Don Likes

Don was born in 1920, and grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska. Don’s uncle had a dairy farm that in the late 1930 was converted in to a nine-hole golf course called Park Valley. It was 100% sand, no grass. The only chemical treatment was oil. It was here Don formed a lifelong friendship with Marian Mendenhall who moved to Nebraska and a job at Park Valley.

Don served as an Ensign in the Navy during WWII in the South Pacific. He received a Bachelor’s degree at the University of Nebraska and later a Masters in Turfgrass Science at Purdue University, only one of six in the entire USA at the time.

In 1950, Don moved to Cincinnati and took the position of superintendent at Hyde Park County Club where he remained for twenty-four years until 1974. In 1967, he bought acreage in the Mason area, designed, and built a nine-hole golf course called Two Pines that opened in 1970. He added nine holes in 1975 and renamed the course Kingwood, since the two pines had died. Just as Don was beginning to believe he had made a huge mistake for investing his life’s savings in the course, his realtor called and told him his property value had doubled overnight with the announcement that Kings Island Amusement Park was being built in the area. In 1991, he bought 322 acres in Lebanon, designed, and built his second golf course, Greentree. It opened in 2000

Don became the first editor of *The Green Breeze* in the 1950s, the original print publication of GCGCSA. He served as president of the association in 1961 and 1962. He was very involved in the Golf Course Owners Association and served at one time as their president.

He received the Man of the Year award from OTF in 1980. In 1969, he was asked to speak at the National Convention in Miami on “How to keep *Poa* alive in Cincinnati, the transition zone because of his success at Hyde Park CC. His son Fred was present and recalls Don’s opening statement, “Trying to keep *poa* alive in Cincinnati is like trying to keep a Hersey Bar from melting in hell.” Don passed away in 2006.