



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

Continued on page 3

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 Tantallon 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.