



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXXXII

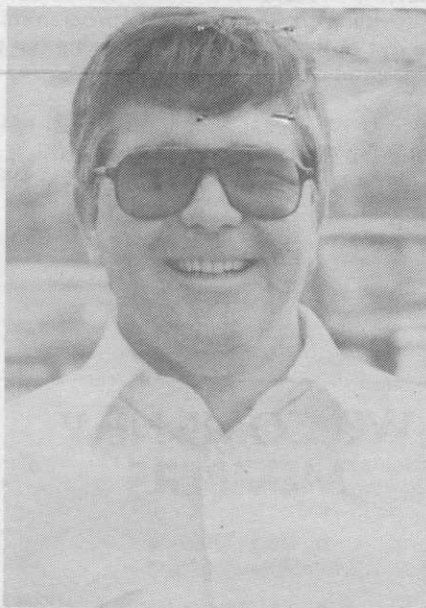
MARCH 1989

NUMBER 1

MID-ATLANTIC — U.S.G.A. JOINT MEETING, MARCH 14, CHEVY CHASE C.C.

Our March meeting will be an all day affair as you can see by the enclosed program. We are pleased to cooperate with the U.S.G.A. in this effort. In the past there has been a scheduling problem with this event, please come and help make this first joint regional meeting a success. Because this is a joint meeting and there will be an all day program there will be no golf at this meeting. The Association's part of the meeting will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will follow at 7:00, cost \$20.00. Our speaker will be Pat Schrepf of Hall and Kimbrell, Environmental Services. His topic will be "Environmental Self Audits." Our policy of calling in for reservations remains the same. Please call the Mid-Atlantic office before Friday with your dinner reservations. The number is (301) 381-0030 — call now!

Our member host for the day will be our immediate past president George Renault. George has been Superintendent at Chevy Chase since March 1983. He was a student of Doug Haas at the University of Maryland where he attended the Institute of Applied Agriculture. He graduated in 1973. George's dad (George Renault, Jr.) is an old friend of the Mid-Atlantic. He attended many meetings back in the 60's when he was green chairman at Fort Belvoir Golf Club. He and Tom Doerer had a great relationship. It was in fact Tom who first introduced young George to golf course maintenance as a member of the crew at Belvoir. George worked as an assistant at Springfield C.C. and moved to Goose Creek C.C., Leesburg, Va. in 1977 as the Golf Course Superintendent. He left to move to Penderbrook C.C. as the Superintendent. He was in charge of supervising the construction and opening of the new facility. George became a certified superintendent in 1982. A well organized, innovative, and competent young man, he is a real asset to our profession and our association. George and his wife Cindy and their two children live in Vienna.



George Renault

Cindy is working in the home now and taking a break from her own career as the office manager at the I.T.T. Washington office. The children, George IV, 11 and Lucy, 7, attend Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna. Both of the kids are active in sports. George plays soccer, hockey, and basketball; Lucy is a gymnast. When at home from the Club, our host can be found in his hot tub relaxing, or working in his yard. He says his long range goal is to have no grass at all to mow. George's hobbies include skiing and golf. He's been a member of our golf team for the last few years.

A few items on the maintenance of the course follow: The greens are mowed during the season six times a week at 9/64 with wiehles. They receive 3 pounds of nitrogen a year in a 3-1-2 ratio. George has been treating the greens with TGR for the past four years. The tees are mowed at 7/16 three times a week and receive two to two and a half pounds a year. They are as George describes a Dukes mixture, he

just over seeded them last fall with Penn-cross Bent. The fairways are over seeded with perennial ryegrass. They are mowed at 5/8 of an inch three times a week. The greens, tees, and aprons are on a preventive fungicide program. The fairways receive an application or two each season. The main crabgrass control at the club is post-emergence, with applications of Acclaim.

The Chevy Chase Club was organized on December 10, 1892, incorporated on April 17, 1893 and golf was introduced in 1895. A six hole course was laid out with some help from some members from Washington Golf Club. The following year a new nine hole layout was built. In 1898 an additional nine holes was added along with some improvements to the existing nine. Upon completion of the course the club became a member of the U.S.G.A., in December 1898. In 1909 the Club acquired the land where the course is now located and Donald Ross, architect, directed the construction of the new nine hole course. The second nine was built the following year. By 1921 the popularity of golf had grown to the extent that the board of directors approved the rebuilding of the golf course. The eminent Scottish architects Colt, Mckenzie and Allison were given this assignment. The new course was completed in 1923, with few and minor alterations, the course remains basically the same today. It plays to 6184 yards from the white tees, and is rated as a par 70.2, slope 125. Score card par is 69.

Directions: Take I-495, Capital Beltway, to Connecticut Avenue exit. Exit south towards Chevy Chase/Washington (inside Beltway) approximately 2 miles to club on right.

RESERVATIONS
(301) 381-0030

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

1989 Officers and Directors

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President Emeritus	George Renault
Educational	Steven Cohoon
Membership	Donn Dietrich
Golf	Thomas Regan
Social & Benevolence	Joel Ratcliff
Editorial & Publicity	Lou Rudinski
Finance	Steven Potter



GOLF

by Tom Regan, CGCS

The annual GCSAA golf tournament was held in Palm Springs, California on February 6th and 7th. The only good thing about being in Palm Springs at that time was knowing that the weather in the Baltimore/Washington area was better than Palm Springs, if that is any consolation! The Mid-Atlantic Association had three teams playing for the gross and net prizes. — The golf was like the weather.

We did have two individual winners, congrats to Bob Orazi of Hunt Valley, he finished second in the senior 1 flight, and to Dick Gieselmann of Rock Creek for his third place finish in the orange flight. The overall tournament winner was Dave Powell of North Carolina. Dave is the Superintendent of the Myers Park Country Club.

I would like to thank all of the twelve Mid-Atlantic members who journeyed west to play and represent our association. Hopefully next year when the tournament shifts back to the east coast the weather and the golf will be more enjoyable. The dates for next year's tournament are set for February 19th and 20th. We will be playing all three courses at Disney World, which are the Lake Buena Vista, the Palm, and the Magnolia. The fourth course will be the "new" course at Grand Cypress. Mark down the dates and plan to participate.

President's Message

A sincere thank you for electing me President of our Association. I hope to continue my predecessors' endeavors of keeping the Association financially strong and growing.

I trust the winter has given you some much needed relaxation and time to prepare for the upcoming year. I, as I am sure you do, hope not to see a single weather record set this coming year. Moderation in the weather patterns would be greatly desired, but moderation for our Association is unacceptable. I believe we need to promote our recognition in the golf community, encourage participation in our Association and provide the educational programs necessary to keep pace with a fast moving and challenging industry. The Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors is already striving to meet these goals. First, we will be making every effort to achieve name recognition for the Association as well as our individual members. Under the guidance of the new Editorial and Publicity Chairman, Lou Rudinski, we will be working locally with the news media, other affiliated associations in the golf industry and golfing members of the area. Also we hope to work with the GCSAA in their same efforts. Secondly, our new Membership Chairman, Donn Dietrich, will be trying to recruit new members. Over the last 4 years our roster has increased by over 75 new members and we hope to continue this trend. Donn will also be involved in a survey of the membership that will update our records. Lastly, the Educational Chairman, Steve Cohoon, will continue his fine efforts of last year in providing quality educational programming. This is only a part of next year's activities. The rest of the Board will be carrying out their duties to provide the membership an Association of which it can be proud.

Please plan on attending the March 14th Mid-Atlantic meeting at the Chevy Chase Club, with our host George Renault. This is also a joint meeting with the USGA so bring your Assistants, Green Chairman or Club Presidents and enjoy a terrific day.

Walter Montross, CGCS, President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

by Donn Dietrich,
Membership Chairman

The following have been approved for membership by your board of directors. Please get to know them and make them feel welcome when you see them at our meetings or when they visit you.

Gregory Hofstetter, Class G
Superintendent, Bon Air Country Club
Glen Rock, PA

Walter Smith, Class D
Assistant Supt., Winters Run Golf Club
Bel Air, MD

David Boniface, Class D
Assistant Supt., Maryland Golf and C.C.
Bel Air, MD

John McDonald II, Class F
Vice Pres., McDonald and Sons
Jessup, MD

Eric McDonald, Class F
Vice Pres., McDonald and Sons
Jessup, MD

John Haley, Class D
Assistant Supt., Lakewood Country Club
Rockville, MD

Edward Childs, Class F
Sales Rep., Finch Golf and Turf
Westminster, MD

Stephan Malknowski, Class F
Sales Rep., Finch Golf and Turf
Westminster, MD

Scott Johnson, Class F
Sales Rep., Finch Golf and Turf
Westminster, MD

Gregory Roman, Class F
Representative, P.B.I. Gordon Co.
Elkton, MD

Garfield Thomas, Class F
Representative, Sandoz Crop Protection

Paul Tydman, Class F
Sales Rep., EZ Go Corporation
Gaithersburg, MD

OUR SYMPATHY

Your editor received a note from our good friend and retired member Al Watson. He wanted to let the membership know that Esther Reid, wife of Jim Reid passed away on the tenth of January. Esther had been living in Kingwood Texas so she could be near her daughters' families. She had moved there after Jim's death in 1974. For you new members, Jim was the superintendent at The Suburban Club of Baltimore for 15 years and had been the Mid-Atlantic voting delegate and politician in residence for many years. We all miss them. God bless them both.

29th VIRGINIA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

The 29th Annual Conference and Trade Show held this past January in Richmond attracted 1139 paid participants to the three day conference. The show was filled with education programs set against a trade show background. This year's Trade show included 246 booths from over 115 different exhibitors. This diverse group of exhibitors formed the largest trade show to date.

Some of the many noted speakers who led the educational program were: Dr. Mike Agnue, University of Iowa, Dr. Keith Karnok, University of Georgia, Dr. Reid Funk, Rutgers University, and Ms. Kathy Copley, Consultant, Grounds Maintenance Magazine. New to the conference this year was a "Women in the Green Industry" breakfast, held on Thursday morning.

Several people were recognized for

their long service to the turfgrass industry during the annual banquet. Larry Boitnott was awarded the "R.D. (Dick) Cake Memorial Award." The "Virginia Turfgrass Council Award" was presented to Jack McClenahan. President Dick Fisher presented the "Presidents Award" to Sam Kessel for his longtime service to the industry. Robert Ruff senior was made a lifetime member for his many years of dedicated service. Virginia Tech students, Mike Tyson, Billie Fuller, and Steve Jenkins were all awarded scholarships at the banquet.

1990 will be an exciting year for the Council, with the 30th Anniversary celebration. The Conference and Trade Show is planned for the week of January 15-19, 1990. We'll keep you informed of the details, stay tuned.

employment office on a monthly basis and you can be assured of having at least some applicants sent to you. If you contact them only once, your name soon disappears from the active list of potential employers.

A source of summer help is to visit the guidance offices of nearby high schools and colleges and leave some copies of your summer job opportunity that can be easily handed to the students or posted on a bulletin board. Take the copies with you and they will feel some obligation to get them handed out. Don't expect them to make the copies for you, it will never happen. This will give you an advantage over all the letters and phone calls the guidance offices receive for summer employment.

There are other sources to be tapped for labor such as churches, FFA, vo-tech schools, garden clubs and don't forget about retired individuals looking for part time or seasonal employment. The procedures for contacting these people are much the same as outlined earlier.

The best source of labor is valuable employees who are already on the staff. It is best to have summer kids and seasonal help asking you if they can come back next year and to have satisfied full time employees not looking for other positions. This goal is only accomplished when you go to bat for your employees. Make your club understand the monetary cost associated with retraining employees every year. These costs include damage to very expensive equipment, lost time due to training, expanded crews due to the inefficiency of untrained crew members, increased personal accidents and subsequent increased insurance rates because of the same lack of training, etc. Make sure that your greens committee chairman knows about all these incidents when they happen so that they are verified at budget time. At the same time, make your chairman aware of a special project that was completed without the use of an outside contractor or a tournament being pulled off when some of the undesirable labor didn't show up because your trained staff dug in and got the job done. Finally, at budget time, go for twice the inflation rate for raises or even one time increases of \$1.00 to \$2.00 per hour to make your pay scale competitive with other labor rates in this area. If desired, make sure the budget committee knows the problems to be encountered on *their* golf course should you lose any of those trained individuals. Give end of the season bonuses and/or Christmas bonuses. Have an employee bull roast, crab feast, Christmas party, New Years party or just a cookout. Do something to let those valued employees know that you appreciate their efforts and dedication and they in turn will make your job that much easier. You will have an easier season and your members will have a better golfing season.

1989 MAAGCS SCHEDULE

Date	Location/Host	Speaker/Topic
March 14	Chevy Chase C.C. George Renault, CGCS	Joint meeting with the USGA Stanley Zontek, Regional Dir.
April 11	Laytonville G.C. Nick Vance, CGCS	To be announced
April 17	Springfield Golf and C.C. Golf Course Supts. Walter Montross, CGCS	GCSAA Seminar Golf Course Safety, Security, and Risk Management

Developing A Qualified Greens Maintenance Crew

by Steve Potter, CGCS

It is accepted that golf course labor consists of employees who are "at the bottom of the barrel" in the labor pool. But does it always have to be this way? No! There are options open to both you and your club to remedy the ever increasing problem of developing a qualified greens maintenance crew.

The first and easiest solution is to simply compete for your portion of the labor pool. This includes competing with construction crew wages that vary between \$8.00 and \$12.00 per hour and offering benefits such as medical coverage, vacation, sick leave, personal leave, overtime, etc. This solution is very unrealistic for the needed seasonal help and unfortunately is not met by approval from golf course budget committees for even full time employees. When money is the limiting factor, there are still several options available.

The most widely used option is to put an ad in the newspaper and select from these candidates. This can be very time consuming and a secretary is usually required because on the average, 30 to 40

people will call, about 25 of those will set up an appointment, and then only about 5 will show up for that interview. If you can get one good employee out of the five, then it must be considered a success no matter how time consuming the ordeal was. The reason for such a low response is, of course, that construction has taken most of the reliable, experienced labor and of those who are unemployed, many wish to remain this way. Those who wish to remain unemployed are most easily identified by either not showing up for an interview or coming late to the interview and demanding wages up to twice what they were making at their last job.

Another option is to contact the unemployment office. Only 5 or 6 people will be referred to you but it saves the cost of putting an ad in the paper and saves the time of taking all the phone calls and setting up interviews. Another advantage of this method over a newspaper ad is that the applicants have generally worked somewhere as a laborer in the last 18 months. Keep in touch with the unem-

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First Class Mail

