

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

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JULY MEETING

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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.