

Turfgrass Matters



April 1993, vol. 45, no. 2

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Fred Heinlen to host April 13 outing

April 13 is your opportunity to escape to Ocean City. Although it may be a bit early for the beach, you can enjoy golf on a Gary Player signature course. With the construction of River Run and four other new courses, planners hope to establish this area as a northern golf destination, thereby extending the tourist season.

River Run's 18 holes make up the center of a planned community. The property, 276 acres purchased in 1987, comprised three separate farms. Construction was slow because of bad weather, indecision, and a strict set of environmental guidelines. To date, expenditures total more than \$16 million—none of it borrowed.

"Construction—or destruction, depending on how you view it—is ongoing," says Fred. "Just when the golf course finally started to mature, the powers that be decided to run sewer and water lines through the course. This project is overshadowing the crew's winter work of adding 13 sand bunkers, five tees, 3,000 feet of drainage, and extensive woods cleaning. It's great this winter is flying by, poor weather and all. This is the third construction project I've been involved with and should be the last. The hard work of construction followed by the heartache Mother Nature can cause is like marriage—something everyone should experience."

The greens are planted to Penncross bentgrass and have seen some Pennlinks introduced during overseeding. The tees and fairways are ryegrass while the roughs are rye with some fescues



trying to make an appearance. "Growing grass on the poor soils with which River Run is blessed is one of the greatest challenges I have ever faced. Soils here are heavy clay with a very low pH. One fairway, the seventeenth, has so far received 22 tons of various limes; the pH is now up to 4.1."

Gary Player was involved in the original design of the course and still has a voice in any changes. The Player Design Company must approve all changes or River Run would give up the privilege of being a Gary Player "Signature" course. He has been on the sight twice, offering publicity and input for future improvements. "Contrary to what I expected," says Fred, "I found him to be one of the most caring people I have ever met. His visits cost \$15,000 per day plus expenses, so I'm sure he won't be a regular."

Fred graduated from the Penn State two-year turf program in 1976; River Run is his fourth superintendent's position. "I have

been here for two and one-half years and plan to enjoy the Ocean City area for what it has to offer this year."

Fred cannot say enough about his staff. This is the third course where he and his assistant, Mike DelBiondo, have worked together. Notes Fred, "The crew is outstanding and professional in every sense of the word. They are caring and really pay attention to detail. They not only make me look good, but also make me a better superintendent. Bob Baldassari, the PGA pro who has been here for a year is the greatest—an example all pros should follow."

"I have been married to my

See River Run on page 6

Dinner: The day will have an Eastern Shore Theme. Dress is casual. The menu: oysters and steamed shrimp for hors d'oeuvre and broiled crab cakes, fried chicken, and baked ham as the entree. Cocktails (cash bar) at 4:30; dinner at 5:30 Cost: \$25.

Golf: any time after 10:00 a.m. The pro-shop number: 410-641-8177.

Directions: From DC take Rt. 50 to Rt. 90. Take Ocean Pines exit and turn left. Go past second light (3/4 mile). You will see billboard on right. River Run is second golf course on left on Beauchamp Rd.

Accommodations: River Run is less than two hours from the Bay Bridge, but for those who would like to stay over, arrangements have been made with the Comfort Inn on 112th Street. Cost is \$35 per night per room. For reservations call Stephanie: 410-524-3000.

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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: Steve Cohoon
703-631-9103; fax 703-631-1318
Published 10 times a year. Submis-
sions welcome. Send information
to MAAGCS, 12704 Rigdale
Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

APRIL SPEAKER

Dr. Thomas Turner, of the University of Maryland will present the latest research regarding fertilizer technologies. Dr. Turner has done some extensive work with the "natural" organics and synthetic fertilizers. He will update us on those fertilizers and their respective applications. Knowing our group, there will not be a shortage of fertilizer spreading at the meeting, organic or otherwise.

Dean Graves, *Education Chairman*

GOLF NOTES

Due to the bad weather the march golf tournament was left out in the cold! Nonetheless, rumor has it that our president, who had his golf game in top condition, is pleading a case for some tournament points for the annual golfer-of-the-year award.

The April meeting at River Run Country Club will have a points tournament, both net and gross. Both members and guests are welcome to play. No tee times are required. Players wishing to play in the tournament may tee off between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon. The cost will be \$5 per person. This does not include cart fee. Please sign up in the pro shop and pick up a rule sheet.

Thanks to the many sponsors we have this year for our monthly golf tournaments we will have four closest-to-pin contests and one longest drive contest—all valued at \$50—for each monthly tournament. There are still four openings for closest-to-pin contest sponsorship, three for the superintendent-pro tournament and several hole sponsorships for the superintendent-pro. Anyone wishing to help with these may contact me or Bernie Beavan, CGCS.

April's tournament sponsorships are: Long Drive Contest—Hoechst-Roussel (Acclaim); Closest-To-Pin—Pro-Lawn; Closest-To-Pin—Harford; Closest-To-Pin—Loft's; Closest-To-Pin—Hoechst-Roussel (Acclaim).

Bill Shirk, *Golf Chairman*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was great seeing so many of you at Fountainhead for our March meeting. We had an attendance



of 95 and, most importantly, it matched the count given to Fountainhead on the Friday before the meeting. Thank you for being so considerate of your host and fellow superintendents. It was unfortunate that golf was unavailable but with the recent storm, Ken will still have snow in April. Ken Keller, his president, Bill Precilious, and his greens chairman, Bill Nooks have extended an invitation to you to come up for a round of golf at another time.

You will be receiving at least one survey this year requesting different kinds of information. Please take the time, decide what you want out of your association and what you are willing to put back in, and answer the survey as completely and honestly as possible. Your support is needed and your feedback is the information that the BOD uses to run the association and plan for the future.

The next meeting is being hosted by Fred Heinlen at River Run in Ocean City. Fred has made arrangements for hotel rooms, so take some extra time and enjoy yourself.

Steve Potter, CGCS
President, MAAGCS

COHOON'S CORNER

○ Look for articles from MAAGCS member superintendents to appear in the "Chesapeake Golfer," a magazine published nine times per year, and distributed to golfers in our region. Topics will be covered to educate the average golfer by answering the most frequently asked questions regarding golf course management.

○ Herb Lea of Lea's Green Meadows announced the formation of the John T. Lea Memorial Research Fund. The fund was established to promote research into technical aspects of turfgrass management, and was named in honor of the founder of Lea's Green Meadows. The fund was initiated by donating a percentage of 1992 seed sales at Lea's Green Meadows to the fund. A generous check was presented to the MAAGCS for disbursement to those research programs the association feels are most worthy. Many researchers, superintendents, and the industry as a whole will benefit from the fund. Our thanks to the Lea family and the entire staff at Lea's Green Meadows for their contribution.

○ Congratulations are in order for Brian Zickafoose who was recently promoted to superintendent at Westwind Country Club. Good luck, Brian.

○ Congratulations are also in order for the following parents and their new additions:

January 11 - Chris and Judith Ayers—Scott Hanson, 7 lbs., 15 oz.

February 2 - Tim and Sandy Kennelly—Torie Lynn, 8 lbs., 3 oz.

February 14 - Bob and Donna Miller, grandparents—Miranda Nichole, 6 lbs, 10 oz.

March 3 - Paul and Elisa

McMahon—Kirby Preston, 8 lbs., 15 oz.

○ Best wishes for a speedy recovery to the following members:

Torre Dietrich, recovering from an appendectomy

Doug Stanley, Medal of Honor Golf Course, Quantico, Va., who is home following leg surgery

Carroll Davis, recovering after a bout with pneumonia.

Legislative Alert

Dean Graves, MAAGCS Education Chairman wishes to call your attention to two Senate bills in Maryland. They propose changes that, if passed, would affect our profession.

The first is **SB 429**, Pesticide - Regulation. This is a preemption bill. It would provide for a three-member review panel consisting of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. The local jurisdictions which want their own laws would need approval from the panel.

It also allows any law in existence before 1 July 1993 to remain in effect. The MAARP position is that we would prefer that the Secretary of Agriculture be the sole member of the committee and also prefer that the Prince Georges' law be rescinded.

The second

bill is **SB 568**. This bill is entitled Clean Bay and Groundwater Protection - Additional Pesticide and Fertilizer Registration Fees. If it passed as written, it would set up funding for education training by the State for farmers and pesticide applicators. The funding would be set up with a two-percent tax on pesticides and a \$3.75 additional fee on fertilizers registered in Maryland. The differences from last year's bill and this year's are enough that the bill will be heard in the Senate Economic Environmental Affairs Committee instead of in Budget and Taxation. This is not good for us.

It is very important that you write and/or call the members of the Senate Committee and express your views.

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Review: Spray Technicians Seminar

by Tom Tuttle, Assistant Superintendent, Caves Valley Country

Recently GCSAA's Spray Technicians Seminar was held at Caves Valley Golf Club. For the most part, those in attendance felt the program offered the latest advances in sprayer calibration and application techniques. Much of the material covered has everyday implications and can be incorporated into your spray operation immediately. All in all, a most worthwhile day.

It's great to see our national association developing seminars geared to staff members, not just superintendents and their assistants. Certainly, as government regulators get more demanding, this type of training will become a necessity. By better meeting the

training and educational needs of our staff members, GCSAA is working to enhance the overall professionalism of our industry.

Alan Hayes, seminar instructor, plans to return with this program in early 1994 to the D.C. area. This offering is an excellent opportunity to expose your spray technician/foreman to the technical aspects of pesticide application and calibration methods. Savings realized from correct calibration and application will easily cover the cost of seminar participation. Keeping your spray operation correct with developing technologies always pays dividends to the environment.

Overall, the day was a suc-

cess. Everyone in attendance, from superintendents to lawn-care professionals, gained insight into new methods of spray applications and calibration. With the positive feedback from attendees at these seminars, we hope the GCSAA continues to establish educational programs that involve the non-superintendent and assistant staff members. The more education we provide our staff, the more valuable an asset they become. So remember, the next opportunity you have to educate your staff or individuals, don't hesitate. Expanding our staffs education can only enhance the professionalism we strive for in our industry.

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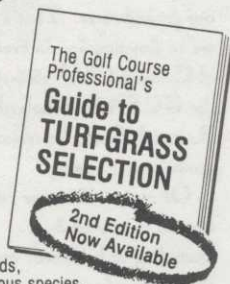
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Shifting Gears

by Mark Merrick, MAAGCS Social and Benevolence Chairman

"Do you have an appointment?" and "I don't have time right now," are two phrases sales people hear most often when visiting golf course superintendents. This is understandable. With the fast pace and high stress of being a golf course superintendent, there is rarely time to converse with anyone. Who would want to be interrupted by a mere salesperson?

Let's step back for a moment and gaze upon exactly what these salespeople are doing. They work for businesses associated with the golf industry. These firms support that industry in numerous ways. In the Mid-Atlantic area alone, thousands of dollars are donated each year by vendors to join, contribute and share in the responsibility of being part of the golf course industry. Donations are also made to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for scholarships, research, publications and technical support. Much time, effort and money also goes into protecting the environment. All of these things go into the spirit of that salesperson who is visiting the golf course superintendent.

He or she is in partnership with the superintendent, working toward the same goal: to provide quality to the golfing community.

Has anyone ever lent you a piece of equipment for that special tournament? Salespeople have helped many superintendents in this way. Many committees and owners have been shown demonstrations of equipment to help superintendents purchase much-needed equipment. This time and devotion by salespeople is usually unnoticed. Count how many times you have been helped in this way.

Seminars and educational

sessions, usually free of charge, help improve the quality of superintendency. Golf course personnel have been trained in maintenance and use of equipment. Pesticide seminars introduce new and improved chemicals for use on the golf course. Many seminars acquaint you with safe handling and usage procedures, or even qualify a superintendent for that all-important applicators certification. All

these things help reduce cost and time—thereby saving money.

So the next time a salesperson comes in to give you that old pitch, remember that sign in the parts department of a well-known company in Westminster: EN-GAGE BRAIN BEFORE PUTTING MOUTH IN GEAR.



Revised 1993 Golf Schedule

Due to several scheduling problems, the revised golf schedule will apply for the 1993 season.

April—Points Tournament, all members & guests

May—Supt.- Pro Tournament, Class A,B,&G members only

June—Two-man Team Championship, members only, no guests

July—Net-Gross Tournament, Class A members only, limited to 60

August—No formal play, Annual Picnic

Sept.—Supt.- Greens Chairman (club official) Tournament, limited to 72

Oct.—MAAGCS Championship, Class A members, limited to 60

Nov.—Four-man Team Championship, members & guests

Please mark your calendar for tournaments and read monthly newsletter for exact details for each event.

Note: May, June, September, November will be shotgun starts.



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Long-Range Plans

The key to success for any club, business, or association is a solid plan to guide it. The MAAGCS is no exception. Under the direction of President Steve Potter, a Long-Range Planning Committee has been formed to develop such a plan.

Our association must keep pace with changes, and reflect the professionalism of its members. One way to gauge the level of service you expect is with a survey. The LRPC has composed one and, if you have not already received your copy, it will be in the mail soon. Please complete it and return it in the SASE provided. The results will help us develop a plan for the future. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Michael Gilmore, Chairman

Trophy to be retired

After many years as the award for the MAAGCS Superintendent-Professional Tournament, the Claire Emory Trophy will be retired. The award was started by Lee Dieter, and friends to honor Claire Emory, head pro at Washington Golf and Country Club. The importance of the superintendent-professional relationship cannot be understated and to this end, the trophy has served our organization honorably and proudly! Special thanks to Lee for his efforts in starting the award.

This Tournament is an event hosted by the MAAGCS and should be recognized as such on the trophy. At the recommendation of the Golf Committee and with Board approval, the trophy has been named the President's Cup. This trophy will have the names and year(s) of service of all past presidents engraved on it. This recogni-

tion is to honor those individuals who committed many hours of hard work to make this association much stronger! I am sure the President's Cup will continue the fine tradition begun with the Claire Emory Trophy.

The Claire Emory Trophy will be officially retired in April and entrusted in the care of Lee Dieter.

River Run, from page 1

patient wife, Jo, for almost eighteen years. We have two daughters—Krista, 11, and Lauren, 6. Jo has just started a real estate career and if this proves successful, then I will *really* enjoy the area for what it has to offer. One of my greatest joys is my kids. They ride past the golf course every day on the school bus and can see what I do for a living which creates a sense of pride. We enjoy the beach, fishing, and sometimes relaxing," says Fred.



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NEW MEMBERS

The MAAGCS would like to welcome the following people who were accepted for membership at the February 25 board of directors meeting:

- Tim Norris, CGCS
- Army Navy CC, Class A
- Michael Kremposky
- Army Navy CC, Class D
- Keith McPherson
- Army Navy CC, Class D
- Robert Ritchey
- Woodholme CC, Class D
- Andrew Scully
- Cattail Creek CC, Class D
- Stephen Lutz
- Cattail Creek CC, Class D
- Keith Hershberger
- Old South CC, Class D
- Stephen Hricko
- Sparrows Point CC, Class B

Ricky Boldissar
Sparrows Point CC, Class B

Jon Drossos
Cattail Creek CC, Class C

James Hansen-Black
Old South CC, Class C

Stephanie Novak Hau
Hydro-Terra, Inc., Class F

Adam Ryan
Ryan Central, Inc., Class F

If you meet these people, please welcome them and introduce them to your fellow association members.

Note: Is your assistant a member of the MAAGCS? If not, please encourage them to join the MAAGCS (hopefully your club will support them). For more information, please contact me at 410-465-0595.

Michael J. Gilmore, MAAGCS
Membership Chairman

E. Lester Barker Remembered

Lester Barker, a real friend to Superintendents, suffered a fatal stroke on March 16. Mr. Barker was a longtime rules official and had covered several U.S. amateur and U.S. Open events. He served on the USGA Rules and Regional Affairs Committees, was a past president of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Association, and former chairman of both the Golf and Greens Committees at his home club, Columbia Country Club.

Any superintendent who hosted the Mid-Atlantic Amateur certainly got to know Les Barker. He was always there ahead of time to help mark the course and back at daybreak to help the superintendent in any way he could. Mr. Barker was one official who earned everyone's respect.

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What a Maintenance Facility Tour won't Teach You

This article is reprinted from "Tee to Green," newsletter of the Metropolitan GCSA, Mamaroneck, NY. Part one of this article appeared in March Turfgrass; this is the conclusion.

Few things are more important to a successful golf course maintenance operation than a well-designed and equipped maintenance facility. Yet few things are more difficult to win support for—much less execute—than replacing or modifying a sorely inadequate shop.

Two member superintendents—Mike Mongon of Arcola CC in Paramus, NJ, and Greg Wojick of Greenwich CC (Conn.)—have successfully completed building projects on their course. What they offer are not the obvious pointers you can pick up from touring their facilities, but rather lessons you're not likely to learn until you're in the thick of the process. Their intent: to save you time and unnecessary steps when trying to justify, design, and then build a maintenance facility on your course.

Greg Wojick, CGCS, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT

Lesson #1: Use environmental regulations to your advantage. An outdated shop or storage building is subject to the scrutiny of environmental regulatory agencies, who can require sometimes costly modifications to bring the building up to code.

Our facility at Greenwich was so outmoded that complying with existing and future environmental regulations would have required much more than a few low-cost quick fixes. The Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Compliance Assistance Program, which the club

agreed to subscribe to, helped us map out where our facility was lacking and offered a credible proof source for doubting Thomases.

Lesson #2: Do your homework—and lots of it. You can't be too prepared when it comes time to sell—and spec out—the maintenance facility of your dreams.

Make the rounds at newly constructed maintenance facilities—with a key decision maker or two from your club so they could see firsthand where your facility is lacking.

Contact allied associations, such as the GCSAA, NGF, and USGA. They have articles and case studies on file that are chock-full of new construction specs and hints and cautions.

When it came time to pitch our maintenance facility, I was expected to spell out everything from the basic configuration to how an ideal facility should be equipped and furnished.

Lesson #3: There are few things more disruptive to a maintenance operation than building a new facility. Be prepared, for instance, to periodically pull several staff members off the course to pinch-hit for a construction worker.

In addition, if you accept responsibility, as I did, for managing the project, don't underestimate the time it will take away from your golf course duties.

During our nearly year-long project, almost one-third of my time was spent overseeing the day-to-day operations. I was fortunate to have good support staff. If you can't say the same, it might be worth hiring extra help for the duration of the project.

The Greenwich Facility: Facts

and Figures

Project Duration: October 1991 to October 1992.

Facility Specs: Two wood-frame buildings constructed on existing site.

Building 1 is a two-story, 4,800-square-foot facility with heating and air conditioning. On the lower floor, there's a maintenance shop, equipment storage area, grinding room, fireproof oil/grease storage room, painting/steam cleaning room, men's and ladies' restrooms with shower, laundry area, staff lounge with kitchen and lockers, offices for the superintendent, mechanic, and assistants, and a storage room. On the upper floor, there is 1,200 square feet of additional storage.

Building 2 is a one-story, 4,800-square-foot cold storage structure for equipment, fertilizer, and seed with outside, as well as inside, loading platforms.

Other features: Paved service yard with covered storage bins for sand, top-soil, crushed stone, and other materials. Two gas pumps—one for diesel, the other for regular fuel. Washdown area with sump pit for collecting grass clippings and in-ground separator tank.

Cost: \$900,000

Other Buildings Part of the Construction Project: A \$1.1 million, 7,612-square-foot staff dormitory.

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