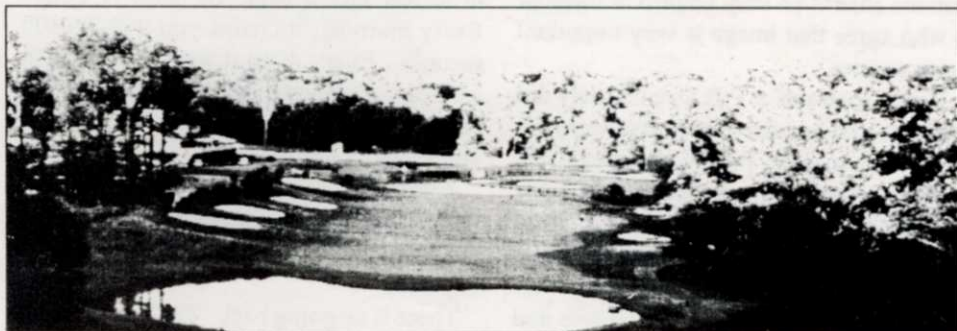


TURFGRASS MATTERS

May/June 2000

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Mid-Atlantic to Host Annual Fundraising Event August 28th "Stewards of the Chesapeake Golf Tournament"



On August 28th, The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will host its first-ever "Stewards of the Chesapeake Golf Tournament," an annual fundraising golf event to benefit both Government Relations and Research throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. John Newcomb, CGCS, and the Birney family at South River Golf Links, in Edgewater, Maryland, will host the outing style golf event. Proceeds from the event will be used to establish a separate interest-bearing fund to support regional research and government relations that will benefit all Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents and their respective facilities.

A tournament committee was appointed and is comprised of current MAAGCS Vice-President and Tournament Chairman, Chris Ayers, CGCS, host Superintendent John Newcomb, CGCS, Golf Director, David Burkhart and Media / Public Relations Director David Nehila. Executive Secretary Charlotte Norris and the student chapter at the University of Maryland will assist in the organization and set-up of this important event. All other members interested in volunteering their time and efforts to help insure success are asked to contact the MAAGCS office.

The format for the day will be a "Shamble" where each player hits a tee shot and the best drive is used by the entire team (two drives required from each player through 18 holes). The remainder of the hole is played out by each player playing his or her own ball from the spot of the selected drive and the two best balls Net will be counted as the score for that hole. Net scores will be based on 80% of an individual's handicap. Teams of five will be comprised of at least two and not more than four representatives of an individual golf facility and one Class F member or special guest of the Association. The reasoning behind fivesomes is both the inclusion of our class F members and the reliance primarily on golf facilities to support research and government relations that benefit them. The field will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Watch your mail for further information regarding this important undertaking and clear August 28th on your calendars for a very worthy cause.

The MAAGCS Board of Directors recognized the increase in outside pressures and public awareness, the negative public perception of golf course management practices, as well as the constant changing nature of our business and saw fit to create

both Government Relations and Media / Public Relations director slots on the Board of Directors. These new Board positions, coupled with an annual fundraising tournament will greatly enhance the Association's ability to respond to future situations similar to last summer's mandatory drought restrictions in Maryland. The Board will also have the means and support to initiate relationships with local and state decision makers and media outlets throughout the region. A proactive educational program and Media Day like event(s) may help us overcome some of the negative public perception surrounding golf and highlight the benefits golf courses do provide for the environment. Beneficial programs such, as these will be funded by proceeds from the Stewards of the Chesapeake Tournament.

The very name of the tournament, Stewards of the Chesapeake, is meant to highlight the beneficial aspects of golf maintenance and is purposely meant to be inclusive of all courses that makes up the Mid-Atlantic and surround one of the region's best known natural resources - the Chesapeake Bay. Regardless of their location,

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Editor's Letter

Ken Ingram, CGCS

Holy Cow! People actually read this stuff. I thought you all just looked at the pictures and read the golf results. I knew I was in trouble as editor early on but I figured Charlotte would bail me out. Now I'm busy out-you and I'm wor- newsletter again. I load can Charlotte than Ed Gasper to writing this thing. I committee mem- blame, please wel- from Virginia Na- Necker from Hunt- letter committee.



side like the rest of ried about the mean how big a carry? I'm luckier have Charlotte wisely added two bers to spread the come David Finney tional and Alex Valley to the news-

As always we welcome articles submitted by the members. Any subject will suffice. If you can help out a fellow superintendent by writing an article by all means do so. I'm still determined to put news in the newsletter so pass along anything newsworthy. We may not win any national awards with this publication but if we keep the chapter educated and informed I'll be happy.

Fundraising Tournament

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Superintendents and facility decision-makers need to recognize the importance of supporting a proactive approach towards decreasing the negative public perception of golf. Golf and golf courses in general stand to benefit from the success of an annual fundraising tournament. It is essential for everyone and all golf facilities to respond positively and support a proactive approach. It was a hard lesson to learn and required a terrible drought to highlight the need to be proactive, not reactive.

Both Government Relations and Research benefit us, the Golf Course Superintendent, and the facility that employs us. It is only fitting the onus of support for this new endeavor is placed squarely upon the shoulders of all golf facilities and businesses that share similar climatic conditions, elected officials, as well as rules and regulations. The need for this tournament to succeed and prosper in future years is greater than regional or state-line differences. The intent is to gather like-minded individuals who are passionate about their business and chosen careers to show support for the great game of golf in the Mid-Atlantic region. Strength is in numbers, please answer the call and support the Stewards of the Chesapeake Tournament, on August 28th at South River Golf Links. For further information contact Charlotte Norris, MAAGCS Executive Secretary @ (888) MID-TURF.

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