



# Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



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NUMBER 3

## MAY 10 MEETING SUPT-PRO TOURNAMENT

Our host, Grant Pensinger, has been the superintendent at the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club for the past fourteen years. He came down from Pennsylvania in August of 1973 from the Chambersburg Golf Club where he had been for the previous seven years. Grant is what he likes to describe as an "Old Guard" type of Superintendent, he is proud that much of his education in golf course management has been self accumulated. He has spent years of working and learning on the golf course itself. He served apprenticeship under Arthur Edgar (Pro-Supt at Chambersburg for forty years). Before his death in 1967, Mr. Edgar was widely respected and known for his expert knowledge of turfgrass management. Grant has also taken special courses at Penn State and attended seminars held there. Through this informal education, Grant obtained the necessary knowledge to take and pass his certification exam. In January of 1975 he became certified, an accomplishment that he is very proud of. We all know that he has every right to be happy with his accomplishments and the professional job he does on his course. Congratulations Grant, and thanks for hosting this our 15th Superintendent-Professional Tournament.

Grant and his wife Marlene have four children, three boys and a girl, and 6 grandchildren. Two of the boys are involved in golf course work. Philip is a Maryland graduate and is the superintendent at the Ed Porky Oliver Course in Wilmington Delaware. His son Michael works for him at Green Spring Valley.

The Green Spring Valley Hunt Club was organized in 1892 to promote the then very popular sport of Fox Hunting. The kennels, and the hounds which were used in the chase, were kept on the original tract of land for many years. As more space was needed, they were moved to the Worthington Valley. This branch of the club became known as the "Upper Club." Several dozen of the hunting members still participate in the thrice-weekly hunts during the late Fall and Winter.

Tennis and Golf are now the primary activities at the "Lower Club" in the Green Spring Valley. Many of the present

members are the children, grandchildren and great-children of the original eighty members.

Construction of the golf course was begun in 1912, at this time nine holes were laid out by the members. In 1930 two more holes were added and one par three eliminated, making a total of ten holes. The course remained this way until 1957. At about this time, Jess W. Sweetser, former United States and British Amateur Champion, became a member of the club. His close personal friend Robert Trent Jones designed an additional eight holes. They were built, making the course an eighteen hole layout. The course is 6,489 yards long from the blue tees and 6,089 yards from the white. In 1974 a record 11,200 rounds of golf were played.

As far as maintenance is concerned, Grant has submitted the following information. The greens are mowed seven days a week at 3/16", they are fertilized with 4-5 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. each year. They are sprayed weekly from May 15-September 1. Tees and aprons are mowed three times a week at 1/2" and receive 5 lbs. of nitrogen per 1,000. Fairways are also mowed three times a week and are mowed at 3/4". He has been overseeding with perennial ryegrass since 1975. The fairways are fertilized spring and fall with 1 lb. of N. and receive a fungicide application as needed if the budget allows.

The cocktail hour will begin at six with the dinner and meeting following at seven. We hope that those of you that aren't participating in the tournament will still attend the social activity and the meeting. The cost will be \$35.00.

## RESERVATIONS (301) 381-0030

Directions to the club are: Take the Baltimore beltway 695 north to exit 20, Reisterstown Road, go north about 2 1/2 miles to the Green Spring Valley Road, turn right 1 block, the club is on the left.

## The Superintendent- Professional Tournament

The first tournament was played back in 1973 at Washington Golf and Country Club. The concept was to get together with our partners in the golf business at least this one time a year away from our home courses. A chance to relax and enjoy each others company away from the pressures of our jobs was what we were looking for. The following fifteen years has been proof that we had a great idea. The added benefit of the success of our get-together has been witnessed in the improved relations back on our courses and between our associations. The Golf Professional of 1988 certainly has a better understanding of our end of the business. I'm sure we have improved in our knowledge of the Professionals role, and of some of the problems he encounters. The golf business certainly hasn't been made any easier for any of us over the last fifteen years. The golfers expectations of all phases of golf operations is increasing and its up to us to provide the answers. We can do this best as a team, partners in a business that provides us both a livelihood and a challenge. Lets hope that the teams that play together will go back to their courses and work together with that same close, understanding, team effort.

## New Member

This month the Mid-Atlantic A.G.C.S. would like to welcome Martin B. Nadenichek C.G.C.S. as a new member. Marty is the Superintendent at the Burning Tree Club. He returns to the Mid-Atlantic area after serving as Assistant and as Superintendent at the Lehigh C.C. for 12 years. Prior to working at Lehigh C.C., Marty worked for Warren Bidwell at the Congressional C.C. in preparation for the 1976 PGA. Marty and his wife Susan live in Gaithersburg, Md.

## 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 April meeting was held at Brooke Manor Country Club, and we had 22 players brave the cold and windy weather conditions. We had several participants feeling no pain at the conclusion. Our low gross winner was Tom Regan with a 78. Kenny (no pain) Ingram from Columbia shot an 80 and finished 2nd in the gross division. Kenny played extremely well, and had 3 consecutive birdies on the back 9, good round Kenny! Our net winner was Steve Potter from Woodholme, Steve had a net 64, Grant Pensinger from Green Spring Valley was 2nd with a 71. A special thanks to John Johns our host for the day. John went out of his way to make it a very enjoyable meeting. We played a skins match at Brooke Manor, and Steve Potter collected 3 skins, Ken Ingram won 2 skins, and Dave Ingram won 1. We have a new leader in the point tournament. The man who vowed to be a threat all year has taken the lead with 16 points.

STANDINGS: Russ Bateman 16, Ken Ingram 15, Jeff Yingling 14, Tom Regan 14, Nick Vance 13, Steve Cohoon 10, Steve Potter 10, George Renault 7, and John Newcomb 7. The point tournament will continue at our June meeting to be held at Pine Ridge.

A REMINDER... Our Superintendent/Pro tournament is May 10, a 1 p.m. shotgun with lunch being served beginning at 11 a.m. If you haven't submitted your entry please do so, the field is filling fast. The tournament format will be 100% handicap for the Superintendent and gross for the Professionals. We will be playing 3 closest to the pins for the Supt. and 3 for the Pro. One long drive for the Supt. and one for the Pros. **PLEASE** to be

## President's Message

Here it is May already and our season is in full swing. A round of applause for John Johns and Brooke Manor for hosting our April meeting.

Shine your shoes and clean your clubs. Grant Pensinger and staff and Tom Regan, our Golf Chairman, have planned a super day for the annual Superintendent/Pro Tournament. There will be high talking and lots of fun as we compete for the Clare Emory Trophy.

Anyone catch the GCSAA promo which aired on "Inside the PGA" on the ESPN channel? Having been critical in the past of the National's efforts toward publicity, this spot is right on the mark. It draws your interest and tells the public what we do with taste and speed. It's a start that the regional associations can build on — not with costly ads but by our demeanor. How we view ourselves — as professional turf specialists. How we dress — as specialists ready for management oversight in the field or a quick meeting with committee members over lunch at the club. How we remain current in our field — by bringing officials to our meetings to hear guest speakers. All of this, from the ad on down to your day-to-day appearance is PR. It builds a positive image, an image we must have if we are to be readily accepted as professionals.

Mr. Lee Dieter is doing a fine job as our newsletter editor. Since Lee has indicated this may be a one year post for him, we're soliciting candidates for next year. While it may seem a bit premature and it would be great if Lee decides to continue on, there's a good deal of ground work that goes into a smooth transition. If you're interested and have a sincere desire, notify the MAAGCS Board of Directors.



George Renault, President

fair to our hosts don't wait till the last minute to sign up.

One last reminder, fair and honest handicaps are the backbone of Amateur golf.

## Relocations

Larry Ott, formerly Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at Galudet College has been hired as Superintendent of Grounds at Bretton Woods Recreation Center. Larry has worked part time at the course for the past four years.

David Kardos has recently joined John Laake at River Bend C.C. as his assistant. David is a Penn State Graduate (87) and has previously worked in Morgantown, W. Va. at the Sheraton Lakeview and at the Longue Vue Club in Verona, Pa.

The new assistant at Indian Spring Country Club is Calvin Nolke. He will be working with Wayne Evans. Wayne leaves June 1st to begin his new career as irrigation sales representative for the G.L. Cornell Co.

## Congrats . . .

Jennie and Brian Dunn are the proud parents of their first child, a son, Michael Brian born on March 19th.

An addition to the John Hoover family is a daughter, Kristen Irene.

Another March baby is Charles Perry Fisher, son of Debbie and Dick Fisher.

## The Clare Emory Memorial Trophy

When Clare Emory died, a need to recognize him and what he stood for was felt by many of his friends. From this need an effort grew that materialized in the trophy that we will present as the award to the winning team on May 10th. This is the seventh year that the trophy has been awarded. It's a traveling trophy that we hope will go back to the winners' club to be displayed. Permanent matching cups are also presented to the winning team. Let this award symbolize for us those things that we all admired so much in Clare Emory, a true professional and gentleman. A friend to all who knew him.

## Tip of the Month

Congratulations are again in order for Carol Offenbacher. Carol was our scholarship winner last year. A recent graduate of the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland, she works at Eisenhower Golf Course as Lou Rudinskis' assistant. Carol is the winner of our May Tip of the Month.

The following are the reasons why Carol modified a TORO aerifier so that it could be pulled by a maintenance vehicle. 1. Man hour savings. 2. Convenience. 3. Decrease in operator fatigue. 4. Provides a vehicle to carry necessary tools; cup

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# Education Notes

by Steve Cohoon

The educational program for the May 10th Superintendent-Club Professional meeting will be a departure from what has been done in the past. This year Bill Mayhugh of WMAL radio will serve as our master of ceremonies and guest speaker.

Mr. Mayhugh, himself an avid golfer, will relate various stories and experiences (from his viewpoint) of the golf world. He will also assist in the presentation of the awards given to the winning teams for the days tournament. Mr. Mayhugh has a reputation as an entertaining and interesting speaker, I'm sure everyone will enjoy his lighter look at the game of golf and ourselves.

In other educational matters, the MAAGCS is looking into securing a GCSAA seminar for presentation in conjunction with the Maryland Turfgrass Conference next January. The tentative seminar would be a one day program on financial management. Also being prepared for the near future is another one day seminar on safe pesticide use and handling. This program is being coordinated by Kevin Mathias of the Institute of Applied Agriculture. The seminar would be geared to the assistant superintendent and spray foreman, although it would be of interest to the Superintendent also. More details of these seminars and other education programs will follow in later NEWSLETTERS.

## 1988 MAAGCS Schedule

Date	Location/Host	Speaker/Topic
May 10	Green Spring Valley Grant Pensinger	Supt./Pro Tournament William Mayhugh
June 14	Pine Ridge GC Thomas Cassat	Dr. Joseph Vargas
July 12	Kenwood CC Dean Graves	EPA Official EPA Regulations & Operations
August 9	Hobbits Glen GC William Neus	Picnic
September 13-15	VPI Field Days Drs. Schmidt, Hall & Chalmers	Tournament, Research, Category 2 Recertification
September 13	Penderbrook GC Steven Cohoon	Kenneth Wagner Pond Water Management
October 11	Rehobeth CC Thomas List	John Segui, GCSAA President, Certification
November 8	Bethesda CC Thomas Regan	Stanley Zontec, USGA Winter Play

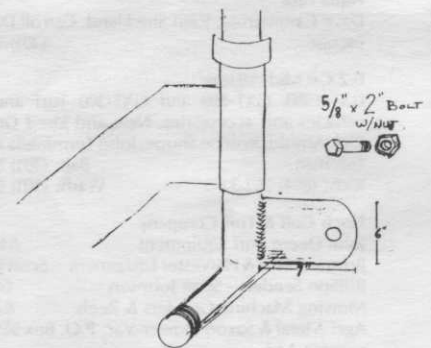
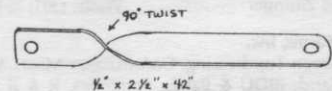
## Tip of Month

Continued from page 2

puller, gas can, grease gun, rags, socket wrench, extra tines, etc. 5. Enables one person to operate independently in aerating. 6. Ease of machine maintenance. 7. Equipped for cleanup operations.

Her directions are the following and are accompanied with this diagram: The front tires should be removed from the aerifier for ease of installation. A steel plate measuring 3/8" x 7" is welded to the front axle assembly approximately 1-1/2" from the bottom and 1/2" from the top. The steel plate should have a hole located approximately 1-1/2" from the front and centered from top to bottom. A 5/8" x 2" fine threaded bolt with a nut (or a hitch pin) is used to attach a draw bar, which measures 1/2" x 2-1/2" x 42" with a 90 degree twist 6" from the steel plate. The other end of the draw bar is then attached to the maintenance vehicle with a hitch pin, or a 1-7/8" trailer hitch ball. Editors note: Don't forget to put the tires back on.

Thanks again to Carol for her tip. If you have any questions, give her a ring.



## What Do You Do For A Living?

by Bill Neus

How many times have you been asked, "What do you do for a living?" When you reply, "I'm a golf course superintendent," the questioner usually will give you a quizzical look and then make one of several comments like; 'what's that,' or 'so you're the pro,' or 'you use the lawn mowers,' or 'you're lucky you get to play a lot of golf.'

At this point you feel compelled to explain. Do you take the easy way out by saying something like, 'Oh I take care of the place,' or do you use it as an opportunity to extol the virtues of our profession. We are more than managers. There is an art to our work. We create and beautify while facing tough challenges every day. Our motivation to be suc-

cessful and excel comes from within those challenges. Try to think of anyone else at your club who could do what you do.

People in general don't understand the complexities of our profession because we've never really done a very good job of communicating it. On the individual club level with our own golfers I feel that many times we go out of our way to oversimplify the complexities for the benefit of laymen who generally don't care to understand anyway. They only know that their putt didn't drop in the hole.

How do we oversimplify? Terms like; brown patch, dollar spot, leaf spot, etc. I'll bet somebody stayed up all night thinking of those terms. Let's face it, brown patch

isn't a disease, it's the result of 20 kids playing in your backyard for a week. Rhizoctonia, now that's a name for a pathogen. It even had an intimidating ring to it. The absolute worst term has to be 'Fairy Ring.' Mention that to a group of golfers and see if they keep a straight face. Fairy ring isn't a turf problem, it's Tinkerbell flying in circles.

The point is that we need to let people know that the green industry is an incredibly diverse and complex universe, that it is held together by hard working, educated people. So the next time someone asks you what you do for a living, really put it to 'em. Make it so that when you get done talking they say, 'Boy that sounds like a great job.' But we all know it's more than a job, it's part of a lifestyle.

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