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TURF NEWS LETTER

(Official Organ of the Mid-Atlantic Ass'n. of Golf Course Supts. Prepared in cooperation with the USGA Green Section)

March 4, 1952

THE LAKESIDE MEETING

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held its first meeting of the '52 season at the Lakeside Country Club, Richmond, Va. Despite the drizzly day, twenty-eight members and guests were in attendance. Each member was greeted by Mr. Israel November, Green Committeeman; Harry Allanson, Superintendent; Alan Brodie, Pro; and Joe Watkins, Assistant Pro, all of whom made everyone feel right at home at the Lakeside Club.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

Chickweed Control

Dr. Warren C. Shaw, of the Weed Investigations Division, U. S. Department of Agriculture, presented a most interesting and instructive report on the weed control projects under way at Beltsville. Warren drew upon his profound knowledge of and his vast experience with just about every herbicide you could mention to furnish a talk that we will long remember.

After a few brief introductory remarks about the role of the Division of Weed Investigations in coordinating and conducting research on a nationwide scale on the control of weeds in agricultural crops, Warren attacked the problem from three angles.

First, the ecological aspect (the relationship of a plant to its environment). Warren stressed the point that each agriculturalist, whether he produce grain, vegetable, turf, or any other crop, is trying to maintain economic plants in an environment against the natural inclination from that environment to produce other plants. He cited the example that should Lakeside C.C. be abandoned, weeds would appear in the following order; (1) crabgrass and other annual weeds (2) tall weeds (3) broomsedge (4) pine trees (5) climax - a forest of pines and hardwood trees. Therefore, the agriculturalist must seek out reasons, and resort to methods which provide the economic crop with advantages over the weeds.

Secondly, the proper cultural practises on the adapted permanent grass species goes a long way in reducing weed population within a given environment. The following cultural practises were cited; proper fertilization and liming, judicious use of water, proper aerification practises, proper clipping heights, proper timing of each management practise - on adapted grass species. Continuous research must be carried on to improve upon these practises which in turn will further improve the turf crop. This phase is not one that can be turned on and

off, but must be one of continuous and concentrated effort to provide a healthy turf. Warren stated that in some instances we must not overlook the fact that when we create a more favorable environment for the desired crop, we may also create a good environment for certain weeds; weeds that are not generally associated with the climax-vegetation trend, but those generally associated with higher nutritional levels.

Hence, the third angle from which to attack weeds - chemical control to supplement cultural practises to provide better turf. Warren stated that we have barely scratched the surface with regard to the use of chemicals in weed control. He promised that continued research would result in the discovery of newer and more selective herbicides as well as additional information with regard to the specificity of the herbicides now being used. This is in the future picture; herbicides which are even more selective than 2,4-D.

When this comes, will it be a panacea? No! We have the example of 2,4-D for broad leaf plant selectivity, and still we must be careful in timing 2,4-D applications so that we don't encourage establishment of other weeds where the broadleaved ones go out. Time of application will become even more important a factor when more highly selective herbicides are available.

With regard to chickweed control, Dr. Shaw spoke of the following chemicals which he has used successfully:

- (1) 2,4-D on seedling chickweed at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per acre (spray).
- (2) Sodium arsenite at low rates with several applications
- (3) Potassium cyanate does a good job of control, but cost of herbicide limits use to small areas. Several applications needed.
- (4) The new water soluble dinitro compounds (yellow dyes) afford good control at moderate cost. Repeated applications necessary.

Dr. Shaw also stated that chickweed is very sensitive to liming. Soils with a pH reading of 6.0 will remain relatively free of chickweed, while soils with readings below and above pH 6.0 favor chickweed infestation.

Dr. Shaw then showed several kodachrome slides of the weed control work being done at Beltsville. Although most of the work was done on field and horticultural crops, several interesting points were established. Among these were the variability in tolerance between different strains of similar crops. For example, there was a marked degree of difference in the tolerance to herbicides of several different strains of wheat. Too, there was a marked difference in the effect of the herbicide when applied to wheat at different stages of growth. These conclusions coincide nicely with observations and findings (and some suspicions) with regard to tolerance and time of application as it effects different permanent grasses. Certainly this is a field for much more study and research.

Dr. Shaw, also showed slides of some of the equipment used in weed control work at Beltsville. Particularly interesting was the sprayer with which the field work is done. Looks like it would be a beauty for spraying putting green areas.

We are grateful to Dr. Shaw for his excellent presentation, and for his taking time away from his many duties to spend the day with us at Richmond, Va. We trust that we may have the pleasure of having him with us again at some future date.

Constructive Suggestion Report

The constructive suggestion report for the Lakeside C.C. is submitted as an addendum to the report sent to Lakeside last year. As so little time has lapsed between meetings at Lakeside, there are only a few suggestions to add.

Everyone in attendance agreed that the Lakeside layout is one of the most beautiful in the Mid-Atlantic area. Each fairway is lined (on each side) with tall trees, many of which were imported by the original owner and were placed in strategic locations to add to the esthetic value of the golf course. This is one golf course where you can enjoy yourself without playing good golf. That feeling of privacy, relaxation, and complete serenity is with you on every hole, even at this time of the year.

GREENS

The putting greens for the most part were in good shape for this time of the year. The new greens are attractively built, well graded for surface drainage, and are large enough to provide good greens from the standpoint of playability and maintenance.

There are a few trees which appear to be too close to the putting greens for comfort. If the putting green turf is not now affected by these trees robbing water and nutrients from them, they will at some future date, and root pruning or even the removal of these trees may be necessary. Greens 2 and 3 bear watching and may need attention soon.

On some holes, the sandtraps are set too close to the putting greens. There should be more of an apron between the trap and the putting surface, to cut down wear and to provide more space for mowing operations.

Greens #14 and #15 should be sterilized with methyl bromide (Dow Fume MC-2) to rid them of the severe infestation of Bermudagrass. Then these greens should be planted to the C-1 (Arlington) and C-19 (Congressional) strains of bentgrass, or seed of the new Polycross creeping Bentgrass should be sown. We feel that methyl bromide would be much preferable to the Larvacide (chloropicrin) now being tried on #13 green, as 100% chloropicrin to be effective on bermudagrass must be incorporated into the soil on one foot centers to a depth of 12 inches (pattern somewhat like Milky spore disease for Beetle control). Methyl bromide (Dow fume MC-2) will produce more desirable results with less work, but the material (poisonous gas) must be handled carefully. CMU can also be used, but replacement of soil to a depth of 6" to 8" will be necessary as toxicity from CMU lasts in the soil for sometime.

A nursery of select strains of bentgrass should be established and a part of it should be kept as putting green for the purpose of introducing better strains of bentgrass into all other greens. Normal replacement at cup cutting time will do much toward converting a large portion of these greens to better strains of bentgrass.

TEES

Many tees need to be enlarged to keep a good grass cover. Tees banks should be sloped gently to allow for maximum efficiency in the use of manpower and fairway power equipment. Bermudagrass should be the main cover for tees in full sun and plugs can be introduced from the fairways, which are predominantly Bermudagrass. The finer types (like U-3) bermudagrass would be preferable. For most shady tees, it appears that the best approach would be to grow combination Zoysia Japonica - Merion (B-27) bluegrass turf in a nursery, then use this turf to sod the tees. Tees should be well fed and well aerified.

FAIRWAYS

The Lakeside fairways show considerable improvement as compared with last year, due primarily to the large reduction in chickweed population. Host superintendent Harry Allanson did a remarkable job of control with 2,4-D applied on seedling chickweed. Further improvement of permanent grasses and reduction in other weed population can be brought about by a good fertilization and liming program. The most common weeds in the Lakeside fairways are curled dock, henbit, and german knotweed. Soil tests should be made, and the recommendations should be followed to bring the pH level to 6.5.

A good fertilization program should produce superb fairways at Lakeside. The fairways are predominantly bermudagrass, and with a Spring and Fall fertilization program, the cool-season grasses would be encouraged to their maximum. Hence, an ideal combination of cool-season warm-season fairway turf should result. Chlordane, as recommended in last year's report, could efficiently be applied with the fertilizer to minimize grub damage. Aerification prior to application would allow for most efficient placement and use of fertilizer-insecticide.

Maintenance Shed

The present housing facilities for storage of power equipment are inadequate. A well constructed, large maintenance shed pays for itself many times over in the conservation of equipment, supplies, topdressing and compost, as well as providing a place for men to work comfortably on days when they cannot work outdoors. Plans for construction of a good shed should be in the picture of the future, the sooner the better.

B U S I N E S S M E E T I N G

President Bob Shields opened the meeting with a few brief remarks about our last meeting . . . he also reminded everyone of the coming Fairfax Zoysia Project on April 22nd . . . if it rains on that day, we'll postpone it till April 29th . . . anyone in doubt (on April 22) call George Cornell's or the Holmead boys . . . be at Fairfax at 9 A.M. sharp. Mr. November stated that he was pleased to see us again . . . he was pleased also that Harry Allanson was progressive-minded enough to attend each meeting . . . because he knows that Lakeside C.C. benefits in the end.

Charlie Schalestock received and read letters from Dr. O. J. Noer thanking the Association for his honorary membership . . . Dr. John Monteith expressed his thanks for renewal of his honorary card . . . Dr. Fred Grau too expressed thanks for renewal of his Honorary membership, and for the enjoyment derived

from the close working relationship between the USGA Green Section and the Mid-Atlantic Association. Bob Pollock, secretary-treasurer of the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents confirmed the Joint Meeting at Hershey C.C. on May 6, 1952... O. J. Noer will be the guest speaker... Al Radko made the point that the Green Section Service Subscriptions are primarily designed to invite commercial organizations, cemeteries, parks, athletic fields, and individuals to become identified with, and to help support the National Coordinated Research Program... although the Green Section is directing this particular effort to the above mentioned organizations, any golf clubs wishing to participate are also welcome. Bob Shields mentioned the very nice article by Bill Glover which appeared in the Washington Post... all about the coming Zoysia Fairway planting project at Fairfax C.C. "Bus" Ham, sports editor, and golf and turf enthusiast gave the article nice space...darned good publicity...nice going Bill...buss "Bus" for us! For the second year in a row, Bob Scott, Jr. upheld the honor of the Baltimore boys...only Baltimorean present at the Richmond meeting.

Request for Advisory Committee Visit

The first request for an advisory committee visit was received by the Mid-Atlantic from the Patuxent Naval Air Station ... Bill Schreiber, superintendent of Patuxent is planning a big job of reconstruction there and has requested that a group visit with him to go over the details ... a committee of six superintendents and a member of the Green Section will soon be appointed to do the job.

Golf

Golf committee chairman Bill Schreiber reported results of the golf tourney as follows: Charlie Schalestock and Jim Reynolds tied for first with a net score of 75 ... Wha happen to the show spot, Bill?

New Members

John Davis of the National Capitol Parks, Ray Atcheson of the U. S. Naval Hospital Golf Course and L. M. Burkholder, foreman under Bill Glover at Fairfax C.C. were voted in as Associate Members.

NEXT MEETING - FAIRFAX COUNTRY CLUB

April 22, 1952 is a RED-LETTER DAY in the history of the Mid-Atlantic Association. This is the day on which the large Zoysia planting project (jointly sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic and the USGA Green Section) is to become a reality. Zoysia seedlings are being furnished by the USGA Green Section. For the first time in the history of golf we are going to be able to say "Here is one complete Zoysia fairway; we think it is the best we can offer. What do you think of it, Mr. Golfer?"

This project is going to tell us whether or not we are heading in the right direction, years ahead of any previous schedule ... to give the golfing public what they want ... and to give the superintendent what he wants... this is our chance to learn "the mostest in the leastest" time. The eyes of the nation are upon us. We can't afford a fumble!

This project is a large one, and the help of everyone will be needed to put it over. If each superintendent brings as many men as he can spare, we should have no trouble finishing the planting in one day. A minimum of 50 men will insure success. Remember to bring an asparagus knife, weeding knife, or a screwdriver for each man.

If it looks like rain on April 22nd and there is any doubt in your mind about whether to come to Fairfax, get in touch with the Holmead boys or George Cornell ... they'll give you the word ... if it should rain on April 22nd, the project will be postponed until April 29th ... be there at 9:00 A.M. sharp.

Remember that this is our only meeting in April. THE MANOR MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Coming Events

April 23-24. Turf Conference and Field Day. Southeastern Turf Research Center, Tifton, Georgia.

Good Reference

Spraying Systems Company, 3201 Randolph Street, Bellwood, Illinois puts out a complete tabulation which will tell you how much solution you're putting on an area on a pressure x rate of travel x nozzle size basis. Ask for Bulletin 55.