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1306 Okinawa Drive  
Silver Spring, Md.

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Congressional Country Club  
Bethesda, Md.

## TURF NEWS LETTER

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

May 1, 1951

### THE BETHESDA MEETING

The Bethesda meeting was a complete success. Genial hosts for the day were "Lum" Lumsden, Golf Course Superintendent, and Frank Day, Green Committee Chairman of Bethesda Country Club. Mr. Bolz, Bethesda Club President, also was on hand to welcome the group. Guest speaker for the day was Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, Head Agronomist in Charge, Division of Weed Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture. A record crowd of 60 persons were in attendance, most of whom took advantage of the beautiful day for golf.

### Golf

The Golf Committee thought all golfers would like to take advantage of the good day for play - so players were given the opportunity to go as far as possible by participating in a Flag Tournament.

Results - Charlie Wilson, USGA Green Section, playing his first game of the season (says he) came out on top of the heap by placing his flag nine feet away from the 19th hole. Makes us suspect those extension trips aren't all business, Charlie. Tom Ryan placed second, 35 yards from the 19th hole. Charlie Shaelstock, Junie Marshall, and Ernie Stanley finished 3rd, 4th, and 5th, respectively - all on the 18th hole. The Major ain't talking to Reuben Hines anymore - Nuff said? The results of the tournament appeared in The Washington Post through the courtesy of George Wilt, Sports Department Representative. George was our guest at the meeting.

### Educational Feature - Crabgrass Control

Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, Head Agronomist in Charge, Division of Weed Investigations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, one of the leading authorities on Weeds throughout the nation, gave a most interesting and instructive talk on crabgrass control.

Dr. Lovvorn first stressed the importance of sound cultural practices to promote better weed-free turf. The starting point in any turf project is the selection of the right turf grass to suit the particular purpose or use. A good vigorous grass properly maintained will do much toward providing weed-free turf. Some of the maintenance and management practices stressed were: proper fertilization, suitable height-of-cut, aeration, and judicious use of water.

The discovery of 2,4-D and its effect on broad-leaved plants certainly has done much toward eliminating "eyesores" in otherwise good turf. The selectivity of 2,4-D for broad-leaf plants in turf is striking. The problem indeed is more difficult when two grasses are involved. If one is a weed and the other a desirable turf grass, the selectivity of the proper herbicide is slight. Therefore, chemical treatment of a grass weed in turf should attempt to control the weed in its most susceptible stage of growth. Usually the seedling stage is most susceptible to chemical treatment.

Other factors enter into the picture when choosing a herbicide - ease of handling the material, ease with which it may be applied to a turfed area, availability, toxicity to man and animal, how and when to apply, the effect of the herbicide on the permanent turf grasses, and last but not least the cost of the herbicide.

### Crabgrass Control

The time to begin a crabgrass program is when the crabgrass is in the early stage of growth. The average person doesn't recognize crabgrass when he sees it and treatment is often delayed until it is too late to do much good. If crabgrass is treated and killed in the early stages, seed production is inhibited. This is most important as crabgrass is an annual plant. Too, since the period of crabgrass germination extends from late spring to late summer, usually more than one herbicidal treatment is necessary.

Phenyl mercuric acetate formulations (PMA) used at rates recommended by the manufacturer are important herbicides used in crabgrass control. PMA generally is used to best advantage on seedling crabgrass. Being a mercury compound, PMA also is an aid in controlling certain fungus diseases. Experts hesitate to recommend mercury compounds for use by homeowners because the material is toxic to man and animal. Also, certain formulations are rather expensive. The phenyl mercury products have been used successfully on bentgrass putting greens in the Washington area.

Potassium cyanate (KOCN) is another important herbicide used in crabgrass control. The recommended rate is 8 pounds to 100 gallons of water per acre plus a wetting agent. KOCN is superior to PMA on mature crabgrass. It is not recommended for use on putting greens. It is available, easy to apply, cheaper than PMA, and is non-poisonous. The non-poisonous feature of KOCN makes it a valuable herbicide for use by the average homeowner. KOCN is excellent for chickweed control. Potassium cyanate tends to discolor the

permanent turf grasses (bentgrass especially) more than PMA. This fact especially is the case under conditions of prolonged drought.

Sodium arsenite is one of the old standbys in weed control. It has been used with good success in the control of crabgrass at one pound to the acre with a wetting agent. Several applications usually are necessary at this rate. Sodium arsenite is one of the cheapest herbicides on the market but it is poisonous; therefore, its use has been limited to qualified personnel such as golf course superintendents. Sodium arsenite also is a good chemical control for chickweed and clover.

Dr. Lovvorn spoke of the herbicidal oils used in Michigan with much success. However, in other parts of the country results differed widely. In the Mid-Atlantic area KOCN, sodium arsenite, and PMA have been far superior.

"Lum" Lumsden was called on to explain how he whipped his crabgrass problem in his newly constructed putting greens. "Lum" used PMA every 8 days for a period of 6 weeks at rates recommended by the manufacturer. "Lum" found that he got some discoloration of the bentgrasses, some clover kill, stunting of silver crab, and fungicidal value from the use of PMA. However, most important was the excellent job he did to control crabgrass, and "Lum" truly deserves credit for a job well done. It's hard to believe this was the same course that was over-run with crabgrass last year.

Bill Schreiber spoke of using "Soilicide" with good success on crab and with fair results on silver crabgrass at Cedar Point.

Bill Glover gave a brief summary of his mechanical control practices on fairway turf at Fairfax. Bill uses Flexicombs on his fairway units and mows in a different direction throughout the summer to keep the crowns of crabgrass confined to a small radius. Bill also stressed the importance of management practices in controlling crabgrass. Mechanical control coupled with good management practices is by far the cheapest method of controlling crabgrass.

#### Business Meeting

The highlight of the business meeting was the Constructive Suggestion feature which was handled superbly by Charlie Wilson. Charlie brought out several suggestions for improvement as seen through the eyes of other superintendents who toured the course.

It was resolved that a letter covering the points offered as constructive suggestions be sent to Green Committee Officials of each club we attend at future meetings.

#### New Members

Frank Durant of Bonnie View Country Club and Jim Reid of Suburban Country Club were voted into the organization as active members. Jim is a

member of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America and formerly was a member of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

William Ambrose of Aberdeen Proving Grounds and Eddie Jones of Gibson Island were voted into the Association as associate members.

Next Meeting - Lakeside Country Club

Relationship of Pro and Superintendent

The necessity of team work between the club Professional and the Golf Course Superintendent will be stressed at our June meeting. Cooperation between these parties can not help but result in course improvements and more pleasant working conditions. The Pro is an ideal buffer between the members and the Superintendent, and lest we forget, the Pro's word at annual budget meetings bears considerable weight. The Mid-Atlantic Association indeed is fortunate in having an outstanding panel of Professionals from the Richmond area to address our group on this vital subject. We often stress the need for recognition of the Golf Course Superintendent. Good relationship between the Professional Golfers of America and the Golf Course Superintendents of America is fundamental in bringing about improved recognition of the vital part we play in developing better turf for better golf. Our willingness to cooperate with the P.G.A. can be shown to best advantage by having a record breaking attendance at the Lakeside meeting.

Tribute to Henry Allanson

Speaking of recognition, the June 5 meeting at Lakeside gives all of us an opportunity to show our appreciation to Henry Allanson, host superintendent. Many of you, particularly the Baltimore boys, will say that this is a long trip, but when we think of the trips Henry has made over the past five years we are forced into the conclusion that one day from 365 days is small tribute to pay Henry for his loyalty to our organization. We know that this is a busy time of the year for all Superintendents, but we know also that it is an indication of real management when a Superintendent can arrange his work schedule in such a way as to allow one day a month away from his golf course. Remember, the finest compliment we can pay to Henry Allanson is a visit on June 5 at Lakeside Country Club. Through your attendance you will be showing appreciation to the many superintendents whose loyalty has helped to build this great organization.

*Mac*

Hugh McRae, Past President  
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course  
Superintendents

Golf at:

Lakeside Country Club  
Richmond, Virginia  
June 5, 1951 - 12:00 p.m. (D.S.T.)

Dinner and Meeting at:

Lakeside Country Club  
Richmond, Virginia  
June 5, 1951 - 6:00 p.m. (D.S.T.)

Directions and Transportation

Lakeside Country Club is one mile north of Richmond, Virginia, on U. S. 1. We have scheduled Daylight Saving Time in order to avoid confusion in the Washington and Baltimore areas, and also in order that we may return home at a decent hour. Car pools will be formed in Baltimore at the Baltimore Toro Company office, 813 Mapleton Avenue, and in the Washington area at the Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia.

The Baltimore group will leave for Richmond no later than 8:00 a.m. (D.S.T.).

The Washington group will leave for Richmond no later than 8:30 a.m. (D.S.T.).

If in doubt as to these arrangements call Jack Witcher, Baltimore Toro Company, or Tom Ryan, Belle Haven Country Club.

YOUR EDUCATION COMMITTEE