

# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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## NEXT MEETING

The September meeting of our Association will be held on September 1 at the Island View Club (Potomac Electric Power Company Recreation Center) in Sterling, Virginia. The course will be open for golf. Cocktails (beer only) will be served, dinner immediately following. The Board of Directors will meet at 5:30 PM at Island View. Speaker for the evening will be Alexander M. Radko, Eastern Director, USGA. Also present at the meeting will be Ed Mitchell, President Pepco Recreation Center; Jim Lowe, Grounds Chairman; Bob Lewis, Golf Chairman and Morgan Tiller, Golf Professional.



ROBERT MARTINO

## OUR HOST

Robert Martino, our host and one of the Directors of the Mid-Atlantic, has been superintendent at Island View since June, 1963. Bob came to Island View from Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring where he was assistant to Mr. P. W. LeDuc for eleven years.

## THE CLUB AND GOLF COURSE

Island View is a private 18-hole layout, owned and operated by the Potomac Electric Power Company. The course was built by Thomas E. Carroll and Sons under the supervision of the construction superintendent, Morgan Tiller. Mr. Tiller is now the Golf Professional at Island View. Eddie Ault was the architect. Construction of the course was begun in June, 1960, and completed and ready for play

July 1, 1961. The completely electric clubhouse was opened the following year.

## MAINTENANCE

The greens are C-1 and C-19 creeping bentgrass, their average size, 8,500 square feet, and are fertilized with ten to twelve pounds of N from a 12-4-8 fertilizer. The collars are bentgrass and the aprons of the greens are Merion bluegrass and are fed the same as the greens. The greens are mowed at this time of the year at one-quarter inch. They are cut at 3/16 inch during the cool spring and fall months.

The fairways are a mixture of bentgrass, bluegrass, redtop, and creeping fescues (also crabgrass, goosegrass and knotweed). The fairways are cut at one inch.

The tees are Merion bluegrass with a mixture of other bluegrasses. They are cut at one-half inch all seasons and are also fed at the same rate as the greens.

The roughs are Kentucky 31 and are cut at two inches throughout the entire year.

The trees on the front nine were planted last October and November. They were taken from the wooded area and planted with bare root, no ball of earth was moved with the trees. You can see the results when you play the course.

The traps are big and shallow. They plan to reshape, edge, and deepen the traps this fall.

## DIRECTIONS

Take 495 (Beltway) to Exit Vienna, Virginia (123) to Tysons Corners. Take Route 7 west 14 miles, pass Sterling Park to top of hill, turn right at next junction (637) and follow to Recreation Center.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A salute to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the land of pleasant living.

by Thomas A. Doerer, Jr.

Our family picnic was enjoyed by many of our Superintendents and their families. Some 130 were on hand to enjoy a beautiful day, good fellowship, and excellent food.

Lou White, the host superintendent, and his gracious wife certainly added to our enjoyment by their sincere hospitality.

Jack Slayton, the host Pro, and his wife (better known to all as Billie) assisted Lou in making this affair a pleasant one.

The children enjoyed swimming, the zoo, and also plenty of good food. Fried chicken, corn on the cob, tomatoes, watermelon, and beverages. Many families remained over the next day to enjoy a holiday at Ocean City and a visit with our educational director George Gumm. Big George certainly added to our enjoyment with his friendly smile and willingness to assist all who needed guidance to the various areas of activity.

It would be my pleasure to see this become an annual affair the same as our Ladies Nite.

Once again, thanks to all who made this event a pleasant and enjoyable one.

#### NATIONAL NOTES

by L. R. Shields

Plans for the National Turfgrass Conference and Show at Cleveland February 7-12, 1965, are almost complete and indications are that it will be the biggest and most successful ever held. Over half of the 138 booths in the Exhibit Show have already been sold and those remaining will most certainly be gone by September 1. There will be about 14,000 square feet of floor space for the exhibitors which is about the same as we had at Philadelphia.

You received your Official Housing Reservation form in a recent mailing from Headquarters Office. It would be wise to return this form at once to be more certain of obtaining the desired hotel reservation. An additional form will be enclosed in the September-October issue of The Reporter, but don't wait too long.

The number of members in the National Association is at an all time high and still growing. So far, this year, 192 new people have come into the organization. Nineteen joined during the month of July and three of this number were from the Mid-Atlantic chapter.

National Membership is much higher than it used to be but still is not what it should be. There are approximately 7,500 golf courses in the United States but we have only 2,119 members in our Association. How can we sell ourselves to club officials and others who know nothing of us or our work, when we haven't sold ourselves to men involved in the same work? A new membership drive will be innaguarated soon after the first of the year in an effort to gain a thousand new members. Won't you help now by talking to that non-member neighbor on a golf course near you?

Future National Conference sites are not definite but tentative plans call for Kansas City in 1966 and Washington in 1967. New Orleans is out because the only hotel large enough to accommodate us will not sign binding contracts due to expected labor problems in the near future.

#### NOW IS THE TIME

by James E. Thomas

To think about the early days of fall and what the season offers to the golf course superintendent, for at this time of the year, it is possible to lay the foundation for next year's turf. Autumn provides us with the opportunity to practice renovation, to rejuvenate grassy areas which have been weakened by weed infestation, disease, insects, and adverse weather conditions. Also to provide relief from compaction caused by player traffic and continuous equipment usage.

A first step towards renovation is a final cleanup of existing weeds, this is all important - whether they exist in tees, fairways, or greens. Our goal should be to prevent the formation of seed heads. Should this have occurred remove and destroy them. Weeds need to be eradicated either by cultural methods or through the use of PROVEN herbicides. As a word of caution, many new chemicals are constantly appearing on the scene of turf culture, they should first be tested and tried out on a non-use area before being used extensively.

A clean-up of unwanted growth should always be followed by reseeding and fertilization. If a fair stand of good grasses remain with no bare ground existing to any great extent, adequate fertilization is to be preferred to reseeding. We have often been told that on a pound to pound basis the proper use of fertilizer is of greater value than a seeding program.

Well timed verticutting to remove surplus growth, followed by aerification to relieve tight soil conditions, and finally an application of well prepared topdressing does much towards putting new life in a tired and worn out turf. It also helps to relieve detrimental conditions caused by a build-up of thatch and surface compaction, this particularly applies to tees and greens.

The turf plots at Rutgers University where the above practices have been followed for some time, along with the judicious use of lime, have produced an outstanding sod of superior turf. The results obtained have more than been worth the effort involved.

#### WARREN BIDWELL

Warren Bidwell, the present Prexy of the Midwest group, is one of our old friends, as he was golf course superintendent at the Seaview Country Club, Absecon, New Jersey for many years. While there he attended our annual Baltimore Conferences regularly and appeared on many of our programs. Warren's name has been presented by the Midwest GCSA as a candidate for the nomination slated of the GCSAA for the position of Director at the next election of our National Association. As he is a sincere and earnest worker, he is worthy of every consideration and support. The following paper was present by Mr. Bidwell as a President's Message in "The Bull Sheet", the official publication of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, August Issue.

#### ONE HUNDREDS PLUS - AN OBSERVATION

by Warren Bidwell

Your hosts for the August meeting at Olympia Fields have rolled up a combined total of 110 years in the service of golf. Chuck Tannis, golf professional, entered golf fifty years ago this year. Forty of these have been spent at Olympia. In 1962 he was elected Pro of the year by the Illinois PGA. This is truly a great honor and an enviable record of service. He is closely seconded by manager, Jim DiSanto's twenty-six years, all at Olympia. Of my own thirty-four years in golf, I complete my fifth at Olympia the first of August.

As with all men in key positions in golf clubs everywhere, I believe we share a common aim - to give the best we have and to use fully the knowledge we have accumulated in these 110 years to further the cause of golf right here at Olympia. Perhaps I speak boldly, but also very honestly, when I say there are times when we feel our efforts are appreciated and there are other times when frustration would take over but for the steadfastness of dedicated professional men.

In this day to day relationship around any club, which I like to call the School of Every Day Experience, there is yet to be learned many things, for classes are never over and you never graduate. Your professor may be a member who is the greatest industrial giant of the metropolitan area, a housewife who has a new found love, the game of golf, or your lowest paid employee. From any one of these you may learn about a part of the great jig-saw puzzle called life and apply it to your particular need at the moment or file it for further reference.

With the succeeding election of club officials and the appointment of department chairmen, a new semester in the School of Everyday Experience begins. Sometimes the attitude of the individual chairman leads to an amiable situation wherein he can be educated in the ways and needs of the department. If so, the superintendent is fortunate indeed. Proper liaison between the superintendent and the club membership and the Board of Governors is one of the chief functions of the department chairman and is of great importance.

Then too, there are times when the superintendent is educated by the department chairman in a new facet of membership wishes, some good, some selfish and ridiculous. This same chairman, who, upon appointment, confessed ignorance concerning the operations of the grounds department has suddenly become the five months expert in carrying out every wish of Everyday Experience you reach for the file marked Tact, Diplomacy, Desire to Please or What is Best and try to come up with the right answer. The Experience you get may not be shown in your particular brochure marked How to Succeed as A Grounds Superintendent

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#### NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

James Thomas and Frank Dunlap will represent our Association on the Advisory Council of the National Association. The committee will meet during the International Turf Conference and Show in Cleveland in February.

#### NATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING AND ELECTION

Alex Watson will be our delegate to the National Business Meeting and Election at the Cleveland meeting. Franke Haske will be the alternate.

#### POSITION OPEN

Radley Run Country Club in West Chester, Pennsylvania, is seeking a qualified man to fill the position of Golf Course Superintendent. The 18 hole course now under construction will open in June, 1965. An additional nine holes is planned. A home will be provided for the superintendent. If interested contact Sheldon Betterly for further information, or write Radley Run Country Club, Z. Edmund Prince, P. O. Box 139, Chadas Ford, Pennsylvania.

#### THE FUTURE OF GOLF

by Harry C. Eckhoff  
Eastern Director  
National Golf Foundation

Americans, as a whole, no longer seem to be content to sit on the sidelines and enjoy their leisure as spectators. An increasing number is actively participating in recreational activities and the game of golf, once regarded as only for an exclusive group, has become a favorite pastime enjoyed by individuals at almost all economic levels. There are now over 7,250,000 golfers in the nation. It is estimated that 750,000 individuals became new golfers last year.

There is every indication that golf, now the fastest growing sport in the nation, will continue in this role. The National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations reveals that golf has jumped from 10th to 6th place in popularity among high school students in the United States since 1960. Twenty-six sports were listed. Over 400,000 students are now being introduced to the game annually.

There were 7477 golf courses in play in the United States as of January 1, 1964 - 673 of them were par-3 type layouts. About 500 new golf courses and/or additions were opened for play throughout the nation in 1963. This includes about 100 par-3's.

Leading states in new golf course development last year were (totals include both regulation length and par-3's): California 41; New York 39; Pennsylvania 32; Florida 31; Ohio 27; Michigan 19; North Carolina 18; Indiana 15; New Jersey 14; Virginia 12.

Total capital investment in golf facilities throughout the nation as of January 1, 1964, is estimated to be \$1,797,000,000. Total annual maintenance costs for the nation's courses approximates \$164,400,000. About \$55,000,000 was spent for new golf course construction during 1963. Total acreage devoted to golf courses throughout the United States is believed to be around 703,700. The National Golf Foundation estimates that more than 126 million rounds of golf were played in 1963 on the nation's courses.

Will there be continued need for more golf courses? On the basis of expected population growth alone it is doubtful that there will ever be sufficient courses to serve the demand. The nation's population today is 190 million; it is expected to be 300 million in 25 years. The ratio of golfers to courses, nationwide, is about 960 per course at present.

More people will have more leisure time whether they want it or not. The 35 hour work week is becoming more prevalent and indications are that a 30 hour work week may be the general rule in the 1970's. And people are living longer. The American Medical Association states that today's children can expect to live at least ten more years than the present average. This increase will be due both to medical advances and to changes in our way of life - proper diet, exercise, rest and recreation.

Family incomes are expected to increase about 20% by 1970. While prices may also be

higher, it is anticipated that incomes will increase more than prices - resulting in net increased cash on hand.

Yes, population increases, a shorter work week, increased leisure time and anticipated higher incomes all point to increased participation in golf, the one individual sport that can be enjoyed by persons of almost any age or sex during one's entire lifetime!

#### GUIDE LINES FOR PLANNING A GOLF COURSE

by Harry C. Eckhoff

So you are planning to build a golf course! The tremendous increased interest in the game of golf is encouraging more and more individuals and groups to build courses to help ease the shortage of golf facilities that exists in many areas throughout the nation.

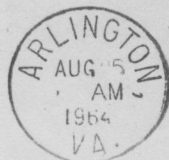
Development of a successful golf venture requires careful and extensive planning. Land values, costs of construction and maintenance, and the time interval from initiating construction to course completion (usually 12 months or more) are factors that affect the success of any golf project. Not only should one have a properly designed layout with acceptable construction specifications but also a feasible plan for financing and operation. Before taking any definite action, however, one should investigate the feasibility of the entire project for the area concerned.

During recent years I have had the pleasure of working with thousands of golf course planning groups. Based on this experience, certain basic guide lines that have proved helpful in the development of many successful golf ventures are as follows:

1. Economic Feasibility Study
2. Selection of Site
3. Consulting a Golf Course Architect
4. Preparing a Construction Budget
5. Financing the Project
6. Course Maintenance Costs
7. Planning and Operational Aids

## MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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