eat and play golf. The attendance at this meeting could break our attendance record of 135. Dr. Couch has personally promised me to bring a new disease to the meeting so if you want your share be there.

Hold on to your hats! It looks like another crazy Washington summer doesn't it? Come to the meetings and share your problems and your solutions with your fellow Superintendents. Believe me it helps to know you aren't the only one with problems, see you at the meeting.



Lee Dieter, *President*

July Meeting . . . Columbia Country Club

Columbia Country Club and Ken Ingram are pleased to host the July 14th meeting of the MAAGCS. One of Washington's oldest clubs, its roots date back 1889 when nine men formed an organization and built a nine hole course near the Soldier's Home in northeast Washington. Forced to move when they lost their lease in 1908, the original nine purchased the present property, sold memberships and built the clubhouse and course which are still in use today.

The golf course was designed by a committee chaired by Dr. Walter S. Harbane, dentist to several Presidents, with several prominent golf professionals consulting. Ten years later, Walter Travis was hired to make alterations in preparation for the 1921 U.S. Open. According to Dr. Fred Grau, the Open ironically was played on dead greens due to dollar spot damage brought on by over fertilization with crude fertilizers. Regardless, they played and the Open was won by Long Jim Barnes, with Walter Hagen and Columbia's pro Fred McLeod tied for second.

The current course is virtually unchanged from the layout of the 1921 U.S. Open course. Two greens, #5 and #18 were rebuilt on site in 1968. The 15th and 16th holes were rebuilt on site with minor changes to USGA specs when they were destroyed in 1980 by a WSSC pipeline. The fact that these four new greens are the most unpopular with the membership certainly gives credence to the belief that members prefer the old holes no matter how good the rebuilding job!

At Columbia, Bentgrass is a weed on the greens with perennial *Poa annua* the desired turf. The best green has red clay six inches under the turf and tree roots in the bottom of the cup. Figure that one out! Tees have six different grasses, seven if you count goosegrass. Fairways are ryegrass with good bermuda on the hill-sides. Progress has drastically improved summer playing conditions — no more dollar spot and afternoon wilting.

Small fairways are mowed with triplexes, large ones with a Jacobsen F-10.

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"Where the Skies are not Cloudy All Day"

A belated hello to all my friend and fellow supers in the Mid-Atlantic! Also, a warm and sincere thank you for the beautiful gifts and breakfast at BCC before my heading west.

The butterflies of a new job have subsided and I am starting to settle in. The job and area are even better than my expectations. Temperatures have been around 100 each day but I have yet to use the air conditioning at home and only use it in the car to keep the dust out. I thought it was raining the other night and rished to the window — it was only the lawn sprinklers — dream on!

A super in the valley called Paradise phoned me the first day on the job and wanted to play golf. I explained to him patiently, yet firmly, that not all of us have a "cushey" job. I think his name was Bill, or Em, or Bit "E" — he'll probably be all right once I get to know him.

Please welcome Marty at BTC to the Mid-Atlantic. He's a good man; Philly's loss is the Mid-Atlantic's gain.

I am excited about learning new facets of our profession here — the Desert. I think I'm already pretty much up on the horticultural end of things — it has spines, it's called cactus. There are a lot of cactus down here; so far, I haven't seen anything without spines!

Also, the Lely Mass Output Ring is used for overseeding and the Lely Seed Ring is used for topdressing. Rainbird is the official state bird and Toro the official state protected animal.

In signing off to those friends and supers I hold dear, I can think of nothing more appropriate than, "The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another".

God Bless,
Virgil

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Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

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

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JULY MEETING

(Continued from page 2)

Irrigation is city water with Moody medal M controllers centrally located, center row coverage. The biggest course problems are old grasses, old members, old equipment, old irrigation, old greens crew, and a superintendent who likes old things!

The day's events involve lunch which is available anytime after 11:30 in the Men's or Mixed Grill; golf after 11:00. Note that Columbia is a caddy club and use of a caddy is mandatory if one is available, even if you take a cart. Caddy fees are \$25 double 18 holes, and \$6 per rider on carts. Carts are \$14 and Columbia prefers one caddy and cart per foursome. Complete lockerroom service is available. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. with a cash bar. A buffet dinner is scheduled for 7 p.m. at an estimated cost of \$20. Note that the golf shop will be open afterwards for prize redemption. Remember to RSVP at (301) 381-0030. Dr. Houston Couch will be our guest speaker for the evening educational program.

DIRECTIONS: From 495 take exits 33 (Connecticut Avenue South), continue ¼ mile to club on the right. Address is 7900 Connecticut Avenue.

New Members/ Reclassifications

Craig Shaff, Class F
Sales Representative, Lesco

Chris Johnson, Class F
Sales Representative, Wimmer & Wimmer

Your Help Please . . .

Tom Regan, our Finance Chairman, would like to have an idea of how many MAAGCS members would be interested in purchasing dry goods through the association.

Tom has contacted numerous sales persons and a minimum order is required. He also needs to know if you would be interested in having the MAAGSC crest or the words "Mid-Atlantic Superintendent" in script.

Items to be made available are: Shirts (100% cotton or 55/45 blend); Jackets (lined); Sweaters (orlon); and baseball style hats.

If you're interested in ordering, give Tom a call so that he can wrap up the final arrangements. Remember, we're ordering dry goods rather than maintaining an inventory, so get your requests in.

On the Tee . . .

It's been an interesting spring so far. Our weather patterns seem to be mimicking the stock market with its wide climatic swings. As we move into what has all the makings of another challenging summer, it was nice to have Jim Pfafflin of the Performance Institute of Washington, D.C. provide some perspective and pointers on handling the stress that goes with our territory.

We certainly lucked out on the weather for Ladies Night with clear skies and sparkling stars as we cruised up the Potomac on the "Spirit of Washington" on June 6th. The evening was delightfully relaxed and the view from the river certainly underscores why visitors to our nation's capital find it captivating. However, if you think that the event passed without challenge, you should have been in this driver's car as we motored up hill and down dale in pursuit of that rarest of rare — a parking space during Riverfest! All that effort made the evening doubly enjoyable and the corsages and Godiva chocolate favors certainly did wonders for our ladies' sore feet.

Congratulations to Dave Anderson on a successful tournament at T.P.C. Avenel. The players seemed to enjoy themselves and the hole layouts certainly provided excellent viewing for the gallery.

Congratulations to Lou White for receiving an Honorary Membership from the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendent's Association. Formal presentation was made at Green Hill Yacht and Country Club on June 9th. Lou was Superintendent at Green Hill for some 23 years and normally attended monthly meetings as well as served on the Board of Directors. We hope to continue seeing you at our monthly meetings for another 23 years and again, congratulations!

Perennials

by Brian K. Finger

Perennials make the existence of low-maintenance flower gardens a reality. A majority of our most beautiful and dependable flowers are in fact perennials.

One reason for the increased interest in perennials is the relatively recent introduction of container grown plants. Therefore, you can purchase and plant them with hardly any transplant shock. This increased interest has resulted in a large number of new and improved varieties of many standard perennials.

There is such a variety available that you can find plants for border plantings, ground covers, various seasonal flowering and heights, or gardens for sun or shade. Additionally, perennials come back every year and usually survive no matter what kind of maintenance they receive.

Following are a few that I have grown with success and give a long period of bloom.

Purple Coneflower (Echinacea)

This perennial grows to 2' or 4' and produces pink daisy like flowers about 3' in diameter. It likes a well-drained sandy soil but is very drought tolerant. Will take sun or part shade. Blooms in midsummer but the blooms last for a long time. I have found it beneficial to cut off the old blooms to encourage additional flowering. There is a white form available called "White Luster".

Gaillardia or Blanket Flower

There are many varieties available, ranging from the small grower "Goblin" to larger varieties "Burgundy" and "Dazzler". Gaillardias like full sun and a light soil. However, I've grown them in clay with some peat mixed in thoroughly. Flowers are various combinations of red and yellow and daisy like. Bloom from June until frost.

In many cases the old crown of the plant dies but new growth appears off the crown in addition to plenty of seedlings each spring.

Coreopsis or Tickseed

The many variations available offer a wide range of heights and textures although most have yellow flowers. All are summer bloomers, like full sun and most are very drought tolerant.

Two that have done well for me are Lance Coreopsis (C. lanceolata) "Cultivar Sunray". This cultivar grows 1½ to 2' high and has double yellow flowers. Threadleaf Coreopsis (C. verticillata) cultivar "Golden Shower" grows 2'-3' and has yellow flowers.

There are some excellent books available on the subject. One of these is "Taylor's Guide to Perennials" which is available at most bookstores. This contains detailed information on the wide range available and provides good color photos.

JUST HOW TOXIC ARE THE CHEMICALS WE ARE USING ON OUR COURSES?

by Dr. Paul Sartoretto

The following presentation by Dr. Paul Sartoretto of the W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp., was made April 9 at Columbia CC. The audience was composed of a regional U.S.G.A. rep meeting with supt's, managers, professionals and other golf enthusiasts. Questions regarding this information can and should be forwarded to Dr. Sartoretto at (201) 247-8000 or through our local contact Don Cherry (804) 740-5656. The issue is and will remain a "hot potato" for some time to come. While we cannot offer the LD₅₀ table referred to, please feel free to contact Dr. Sartoretto (via W.A. Cleary) to receive a copy. Hopefully this information will help when you're questioned about your chemicals or you overhear someone presenting "myth" as fact.

"For the past fifteen years I have been going around the country speaking at regional or monthly meetings of the Golf Course Superintendents on the subject of tank mixing pesticides with the emphasis on compatibility and avoiding phytotoxicity, as you will see, primarily because of the close similarity of the toughness of the epidermis of the grass blade and our outer skin.

The skin of the grass blade has its stomates through which air and water pass in and out. Whereas our skin has pores through which water diffuses.

In my talk I make a general broad statement that all the insoluble pesticides can be tank mixed and sprayed and you will not incur phytotoxicity. The reason is obvious. Even though the insolubles have to be ground down to micron size in order to get them to disperse in water, the micron particles are too large to diffuse through the stomates. They have to be thousands of times smaller, actually molecular in size and in solution to diffuse into the cells of the grass blade.

The same principle applies to our outer skin. The insolubles cannot be absorbed through our pores because the particles are too large, and only the solubles that are molecular in size can diffuse through the skin.

You can take a certain amount of comfort in knowing that you work with a large number of insolubles and that they cannot penetrate our tough outer layer of skin, and can conclude that epidermal toxicity with insolubles (wetable powders and flowables) is non-existent to a very high degree.

From what you have learned thus far you can see how doubtful the claim was that a golfer died as the result of dermal exposure to Daconil 2787 which is an insoluble and was sprayed on the grass. No way could Daconil have diffused into his body. It could be argued that Daconil

vaporized and that he breathed in a sufficient amount of it to poison him. I will now show you how doubtful this mode of toxicity is with respect to Daconil.

Whereas the grass plant breathes through stomates and receives nutrition not only through the stomates but also the roots, we humans breathe through our lungs and receive nutrition through our mouth, and then via the alimentary canal, by digestion into the blood stream. We measure toxicity primarily by the minimum lethal dosage necessary to kill an animal by ingestion. Let us use aspirin as a bench mark to compare with our pesticides. It takes 1750 milligrams of aspirin for every kilogram of body weight to kill 50% of the animals ingesting it. The MLD₅₀ of aspirin is 1750 — that's about 6 aspirin tablets. An adult weighing 50 kg (110 lbs.) by extrapolation would die from 50 times the dosage or 300 aspirin tablets. In actuality 10 times the dosage or 60 aspirin is fatal — 17.5 grams about 2/3 of an ounce. Reference is Merck Index.

But Daconil 2787 has an LD₅₀ of 10,000 mg. That is six times safer than aspirin. That golfer would have had to ingest 100 grams or over 3 ounces of Daconil to have killed him. That's unlikely.

This article will be continued in the next issue of the MAAGCS newsletter.

Watson Recognized By the GCSAA

Tom Watson may be better known for his Masters, British Open, U.S. Open and other golf championship performances, but, to the many thousands of youngsters in his hometown of Kansas City, he's the "man who started them in golf."

Watson's "Clubs for Kids" program was honored in Kansas City on June 6 by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) for his "insight and vision in bringing the sport of golf into the lives of numerous youths, thereby enriching the dimensions of their experience."

With volunteer assistance from the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department, the PGA Midwest section and the Heart of American Golf Course Superintendents Association, the "Clubs for Kids" program has become a model for other golf professionals and their home communities.

More than 1,000 young golfers attend the bi-yearly event, which includes a clinic by Watson plus club fittings and

personal instruction by the area's teaching professionals.

"Tom Watson's creativity and willingness to contribute both personal time and finances into this program benefit everyone involved with the game," said Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, president of GCSAA.

"Volunteerism is a major catalyst to the success of a program like this. The unselfish dedication by the KC Parks and Recreation folks, plus that of the PGA and GCSAA, can't help but create better relationships and encourage additional growth to the game."

Golf Results . . . June

Our monthly meeting at Green Hill Yacht & CC fielded the second round of our match play tournament. Inclement weather tested both the golfers and tournament director. An amended scoring procedure was used to decide low gross and low net winners after which points were awarded and totaled. Results were as follows: Low gross - Nick Vance; 2nd gross - Tom Regan; 3rd gross - Bob

Orazi; Low net - George Renault; 2nd net - Jim Kelly; 3rd net - Ken Ingram.

Guest Category: Low gross - Jack Montecalvo; 2nd gross - Kevin Mathias; Low net - Doug Sanner; 2nd net - Phillip Pennsinger.

Points Awarded	Totals	
Nick Vance	7	17
George Renault	10	15
Steve Potter	5½	14½
Tom Regan	6	13
Bob Orazi	5	13
Wally Whetzel	5½	12
Ken Ingram	8	10
Jim Kelly	9	9
Grant Pennsinger	2	8½
Howard Gaskill	3½	7½
Steve Cohoon	3	7
Ben Stag	7	7

The list continues; if you would like to know where you stand, Nick Vance will be glad to answer your questions. A remainder, the third round of our golf tournament will be played at Columbia Country Club. The fourth round will be played at Twin Lakes, September 8 with the final round being played November 10 at Herndon Golf Club.

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