

Our second project for January was to elect Jim Thomas Vice-President of the National Golf Course Superintendents Association at the Chicago Meeting. This was accomplished by the hard work of our National Policy Committee whose members were Walter Cosby, Jim Reid, Bob Shields and Frank Dunlap. Our thanks for a good job well done. We certainly recognized the honor bestowed upon Jim and say that it couldn't have happened to a better man. He has earned it.

Bob Shields as usual gave a very good talk at Chicago titled " Progress in Techniques " and it was well received. He no doubt will be our next member running for National office.

Jim. Reynolds

NEWSLETTER

The golfing season is just around the corner - are you ready for the months that lie ahead?. As a final check-up, all of your equipment should have been thoroughly overhauled, cleaned and painted. Everything should be in working order and ready to go, as soon as it is time for the maintenance schedule to start.

At this period of the year, we start thinking of the days that are in front of us. There are still odd jobs that should be done before the active playing season gets under way. All outside fixtures such as Shelter houses, benches, fences, bridges, guard rails, signs etc. will need repairing and along with it a good coat of paint. Before too long, outside temperatures will permit work of this nature.

This is also a good season of the year to observe areas needing better drainage. It not be possible to undertake the work at the present moment, however, the locations can be noted and the corrections made at some future date. Embedded rocks and stones are always easier removed during the early spring as the heaving caused by the winter's frost has loosened up the soil around them. Some spot seeding may be needed where erosion has taken place or where a good stand of grass was not obtained from a fall planting.

There is still time left to do a bit of new planting. New shrubbery can be set out, and existing trees trimmed, pruned and fertilized for better growth and appearance. Last, but not least, comes the final clean-up of the debris that has been accumulating around the property during the winter. There are broken limbs to be picked up, and fallen leaves to be raked from the fence corners and the sheltered places.

Have we made our maintenance plans for the coming year? Advance planning pays big dividends. It not only makes our work easier, but also helps us to avoid costly mistakes and errors. The dollar can be spread a little further if our work has been planned ahead.

Nearly all of us operate under a fixed budget, and from past experience we should be able to fairly well estimate how we will spend the money that has been made available to us for operation. This is where a good simple system of record keeping can be a big help. A " goods received " sheet, showing the cost of repairs and replacements, gasoline and lubricants, chemicals, fertilizers, sand etc. is not hard to keep and such a record helps us stay within the allotted purse strings. Such a system can also enable us to arrive at next year's budget requirements.

A work diary showing all of the principal maintenance operations for the year can be made to serve a very useful purpose. One should know the dates of the first and last frosts each year, along with the average date of the last killing frost. It is well to know when the greens were mowed for the first time, also the fairways. The time, amounts and brands of all fertilizer, fungicide, herbicide and insecticide applications should be recorded. It is well to be informed on when to expect the first and last disease attacks.

All of this may sound like a lot of paper work is involved, but such is not the case if it is done daily. However, should it be allowed to accumulate and not kept track of regularly, all you will have is a homogenous mass of facts and figures. What we are striving for is to "BE PREPARED " at all times.

DUES FOR 1959

Dues for this year are due and payable. The present By-Laws say dues must be paid by May 1st or the delinquent member will be dropped from the membership.

National dues were due October 1 and those who have not paid lost their insurance coverage January 1st.

A Mid-Atlantic By-Laws change last March made it compulsive for all regular members to become members of the National Association. We regret that some of our old friends could not go along with this idea and have decided to resign, but the majority feel that the change will benefit the majority of superintendents and the profession as a whole.

Be sure to pay your National dues also in order to qualify for Mid-Atlantic membership.

MEETING PLACES FOR 1959

Following is a tentative schedule of meeting places for 1959.

March 3 - James River Country Club, Warwick, Virginia - Hurley Savage
April 7 - Bethesda Country Club, Bethesda, Maryland - T.S. Lumsden
May 5 - Fort Meade Golf Club, Fort Meade, Maryland - Sgt. Fred Slack
June 2 - Hermitage Country Club, Richmond, Virginia - Pres. Jim Reynolds
July 7 - Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Virginia - Lewis Lamp
Aug. 4 - Turfgrass Field Day, Beltsville, Maryland - Dr. Felix Juska
Sept. 1 - Beaver Creek Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland - John Burt
Oct. 6 - OPEN
Nov. 3 or 10 - OPEN
Dec. 1 - G.L. Cornell Co., Bethesda, Maryland, "Genial George" Cornell

These are only tentative dates and places. Changes are bound to be made during the season, so do not go by this schedule entirely. Consult your monthly " NEWSLETTER " or notices for correct information.

NEXT MEETING

James River Country Club
Warwick, Virginia

Date: March 3, 1959

Course - Very fine and well kept - has bermuda grass greens.

Time : Golf 12 noon
Social period 5 p.m.
Dinner 6 p.m.
Meeting after dinner

Host : Hurley Savage, superintendent