

# Turfgrass Matters



June 1994, vol. 46, no. 4

Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## Tom Knoll to Host June 14 Meeting at Chantilly National Golf and CC

Tom Knoll and his crew are busy preparing the Chantilly course for our June 14 gross and net tournament.

Chantilly National G & CC is a private club located in Centreville, Va. It was built in 1959 on what was once the largest dairy farm operation in Fairfax County. Originally, the land was acquired by the Kena Temple of Alexandria. Operating as the Wimsatt Farms Syndicate, they originally planned a 36-hole complex on the 900 acres.

Ed Ault designed the golf course layouts. However, only the 18-hole course that exists today was built. In 1961 the syndicate sold the golf course and the 220 acres that it occupies today to the membership. The Club continues to exist as a membership-owned private club with approximately 500 members.

In 1992 P.B. Dye provided a re-design of the golf course. This vision included many additional sand and grass bunkers, additional tees, five sets of tee markers for each hole, tree planting, tree re-location, re-shaping certain contours and features, expanded irrigation coverage, and drainage improvements. Upon completion of this work, the golf course plays the range from 5,191 yards for the forward tees to 7,195 yards for the tournament tees.

Future projects are based on a five-year plan. Those slated for the

near future include lake management and further drainage improvements, among other things.

Obviously with all these renovations and all the usual maintenance, Tom is lucky to have



a fine staff. "The club has an outstanding staff. I feel quite fortunate to work with such a dedicated and conscientious group." Tom wishes to share full credit with Assistant Superintendent Rick Kent and full-time staff Jamie Altizer, Barbara Hartnett, Scott Parvin, Roger Saffer, Rich Sereno, and Albert Whitmer.

Says Tom, "Although my work requires a lot of time, I really enjoy spending my leisure time with my family—my wife Christine; Tommy, 8; Katie 6; and Emilie, 2. We are involved in a lot of activities including church, cub scouts, brownies, and various sports. Among our favorite hobbies are camping, fishing gardening, and hiking. I personally enjoy fishing, golfing, and hunting."

**Dinner:** \$30, formal. Cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 7:30.

**Golf:** Gross and net tournament, but you may play without entering tournament. Tee times from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. You must call the pro shop: 703-631-9562. Cost: \$10 for golf, \$10 for cart.

**Directions:** From I-495 take I-66 West. Continue to exit 53—Rte 28/Centreville. Follow signs for Route 28 North toward Dulles Airport. After the left turn onto Route 28, immediately move into the left lane for the next traffic light. Turn left at light onto Braddock Rd (Rt. 620). Go approximately 2 miles to club entrance on your left.

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**Editors:**

Betty C. Ford, 301-384-9666;  
fax: 301-384-4683; Marilyn  
Dorfman, 410-730-5877  
*Advertising*: Steve Cohoon  
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**COHOON'S CORNER**

○ Many apologies to the membership for the lateness of the newsletter last month. I shoulder all of the blame for not getting it out to the membership in a timely fashion. It is interesting though that all complaints went to everyone but me. Please, if you have any comments, good or bad, contact me directly so that you can get the full response right from the "horse's mouth" (no, I said horse's mouth!) I assure you that I will work harder not to have this happen again.

○ In other news—last month I reported that William Angerer has relocated to Fairidge CC. Two other members are now employed there also. Carol Offenbacher started there last year and Don Doxee, formerly of Crofton Golf Course, have joined the team.

Sounds like Fairidge CC has taken a cue from the NFL and jumped with both feet into the free agent market. Good luck to you all in turning around the program there.

○ Congratulations and howdy neighbor to Tom Lipscomb who just took a new position in my area at Port America Golf & CC in Ft. Washington, Md. Good luck, Tom. I'll see you soon.

**GOLF NOTES**

Congratulations to Fred Heinlen and Bob Baldassari of River Run CC for their victory in the Superintendent/Pro tournament. It took a playoff to decide this year's winner. Looks like the President's Cup will spend a year on the Eastern Shore.

Many thanks to Keith Hershberger and the entire staff at Old South CC for the excellent condition of the golf course and the fine hospitality extended to us. Congratulations, gentlemen, on a job well done!

Winners for the day were: *1st Net (President's Cup)*—Fred Heinlen & Bob Baldassari; *2nd*—Tim Sage & John Gosnell; *3rd*—Glenn Smickley & Jim Muething; *4th*—Bruce Steinmiller & Dave Hansinger; *5th*—Paul Krout & Bob Leeman; *6th*—Corey Haney & Joe Max; *7th*—Jeff Blind & Allen Wronowski; *8th*—Dean Graves & Jim Folks; *9th*—Chris Ayers & Bob Dolan; *10th*—Archie Hall & Butch Butler.

*1st Gross*—Mike Evans & Larry Ringer. *Closest to the pin #3*—Bill Shirk; *closest to the pin #8*—Dave Hansinger; *closest to the pin #14*—Joe Max; *closest to pin #16*—Corey Haney. *Long drive #5*—Glenn Brown; *long drive #11*—Archie Hall.

Congratulations to all the winners!

I would also like to thank our sponsors for the day. Without their help, a tournament like this would not be possible. G.L. Cornell—Beverage Cart; Finch Services—Luncheon; Egypt Farms—Closest to pin; Turf Diagnostic—Closest to the pin; E Z Go—Long drive; LESCO—Hole sponsor; Ken Cominsky—Hole sponsor; Finch Services—Hole sponsor; Ault, Clark & Assoc.—



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See Golf Notes, page 3



**Golf Notes, continued**

Cocktails; **TESCO**—Gross Division; **Carroll Tree Service**—Closest to pin; **Davisson Golf**—Closest to pin; **Scotts**—Hole sponsor; **Lofts Seed**—Hole sponsor; **Harford Minerals**—Hole sponsor; **TESCO**—Hole sponsor; **Turf Diagnostic**—Hole sponsor.

June's golf will be a gross-and-net tournament. Tee times are available from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. You must call the Pro Shop for a tee time—703-631-9562. Cost for carts will be \$10 and the tournament will cost \$10. You do not have to be in the tournament to play golf.

*James McHenry  
Golf Chairman*

**Miscellany & Nonsense**

A test conducted by the USGA proves that golf shoe spikes with recessed flanges cause far less damage to greens than normal spikes.

The average golf shoe has 12 spikes, and the USGA had computed that a player averages 28 paces per green; 28 paces times 24 spikes means 672 impressions; 672 impressions times 18 greens equals 12,096 per round per player.

Assuming the 200 rounds are played each day on a course, the greens receive 2,419,200 impressions daily, or more than 72 million holes each month.

Perhaps you should encourage your pro shop to stock only these spikes.



"Caddy, why do you keep looking at your watch?" asked the curious golfer.

"It's not a watch, sir. It's a compass."

*From Does a Wild Bear Chip in the Woods? by Lewis Grizzard*

**EDUCATION NOTES****Seeing is Believing**

Have you ever wished you could show your committee or membership what a proposed project would look like when finished—before it was started—in order to help sell the idea? If the answer is yes then our speaker for June has just the thing you need. Computer Aided Design or CAD.

Mr. Charles Priestly CGCS, formerly with Geneva Farm Golf Club, will present to our association the latest technology in terrain mapping and modeling and its applications for golf courses. As president and systems engineer for CADLinks, Inc., Chuck is currently busy with many projects in the Mid-Atlantic. He developed his computer, aerial photography, and infra-red imagery skills during his time in the U.S. Navy. This combined knowledge and engineering background were refined through practical application as a golf course superintendent.

Terrain mapping and modeling can be used to create very accurate as-built and 3-D maps of an existing golf course, document problem areas, plan changes, and generate data for bidding purposes when a project is on the agenda. These are a few of the many things that can be done with CAD. So, if you have a troublesome green, need to remove some trees or are renovating a bunker, green, an entire golf course, or building a new course, you will benefit from this presentation. See you there.

*Sean Remington  
Education, Chairman*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The Superintendent/Pro tournament at the Old South Club was, as promised, a grand event.



Superintendent Keith Hershberger and his staff are commended for a well-conditioned course. Bentgrass is alive and well in the Mid-Atlantic region! Unfortunately my game left with the eclipse. Presidential treatment (my golf car had everything but my golf game) was extended to me by MAPGA President Bob Fretwell. He and his staff were most helpful in organizing this tournament. Thank you Bob! Club Manager, Craig Reinhart capped off the day with a great cocktail hour, and very enjoyable dinner. The membership at Old South can be proud of their entire staff.

The next meeting is at Chantilly National Golf and Country Club with Tom Knoll our host. Many improvements have been made since we last visited Tom's golf course. Education Chairman, Sean Remington has scheduled a presentation on computer design. Speaker, Charles Priestly CGCS will discuss the CAD System and how it can be beneficial to your golf course.

*Lou Rudinski, President*





## Putting an End to Weekend Scheduling Woes

*Reprinted with permission from Tee to Green, newsletter of the Metropolitan GCSA*

If you're tired of cajoling crew members to come in for their weekend tour of duty, you might want to give some thought to Superintendent Mike Reeb's labor-scheduling program. Not your run-or-the-mill approach to scheduling, the program's not only put an end to weekend work woes, it's allowed Mike to virtually eliminate all overtime—two side benefits to a program Mike says he developed two years ago expressly to create more reasonable and attractive work hours for his staff.

Though he's the first to admit his approach may not be appropriate for *every* golf course maintenance operation, Mike claims it's

been well received—by both his crew and Green Committee—at the Country Club of New Canaan in New Canaan, Conn. Here are the ins and outs of how it works:

### Program Basics

The New Canaan maintenance department operates seven days a week, year-round. Mike, his assistant, and each of his crew members—eight full-time and four seasonal—work five days a week, with one day off during the week and one day off during the weekend.

Toward the end of each month, Mike and his assistant, John Howe, draw up a schedule for the next 30 days, taking into account employees' advance

requests for specific days off or vacation time. (Employees may take vacations any time of the year, providing they don't interfere with prepwork for a special event.)

This advance planning process helps guarantee that the department is never shorthanded and can complete its work without overtime—something traditional workweeks rarely permit. Mike says cutting overtime has freed up enough funds to hire an additional full-time person.

Unless otherwise requested, employees' days off are randomly distributed and vary from week to week. Though it's possible for employees to have two consecu-

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tive days off (e.g. Sunday and Monday), it's more the exception than the rule.

Once completed, the schedule is posted above the time clock, and everyone is responsible for adhering to it without reminders.

#### **Making the Program Work**

First, it's critical that you gain complete support from your green committee and general membership. Though you would naturally avoid some of the more disruptive maintenance procedures during the weekends, members must be willing to see some maintenance activity throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday. After all, with this program, everyday is a full workday.

Second, hash out the program details with crew members before implementation. Invite their input—their comments, suggestions, and concerns. If they feel a

part of the decision process, they're more apt to buy into the program. One concern Mike had to address at New Canaan was the loss of overtime wages. Mike met the employees halfway by offering full-time workers a pay increase, or differential, to partially compensate for the discontinued overtime wages.

Third, cross-train your employees so everyone is capable of performing a variety of maintenance tasks. The advantage: you'll be able to complete any job, no matter who has the day off. New Canaan's maintenance crew, for instance, now has nine employees with an operators Pesticide License, so the department's never caught without a trained pesticide applicator when a disease makes a surprise appearance.

Last but not least, remain flexible. Other issues may arise

after the program has been in place for a while. If you're flexible, you can accommodate employees' individual concerns without jeopardizing other crew members' morale or satisfaction with the program.

#### **Program Pluses**

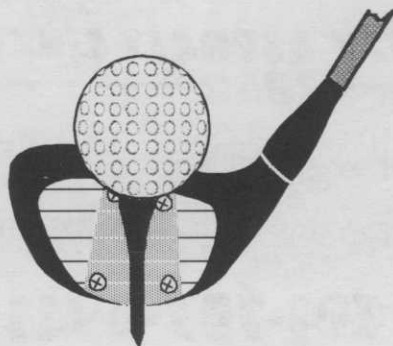
The greatest advantage of this approach is flexibility—from both a management and maintenance perspective. Cross-trained employees are able to rotate their duties, which not only keeps their work interesting, but also allows them to swap days off with each other in a pinch.

On the maintenance end, Mike says they've improved the department's attention to detail by scheduling some of the smaller, often overlooked jobs for the

*See Scheduling, page 7*

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# MAAGCS 1994 Golf Tournaments

June	Gross and Net	Chantilly National G& CC
July	[University of Maryland Field Day]	
August	Annual Picnic	Hobbits Glen
September	Two-Man Championship	The Beach Club
October	Individual Championship	TBA
November	Four-Man Scramble	Maryland Golf & CC



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**Scheduling**

*continued from page 5*

weekend. One improvement he's noted: a neater, more organized maintenance area. On the course, they've been able to regularly tend to such hard-to-get-to tasks as weeding flower beds and edging walkways.

But probably more significant in Mike's mind is that the seven-day work week has enabled the maintenance operation to respond more quickly—and easily—to the unexpected. Whether it's an equipment breakdown, a change in weather, or the sudden rescheduling of a tournament, someone's always on hand to take immediate action. The end result: improved member satisfaction.

If you'd like more information about Mike's labor scheduling program, feel free to contact him at 203-966-2145.

**In Memory of John S. Connolly**

John S. Connolly died May 5, 1994, in Delray Beach, Fl. at 85.

John founded the turf equipment firm, J. S. Connolly, in 1936, having worked four years as Greens Superintendent at Army Navy CC in Arlington, Va. He sold the equipment firm in 1946 to his brother-in-law, George Cornell.

John was a long-time member of the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents' Association and was among the longest term members of the National Association.

He built and owned the Fairfax Country Club in Fairfax, Va. in 1940 and 1945. He later sold the Club to a New York firm which sold it in turn to the Army Navy Country Club.

John had a fine golfing

career—having won, among other titles, the GCSAA Championship, the Virginia State Senior's Championship, and the Burning Tree Club Championship.

He served as President of the American Senior's Golf Association and was later elected a distinguished senior of that organization. He also served as President of the Washington Golf and Country Club in Arlington, Va.

John is survived by his wife, Adelaide, and a son, John S. Connolly, Jr. Also surviving are four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

There will be a family memorial service in Chautauqua, New York during the summer.

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## Carroll Davis Retires

After a working career of 61 years, Carroll decided to call it quits and smell the roses for a while.

Carroll began his career in 1933 testing milk for Baltimore County. His sales career began in 1938 when he went to work for Southern States in Bel Air, Md. Shortly thereafter, due to the increase in sales at the store as a result of some of his innovative ideas, he was promoted to manager. He was so good as a manager that Southern States transferred him to straighten out the store in Middletown, De. It was at this time that he married Thelma Smith in 1941. His war began about the same time as World War II.

Carroll changed jobs in 1948 where he was employed by Harry T. Campbell & Sons, which later

became Flintkote, and subsequently Genstar. He began calling on golf courses in the mid 1950s selling bunker sand and lime, and was best salesman of the year in 1962. At this time Carroll became known as "The Sand Man," or to some of the younger superintendents, Mr. Davis. He served in this capacity making many friends in the industry and teaching many people about sands until October, 1980 when he became sixty-five and retired from Genstar.

He was employed by Egypt Farms at that time until December 1993 doing what he loved best, serving the golf courses of the area and visiting his friends.

Carroll has three daughters and six grandchildren who keep him busier than he wants to be at times. He and Thelma celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1991, and she is still telling him

what to do and is still commander in chief of the Davis War Department.

I consider Carroll one of my best friends, and even though he was an employee of my company, I never thought of him in that capacity. We worked together on many projects as partners over the years, and Egypt Farms would not be where it is today without Carroll's input and help.

We all will miss the "Sand Man" and his jokes and good humor on a regular basis, but I expect to keep him as active as he wants to be by taking him to some of the outings and continuing his relationships with his friends.

*John W. Strickland, President  
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