



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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

Vol. XV

March 25, 1965

No. 3

NEXT MEETING

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will meet at Beaver Creek Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland, for the April 6th meeting. Lunch may be purchased at the club after 11:30 A.M. The course will be open to members of the Association all day. There will be a social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 with dinner following. Guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Lew Sullivan from the Technical Service Dept. of the American Agriculture and Chemical Company.

OUR HOSTS

Jack Young and Bert Yingling, our hosts for the meeting, are co-owners and operators of Beaver Creek. Jack is the inside man, attending to the clubhouse end of the operation. Bert is the outside man, supervising the maintenance of the golf course.

THE COURSE

The 6,866 yard par 72 course was designed by our hosts and built by Reuben Hines, Sr., who made several changes during construction. The site was a rolling, 185 acre farm before course construction.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Here, in our hosts own words, are some of the highlights of the construction and maintenance of the course:

"We had a wonderful experience in the purchasing and developing of the property. We surveyed the site and designed a golf course on it. We then turned the construction over to Reuben Hines, who made several changes in the field. Construction began on May 8, 1958, at 10:00 A.M. with the usual, a bulldozer. Destruction came at 10:30 P.M. on January 2, 1959, when 2 inches of rain fell in about 20 minutes. Our course was left with a Grand Canyon look. Reconstruction began in March and the course was opened for play July 18, 1959. The tees and greens were quite good on opening day but the fairways were spotty."

The greens were planted to C-7 bentgrass and have since been fertilized with approximately 10-12 lbs. of nitrogen per year. They are now cut at 1/4 inch year round. They average 6,500 sq. ft. in size.

The tees were planted with stolens of C-1 bentgrass and seeded with a fairway mixture and are fertilized with about 6 lbs. of N per year. About 35% of the tees are still bentgrass.

The fairways were seeded with a 50-50 mixture of Merion bluegrass and K-31 fescue and are fertilized with about 500 lbs. of 12-3-8 per acre spring and fall. They are cut at 3/4 to one inch.

The roughs are primarily K-31 and creeping red fescue and are cut at 2 1/2 inches to speed up play. They are fertilized once every three years.

A complete manual watering system was installed during construction and has been greatly appreciated during the past few years. The valves are installed in the center of the fairways at 90 ft. intervals. The water source is a temporary lake on the stream. A 300 G.P.M. pump with a 40 h.p. engine feeds the system.

FUTURE

New highway construction has hampered any plans for additional holes, but residential construction on the fringe of the property is a possibility.

TREES

About one hundred trees have been planted on the course and a nursery of 3,000 trees has been started for possible future planting.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

The March meeting of the Middle Atlantic Superintendents was held in conjunction with the PGA Seminar on March 8th at the new Adult Education Center, University of Maryland.

Some 250 golf professionals and superintendents registered for this three day meeting. Some of the best known figures in the golf world were guest speakers. Joe Dey, executive director of the USGA; Robert Trent Jones, world renown golf architect; Mr. O. J. Noer, one of the world's foremost agronomists; Dr. Joseph Ewers, executive director of the PGA; Max Elbin, national PGA secretary; Lee Fraser, National PGA treasurer; and our own Dr. Fred Grau. These gentlemen spoke on their favorite subjects. Many members of the Middle Atlantic and golf associations both professional and amateur were in attendance to hear these fine speakers. The Club Managers Association was represented by Mr. Frank Smith, the personable manager of the Chevy Chase Country Club.

It was very gratifying to see so many of our superintendents on hand for the meeting.

Dr. W. H. Elkins, dean of the University, welcomed all to the conference with his opening address. He was followed by our good friend, Col. Harry Eckhoff, eastern director of the National Golf Foundation. The Colonel brought us up to date on the future of this great game.

Mr. Robert Shields, our National president, had a few words to say in regard to the shortage of superintendents in the country and that we should encourage the younger men to train for this important position in the golf field. Bob was presented an attache case from his fellow superintendents in the Middle Atlantic area. The case was given in appreciation for his efforts in our local Association in which he served three terms as its president.

Our thanks to Mr. Frank Cronin and his staff for the fine program and the courtesies extended to us during our stay at the University. Let us all prepare for another session next year.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

The March 8 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents and the Professional Golfers was a huge success. President Doerer presented our story in a very fine manner and then joined George Gumm and Jack Oulla to explain something about our work in a question and answer panel.

Tommy Doerer presented me with an attache case with my name on the outside and an inscribed plate inside that reads, "Congratulations from your fellow professionals of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, 1965". I want to thank the members of the Mid-Atlantic for this fine gift and will think of them every time I open it. It's something that I really needed and will have much use for it.

The new case went with me the next day to Raleigh, N.C., where I was guest speaker at the Third Annual Carolinas Turfgrass Conference. Bernice and I flew down in the small plane and landed at Raleigh-Durham airport where we were met by Bob Gamble, superintendent at Duke University Golf Course. A similar trip is planned to Pittsburgh on June 8 where I hope to attend a meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of Golf Course Superintendents.

Mr. Ben Chlevin, GCSAA executive director, was in town the week of March 15 making final hotel arrangements for the 1967 National Turfgrass Conference which will be held in Washington.

While here, he met with our legal counsel, Mr. Walter Slowinski, regarding legal matters pertaining to the Association; met with Dr. Elwyn Deal and Dr. Jim Miller at the University of Maryland where both of us spoke to a small group of agronomy students explaining golf course work. We visited the Sheraton-Park Hotel and the new Hilton to inspect the facilities available for the 1967 conference. We spent four hours with Mr. H. N. Hunsicker of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare regarding ways and means of



Officers & Directors of Mid-Atlantic, PGA & GCSA with speakers at PGA Seminar, University of Maryland.



George Taylor receives his award for his public relations work from local President Thomas Doerer and National President Robert Shields.



Some Mid-Atlantic members at National Turf Conference in Cleveland.



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obtaining Federal funds for the education of superintendents and future superintendents. We met with Ed Lyon, executive director of the Club Managers Association, and enjoyed an inspection tour of his new national office headquarters. We then met with Mr. William Amlong, executive director of National Club Association regarding the role superintendents can play in the possible reduction of the 20% excise tax on club membership dues.

Vice President, Ted Roberts, flew in for a fast inspection tour of the two hotels on Thursday afternoon and went back home at 9 P.M. Mr. Chlevin left Friday for Chicago and Kansas City, then will swing South looking for a southern city to host our 1968 National meeting.

LADIES NIGHT, TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1965

The date has been set for our Association's Third Annual Ladies Night. Our wives or girlfriends will again be the guests of the Association for cocktails, dinner, and the theater. The play this year will be "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" with Jerry Lester.

The affair will be held at the Washingtonian Motel where our host will be Buel Hitchcock.

Let's have a 100% turn out this year. Details will follow in future NEWSLETTERS. Keep this date on the top of your social calendar.

WELCOME

William E. Humpries comes into our Association as a member after spending a score of years in golf course maintenance working under his brother-in-law, Ernest Stanley, at Quantico and as assistant to Tom Doerer at Fort Belvoir. Bill has been at International Town and Country Club for the past two years and has both the 9 hole and the 18 hole course under his supervision. Glad to have you with us, Bill.

Parker M. Shirling of Centreville, Virginia, has been elected to membership in our Association. Parker is connected with the Princeton Turf Farms and has a strong interest in the establishment and maintenance of quality turf.

JOB OPENING

For a superintendent at a nine hole course where there are tentative plans for adding another nine in the near future. Salary is open. Contact Mr. N. L. Deaver, golf professional, Gypsy Hill Golf Club, Staunton, Virginia. Phone Code 703-TU 6-9737.

TURF IN THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC SECTION

by Dr. Fred V. Grau

Turf in the Middle Atlantic Section of the United States usually has a handicap of about 10 strokes when it comes onto the first tee. In addition, it has to suffer along on borrowed clubs, shoes that are too tight, and a 40-mile wind in the face. The first nine is played in zero weather - suddenly, with no change of clothes, it changes to 90 degrees F with high humidity at the tenth tee. How the eighteen is ever finished is a miracle. The saving grace is the golf course superintendent who is sympathetic to its difficulties, understands them and gives a lift when it is needed.

A better understanding of the existing circumstances and conditions is necessary so that the golf professional, the golf course superintendent, the club manager and club officials can work together more effectively as a team to provide the best in playing conditions for the members.

CLIMATE, Heat and humidity does things to people, so try to imagine what it does to grass plants that can't move around and take a cool swim or plop down in an easy chair in an air-conditioned bar. The superintendent cools the grass by syringing when needed but, meanwhile, the grass gets million steel spikes pushed into it with tons of weight above them.

Sudden, hard, hot showers followed by the hot sun encourages brownpatch disease. No wonder so much disease control work was concentrated right here in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Spring in this area is rare. We jump from winter right into blazing summer. Turfgrasses come out of dormancy only to find hordes of golfers trampling them flat before they have

had a chance to adjust to the new season. In milder climates turf has a longer period to strike roots deeply into the soil so the rigors of summer can be borne with reasonable success.

Then comes the drought. In variable soils that hold water with difficulty a few weeks of no rain causes havoc. Then, the superintendent turns on the water. Before the turf can benefit much, up comes crabgrass and goosegrass.

SOILS in the Middle Atlantic Section are more suited to trees than to turfgrasses. The greatest advances have been made in modifying our poor soils with sand, peat and other amendments for putting greens and for tees. Fairways have to struggle on with soils that have become poorer with the years. Builders have stripped topsoil from fairways and approaches to build the greens and tees. The next result is that today we can build and manage greens and tees in a state of near perfection. The real problem areas exist in the fairways, the approaches and the collars where turf frequently is lost.

GRASSES In this area, the cool-season grasses, bluegrass and fescue, grow well in early summer and in the fall but languish during the hot summer months. As often as not they are smothered with crabgrass and goosegrass. Bentgrasses on putting greens survive better but only with TLC and pampering. Warm-season grasses sometimes fail after a very severe winter. An exception is Meyer zoysia, common zoysia and some of the native and introduced bermudagrasses.

Some of the leading putting green grasses in successful use in the Mid-Atlantic area are: C-1, C-19 combination bents, vegetated. C-1 is Arlington found at Atlantic City. C-19 is Congressional found at Congressional Country Club. Cohansey bent (C-7), vegetated, a product of Pine Valley Club is very heat tolerant; Penncross bent; old Orchard (C-52), vegetated. Seaside, the old Virginia and Metropolitan, Pennly and even Washington bents are virtually out of the picture. Newer ones have been proven superior and thus the old giveth way to the new. Ugandagrass, vegetated, is a super-fine bermuda from Africa; Tifton 328 or Tifgreen, vegetated, is in limited use discouraged by severe winter kill two years ago.

Grasses that are satisfactory for tees are very limited. U-3 bermuda is in use but it was hurt by winter kill two years ago. Meyer zoysia is in limited use and probably will increase in popularity as it is better understood as to management. Merion Kentucky bluegrass is perfection during the cool months but it can't take continuous use and short clip all summer. Some superintendents maintain tees, split down the middle, bermuda or zoysia for hot weather; Merion for fall, winter and spring. Only grasses that can thrive under close mowing can be considered for tees. At new courses farther north tees of Penncross bent are cut at 3/16" and are better than greens were 34 years ago. In Arizona tees of Ugandagrass are mowed regularly at 3/16" and the golfers love them.

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