



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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## Twin Lakes in September

Buck Whetsell will host the MAAGCS September 8th at Twin Lakes, G.C., located in Clifton, Virginia. Twin Lakes G.C. is one of five golf courses owned and operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority for which Buck is responsible. Others include Burke Lake G.C., located in Burke Lake Park; Greendale G.C., located in Alexandria, Jefferson G.C., located in Falls Church and Pinecrest G.C., located in Annandale. Architect and Construction Superintendent for Twin Lakes, which opened for play October 6, 1967, was Mr. Charlie Schalestock of Fairfax, Virginia.

Fairways are a mixture of Baron, Fylking and South Dakota Bluegrass and are mowed three times a week at one inch with a F-10 mower. The turf is fertilized in March, September and December receiving 3 to 4 pounds of nitrogen annually. The course has a fully automatic aqualdial irrigation system. Measuring 6,463 yards from the white tees and playing par 73, it will surely test your golfing skills.

Greens are Pennncross bentgrass mowed three times weekly at 1/4 inch. All are aerified, verticut and heavily top dressed in the Spring and Fall. Subsequent light top dressing is done routinely during the summer months. Turf receives 6 to 8 pounds of nitrogen annually. Greens are sprayed preventatively with pesticides for control of diseases and insect infringements.

The tees are a mixture of bluegrass and bentgrasses mowed three times weekly at one half inch. Again aerified, verticut and top dressed in the Spring and Fall. The course provides two lakes for storing irrigation water — totalling 20 million gallons of reserve for irrigating greens, tees and fairways.

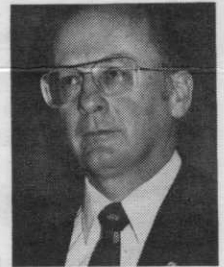
Buck has been the Golf Course Superintendent for the past twenty years. Supervising the construction and operations of these courses is part of an everyday situation for him. Prior to coming with the Park Authority, Buck was Superintendent of Westbriar now referred to as Westwood Country Club, located in Vienna, Virginia, and Tantallon Country Club, located in Tantallon, Maryland.

## President's Message

The Summer of 1987 will be history when you read this, and I don't know one Mid-Atlantic Superintendent who will be sorry its over. This season has been one of the most challenging in my memory. The combination of heat and drought in July and the first half of August has put stress on our courses that hasn't been experienced in many years. The drought continues as I write this message to you on the day after our annual picnic. I never heard so many of our members complaining as I did yesterday at Bretton Woods. It seems that everybody is having problems. Disease, Water, and Crabgrass seemed to head the list. That's the benefit of getting together at the meetings, you realize that you aren't the only one with problems. Members who didn't get to the Picnic not only missed a great time, some terrific food, and the best crabs ever; you missed the chance to unload a little and we all need that whether we want to admit it or not. I thank our host Gerry Gerard and his wife GGG Judy for such a great time. It takes a lot of guts to have an August meeting and we appreciate it.

Our hosts for next month will be Buck Whetsell, now Turf Consultant for the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Course Manager at Twin Lakes Peter Furey. Make sure to call in your reservation, the first seventy get fed. See you there, we'll have end of summer CELEBRATION.

Lee Dieter, *President*



Getting started in the golf business as a caddy in 1947, he moved on to Assistant Superintendent to Mr. Alex McKay in 1952 at Goose Creek Country Club, located in Leesburg, Virginia. Buck has enjoyed being around golfing for all these years and hopes to continue to be a part of the game, especially to what the maintenance research will do, for all of us in the future.



Golf will be available after 11 a.m. Costs for lunch, drinks and golf carts will be cash only. Remember, qualifying for the MET tournament and match play

competition is slated for this day's golfing event.

**DIRECTIONS TO GOLF COURSE** from the Capital Beltway (495), exit on Braddock Road (Rt. 620), head West for about 12 miles. Turn LEFT onto Clifton Road. Proceed approximately 1½ miles to club on your right at 6100 Clifton Road, Clifton, Virginia.

Dinner will be served at the Black Orchid Restaurant. Cocktails will be available from 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. The price of dinner will be \$20.00 which includes New York strip steak, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, salad and coffee or tea. Beer and wine will cost \$2.00 and \$2.25 respectfully. Bar drinks will start at \$2.25.

**DIRECTIONS TO RESTAURANT** Exit from Capital Beltway on Little River Turnpike (Rt. 336) proceed inside the Beltway. Restaurant will be located on the LEFT, approximately 1 mile at 7410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia. (703) 941-4400.

Please RSVP through our MAAGCS telephone listing at (301) 381-0030. It is easy and painless to announce your intentions of golf and/or dinner via reservations.

## 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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## Golf Results

by Nick Vance

Following are the golf results for the July 14th meeting and up-to-date golf totals. 57 started. 32 finished.

Low Gross: Nick Vance, 76; Mark Bertoldi, 76; Tom Regan, 77. Low Net: Ken Graun, 66; Don Dietrich, 66; Grant Pensinger, 71.

Guest — Low Gross: Doc Sanzaro, 76; John Terminella, 77. Low Net: Harry Fridley, 71; Dick Riche, 73.

Points after 3 months with September and November to go are as follows:

1. Nick Vance, 25; 2. Tom Regan, 19; 3. Bob Orazi, 18; 4. Grant Pensinger, 15½; 5. George Renault, 15; 6. Steve Potter, 14½; 7. Wally Whetzel, 12; 8. Howard Gaskil, 10; 9. Ken Ingram, 10; 10. Jim Kelly, 9.

For September's meeting, we will add a little to our monthly tournament by having a four ball match. We will be using the Stableford Point System for the day so you can get your teams together ahead of time if you wish. I will need to know by Friday, September 4th, who will be playing so we can work out tee times.

The Stableford Point System works as follows: players will receive 0 points for a double bogey; 2 points for a par; 4 points for a birdie and; 10 points for an eagle. Quota needed for each player will depend on your handicap. Please try to let me know ahead of time if you are playing so I can work with the pro shop to set up the tournament.

With our annual tournament coming up in October, those of you who have not obtained USGA handicaps still have time to do so. There is no reason why all of us should not be able to present a card at the tournament to verify our handicaps.

## On the Tee . . .

By now everyone should have received their 1987 Mid-Atlantic Association Golf Course Superintendents Membership Directory and By-Laws. If you haven't, or you recognize a typo of some nature, please advise a Board member of the correction needed to update this directory. Hopefully this booklet will prove helpful in locating members or those needed suppliers in a hurry. We'd like to thank those suppliers who placed advertising and supported the publication. Hopefully some time will be spent reading the By-Laws of the Association, and reviewing the Code of Ethics. Both are located in the back of the directory.

Some GIANT strides have been taken by most of the membership to RSVP for golf and/or dinner. To those, our thanks for taking time to assist your fellow Superintendent. It's pretty tough coordinating when some of us can't take the time or can't plan the time far enough in advance to RSVP. For those who forget once in a while, make a better effort. For those who can't ever remember — Take a second or two and read the Code of Ethics again. Before arriving on another Superintendent's golf course, we are to announce our intentions and call upon the Superintendent. Now try to remember to call (301) 381-0030. Your help is needed, and expected — at least 72 hours could really be helpful.

On September 17, you are invited to an equipment demonstration at Buck Whetsell's Twin Lakes Golf Course. More information will be made available from Buck at the September 8th meeting. Or you may call Buck at (703) 941-5000.

GCSAA recently mailed a news release announcing the stream of "Early Bird" registrations being processed weekly. More than 7,000 packets were mailed to the membership by late July. In order to take advantage of discounts, preference in available seating at the banquet or just being able to take the seminar offered before it fills, beat the September 15 deadline!

Contributions and donations have made possible the establishment of the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund. The \$50,000 initial funding level was raised through Mr. Jones' own personal gift, and those of friends and associates. Jones, now 81 years old, is well renowned for his architectural design of some of the world's most famous golf courses. Greatly honored by the endowment fund, Mr. Jones commented, "We can build the greatest golf courses in the world, but if they are not properly maintained, they are nothing. To golf course superintendents around the world I owe a great debt, and every architect in America owes a great debt. We can only continue to provide these great facilities with well educated professionals to maintain them.

That education does not come easily to all and must be supported by every aspect of this industry." President Donald E. Hearn, CGCS, made the announcement saying, "We have never before made this kind of commitment with any one person or even any single organization. The Florida GCSA contributed \$2,000 to the Jones Endowment, 'over and above' their annual scholarship and research donation. It was only fitting and proper to make such announcement during the PGA Championship in Florida."

It's too bad the PGA doesn't heed Mr. Jones words of wisdom. As evidenced in their promo spot televised during the same championship, the "pro's" do it all, from walking the course every morning for playability, to advising their greens committee of pin and tee placement. Golly gee, I feel like the invisible man!

For those of you interested, Bill Neus at Hobbits Glen will be demonstrating the Floyd McKay Aerifier beginning August 31st on the course. Bill has also recorded, and is making available, a VHS video demonstrating this machine and the Verti-Drain, which has only been commercially available the past 60 days. Since he is willing to lend this out, other area super's trying out this equipment later in September might want to get in touch with Bill at (301) 730-5962.



## New Members & Reclassifications

John A. Newcomb, Class A  
Superintendent  
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Terry A. Hill, Class F  
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Bill Brown, Class F  
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Tom Knoll, Class D to B

# The Unseen Enemy

by Bill Neus

You know, it's a funny thing about golf course superintendents, when a group of them get together and start talking about turf problems they sometimes play the game of "one-upmanship." It sounds like this: You think you've got June beetle grubs? They plowed by fairway so bad I replanted corn instead of grass; or, my poa seed was so heavy and so whate that they held the Olympic cross country ski trials at my place. All of us at times believe that our job is a little tougher than the other guys, when in reality all of us get a chance, sooner or later, to deal with a worrisome, serious and difficult to handle problem. Here was mine this year.

The unseen enemy. It's nothing short of guerrilla warfare. They can strike suddenly or be slow and methodical. But you never see them. Their damage can be devastating or it can be minor. All the while you're blaming it on something else. The damage may have been going on for years but you're not sure why and you may still now know, because you've been trained not to look for them. Everyday is Halloween to these perpetrators because they always have a mask on. The symptoms appear to be something else. Covert operations in the turf. The CIA should employ them instead of Oliver North.

Nematodes! Stop laughing, it's true. They hit my greens this spring and we're not talking high sand content either. Our soil is more of the familiar parking lot consistency.

Our greens looked as good or better than I'd ever seen them until late April

when they began showing stress and minor thinning. This was diagnosed as a mild phytotoxic effect to the pre-emerge crabgrass control. Made sense to me. We all see that occasionally. We've also used light applications of Turf Cal for several years, so what little poa that was there was beginning to discolor. Again, no alarms, this was normal. Well, by mid-May, several greens are showing signs of daily wilt and the thinning problem has been a rollercoaster ride. The areas would start to fill in and then they would regress. Traffic patterns are becoming very noticeable. Now golfers are starting to ask questions and I don't have a lot of answers.

I was beginning to feel outmatched. So it was time to do two things: call Tom Turner (which was the smart thing) and it was also time for us to aerify and topdress which we normally do this time of year anyway. Of course, we all know that punching holes, topdressing and a little fertilizer does wonders, right? Not this time. Each time those aerifier tines hit the ground, my greens had to be screaming, "Oh God, please stop!" But I said, "Take your medicine, it's good for you." Did I kill them, you ask? Hell no. I wouldn't do something that dumb. I just gave it the old college try. I certainly have acquired a higher respect for the survivability of bentgrass. Now things were looking ugly, and I feel like I'm out of bullets.

Well, Dr. Turner came riding in on his white horse to save the day and my sanity. He probed, picked and crawled around on his knees for awhile and then sermonized about the lousy soil, terrible

drainage and too much traffic. He then put his hand on my shoulder and said, "let me lead you out of the darkness and into the promised land. It looks like you have nematodes my boy." Off into the sunset he rode with soil samples and his prophecy proved correct.

We immediately applied some Nema-cur and within days began seeing recovery. Other than two greens that still show battle scars, there are not visible signs of a problem.

Obviously, it wasn't a very pleasant time for me. I took my share of abuse from the golfers. Everybody becomes an expert. Even had one guy swear that I'd paid Dr. Turner to say what I wanted him to say.

So, what's the lesson here? Nematodes are a growing problem in the mid-atlantic. Hobbits Glen is not a unique case. Don't think you need high sand content for an infestation. Here's a suggestion. If you have a green or several greens that show stress easily, year after year; and, you've always said things like, "this is my problem," or "this is just a bad green." Or, maybe you rationalize an uncertain problem away by calling it bad drainage, high traffic, etc. It may be those things, but if you haven't tested for "the unseen enemy," then you haven't looked far enough.

Now that I've admitted that I couldn't see or identify the enemy, somebody is going to one-up me and say that they had nematodes so big that they could trip over them. Go ahead. I might be willing to believe it now.

## Down Home Crabs, Dogs and Burgers

Summer means picnics and what a picnic we had August 12th at Bretton Woods. The crab was tender and sweet and supers and their families couldn't pick fast enough. For those who have yet to acquire a taste for tehse delicacies, the ribs, hot dogs and burgers were finger licking good.

Thanks to a marvelous clown from "Clown Capers" the kids were entertained for most of the day with face painting and a magic show. That was a great treat for moms and dads who found lots of time for catching up with old friends and making a few new ones.

A loud round of applause to Gerry Gerard and staff for another memorable picnic. Also, a vote of thanks to those who postponed their own enjoyment to stand over the hot coals and cook those ribs, burgers, and corn!



## Common Greens Problems

by Steve Cohoon

The long hot summer is finally drawing to a close, and a tough one it was. The record heat took its toll on the entire course, but nowhere was it more noticeable than on the greens. Problems that were kept in control or rarely seen in the past seemed to intensify with the adverse weather conditions.

Dr. Tom Turner will be our guest speaker this month to share with us the five most common problems that have been seen on greens in the mid-atlantic region. Tom, who is with the University of Maryland, will show us what he's seen, what has caused them and hopefully, how to correct the problems. So grab your assistant and come listen to Tom. You might find out what's been wrong with that problem green.

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