

Turfgrass Matters



September 1993, vol. 45, no. 7

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

Jim Kelley to Welcome MAAGCS Members and Guests to Newark Country Club

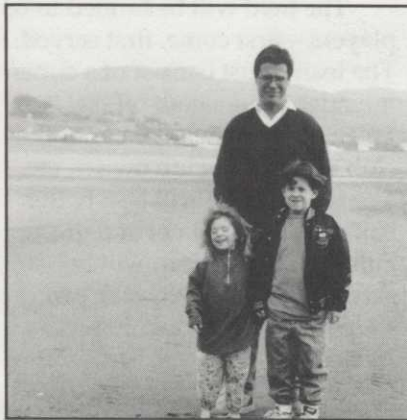
Luncheon Meeting and Member/Club Official Tourney Scheduled

Jim Kelley will host the first Superintendent-Greens Chairman tournament at Newark (De.) CC on September 14. The meeting will be a lunch at 11:00.

Newark is a private club with 600 members. Founded in 1921, the original nine holes were designed by Wilfred Reid; the additional nine, constructed in 1958, were designed by Russell Roberts. It is now the home of the University of Delaware's Fighting Blue Hens golf team.

This par 71 course measures 6,025 from the white and 6,289 from the blue markers. "It features gently rolling terrain and some of the smallest greens you will find anywhere," says Jim. The bent/poa greens are cut at 11/64" five or six times a week and receive 4 lbs. N, 2 lbs. P, and 8 lbs. K yearly. The tees—bent/rye/poa—are cut at 11/16" three times a week and receive 3 lbs. N, 2 lbs. P and 6 lbs. K. Fairways—ryegrass and some bentgrass—are cut at 11/16" three times a week and receive 2 lbs. N, 2 lbs. P and 4 lbs. K. The fairways are on a Prograss and TGR program; the greens are also being treated with TGR but at much lighter rates.

Recently completed projects at NCC include dredging and reconstruction of four ponds on the course, excavation of the par-three 17th hole, two new blue tees



on numbers four and six, and a ladies tee on number eight. Several drainage projects, bunker reconstructions and greens enlargement projects have also been completed. "This fall we plan to construct one more new pond on the 10th hole to help with drainage problems, begin a cart path installation project, and move number one and ten tees to allow for a parking lot addition. We also plan to construct some mounds with any leftover dirt," adds Jim.

In March 1990 Jim came to Newark from Green Hill Yacht & CC in Salisbury, Md., where he'd been superintendent. He had been assistant superintendent there until the retirement of Lou White in 1985. Jim's previous golf course experience was under Ken Ingram and George Thompson at Columbia CC. "This was where I worked during my college education at the U of M's IAA under Dr. Mathias. Before that I worked for Ron Hall at Maryland GCC in Bel Air, Md. Says Jim, "I guess Ron got me started in this business and

I feel deeply indebted to Mr. Hall, George Thompson, Ken Ingram and Lou White for the influence they had on me."

Jim and Marcia have two children, Nick, eight and Laura, four. He keeps busy with a multitude of hobbies that include canoeing, birdwatching, playing musical instruments and soccer in winter and spring. In addition, he coaches soccer for kids. He *claims* he plays golf poorly, but on his own course, with those tiny greens, look out!

Lunch and Golf: Lunch will start at 11:00; \$10 for those not playing golf; \$30 will cover lunch, tournament, and cart for those playing golf. Golf is a shotgun start at 1:30. You *must* call the pro shop with names and handicaps of players: 302-368-7008. Field is limited to 68 players. You *must also* call the MAAGCS number for lunch reservations: 301-490-6202 by Friday September 10.

Directions: *From D.C. or Baltimore:* Travel time: approx. 1 hour from Camden Yards. Take I-95N to exit 100, 272N. Go 5 miles to red light; turn right on 273; go 11 miles to Delaware border. Course is on left about 1 mile inside the De. line. *From the shore:* Travel time: approx. 1 hour from Dover. Take Rte. 13N or 301N to 896N. Follow 896 into Newark. Road will come to a T where you must turn left. Go one block; this road splits three ways, take the middle road which is 273 west. Go 1/2 mile, golf course is on the right.

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MAAGCS Newsletter

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GOLF NOTES

September's golf tournament will find us at Newark CC. Jim Kelley, CGCS, will have his course well-prepared for our first Superintendent-Greens Chairman or Club Official Tournament. The match will be at 1:30 with a shotgun start.

The field will be limited to 68 players—first come, first served. The team must consist of a superintendent and a club official—greens chairman, member of the club's board, or club owner, etc. The tournament will be a better ball of team, both net and gross. Full USGA handicap will be given. Please call Newark pro shop for reservations: 302-368-7008.

Golfer-of-the-year scores. The following are points accumulated through July's tournament: (1) Scott Wagner—90; (2) Mike Gilmore—80; (3) Lentz Wheeler and Ron Hawkins—70; (5) Bill Shirk, Sean Remington, George Renault, and Kirk Intermill—60; (9) Mike Evans, Jim Halley, Greg Rosenthal, and Lester Tanner—50. Twelve others at 40 points or less.

See *Golf Notes*, page 5, col. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Everyone had a great time at the MAAGCS picnic at Bretton Woods. Larry Ott, our host, provided for our every



need, and our families as well. It was a typically hot, humid day with thunder-showers but everyone stayed dry and certainly had enough to eat and drink. Special thanks to Mark Merrick, director of Social and Benevolence, for all his efforts in making this picnic a success. There was plenty of time to talk to fellow superintendents and meet their families and I hope you all took advantage of the opportunity to do so.

Ladies Night is coming up soon—October 9—and Mark Merrick has planned a unique evening. We sailed the seas last year and are seeing the mountains by rail this year. I'm wondering where Mark is flying us next year for \$70. All kidding aside, the ladies nights are a huge success so please take the opportunity to show your best friend how special she is and join us on the train to Thurmont. If she put up with you *this* summer, you know she deserves a treat.

The next meeting will be at Newark Country Club in Newark, De. Our host is Jim Kelley, long-time supporter and active member of our association. He is just over the Maryland line and it is a pleasure to be invited there for a meeting. Please make the special attempt to attend and meet fellow superintendents from the Eastern shore and Delaware area. It is a luncheon meeting so pay close attention to details in this issue.

Steve Potter
President, MAAGCS



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Hazy, Hot, & Humid

by David Tennant, Superintendent, Mountainview GC at Lakeview Resort, Morgantown, WV. Reprinted from Greenletter, WVGCSA

Hazy, hot & humid with a chance of afternoon thunderstorms. Sound familiar? It should, it has been the weather forecast for much of the Ohio Valley over the past three weeks. With it comes a cornucopia of turf damaging problems. Water too much—you boil; water too little—you bake. It's a no-win situation for superintendents. Thrown into the puzzle is the Black Turfgrass *Ataenius*, which can eat you alive and send you straight to the help-wanted ads. And why the help-wanted ads? Because of an under-educated membership. And whose fault is that? Ours, meaning yours and mine, keepers of turf everywhere. How do I know this? See if some of these questions—or should I say "answers"—to turf-related problems haven't popped up around your club:

1. *You better get some water on those dry spots in the fairways or we'll be playing on dirt.* In fact the problem is really white grubs or nematodes.

2. *Why do you always have to water when I'm playing [anywhere from 1-6 p.m.]?* In fact, it's not just they who get wet, it happens every day—a practice we call syringing to cool off wilting turf in the hot afternoon.

3. *Why do you always have to spray on Tuesdays? It stinks! Sorry ladies, but out of all the days of the week, Tuesday is our slowest and that's when we can get the most done for the good of the entire membership.*

4. *I know it's 97 degrees, but couldn't you lower the height on the*

greens, say something below 1/8", for our tournament? Well sir, it's not that it is 97 today that matters, it's that it has been 97, hazy, hot and humid for the past three weeks that counts and if you want grass on your greens, I suggest you make a full shoulder turn when you putt.

5. I have saved the best for last—an overheard conversation: *That superintendent over on that "other course" lives on the edge. One morning a "heavy fog" is going to roll in and hang around until noon and he'll lose it all, it will kill everything.* Hummm. That is an interesting one. I don't know how to answer it except with a question. Has a new study been done, one I'm not aware of, which shows the damage that could be done by a fog hanging around until noon—could it have the capability to kill everything?

We have all heard these things and better ones I'm sure. Question is, how to educate our membership, especially those who really matter, like club managers, presidents and board members? Answer is: good question!

I suppose we could start by making sure these people read some of the same publications we read to keep abreast of the latest technology. But you

have to be careful here, what they read may work well at one club and not at yours and you may have to do some fast explaining as to why.

Another way might be to hold an "ask-the-superintendent night" at your club. A lot of misconceptions could be cleared up during this informal setting and a couple hours of your time. How about posting a sign at a certain project site to explain the reason for the slight disruption of play and how this project will soon make the course better and more playable. Maybe you could hold monthly meetings with your starter-ranger personnel to explain what's going on out on the course. After all, aren't they asked the most ques-

See *Hazy*, page 8



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The Game of Golf is Played on Grass

by Stanley Zontek, Director, Mid-Atlantic Region USGA Green Section. Article taken from Hole Notes, Minnesota GCSA

When the golf course is in good shape, everything at the club seems to go well. How obvious!...or is it?

Why is it, then, that today's golf course superintendent must compete—perhaps struggle is a better word—for the machinery, manpower, materials, and the budget to do his or her job?

Sometimes clubs and courses appreciate the obvious. If the golf course is in good shape, the rest of the facility hums. People bring guests who pay guest or green fees. This factor impacts favorably

on the food and beverage portion of the club, and it helps the facility's cash flow. Members and guests buy logo shirts and sweats, benefiting the golf professional. Everyone is happy and the club or facility is healthy.

Consider what happens, though, when several greens or fairways are lost, tees are divoted and devoid of turf, the roughs and stream banks are not well cut, and trash, tree limbs, and litter are scattered about the course. Who is happy then? Would you bring guests or sponsor business outings at your club or course? Probably not, or only with a multitude of apologies and excuses.

With less play, food and beverage sales suffer, golf carts go unrented, and golf shirts remain on the shelves and everyone begins to rumble. Attention is then

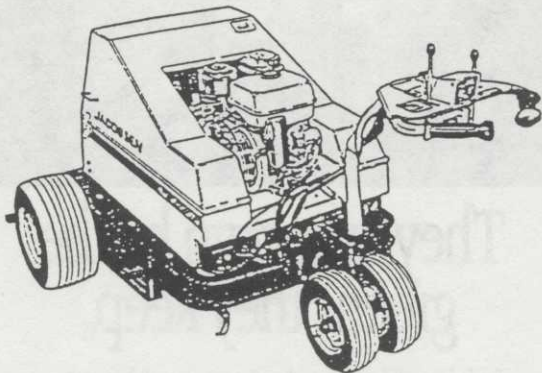
focused on—you guessed it—the golf course superintendent.

Do you think a golf course superintendent wants to present a shabby golf course? Is that individual, as a professional, pleased with what he or she sees out there? No, not in the least. So why does it happen? I submit it often a question of budget priorities. The golf course is not getting its fair share of the golf course income.

Specifically, what percentage of course income is being used to maintain the golf course? Do you think it is 20%, 33%, or 50%? Figure it out. If the club has an income of, say, \$2 million per year and the golf course maintenance budget is \$400,000 per year, then the maintenance budget is 20% of the entire club or golf course income. Twenty percent does not sound like very much, and often it

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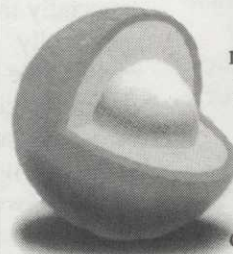
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isn't enough. Where is the other 80% going? Shouldn't it be a goal to allow the golf course to be maintained at a level where all the departments are humming and everyone is happy?

Only you can know. It bothers me that golf course maintenance budgets often do not receive their fair share of the club income, and when the course is not perfect, the superintendent is criticized. I submit the real culprit is the budget policy—not providing what is needed to do the job well. Perhaps a better sales pitch is needed.

I hope these comments will help people realize the obvious—the game of golf is played on grass, and providing properly for its maintenance should be a course's number-one priority.

Cryptogram Solved!

A number of readers worked the cryptogram that appeared in our August issue. **Walter Montross** said it kept his mind off this summer for a few minutes. **Dottie Stancill**, of Harford Industrial Minerals entertained herself during a lunch hour, and **Rhys Arthur** found time over a weekend to solve it. **Dr. R. J. Seibel**, Director, IAAA, took time out from coursework to send in the answer. For the rest of you, here's the solution: "...golf's gift to the spirit is space, and the space in this case was organically designed..." —John Updike.

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Arthur Hills to Address September Luncheon

The education program speaker for September is Mr. Arthur Hills of Arthur Hills and Associates. Mr. Hills is the past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and is regarded as one of the best architects of the 90s. This is a great opportunity for you and a club official to listen to his presentation on modern-day golf courses and play a great golf course.

Golf Notes, from page 2

Sponsors. This month's tournament sponsors are: *Longest Drive*—Tesco; *Closest to the pin*—Summit Hall, Harford, Loft's, and Egypt Farms. Please support them and all other supporters of the 1993 golf competitions!

Bill Shirk, Golf Chairman



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Ladies' Night Slated for October 9

The MAAGCS is pleased to announce its program for this year's Ladies Night. On Saturday October 9 we will board "The Entertainment Line" for a three-and-one-half hour train ride through scenic Western Maryland. The train features a dinner buffet, open bar, and dancing to the music from your on-board DJ.

Dress for the event is casual and so affords a great opportunity for us to get together more informally than our regular meetings. More important, it is our chance to thank our spouses for putting up with us through another summer of turmoil, as well as the extra time we spend attending meetings. In addition, our spouses can swap war stories about being married to someone in the golf business.

Cost for the event is only \$70 per couple; reservations by September 1 are a must for this popular program. For more information, please check your mail for the brochure or contact Mark Merrick at 410-377-9204 (w), or 410-828-8093 (h). I'll see you on October 9. All Aboard!

Want to be famous????

Do you want to be famous? Do you want people to recognize your name? Want to be the first on your block to be published? Then send in your MAAGCS newsletter article today! As you can see, *Turfgrass Matters* often reprints articles from other publications. We need to change this! We have many talented members who have great ideas, thoughts, and experiences that would benefit everyone. Put them in writing and send it to: Steve Cohoon, CGCS, Route 1, Box 146, Round Hill, VA 22141. Or fax it: 703-554-2919.

COHOON'S CORNER

○ The MAAGCS welcomes Mr. Paul Latshaw, formerly of Wilmington CC, as the new superintendent at Congressional CC. Mr. Latshaw replaces long-time member Bill Black, CGCS. We wish both well in their coming endeavors.

○ Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Virginia Tech Field Days in Blacksburg. The event runs from September 21 to 23 and includes the annual golf tournament, industry symposiums, research plot tours, pesticide recertification and training, and a GCSAA seminar, *Maximizing Job Satisfaction*. This information is valuable whether you live in Virginia or Maryland, so register today.

○ Yours truly has changed

positions and left Cedar Crest Country Club to become the superintendent at Southview Golf Course. Southview is a course, currently under construction in Accokeek, Md. with the tentative opening date set for next July. Until the Maintenance facility is completed, I have set up an office at my home where I will be conducting MAAGCS business. If

you have any information for the newsletter you can call me at 703-554-2915 or fax it to 703-554-2919. Your patience is appreciated during this time of transition.

Educational Support Available to MAAGCS'ers

The MAAGCS is trying to better support the education of future Golf Course Superintendents. If you have any candidates who are currently or plan to continue their higher education, we are interested. The only prerequisite is that they now work with a MAAGCS member.

Please have candidates call for applications: 301-365-0100. All applications must be postmarked no later than October 15.

Dean Graves, Education Chairman

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John Deere Tournament

Plans are set for the seventh Annual John Deere Regional Team Championship Tournaments. The first was held at Rolling Green Golf Club in Springfield, Pennsylvania on August 24. The second tournament will be at Turf Valley Country Club on October 11. *Each club may participate in only one event.*

The winning regional team qualifies for the National Championship in Palm Springs, California, November 19-22. The foursome should consist of one superintendent*, President, General Manager, and Golf Professional. The format is a modified scramble with limits on the team handicaps. Prizes, gift certificates, and free use of John Deere turf products are among the team prizes.

Deere and Company will be donating \$20 per team that participates in our regional qualifiers to the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Fund. Finch Turf Equipment will be donating \$10 per team to the superintendents association with the most participants for each tournament.

Each tournament is limited to the first 32 teams that respond. More information will be coming in the mail to each golf course superintendent in our territory.

*The superintendent must be a member of the National GCSAA in order to go to the national event. Non-membership does not prohibit entry in the regional tournament.

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Hazy, from page 3

tions, and how many of them really know the answers? These are just a few ideas; talk to your neighbors, I'm sure there more good ideas out there.

Getting back to the hazy, hot and humid thing, here are a few tips that may help you through this extended hot spell:

✓ Manage the greens edges where native soil and greens mix interface. For example, if you have a clay/sand interface, the clay will act as a sponge, sucking the water out of your green. Frequent hand watering of berms/collars in the morning can help manage the entire green with less water needed over the whole area. You would be surprised how a green can survive a hot afternoon by hand watering its edge and collar in the morning.

✓ What about controlling algae in hot humid weather? One good idea is to use a chemical control such as, mancozeb, Fore or Dithane, at 9.6 oz/1,000; or a combination of Fore (mancozeb) at 3/4 rate for algae and Daconil 2787 (chlorothalonil) at 3 oz/1,000, which is the low end of the preventive rate for brown patch, also a threat during extended wet and humid weather. If a light fertilizer application is scheduled during this period, try to time it about 7 to 10 days after the Daconil application. This will enhance the effectiveness of the Daconil for control of brown patch. If chemical controls are not desirable, aerifying the area is also a good method of control. Change the makeup on the surface and slightly below, and you'll change the conditions which encouraged

the algae or brown patch.

✓ For hard, dry localized spots a "water fork," which normally sells for \$350, can be fabricated in-house for about \$60. The idea of the "fork" is to enable saturation of the entire profile of which surface tension has not allowed water to penetrate. Trying to water these areas with your irrigation system will get other areas too wet and cause conditions to exist for the aforementioned problems. It is labor intensive but well worth the extra effort. (Water is actually injected through the fork tines into the soil subsurface.) These are just a few tips that work well for me. There are many more out there, don't be afraid to ask. With good monitoring practices and the "buddy system" we can provide better golf through better turf in West Virginia.

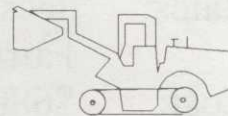
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