



# 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

Affiliated

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As the first Tuesday in July was close to the heavy three day weekend period of the grand and glorious fourth of July, the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 8th. It was at the Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland - the home address of our Prexy, Bob Shields.

Close to ninety members and guests were in attendance, about half of these took advantage of Woodmont's alluring golf facilities and spent the afternoon playing golf. They found the tees, fairways and greens in the pink of condition with the entire property well groomed, even to the fence corners. A sudden thunder squall, which continued off and on during the entire evening caught many still out on the golf course and prevented the association from having a group picture taken outside as had been planned. The photographer promised to return and take a picture of us at one of our meetings in the near future.

The usual gracious hospitality of the Woodmont Country Club prevailed. We enjoyed a social hour of good fellowship prior to the evening repast. The buffet dinner placed before us was an eye appealing and appetizing thing of beauty, fit for a king and to partake of it was like destroying the setting of a beautiful picture.

After everyone had quenched their thirsts and satisfied their appetites, President Bob Shields called the meeting to order by introducing his Chairman, Mr. Leo Freudberg, who warmly welcomed the Mid-Atlantic to Woodmont. Next, Mr. Alfred Bennett, the club President extended to us the greetings of the membership.

Mr. Bennett paid high tribute to both Mr. Freudberg and Bob Shields. We were told that Mr. Freudberg had served as Green Committee Chairman for over twenty-five years, long enough to earn the right to be called "Mr. Woodmont". Bob Shields was commended for his loyalty and devotion. Mr. Bennett said his remarks expressed the sentiments and feelings of the entire membership.

We were also honored with the presence of several officials from other clubs in the area: Mr. Williams, President of the Bethesda Country Club; Mr. Freeman of Shenadoah Retreat; Mr. Bass of Fairfax Country Club; Mr. Richard Essex, Columbia Country Club; Mr. Ed. Herman, Westbriar Country Club; Captain Gilson, Cedar Point Golf Club, Patuxent Naval Air Base; Mr. Otey, Blue Ridge Country Club, Roanoke, Virginia; and from afar, Mr. Warren, Chairman of the Green Committee, Amsterdam Country Club, Amsterdam, New York. Industry was represented by: Mr. Fletcher of Aquatrol and Ted Radko of the Cleary Corporation.

G.C.S.A. Secretary Agar Brown paid us a suprise visit. He was in Washington to attend a conference with the Internal Revenue Department concerning tax exemption for the National's Scholarship and Educational fund. Agar complimented the organization on their Constructive Suggestion Reports, and said we were rendering the golf courses of the Mid-Atlantic area a professed willingness of service and interest in their turfgrass problems. It is his belief that as long as we continued with such a policy, Country Clubs would welcome a visit from us.

He went on to say that many superintendents' associations, due to their large memberships, are beginning to experience difficulty in receiving invitations from country clubs. We thank Agar for his remarks and hope that he will be able to visit with us again soon. There is no doubt as to the goodwill and better public relations created for our organization by the Constructive Suggestion Report. Let's hope we never lose sight of our "Ace in the Hole".

#### CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

As Charles Hallowell, Mid-Atlantic Director of the USGA Green Section, was with us, we were able to draft him for moderator of the Constructive Suggestion Report at Woodmont. His opening remarks complimented Bob Shields on the uniformity and trueness of the Woodmont greens.

Bob told us he thought part of this was due to a new spiker he has been using, and explained that it is a new power unit that has recently come on the market. He has found this machine to be very beneficial and a great aid in his greens maintenance program. Particularly so in this trying and abnormal season the Mid-Atlantic is now experiencing. This spiker does not replace the need for deep aerification, or the use of aerifiers, but is a tool that can be used during the hot months of the year to keep the surface soil open and porous.

Water penetration is aided, algae development is prevented, and to a certain extent thatch is controlled. A principal advantage of the implement is that it can be used frequently and often during the hot months of the heavy playing season, as it does not interfere with the play of golfers to any great extent. To be brief, spiking is a good practice to follow between aerification, Bob says.

There was a pro and con discussion on whether aerification or verticutting was advisable at this season of the year. The consensus of opinion was that early spring and fall was the best time for these two operations, however, it was brought out that aerification could often be done to good advantage at most any season of the year.

During periods when excessive precipitation has caused soils to become over saturated, or when root systems have become shallow, aerifying will help soils to dry out and will encourage plant roots to seek deeper pastureage. As to verticutting, it is dangerous when temperatures are high as the shock to the grass is sometimes quite severe.

Woodmont's tees on their new nine are divided down the center into two sections, one half of the tees are planted to cool season grasses for spring, fall and winter play; the other half to U3 bermudagrass for summer use only. As Woodmont lost very little of their bermudagrass to the ravages of the past winter, one wonders if this can be the answer and solution of the problem of winter loss of warm season grasses in this region.

All evidence points out that winter play on bermuda tees is very injurious to that particular grass. When building tees in these days of heavy play, we should strive to have them large in size, say four to five thousand square feet in area. Woodmont's first tee on their new nine is a good example of size. Also, we should try planting these new tees to the dual combination; one side to warm season grasses, the other half to cool season grasses. The latter should be on the side closest to the preceding green so winter traffic would not be across the bermuda strip.

Bob's new tees were prepared for planting two years ago this July, calcium cyanamid was used to sterilize the soil bed. The method of planting was easy and fast - small broken pieces of U3 bermuda sod were scattered over the prepared surface, and they were then pushed into the soil by the workers trampling over them. This was followed by fertilization and a covering of

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compost. The winter part of the tees were planted to bents in October of the same year by the same method.

Nitrate of ammonia is the fertilizer material used on the tees, they receive an application of fertilizer approximately every two weeks. The aim is to apply at each application one pound of actual nitrogen for each one thousand square feet.

Bob also gave his seeding and fertilization rates for tees, fairways and greens. As they are more or less standard and routine mixtures, we will not give them. However, Bob will be glad to furnish the information of request.

#### TIPS FROM TIDEWATER

The following tips by Mr. Carl D. Price, Plant Physiologist, Virginia Truck Experimental Station, were taken from the Tidewater Turfgrass Association Newsletter dated July 16, 1958 and written by Harry J. McSloy.

For seedbeds or topdressing material the soil may be sterilized by Methyl Bromide ( gas proof cover - wait 48 hours ), Vapam ( 1 qt. for 100 sq. ft. - wait 3 weeks ) or Calcium cyanamide ( 50-80# per 1000 sq.ft. - wait 4 weeks).

For Broadleaf weeds spray one-half pound per acre of 2 4D, using coarse spray to minimize drift. Keep away from shrubs, trees and flowers.

For wild onion and wild garlic - use one pound of 2 4D per acre, spray in spring and fall, follow same procedure second year.

For Crabgrass spray with PMA, Potassium cyanate, DSMA or Neburon according to manufacturers recommendations.

For bermudagrass control - 20# of Dowpon in 50 to 100 gals. of water and spray during growing season. Respray for regrowth.

For poison ivy - spray with amino triazole at rate of 4# per acre when the ivy leaves are just full grown.

For Chickweed and henbit - spray with potassium cyanate at rate of 3-1/2 ozs. in two gallons of water to cover 1000 sq. ft., or 8-16 # in 40 gallons of water per acre. Best time is in the fall, as is true for many broadleaved weeds.

Use a separate sprayer for weedkillers if possible. A 1% solution of household ammonia ( 2 teaspoons full in a quart of water ) allowed to stand overnight in sprayer will rid equipment of 2 4D residues except for sensitive plants such as roses.

#### WANT A FREE TRIP TO CHICAGO ?

The Toro dealers of the Mid-Atlantic area would like to see you make a trip to Chicago at their expense and have approached the Executive Committee with an offer to give the winner of a drawing a free trip to the National Meeting in Chicago next Jan. 25.

They ask only that (1) the Association conduct the drawing, (2) the drawing be held the night of the golf tournament, (3) only regular members in good standing to participate, (4) that a member not be required to be present to win and (5) this prize to substitute for the three small golf tournament prizes they have given individually in the past.

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The Executive Committee accepted the proposal as presented because they thought it would (1) create advance interest in the next National Meeting, (2) appeal to all eligible members and (3) perhaps bring favorable publicity to the Mid-Atlantic.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held August 5 at Pinecrest Golf Course off Shirley Highway, south of Army-Navy.

Only two hours are needed to play the all Par 3 golf course, so an afternoon outside affair is planned. Check the time schedule below for details.

Member Charles Lynch, owner and co-host at Pinecrest is in the hospital and may not be able to attend this meeting at his club. We hope his troubles aren't too serious and wish him a speedy recovery.

PINECREST GOLF COURSE  
7601 Duke Street  
Springfield, Virginia

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1958

Golf : 12 noon  
Inspection of golf course - all afternoon  
Social Hour : 4:00 - 5:00  
Buffet : 5-6 p.m.  
Meeting : 6:00 p.m.  
Host : Dick Stedman, pro-superintendent

#### FROM THE HOST

Pinecrest is an all par 3 golf course with holes ranging from 110 to 225 yards. It is 2700 yards long and can be played in 2 hours, so even if you are going to be late, bring your clubs.

The greens were planted to Uganda bermudagrass in the summer of 1956 and overseeded with bent that fall. The combination has been a real challenge to us and we'd appreciate any suggestions you might have on how to manage it.

#### DIRECTIONS

From Washington - south on Shirley Highway to the Lincolnia cloverleaf, turn right before the bridge and go 9-1/2 miles on Duke Street ( Route 236 ) west. Watch for new club house just past Esso station.

From Richmond - turn right after going under bridge at Lincolnia cloverleaf ( Edsall Rd. is turnoff just before Lincolnia.

#### NEXT YEAR'S MEETINGS

To have a meeting at your club in 1959 fill in the enclosed form and mail it to the Secretary. The Secretary will present it to the Executive Committee whose responsibility it is to make up the schedule.