



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

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JULY 1957

Eighty-nine members and guests were present for the June 4th meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The setting for this regular monthly get together was the Fairfax Country Club, Fairfax, Virginia. This was the first time we had met at Fairfax since the days of our good friend Bill Glover. Forty-nine of us brought along our golf clubs and toured the course for an enjoyable game of golf. We still found the layout very much to our liking.

The club management graciously provided us with a social hour prior to our dinner and business meeting and for this we express our thanks and appreciation. The host superintendent, Mike Burkholder, introduced the following of the Fairfax staff to those of us who were present: Jack Best, Sol De Mayo, Major Hanaran, Willie Beach and Danny Fletcher. The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Frank Howard, plant pathologist, Rhode Island State College.

Other guests present were: Charles Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director of the USGA Green Section, Dr. Fred Grau, Mr. John Stough, Agronomist for the United States Army, Bruce Dennis of the Patuxent Naval Air Base, John Doudar, and Gilbert Shapiro, Greens Chairman of the Norbeck Country Club.

It was a welcome surprise and pleasure to see O.B. Fitts out and around saying hello to everyone, particularly to his old friends. O.B. was the first "Prexy" of our association and also one of its founders. He has been an active Mid-Atlantic worker and a top flight superintendent. We are glad to hear that his leg injury has mended sufficiently enough to enable him to be active again. O.B. - visit with us often, we miss you greatly.

We are sorry to hear that another old timer, Tom Ryan is ill and confined to the hospital. Tom is a former Secretary of the organization, and another of the old timers. We know that Tom would appreciate a card, better yet go and visit him. His address can be secured from the office of the Belle Haven Country Club.

Ike Rabbitt was on hand for the first time in a long while and his golf game to the green was in rare form. He was really hitting the middle of the greens with his iron shots. Ike is agronomist for the U.S. Navy Department. It is always good to welcome old friends back to the fold.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT
CHARLES HALLOWELL, MODERATOR

Charlie Hallowell asked Mike Burkholder to say a few words about his work at Fairfax. Mike told us that in 1953 after aerifying his greens he gave them a very heavy top dressing so as to fill up the holes left by aerification, and in doing this he made the mistake of making too heavy an application of compost. This error caused the formation of a heavy thatch which gave considerable trouble for a couple of seasons. This condition has finally been corrected by frequent use of the verticut mower. Verticutting has been practiced each spring and fall and now the condition has been corrected.

Much of the constructive suggestion report centered on the Zoysia planting done by the association at a special field day gathering held for the particular purpose at the Fairfax Country Club several years ago. The planting was done on the third hole by about eighty of our members and those of us who were present at that time were anxious to see the results of our efforts and labors.

The zoysia was established by inserting sprigs of the grass into aerifier holes. The grass has done considerable spreading, but as yet has not completely covered the fairway area. One section which evidently received additional moisture and fertilization as seepage from the seventh green has made considerable progress. The maintenance on the third fairway has been one of normal routine upkeep, such as seasonal mowing and fall fertilization. It has received no more attention than the rest of the course. The writer believed that in the same period of time an aggressive strain of bermuda grass like U-3 would have in comparison made better showing.

Even though many of the commercial growers of grass make outstanding claims as to the value of zoysia plantings, it is hard to recommend the grass as having a place on our golf courses. Dr. Fred Grau expressed the thought that if the project had received the special care that a hot season grass needs, it would have made a much better showing. This is plausible reasoning, yet most any grass planting will develop into a satisfactory sod in a space of a few years. On our golf courses along with the daily routine chores we must perform, we do not have the time available to groom and establish a Prima Donna grass.

SICKNESS

A faithful and reliable member of the association, Clarence Lindsay, missed the Beltsville meeting due to the illness of his wife, Mrs. Lindsay has been confined to the hospital in Hagerstown, and we are sorry to learn that she has been ill. She is always a familiar figure in the background at all of our meetings. It is hoped that by now Mrs. Lindsay has fully recovered and is enjoying the best of health.

INTERESTING CLIPPINGS TAKEN FROM "OUR COLLABORATOR"

GREEN GRASS FOR UNWATERED LAWNS: Professor Harvey Lantz, Iowa State College Turf Specialist, reports that during last summer's scorcher, Kentucky 31 and Alta Fescue remained green and required mowing once a week, while Kentucky Bluegrass, Arboretum Bluegrass, Merion Bluegrass, and Creeping Red Fescue turned brown and dormant. These tall fescues are coarse bladed and somewhat bunchy, but they withstand foot traffic and, above all, stay green. Seed them alone at the rate of 4 to 5 pounds of seed per thousand square feet.

- Vigoro line -

CHAIRMAN - SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONSHIP : The relationship between Chairman of the Greens Committee and the Superintendent should be as between gentlemen who have equal respect for the ability required to fill each position. They are part of the management of a big business, one in the promotion department and the other in the production department. Each is an expert in his field."

- Prof. L.S. Dickinson -

" If you would not be "taken-in" on the purchase of topsoil or " Black dirt", give it the crushability test before you buy. Let a clod about 1-1/2" in diameter dry out completely in an oven, on a floor register or sunny windowsill. Then hold it in your hand, and if you CAN'T crush it with the strength of one hand, DON'T BUY IT ! "

- Vigoro line-

" Any grass used on the golf course must fit its environment. It must meet the demands of the game and must be able to survive under the type of maintenance required for good playing conditions. Grass used on greens, tees, fairways and roughs must be able to adjust themselves to the requirements of these areas. Kentucky Bluegrass is a case in point. The moderately coarse-textured, somewhat open type of turf which it forms, and its characteristic inability to withstand frequent close clipping, bar it from use on putting greens and on closely clipped fairways. On the other hand, it will provide a very serviceable playing turf on fairways which are not too closely cut. "

- Dr. Bert H. Musser -

REGARDING 100% NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

" At our last meeting, I moved that a half hour of our July and September meetings be devoted to discussing the reasons for the Mid-Atlantic Association becoming affiliated one hundred percent with the National Association. Personally, I am only interested in the golf course superintendent - the man in charge of the course.

This is a golf course superintendents' association for the advancement and betterment of the superintendent. In union there is strength; while it is my belief that all superintendents should be members of a local association, I also believe all locals should be members of the National. All groups that I know of, that have progressed, have a national organization: The Knights of Columbus; The Masons; The Lions Club; The Kiwanas and the American Legion. What good would any one of them be working independently? Again I say, in unity there is strength. The union of the states making the United States is the best example.

I have been asked this question, " What will I get out of a national membership ? ". I answer that by saying, " as an individual, nothing, but as a group, a great deal. You get out of most things in proportion to your giving."

I have been a member of the National association since 1934. Little did we think in those days what a wonderful organization it would become. A lot of us older members will never see the influence the National is going to exert in the future. The younger members of this association and all local associations are going to reap the benefits of what the National is doing on a national scale. I, as an individual, want to help in some way to make greenskeeping a better profession for the men who will carry on in the future. In my opinion, the best way to attain that objective at the present is to do all I can to have our local association affiliated one hundred percent with the National.

Our professional is a wonderful one. I am proud of my job and the opportunity to give many people pleasure. We have the privilege of helping Mother Nature to bud, blossom and bloom.

During the past ten years, some of us have doubled our salaries - due to the efforts of our local and national associations. We now have more knowledge at our fingertips to merit further profits from our labors. This is also due to our local and national organizations.

These two groups have thrived because loyal members have contributed so that we all have profited - you -- and you -- as well as me. And - you local members who are not members of the National - have been riding on the coat tails of these loyal members. If you have not joined the National Association, it's high time you accept your professional responsibility as a superintendent, - a golf course superintendent.

Jim Reid.

Editors note: At the Fairfax meeting in June the members were asked to submit Pros and Cons in writing for NEWSLETTER publication on the subject

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of 100% National membership. The above article is FOR the proposition - nothing has been received AGAINST.

REGARDING AUGUST "NEWSLETTER"

There was no NEWSLETTER published for August. Sorry. It seems that your editors are getting lazy or just plain weary of the trouble and detail of getting out a "NEWSLETTER" month after month.

Yes, we are getting tired of it and feel in our minds that you are getting tired of the repetition. We need new blood, articles written by others, relief from detail. We are determined to continue on through the National meeting in February, but ask that new editor or editors be appointed at that time.

We regret that there was no Constructive Suggestion Report for Quantico following our meeting there in July and hereby apologize to Ernie Stanley.

LAST CALL FOR PICTURES

As mentioned in the last "NEWSLETTER", pictures are needed for use in the Program Magazine put out by the "GOLF COURSE REPORTER" for the Washington meeting next February. You are asked to send in 8x10 glossy prints of views of your club at once.

Send to - Agar Brown, Box 106, St. Charles, Ill., giving the name of the club and any information pertaining to the scene.

If you wish to, turn the pictures over to Tom Dawson, Jim Thomas or Bob Shields and they will mail them for you.

NATIONAL NOTES

Charlie Schalestock has resigned as Chairman of the Publicity Committee for the National Meeting. The job is open for a volunteer who will take the responsibility of notifying newspapers and arrange for any publicity possible on the meeting or on any individual connected with the meeting. If you don't have a job to help assure the success of this National Turfgrass Conference and Show, then try this one. Get in touch with Bob Shields for further information. We regret losing Charlie who we considered to be a good man for the job.

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the association will be held the day after Labor Day, Tuesday, September 3, 1957 at Chestnut Ridge Country Club in Baltimore, Maryland.

It is our understanding that a new superintendent has recently taken over at the club.

We don't have his name, but we are looking forward to meeting him. Mr. Francis S. Karns is owner-manager of this new club and we would also like to meet him.

MEETING : Tuesday, September 3, 1957

PLACE : Chestnut Ridge Country Club
Falls Road, Baltimore, Maryland

GOLF : 12 noon

INSPECTION OF COURSE : All afternoon

SOCIAL PERIOD : 5:00 p.m.

DINNER : 6:00 p.m.

DIRECTIONS:

To Chestnut Ridge Country Club go out Falls Road to club. Falls Road runs northwest of Charles St., near the Penna. R.R. Station.

TRANSPORTATION :

Call George Cornell, Bob Adams, Wilson Disney or Jack Witcher for a ride over.