

Turfgrass Matters



July 1992, vol. 45, no. 5

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Swan Point Site of July Luncheon Meeting

by Mark Stoddard, Superintendent

In July the MAAGCS will convene for a lunch meeting at Swan Point Yacht and Country Club in Issue, Maryland.

Swan Point, owned by USX Corporation with headquarters in Pittsburgh, opened in June 1989, then closed in August of the same year for major reconstruction. Bob Cupp of Cupp Design, Inc., architect on call for Augusta National was hired to redesign the entire course. It was completed in January 1990.

The greens were redone to USGA specifications, several new tees were constructed, several bunkers were removed and new ones designed, ten holes were redone with Toro VT II irrigation, and a PSI pump station was installed. The greens are now pennecross creeping bentgrass and the tees, fairways and rough are midiron Bermuda grass. In August of 1991 we installed continuous concrete cart paths. John F. Stavely, our first PGA Professional was hired in May of 1991. In September we opened the entire 18 holes for play. Troy Burrows, an assistant PGA Professional, was brought on board in February 1992. Currently, we have a temporary golf shop which will be relocated in the new clubhouse in September. We expect the full service of Swan Point's new clubhouse to open this November.

Swan Point is open to public play. Within the next month or so,

it will be offering club memberships through our Director of Membership sales, Robert P. Turner, and sale of single family lots is slated for September. Currently we are landscaping the front entrance to the clubhouse and the development.

In addition, we just completed a wetlands mitigation project on holes #12 and #13. On 12 we brought the marsh in and used the excess material to construct two new tees on 12 and one on 13. Number 12 is a par 3, which now requires a carry over water. On the par 4 13th we created about 3/4-acre of wetlands down the left side and used the excess material to construct mounds and create a new landing area. This redesign has significantly improved the playability and character of this hole. Along with myself, Scott Ligon, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Tommy Curry, Foreman, and the rest of the crew, we're happy to show off all these improvements.

Mark Stoddard has been at Swan Point since August 1989. Previously he was assistant superintendent at Ford's Colony Country Club in Williamsburg, Va. Prior to that, he was a captain in the USMC. This native of Charleston, S.C. attended Clemson University where he received a bachelor's degree in turf management in 1981. He and his wife Cindi have two boys, Michael—3-1/2 and Gregory—20 months.

Lunch: The meeting and lunch

will be between 11:00 and 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be catered by B&J's Beef. We ask that you have a check made out to Swan Point Yacht & Country Club for \$13, or cash will be accepted. Dress is casual. Please make reservations at the Mid-Atlantic number: 301-490-6202.

Golf will be a two-man tournament with a shotgun start at 1:00. Golf reservations can be made by calling the Pro Shop at 301-259-2074. Cost for golf is \$20 per team. Please make your reservations ASAP.

Directions: from Annapolis: Take 50 W to 301 S. * You will drive through Pinefield, Waldorf, St. Charles, and LaPlata. Continue on 301 S for approximately 12 miles. You will see a sign: Swan Point - Cobb Island. Turn left onto 257 East and continue for approximately 9 miles. Turn right onto Swan Point road. Shortly after turning, you will drive through the development. You will see a sign for golf parking and the temporary golf shop on the right.

From Baltimore: Take Route 3/301 South and follow the directions from * above.

From DC/Northern Virginia: Take the Beltway to Exit 7, Branch Avenue - 5/301. Take the exit to Waldorf - 301. You will be on 5/301; 5 turns into 301. Continue on 301 and follow directions from * above.

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MAAGCS Newsletter

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Advertising: Rhys Arthur
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Published 10 times a year. Submis-
sions welcome. Send information
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NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Agee
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Tim Anderson
Lofts Seed Co.; Class F
Scott Ankrom
Tesco; Class F
Bill Appel
Growth Enhancer, Inc.; Class F
Samuel Barnes
Annapolis Golf Club; Class B
Brian Berry
See New Members on page 8

July Speaker

Dr. Kevin Mathias of the UM's
IAA give an update us on their
program.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to top the June meeting. A perfect golf course, an officer's dinner, and a nationally prominent speaker, but you are going to love July. It seems like all I've heard the past couple of years is Swan Point this or that.

"Where is the place?" I asked?

Turns out it's not the end of the world but you can see it from there. Come on down to southern Maryland, it's a beautiful state once you're away from the cities. We've planned a nice barbeque lunch, a message from our friend Kevin Mathius, the two-man team championship and a crowd of guys going out to pick crabs while the sun goes down. Do your family, your staff, and your members a favor by taking July 14 off. Choose a partner and be with us at Swan Point.

*Ken Ingram CGCS
President, MAAGCS*

**GOLF NOTES**

June 9 found MAAGCS members at the monthly meeting and golf tournament at the U.S. Naval Academy Golf course. special thanks to Tim Kennelly and his staff for a job *well done!!* The golf course was in perfect condition. All those good comments I have been hearing for several years certainly were evident for our tournament!

Winners for this month are as follows:

Superintendent Gross: 1st, Tim Sage (80); 2nd, Jim McHenry (80); 3rd, Scott Wagner (81).

Superintendent Net: 1st, Paul Masimore (67); 2nd, Mark Merrick (68); 3rd, Bob Miller (70).

Non-superintendent & Guest Gross: 1st, Ron Hawkins (80); 2nd, Larry Cornell (81).

A Reminder to players in the monthly tournaments: *Please* enter your score in your home handicap system as a tournament round. All players should have an official handicap card. As tournament director, I will adjust anyone's handicap who refuses to play their proper handicap.

Next month, July 14, our annual Two-Man Championship will take place at Swan Point. There will be both a net and gross division. I understand through the grapevine that there are several teams gunning for Tim Sage and me in the gross division as we try to defend our title! The entry fee will be \$20 per team. Please make reservations by calling the Swan Point Pro Shop: 301-259-2074. The shotgun start will be at 1:00. There will be some excellent prizes awarded as several sponsors have come forward!! Hope to see a large turnout for this event.

Good Luck!

*Bill Shirk, CGCS
Golf Chairman, MAAGCS*

1992 Picnic

Mark your calendars! The 1992 MAAGCS Picnic will be on Tuesday August 11 at Hobbitts Glen. Golf is available through the pro-shop, and the picnic starts at 4:00 p.m. and will go until 8:30, or until the beer is gone!

Don't forget to bring the entire family. As always, entertainment for the children will be provided, and the pool will be available at no charge. You may bring guests (non-family members) if you wish, the cost is \$5 per person. More information in the July's *Turfgrass Matters*.

RHYS'S PIECES

○ Congratulations to Steve Cohoon who moved back into the neighborhood and is the new superintendent of Cedar Crest Country Club. As many of you know, the Billy Casper Group purchased Cedar Crest, and brought on Steve to make things happen. For those of you who don't have it, Steve's new telephone number is 703-631-9103.

○ Congratulations also to Gregg Rosenthal, who after doing a fine job at Nutters Crossing, now finds himself as the new superintendent of Needwood Golf Course. Good Luck Gregg! Gregg's new phone number is 301-948-7494.

○ Look in the mail! The 1992 MAAGCS Membership Directory will soon be mailed. This year's edition has been greatly expanded and improved to serve the grow-

ing needs of our membership. Through the financial assistance of our advertisers, we were able to make these needed improvements. Please show your thanks by supporting those advertisers.



Scholarship Fund

The Board of Directors would like to remind everyone to take advantage of the "End User" Programs many suppliers offer to support education and research. These are good incentive programs that help the supplier, your club, as well as our industry. As you know, many of our university programs and students need financial support, so the Board created a special fund, the *Scholarship/Research Fund*, for our members to specify as the recipient of donated funds. Two programs you should know about:

Ciba Geigy's "End-User" program allows qualified buyers to donate \$25 per credit to a specific turf organization. The Board urges you to specify *The Mid-Atlantic Scholarship/Research Fund* for your donations. Once the funds are collected, the Board will distribute them to needed research and scholarships that will directly benefit the members of the MAAGCS.

Lea's Green Meadows established the John T. Lea Memorial Research Fund, in honor of Herb's father who founded Lea's. It offers \$0.50 for every bag of Champion GQ Ryegrass seed sold. These funds will go to the MAAGCS Fund for distribution to worthy programs in the MAAGCS region. These are wonderful programs that the Board hopes you will seriously consider for the benefit of us all. Contact Rhys Arthur or Dean Graves for information.



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Bad Year for Ground Bees

by Ken Ingram

Everyone has been talking about ground bees this spring. I used to see them at Columbia; Port America has them also, and Lee Dieter says they are the worst he's ever seen them at Washington Golf since he started there in 1892.

I've been a beekeeper for a few years and always had a few hives around the course, so if anyone even *saw* a bee, let alone got stung, it was my fault: "one of Kenny's bees." (When it starts getting bad everything is your fault.) Ground Bees are good guys, beneficial pollinators and not aggressive at all, but try telling that to Mrs. Flatbush.

Dr. Lee Helman of the University of Maryland helped me write this, so consult with him for further information.

These insects belong to the *Andrenidae* family, commonly called ground or burrowing bees. Yes, Mrs. Flatbush, they do possess a stinger and reportedly have a mild sting, but I don't believe it. They overwinter as larvae in the ground. Males emerge first in early spring. When females emerge later and fly through the swarms of males to mate they appear aggressive. That's just when Mrs. Flatbush shanks one right in the middle of their nesting area.

Ground Bees are usually a problem in the same location every year. They seem to prefer mounds or slopes with very thin topsoil. Their burrowing brings up lower pH subsoils, often a different color, and thin turf is always the result. Females can make 15-20 burrows which are lined with a pollen/nectar product on which

decreases in June and they seem to disappear by July, just like *Poa annua*.


Several insecticides control Ground Bees, all work better if watered in. Granular dylox works great, kind of saturation bombing technique down the holes. The new synthetic pyrethroids reportedly are very effective. Also, try to lime, fertilize, and seed these spots in the fall and irrigate them to maintain good turf. I know, it's easier to nuke them. In late May this year we rototilled one of these areas and planted a wildflower mix. Four men raking and grading with bees flying everywhere and no one got stung.

Well as soon as the Ground Bees are controlled the Cicada Killers come out on bunker banks. You know, those Giant Yellow Jackets. You figure if one of these guys stings you it's all over. Put a couple of these babies in Mrs. Flatbush's locker and she'll forget about the Ground Bees. Same scenario here, they are beneficial predators and reportedly sting but I'd bet they don't.

Members will always

complain about bees, and let's face it, there are people out there who are deathly allergic. When nectar sources begin to dry up in late summer bees head for the trash cans. Some of these "litter caddies" and other containers are terrible. Try to collect trash more often in these places. In heavy trash areas like snack bars, try switching to an enclosed can with a lid. It really helps to have the kids bring the cans in and wash them out every couple of days. Whoever is scheduled to stay and check greens on weekends can easily do this; also, it gives them an excuse when the greens burn up: "I was doing the trash boss."

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The Maryland Turfgrass Research Field Day/Equipment and Products Exhibit will be held on **Wednesday, July 15, 1992**. The field day is conducted at the University of Maryland Turfgrass Research and Education Facility on Cherry Hill and Gracefield Road, between Rt. 29 and Rt. 212, near Beltsville. Registration is free and begins at 8:00 A.M. The tour of the research plots will commence at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m. At 12:00 p.m., a beef/ham lunch sponsored by the Maryland Turfgrass Council, will be served at the farm (cost \$12.00/person). Exhibits and demonstration of turf products and equipment will occur during the day while research studies are reviewed. This education program meets Maryland and D.C. requirements for recertification of licensed pesticide applicators.

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The 1992 Kemper Open at Avenel

by Tom Haske, CGCS

We began planning for the 1992 Kemper Open shortly after the 1991 event, reviewing our projects and attempting to complete them by late winter. This allows the projects a chance to settle into the existing scheme by the golf course. Some of the projects completed for the 1992 Kemper Open are: new tournament tees on the sixth and eighth holes; many bunker renovations throughout the course; enlargement of the sixth green; and planting large trees in key locations. We have also added 35,000 square feet to the practice tee, expanding the teeing area to well over an acre.

With the arrival of spring, the fine tuning begins. Bunker edging and addition of sand to the bunkers is a major job. It needs to

be done early enough to allow the sand to settle and compact. Although we overseed in the fall, we will continue to overseed thin areas throughout the spring. Agronomic applications proceed as usual but we try to not overstimulate the grass during tournament time. As we progress toward the end of May, we will have topdressed and verticut the greens several times to ensure a smooth putting surface. We will also progressively lower the greens height to 1/8". We have zoysia fairways and several zoysia tees. This grass allows these areas to be in tournament condition throughout the growing season. As the zoysia comes out of dormancy, we begin to cut at 3/8" and maintain this height the entire growing

season. We try to have the golf course in its peak condition the week before the tournament. The rough will be at the last time pre-week and allowed to grow. This puts us in a position to address any last minute problems easily.

As tournament week nears, we will increase our crew of 22 to about 38 with temporaries and volunteers. We are fortunate to have turf industry people interested in participating in the tournament preparation. We have active superintendents, assistant superintendents, foremen, grounds crewmen, turf students, as well as turf industry sales people willing to work. The local turf equipment suppliers offer

See *Avenel* on page 8

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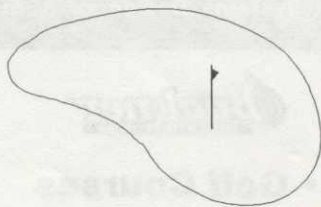
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During the tournament we work closely with the tournament officials to ensure a successful tournament. The work schedule is split into two phases: early morning work before play begins—cutting greens, bunker raking, cup changing, etc.; evening work following play—cutting fairways, tees, greens, etc. At all times this week we must be flexible and be prepared to change the routine because of weather. This all makes for long days but all of the grounds crew at Avenel feel it is worth it to be part of such an exciting event.

Following the tournament we continue to maintain the golf course in the best possible condition for membership throughout the rest of the year and begin to plan for the next Kemper Open.

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