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## TURF NEWS LETTER

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

The Columbia Meeting - October 17, 1952

What more could we have asked for than a beautiful fall day, a wonderful McRae-ion dinner, a record attendance of 61 members and guests, and a good golf match. A hole in one? Well, even that happened at Columbia when Bob Elder's father-in-law, Clare "Ace" Lacey, uncorked on the 16th tee and holed-out for and ace.

Hosts for this gala occasion were Mr. Richard Essex, Green Committeeman and Mr. O. B. Fitts, Superintendent of the Columbia Country Club. Among those present and introduced in addition to Messrs. Essex and Fitts, were Frank Murray, Golf Course Contractor and Builder; Bob Ireland, Assistant to Al Price at Argyle; Jim Small of the Courthouse Country Club at Fairfax; Bill Wilmot of Summit Hall Turf Farm, Gaithersburg; Mr. Walter Densmore, Green Committeeman at Belle Haven; Admiral Jack Phillips, Green Chairman at Army and Navy; Colonel Van Atta and Lt. Toomey, Green Chairman and Golf Officer, respectively, at Ft. Belvoir Golf Course; Dr. Fred Grau, Al Radko and Bob Elder of the USGA Green Section; and Hugh McRae of the Davies Estate who looked "hale and hearty" again after his recent illness. Glad to see you back, Hugh.

The Mid-Atlantic is always pleased to visit Columbia as this club has been one of our staunchest supporters, and has always kept its doors open to us. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Fitts and officials, present and past for their many considerations.

## EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

### Golf Course Records

Charlie Schalestock, Superintendent of the Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Va., presented a very interesting talk on Golf Course Records. In his opening remarks Charlie emphasized that the Superintendent is interested in a simplified method of keeping records to enable him to do an efficient job, to know where he stands at all times, and in order that he may be able to supply club officials with specific information upon request. Golf Course Records, therefore, should be simple, accurate, up-to-date, and complete.

Charlie divided the Records into two categories - operational and permanent. Under permanent records he included charts, maps and photographs showing sizes and locations of areas and installations. These include greens, tees, aprons, fairways, roughs, traps, water, woodland, buildings, tennis courts, water line irrigation and drainage systems. The operational records include a time and cost account of the maintenance and management practises, work schedules, personnel aptitude, cost and depreciation of machinery, motor vehicle records, repairs and replacements, and last but not least the recording of his research data. Operational records also should carry a perpetual inventory of equipment and supplies.

To illustrate his point on maintenance operational records, Charlie displayed a series of graphs which showed time, date, rate of application or treatment, direction of operation, and results of practices at Farmington. These charts were excellent examples of complete, simple, and up-to-date records. Charles then presented a complete account of his putting green aeration and renovation technique via a tape recording machine. This recorded account gave details on the cost, time and method of aerating, dragging, top-dressing, rolling, brushing, watering, and fertilizing putting green surfaces on a basis which golf course superintendents understand best, i.e., COST and TIME CONSUMED. Charlie has worked out this technique to the point where he is able to accomplish the work mentioned above on one complete green in one hour. Charlie uses eight men to do the work, and it was only after careful study of prior operational records that he was able to perfect this technique. The cost data presented by Charlie show that he is able to do this operation at the surprisingly low cost of \$6.00 per 1000 sq. ft. of putting green turf. Time and labor studies of this nature make it easier for club officials to understand budget requirements for golf course maintenance and management. Such records are invaluable in future plannings and compilation of budget requirements of golf course operations.

In closing, Charlie again stressed the importance of keeping good records as they can be used effectively as a tool to increase understanding and harmony between club officials and the superintendent.

Good going Charles ... it was a job well-done.

#### Constructive Suggestion Report

October will be remembered as the month of records for the Mid-Atlantic Assn. Our record meeting at Columbia was followed by a record attendance of 21 persons at the Education and Policy Committee Meeting at Beltsville on Tuesday, Oct. 17th. Mr. Richard Essex and Mr. William Shannon, Green Officials and Mr. O. B. Fitts, Supt. of Columbia Country Club attended the meeting to further discuss the constructive suggestion report for Columbia.

This meeting was particularly valuable from the exchange of views standpoint as it was the first Educational meeting at which officials of the host club were present. In this sort of meeting everyone gains; the club officials learn of some of our problems, and we learn of theirs and a better all-around understanding is reached...and a broader outlook of the overall picture is attained. It is hoped that we can continue meeting in this way with club officials at future constructive suggestion report meetings.

#### General

The overall problems encountered at Columbia are no different from those faced by all the clubs in the Mid-Atlantic area. This past year has been the worst year that we have witnessed as far back as we could remember. This is the type of year that emphasizes four main things perhaps over and above all else; they are - judicious use of water, proper grass selections, adequate use of fertilizer and proper aeration. This year, the very wet month of May promoted shallow root systems, encouraged the poorer turf grasses, and interrupted the regular management and maintenance practices on turf; bentgrass putting greens particularly presented <sup>many</sup> problems in maintenance. Turf conditions at

Columbia this year were bad for the first time in all the years of our meetings there - does this mean we should bring out the bull-dozers and other heavy equipment and begin again from scratch - absolutely not - the majority of the courses in the country are faced with the same problems - their courses too suffered badly. There are courses that fared worse than Columbia, others that suffered less. Let's try to analyse the picture to find out why.

### Greens

The courses throughout the Mid-Atlantic area, and on many courses throughout the Nation which have had properly managed strains of improved creeping bentgrass on their greens came through this summer in much better shape than properly managed courses with the poorer strains of bentgrass turf. There were many favorable past years during which the inferior strains of bentgrass, to many, appeared as good or even perhaps better than the improved strains of bentgrass ... during favorable years anything looks good ... It is during a year such as 1952, that superior selections such as C-1, C-19, and C-27 show to their best advantage. As an illustration on your own Course, the #4 Green has the Washington strain of creeping bentgrass on it. It has stood up well until this past summer. Was the problem management? ... No! it was simply that the accumulation of weaknesses that developed during favorable years suddenly and dramatically appeared this year. This weakness developed despite good management.

Our recommendation is that the Columbia Country Club establish a cover C-1, C-19 and C-27, or C-1 and C-19 on one putting green in order to determine for yourselves, under your conditions whether it is the turf you want. The number 1 hole has two greens which are played alternately at present. We recommend that one of these greens be selected for this planting; the other green can be kept in play. This project can be done in either of two ways - 1. By first growing a nursery of stolons with which to stolonize the green. The usual rate of 10 bushels of stolons to each 1000 sq. ft. using equal parts of each strain of bentgrass or 2. Grow a nursery of sod of these improved grasses, caring for it as you would a putting-green surface, and then lift and sod the green when ready.

In order to eliminate the *Poa Annua* population at the time of stolonizing or sodding, it is recommended that the area be treated to kill the *Poa* seed. This can be done with Methyl Bromide. If the soil temperature is 50°F or above, methyl bromide (Dow fume MC-2) used as recommended by the manufacturers will effectively sterilize the bed. This product is a poisonous gas and must be used carefully in accordance with instructions. If methyl bromide is not used a mixture of one pound of sodium arsenite and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of potassium cyanate per 1000 sq. ft. applied as a spray should do much to discourage *Poa Annua* on the prepared fallow area. This spray should be applied about one week prior to laying the sod or stolons.

If you care to try these improved grasses on two greens, one with stolons and the other as sod, the number 5 green could be the second logical choice as numbers 1 and 5 appeared to be the poorest greens this year.

Other good management practices should be followed on these and all putting green surfaces, - these include aeration, fertilization, judicious watering, fungicide sprays, insect control, - to name a few. Mr. Fitts will know

the how, why, when, what and wherefore, and these tasks should be left to his descretion. There are some operations that may seem a bit drastic to the membership - one of these is aerification. The inclination of a player to blame a missed putt on the most obvious thing, the many holes punched in the green is natural, but unjust. The benefits of a good aeration program are innumerable and invaluable and are know to all. Aeration breaks through the thatch and mat build-up which is characteristic of creeping bentgrass turf and keeps air, moisture and nutrients in the root zone where they are needed. It also helps prevent the breakdown of soil structure. When and how often to aerify should be left to Mr. Fitts as he is most qualified to recognize the danger symptoms and the decision to act must be his.

One other decision that should be left entirely to the superintendent, and he should have the backing of the Green Chairman, is to close the regular putting greens during the winter months when normal freezing and thawing take place. Much harm is done from the standpoint of compaction if greens are in play while they are soft; the turf itself is not helped any if trampled while in this condition. Temporary greens can be set-up in the fairways to accommodate those who wish to play at this time. When the greens are hard during the winter they can be used without fear of injuring them. Publicity on such action should stress that this action is in the best interest of the golfer, best interest of the Club, best interest of the course, and best interest of the Superintendent. Encourage the hearty winter player to practice his chip shots instead of his putting.

#### Fairways

It is the recommendation of this group that serious consideration be given to the use of warm season perennial grasses as the basic fairway turf. At present there are many large patches of Bermudagrass in the fairways that have done very well this year, while most of the cool-season grasses have suffered. We recommend that plugs or strips of sod from these Bermuda patches be moved to other parts of the fairways as time and labor allow. Another very good way to establish Bermudagrass is to gather the clippings after mowing, and spread them on thin areas after thorough aerification. (The leaf sweeper on page 8 of this News Letter will do a good job of gathering clippings.) The Zoysia grasses should also be considered for small areas at present, just enough to get some started so that the membership could decide for themselves whether this is the type of turf they desire. It might not be necessary to do a great deal of overseeding of cool-season grasses, as Poa Annua normally volunteers in great abundance on these fairways and will provide winter color.

#### Tees

The grasses mentioned under fairways should be also considered for tee cover. U-3 Bermudagrass is an excellent tee grass for open, sunny areas. Meyer Zoysia and Z-73 seedlings would also do well in the sunny areas, also in moderate shade. These grasses are heartily recommended for their ability to withstand traffic and heavy play. Some of your own selections from your fairways also can be tried. Cover on many tees could be established as recommended under fairways. Jimmy Thomas of the Army and Navy Club has had excellent results in establishing Bermudagrass by aerifying, scattering clippings, top dressing and then watering.

Turf Nursery

A turf nursery of the improved strains of grasses should be established and maintained permanently. Separate plots of a C-1 and C-19 mixture for putting greens patch work, U-3 Bermudagrass, Meyer Zoysia, and combination Meyer Zoysia with Merion Bluegrass should provide a turf insurance program which would cover all situations.

BUSINESS MEETING

"Prexy" Bob Shields called the meeting to order promptly at 7:30 P.M. ... Charlie Schalestock read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the Treasurer's report ... both were approved as read ... A letter was received from Jack Witcher of Baltimore Toro to the effect that Dr. Jim Watson, Agronomist for The Toro Mfg. Co. would be in this region during our November meeting and Dr. Watson would be available to address the group ... There was unanimous agreement to invite Dr. Watson to speak ... The meeting is to be held at the Woodholme Country Club, Baltimore, Md., Nov. 11 and the election of officers will be the main business of the meeting ... Nominations made by Mr. John Connolly, Chairman of the Nominating Committee are as follows; Jim Thomas, President, Bob Scott, Jr., Vice-President, and Charlie Schalestock, Secretary-Treasurer... Nominations can also be made from the floor ... Bob Scott, Jr. then gave the Education Committee report ... it dealt mainly with the coming Annual Baltimore Conference ... Bob read the proposed schedule of topics and speakers ... the program is one of the best that we have ever devised ... it should be one of the outstanding programs of the year ... mark the dates on your calander now ... Jan. 6 & 7, 1953 ... Speakers include Dr. Fred V. Grau, Dr. O. J. Noer, Dr John R. Vaughan, Dr. Warren C. Shaw, Dr. Wm. Daniels, Mr. George Harding and Mr. Tom or Toney Mascaro.

Bob Shields then announced that there were a few openings on the schedule of monthly meetings of this association for next year ... if you would like to have us meet at your club next year, contact Bob ... "Red" Hancock of Glenbrook and Sligo is in the hospital ... best wishes for a speedy recovery "Red" ... The Armiger Trophy will be carried over for one more year before play-offs take place for permanent possession in order to enable the Golf Committee to properly adjust handicaps of the playing members... Harry Dunn offered to duplicate this trophy to present one to both participants ... the meeting of the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents in 1954 is going to be held in Miami, Florida ... so announced Bill Glover ... he reminded us that we would be missing a wonderful opportunity if we did not attend the 1953 meeting which is going to be held in "our own back yard" - Atlantic City ... Feb. 8-13, 1953 .. Bill Glover won the annual Armiger cup for 1951 ... his first leg ... Our gift to Charlie Wilson was a beautiful Atlas clock ... Hugh McRae is voted a pat on the back for his nice handling of the Wilson testimonial fund. The Association wishes to thank all who contributed.

The "Age-Old" question of "What" constitutes a bushel of stolons? - was brought up for discussion ... there was an open discussion but no definite conclusions drawn. It was brought out that the best stolons to ship and to plant (under most conditions) are "rag-stolons". "Rag-stolons" do not dry as rapidly, nor do they lose their weight as rapidly as shredded stolons ... Dr. Grau then brought out the interesting point that several nurseries today are now playing safe and are sending their material out as sod or plugs ... Dr. Grau also announced that the Green Section is willing to consider another

"Operation Zoysia" for 1953 in cooperation with the Mid-Atlantic Assn. ... Do you favor another fairway project? Where? ... The details will be brought up for discussion at one of the Association meetings in the future ... Incidentally according to Bill Glover the Fairfax Zoysia is developing beautifully ... Plugs and seedlings are now very noticeable ... several inches spread ... The soil profile committee, under chairman Leon "Brownie" Brown, is doing an excellent job of collecting profiles ... we now have about two dozen profiles ... they are mounted and will be shown at the Annual Baltimore Conference ... and maybe at the Atlantic City National Meeting ... Yours are needed so get in touch with "Brownie" ... The Mid-Atlantic Assn. hopes to have a booth at the Atlantic City meeting where we can show some of our works projects.

#### New Members

Mr. Frank Murray, Golf Course Contractor, Rockville, Md. was voted into the Association as an Associate Member.

Mr. Richard Essex, Green Committeeman of the Columbia Country Club was voted in as an Honorary Member.

#### Coming Events

Jan. 6 & 7, 1953 Annual Baltimore Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md.

Feb. 8-13, 1953 Meeting of the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Ambassador Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

#### Now Is The Time To

1. Aerate if you haven't already done so.
2. Cut down on mowing and spend more time cleaning up - leaves, twigs, branches, etc.
3. Plant nurseries of stolons of cool season grasses.
4. Begin inventory work - and stock up again for next year - fungicides, herbicides, etc.
5. Set-up winter schedule of painting, repairing, cleaning, etc., to keep permanent employees busy and to insure an experienced crew next year.
6. Get ready to go through it all again next year - "Parish-forbid" that again we encounter a year like '52.
7. Plan to attend the winter conferences for your education.

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Good Reading

"The Golf Course Reporter" published monthly - write Agar M. Brown, Box 106. St. Charles, Ill. - non-membership subscriptions \$3.00 per year.

"Golfdom" published monthly except Nov. and Dec. - write Herb Graffis, 407 So. Dearborn St., Chicago, 5, Ill. or Albro Gaylor, 20 Vesey St., New York, N. Y., price \$2.00 per year.

Know Your Fellow Superintendent

Carroll Hitchcock is your fellow superintendent at Woodholme and has held that position for the last 10 years. Before coming to Woodholme he was responsible for the greenkeeping duties at Green Spring Golf Club in Baltimore and is still on that job too. He is superintendent of Woodholme and Green Spring Golf Courses. He has been a member of this Association for many years but his attendance at monthly meetings has not been so good because he says his duties of running two courses take too much of his time and attention.

Next Meeting

Place: Woodholme Country Club, Baltimore, Md.

Date: November 11, 1952

Time: Golf at 11:00 A.M. - Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

Guest Speaker will be Dr. Jim Watson, Chief Agronomist of the Toro Manufacturing Company. Dr. Watson received his training in turf under one of the outstanding turf men in the nation - Prof. H. B. Musser ... he then became a member of the teaching and extension staff at Texas A & M College prior to his engagement with the Toro Company. He was secretary-treasurer of Texas Turf Association and published Turf News of Texas. Jim is fast becoming one of the rising stars in turf ... come and see why.

Remember also that at this meeting you will have the opportunity to vote a good man into office ... if you are not of voting age come anyway as you MAY have the opportunity to feel the pressure ease IF we get out from under the "rule of tyranny" of "Prexy" Bob Shields.

How to get to Woodholme CCC.

Woodholme is located on Reisterstown Road about one mile past Pikesville.

New Gadgets - Leaf Sweeper

Bob Shields of Woodmont Country Club reports excellent results with the very simple but effective device reported by Agar Brown on page 20 of the Sept.-Oct., 1951 issue of the Golf Course Reporter for removing leaves, clippings, paper, twigs, and loose small stones from the fairway and rough areas.

This device was built and used at the Park Ridge C.C., Illinois. It is simple, inexpensive, and does a fast, efficient job of removing leaves from fairways and open rough. Bob reports that George Wyatt and the Jeep can clean up 18 fairways in one normal day of operation and the leaves are saved for the compost pile. This device can be tractor or jeep drawn 10 or 15 M.P.H. is best. A 12" strip of chicken wire along the trailing edge keeps leaves from blowing off the rear. Bob says come to Woodmont to see his in operation if you care to. This is what it looks like.

