



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Published by

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

L. R. SHIELDS

JAMES E. THOMAS

*Editor* Woodmont Country Club, Box 352, Rockville, Md.

*Editor* Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

OCTOBER 1956

The entire association is saddened by the death of member Clifton M. Eisele, formerly of Prince Georges Golf and Country Club. Cliff died on September 18, 1956 at Avon Park, Florida. He had a stroke. He was 63.

He had been a member of the association for the past 10 years and served faithfully in the role of counselor and adviser as a member of our Executive Committee. He was always a man of good character and good judgment.

As Chairman of the Board at Prince Georges, Cliff always kept his club door open to members of the Mid-Atlantic and made us welcome at many meetings held there.

His home was at 7800 Glenbrook Rd. in Bethesda, Md., but of late he had been in Florida developing a housing project and golf course. With his brother Louis, who died in 1951, he operated Prince Georges Golf and Country Club until 1955, when he sold the club to the membership.

The funeral was held Saturday, September 22 at Phumphrey's in Bethesda.

We sincerely regret his passing and extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and family.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Fifty-seven members and guests visited the Shenandoah Retreat Country Club for the regular monthly meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The date was September 11, 1956.

Shenandoah Retreat is the home and headquarters of our fellow member, John Leavell. John is the majordomo of some twenty-seven hundred acres of property that lies partly along the banks of the Shenandoah River and situated in a portion of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are over one hundred cottages on the estate and when it is fully developed, it will be quite a family playground and recreational retreat with over twenty miles of roadways. The development is under the direction of Dr. E.M. Freeman.

Its athletic activities are golf, swimming, boating and hunting. On the social side, one can dine and dance and there are facilities for staying overnight. The location is an ideal spot for a week-end holiday or as a place to spend a vacation period.



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For the short time the Retreat has been in existence, John Leavell has accomplished much. Last year the nine hole golf course was covered by flood waters of the Shenandoah River which left the tees, fairways and greens covered with silt and sediment. As an aftermath of the flood, there came a heavy infestation of crabgrass and John is now faced with the problem of its eradication.

Thirty-eight of our members and guests played golf during the afternoon while the others inspected the layout. In the evening, we were served a wonderful roast beef dinner ( country style ). It was a great day for an outing and we extend our many thanks to John and his staff for their hospitality.

After we had finished the evening repast, the meeting was called to order by President Robert Scott, Jr. Bob introduced the following guests to those present: Dr. Fred V. Grau, Agronomist; Mr. Ernest Whittaker, American Liquid Fertilizer Company, Inc., Marietta, Ohio; Mr. Henry Geradi, golf professional, Norbeck Country Club, Norbeck, Maryland; Captain Nevill, Commanding Officer, Patuxent Naval Air Station, Patuxent, Maryland; Mr. William Meadows, Richmond, Virginia. ( Bill was golf course superintendent at the Hermitage Country Club in Richmond for thirty-five years.

We were glad to have with us four Green Committee Chairmen: Mr. Campbell Kern, Talbot Country Club, Easton, Md., ; Admiral John S. Phillips, Army-Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.; Mr. R.J. Sepulveda, Bethesda Country Club, Bethesda, Md.; and Mr. Gilbert Shapiro, Norbeck Country Club, Norbeck, Md.

## NEW MEMBERS

These gentlemen were recently accepted into our association as new members: Mr. Robert Adams, National Capital Toro Company, Silver Spring, Md.; Mr. W. Russel Roberts and Mr. Martin Yeatman, both from the Brooke Manor Country Club, Norbeck, Md. Mr. Roberts is a partner of Mr. Frank Murray. We welcome these newcomers and hope to see them at all of our meetings.

Preliminary plans for the annual Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference are well underway. The dates set for the meeting are Thursday and Friday, January 17 and 18, 1957. The Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland will again be our headquarters. Speakers and subjects are being lined up and everything points to one of the best conferences we have ever held. Dr. George S. Langford of the University of Maryland and Mr. Charles K. Hallowell of the USGA Green Section are in charge of the program and arrangements. Under such capable hands, the event cannot help but be successful.

Mr. Leon Brown, Mr. Ernest Kidwell and Mr. Aubrey Witcher have once again been appointed as a committee of three to secure prizes for the annual October golf tournament. These three always seem to know where to locate and find suitable prizes for our annual golf championship. This will be held as a part of the Woodmont Country Club meeting, so be sure to attend and find out what your golfing skill will win for you.



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We are informed that both O.B. Fitts and Frank Dunlap are out of the hospital and are coming along nicely. They can now be classified as convalescents. This is good news to all of their many friends.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Extract from the Mid-Atlantic Constitution: " The Nominating Committee shall prepare and submit a slate of officers for consideration by the Regular and Life Membership of the Association at least twenty ( 20 ) days in advance of the annual meeting held in November of each year. Nominations for any elective offices in addition to those submitted by the Nominating Committee may be made in proper order by any Regular or Life member from the floor at the Annual Meeting. " The Committee's selections are: for President, Thomas C. Dawson, Jr.; for Vice-President, Paul Weiss, Jr.; for Secretary-treasurer, Francis Coupe.

#### Nominating Committee:

James Reynolds

James E. Thomas

Richard Watson, Chairman.

Dr. Fred V. Grau favored us with a few remarks and comments. He stressed the fact that with the coming of the 1958 National Turfgrass Conference and Show to Washington, D.C., that we should strive for a stronger and larger membership in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Fred also mentioned that research workers throughout the country are advocating the use of larger quantities of sand in the construction of new putting greens. He told us that some are even recommending a mixture as high as ninety percent. Excess compaction caused by heavy play has shown the need for adding more coarse sand to our mixtures so as to produce a more porous putting green soil of the proper tilth and porosity, one that will stand up under heavy play and trampling.

The Doctor also pointed out our need to give more thought to golf course management. He told us that standard maintenance practices were only a part of our job. That more and more it was becoming necessary for us to be good business managers. After all, MAN is the principal syllable in the word " manager " .

Fred always has a message of interest for us. One cannot help but admire him for his enthusiasm and sincerity of purpose when talking about grass or the superintendent. He puts his heart and soul into all of his undertakings.

#### CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Thomas C. Dawson, Moderator

As a preamble to this discussion our host superintendent, John Leavell, gave us a brief outline of his problems and asked for our help, comments and recommendations. He told us that his golf course crew consisted of only four men. This is not a large enough force to maintain the course in satisfactory condition. The addition of at least two more helpers to the crew would enable Hohn to accomplish much needed work and would help to keep regular routine duties from getting out of hand.

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The high floodwaters of last year left him with a covering of river silt and an unwanted crop of crabgrass. ( Neither of these conditions existed before. ) River muck and silt was used in the construction of the greens with no coarse materials being added. This has been a constant source of trouble to him. In other words he has built-in headaches to cope with.

The greens are planted to Seaside bent which is not a satisfactory grass for this area. The use of vegetative bents such as a mixture of C-1 and C-19, or C-7 would produce better playing surfaces. It is recommended that such a change be made. Continued aerification and topdressings with loams containing a high percentage of coarse sands would be very beneficial to the greens. As their covering of grass is on the thin side, judicious fertilization will also help.

Di-Sodium- Methyl-Arsenate has been used on the greens for the control of crabgrass and some yellowing of the existing plants was noticeable. An application of one-half gallon of PMAS to the spray barrel each time the greens are treated for disease would give some pre-emergence control of the weed. We saw no indications of goosegrass being present in any visible quantities. John can be very thankful that such is the case.

The fairways have been closely and constantly mowed to keep the crabgrass plants from forming seed heads. All fairway units are equipped with flexicoms so as to stand the seed heads upright for clipping. It was brought out that a heavy fertilization of the fairways while they are wet from heavy dews would help to burn out the crabgrass. A sodium arsenite job applied at recommended rates of application, followed by some re-seeding and fertilization might be another solution.

We also suggest that next year, as an experiment, certain areas be planted to different varieties of bermuda grasses. The course lies in a protective pocket along the river, and for this reason, bermuda might thrive very well. Though we recognize that this is a definite blue grass country, and a cool season belt, Shenandoah Retreat could be an exception.

The tees we found to be well-constructed. Their grades were true and level. For thier betterment, we would follow the fairway recommendations.

#### GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

The Shenandoah Retreat Golf Tournament was highlighted by the scintillating play of " Slim " Tom Dawson, who aided by this ability to see the ball for the first time in years when putting, coasted to an easy victory with an 81 ( a bulky 15 handicap ) for a 66 net.

Thirty-eight players toured the scenic river front course and once again Bob Hopkins was the Low Gross winner with a 3 under 67, pressing him in 2nd was Jack Harper's 69.

In the guest division, 5 participated and the winner was H.Geradi with a 70, F. Stevens- 75-4-71 and G. Shapiro, 97-16-71 tied for 2nd.



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Complete results as follows:

<u>Guest</u>		<u>Gross</u>		<u>Net</u>
1. H. Geradi	70	1. Bob Hopkins	67	1. Tom Dawson 81-15-66
2. F. Stevens	75-4-71	2. Jack Harper	69	2. Col Jednoff 78-10-68
3. G. Shapiro	97-16-71			J. Reposkey 72-4-68
				3. C. Pigott 86-16-70
				4. M. Burkholder 93-21-71
				W. Beach 75-3-72

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 2, 1956 at Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland, with Bob Shields as host superintendent.

Date - October 2, 1956

Place - Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Md.

Time - Golf 12 noon

Social period - 5 p.m.

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Meeting- following dinner

Main Event - Annual Golf Tournament

Host - Bob Shields

It's "open house" for golf course superintendents at Woodmont next Tuesday. Superintendents and club chairmen are cordially invited. Our host informs us that we will see no miracles at Woodmont, but he does think we will see a course where your ideas and suggestions have been put to work. Bob says that if anything good is found at Woodmont, credit should go to the Mid-Atlantic and National Associations for ideas used and to an ideal Greens chairman, Mr. Leo Freudberg, for permission to put those ideas to work. Bob also gives much credit for the condition of the greens to Rudy Will, who was superintendent in 1948 and 1949 when the course was being built.

At this meeting you will see greens that have been called "near perfect examples of C-1, C-19 bent grass greens" by Dr. Fred V. Grau speaking at Long Beach, Calif., but Bob says tees and collars are terrible and asks for your suggestions on how to improve these areas.

A tour of Woodmont's new 9 holes can be arranged if there is an interest. Construction on the 9 is almost complete with only small sections of the rough and a couple of greens yet to be planted. This 9 was designed by Al Tull and built by Woodmont with Bob in charge of construction. Your comments, suggestions and ideas are welcome.

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### NOW IS THE TIME

Everything needs to be done now - aerify, verti-cut, top dress, fertilize fairways - but don't forget to rig up your fairway leaf-sweeper so golf can continue as long as weather is favorable. Also move top soil into the shed for straining next winter when snow is on the ground. Consult with your Chairman on work that can be done during the winter in order to keep as many of your regular men as possible.

### PEOPLE AND NAMES

Have trouble remembering names? Then try this as suggested by R.E. McArdle, Chief, Forest Service, in an April publication of USDA EMPLOYEE BULLETIN.

Be sure you know the person's name. If you didn't hear it distinctly, ask him to repeat it. If it is unusual, ask him to spell it. He won't mind.

Write the name down.

Connect the name with the person's face. Look at his face so as to see it distinctly and at the same time think consciously that this is how he ( John Smith ) looks. Do this several times while talking with him.

Sometimes you can associate the person with something, for example, the way he signs his name, circumstances involved when you first waited on him or his type of business.

If you want to remember many names you have to work at it.

Make a daily list of names of people you meet and want to remember. Opposite each name, jot down a brief note about the person, where he lives, his business or any unusual incident that might help you to remember him. Go over the list from time to time before going home.

When you are in a meeting, list the names of the persons present in the order they are seated around the table. Try recalling the names during the meeting as opportunity affords.