

Turfgrass Matters



August 1994, vol. 46, no. 6

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

MAAGCS Annual Picnic to be held at Hobbits Glen GC on Tuesday, August 9

by Bill Neus

Hobbit's Glen GC is a semi-private, 18-hole facility that accommodates 55,000 rounds of golf annually. It is a division of a corporation call The Columbia Association that owns and operates all the athletic facilities and open space in the town of Columbia. This includes 22 pools, an indoor ice rink, 2 athletic clubs, 4 tennis clubs, boat docks, 1 (soon to be 2) golf courses, and almost 3,000 acres of open space. Our clubs accommodated over 1.5 million visits last year. We currently employ approximately 1700 people.

Hobbit's Glen is an Ed Ault-designed course—measuring 6,700 yards from the white tees and 7,000 yards from the blues—was opened in the summer of 1968 and has been host to exhibitions by Jack Nicklaus, Sam Snead, and Tom Wieskopf. Many holes have been dramatically changed over the last several years with the design assistance of Lindsay Ervin.

Obviously, our biggest challenge is excessive traffic. I haven't yet found anything I can spray for that. But also this year we were hard-hit with winter damage. Approximately 10% of our fairways, six complete tees and the poa on most of the greens went on an extended vacation. Needless to say, this has already been an interesting (read horren-

dous) year for all of us.

I am a graduate of The Institute of Applied Agriculture and have been at Hobbit's Glen for 14 years. Before that I was the

Obviously, our biggest challenge is excessive traffic. I haven't yet found anything I can spray for that.

superintendent at Fauquier Springs CC for four years, and two years as assistant at the Naval Academy GC. My wife's name is Lynne and we have three children.

We are currently building a new golf course called Fairway Hills on the old Allview GC site. It is designed by Ron Pritchard and is being built by the legendary Chip McDonald. It's ironic that Chip was an equipment operator for the company that built Hobbit's Glen. We decided not to hold that against him and he promised to get it right this time. Everybody deserves a second chance. At this time, seven holes are essentially complete and the opening will be in 1996. If anyone would ever like to take a look at the construction, I'd be more than happy to take you around. It's truly fascinating to see the quality, care and precision that Chip puts into his work.

Oops!! Gotta go!
Shop's on fire!

Golf: (see Golf Notes on page 2) Tee times available after 11:00.

Reservations a *must*. Call 410-730-5980.

Picnic: 4:00 to 8:00. All members and their families are invited. Swimming and tennis available. As usual, the elegant menu will include crabs, beer, hot dogs, hamburgers, corn-on-the-cob, and sodas. Clowns and other entertainment for the children. No reservations necessary, but bring a dessert or salad if you wish. Come early, stay late!

Directions: from DC - Take Rt. 29N past Columbia to Rt. 108. Go west on 108 for approximately 3 miles. Then turn left on Harpers Farm Rd. Take second right on Willowbottom Dr. Clubhouse entrance will be several blocks on right. From Baltimore - Take Rt. 70 to Rt 29S to Rt. 108, then follow above directions.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to Pete Dernoeden and the University of Maryland for hosting the July meeting.



It is most unfortunate more superintendents and assistants did not attend. Answers to why your pesticide applications are not giving the control advertised were covered in great depth. Brown Patch, Phythium, Crabgrass, Goosegrass and other controls were discussed in visual detail unavailable at winter seminars. One-on-one questions were answered with care and understanding only Pete, Tom Turner and Lee Helman could give.

Some of you will blame the late newsletter, some the lack of golf, and to some it was too hot. Well, I've been in Maryland for more than 20 years; it's always hot in July and the the newsletter has always been a problem to some. Was it because there was no golf? A detailed schedule of monthly events was carried in previous

issues, the meeting was announced at Chantilly National, and lastly, the Maryland Turfgrass Council mailed notices to everyone in June. If you joined the MAAGCS for golf, get used to more than one meeting without a game—it's getting more and more difficult at area clubs. If it was too hot, you would have gained many answers to benefit the day-to-day problems that kept you away. Surely you can give one day back every other year to the people and University you call when the first sign of trouble arises at your course. The studies conducted at the turf plots and laboratory are recognized throughout the entire turf industry. If you missed, **it was your loss!**

This past winter seemed, for many of us, an unending ice age, and as summer approached some superintendents were still looking at the wrath of Mother Nature on turf grasses. As we know, summers can test our skills, this year is proving no exception. Those of us with ice damage face shallow root systems from spring-planted turf. Early high humidity and searing heat could stretch 90 days of hell into 120. I won't mention names, but facing my first summer in Maryland—1969—I was cautioned that "if Mother Nature had to give the turf world an enema, she'd plug it in right here in Maryland." This may be that year!

On the legislative front, doing business in Annapolis is extremely expensive and time consuming. Therefore, the MAAGCS has united with the entire Green Industry of Maryland. In an effort to hire professional guidance for the 1995 legislative sessions, Maryland Association of Green Industries (MAGI) has been formed. The MAAGCS will be a leader in this coalition, not only in funding but in direction of best



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See *President's Message*, p. 8.

GOLF NOTES

Since there was no golf event in July, here is an update on the Player-of-the-Year standings. With two tournaments accounting for points totals so far, the leaders are: Bill Shirk—90 points, Ron Hawkins—50, Jim McHenry—50, Jeff Miskin—50, Greg Rosenthal—50, Nick Vance—50.

There are five other players with 40 points each. With three tournaments remaining, Player-of-the-Year honors are still up for grabs.

August 9 will have everyone enjoying our annual picnic, this year being held at Hobbit's Glen. For this month's meeting we are going to have a mixed event. Husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends can play a better ball, full handicap tournament. Make your own foursome and have some fun. Tournament cost will be \$10/team. Tee times are available any-time after 11:00 a.m., but everyone must call the Pro Shop to reserve a tee time—410-730-5980.

September event: Two-man championship. This is also a lunch meeting.

Jim McHenry, Golf Chairman

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COHOON'S CORNER

Below is a news release from the GCSAA which recently crossed my desk.

GCSAA staff realigns to provide improved member services

July 6, 1994. The GCSAA has announced a series of changes in its management structure and staffing designed to reflect a renewed commitment to outstanding member service. The changes resulted from months of strategic planning and analysis involving the association's board, member-driven committees and the entire GCSAA headquarters staff.

GCSAA CEO Stephen F Mona, CAE, called the new structure "more efficient, more effective and more reflective of the needs of today's superintendent." He added that, "Our objective is to become one of the nation's finest service organizations by the year 2000. These changes create the structure needed to accomplish that goal."

Among the key changes announced were:

- Creation of three new departments in the areas of chapter relations, career development and



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"The new departments will help us fulfill critical member needs," Mona said. "Our members told us they wanted stronger ties between GCSAA and chapters, more employment assistance and a 'one-stop' source of technical information, so we directed people and resources into those areas."

Two of three leadership roles for the new departments have already been filled. Don Bretthauer, formerly manager of Pacific Rim operations, has been named manager of chapter/international relations. David Bishop, formerly director of education, has been appointed manager of technical information services. A manager of career development will be named in coming months.


Pat Jones, formerly director of development, has been appointed director of communications. He

See Cohoon's Corner, page 7



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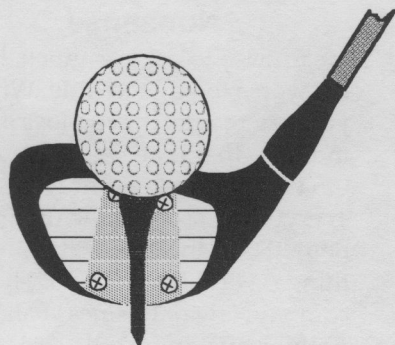
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Executive Summary of the Report of the Recreation Access Advisory Committee

The following is a partial summary of the recommendations of the Recreation Access Advisory Committee which I received at the chairman's award ceremony honoring the committee's members. This is not the final ADA law but only the recommendations of the committee that deals with the recreational aspect of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Some issues are still being investigated, one of which deals with use of assistive devices (wheelchairs, etc.) The GCSAA and the USGA are undertaking a joint study to determine guidelines for the use of assistive devices on the course and their ramifications. More will be published on that as it becomes available.

The full report of the committee will be available soon, and I will let everyone know how to get their copy. In July 1993, the Access Board established a Recreation Access Advisory Committee to obtain information and advise on issues related to making recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas accessible to individuals with disabilities. The Committee met in July 1993 in Washington, D.C.; in October 1993 in San Jose, CA.; and in January, March, and May 1994 in Washington, D.C. Members of the public were welcomed at all of these open sessions and were encouraged to comment formally during public forum segments of the meetings and to participate informally in the work of the six subcommittees which met more frequently during 1993 and 1994. Between 50,000 and 60,000 person-hours of work are estimated to have gone into the efforts to produce the report and recommendations.

Committee objectives. The

committee was charged with the following objectives:

- Identify the types of recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas covered by the ADA and the Architectural Barriers Act.
- Identify the unique design elements of various specific recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas.
- Identify design issues related to providing access in various recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas.
- Review voluntary guidelines for recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas.
- Provide recommended design guidelines for making recreational facilities and outdoor developed areas accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Summary of Recommendations. Examples of the types of recommendations provided by the subcommittees are offered as examples of the design areas that were addressed and the diversity of the subject areas. Recommendations by the Committee are not easily translated into summary statements due to the complexity and technical nature of the report in each area. A complete review of the report will provide the reader with further background and rationale for these and other recommendations. Comments from the public are encouraged on the report which will be available in late August 1994.

The report is divided in six sections as they were addressed in subcommittees: Sports Facilities, Places of Amusement, Play Settings, Golf, Recreational Boating and fishing Facilities,

Developed Outdoor Areas.

Golf. Examples of facilities: 18- and 9-hole golf courses, miniature golf courses, driving ranges, practice facilities. Some of the subcommittee's recommendations include:

- An accessible route should be provided from golf car paths to the teeing ground and other accessible elements. An accessible route should not be required for playing golf through the green.
- An accessible route should be provided on a miniature golf course. Each hole on the course should be accessible.
- One teeing ground on each hole of an 18/9-hole golf course should be accessible.
- Accessibility guidelines have not been recommended for greens.
- Practice bunkers should be accessible; accessibility guidelines are not recommended for hazards on the course.

Common Sense vs. Nonsense

It's unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay too little. When you pay too much, you lose a little money—that is all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought to do. The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot—it can't be done. If you deal with the lowest bidder, it is well to add something for the risk you run, and if you do that you will have enough to pay for something better.

John Ruskin (1819-1900)

Cphoon's Corner, from page 5

succeeds Clay Loyd, who has announced his retirement after 11 years with GCSAA. Chris Caldwell, formerly managing editor of GCSAA's *Golf Course Management (GCM)* magazine, has been named editor-in-chief. Terry Ostmeyer, formerly special projects editor for *GCM*, has been appointed managing editor. Sharmion Linseisen, formerly assistant editor, has been appointed associate editor.

Robert Shively, formerly director of marketing and sales, has been appointed director of marketing/conference show. Bonnie Stephenson, formerly conference coordinator, has been appointed manager of conference events. Pam Owens, formerly manager of exhibit sales, has been appointed manager of expositions

and tournament.

Patricia McCarthy, formerly director of administration, has been appointed director of central services. Marc Lim, formerly computer operations coordinator, has been appointed manager of management information services. Gwen Denton, formerly administrative assistant, has been appointed manager of human resources. Beverly Schuster, formerly production clerk, has been appointed supervisor of the mail and production center.

Dr. Jeff Nus, technical editor for *GCM*, has assumed the additional duties of manager of research.

Carol Hayes, formerly manager of communications, has been appointed manager of executive communications.

Jennifer McCaughey, formerly membership coordinator, has been

appointed manager of membership.

Betsy Evans, formerly regional seminar coordinator, has been appointed manager of regional seminars.

Nationwide searches are underway to fill five new management positions and vacancies created by the realignment.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 13,700 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

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President's Message, from p. 2

interests to our profession.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may or may not have a major impact on your golf course. Private country clubs surely will have different guidelines than municipal and public golf courses. We will know for sure in the near future. In this newsletter is a summary of the Recreation Access Advisory Board which became available July 13. George Renault, superintendent at Burning Tree, is the GCSAA chairman for ADA hearings.

The August meeting will be at Hobbits Glen. If you're not aware Bill lost his shop and entire equipment fleet to an early-morning fire, July 13. In spite of that, Bill promises a great day! I'm sure the crabs and beer will have something to do with that.

Change, like death and taxes, is inevitable—so enjoy it.

Today's business decisions often must be made in seconds, says management expert Tom Peters. So how can we meet this challenge without developing anxiety and burn-out? Try these suggestions:

- ✓ **Accept the fact** that "the one constant is change." If you fight it, you'll take a beating.
- ✓ **Prepare yourself and your employees** to deal with change and to be ready for it. Treat it as an exciting challenge and a marvelous opportunity to show how good you are.
- ✓ **Get together** with your employees and your supervisors. Brainstorm ways you can all use to deal with rapid change.
- ✓ **Avoid turf wars.** These battles will cut your speed drastically and doom you to catastrophic failure in today's world.

✓ **Allow the employees** closest to the problems to make key decisions when possible.

✓ **Appoint** someone to identify trends and issues that might have an impact on your organization—especially as they relate to government rules and regulations, new technology, and industry trends.

✓ **Develop** campaigns to encourage employees to suggest new ideas, procedures, techniques. Make it easy for them to present their suggestions—and respond to all suggestions as soon as possible.

✓ **Remember:** we must all remain students for the rest of our working lives. Make it clear that employees will need continual training to keep up-to-date.

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