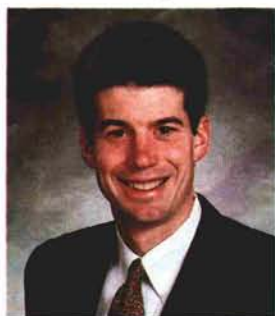


NEWS NOTES FOR SUMMER



Christopher E.
Hartwiger

Hartwiger Appointed to Staff

The Southeastern and Florida Regions of the Green Section are pleased to welcome a new agronomist, Christopher E. Hartwiger, to their staff. Hartwiger replaces Chuck Gast, who has accepted a position as golf course superintendent at Jupiter Hills Country Club, in Tequesta, Florida.

Chris possesses an outstanding background in turfgrass management and recently received his M.S. degree from the Crop Science Department at North Carolina State University. While studying there, he worked closely with Dr. Charles H. Peacock, a member of the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Committee, and this spring he completed a golf course internship program at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

An accomplished writer, Hartwiger's master's thesis addressed a topic of great interest today, namely "Lightweight Roller Use on Bentgrass Putting Greens." He won first prize in this year's GCSAA Student Essay Contest after finishing as runner-up the previous year. In addition, Hartwiger received first-prize recognition in the 1994 Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association Essay Contest for his paper entitled "Golf Courses and the Environment: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?" *Golf Course Management* later published this essay in its November 1994 issue.

Chris is an avid golfer whose USGA Handicap Index wavers between 5.0 and 10.0. His wife, Kathy, is an accomplished player who advanced to the second round of match play at the 1994 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, where her husband caddied for her. The couple will relocate to the Birmingham, Alabama, area, where Chris will report to Pat O'Brien, Director of the Southeastern Region, and also assist John Foy, Director of the Florida Region, in making Turf Advisory Service visits in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and northern Florida.

The Green Section joins in welcoming Chris Hartwiger as a member of its staff.

Chuck Gast Leaves Staff

Chuck Gast, who served as an agronomist for the USGA Green Section since 1990, has left the staff to assume the duties of golf course superintendent at Jupiter Hills Country Club, in Tequesta, Florida. During his years with the USGA, Gast conducted Turf Advisory Service visits and made many presentations on a wide variety of topics in both the Southeastern and Florida Regions.

Chuck and his family will continue to reside in the Hobe Sound area of Florida. The Green Section thanks him for all his fine work on the USGA's behalf, and wishes him all the best in his new duties at Jupiter Hills.

The Spirit of St. Andrews

DR. ALISTER Mackenzie is known by all for using the natural surrounds, in combination with his expertise in camouflage, to develop golf courses with a unique architectural style. The golfing public also recognizes Mackenzie for his world-famous layouts: Cypress Point, Augusta National, and Royal Melbourne in Australia, to name just a few. He also is recognized for his ingenious ability to design courses that are challenging to both high- and low-handicappers. What the public is not aware of, however, is the keen understanding that Mackenzie had of the far-reaching corners of the golfing industry. Perhaps this was one of his most notable attributes.

A unique twist of fate resulted in the discovery in 1993 of a manuscript written by Mackenzie in 1933. Mackenzie entitled it *The Spirit of St. Andrews*, which included the foreword written by his friend and golfing legend Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones, Jr. The text is still appropriate for today's golfers and superintendents, with some stinging words for green committees and clubs as well. In *The Spirit of St. Andrews*, Dr. Mackenzie dives into topics such as the United States Golf Association and its Green Section, golf course committees, maintenance, and construction — topics that are still the backbone of the golf industry today. This is what makes *The Spirit of St. Andrews* such a wonderful discovery.

Understandably, one of the biggest concerns of the USGA and golf course superintendents today is environmental research. Mackenzie, himself, was a consultant at more than 400 golf clubs, where he did a significant amount of research before and after each project. In this book, there is reference to Mackenzie's support of USGA research programs. "Scientific research and the ex-

perience gleaned from our mistakes is the only way we shall solve these problems, so that the more money provided for the Green Section to continue their research the sooner we shall arrive at the truth of the matter. The Green Section should be allowed sufficient money not only to conduct experimental stations on different parts of America, but also to enable them to play golf and to study courses all over the world."

Mackenzie did not support committees as he did research. He viewed committee politics and their inconsistencies as cumbersome distractions to running a smooth operation. "The history of most golf clubs is that a committee is appointed, they make mistakes, and just as they are beginning to learn from their mistakes they resign office and are replaced by others who make still greater mistakes. We would strongly recommend every club to have a permanent committee." It is the only way a policy or continuity can be adopted, and this is particularly important in the case of green committees."

Because of his vast experience with golf course construction, Mackenzie considered himself knowledgeable in the art of green-keeping. In the book, he talks about this difficult job. "A good greenkeeper keeps a careful watch on his turf, and has sleepless nights until he has overcome everything that may be the matter with it. The best greenkeepers are not necessarily those trained on Scotland courses, they are invariably honest, hardworking, and reliable, but not always receptive of new ideas. It is essential that a greenkeeper should grasp the fundamental principles, and above all realize that golf is a game and that it is played for fun."

In *The Spirit of St. Andrews*, Mackenzie tells stories about Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen, Harry Colt, C. B. Macdonald, and Robert Hunter. He talks in detail about the great courses of the world such as St. Andrews (the book includes a four-color map of the Old Course), Cypress Point, Sunningdale, Pine Valley, Augusta National, and Pebble Beach. He writes about construction, ideal holes and golf courses, general principles of architecture, the evolution of golf, and the golf swing. *The Spirit of St. Andrews* is a book that every golfer must read, not only to learn the legend of Dr. Alister Mackenzie, but to enjoy this wonderful game of golf even more.

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The Spirit of St. Andrews, by Dr. Alister Mackenzie, is available at bookstores or direct through Sleeping Bear Press, P.O. Box 20, Chelsea, MI 48818; (800) 487-2323.