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Bethesda, Md.

## TURF NEWS LETTER

(Official Organ of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents  
Prepared in Cooperation with USGA Green Section)

July 10, 1951

### THE ARGYLE MEETING

The "Duke of Argyle", Percy LeDuc, made our July 10 meeting a memorable one. The setting was the new Argyle Country Club, Layhill, Md. The complete 18 holes have been in play for only 2 years and many were the favorable comments concerning the natural appearance of such a new establishment. Percy was on hand for the festivities along with Dr. Hugh Gauch, Plant Physiologist, University of Maryland, and his assistant Dr. Gugger. Our old faithful - Harry Allanson was in attendance along with John Anderson, Bill Leverton, Jim Reynolds, Jimmy Roach and Joe Cockrell of Richmond. All told some 60 fellows were on hand for the meeting and 20 braved the hot muggy day for a round of golf.

Attendance by Green Chairman was somewhat disappointing. It was whispered around that the fault might lie with our superintendents who were neglectful in reminding their chairman of this meeting. Remember it is up to you to notify your own chairman because he does not receive a copy of this News Letter.

We were happy to note that Admiral Jack Phillips, Army Navy, Walter Densmore, Belle Haven, Leopold Freudberg, Woodmont, and John Connolly, Fairfax upheld the honor of the Green Chairman by attending and participating in our meeting.

### Golf

Golf Committee Chairman Ernie Stanley missed his first meeting of the year, but Vice President Jimmy Thomas served as an able substitute. His system of distributing the prize money resulted in an equal share among the six low scorers who were

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|---------------------|----------|
| C. J. Treacy        | 76-13-63 |
| J. J. Belizzi       | 72- 7-65 |
| Adm. J. S. Phillips | 79-13-66 |
| Dick Scott          | 88-19-69 |
| W. Dinsmore         | 83-13-70 |
| R. Hines            | 86-16-70 |
| Wm. Schrieber       | 75- 5-70 |

Each of these men received a prize for their efforts, although Charlie Wilson soon relieved them of \$1.25 for a copy of Turf Research Review which was hot off the press. Those not receiving this valuable publication at the Argyle meeting should write the Green Section directly, enclosing \$1.25 for a copy.

#### Educational Feature - Liquid Fertilizers and Trace Elements

The association is indebted to Dr. Hugh Gauch for his excellent talk on the controversial subject "The use of Liquid Fertilizers and Trace Elements". The gist of his remarks was boiled down as follows:

I. Liquid or foliar feeding intended to supply the plant through leaf absorption is neither new nor revolutionary. Other farm crops have been fertilized in this manner for a number of years, especially with regard to the so called minor or trace elements.

II. Supplying the major nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium by liquid applications is a relatively new field. With certain crops such as apples and wheat the results of foliar feeding have been outstanding. Conversely, peaches have failed markedly to respond to such treatment. Wheat is a grass. Therefore, we may deduce that bentgrass also would respond to liquid feeding.

III. The use of radio active phosphorous which can be traced in its travels throughout the plant shows that nutrients maybe absorbed through the leaves and reach the outermost root tips in a matter of minutes. Research also has proven that nutrients absorbed in a conventional manner through the roots spread just as rapidly and just as thoroughly. From these findings there is no justification in the statement that foliar feeding would stunt root growth. Theoretically, at least, root systems would respond equally well to either treatment.

IV. Dr. Gauch pointed out that the use of liquid fertilizers on bent putting greens may be justified under the following conditions.

A. In the spring, when the ground is cold, nitrification usually proceeds slowly and plant roots are relatively inactive in the uptake of nutrients. Liquid applications may give the desired response at this time.

B. Under conditions of heavy thatch or nap where ordinary fertilizers do not reach the active root zone, liquid fertilization may give the desired stimulus.

C. In mid-summer when it is desired to restore green color without an accompanying lush growth a light application of liquid fertilizer should do the job. A classical example of this on wheat showed that liquid nitrogen applications early in the spring increased yield an vegetative growth, whereas applications at the time of flowering increased the protein content without a corresponding increase in vegetative growth. From this we might deduce that light liquid applications with a complete fertilizer during



the hot summer months would tend to hold color without increasing vegetative growth. RESEARCH ALONG THESE LINES IS NEEDED ON BENTGRASS TURF. The members of this association know that often theory and practice turn up conflicting results, and that no critical research work has been done with liquid feeding on turf.

D. Other conditions such as water-logged soils and poor aeration might give response from a liquid application when conventional fertilizing methods fail.

IMPORTANT - Dr. Gauch believes and this association concurs that when mat, water-logged soils and poor aeration are at fault, these conditions must be corrected rather than masked.

V. Boron, manganese, copper, zinc, molybdenum and iron are the only trace elements that have been proven necessary for crop growth where soils are naturally deficient in one or more of these nutrients.

VI. The claim is made by some manufacturers that their products provide vitamins beneficial to grass growth. There is absolutely no basis of fact that vitamin applications influence the growth of any plant.

VII. According to Dr. Gauch a comparison of costs should be made by anyone contemplating the use of liquid fertilizers. Dr. Gauch quoted the following figures taken from an article by Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Grau in the Turf Management section of the USGA Journal, November 1950.

"Conventional fertilizers containing 20 percent of actual nutrients will cost from \$40 to \$75 a ton. A ton of such fertilizer contains 400 units of plant food. To purchase an equal amount of plant food in some of the widely-advertized liquid fertilizers would cost more than \$1,000. Some of the brands have 30 cents of plant food to the gallon based on sulfate of ammonia at \$80 a ton, phosphate at \$50 and potash at \$100. It makes water an expensive filler at \$3.70 a gallon."

An interesting question and answer period followed Dr. Gauch's talk. Percy brought out the fact that one or more trace elements may be lacking in the putting green soils at Argyle. At least he got better response using a mixture containing trace elements in comparison with straight nitrogen feeding. Comparable amounts of actual nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. were used in this test.

#### Is High Chlorine Content Detrimental?

Rudy Will questioned the advisability of using water from the swimming pool on his putting greens. He was concerned about the high chlorine content, but Jack Milan, Dolge Chemical Company, put his mind at ease in stating that chlorine disappears from water in a period of 4 to 5 hours. In watering putting greens most of the chlorine would evaporate before it touched the surface of the grass.

## BUSINESS MEETING

President Bob Shields called the meeting to order with the minutes and treasurers report by Charlie Treacy. Bob did his usual excellent job in keeping the meeting running smoothly and on time.

Ray Laurensan, Golf Committee Chairman at Argyle gave an introductory speech of welcome on behalf of his club.

Admiral Phillips praised the association for its contribution toward better playing conditions for golfers in this area. He feels that our Mid-Atlantic group is leading the field among local Superintendents Associations throughout the country. He credits our official organs, The Turf News Letter and the Constructive Suggestion Report with being responsible for the increased interest in better golf through better turf. The Admiral believes that the golfer's in this area should help to support this vital work, which is of direct benefit to them, by contributing to the Green Section which has done so much to help our organization.

Walter Densmore expressed his appreciation for the special visit to Belle Haven Country Club by your Education Committee on June 19. This special visit was made for the sole purpose of preparing a Constructive Suggestion Report for the benefit of Walter's club. Walt kidded Bob Shields for his habit of calling on Admiral Phillips first at our monthly meetings. Walt stated that the Admiral always says what he planned to talk about. Anyway, the association always is indebted to Walter for his valuable suggestions, and our President promises to give other guests first crack in the future.

Leopold Freudberg stated his pleasure in being with us, and extended a cordial welcome to any of our members to come out and visit Woodmont. Leopold gives full credit to our Superintendents for the enjoyable game that golf is today. He further stated that Golf Course Superintendents are underpaid. Without the Superintendents help; our guest speakers from the University of Maryland, the Department of Agriculture, and the USGA Green Section our golf course management practices would still be in the dark ages.

John Connolly, who has done so much for our organization throughout the years, thanked Percy for his hospitality, and stated how happy he was to again be back in our locality and active with this association.

### New Members

Carl Senseman, Assistant Pro at Glenbrook, was voted into the association as an associate member, and John Connolly, renewed his active membership which was dropped when he moved away from this area.

We welcome both of these men, and look forward to their attendance at our meetings.



Acknowledgements

We appreciate the fine time and free refreshments made available through the courtesy of Percy LeDuc and Ray Laurensan, Golf Committee Chairman of Argyle Country Club.

NEXT MEETING - HILLENDALE COUNTRY CLUB

Dr. Grau scheduled for a talk on "Fall Seeding Into Established Turf" expresses his unhappiness in not being able to address our group on August 7. Prexy Bob Shields excused Dr. Grau when a special meeting at Rutgers conflicted with this date. However, you will be assured of an Educational Feature. Either a speaker for this subject or a color movie will be shown at Hillendale.

Host For The Day

Bob Smith, Superintendent and Bill Callahan, Green Committee Chairman, extend a cordial welcome to members of our association for this meeting. Again we impress upon each of you the value to yourself and your club in bringing along your Green Chairman.

Golf at:

Dinner and Meeting at:

Hillendale Country Club

Hillendale Country Club

Baltimore, Md.

Baltimore, Md.

August 7, 1951 - 12:30 p.m.

August 7, 1951 - 6:00 p.m.

Know Your Fellow Members

Bob Smith has seen a lot of grass grow under his feet since starting in this business at the Country Club of Maryland in 1928. In 1937 Mt. Pleasant Golf Course was fortunate enough to obtain his services until the United States Army beckoned in 1941. In 1946, following a four year stretch with the Army at the height of its activities, Bob returned to the Country Club of Maryland. Hillendale Country Club employed Bob as their Superintendent in 1948. Bob is a loyal member of this association, and we welcome this chance to meet with him and discuss turf conditions on his home grounds.

Directions and Transportation

Call Wilson Disney or George Cornell for transportation from Washington and Jack Witcher for free taxi service in Baltimore. Those traveling under their own steam follow St. Paul Street to 33rd. Right on 33rd to Loch Raven Blvd., where a left turn will lead you directly to the golf course.

NATIONAL TURF FIELD DAYS

The USGA Green Section announces the 1951 National Turf Field Days for October 7, 8 and 9.

Sunday evening will be devoted to progress reports by Turf Research workers and graduate students and a discussion of plans for further research to meet current needs.

Monday will be the big day, during which our visitors will see the experimental plots at Beltsville as well as practical demonstrations of new grasses and new practices at a local golf course. Monday evening again will be devoted to a dinner and talks by leading turf authorities. Details of the arrangements will be published in the USGA Journal, in the Golf Course Reporter, in Golfdom, and in the various News Letters published by local associations.

Tuesday, October 9, will be a "free" day for anyone's choice. Some visitors will wish to review the turf plots; others may wish to visit golf courses in the area; still others may wish to go home. We hope the latter will be in the minority.

Reservations for rooms should be made directly. The tourist cabins near the Plant Industry Station include:

Del-Haven White House Cottages, Berwyn, Md.  
Canary Cottages, Beltsville, Md.  
Stewart Cottages, Beltsville, Md.

Downtown hotels, of course, are always available and are anyone's choice.

YOUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE