

Turf Talk

May 1990, vol. 43, no. 3

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Bill Shirk hosts May 8 meeting at Prospect Bay Country Club

The Superintendent-Pro tournament will be hosted by Bill Shirk, CGCS, of Prospect Bay Country Club on May 8th. Bill got his start in golf course maintenance by working at the Sparrows Point Country Club under the direction of Alex Watson, CGCS, and assistant superintendents Bob Orazi, CGCS, and Dave Cammarota. After graduating from Penn State in 1972 in the turf grass management course, he went to Seaford Golf and Country Club in Seaford, Del. to assume the role of Golf Course Superintendent.

In the fall 1978, Bill became the golf course superintendent at Prospect Bay C. C. He completed the certification program from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in May of 1989. His wife Cheryl Ann is the nurse manager of the intensive and critical care unit at Easton Memorial Hospital. He has two children — Adrian, 8, and Ashley, 6. They reside in the community of Prospect Bay.

Prospect Bay Country Club is a private club owned and operated by the Prospect Bay Homeowners Association. The community consists of 925 acres, 322 single housing lots, an 18-hole golf course, four tennis courts, a pool, and a beach area and boat marina. The community boasts six miles of shoreline on the Chesapeake Bay. The project was built by Maryland Community Builders, Inc. and the golf course was opened for play in May of 1981.

Although a young golf course,

Prospect Bay has seen many changes and many more projects are in the planning stage. The irrigation system was replaced after two years of operation. A new Toro system replaced the original Binar system. The totally automated Toro system irrigates tees, greens and fairways.

The source of water for the system is the community owned water treatment plant. All the bunkers are being rebuilt with new sand being added and new drainage systems installed. An additional 17 bunkers have been designed with the goal of having them completed in the next two years. In the fall of 1990, two greens, #13 and #16, are scheduled to be entirely rebuilt. And if that isn't impressive enough for you, the next project on the drawing board is a \$2.5 million club house.

When Bill isn't acting as project manager, he does actually find some time to maintain the existing golf course. Actually, as you will see on the 8th, he does a very impressive job of maintaining the facility. The greens are Penncross bentgrass and were built to those ever-changing USGA specifications. They are mowed at 5/32", on a seven-day schedule. The greens receive four to five lbs of actual nitrogen per year with an application of Scotts TGR during the fall. The tees were originally seeded to A-34 Bluegrass, but have been converted to Penncross bentgrass. They are mowed three times per



week at 3/8" and receive an application of Scotts TGR in the spring and the fall. The fairways were also originally seeded with A-34 Bluegrass and to date this variety has worked well in the heavy clay soils endemic to Prospect Bay. They are mowed three times a week at 5/8", and receive three to four lbs of nitrogen per year. Phosphorus and potassium are applied according to soil tests done by Brookside lab.

Directions: From Washington and Baltimore: Take Route 50 east to the Bay Bridge. Once across the bridge go seven miles (1st red light), turn right and go to the stop sign. Turn left on Route 18, go 0.7 miles and turn right on Perry's Corner Road. Continue 2.4 miles and turn right on Prospect Bay Road. Go one mile and turn right at the lighthouse. The club house will be on the left.

President's Message

I've always looked at the Superintendent/Pro Tournament, not only as one of the highlights of the year, but as another opportunity to reaffirm the fact that we are an integral part of the management team at our clubs. Cultivating a positive relationship with the pro can be difficult at times, but is immensely important in the big picture of a smooth-running operation.



To help us with the cost of this first class event, several of our distributors have lent their generous support. Make a point to thank them. They always seem to be there when we need them.

I would like to announce that I plan on winning the tournament this year, so the rest of you can stay home.

Bill Neus, CGCS, President

New Members

Michael Richardson, Golf Course Superintendent at Geneva Farms Golf Club. Class D.

Robert Uhler, Sales Representative, W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp. Class F.

**RESERVATIONS
(301) 381-0030**

Bits and Pieces

○ The deadline for making reservations for the monthly meeting is the Friday before the meeting at 3:00 p.m. It is important for the host to have an accurate count at this time. You should not call the host directly. You should not call the clubhouse or restaurant directly. You should call 301-381-0030. This is a reflection of our professionalism. Do your part.

○ The lack of membership I.D. badges seen at monthly meetings was a topic of discussion at the April board meeting. If you have your badge, please wear it to the monthly meetings. If you have lost your badge, call Donn Dietrich at 838-0722 and for a nominal fee he will see that you get a new one. If you are a new member or somehow never received a badge, Donn will furnish you one free.

○ The May meeting will not include an educational speaker. That is not to say that it is not an education listening to Bill Neus speak. However, Stanley Zontek will not be present as previously announced. Also, Mary Ellen Setting will speak at the June meeting at Chestnut Ridge C.C. She is the Chief of the Pesticide Regulation Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Mary Ellen promises to captivate us with information that is near and dear to our hearts. Gary Crone is superintendent at Chestnut Ridge C.C. and will host the June meeting. Dr. James Beard will speak at the July meeting at Caroline C.C. The July meeting will be held on Wednesday July 11th and will begin at noon. Jim McHenry will host the July meeting.

○ *Developing Your Hazard Communication Program* is the title of the regional seminar to be presented on January 9, 1991 in Baltimore. Yes, we have a long, hot summer to make it through, but I just thought I'd let you know.

○ The Dinner-only reservations will be in very short supply for the May 8th meeting. Make your reservations ASAP. The supt-pro tournament is sold out. The day will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a buffet luncheon, followed by a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. The cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m.

○ The Great Game of Golf, an exhibit of golf memorabilia, is open for your viewing enjoyment at Lost and Found, 3734 Howard Avenue, Kensington, MD. The items on display range from old golf balls and books and other objects with a golf motif. Also included are a golfer's manicure set in a tiny golf bag; a painted cast iron parlor putter for indoor practice; and a miniature golf cart filled with golf-club-shaped toothpicks. The collection is the tangible representation of Lee Dieter's long love for the game of golf. In case you missed last month's issue, Lee Dieter is the Golf Course Superintendent at Washington Golf and Country Club. If you get a chance, go down to Kensington to see this marvelous display. Through June 30. Admission is free. Hours Monday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 946-8666 for more info.

○ Bernie Bevan, Golf Course

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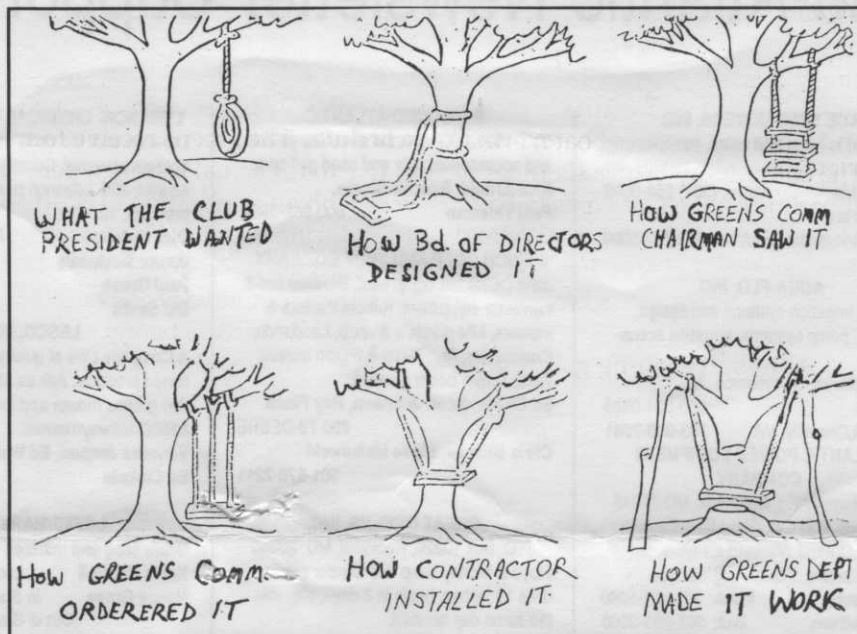
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Bits and Pieces

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Superintendent at the Bretton Bay Golf and Country Club, has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Bernie has been at the Leonardtown, MD course since 1985. Joel Ratcliff, CGCS, and George Renault, CGCS, inspected Bernie's golf course and found it to be in excellent shape.

○ Speaking of George Renault, he is the proud temporary owner of a brand new Ransomes Fairway 5000. His name was randomly (sic) selected in a drawing sponsored by Ransomes on February 25 at the International Golf Course Conference and Show. George will enjoy the Ransomes for one season, after which he will become national spokesman for the product. Just kidding, George.



RESERVATIONS
(301) 381-0030

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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