

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on October 6, 1964, at the Suburban Club of Baltimore County in Pikesville, Maryland. The course will be open for anyone wishing to play in the Annual Tournament. Cocktails will be served from 5 to 6 P.M. with dinner following at 6 P.M. The guest speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Stephen Bachelder, plant pathologist from Rutgers University whose topic will be "Active Diseases on Turf".



OUR HOST

Mr. James Reid left the sod of Ireland in 1923 after spending 12 years as caretaker of an estate with a 9 hole golf course.

He settled in Philadelphia where he built Tully-Secane Golf Club in suburban Philadelphia. (Ridley). While spending a quarter of a century in one of the largest golfing centers of our country, Mr. Reid was associated with many of the turf greats of our time - fellow members of the Philadelphia Association - Marshall Farnam, Joe Ryan, Thomas Douerthy, Charlie Wolfong, Joe Valentine.

Suburban Philadelphia sprawled out and Tully went the way of many of our past great courses. It was sold for a real estate development. After 26 years Mr. Reid saw homes rise where tees, greens and trees he had planted had been.

Mr. Reid came to our area and Suburban Club in 1950. He has been active in our Association as director for 12 years. As a delegate to the National elections he has been instrumental in steering several of our members into National offices. We all appreciate and honor the wisdom and directness of our fellow member who is now entering his 53rd year in our field.

THE CLUB AND GOLF COURSE

The Suburban Club of Baltimore County is a privately owned club. It was organized in 1901 with a golf course of a few holes and gradually enough land was acquired for an 18 hole golf course. The course is about 6300 yards over slightly rolling terrain and has a par of 70. Trent Jones redesigned the 12th and 13th holes in 1949 and Mr. Reid has altered the course by removing unnecessary traps and bunkers, enlarging tees and adding trees. Over the past ten years 5,000 trees have been added to the course.

We are all looking forward in our visit to Suburban Club to meeting Mr. Walter Grobel, manager, and Ralph Beach, golf professional. They have 25 and 33 years respectively at Suburban behind them and we're looking forward with them to many more.

MAINTENANCE

The greens have been very good through the past droughty summer months. They are planted to C-1 and 19 with the exception of about three greens which have Penncross and Washington on them. Most greens are fertilized with 150-lbs. of 12-4-8 and 350 lbs. of Milorganite per year. The greens are mowed three times a week at 1/4 inch and cups are changed 4 times a week.

The tees were planted to U-3 Bermuda on numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 17. Numbers 3 and 18 are Merion Bluegrass and it is planned by next year to have all Bermuda tees. Tee markers are changed 4 times a week.

Fairways have been planted to Merion Bluegrass and Penn Lawn Fescue. Mr. Ried says they

have run into a lot of trouble this summer. In spring, weeds were sprayed with Banvel D, which did a wonderful job. But, due to shortage of moisture what grass was left died. A watering system is in the process of being installed.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

From Washington and Virginia areas: Get on the Washington Expressway and get off at the Baltimore Beltway at the stop where it says Lansdowne. Go up the ramp under the expressway and keep on the expressway until you get to Park Heights Avenue. Turn right on Park Heights Avenue towards Baltimore until you get to the club.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Charles Schalestock, our tournament committee chairman, announces that plans have been completed for the First Annual Bill Glover Memorial Trophy Tournament to be held at our next meeting at Suburban Club of Baltimore. John Connolly, our fellow member and Bill's former employer, has donated the trophy for the low gross winner. Many other trophies and prizes are available for other lucky participants. Let's all participate and make this an interesting contest.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas A. Doerer, Jr.

The September 7th meeting of the Middle Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association was held at the Island View Golf Club, Dranesville, Virginia. There were 66 superintendents and their guests present.

Golf was enjoyed by some 39 superintendents. Bob Martino, host superintendent, had a gross 73 for the 18 holes. The course was dry as are all courses in our area, however, the greens were in excellent shape. Mr. Morgan Tiller, club manager, extended us all the courtesies of the clubhouse plus a fine dinner prepared by Mr. George Strickland, their head chef. Mr. Robert Lewis, the golf chairman, and Mr. James Lowe, the grounds chairman, welcomed us to their facilities.

Our guest speaker for the evening was, none other than our good friend, Mr. Al Radko, Eastern Director, U.S.G.A. Greens Section. Mr. Radko showed film of some of the courses in Scotland and explained maintenance practices both here and abroad.

I would say, in my opinion, we in America as golfers are all driving Cadillacs when it comes to course conditioning.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

The national office in Jacksonville Beach has been upset twice in the last month by hurricanes roaring through northern Florida. As the threat of Cleo approached the office windows were taped; all records, papers and supplies were moved to storage and all operational equipment placed in the safest position for maximum protection against wind and water. Plastic covers were then used to cover everything as added protection against rain. No damage was experienced from this storm but gale winds brought considerable rain.

The furniture and typewriters had hardly been uncovered when hurricane Dora hit the beaches. This one did extensive damage to the town and many beach front homes were destroyed. The window in Dr. Nutter's office was ripped out resulting in some water damage to walls and floor but little financial loss to the Association.

Perhaps this yearly threat of hurricanes and the possible loss of office records and machines is another valid reason for moving the headquarters office away from the Jacksonville area.

As vice president of GCSAA, I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Northern Ohio Golf Course Superintendents Association at Fairlawn Country Club in Akron, Ohio, on September 14. I found the chapter, like our own Mid-Atlantic, to be vitally interested in the affairs of the National Association and in the progress each superintendent is making in his efforts to uphold the honor of being a golf course man. Others in attendance were GCSAA president, Dave Moote, and Willard Titlow, who is Dr. Nutter's assistant. Dr. Nutter could not attend because of the hurricane damage at the office.

Northern Ohio is all set for the Cleveland Conference and Show scheduled for February 7-12, 1965. Local officers, Don Figurella, president; Mal McLaren, vice president; and John Spodnik, secretary-treasurer urge early returns of your housing reservation forms to assure the accommodations you desire.

The National board has voted unanimously in favor of Kansas City as the site of the 1966 Conference. Washington is first choice for 1967 if the Mid-Atlantic will accept the role of host.

Only 12 exhibit booths remained unsold, as of September 1, of the 138 available at the Cleveland Show. Speaker response for the education program has been excellent so it looks like a good meeting.

The 1964-65 Membership Directory with its incorporated Buyer's Guide is on the presses and is scheduled for mailing about the middle of September. This publication, like our Mid-Atlantic Newsletter, is financed by the advertisers. Read the ads and patronize our supporters when possible.

COMMENTS

by A. M. Radko at the September 1st meeting

Emphasis is being placed on fairway irrigation systems throughout the Eastern seaboard. The record-breaking drought superimposed upon two prior dry years has everybody talking about installing new lines or increasing the capacity of present systems.

Coupled with this is the renewed interest in fairway renovation. Newer thatching machines insure better seed germination because seed is placed in contact with the soil. Both aeration and thatching usually are needed to prepare a good fairway seed bed.

An added dividend was received as a result of the Congressional renovation work prior to the Open championship. Since bermuda grass was badly injured in the previous winter-spring season, and there was too little time to re-stolonize to bermuda grass, it was necessary to overseed with cool season grasses. To adequately prepare the seed bed, each fairway was aerated ten times over, dragged, thatched, swept, fertilized, limed and seeded. The warm and cool season combination turf made for excellent fairway turf during the Open, but as the dry summer lingered and high temperatures weakened the cool season grasses, bermuda grass sprigs popped through almost every aeration hole and fairways now are 90% solid bermuda grass. The bermuda grass came on strong even though fairways were not fertilized this year to favor bermudagrass. This one solid renovation program advanced bermuda regrowth at this course by at least five years. Results were so outstanding that it seems advisable for all interested in bermuda grass propagation for fairways should study this example and attempt to work out a program that would produce comparable results under their individual and specific conditions.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Says - Tom Mascaro in the August issue of his WEST POINTERS, "To remember . . . What you do for your turfgrass this fall will determine its quality next spring." Truer words have never been spoken. We still have ample time and opportunity to continue on with a complete renovation program of brushing, verti-cutting, aerifying, topdressing, fertilizing and a final clean-up of weeds followed by reseeding wherever necessary. We can accomplish at this season of the year a dense thick sod and a deep root system, as from the latter part of August to the middle of October Mother Nature always gives us a helping hand.

Any of the above practices of putting green renovation should be done while the grass is still in active growth so that the thinning brought about by verti-cutting, and the holes left by aerification will heal quickly and prevent the invasion of unwanted Poa-Annua. A good plan to follow is to first brush the green two ways before mowing so as to remove any existing grain, this to be followed by verti-cutting for the reduction of accumulated thatch, next aerify the green four ways, each time in a different direction, follow this with an application of a well prepared topdressing of a good sandy loam, a balanced fertilizer can be applied according to the needs of the grass. The next operation is to drag the green in two directions with a steel doormat which will help to smooth and level the surface, blend and mix the fertilizer into the topdressing, and will get the maximum amount of materials into the Aerifier holes. After completion of the above, mow the green with an old mower with

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the reel set slightly away from the bedknife so as to pick up any trash that may remain on the surface.

Should you choose to water the green afterwards give it a thorough soaking taking care not to saturate the surface to the point of runoff. A good goal to strive for is to apply sufficient water where it is needed, when it is needed, in the right amount, and to keep a firm surface insofar as possible. The following of this practice will go a long way towards developing a deep root system.

The complete following of the renovation program as outlined above is an ambitious one and involves a lot of work, however, if all of the plan can not be followed to the letter the accomplishment of any part of it will be beneficial to the grass plant. This season of the year is all important to the life and establishment of a good grass covering on tees, greens, fairways, and roughs. It behooves us to take advantage of the opportunity.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1965 ELECTION SLATE

At the September meeting of our Association held at the Island View Golf Club, your Nominating Committee met and chose the following members as candidates for election to office beginning January 1, 1965. The following is the slate chosen:

President -- Thomas A. Doerer, Jr. -- Incumbent
Russell W. Kerns

Vice President - Angelo Cammarota -- Incumbent
Jack Oulla

Secretary-Treasurer -- Sheldon R. Betterly -- Incumbent
George W. Cleaver

Directors -- Two to be elected for a term of three years.
Frank J. Haske -- Incumbent
Charles B. Schalestock -- Incumbent
Lee C. Dieter
Bradley J. Strouth

This election will take place at the annual meeting of the Association to be held before December 15, 1964. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS MAAGCS

The following amendment was voted on and approved at the monthly meeting, April 7, 1964.

That the immediate past president of the Middle Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents be automatically a board member at large to serve under the existing president. This action to be retroactive to January 1, 1964.

JOB OPENING

For a qualified man in his 30's or early 40's with some technical training and executive ability. Salary will be about \$10,000.00 plus a nice house on the grounds with pay increases.

It is a course under construction, 18 holes, now being seeded in West Chester, Pennsylvania, on an exclusive real estate development owned by Ed Prince and Nicholas R. duPont. Nine more holes are planned and will be added when needed.

For further information contact Alfred H. Tull, Greens Chairman, Sharps Hill Road, Wilton, Connecticut.

IN SYMPATHY

It is with deep sorrow we receive the news of the death of our fellow member, Reuben P. Hines, Sr. He was one of the organizers, and a charter member of our Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. He was President of the Association in 1931, and again in the years of 1947 and 1948.

Mr. Hines devoted close to fifty years of his life to the supervision, designing, and construction of golf courses. He supervised the five golf courses of the District of Columbia for more than ten years. He was associated with the Georgetown Preparatory School for twenty years, also for twelve years he was with the Manor Country Club and for five years was with the Congressional Country Club.

In addition to being golf course superintendent at the clubs mentioned, he was a breeder of fine turf grasses as he operated his own commercial grass nurseries. The Congressional strain of creeping bent was one of his grass selections for use on putting greens. He designed and built the Courthouse Country Club (now known as the Country Club of Fairfax); the Beaver Creek Country Club at Hagerstown, Maryland; and the Oxon Run Golf Club, Oxon Run, Maryland. He also laid out and built many individual tees, fairways and putting greens at local clubs in the area.

All followers of golf in the Mid-Atlantic area have lost a friend. Reuben P. Hines, Sr., was sincerely devoted and dedicated to his profession, which was his avocation as well as vocation. He was always willing and eager to share his many years of experience and knowledge he had gained with his brother superintendents. The members of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents extend their condolences and sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT

by Harry C. Eckhoff

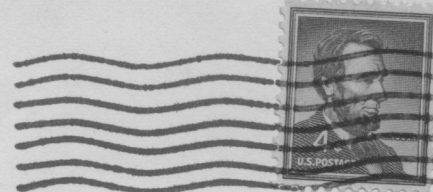
In New York the State Park Department opened its new Beaver Island Park 18-hole golf course on July 30 - its tenth state park to provide golf facilities. Press described it as "country club play for public links fee". In Gaffney, South Carolina, the Farmers Home Administration approved a 40-year low interest loan for 80% of the cost of a community recreation center including an 18-hole golf course. In Providence, Rhode Island, New England's first - and the world's second lighted regulation length golf course recently opened for play. Louisquisset Golf Club has just lighted its front nine to add about 30 playing hours each week.

Each of these examples reflects the surge and scope of the nation-wide effort to provide needed golf facilities. Yet, while golf course construction booms, golfers increase even faster. Over 750,000 persons took up the game last year in the United States. Today there are about 40 golfers per thousand population; in 1936 it was 16.

Roughly 70% of the nation's golfers are men; 30% are women and juniors which have increased over 40% since 1961. Why all this increased interest in golf in recent years? Golf television programs have undoubtedly had a powerful impact. Viewers become interested in watching the game, then can hardly wait to try it out for themselves.

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