



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