



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

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DECEMBER 1957

The last official meeting of the 1957 season was held at the Belle-Haven Country Club, Alexandria, Virginia on Tuesday, November 5, 1957. There were about sixty-five members and guests in attendance.

This was the month for our annual meeting, so the principal business to come before the group was the election of officers to guide our destiny for the coming year of 1958. The candidates selected by the Nominating Committee's slate were elected. Those chosen were Bob Shields, President; James A. Reid, Vice-President; and Francis Coupe, Secretary-Treasurer. These three men are veteran Mid-Atlantic "War Horses", and we know that they will serve our organization to the best of their ability. We are in good hands for another year.

There was also a meeting in the afternoon of the Mid-Atlantic's National Educational Committee. This body is planning the part our membership will take in the morning program of the National Conference on Friday, Feb. 7, 1958.

We are staging for our part of the big show a sketch entitled, "A meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents." The feature of the skit will be a "Constructive Suggestion Report." It is hoped that our entire membership will participate in the program.

Charlie Wilson, "The Originator of the Constructive Suggestion Report", has consented to act as moderator. We are intending to hold a dress rehearsal sometime in January. Please try and be with us then, as we will need the help of everyone to insure the event being a success. So let's all put our shoulder to the wheel and make the Mid-Atlantic's contribution to the Educational Program of the 29th National Turfgrass Conference and Show an outstanding accomplishment.

FOR LADIES ONLY

The Ladies' Program Committee has planned two days of entertainment for all ladies attending the National Turfgrass Conference and Show. As a member of the host association for this Conference, won't you ask your wife to serve as hostess to the ladies who attend? When the Ladies' Program Committee calls upon her to assist in some small way won't you please urge her to accept?

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CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT
BELLE HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
NOVEMBER 5, 1957

MODERATOR, CHARLES K. HALLOWELL - SCRIBE, FRED V. GRAU
MR. DANIEL, PRESIDENT OF BELLE HAVEN COUNTRY CLUB
MR. SEMPLE, CHAIRMAN - GREENS COMMITTEE
MR. GEORGE CAMPBELL - GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

The theme of this meeting, as expressed by Hugh McRae is the importance of the individual. Mr. Hallowell called attention to the NEWSLETTER of the association, which has gained national recognition. George Campbell introduced Mr. Semple, Greens Chairman, who told of activities on the course. This included planting C-1, C-19 bents on the greens, continuing to plant bermudagrass in the off-season on fairways. He described how George Campbell takes large pieces of bermuda, actually foot square pieces of sod, and cuts them into the fairways where there is a thin place. A lot of this is done in the off-season when there is labor available and much less to do. He gets about an 80-90% take.

Fred Grau pointed out that Belle Haven was the first course to plant U-3 bermuda before it became so well known. Mr. Semple continued that, in the first year after planting the sod pieces, there is not much spread. The second year they about double in size and in the third year they really go to town. He stressed their delight in the combination of their open native bermuda and poa annua with other cool season grasses. He said with this combination, under a good feeding program, they are green practically the year round. They usually anticipate taking 5-6 years for complete cover with this type of planting program. They have gained immeasurably with summer feeding - it has really paid off - and now some of their fairways are nearly solid bermuda, but with poa annua coming in, they are green the year round.

He spoke further about drainage and diking out the tide. He says they have gates in the dike so that they let the water out at low tide and keep it from coming back in at high tide. There has been some loss of U-3 bermuda on the tees where they have winter play. They are just now learning how to overcome this. Three new holes are being built and they are planning to plant these fairways to bermuda early next spring. On No. 17 fairway there is a grass which was identified by Tom Ryan as zoysia, that Mr. Monteith gave him years ago - half of it was matrella and half was japonica. Apparently matrella is the one that survived in this case. On a tee, however, matrella did no good.

Jim Reynolds wanted to know why people talk against seeding bermudagrass. He says the cost is advantageous because seed is cheaper. The argument given was that plugs or sod can be set at any time, particularly when the grass is dormant. Seed so often winter kills; as Admiral Phillips explained, drought comes along and the young seedlings can't build up enough root reserves and thus it perishes during the winter. Jimmy Thomas and Admiral Phillips and Dick Watson all agree that it is useless to try to seed bermudagrass in established turf.

Seed might be used on a clean seedbed. There's a great deal to be said for the natural selections which have developed from common bermudagrass seed which then can be reproduced vegetatively if they are a good strain. Fred Grau called attention to the fact that common bermudagrass seed come from bermudagrass grown in Arizona which is not adapted to this climate and so often it is possible to get coarse, ugly strains that are tremendously aggressive near the greens and which no one would want. He called attention also to the excellent strain that has developed around the greens near the clubhouse at Belle Haven that come right up to the edge of the bent but do not invade the bent. This is something highly to be desired. Charlie Schalestock called attention to the need for keeping the cool-season grasses in mind during the discussion of warm season grasses. In summary, it could be said that a good job was done in discussing both cool and warm season grasses.

Walter Dinsmore called attention to the brown bermuda fairways at Pinehurst during the winter, but which played beautifully in spite of the color. Fred Grau mentioned that it may be necessary to raise the fertility level in the fairways in the fall to encourage cool season grasses during the fall, winter and spring. Tom Dawson asked about poa trivialis - the question didn't get answered, but poa trivialis has not been one of the more successful cool season grasses with bermuda; it requires so very much moisture, whereas bermudagrass can exist on very little. Charles Hallowell showed slides sent by Charlie Wilson of the Power Sod Cutter being used at the Bala Club in Philadelphia to cut strips of bermuda which then would be placed into the fairways in identical strips cut with the sod cutter in that location. This is just one of the ways in which bermuda sod can be moved from nursery to fairway. It was emphasized that rolling and watering must be followed after the spot or strip sodding, whereas plugs would not need to be watered because they take care of themselves.

Nothing was said about the greens at Belle Haven, because everyone simply took it for granted that they are just about as good as can be produced.

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents wishes to thank Belle-Haven Country Club, the officials, membership and staff for the privilege of being able to visit the club. We always look forward to a visit at Belle-Haven with eager anticipation and again we say thanks for the hospitality.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To each member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents I send my most cordial greetings. In this, my first official message to the membership of our fine association, I express my sincere gratitude for the honor which you have conferred on me as President of the Mid-Atlantic. I am well aware of the fact that along with this honor there is also a serious responsibility. I pledge to each member my personal interest in your problems and a joy in each success you attain.

The responsibilities of a new year are upon us. As officers and as members we all must continue the tremendous task undertaken many years ago of producing better turf by improving the golf course superintendent. This is a

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major operation and must be undertaken by each member in order for that member to reap the monetary rewards as well as the rewards that come with having done a good job.

We stand together on the threshold of a new and exciting year of work, play and service to our club members. We stand on the vantage point of having the National Meeting in Washington where fellow superintendents from all over the nation will inspire us; the program and show will inform us; the fellowship will create human and spiritual values for all of us who share.

From this coming National Meeting, let us return, with vision clear, to our clubs where we meet everyday problems with inspiration, confidence and courage and create a better superintendent.

It's at the club and on the golf course that superintendents advance themselves by doing a good job. An association officer can do little for members along this line except guide, cooperate, set a good example and inaugurate an educational program. These things I promise to do, but as for setting goals - I'll leave that to each member. Set your sights high enough to challenge yourself, but not so high as to be unattainable.

May I count on your cooperation in doing that which is best for the organization. May I count on your support and interest by asking you to contribute any idea or good suggestion you might have for the good of all. May I count on you to help carry out these suggestions and finally - may I count on you to volunteer to serve on at least one committee to carry on the work of running our association.

Bob Shields, President

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Washington, the capital of our nation, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, is to be the host to our National Association of Golf Course Superintendents in February 1958.

We as members of the Mid-Atlantic have a big job playing host to 12-15 hundred guests from all over the United States, its possessions and Canada. You will find the delegates a wonderful group of people, interested in their work, wanting to learn how we in the east, and the Mid-Atlantic area in particular, keep and maintain our golf courses. We may also have to entertain between 4 and 5 hundred ladies.

There is so much to see in Washington and time is so short that it will take very detailed planning for us to be ready for visiting delegates. Those of us who have attended these conferences can attest to their value, how they have helped us improve the management of our courses and the new ideas we obtained by meeting and talking with our fellow superintendents.

No club could afford alone the cost of trying out the many new ideas, new weed controls, new fertilizers, new equipment and a host of other things; but dozens of superintendents trying individual ideas; the green section, colleges, commercial houses, chemical houses and others assimilating their

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findings and giving us their reports at these conferences are the reasons why we are so far advanced in the maintenance of golf courses than we were a few years back.

Any superintendent who misses these conferences is not doing justice to his club and any club that does not send its superintendent to the conference is not doing the right thing for the best interests of its members. Attend this year and report to your Chairman in writing on what you have learned. Tie new ideas to work on your course and he will see the value of national meetings.

I am looking forward to the greatest conference our association has ever seen coming to Washington, the hub of our nation. Our guests will have many things of interest to see and it's up to us as superintendents of the National Association and members of the Mid-Atlantic Association to see that when they leave they can say that the 1958 conference in Washington was the greatest they ever attended.

James A. Reid, Vice-President

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER POST CARD

Enclosed in this NEWSLETTER is a postcard listing the committees that do the work of running the Mid-Atlantic.

At the Belle-Haven meeting charges were made that - (1) the association is run by a handful of men, (2) those who don't agree with the "clique" have no say and are left out, (3) that some members have driven many miles month after month to attend these meetings and have not yet learned anything.

This card, sent to all Regular Members, is intended to counter these charges and prove that those who want to work for the association can do so by serving on the committee or committees of their choice.

The Executive Committee is not listed because it is made up of Chairmen of all other committees. The Executive Committee meets at Beltsville on Tuesday following each regular meeting, but this could be changed to the afternoon of regular meeting days if it seemed more desirable to all.

If you are a regular member and if you think there is something wrong with the Mid-Atlantic or the way in which it is run, then here is your chance to do something about it. Show your interest by returning the card which is addressed to the Secretary.

WINTER PLAY ON GREENS

Reprinted from NORTHEASTERN TURFLETTER, October 1954. Alex. H. Radco, Director Northeastern USGA Greensection

In the Northeast the question of the feasibility of playing on regular greens during the winter months often "pops up". When greens are frozen solid it is safe to play them. However, traffic over frozen grass bruises the blades, and footprints show thereafter for some time.

Usually grass outgrows this injury.

When soils beneath greens are completely thawed it is also supposed to be safe to play them, although the lubricating action of the moisture tends to cement soil particles and undoubtedly adds to compaction troubles during the next season.

Where the real trouble occurs is when the top inch is thawed and the soil beneath is frozen. Playing at that time usually causes severe compaction to set into the upper soil layer. The turf becomes a mass of footprints, and the greens become very bumpy. Injury of this nature is difficult to overcome and the damage may well take many years to rectify. Unfortunately, the condition that brings about this type of injury can occur at any time. The greens may be safe to play on at one time of the day but enough thawing may take place during the day to make conditions right for severe injury. Temporary greens for winter play insure better greens during the regular golfing season.

IN THE MAIL

November 7, 1957

Mr. James E. Thomas
Army-Navy Country Club
Arlington, Virginia

Dear Jimmy,

I trust plans are going well for the 1958 National Turf Conference and Show. As an associate member of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association (and I hope to continue as such), I would like to offer my services in any way possible to make the 1958 show the best ever. I realize it is a long way between Washington and Minneapolis, but if there is any way I can be of help, please call on me to do so.
Best regards.

Sincerely,

Jack

J.C. Harper LL

Toro Mfg. Corp., Minneapolis 6, Minn.

Editors' Note : Thanks , Jack. You will hear from us.

THEY NEVER LEARN

(Reprinted from 1928 USGA Green Section Bulletin)

One of those helpful souls, Mr. Average Golfer, remarked, " Every time I come out here to play someone is in the way moving, weeding, topdressing, applying chemicals, or in some way puttering around. The grass on this course is good enough for anyone to play on. So why don't they let it alone?"

The long-suffering Green Committee Chairman replied, " Did it ever occur to that the reason why the grass on this course is good enough for anyone to play on might be due to the fact that someone is always puttering around on it? Every time you come out here you probably change your clothes and have a good meal. You look sufficiently well groomed and nourished. Why don't you let yourself alone and quit changing clothes or eating?"

SOUVENIER PROGRAM ADVERTISING

Perhaps your club would like to take an ad in the Souvenir Program of the National Meeting. This is one way the area clubs can help because one half the profit of the program is used to help pay the expenses of the host association. The more ads sold, the less money taken from the Mid-Atlantic treasury.

Many of your club members are business men and might subscribe to an ad if they knew they could help the superintendents by doing so. Their ad appearing in the pages of the Program would be read by one of the largest groups interested in golf course turf. The advertiser then would be a part of that group whose interest is the improvement of golf course turf has helped to provide more enjoyment to an ever-increasing number of golfers.

Prices of ads are very reasonable -

Full Page ($5\frac{1}{2}$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$)-	\$60.00	Half Page ($5\frac{1}{2}$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ or $2-5/8$ x $8\frac{1}{2}$)	- 35.00
Quarter page ($2-5/8$ x $4\frac{1}{2}$ or $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$)-	\$20.00		

Color on inside pages adds \$25. per page

Forms are available through the Secretary or Bob Scott, Jr.

DUES ARE DUE

Association dues are due and payable on January 1, 1958 according to the Secretary-treasurer, Francis Coupe. He states that Mid-Atlantic Regular membership cards will not be issued until he has received word from National Secretary, Agar L. Brown that National dues have been paid.

National dues became due on October 1 and must be paid by January 1. To avoid pocketbook squeeze that comes around Christmas time, why not pay your dues now and have that obligation out of the way?

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the one we have all been waiting for. Apparently this is true for attendance is better at this meeting than at any other during the year. The reason could be that the heavy pressure of the growing season is over and we have found a little time to relax, or it could be a personal tribute to our genial host, George Cornell.

George has been acting as host for the December Meeting for many years and has carried on a precedent established by his predecessor, the J.S. Connolly Co. of making the meeting a most pleasant and enjoyable affair.

Did you mail in the card sent you earlier to assure getting your name " in the pot " ? If not, mail it at once so George can prepare for you.

NEXT MEETING - December 3, 1957

PLACE - G.L. Cornell Co.

4715 Miller Ave.

Bethesda, Maryland

TIME - 6:00 p.m.

THEME - " Everybody talks, nobody listens"- Mc Rae

HOSTS: George Cornell, Leon Brown, Frank Haske, Tom Harris,
Phil Lee.

TIDEWATER MEETING

You are invited to attend a joint meeting of the Tidewater Turfgrass Association and the Mid-Atlantic on December 6, 1957 at the James River Country Club, Newport News, Virginia, where Hurley Savage is superintendent.

At this course you will see bermuda greens that have been seeded to rye grass for the winter and you can play them if you have time.

At present two carloads of mid-Atlantic men are making plans to go, but Tidewater would like to have more for this, our first attempt to hold a joint meeting in their area. They attend our Baltimore Turfgrass Conference and all meeting held in the Richmond area, but few of us have ever been to one of their meetings. This is the ideal time of year for a joint meeting - let's all go.