

Turfgrass Matters



December 1990, vol. 43, no. 10

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Nat Binns and Lakewood Country Club to Host Annual Meeting

The annual election will be held at Lakewood Country Club on Tuesday, December 13. Nat Binns, Golf Course Superintendent there, will host this month's meeting. Nat came to Lakewood in October, 1986. Previously he was at Hopewell Valley Golf Club in Hopewell, N.J. He was also Assistant Superintendent for Ken Braun at Bonnieview Country Club in Pikesville, Md.

Nat is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Stockbridge School of Agriculture and was a member of the UMass golf team. He still plays golf to a single digit handicap. He and wife Maureen have two children, Nat Jr. and Colleen, and reside in Germantown, Md. Nat lists among his hobbies golf, of course, and small-scale model building. He recently hired Chris Fagan as Assistant Golf Course Superintendent and has been very pleased with this addition to his staff.

Lakewood, located in Montgomery County, Md., opened in 1961. A District Court decision to take control of the club away from the original promoters and give it to the membership was made that year. The club has been a member-owned concern since then. The course, an Ed Ault design, measures 6,375 yards from the white tees and 6,835 yards from the blue; par is 72. John Hafera is the PGA Golf Professional at Lakewood. The club has 525 members and receives 35,000 rounds annually.

Some of the more notable projects undertaken on the golf

course include construction of a stone wall around the pond at the ninth green, new irrigation on the tees, rebuilding the eighteenth tee, and the recently begun renovation of all the sand bunkers. This winter, work will commence on constructing a bulkhead around the pond on the twelfth hole. Nat has also started looking into the feasibility of a large-scale irrigation renovation. This fall he began a fairway program which includes applications of Prograss and Scott's TGR, along with the overseeding of ryegrass. Nat would like to thank Golf Professional John Hafera and General Manager Ralph Pecca for their efforts in making the annual meeting a pleasant and successful event.

Schedule: Golf: available after 12 noon. Call Pro Shop for reservations: 301-762-9074.

Lunch: Available, must be charged to your club.

Cocktails: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$25.

Directions: From Washington: From 495 take 270 north to rt. 28 west toward Darnestown. At the third traffic light, turn left onto Glen Mill Rd. Lakewood is one-half mile on the left.

From Baltimore: From 695 take 70 west to rt. 27 south. Where rt. 27 merges with rt. 355, veer left. Continue on rt. 355 for a half mile, turn right on route 118. Take 118 to 270 south to rt. 28 toward Darnestown; go 1.2 miles, turn left on Glen Mill Rd. Lakewood is one-half mile on the left.

Annual Election

This month the MAAGCS elects its directors for 1991. The nominating committee, comprised of Walter Montross, CGCS, Bob Miller, CGCS, and Ben Stagg CGCS, offers the following people for officers:

Nick Vance, President

Ken Ingram, Vice President

Steve Potter, Treasurer

Lou Rudinski, Secretary

Donn Dietrich, Rhys Arthur,

Scott Wagner, and Mitch Wil-

liams will return in 1991 as

directors. On Tuesday, December

11 those present and eligible will

vote for two additional directors

for three-year terms from the

following list of candidates:

Bernie Bevan, CGCS, Breton Bay

Golf and Country Club

Mike Evans, Prince Georges

Country Club

Dean Graves, Bethesda Country

Club

Tom Knoll, Chantilly National Golf

and Country Club

Jim Meier, CGCS, Belle Haven

Country Club

Mark Merrick, The Elkridge Club

Ed Porterfield, CGCS, Evergreen

Country Club

Tim Sage, Cove Creek Club

Lentz Wheeler, Hidden Creek

Country Club

In addition, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member in good standing. Each candidate for office will be permitted a nominating speech and seconding speech on his behalf.

RESERVATIONS
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President's Message

A Whole Lotta Stuff

Okay gang, time has just about run out on me. The clock is near midnight and my pickup truck is ready to turn into a pumpkin. So, strap on your seat belts cause I'm gonna take you on a wild ride through the world of random miscellaneous thoughts.



I'm working diligently on a grass-resistant strain of algae. It putts truer and faster than the traditional surface and handles summer stress very well. A lot of you out there using an inferior strain of algae that gets contaminated with a little turf. Production should begin next summer.

How many golfers out there can really tell the difference between a green that putts 8 or 9 on the stimpmeter? Every golfer should be required to submit his or her greens speed estimate each time they play, then be graded at the end of the year. If they don't get a passing grade, then they can't play next year. Just think, life with no golfers. Wouldn't life be grand?

Who invented the stimpmeter anyway? I haven't seen anybody recently jumping up and down yelling, "I did it, give me credit." Well I want names. That guy is gonna pay. "Hell, with our luck it was probably the guy who came up with sand-based greens.

Rumor: Toro is going to change the color of their equipment from red to mauve.

I understand that at the GCSAA Conference this year that Las

Vegas will be more family-oriented. They will have small crap tables set up in the corner for the kids.

I'm excited about that new Hydrosquirt aerifier that's coming out because I've got one of THOSE greens to try it on. You know what I'm talking about, one of THOSE heartburn-givin', ulcer medicine-buyin', complete sports page constipation readin', thought of suicide, dog kickin', wife beatin' and complete piss-me-off kinda greens. Now you remember? Cause you got one too.

Well I got this plan. You see, when that green starts to become one of THOSE greens next year, I'm gonna screw one of those wetting agent proportioners on that Hydrojet and then I'm gonna fill that bad boy to the brim with straight 150 proof Jack Daniels and just inject the hell out of it. Yes sir, once that baby is good and drunk I figure I can have my way with it, take advantage of it. It won't be able to resist my advances. And when I'm done, I promise, I'll still respect that green in the morning.

Ode to Bentgrass Fairways

There's a guy named Walter at Westwood

Who promised that Board he would do good,

*The fairways of poa, just had to goa
And by magic they turned into bentgrass.*

*The pressure is understood by all
To plant bentgrass wall to wall.*

Say bye bye to ryegrass with a kick in the ass

*Cause the heights are getting lower
with LF-type mowers.*

We'll be putting on fairways by fall.

Steve Potter recently spent a brief time in the hospital's intensive care unit due to severe and uncontrollable withdrawal symptoms. It had nothing to do

with drugs or alcohol. It was because he read that Japan was banning all pesticide use on golf courses in some areas and he was afraid it might spread to the U.S.

Isn't it amazing that the people who complain the most and write the most critical letters never do a damn thing to help, even when they are asked?

Things I'd like to know:

- Did John Drew wear socks to his wedding?
- Does John Drew even *own* socks?
- If there were a talk-a-thon competition, who would win, Lee Dieter or Ken Ingram?
- Does Egypt Farms sell crude oil as well as sand?
- What Rhodes Scholar thought up the name E-Z-Go?
- Did Ben Stagg originate that style movie?
- Can Jeff Blind see?
- Does George Renault drive one?
- Is Bob Lynch somehow related to Bill Neus?
- Does Chip McDonald sell hamburgers and dress like a clown?
- Will Bill Brown change his name to Orange?
- Will the guy writing this garbage ever run out of ink?

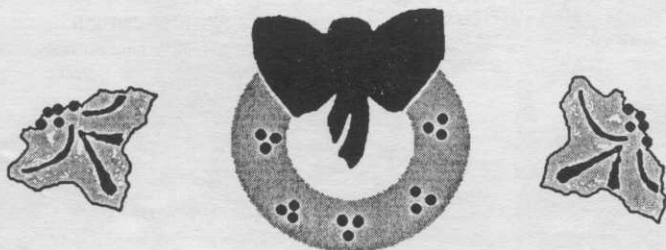
Well, pardners, I think it's time to ride off into the sunset and let another cowpoke lead the wagon train. It has been a wonderful experience serving the Mid-Atlantic over the years. I've gotten to work closely with people I may have otherwise hardly known. The dedication and hard work of the board members is truly amazing and should be experienced by everyone in the association.

It is my sincere hope that I have been able to give back something to all of you, be it ever so small. I know that I have received much more.

continued on page 6



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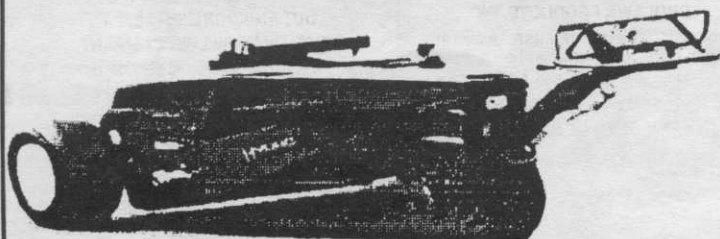
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Diazinon Appeal

Ciba-Geigy Corporation, the original developer, and the country's largest manufacturer of diazinon-based products, has appealed the EPA's recent decision upholding its ban of the pesticide on golf courses and sod farms because of its risk to birds. The Environmental Protection Agency ruled in July that "the only way to preclude diazinon from generally posing an unreasonable avian risk is to prohibit its use on golf courses and sod farms altogether."

Statistically, golf courses represented less than two percent of Ciba-Geigy's diazinon sales in the pre-ban days of early 1988. Homeowners were the major customers, buying 65 percent. Farmers and indoor pest controllers purchased 15 percent each. Professional turf care companies and golf courses purchased five percent total. Homeowners, farmers, institutions, and indoor pest controllers can still use diazinon.

A Ciba-Geigy spokesman said his company's latest legal effort could be successful because of rulings by both an administrative law judge and the appeals court that the EPA review its initial ban.

Certification Exam Updated

Effective December 1, the pesticide management section of the certification examination will include new questions pertaining to water quality, underground storage tanks, integrated pest management and worker right-to-know. This section will be revised and retitled "Pest Control, Safety, and Compliance" in order to test superintendents on a broader area of environmental concerns.

Any applicant to GCSAAs certification program who wishes to take the certification exam during the 1991 GCSAA Conference and Show must submit a written request to association headquarters by January 1, 1991. Only those who are approved applicants in the certification process and who have submitted a written statement of intent to test before the deadline will be allowed to take the test in Las Vegas. The certification exam will be given at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 10.

FIFRA vs Locals

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has stopped the city of Milford, Mich. from enforcing a

local rule that required notice prior to spraying, and the registration of persons applying pesticides for hire. The court concluded that the ordinance was an attempt by local government to regulate pesticides and their use. This case is one of several that have pitted local authorities against the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

No Smoking!

A new golf course in Tokyo, Japan, built on an island of trash, will strictly enforce a no smoking policy. The 18 million tons of raw garbage under the golf course will create an estimated 30,000 cubic meters of combustible gas a day. Officials fear that a misplaced cigarette could cause a totally new kind of golf "boom."

President, from page 2

Now it is time for a change and change is good. New faces, new ideas, and new directions. I hope that all of you get to experience the exhilaration of being an integral part of this Association. Thanks for a great ride. Hi Ho, Silver, Away!

Bill Neus, C.G.C.S., President

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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