



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXXI

MAY 1988

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. Nadenichuk 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.