

# Turfgrass Matters



August 1992, vol. 45, no. 6

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Bill Neus to host MAAGCS picnic at Hobbit's Glen August 11

Hobbit's Glen Golf Course is a semi-private facility in Columbia, Md. It is part of the Columbia Association which also owns and operates 22 pools, three tennis clubs, two athletic clubs, one indoor ice rink, and the Columbia Bus System. CA (as the company is affectionately known) maintains 2,000-plus acres of park land and other community services too numerous to mention. It is the largest private, non-profit recreation corporation in the country.

The course, opened in 1968 and designed by Ed Ault, serves 55,000 18-hole rounds annually. So as you might imagine, traffic stress tends to be our biggest problem. There are four sets of tees measuring: blue—7126, white—6789, gold—6212, red—5463. The greens average 6,000-plus square feet and are mowed six times per week at 3/16". They receive 6 lbs. N, 2lbs. P, 6 lbs K per year. A TGR program started four years ago followed several years of Turf Cal applications and there is still too much poa.

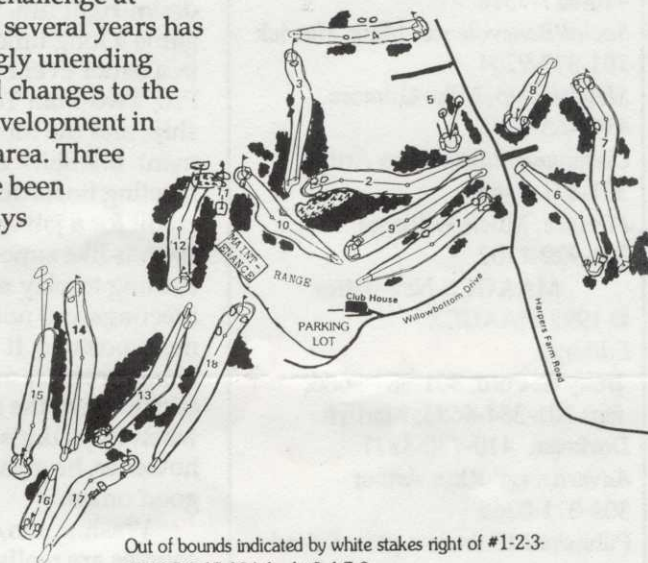
Fairways are mowed with a 223D and 450D, three times per week at 3/4". They are primarily ryegrass and receive 3 lbs N per year.

Most tees are ryegrass with some consisting of Zoysia. The Zoysia has generally done very well under the heavy traffic until this year. With the cold spring, it was very slow breaking dormancy and in a few areas is still very thin

and recovering.

The biggest challenge at Hobbit's the last several years has been the seemingly unending construction and changes to the course due to development in and around the area. Three new greens have been built, two fairways moved, tee enlargement never stops, traps are being renovated, paths are constantly being installed and the list goes on and on. One day I'll know what it is like to just maintain a golf course. Dealing with developers day in and day out has been a very discouraging experience. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy.

This is always a great evening of fellowship (or crying on each others' shoulders). So Hobbit's Glen is ready to throw the biggest bash yet, so come on out. **The Picnic:** will be from 4 until 8:30. Plenty of food and beer. Be sure to bring the entire family. There will be entertainment for the children. Guests (non-family members) are also welcome—their fee is \$5. There will be no speaker and reservations are not necessary. Bring a covered dish if you wish.



Out of bounds indicated by white stakes right of #1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-17-18 left of #3-4-7-8  
Red stakes indicate lateral hazards. Yellow stakes indicate water hazards

**Golf:** Golf will be available starting at 11:00 a.m. Call the starter at 410-997-9810 or the pro shop at 410-730-5980. Carts are \$11 per person for an 18-hole round.

### Directions:

**From Baltimore:** Take 70 west to Rte 29 to Columbia. Turn right (west) on Rte 108. Go approximately three miles to Harpers Farm Road and turn left. Then take second right on Willow-bottom Drive. Go several blocks to club on right. **From Washington:** Take 495 to Rte 29 north to Columbia. Go west on Rte 108 and continue as described above.

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**MAAGCS Newsletter**

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**Editors:**

Betty C. Ford, 301-384-9666;  
fax: 301-384-4683; Marilyn  
Dorfman, 410-730-5877  
*Advertising*: Rhys Arthur  
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We welcome one and all and  
invite your participation in  
activities of the MAAGCS.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Every MAAGCS member should be proud of our golf program. Never have we had such successful events on such great golf courses. Our golf events are as good or better than any country club events I've worked on, and no club event can top ours for down-right fun. You'll play the game a long time before you play in a better event than our Supt/Pro, Two-Man Team Championship, and the Memorial Tournament. Bill Shirk and all our meeting hosts deserve all the credit for a job well done. It sounds like superintendents are starting to play more golf between meetings and nothing could be more positive. It lowers your blood pressure and gives you an education at the same time. Just when Rhys finds the swing, however, he gets run over. Not a good omen.

Washington/Baltimore area courses are really improving and all the credit goes to members of our association. The old, defeatist attitude that good turf is just not possible in the Mid-Atlantic is rapidly disappearing. It's possible, but very expensive. Credit the superintendents who have worked with their club officials to develop and fund a program. Whether it's Ryegrass, Bentgrass, Zoysia, or MooMooGrass (Sarsen's Bermudagrass) guys are getting the job done. This a good business shot full of good guys.

—Ken Ingram

**GOLF NOTES**

The results (based on a point system) of the 1992 two-man team championship were as follows:

- #1 Gross—66  
Mike Ketchum & Ron Hawkins  
#2 Gross—58  
Scott Wagner  
#3 Gross—57  
Barry Graham  
#4 Gross—52  
Tim (No Help) Sage & Bill Shirk  
#1 Net—87  
Lee Dieter & David Fairbanks  
#2 Net—83  
Jim McGall & Mark Bujac  
#3 Net—82  
Lester Tanner & Jim Halley  
#4 Net—77

Kevin Matheis & Lynn Matson  
Closest to pin: Tim (No Putt) Sage  
Longest drive: Gordy Caldwell

Thanks to Swan Point for hosting this event. It was a great success because of the great condition of the golf course and its fine management team! We had a total of 92 players for this event. Thanks for the support to make this a very popular event each year. Thanks to John Stavely, head pro, and his fine staff for organizing the shotgun start and handling prizes. A special thanks to Mark Stodard and his staff for having the golf course in excellent condition. It was truly a pleasure.

Bill Shirk, CGCS  
Golf Chairman

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# Independence Day

by Mark Merrick, MAAGCS

I was thinking today about the freedom we have in our country. But just how much freedom really exists and can the answer be related to the golf course industry?

Some of you know about my existential philosophy of life and might say, "Why are you writing about freedom?" Well, I just wanted to stimulate your thinking and I also had a couple of hours to kill.

I hope you are as tired as I am of the armchair environmentalists out there controlling our freedom as golf course superintendents. Do you ever wonder if they really know what they are talking about? Do you ever wonder if our politicians are hitching their carts

to this wagon for political gain? Just think about the recent pesticides that were taken out of our educated and trained hands. Then walk down to your local hardware store and take a look on the shelves. There you will see that some of those very same pesticides, taken out of our professional hands, have been put right into the hands of armchair environmentalists who can apply and control them better. I call that freedom. Don't you?

Hey, just for fun, let me throw out some *facts* that might make armchair environmentalists sit up a little higher in their chairs. Did you know they may be doing the exact opposite of

their intended purpose? Let me give you a few good examples.

Some armchair environmentalists have targeted disposable juice boxes because they contribute to waste. But transporting empty glass bottles requires more trucks than transporting empty boxes, using more fuel and causing more air pollution. And aseptic packages don't need refrigeration, saving energy.

Disposable diapers are also denounced as wasteful. But over its "lifetime," a cloth diaper uses six times more water than a disposable does.

How about the "plastic-is-bad" attitude? Did you know that plastic requires less energy to

*continued on next page*

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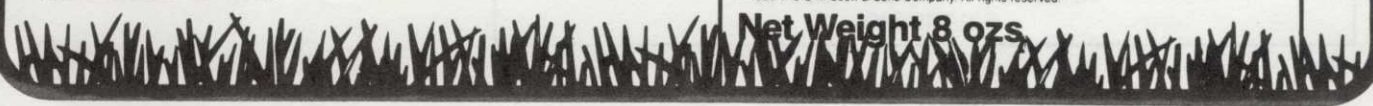
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### Independence, from page 3

produce than aluminum and glass? Plastics are also lighter and more efficient than many other kinds of packaging and they comprise only about eight percent of municipal solid waste by weight. A research organization in Germany examined the effects of eliminating all plastic packaging in that country. It found that energy consumption would almost double and the weight of solid wastes would increase 404 percent.

Would universal recycling

necessarily be better for the environment? The answer is no!

Recycling has environmental side effects. Curbside garbage-recycling programs often require more collection trucks which means more fuel consumption and more air pollution. Some recycling programs use large amounts of energy and produce high volumes of waste water.

Take paper recycling. Proponents argue that every ton of recycled newsprint saves 17 trees. But most of the trees used to make paper are planted explicitly for manufacturing paper. Less paper

from virgin pulp means fewer trees planted by commercial harvesters. According to a study by Resources For The Future, a nonpartisan research organization in Washington, DC, the net effect of universal paper recycling could actually be a decline in tree coverage, as lands are converted to other uses.

Consumers have been told: anything that decomposes naturally is good, and anything that doesn't is bad. But most modern landfills are capped, inhibiting biodegradation of anything.

Biodegradable products, if disposed of improperly, can leach dangerous chemicals into the water supply. Nonbiodegradable products, for the most part, do not have this problem.

Armchair environmentalists are always talking about how much trash the average American family throws away. Compared with the United States, the average Mexican household throws away three times more food debris—1.6 pounds per household per day—according to a University of Arizona study. No doubt Americans throw away a lot of stuff, but the amount of waste discarded into landfills has remained fairly constant for decades.

As William Rathje, a leading expert on garbage, has observed: "Americans are wasteful, but we have been conditioned to think of ourselves as more wasteful than we truly are," I don't know about you, but I don't want to be conditioned by anything but my air-conditioner.

Most armchair environmentalists reading this are probably saying, "Where did you get that info?" I direct you to *A Consumers Guide to Environmental Myths and Realities* by Lynn Scarlett.

I hope you had a happy and free Independence Day.

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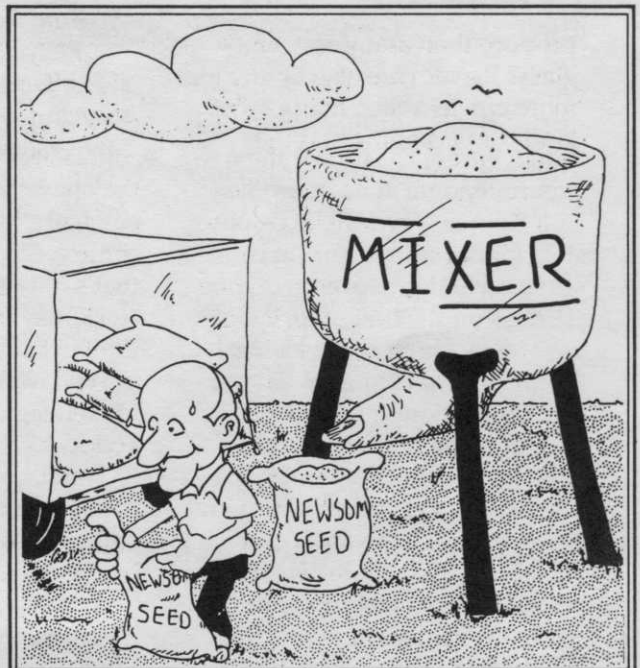
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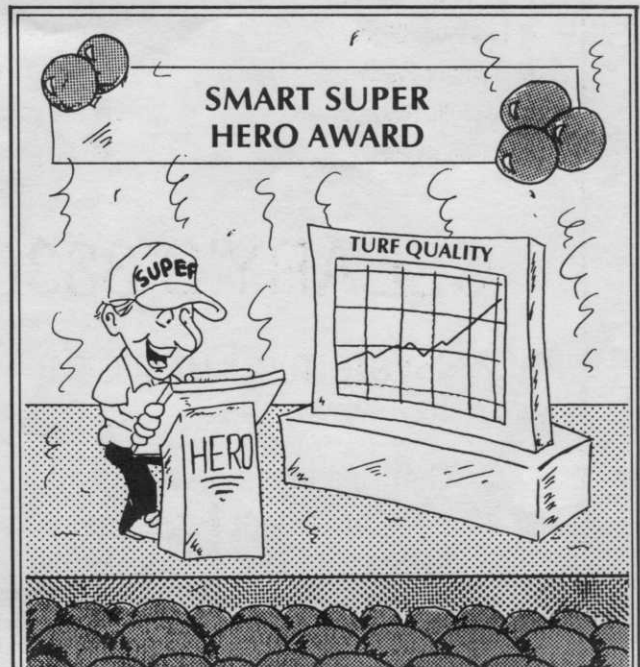
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## RHYS'S PIECES

○ Tim Haines, former assistant at Indian Spring CC is now the new superintendent at Trotters Glen Golf Course. Tim will be responsible for the course during construction and grow-in. Everyone wishes you the best of luck, but get off your high horse Haines!

○ July 6th was a special day for the Association as two of our members celebrated new additions to their families. First, at 4:22 p.m., Kara Lynn Smickley saw her new parents Glenn and Bambi. Shortly after, at 8 p.m., David Roy Standerfer was welcomed into the world by Paul and Leslie. On behalf of the entire Association, we wish both families our best.

○ Don't be left out in the cold...Cleary's has announced that they have just made their last batch of PMAS for winter disease control. Once this batch is gone, that's it. Users who have PMAS in stock may use that indefinitely until exhausted.

○ Wild Man, Ed Childs suffered a broken leg during a motorcross accident.

○ Tom Lipscomb pulled ligaments in his leg during a basketball game with the crew at Norbeck CC.

○ And Rhys was literally "in Pieces" after a recent car accident. Rhys wasn't very hurt, but you should have seen the Cadillac!

## Scholarships are Available

by Dean Graves

Our association is trying to better support the education of future Golf Course Superintendents. If *any member* has any candidate who is currently or contemplating furthering his or her education, we are interested.

Please have interested candidates send or call for the application form to:

Dean M Graves, MAAGCS  
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In January 1993 the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Maryland will present two Short Courses in Integrated Pest Management: **January 3-8, Advanced Landscape Plant IPM short Course.** For professionals in the landscape maintenance, horticulture and arboriculture industries.

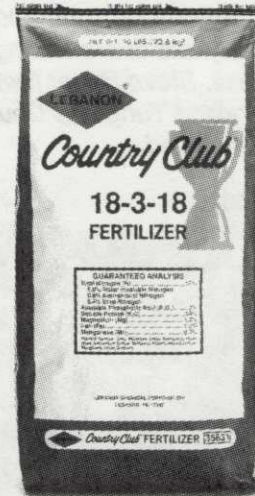
**January 11-14, Advanced Turfgrass IPM short Course.** For professionals in the landscape maintenance, lawn care, ag chemical, and sod production industries.

Preregistration is required for both courses. Contact David Laughlin, Dept. of Entomology, Symons Hall, UM, College Park, 20742; 301-405-7665.

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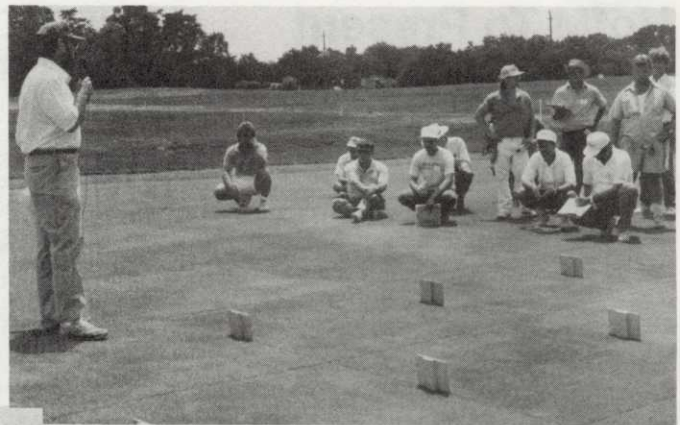
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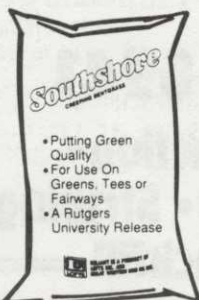
# Snapshots from the Maryland Turfgrass Council Field Day

Dr. Dernoeden (at right) and Dr. Turner (below) of the U. of Maryland share findings of their research on bentgrass. Steve Potter (below right), president of the Maryland Turfgrass Council, shakes hands with John Strickland.



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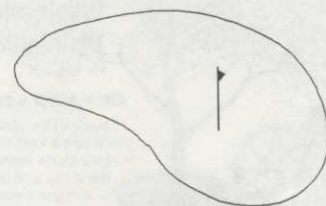
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