



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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NEXT MEETING

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will meet at the Northwest Park Golf Course, Layhill, Maryland, for the May 4th meeting. Only light snacks are available at the Clubhouse for lunch, so it is advised that lunch be purchased prior to arrival. The first tee will be open to members of the Association from Noon till 2 P.M. Shower room facilities 4 - 5:30, social hour 5:30 - 6:30, and dinner 6:30 P.M. will be held at nearby Manor Country Club. Guest speaker for the evening will be Lt. Colonel George Renault, from Fort Belvoir, who has an extremely interesting film on relocation of a Nuclear Power Plant.



Brad Strouth

OUR HOSTS

Brad Strouth, golf course superintendent, and Carl Schoening, senior park horticulturist, extend a cordial WELCOME to all and hope as many as can will play the golf course. Brad Strouth is superintendent for the 18 hole Northwest Park Course and also for the 9 hole Sligo Golf Course. Carl Schoening's responsibilities are those of tree work, landscaping, athletic field construction and maintenance of all other turf areas for the Montgomery County park system other than golf courses.

THE COURSE

The Northwest Park Golf Course, under the auspices of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, was designed by Eddie Ault and constructed by Moore, Kelly and Reddish of Orange, Virginia, during the fall of 1962 thru the Spring of 1964. The 6670 yard par 72 course was dedicated and opened for play on June 15, 1964. Since that time some 32,000 rounds have been played through January, 1965. "The Country Club like" public course was constructed on the gently rolling slopes of an old farm and surrounding woodlands. A winding creek, beside providing interest and a challenge on more than one hole, is the water source for irrigation and will provide flow for a proposed 25 acre lake. The present course is an 18 hole layout with a proposed expansion to 36 golf holes in the near future.

A sturdy, picturesque barn, built in 1877 is presently serving for equipment storage and shop area, however; plans are on the drawing board for more adequate shop and office space expected to be under construction by mid summer of this year.

The greens were stolonized with C-7 (cohansey) bentgrass and have been fertilized with approximately 13 lbs. of Nitrogen per year. They are sprayed frequently in a disease prevention program and are cut regularly at 1/4 inch.

Aprons and approaches were seeded with 50% Pennlawn Fescue and 50% Merion bluegrass.

The tees were seeded with 50% Merion bluegrass and 50% Pennlawn Fescue at 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft., receive 7 lbs. of Nitrogen per year, and are maintained at a 3/4 inch height. Fourteen of the back tees were stolonized with 328 Bermuda, and they receive 10 lbs. of N and are cut at 1/2 inch.

The fairways were seeded with a mixture of 60% Pennlawn, 30% Kentucky bluegrass and 10% Rye at a rate of 175 lbs. per acre. The fairways are fertilized twice yearly with about 135 lbs. of N per acre and they are maintained at 1 1/4 inch height.

The roughs are primarily K-31 and are cut at 2 1/2 inches to encourage faster play on a public course.

LANDSCAPING

During the winter of 1964 some 80 red pines and 50 shade and flowering trees were planted to delineate fairways and as background planting for the greens.

This past winter season 100 white pines (12-15') have been established along the entrance roadway and in the clubhouse area. Sixtyfour shade trees and dogwood were planted in the parking lot and foundation type plantings were added to the clubhouse.

DIRECTIONS TO THE COURSE

Approaching from Virginia or Baltimore take the Capital Beltway (Rt. 495) to Exit #21 and proceed north on Georgia Avenue (Rt. 97) approximately 2.9 miles, through Wheaton, to the Glenmont Shopping Center. (Note: large Grand Union Food Store on right.) Turn right on Layhill Road (Rt. 182) and proceed approximately 4 miles to the Northwest Park Golf Course entrance on your right.

Directions to Manor Country Club, for the dinner-meeting, will be furnished at the golf course.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

Another first for the progressive Middle Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents will be in the showing of a film called "The Story of Camp Century - The City Under Ice". This film shows the first time a nuclear power plant has been dismantled and relocated successfully.

The film was edited by Lt. Col. George E. Renault, Deputy Commander, USA Research and Support Group. Col. Renault will also do the commentary of this film. This will be one of the few public showings of the film to date.

Col. Renault, along with his many military duties, serves as the greens chairman for the Fort Belvoir Golf Club, a position he has held for several years. George, as he is known to his many friends among the superintendents, is an ardent golfer and a booster of the superintendent.

Under the capable and dedicated interest of the Colonel, the Fort Belvoir course has made great progress. Many of these improvements stem from improved planning and budgeting of the club's funds. This type planning has enabled the superintendent to expedite his program with a minimal amount of cost and inconvenience to the membership.

I have worked under the direction of the Colonel for the past few years and have, in this time, cultivated a personal friendship that I would hope all superintendents could enjoy at their respective clubs. We try to get together for a round of golf at least once a month and discuss future improvements for the course. Many of our superintendents know the Colonel as he has attended many of our monthly meetings. Those who have not, try to get out to our next meeting and listen to his commentary on the above described film.

Let us have a 100% turn-out for the May 4th meeting, Northwest Park Golf Course.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

New office space for National Headquarters has been found in the vicinity of O'Hare Airport in Chicago. It is located about five minutes travel time from the Airport administration building and is at the interesection of the Tri-State Tollway and the Northwest Tollway. It is just 20 minutes by car from the downtown area and is easy to reach regardless of the method of travel used to get there. The official address will be O'Hare Office Center, 3158 Des Plaines Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois but do not send mail to that address until notified.

Besides being easy to reach, the new location will have many other advantages for us. There is a Post Office Sub-Station just across the corridor from our office so mail will be received and delivered several times a day. There will be ample room for our people to work in the 2200 square feet allotted us and we can expect more from them along the line of membership promotion and service. A large conference room will be available for board meetings and for greeting superintendents or green chairman should they care to visit the office. The executive director has been instructed to give the VIP treatment to member superintendents who drop in for a visit. If you are planning a trip to Chicago sometime in

the fall then stop in and say hello to Ben. I say in the fall to give him ample time to move in and get set up and have time to welcome you in the proper manner.

The National and the Mid-Atlantic are engaged in a joint project to see if we can establish a school for golf course employees. The proposed course of study would be available at no more cost than a very small registration fee to superintendents or those people who are employed by superintendents and would cover all phases of golf course work. The goal is to expose golf course employees to the theory of turfgrass maintenance and management and perhaps encourage some of them to take more interest in their work and become more valuable to the clubs. Some may be inclined to study harder and perhaps qualify for superintendents jobs that are bound to open up later due to job changes, deaths and new courses being built.

All members of the Mid-Atlantic will receive a questionnaire pertaining to this proposed school. Please follow the instructions given and then see that the forms are mailed back immediately. The success of this project depends on the results of the questionnaires returned so please see that yours is returned.

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE OPERATORS CLINIC

A public golf course operators clinic will be held in conjunction with the Middle Atlantic District Recreation and Park Conference scheduled at the Pocono Manor, Pa., May 9-12, 1965. The golf clinic, which will be devoted to discussion of planning, financing, operational techniques, maintenance and trends of public golf courses, will be held on Monday afternoon, May 10.

Speakers for the clinic and topics to be discussed are: "The Need for Specifications in Golf Course Construction" - Jack C. Harper, Extension Agronomist, Pennsylvania State University; "A Look at the Operation of a County Golf System" - Harold J. Van Cott, Superintendent of Recreation, Essex County, New Jersey; "Special Maintenance Problems on Public Golf Courses" - Alexander M. Radko, Eastern Director USGA Green Section, Highland Park, New Jersey. Program was arranged and will be chaired by Harry C. Eckhoff, Executive Director, National Golf Foundation.

States included in the Middle Atlantic District are Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

TURF IN THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC SECTION-II

by Dr. Fred V. Grau

The following is part two of the condensation of a paper presented by Dr. Grau at the PGA Seminar at the University of Maryland, March 8th. In editing this material some of the original effectiveness has been lost.

There are many things wrong with the fairways and so few good tools to meet the challenge. Burning Tree has all bermuda of a strain found on the course. At Woodmont all the fairways were sprigged to U-3. The new Tufcote bermuda is being increased at Washingtonian for future fairway installation. Merion is in use on some fairways, common bermuda from seed on others. Bentgrasses and common bluegrass on fairways can be considered to have failed nearly 100% from diseases, heat and close mowing. Zoysias have not yet been accepted but offer real hopes for the club that wants perfection with minimum upkeep. Diseases, drought and close mowing have no effect against zoysia.

Fertilizers Over the years there have been great developments in fertilizers. Prior to Ureaform nitrogen fertilizer the safest organic nitrogen was sewage sludge. Today we have a choice of several forms of nitrogen. Solubles such as Urea, sulfate of ammonia, and ammonium nitrate must be used in very small amounts to avoid burning and lush growth which encourages diseases. Natural organics such as sewage sludge, tankage, and seed meals may be used in somewhat larger quantities but they break down rapidly in hot weather and fail to release enough N during cool weather. Ureaforms (38% nitrogen) are organic, they slowly release N by bacterial activity and are the longest lasting of all our N fertilizers. They have the highest degree of safety from burning or scorching.

Many mixed fertilizers combine the advantages of all sources by providing 50 to 75% from ureaforms, 15 to 25% from natural organics, and the balance from solubles. The trouble is that we do not yet have labeling laws that tell you just how the mixture is put together.

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Management Plant any grass in the kind of environment that we have in the Mid-Atlantic Area and you have a management problem. By equipping ourselves through our Turf Conferences and Schools we can better provide wholly satisfactory turf with minimum interruption to play under sometimes impossible conditions.

Seedbeds A few architects and superintendents have capitalized on research which proved the value of adequate seedbed fertilization before planting grass. The secret is in incorporating slow-release nitrogen along with limestone, superphosphate and potash. At one course this procedure helped spring-planted cool-season grasses to grow throughout the severe summer of 1964 so that the course opened in September, months ahead of schedule.

Hydroseeding was first used on a section of the old Pennsylvania Turnpike in 1940. Now we use the power sprayer on the golf course and adapt it to seeding new greens or reseeding old ones. We can plant vegetative grasses (sprigs, stolons, chopped sod) with a hydro-mulcher. We blend fertilizer in the slurry and develop playable greens in the shortest possible time. It is a favorite device for establishing erosion-control cover on highway slopes.

Equipment This area has been a favorite testing ground for turf maintenance equipment. The aerifier was tested at Beltsville in 1946. The verticut was tested at Army-Navy. The huge push mowers were tried out at Fairfax. The latest is a turf plugger made in Kansas City. Thatch-removing machines are a must when we grow more grass than we need.

Golf Course Superintendents Nothing or no one can replace a highly-trained experienced golf course superintendent in developing and maintaining playable golf turf in this area or anywhere else. The best grasses need to be understood and managed intelligently. Modern chemicals are so high-powered that, if 1/2 lb. to the acre is the correct amount, one lb. may damage the turf beyond repair. Keeping modern equipment in perfect operating condition is the work of experts. Drainage, soil aeration, fertilization and all aspects of turfgrass management demand constant attention and action.

The Mid-Atlantic Area offers a tremendous challenge to anyone who would produce good golf turf. A trained golf course superintendent and an understanding professional represent the nucleus of the team that will produce the finest results.

KEEPING UP WITH SOIL FERTILITY ON GOLF COURSES by L. J. Sullivan
Agrico Soil Service

The following is a summary of the talk given by L. J. Sullivan at the April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic.

Results from 5676 golf course soils tested by Agrico for the Eastern Region during 1963-64 show significant changes compared to similar figures three years ago.

Soils from 2907 putting greens showed that 83% needed more potash than phosphorus. In 1826 of these soils (75%) the potash test was actually poor. Factors involved are soil make-up, liberal watering practices, and removal of clippings. Frequent feeding of complete fertilizers high in potash (e.g. 3-1-2) offers best answer since grass will take up more potash than it needs if fed large doses of potash infrequently.

Fairways as a group show approximately equal needs for potash and phosphorus in 52% of the 1712 soils studied. One noteworthy feature is the number of soils showing a greater need for potash than phosphorus - 28% in this survey compared to only 9% three years ago. This seems to be a reflection of the increased use of irrigation on fairways. It indicates the need for heavier fertilization and more potash on these irrigated fairways.

Tees as a group have almost the same percentage of soils with equal P and K requirements as fairways. A larger percentage, however, need more potash - 42% of the total compared to 22% in 1960-61. Heavy watering and possibly removal of clippings are responsible.

The survey shows that many courses need lime. Over half of the greens, two-thirds of the tees and three-quarters of the fairways were too low in pH and required lime. Lack of lime reduces the feeding efficiency of most fertilizers.

An interesting sidelight of the study was the fact that fertilizer costs have remained steady while most other costs have increased sharply in recent years. With many courses showing relatively low fertility levels, especially on fairways, it appears that greater use of fertilizer (according to soil test) could result in better turf while reducing the expenditure of more costly turf management items such as seeding, chemicals, and labor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Our president, Thomas Doerer, Jr., has appointed the following members to serve as the nominating committee for 1965: Frank Haske, Jack Oulla, Lee Dieter, Jim Ried and Angelo Cammarota.

NOW IS THE TIME ...

by James E. Thomas

To get ready for the summer season which will be upon us before we realize that it has arrived. Summerizing is just as important to good golf course maintenance as is the proper winterizing of a golf course. Each can complement the other and the two together when efficiently done results in a better conditioned turf on our tees, fairways and greens.

Some of the things we could think about accomplishing at this time are: A spring program of weed eradication using proven herbicides such as pre-emergence materials for the control of crabgrass, also in the picture to be removed from turf areas is unwanted plaintain, knotweed, wild garlic, dandelion, henebit, clover, chickweed, etc., and possibly some of the new materials for the eradication of poa annua. The last mentioned (poa) is worth a trial on a small test plot.

Weed eradication needs to be followed by adequate fertilization applied at the manufacturer's recommendations, and perhaps at this time a good insecticide could be used along with the fertilizer as insurance against a possible grub infestation later in the season. The kind of winter we have just experienced could produce some insect and grub damage when warm weather arrives.

This is also a good time to give some thought to what the season's water management program will be. Try to refrain from starting a routine watering too early in the season, as when you once start the practice of using water it is with you for the rest of the growing season. Normally in the early spring rainfall will supply sufficient moisture for all growth, and it is only when temperatures rise along with increased evaporation that artificial irrigation becomes necessary. Remember, they tell us too much water can become an unwanted evil.

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