

Turfgrass Matters



March 1993, vol. 45, no. 1

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Ken Keller to host March 9 meeting at Fountain Head

To kick off (or should we say tee-off?) the 1993 season, Ken Keller will welcome MAAGCS members to Fountain Head CC in Hagerstown, Md.

This historic course was built in the mid 1920s. Designed by renowned architect Donald Ross, the course has seen few modifications. Typical of courses from that era, Fountain Head is very short—6100 yards from the white tees—and the greens are extremely small—they average only 4,000 square feet; par is 71. "But," says Ken, "it's an honest test of golf because it's difficult to hit regulation shots and have them stay on the putting surface. It requires accurate chipping and probably reflects Scottish courses. It's a great membership course for the average golfer," notes Ken, "the mid-handicap golfer can have a very nice round with a good score."

Fountain Head's greens, bent plus poa, are mowed daily at about 9/64". Ken has been on a TGR program for the last four years which, he says, has significantly increased the bentgrass. Tees, primarily ryegrass with some bentgrass, are mowed three times a week at 1/2". Fairways, which are ryegrass, are mowed three to four times per week at 1/2". "I have been on a TGR program on the fairways for at least two seasons and am very pleased with it. With the demands golfers are making today about tight lies, the TGR has really helped me achieve that goal."

Considering the age of the course, modifications have been amazingly few: some tees have been enlarged and some added; Ken has added approximately six

traps and has enlarged three greens. Two of these three greens had such severe slopes that there was very little cupping space. The third green has been done twice—once 30 years ago, before the time of USGA greens specs—and once under Ken's direction. "It's one of the

"It's an honest test of golf because it's difficult to hit regulation shots and have them stay on the putting surface."

most difficult greens I have to manage: poor soil and drainage, and it's shady. Most of Ross's original features are still intact, however," says Ken. "There are some good humps and mounds."

The course's irrigation system is now automated. "We did it in-house," says Ken, the greens and tees in the early 80s and the fairways in 1990 and 1991. "On the fairways, we just converted with our existing single-row system. The ground in this county is just limestone outcroppings, rockbreaks and things." Anything else would have been much more expensive, so they used pipes already in the ground. An interesting footnote: the main line for two-thirds of the irrigation was steel pipe installed in the mid-1920s. At that time, it carried water from a spring to the clubhouse. Laterals now run off that line, but the original one is still being used on two-thirds of the course as the trunk line for fairway and greens irrigation.

Ken's latest project has been construction of two treated lumber

walls at the tennis courts. Both are about five feet tall landscaped with ornamental grasses and perennial flowers. Plans for this coming year include modifying two men's tees and relocating and adding a new ladies' tee.

A native of Waynesboro, Pa., Ken graduated from the University of Delaware, got his MS in Ag Economics from the University of Maryland, then finished the two-year turfgrass program at Penn State. He has been at Fountain Head since 1980.

He has twin sons, one who lives in Wilmington and one in Dallas. A ten handicapper, Ken says he can still beat one son, but not the other. Ken's daughter is a sophomore at Towson State. His wife, Sue, retired from teaching to be a full-time mother, has recently taken a job as secretary of their church.

When not at work or play on the golf course, Ken can be found with a book in hand, preferably an adventure or historical novel. He urges one and all to visit this historic old course for a challenging round.

Directions: Fountain Head CC is about one hour and 20 minutes from Gaithersburg or from the Baltimore Beltway. Take I-70 from Frederick, then I-81N. Go about six miles, exit on Maugans Avenue. Go one mile to first stop light, turn right on Pennsylvania Ave. (Rte. 11); go about one mile. At the second light go left. (Note sign on your left for Fountain Head.) Proceed straight to the clubhouse.

Dinner is formal, coat and tie required. Cocktails are at 5:30, dinner at 6:30.

Cost: cash bar; dinner, \$25.

Reservations a must: 301-490-6202

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301-486-8280; fax

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MAAGCS Newsletter

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sions welcome. Send information

to MAAGCS, 12704 Rigdale

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GOLF NOTES

MAAGCS members who played in the GCSAA tournament in San Diego: Scott Wagner, John Newcome, Ken Ingram, Glenn Smickly, George Renault, Nick Vance, Paul Masimore, Tim Sage, Walter Montross, Bill Shirk. Four members finished in the top eight of their flight. In the first flight Glenn Smickly took 4th place gross and Bill Shirk 6th place net. In the second flight, Ken Ingram finished 8th net; in the third flight, Paul Masimore took 5th place net.

Golf Digest has released its 1992

Best New Golf Courses Survey: In the Private Courses category (out of 25 courses), Caves Valley Golf Course, Bruce Cadenelli, superintendent finished third; and taking 16th place was Old South CC, James Reinhardt, Superintendent. In the Resort Courses category (out of 16 courses), Lansdowne GC, Eric Linde CGCS, Superintendent captured 8th place. Listed 6th in the Public Courses category (out of 61 courses), Queenstown Harbor GL, Bill Shirk CGCS, Superintendent.

The first meeting of 1993—March 9—will find us at Fountain Head CC in Hagerstown, Md. The golf tournament format will be decided on that day, as weather and the number of players are too hard to predict. Anyone wishing to play in the tournament can sign up in the pro shop and tee off from noon until 1:00 p.m., *no tee time required*. A cash lunch will be available.

Any questions or suggestions for 1993 golfing events should be directed to Bill Shirk, MAAGCS Golf Chairman. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Some new events have been added to this year's golf tournaments. First, there will be a Superintendent-Greens Chairman Tournament in July at Washington G&CC. Second, at each month's tournament we will hold four Closest-to-the-Pin contests and one Longest Drive contest. Each of these will be worth \$50. This is all possible thanks to the following sponsors: **Ray Finch, Pro-Lawn, Summitt Hall, G.L. Cornell, Ace Tree, Lofts, Tesco, Egypt Farms, Harford.** Please join me in supporting these companies, they make our golf much more enjoyable.

Anyone wishing to sponsor a hole at the Superintendent-Pro Tournament in May, please contact me or our treasurer, Scott Wagner. About six holes are left.

Bill Shirk, CGCS
Golf Chairman, MAAGCS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to serve as your president for 1993. I have been on the Mid-Atlantic board for five years and I view this year as the return on a worthy investment. My goals for this year are to serve the existing needs of the membership and hopefully guide the association to meet future needs.

The GCSAA national at Anaheim was a great conference. I enjoyed seeing superintendents getting together and helping the GCSAA BOD form their association for the future. The best part of this experience was seeing our own representative, George Renault III of the Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, gain a seat on the GCSAA Board of Directors. Please take time to congratulate George when you see him. A special thanks goes to all those who supported George and helped get him elected. Our last national director was George Cleaver in the early 70s and we can only hope that George will aspire to the presidency as George Cleaver did in 1978.

I close this message with one request. This is your association. The BOD runs it as they think the membership would like to have it run. Please contact a board member if you have a concern. Agree to serve on a committee if asked. Write an article for the newsletter that you think would help your association. Your needs cannot be met if nobody knows what they are. Have a great season in 93.

Steve Potter, CGCS
President, MAAGCS

WHO'S NEWS

I, Steve Cohoon, have replaced Rhys Arthur as the person responsible for finding newsworthy items for the newsletter. Rhys did an outstanding job and replacing him will be a challenge, although I am sure that he will keep me in line. If you have any information you would like to have published, contact me at 703-631-9103. If I am unavailable leave a message on the answering machine or fax it to me at 703-631-1318.

○ Tom Haske of the TPC at Avenel is recovering from recent surgery on his neck. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to Tom. We hope his recovery is speedy.
○ There were three new additions to families of Mid-Atlantic members:

December 28—Jerry and Brenda Hasbargen became the proud parents of a 6 lb, 11 oz. baby girl, Shelby Paige.

January 8—Mike and Jodie Gilmore welcomed Jamieson Travers, their 7 lb, 5 oz. bouncing baby boy into the world.

January 28—Natalie Nicole decided to present her 8 lb, 10 oz. package of joy to Mike and Sandy Minard.

○ Mark March 2 on your calendar for the GCSAA Seminar for Spray Technicians at Caves Valley GC in Owings Mills, Md.
○ Congratulations to George E. Renault III on his election to the GCSAA Board of Directors. George joins President Randy Nichols, Vice President Joe Baidy, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Grigg, and Director David Ferris on the 1993 Board.

○ Finally, the MAAGCS held a hospitality suite at this year's GCSAA convention in Anaheim. It was such a great success there is talk of doing it next year, maybe sharing it with another association in close proximity to ours.

USGA Regional Seminar at Congressional March 25

A green seminar conducted by the USGA in cooperation with the MAAGCS will be held on Thursday March 25 at Congressional CC in Bethesda, Md. Luncheon and registration fee (prepaid): \$35. At the door: \$50. Topics and speakers will include: "Liability on the Golf Course," J. Michael Vernon, USGA Sectional Affairs Committee; "A Spring Refresher on the Rules of Golf," Clyde Luther, USGA Junior Championship Committee; "Where did the Green in Greenspeed Go?" David A. Oatis, Director, Northeastern Region USGA Green Section; "The Plant Pathologist's Playground—The Mid-Atlantic Region," Dr. Peter Dernoeden of the University of Maryland; "Slow Play—Who's at Fault, What Can We Do?" James A. Farrell, Manager, Northeast Region, USGA Regional Affairs; "Common Sense Turfgrass Management," Stanley J. Zontek, Director, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section. For information and/or an application form call James A. Farrell, Manager, Northeast Region USGA Regional Affairs, 177 Georgia Avenue, North Kingstown, RI 02852; 401-295-5430.

March Speaker to Address Financial Future

The March speaker will be Mr. John R. Hersey III of Ferris, Baker Watts. He will be speaking on our financial well-being and how to plan for the future. Specifically he will address financial investments for the nineties and how to plan for our retirement.

This topic is not the ordinary turf topic but will be just as valuable for our future. Mr. Hersey assures me that it will be information you may "take to the bank."

*Dean Graves
Education Chairman*

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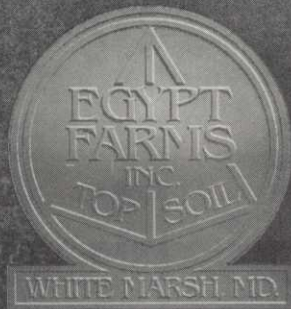
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1993 MAAGCS meetings

March 9	Fountainhead CC (golf: open play; speaker: John Hersey, <i>Your Financial Future</i>)	Ken Keller
April 13	River Run CC (golf: open play, Dr. Tom Turner, <i>Fertilizer Update</i>)	Fred Heinlen
May 11	Westwood Country Club (<i>Superintendent/Pro tournament, class, A, B, & G, shotgun start; no speaker</i>)	Walter Montross
June 8	International Country Club (golf: open play; speaker: Mrs. Patty Berg, <i>The History of Golf</i>)	Steve Nash
July 13	Washington Golf & CC (Supt.-Greens Chairman [club official] Tournament: speaker: Mr. Arthur Hills, <i>Golf Course Design</i>)	Lee Dieter
August 11	Bretton Woods CC (no formal play; Annual Picnic; no speaker)	Larry Ott
Sept. 14	Newark Country Club (Two-man Championship, members only, shotgun start; speaker: Roger Maxwell, <i>The Future of Golf</i>)	Jim Kelly
Oct. 12	Caves Valley Country Club (Annual MAAGCS Championship Tourney/Class A only [max 60 players])	Bruce Cadenelli
Nov. 9	Swan Creek Country Club (Four-man Team Championship, members & guests welcome; speaker: Jeff Blind, <i>Greens Drainage</i>)	Ron Weaver
Dec. 14	To Be Announced (Annual Meeting)	

Meet the Board: Who They Are and What They Do



Vice-President
Lou Rudinski

Home: 410-647-3064
Office: 410-222-7923
Fax: 410-222-3453
Fax: 410-263-5164

In the absence of the President, Lou shall perform all duties of the President. He shall serve on each committee and will secure meeting sites for the succeeding year. He will also provide a copy of the host checklist to each club and/or host for their reference and make all arrangements with host superintendents.

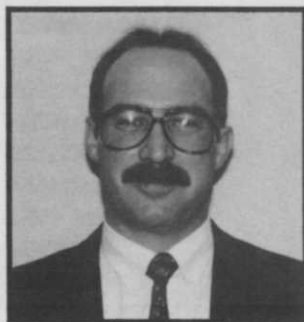


Secretary
Rhys Arthur

Home: 301-871-7719
Office: 3101-871-0365
Fax: 301-460-7805

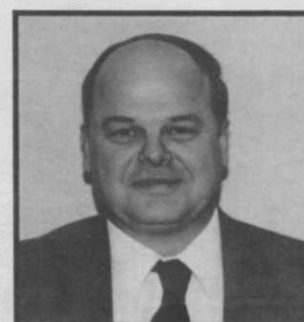
Rhys shall maintain the minutes of the Association and provide a copy to each board member prior to regularly scheduled meetings as well as the meeting agenda. He will be responsible for handling all correspondence of the Association and operate the Association's computer, providing the necessary reports, labels, statements, etc. generated by the computer.

Scott's responsibilities are to bill, collect, and deposit all Association funds and to pay all Association debts. He will provide a monthly financial statement to each Board member and develop a fiscal budget. He will comply with all IRS requirements and file tax and corporate forms as necessary. By virtue of the office, he will be bonded.



Treasurer
D. Scott Wagner
Home: 301-253-1110
Office: 301-598-1580
Fax: 301-598-1079

Bill's responsibilities will be to plan and supervise all golf activities and tournaments of the association. He will be responsible for acquiring and awarding all golf prizes and collecting fees and will organize team(s) at the national tournament.

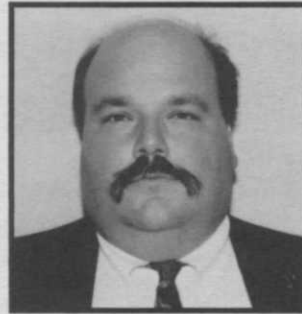


Golf Chairman
Bill Shirk
Home: 401-827-9157
Office: 410-827-7518
Fax: 410-827-5258



Education Chairman
Dean Graves
 Home: 301-762-6652
 Office: 301-365-0100
 Fax: 301-365-4112

Dean's responsibilities are to obtain speakers for upcoming meetings and provide newsletter information on them each month. He will work with the Maryland Turfgrass Council in planning the educational sessions of the MTC and arrange timely regional seminars with the GCSAA. He will also direct educational efforts outside the association with press releases and other educational aids and chair the Scholarship Committee.



Membership Chairman
Mike Gillmore
 Home: 410-821-1201
 Office: 410-465-0595
 Fax: 410-465-9282

Mike will verify and coordinate all applicants for membership and classification changes and recommend them to the Board for approval. He will also notify members and applicants as to their status and obtain and forward all certificates, membership cards, name tags, etc. It's his job to maintain an up-to-date roster. He will also be responsible for membership application forms.

Steve will bill, collect and coordinate all newsletter advertising and will act as the liaison with the newsletter editor and be responsible for publication of the newsletter on a monthly basis. He will ensure that the newsletter properly promotes the monthly meetings, association events and general membership news.



Communications Chair
Stephen Cohoon
 Home: 703-554-2049
 Office: 703-631-9103
 Fax: 703-631-1318

Bernie will be responsible for acquisition, inventory, and sale of all association merchandise. He will also be responsible for the meeting dinner reservation book, dinner ticket sales, and receipts and will conduct the 50/50 raffle. He will act as the Class F liaison to the Board and obtain commercial support for association activities as required.

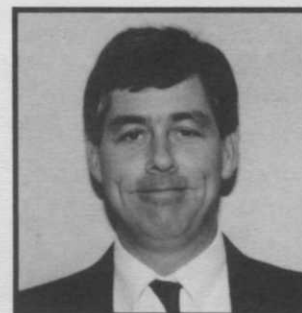


Finance Chairman
Bernie Beavan
 Home: 301-863-8477
 Office: 301-475-8070



Social and Benevolence Chairman
Mark Merrick
 Home: 410-828-8093
 Office: 410-277-9204

Mark will plan and promote all social events including the annual picnic and ladies night. He is responsible for sending cards and flowers for all appropriate occasions to members and their immediate families and will purchase baby bonds and present them at the monthly meetings when possible.



Past-President
Kenneth Ingram
 Home: 301-565-5038
 Office: 301-292-2623
 Fax: 301-292-2943

Ken is responsible for employment referral. He will verify all job openings and, if the employer meets our criteria of salaries, etc., he will advertise the position by mail. He will also preside as Chairman of the nominating committee.

What a Maintenance Facility Tour Won't Teach You

This article is reprinted from "Tee to Green," newsletter of the Metropolitan GCSA, Mamaroneck, NY.

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 here 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.

Mike Mongon, Arcola CC, Paramus, NJ
Lesson #1: Don't get pigeonholed into salvaging your old facility unless you have proof-positive it's the best way to go. Suggest that the club allow an architect or engineering firm to conduct a feasibility study. They'll be able to give expert opinions and options.

At Arcola, we hired a project manager and engineering firm to evaluate all buildings and devise a plan of attack for the project. They not only supported the idea of building an entirely new facility, but also eliminated the need to rely on a volunteer committee of club members to make day-to-day decisions on the direction of the

project.

Lesson #2: A sprinkler system—at least in New Jersey—can be your ticket to a new maintenance facility because, over the long haul it'll save your club thousands of dollars.

At Arcola, for example, our fire sprinklers cost us \$60,000 to install, but the club now saves an average of \$12,000 a year on insurance premiums. so in five years, the sprinkler system will pay for itself, and the club will continue to reap the financial benefits.

Lesson #3: Plan for the future. Before settling on the square footage of your building, don't forget to project future equipment purchases and storage for space needs. It's better to start off with a little extra space than to invest a lot of money in a facility you'll soon outgrow. Our

plans included heating additional work space and installing insulated block at our present cold storage facility to enable us to expand our heated work space as needed.

Lesson #4: Design in a buffer zone. Whether you call it a reception area, secretarial office, or computer room, it's time we get away from having visitors enter through our facility's equipment repair area or directly into our office.

Continued on page 8



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Facility, from page 7

At Arcola we have a reception area to the right, as you walk in the main entrance of the maintenance building. It's where we keep our files, and it's equipped with a computer, printer, and phone system—a perfect setup for secretarial support.

Lesson #5: Don't automatically assume your current building site is the best site for your new building. It may be in your best interest, for instance, to build in an area that's more accessible to the course or in one that's farther away from neighboring homes so that you'll comply with noise ordinances.

At Arcola we opted to build on a new site for a couple of reasons. First, our new location allows room for growth. and second, the club, guided by site evaluations, decided that the

facility's old location would be more reasonable site for the construction of a cart barn/employee dormitory.

**The Arcola Facility
Facts and Figures**

Project Duration: October 1990 to July 1991

Facility Specs: Three buildings; two constructed on new site, one on existing site.

Building 1 is 3,900 square feet and includes a sizable equipment repair area with hydraulic equipment lift, a grinding room, men's and ladies' lockers and showers, a lunch/meeting room, a utility room, a reception/secretarial area, and a superintendent's office.

Building 2 is 4,000 square feet of equipment cold storage.

Building 3 is 3,000 square feet and is divided into two sections. The larger area is devoted to storage of fertilizer, irrigation supplies, and less frequently used

equipment. The smaller area is used exclusively for pesticide storage.

Cost: \$400,000.

[This article will be concluded in the April issue of Turfgrass Matters.]



Dean Graves introducing Dr. Peter Dernoeden of the U of Maryland at MTC's Turfgrass '93.

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