

Vice-President
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Army-Navy Country Club
Arlington, Va.

President
L. R. Shields
1306 Okinawa Drive
Silver Spring, Md.

Secretary-Treasurer
Charles J. Treacy
Congressional Country Club
Bethesda, Md.

TURF NEWS LETTER

Official Organ of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents)

April 3, 1951

THE BELLE HAVEN MEETING

This month the members of the Association met at the Belle Haven Country Club, which borders on historic Mount Vernon, the home of our first president. Speaking of presidents, this meeting was unusual in that Frank Youry, President of the Belle Haven Country Club, was among the guests in attendance. Nice going Walt! Despite cool, windy weather and adverse playing conditions, forty-two members and guests were present, and twenty-two played golf.

Golf

As golf committee chairman Ernie Stanley so aptly put it, "It was a day fittin' for the Navy," and so it was no surprise that the "Admirable" Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Committee Chairman of the Army Navy Country Club, walked off with top honors for the day.

<u>Handicap Tournament</u>	<u>Gross Handicap</u>		<u>Net</u>
Admiral Jack Phillips	83	13	70
Charlie Shaelstock	84	13	71
Ernie Stanley	81	9	72
Walt Densmore	86	13	73
Charlie Treacy	86	13	73

<u>Blind Bogey Tournament</u>	<u>Gross Handicap</u>		<u>Net</u>
Junie Marshall	76	0	76
Ben Holibonich	93	15	78
Pat Gardner	86	8	78
Charlie Sankey	90	12	78

*Jim -
did you hear
from John Flattery?
Bob*

Tourney of Roses

Reuben Hines

Fifty cents richer

Major Hanrahan

Fifty cents poorer

Educational Feature: "Turf Nurseries"

A panel of three members of the Association performed superbly in their presentations on turf nurseries. They were Bob Scott, Sr., Five Farms; Charlie Treacy, Congressional; and Bill Glover, Fairfax. In their talks emphasis was placed on the value, economy and establishment of turf nurseries. The grasses which the panel referred to most frequently were Arlington (C-1), Congressional (C-19), and Dahlgren (C-115) bents; Merion (B-27) bluegrass; U-3 bermudagrass; and the zoysiagrasses.

The major reasons set forth for establishing a turf nursery were:

1. In time of emergency a turf nursery is essential.
2. Turf nurseries of improved strains of grasses pay for themselves many times over - a case of "having your cake and eating it too."
3. When re-turfing a green stolons from the stolon increase nursery give the quickest and most satisfactory cover. Healthy viable stolons that lift easily with their root systems intact can be obtained by topdressing between the nursery rows with peat or sandust. Stolons were recommended when the green can be taken out of play. Should the green remain open for play, the plugging method of introducing new strains of grass is very satisfactory.
4. By introducing plugs of turf into a poor green, not only are improved turf grasses introduced, but also the soil structure of the green is changed painlessly. By introducing a good soil mixture attached to each plug, it is possible to improve considerably a poor green without a major operation. A good portion of this conversion can be accomplished with normal cup changing. It is understood that if the plugging method is used the putting green nursery should be established on the type of soil mixture desired in your present greens. It should be understood further that plugging will not alleviate all built-in headaches such as impervious clay layers and lack of sufficient sub-surface drainage. In many instances complete re-building will be necessary.

5. A turf nursery is an ideal place for testing new fungicides, herbicides and other chemicals. It is a valuable place to experiment without risking putting greens and other areas on the golf course proper.
6. In addition to alleviating problems on the golf course, a turf nursery is valuable for general landscaping around the clubhouse.
7. A turf nursery is a Golf Course Superintendent's proving ground. It is a place where he is able to observe the performance of new strains of grass. After they have been proven to the superintendent's satisfaction in his own nursery, their ultimate use can be decided upon. Research workers make valuable recommendations but each superintendent should test recommended grasses under his own growing conditions.
8. On days when employees cannot work on the golf course they can be kept busy with nursery work.
9. A turf nursery aids each superintendent in the identification of new strains of grass, and if only for the purpose of enhancing his position as a turf specialist he should have these grasses in his nursery.
10. The nursery can be used as a lever to action. If club members see how well grasses perform in the nursery, the superintendent easily can "sell" the members on changing over to the newer and better strains.
11. Public interest in better turf grasses for all purposes is furthered through the establishment of turf nurseries. Public recognition of improved turf should be stimulated by the Golf Course Superintendent.
12. To convert nursery rows of bent, bermuda, and zoysia into sod, topdress in between the rows as the grasses spread. If regular mowing practices have been adhered to the need for topdressing may be eliminated. If the nursery rows have been allowed to grow tall for stolon or seed production a gradual decrease in the height-of-cut will benefit the resultant sod.
13. Improved strains of creeping bentgrass discourage Poa annua. Pure strain nurseries never should be allowed to go to seed.

Bob Scott, Sr. showed excellent photographs of his nursery at Five Farms. In 1949 he obtained from Dr. Grau nine 2-inch plugs of Dahlgren (C-115). Today he has expanded these plugs into ten rows, each 135 ft. long, as well as a sod nursery 300 sq. ft. in size.

A Question and Answer period followed the panel discussion. The economy and value of turf nurseries were re-hashed, along with the ease by which large nurseries could be established. The importance of turf specialists to the defense effort and the social and economic welfare of the general public also was stressed.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Bob Shields opened the meeting with a reading of the objectives and functions of the Association. Bob couldn't miss this opportunity as among the guests present were Larry Laurient and George Wilt, Golf Editor and Sports Department representatives, respectively, of The Washington Post. More recognition for the Golf Course Superintendent for the all important part he plays in the popular game of golf was the theme of Bob's opening address.

New Name For The Association

In keeping with the change made by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at their Chicago convention, it was voted by the members that our new official name will be THE MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS.

Group Picture

As announced in our last News Letter, a group picture of the Association was taken at Belle Haven. Prints of this photo can be obtained from the Turner Studio, 108 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The cost is \$1.00 for an 8 x 10 print.

Suggestion Feature Fizzled Cause it Drizzled

"Drizzled hell," says Junie Marshall, new Belle Haven golf course superintendent. "We had our amphibious mowers out and even they bogged down". Junie is growing into Tom Ryan's shoes as superintendent now that Tom is devoting more of his attention to his Pro duties. They are big shoes, Junie, but with the confidence and help of Tom, the Green Committee, and the club president, you have everything in your favor.

We hope to initiate the Constructive Suggestion feature at our next meeting.

Sidelight

A certain gent (it is rumored that he is of Scotch descent) whose initials (Hugh McRae) built up so much inner pressure while awaiting announcement of whether we were, or were not, to pay for the dinner that when the "on the house" announcement was made, Hugh fizzed like a seltzer

bottle. "Boys make that announcement sooner - the pressure is too much to bear." All kidding aside, we are grateful to Belle Haven for picking up the dinner tabs. It was a thoughtful and much appreciated gesture of support.

New Member

Junie Marshall, of Belle Haven, was voted into the organization as an active member.

NEXT MEETING - BETHESDA

Crabgrass Control

Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, Head Agronomist in Charge, Division of Weed Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has consented to discuss this vital subject at our Bethesda Country Club meeting on May 1. Chemical weed control is big business today and is growing larger by the minute. We are indeed fortunate to obtain the services of one of the foremost experts in this field for our next educational feature. All of us are faced with a crabgrass problem. By attending the Bethesda meeting we will be assured of finding ways and means of combating this noxious weed.

Our hosts for the May 1 meeting are "Lum" Lumsden, Golf Course Superintendent; and Frank Day, Green Committee Chairman, Bethesda Country Club. They have the welcome mat out - it is up to us to make the attendance worthy of their efforts.

Golf at:

Bethesda Country Club
Bethesda, Md.
May 1, 1951 - 12:30 p.m.

Dinner and Meeting at:

Bethesda Country Club
Bethesda, Md.
May 1, 1951 - 6:00 p.m.

Directions and Transportation

Bethesda Country Club is located on Bradley Blvd. between Wisconsin Avenue and River Road, Bethesda, Maryland. Wilson Disney, F. W. Bolgiano Company; and George Cornell, G. L. Cornell Company; will furnish transportation

YOUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE