



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXXI

AUGUST 1988

NUMBER 6



YOU'RE ALL INVITED

To our
1988

FREE

ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC AGCS FAMILY PICNIC

Tuesday, August 9, 1988

Hobbits Glen GC — Columbia, Maryland

Bill Neus, CGCS — Host

1:30 p.m. — Until ???

FREE

— *Plenty to eat and drink* —
— *Clowns & Entertainment for the kids* —



OUR HOSTS — HOBBITS GLEN GOLF CLUB AND BILL NEUS

The Hobbits Glen Golf Club was opened in September 1967 and was the Columbia Association's first facility. This private, non-profit corporation now owns and operates 19 pools, 3 tennis clubs, 2 complete indoor athletic clubs, 1 indoor ice rink, over 2,000 acres of park land, the ColumBus public transportation system, community centers in each village, and the largest before and after school day care program in the country. All within the town of Columbia.

Hobbits Glen was designed by Ed Ault and is spread out over 200 acres. In the past several years major renovations and construction have taken place. #1 green was rebuilt and opened two years ago. This year dramatic relocations were made to greens #5 and 7 to be opened in late fall or early spring. These projects were

designed by Lindsay Ervin and constructed by McDonald & Sons. This past winter a sewer line went through the entire golf course. The scars from this are still very evident. Over the past five years 23 tees have been built, rebuilt, or enlarged and they are currently in a five year program to completely renovate all of the bunkers. So even if you don't play golf on the 9th there is still plenty to see at Hobbits.

The maintenance of the course which serves over 55,000 rounds per year and measures 7,196 yards from the blue tees includes; greens mowed at 7/32", 5-6 times per week with approximately 6 lbs. N applied through a combination of IBDU in the fall and spoon feeding in the summer to repair the traffic damage. They are aerified twice per year with the Verti-

Drain which has had a dramatic positive impact on these heavy clay greens. Tees and fairways are mowed at 3/4", 3 times per week with 3 lbs. N applied in the fall and winter. For the first time this year no pre-emerge crabgrass control was applied, instead Acclaim will be used. Due to the weather, the rough hasn't been mowed in weeks (it may never have to be mowed again) and at this writing the fairways won't be watered or mowed again until it rains.

Bill Neus, our host, has been at Hobbits since 1981 and had previously been superintendent at Fauquier Springs CC in Virginia. He attended UMBC and then The Institute of Applied Agriculture graduating in 1976. Bill and his wife Lynne have been married for 13 years and have 3

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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.

Lee Dieter, C.G.C.S.
Editor

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GOLF

by Tom Regan, CGCS

The July golf outing was held at Kenwood Golf and Country Club, and we had 44 players play a well conditioned golf course. Dean Graves is to be commended for the excellent job he has done with that golf course.

Low score for the day was turned by Todd Eckenrode of Wakefield Valley, he shot an even par 70. Todd is the assistant to Gary Angel. Low gross for Superintendents was shot by Ron Hawkins of East Potomac with a 79. (You can see who works and who doesn't.) John Terminella of EZ Go also posted a 79. Low net winner was Tom Haske of Westwood with a 63 followed by Donn Dietrich of Maryland Golf and Country Club with a 66.

We played a skins game and had 4 skin winners, Joel Ratcliff, Jeff Yingling, Wayne Brissey, and John Hoover. Our point tournament is still a pretty tight race. Points awarded at Kenwood are as follows: 10 points - Tom Haske, 9½ points - Joel Ratcliff, Donn Dietrich, 8 points - Wayne Brissey, 7 points - Ron Hawkins, Steve Cohoon, 6½ points - George Renault, Russ Bateman, Tom Walsh, 6 points - John Newcomb.

The standings to date through 4 tournaments are: 1st: Russ Bateman, 27½; 2nd: Ken Ingram, 23½; 3rd: Nick Vance, 22½; 4th: John Newcomb, 19; 5th: Jeff Yingling, 18; 6th: Steve Cohoon, 17; 7th: George Renault, 15½; 8th: Bob Orazi, 14½; 9th: Grant Pensinger, 14 and Tom Regan, 14.

Our next golf outing is scheduled for September 13th, site to be announced. Remember the MAAGCS annual picnic on August 9th. George says . . . "the quickest way to get the most attention is to make a big mistake."

President's Message

In looking forward, remember that our September meeting has been pushed back one day to Wednesday, September 14th. Steve Cohoon and Tantallon Country Club will be our hosts.

Our July meeting at Kenwood clearly emphasized the need to spell out our reservation procedures — hopefully for the final time. **THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE MEETING.** The majority of our hosts will get a final count around 3 p.m. on that day and this will allow adequate preparation time. For many clubs, Mondays are "off" days for their employees and with a meeting planned for that evening, Tuesday is much too late for planning and ordering food.

Contrary to many opinions, a private country club is not in the restaurant business. It cannot at the last minute provide for a surplus of 20-30 attendees — other than potluck dinners. As those of you with any experience in the area know, a restaurant catering to meetings and seminars requires a reasonable estimate 72 hours ahead and a firm count 24 hours in advance. Failure to call ahead and make a reservation will guarantee you potluck dinner. Failure to show when you have confirmed a spot will result in a charge if the Association has to pay for your "no-show."

Most of the individuals confused by these facts are those who have yet to host a meeting. It is also surprising that approximately half of our "pink slip" people for the June and July meetings were commercial representatives. Come on guys, we know you don't run your seminars with these types of procedures.

The MAAGCS has a fine educational program and there are many little tidbits of information that are exchanged during the social hour before dinner. We would really like to have everyone attend, have fun, and get something out of these monthly meetings. So plan ahead and get your reservation in early. For those interested, a permanent RSVP sign-up book is available. Contact Steve Potter for more info on this.

For those interested, contributions are being accepted for the Tripplett family. Bill Neuss is the contact on this.



George Renault, President

1988 MAAGCS SCHEDULE

Date	Location/Host	Speaker/Topic
August 9	Hobbits Glen C.C. Bill Neus, CGCS	Annual Picnic
September 14	Tantallon C.C. Steve Cohoon (NOTE: WEDNESDAY MEETING)	Kenneth Wagner, Database Environmental Consultants Pond Water Management
September 13-15	VPI, Blacksburg Drs. Schmidt, Hall & Chalmers	Field Days - Tournament, Research, and Pesticide Cert.
October 11	Rehobeth C.C. Thomas List, CGCS	John Segui, GCSAA President, Certification
November 8	Bethesda C.C. Thomas Regan, CGCS	Stanley Zontec, USGA Winter Play
December 13	Turf Valley C.C. William Blackert	Election Meeting
January 9-11	Maryland Turfgrass Expo 88	Conference and Trade Show
January 17-19	Virginia Turfgrass Conf. Richmond Marriott Hotel Richmond Centre, Richmond, Va.	Conference and Trade Show

CONGRATULATIONS . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Merrick are proud parents of Zachery Stephen Merrick born April 21st weighing in at 8 lbs., 5 oz.

EDUCATION NOTES

by Stephen E. Cohoon

The "Pesticide Use and Safety" seminar held June 29th was a big success. We had an excellent turnout and Kevin Mathias put together an excellent program. Look for a similar seminar next year.

The next seminar will be held in conjunction with the Maryland Turfgrass Conference, January 9, 1989. The seminar will be conducted by the GCSAA and entitled "Budgeting and Forecasting." That will be followed by "Negotiating," January 16, 1989, at the Virginia Turfgrass Conference. Mark these dates down now and plan on attending.

The August meeting will not have an educational program, but plan on attending the picnic and having a great time. The next educational program will be at Tanttallon Country Club, Wednesday, September 14. The guest speaker at that time will be Mr. Ken Wagner of Database Environmental Consultants, who will give his presentation on pond water management without chemicals. Don't miss this informative meeting, and be sure to RSVP your reservation.

PESTICIDE PARANOIA

by Stephen E. Cohoon

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. The truth is, that is all the general public has about pesticides, a little knowledge. You have heard the stories on the news or read them in the papers. The stories of how this pesticide killed that, or that pesticide hurt this. It is enough to make you afraid to go into your own chemical storage area.

The trouble is that the public only hears the negative effects of pesticide use, and is usually unaware of how valuable pesticides are when used properly. The media does not inform the people about how great a particular pesticide is, that does not sell. After all, people do not want to hear good news, they want to hear about everyone's problems. So that leaves it up to us, the professional pesticide applicators, to inform the public about the good uses for pesticides.

How can you, as an individual, educate all these people? Start small. Write an article for your club's newsletter promoting the benefits of properly applied pesticides. This can be expanded on by submitting an article or editorial for your local newspaper. You can even address your local homeowners association by speaking at one of their meetings. Anytime you can educate the public, take advantage of the opportunity.

While you are educating the public, it may be wise to look at the way you handle

and use pesticides. Have you trained your staff in the proper application techniques? Are you registered in your state as a certified pesticide applicator? If not, why? There is adequate training available, such as the "Pesticide Use and Safety" seminar recently sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. In addition, there are regional and national conferences held each winter which provide valuable information to the pesticide user. There are also extension service personnel only a phone call away if you need any information.

Finally, keep up to date on all the government regulations concerning pesticides and their use. Not only for your protection but for the safety of all those who come into contact with the pesticide. Write your congressman or the GCSAA if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the pesticide laws.

By educating the public and keeping up on the latest technology we become more professional, in a time where professionalism is paramount. It is up to each one of us to put our best foot forward and make this world a little safer and better for everyone.

1988 JOHN DEERE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

This year's John Deere Team Championship will be held at Lake Monticello in Palmyra, Va. on Wednesday, September 28th. There will be a limit of 56 teams for the sectional tournament. The winner of the sectional event will advance to the National Championship to be held on the Jack Nicklaus Resort Course at PGA West in Palm Springs, CA in November.

Once again, the tournament will be co-hosted. This year the co-hosts will be your two John Deere Turf Distributors, Finch Golf and Turf Co. in Westminster, MD and Piedmont Tractor Co. from Charlottesville, VA.

Finch Golf and Turf Co. has offered to contribute 10% of the entry fee to the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents Scholarship fund from its Maryland, D.C. and West Virginia clubs that participate in the sectional event.

Last year's John Deere Team Championship was a tremendous success. Over 3200 amateur and professional golfers competed in regional events culminating with the National Championship in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Randy Dayton and his team from Ocean Pines Golf Club in Ocean City, MD won the National Team title.

The tournament has been greatly enhanced through the combined support of the John Deere Turf Distributors, the Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the PGA. This year's tournament

will be even better with several format changes.

More information will be provided to the eligible superintendents in the next couple of weeks.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Steve Nash, CGCS

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents would like to welcome four new members:

Michael Bull, Class D
Superintendent at Carrol Park

Tony Keen, Class F
G. Anthony Keen Consulting

Lawrence Ott, Class D
Superintendent at Bretton Woods
Rec. Center

Dale Dillon, Class D
Assistant Superintendent at
Evergreen C.C.

Michael Bull has been employed by the Baltimore Municipal Golf Corporation since 1985. Before that he was an Assistant at the C.C. of Maryland and with the City of Baltimore.

Tony Keen operates a soil testing and consulting Company. He has spent most of his time in the agricultural field and is now branching out into the golf course field.

Lawrence Ott is the new Superintendent at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center, taking over for Jerry Gerard, who moved into the General Managers position. Before coming to Bretton Woods, Larry was the Grounds Manager at the Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.

Dale Dillon has been the Assistant at Evergreen C.C. since June 1986. Before coming to Evergreen, he worked at River Bend and Goose Creek.

Please welcome our new members at our next meeting. Let's make them feel that Mid-Atlantic hospitality.

OUR HOSTS

Continued from page 1

children, Sarah (9), Dan & Matt (6). They live in Baltimore and are renovating a large old house.

For those wishing to play golf, please call 1 day ahead for tee times. They will be available after 10:00. Call 730-5980.

Directions to the club: From D.C. - Take Rte. 29 north to Rte. 108. Go west on 108 approximately 3.5 miles. Turn left on Harpers Farm Road. Go approximately 1/2 mile and turn right at Willowbottom Drive. (It will be the first road on the right.) Club will be several blocks on the right. From Baltimore - Take Rte. 70 to Rte. 29 south to Rte. 108. Follow the rest of the directions above.

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**Mid-Atlantic Association of
Golf Course Superintendents
NEWSLETTER**

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