

In Memoriam:

**Arthur A. "Art" Snyder, CGCS
1898-1997**

Art Snyder, for many years the oldest living member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and recipient of the 1979 Green Section Award, died on March 12, 1997, at 98 years of age in Tucson, Arizona. He was born in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, on September 13, 1898. He shared with his good friend Ernest G. Jacob of Pittsburgh the longest total number of years of membership in GCSAA at the time of his passing. Both were accepted as members on the same day 68 years ago.

Art began his golf career 90 years ago as a caddie at the famous Oakmont Country Club, near Pittsburgh. He caddied for W. C. Fownes, Jr., before Fownes became National Amateur Champion in 1910. Mr. Fownes and his father, W. C. Fownes, designed and built Oakmont Country Club.

Art later worked on the course at Oakmont and at the old Westmoreland C.C., now Green Oaks C.C., before becoming superintendent at Alcoma C.C. in 1927. He became the club professional there, as well, for a period of ten years. During this time he also served as the golf coach at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1943 he moved to the Longue Vue Club in Penn Hills, near Pittsburgh. During World War II he also found time to work a night shift in a defense plant.

As a result of attending the GCSAA Conference and Show in Los Angeles in 1949, Art and his wife Retta decided

to move to Arizona in 1953, accompanied by their sons Jim and Carl and their families. At that time they, along with Art's brother, Carl M. Snyder, began a commercial turfgrass nursery and developed one of the earliest fine-leaved bermudagrasses. Designated as A-53 (Arizona 1953), it later became known as Snyder bermuda.

In 1955 Art collaborated with Gary Madison and Milt Coggins, Sr., in the design and construction of the first nine holes at the White Mountain Country Club at Pinetop, Arizona. In 1956 he became the superintendent at Paradise Valley C.C., where he remained until his retirement in 1974. During these years he was instrumental in organizing the Cactus and Pine GCSA and the Arizona Turfgrass Council. The Art Snyder Award was a feature of the Cactus and Pine Association for a number of years, honoring an outstanding chapter member. Art was the first recipient.

Art was an excellent golfer and could have competed on the Tour. His main interest, though, was in golf course maintenance. He was honored with the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1978, the USGA Green Section Award in 1979, and in 1975 he was inducted into the Arizona Golf Association Hall of Fame, the only superintendent so honored.

He was an active player of the game through his 96th year, and was capable of beating his age every time he played. Skyline C.C. in Tucson presented a plaque to him when he made a hole-in-one on the 191-yard ninth hole at age 85.

One of Arthur Armstrong Snyder's greatest contributions to the game of golf was the encouragement he gave to people to enter the field of golf course maintenance and become proficient at it. Among surviving family members are his sons Jack, Jim, and Carl, grandsons David and Larry, and nephew Arthur A. Snyder II and his son Michael, all of whom are or have been golf course superintendents, including four AA-Life Members and three CGCS Members of GCSAA.

A Note from Audubon International

We are delighted to report the high readership for the July-August *Green Section Record* regarding the five-year anniversary of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses ("It's Party Time!"). Many of you scanned the list to find your golf course, and some were disappointed not to be listed. The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program apologizes for the confusion!

We didn't make it clear that, although the article celebrated the first five years of the program, the list highlighted the charter members who joined in 1991 during the first year of the program, and who have been active members for the past five years.

We want to applaud all of our members who have supported the program, and who have made great strides as stewards of the environment. We hope you'll keep reading "On Course With Nature" for future articles highlighting members who have initiated special projects on their courses, and who have demonstrated special efforts as members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. If you have ideas for a project or topic that you would like to read about, please contact Lee Mangum at Audubon International at 518-767-9051.



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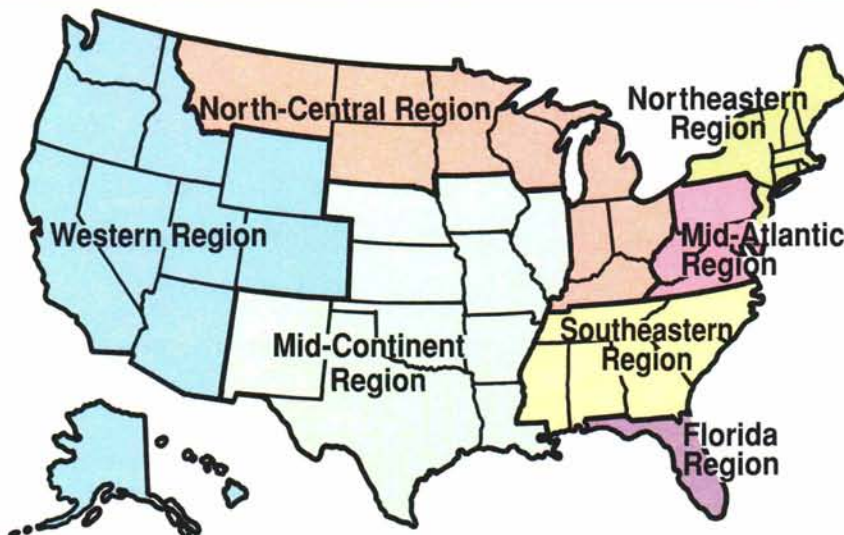
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