

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



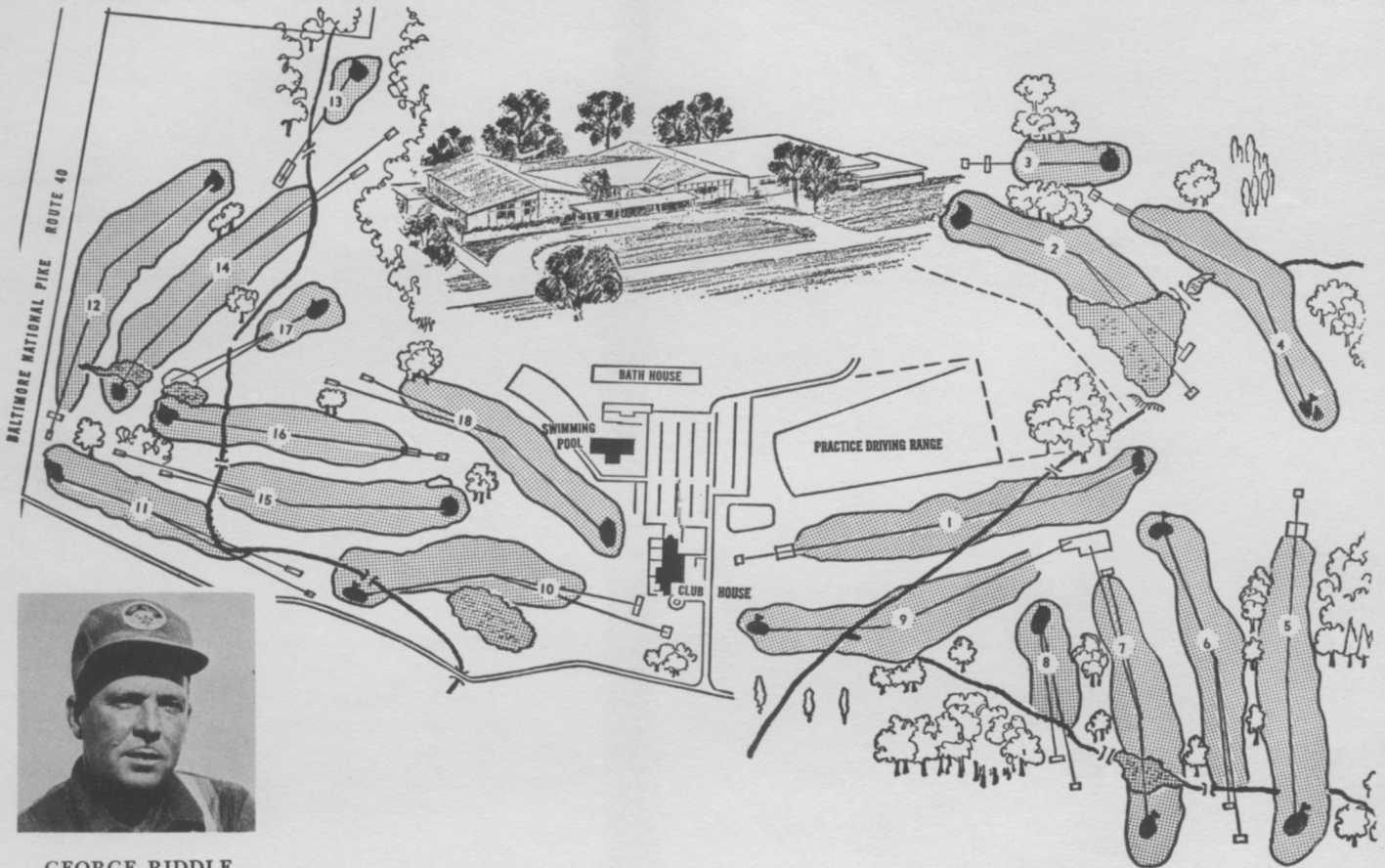
Director
ROBERT MARTINO
Editors
JAMES E. THOMAS
LEE C. DIETER

Published by
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

Vol. XIV

October 25, 1964

No. 10



GEORGE RIDDLE

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on Tuesday, November 10 (postponed to the second Tuesday of the month because of election day) at Turf Valley Country Club, Ellicott City, Maryland. Lunch can be purchased in the men's grill. The course will be open for play all day. There will be a cocktail hour from 5 to 6 P.M. and dinner will follow.

Dr. Jack C. Harper, III, agronomy extension, Pennsylvania State University, was scheduled to talk to us on the University's soil modification studies and the results obtained so far from them. He was unable to fit our changed date into his schedule. We hope to hear from him at a future meeting on these studies.

OUR HOST

George Riddle, our host, has worked at Turf Valley since 1957 when work was begun on the courses. In the capacity of construction foreman, he supervised construction of the course and the buildings. George assumed the added duties of Golf Course Superintendent in May of 1963. He has worked for the Samuel Pistorio Construction Company for the last 15 years.

THE COURSE

The name, as it implies, best describes the layout - Turf Valley - over two hundred acres

of fine golf courses nestled between two rolling hills. The course, 36 holes, was designed by Edward Ault and built by the Pistorio Construction Company. The original eighteen was opened for play in 1959; the third nine in 1962; and the fourth nine, now under construction, is scheduled to open in August of next year.

MAINTENANCE

The greens of C1, C7 and C19 are groomed to high standards. They are topdressed heavily spring and fall, receive an application of 10-6-4 spring and fall with an application of organic in the late spring for a total of 11 lbs. of N. They receive an application of 10 lbs. of lead arsenate spring and fall and receive doses of chlordan as needed for insect pests. The greens, maintained at 1/4 inch year round, are sprayed weekly with thiram and mercury fungicides.

The tees of common Kentucky Bluegrass and Merion are cut at 5/8 of an inch and receive the same fertilization as the fairways.

The fairways are cut at 3/4 to 1 inch and contain common Kentucky Bluegrass and Pennlawn Fescue. They receive 600 lbs. 10-6-4 per acre in the early spring, 500 lbs. organic in the late spring and 500 lbs. 10-6-4 in the fall. Burnt lime is applied every year at 1/2 ton per acre.

The roughs of K-31 Fescue are cut at three inches and fertilized every three years at 800 lbs. per acre.

NOTES OF INTEREST

George's fairways were fairly thin and infested with knotweed, plantain, etc., as were most courses with unwatered fairways at the end of this unusually droughty summer. "Taking the bull by the horns," realizing that if he didn't do something this fall his fairways wouldn't look very much better in the spring, he jumped into a fairway renovation program early this fall. He started his program with an application of 1/2 pint Banval D and 3 quarts 2, 4, D per acre to eliminate his weed problem. Twenty-one days later he aerified his fairways two times and over seeded with a seed mixture of 20% Rye, 60% common Kentucky Bluegrass, and 20% Pennlawn Fescue. The results of his efforts are already evident and we're sure he'll have fine fairways again next year.

Another noteworthy practice of George's is the use of limestone dust around the trees in his roughs. It is put down one inch deep, two feet around each tree. Hand maintenance around these trees was eliminated.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

From Washington: Take route 29 North to route 40. Turn left, West. Go 4 miles to Turf Valley on the right.

From Baltimore: Take route 40 about 12 miles to club on left.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

Autumn and all its splendor is here again. As we grow older it seems each year autumn arrives ahead of schedule. But, I suppose it is only a figment of my imagination.

Autumn reminds us to prepare for the winter months ahead. Are we, as superintendents, doing this? If so, how? Autumn is also a splendid time to inventory what we have accomplished the past spring and summer. Did we accomplish all that we could have? Did we learn anything by our efforts, either good or otherwise? Or did we just go through our usual programs hoping for the best instead of planning for them?

Have we given some consideration to our employees for their efforts? Consideration as to better working conditions, more fringe benefits such as sick leave, group insurance, uniforms, retirement and any other help that will encourage their interests.

Have we considered the economy of replacing old, worn out machinery with new and more modern type of equipment so as to expedite our work more efficiently in the coming year?

Are we planning to present to our board of directors last seasons problems in all departments so that they can plan to help us in their financial structure for the coming year? Or

are we going to wait till next spring before we present our problems or a plan?

Are we planning to attend the Turf Conference being held for our benefit. The Middle Atlantic Conference, Baltimore, Maryland, January 11th through 12th. The Central Virginia Turf Conference in January and the National Turf Grass Conference and Show in Cleveland, February 7th through 12th, 1965. Make every effort to attend these shows for valuable information on subjects such as budgets, machinery, personnel, water systems and National Association changes.

I am sure if we accomplish a few of these suggestions our work load for next season will not look quite as large as they looked in 1964.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

The hurricanes in Florida this fall caused little damage to Association property but did upset the office routine considerably. Employees could not work for nearly a week because of damage to the building, but Dr. Nutter informs us that everything is in order now with the staff busy on pre-conference details.

Mr. Titlow has been to Cleveland and has made final arrangements with the Sheraton Hotel there for the 1965 Conference to be held the week of February 7-12. Anyone wishing to attend should send in the Housing Reservation form received from Headquarters Office. The sooner this is done the better the chance of obtaining a room at the Sheraton rather than at some other hotel.

The Mid-Atlantic voted to invite the National Association to Washington in 1967. This invitation will be officially presented at the board of directors meeting to be held in Kansas City on October 31 and November 1, 1964. Also on the agenda for this meeting is the appointment of our new Executive Director. His name will be announced at the next local meeting on the 10th of November.

A \$3,500 research grant has been extended to Michigan State University for purchase of a growth chamber to help Dr. Beard resume studies and experiments on "Winter Kill" of turf grasses.

Each member of the National Association recently received a copy of the 1964-65 Membership Directory and Buyer's Guide. This publication is made possible by the commercial firms who advertise within its pages and represents extra service to members on the part of Headquarters Office staff. The book carries a copy of the by-laws, a history of the association and much additional information. It is presented to each member without charge.

SPECIAL CHICAGO MEETING

We in the Mid-Atlantic area experienced a dry and droughty summer this year, while many sections of the Middle West had a siege of prolonged hot, humid weather with above normal rainfall which played havoc with the turf on many golf courses. Lots of grass was damaged on greens and fairways. *Poa annua*, which thrives a bit better in the areas around the Great Lakes during the summer than it does in our region suffered also.

A special meeting was held at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, August 21, 1964, to discuss the problems of the season. This was done by a panel composed of Dr. William H. Daniel of Purdue University; Dr. Mike Britton and Dr. Jack Butler of the University of Illinois; also, two golf course superintendents, members of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, Mr. Roy Nelson of Ravisloa Country Club, and Mr. Warren Bidwell, Olympia Fields Country Club. Moderator for the group was Mr. James Holmes of the Green Section, United States Golf Association.

Some of their comments and findings are as follows: "No one thing was to blame as each environment is different. - Soil conditions, drainage, management, variety of grasses, and amounts of rainfall all entered into the picture. - Conditions are different everywhere. - The man who lives with the problem is the man to pinpoint the reasons for the problems. - Factors were perfect for diseases. - Moisture was the key for the problem, whether in the soil or in the air. - Annual Bluegrass seemed to have been more susceptible to *Pythium* damage than Bent or Common Kentucky Bluegrass, and at present there are no adequate chemical controls for the prevention or cure of *Pythium*. - Some years have been worse,

GUSTIN'S BALTIMORE TORO

All Types of Power Turf Equipment

Greens Mowers - Tractors & Gangs

Complete Parts & Service

2205 E. Joppa Road, Baltimore, Md.
NO 8-0500

GL CORNELL *Company*

4715 Miller Avenue
Bethesda 14, Maryland
Telephone: OLiver 2-6600



Golf Course
Equipment
and
Supplies



For Golf Course Use

Seeds
Golf Tag Fertilizers
Milorganite
Fungicides - Insecticides

F. W. BOLGIANO & COMPANY
411 New York Avenue, N. E.
LI 7-4800 Washington 2, D. C.

Specialists in Golf Course Maintenance Chemicals

Weed Killers - Insecticides - Fungicides

Fertilizers by Swift & Co.

J. L. Milan Co. 3216 Carlisle Ave.

Phone: 947-0898 Baltimore 16, Md.



NATIONAL CAPITAL TORO, INC.

928 PHILADELPHIA AVENUE
SILVER SPRING, MD.

JUniper 5-1322

Fertilizers

Sprinklers

TORO POWER MOWERS • • • • FOR MODERN LIVING

Complete Turf Maintenance Equipment

Complete Service Available

**WELL KNOWN
FOR QUALITY**

Merion Bluegrass • Meyer Z-52 Zoysia • U-3 Bermuda
Unlimited supply of premium turf grasses for golf
courses, landscaping, etc. Acre prices available.



SUMMIT HALL

The First Turf Farm of America



Gaithersburg, Maryland

(301) WI 8-2900

Complete Golf Course Construction

MOORE GOLF, INC.

DIVISION OF
MOORE, KELLY & REDDISH, INC.

Roads, Lakes, Playing Fields, Irrigation Systems

Box 606, Orange, Va.

Tel. 7357

some not as bad. - If there is a breeze or the humidity is below 40% by 10:00 A.M. there is little damage from disease. However, if we have high temperatures, high humidity and no wind for several days we have trouble with diseases. It seems to incubate at night."

"Are we not as a group of superintendents trying to strive too hard for perfection? - Aren't we trying to soup up the grass too much? - Aren't we as a group of superintendents too color conscious? - Don't we invite many of our own troubles? - The competition with the club across the street is perhaps too keen. - We use more fertilizer each year. - Some old timers practice minimum feeding programs to help them through times of stress. They sacrifice looks for ease of maintenance during rough times. - Disease prevention: maybe, we can control the carrier, by water or dew removal, or mechanically. - Removal of dew in the morning seems to help."

"Our present standards have been set by the so called better golfer. Are our standards what the average golfer really wants? Our club officials should be made to understand that under the present standards (that is with the present materials and equipment) we may expect to lose turf periodically when such conditions arise as we experienced this year. Granted Poa-Bent fairways are far superior to present day Bluegrass when the Poa and Bent is at its peak. But, during times of stress they are inferior."

"There is hardly a season that goes by without losing some fairway turf for a period of several weeks. When we consider that maintenance of Poa-Bent fairways has become nightmarish for the superintendent - they require around the clock maintenance seven days a week. Is it worth it? It certainly is expensive for the club."

"Modern useage of the golf cars has also added to our headaches as well as the increase in play and the constant beating of our equipment over the fairways hundreds of times per season. Can we stay with it when we know that Bluegrass would out-perform the Poa-Bent fairways?"

"Ninety percent of our trouble is caused by the Poa. - If you want to eliminate Poa Annua you have committed yourself to growing perfect turf whether Bluegrass or Bent. - All annual weeds can be controlled in Bluegrass. (Poa annua is not an annual.) - Sometime, in the very near future we may be able to raise weed free and disease free Bluegrass. - The Bluegrasses we have at present are not the answer."

"More grass has been killed during the summer months by standing water than by any other reason. There is so much poor drainage both surface and subsurface. Why does grass under water, die in the summer and not in the spring or fall? Because, plants need high amounts of oxygen during the heat of summer and it cannot be supplied by the roots when they are under water. This causes the plant to wilt. - Individual wet spots can be drained with a slit-trench back-filled with pea gravel all the way to the surface. Do not cover the gravel with soil, as it will seal off the gravel and you will defeat the purpose of the trench. Run these trenches through the wet area out into the dry soil surrounding it for thirty or forty feet. The grass will soon grow over this small trench and hide the gravel but you will continue to drain your wet spot."

"Another way to improve drainage is to use the Aero-Blade machine to cut through the thatch and allow water and air into the compacted soil. This will encourage root growth."

Editor's note: This symposium brings out many essential points which are not new to us, but it leaves room for thought and mulling over many of the trends and problems that confront present day maintenance practices. It also shows some of the difficulties encountered in the Chicago area by striving for super-perfect fairways, and that Poa annua is oftentimes a false and fickle friend in golf course maintenance program.

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents is to be commended and congratulated for their constructive attitude taken towards the solving of a few difficult problems.

The above material was taken from the October issue of the Midwest Bull Sheet.

IN SYMPATHY

We regret to hear of the death of a veteran member of the Middle Atlantic Superintendents

Association. John William Leverton was an original member of our Association and former owner and manager of the White Flint Golf Course, Bethesda, Maryland. John was a dedicated turf man, a fine golfer and a very sound business man. John sold his interest in the White Flint Course and moved to Richmond, Virginia. There he purchased the old Glennwood Club. John, with his golf know how, revamped the course and made it into a very fine semi-private club. This club has been very successful and is now under the direction of Bill's son-in-law, Mr. J. J. Cockriel of Richmond, Virginia. (Mr. Cockriel is also a member of the Middle Atlantic and an officer in the Central Virginia Association.)

Our condolences to the family and Bill's many friends in the golf world.

NOTE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

A new bulletin is available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "Evaluation of Bermudagrass Varieties for General-Purpose Turf". The bulletin is number AH 270. The publication may be obtained by sending \$.25 to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

NOW IS THE TIME ...

by James E. Thomas

Now that the active golf playing season is almost over, we should give some thought and study as to what our plans are for 1965. It is a good time to evaluate this year's successes and failures.

Number one on the list should be a survey of all operating equipment. With the labor problem as it is today, adequate machinery in good working order along with a few qualified employees can go a long way toward bridging the gap caused by insufficient help. Are all of our tools of maintenance in good repair and working order? If not, now is the time to have them fixed and overhauled, either in our own shop or by the dealer who supplied us. The sooner this is done, the better.

By getting an early start our memory is fresh as to what is needed, if we wait too long we are apt to forget some of the things that have caused trouble. If any of our equipment has seen a lot of service and is in need of extensive repairs, it would, no doubt, be wise to replace it with a new machine.

Old, rundown equipment is costly to keep in operation, not only in the loss of the service expected of it, but also in the loss of man hours of both an operator and a service mechanic. This causes unproductive time which can always be used to better advantage elsewhere.

The need of more drainage is always with us regardless of where it may be called for; whether in tees, fairways, roughs, putting greens, or even sand traps. While this has been a year drier than usual, the spring was wet enough to show us the spots which retained excessive moisture for too long a period of time. The next few months should provide an opportunity to accomplish this kind of work, and we would be doing it at a season of the year when golf play is on the quiet side and at a low ebb.

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

5007 - 34th St. , North
Arlington 7, Va.