



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

September 25, 1965

No. 9



OCTOBER MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held at Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland, on October 12, 1965. The annual superintendent's golf tournament will be played on this date with registration beginning at noon. The social hour will be from 5 to 6 P.M. followed by dinner and the business meeting.

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

Our annual Bill Glover Memorial Tournament will be held at this meeting. Chairman Bob Martino has many interesting prizes and of course the Bill Glover trophy will be awarded.

OUR HOST

L. R. (Bob) Shields first entered the golf field in 1946 through the interest of his twin brothers, Ray and Roy. He has been superintendent at Woodmont since 1952. The results of his handiwork are quite evident as you will see from the beautiful flower beds and grounds of the clubhouse to the remotest sand trap on the golf course. He has served as a director, secretary-treasurer, president and editor of the Newsletter of our Association and as a director on the board of the National Association and is currently our National President.

His countless hours of devoted leadership have helped this association attain its present stature.

WELCOME TO WOODMONT

by Bob Shields

On behalf of the members of the board of directors of Woodmont and the greens committee chairman, Mr. John Safer, I'd like to welcome the Mid-Atlantic superintendents to the club on October 12th. Our golf professional, Tony Marlowe, and his entire staff will be in the shop to greet you and assist in any way. Mr. Secreto will serve you in the locker room and caddy master, Dick Secreto, will help conduct the golf tournament from the first tee. Club manager, Mr. Jacques Aimi, will go all out to make your visit to the dining room more enjoyable than when you were here two years ago. Price of the buffet dinner will be \$5.00, mixed drinks served in the men's grill will be \$1.00.

Please join in the discussion at the meeting so that we may, from your constructive suggestions, learn how to better serve the members of our club.

The tournament will be played over our south course but you are welcome to play the north course if you so desire. Regardless of your choice of courses, we hope the weather is good and hope you have a pleasant day.

If you drive to visit with us, please drive safely.

THE COURSE

The north course was built by Frank Murray from plans by architect, Al Tull and was opened for play in 1950. The white tees measure 6514 yards, par is 72.

The south course was completed in 1960 and measured 6290 yards for a par of 72. The back nine on this course was designed by Al Tull and built by superintendent, Bob Shields. It was opened for play by Vice President Nixon in 1956. The first nine was designed and built by Bob in 1959 and opened for play in 1960. It has fairway water outlets every 90 feet down the center of each fairway. The course is fairly short when compared to the north course but hazards are placed in such a manner that only the long hitter out of line is penalized. Also the greens are small and the fairways are narrow to compensate for the low yardage.

MAINTENANCE

The greens were planted to C-1 and C-19 bentgrass. They receive a total of 8-9 pounds of actual nitrogen per square foot per season applied at two week intervals during the summer. A water soluble material is used during the hot months of July and August. Greens are cut three times a week at 1/4 inch and are aeriated two or three times per season. No top dressing has been done on the north course since 1955. Spraying is started in the spring when disease appears and is continued at weekly intervals until weather gets cool in the fall.

Collars were converted to Merion Kentucky bluegrass by stripping off worn turf and resodding several years ago but most are in need of replacement at this time.

Tees are U-3 bermudagrass cut at 1/2 inch three times a week and fertilized weekly during the growing season.

Fairways on the north course are mostly poa-annua but all have been planted to U-3 bermudagrass which is expected to predominate next year. The south course had near perfect U-3 fairways three years ago but experienced some winter kill during the cold 62-63 winter. All fairways are cut at 1/2 inch in an effort to encourage U-3. The north course is fertilized spring and fall but the south course receives high nitrogen every two weeks from June to September. The south course has watered fairways.

Roughs are composed of Kentucky bluegrass and chewings fescue cut at two inches with only that portion adjacent to the fairways receiving fertilizer once a year. This year all roughs were spiked, seeded and fertilized.

Water is supplied by three ponds of about two acres each. The capacity of the pumps is 800 gallons per minute but a new pond and pumping station are in the plans so that north course fairways can also be irrigated. A completely automatic green, tee, fairway water system will be installed this fall.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

Woodmont Country Club is located one mile south of Rockville on Rockville's main street, East Montgomery Avenue (or Rockville Pike) which is Wisconsin Avenue extended from the District of Columbia.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

It has been very interesting to me and many of my fellow superintendents the comments and private discussions pertaining to our daily work. In the past we would be concerned with the problems of growing turf at our respective courses. Recently, however, this topic of turf has become secondary to the labor problems at many courses.

It was brought to my attention recently by several greens chairmen and superintendents, the problems of personnel turn-over. At several courses in the Middle Atlantic area the turn-over has been as high as thirty employee's per season. This problem is a tough one and as the years go on it will become a major one affecting most courses in our area. The question is, what are we superintendents doing about it? Here are a few remarks on the subject. These are my own opinions and by no means the complete answer, however, it is a start.

Are we searching and then screening our help close enough? Are we staffing our programs with enough help so that the work load per man does not become too difficult? Are we spending enough time training our employees so as to make their jobs more appealing? Morale and incentives are two big factors with any group of employees. These two important areas can be promoted through training, personal supervision, pay standards, fringe benefits, and promotions through the ranks. Making permanent positions for them rather than seasonal type work also could be of help. Seasonal type work can be done by students who are only too willing to make the extra funds.

There is plenty of work to be done at most courses during the winter months preparing the course for the increased traffic of the coming year. So keep enough trained help to accomplish this work, at least 6 to 9 men for the average 18 hole course, plus an assistant. You will find over a short period of time a better course with very little added expense. Having modern equipment and a good mechanic to keep the equipment in top running order is essential.

I have been told by many knowledgeable men in the turf business that a well aligned and razor sharp mower will do as much towards growing better turf as will the other parts of your growing programs.

Let us as superintendents devote more time to this labor management program so that we can maintain the turf which we are capable of growing.

If you are faced with labor management problems, take an inventory of your requirements, make changes where necessary and finally, present your program changes to your chairman. In most cases this will mean extra funds but it will be money well invested. Remember your course cannot be any better than your trained personnel. You cannot do it single handed. Act now as next year may bring greater problems in this area. It certainly will not get any better until we all do something about it.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

On October 26th, Frank Haske and I flew to Akron, Ohio, for a meeting of the Northern Ohio Chapter of Golf Course Superintendents of America. The occasion was the Northern Ohio Golf Course Equipment Demonstration and Show.

Local equipment dealers and suppliers had been invited to exhibit and demonstrate their golf course maintenance machines and we saw, for instance, four different makes of fairway mowing outfits cutting grass on the same fairway at the same time. Also four different putting green mowers were cutting across the same green and three tee mowing machines cutting a tee.

The purpose was to give superintendents a chance to not only see the equipment but also see each machine in action. Each exhibitor was given the P.A. system so he could describe the machine, tell how to use it and point out the features of each item. He could

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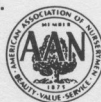
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quote the price of the machine if he wanted to and was given a chance to answer questions from viewers. Many dealers offered time and time again to take any machine they had on display to the superintendents own course where it could be seen working under different conditions.

Over 200 registered for the demonstration and much interest was evidenced by the crowd as each piece of equipment was shown. Other items demonstrated were: soil shreaders, loaders, trenchers, tillers, sprayers, spreaders, irrigation equipment, aerating and renovating equipment, leaf blowers and mowing and trimming mowers. On display were chemicals, soil conditioners, seeds, fertilizer and electric carts.

Host superintendent, Nelson Monical at Portage Country Club, used his maintenance shop as headquarters for the day and nearby nursery, tees, fairways and rough for exhibits and demonstrations. He also acted as chef and served grilled hamburgers for lunch and barbecued steaks for dinner.

Frank and I were amazed at the size and score of this meeting and wondered if a similar one wouldn't be good for the Mid-Atlantic.

The National office will hold an official grand opening on October 21 at the Des Plaines, Illinois, address in conjunction with the regular fall meeting of the board of directors. The purpose is to introduce the staff to the board of directors. We would like to extend an invitation to any member of the Mid-Atlantic who might care to attend to do so. This invitation is also good any time any member is in the Chicago area.

ON PUBLICITY . . .

The following is a letter received from Billy Casper by Mr. Frank Haske of Congressional Country Club in reply to his letter concerning the compliment Mr. Casper gave the superintendent of Tam O'Shanter over national television after winning the Western Open.

August 10, 1965

Mr. Frank J. Haske, Superintendent
Congressional Country Club, Inc.
Washington, D. C. 20034

Dear Mr. Haske:

Thank you so very much for your very nice letter of July 28th.

I am in complete agreement with you that the golf course superintendent is probably the man most dear to a golfer's heart and his pocketbook.

Tam O'Shanter was in beautiful condition and I know that the superintendent spent many, many hours seeing that it maintained it's excellent condition.

My cap is off to you, Mr. Haske, for the superb job you have done at Congressional. I enjoyed playing Congressional very much, mainly because of the outstanding condition in which I found the course.

Thank you again for your letter and I will look forward to meeting you personally in the Washington area.

Sincerely yours,

Billy Casper

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

by James E. Thomas

When we are approaching the season of the year when the playing of golf begins to be at a low ebb, we can now evaluate the necessity for the drainage of our putting greens. No doubt the past few months have pointed out to some of us certain greens that are in need of additional drainage. Putting green drainage is all-important for the establishment of a satisfactory playing surface, a billiard like table top.

The months ahead are the time for the correction of areas having poor drainage. This fact holds true for the working of any land during the active growing season, and this also

holds true for the golf course superintendent who wishes to avoid tearing up the turf on his golf course during the active playing season.

Superintendents who have studied their layouts year after year know the trouble spots. In most cases, turf troubles are due either directly or indirectly to inadequate drainage. When once the cause is correctly arrived at there are usually but two reasons for not getting the job done - one is not taking the opportunity of tearing up the area when play is at a minimum; the other is the fear of not doing the work properly if it involves a putting green.

The effects of poor drainage are so serious and so persistent that no good greens master can afford to put up with them season after season. Most golf officials can easily be sold on the need for drainage improvements; that is something they can realize and understand the need for along with the use of fungicides, fertilizers, strains of grass, etc.

The need for surface drainage can be readily recognized but it is more difficult to discern poor internal drainage. Poor, weakly, light colored turf, which dies from time to time either with or without symptoms of fungus disease, may be due to too much water, puddled soil, or a combination of both. In either case, the result is suffocation, too little oxygen in the soil profile and at the root zone. By keeping this in mind it will be easier to arrive at the remedy.

When water does not readily enter the soil as fast as it is applied during artificial watering or during an ordinary rain, or if it oozes to the surface when one stands on the green one or two hours after watering, either the surface soil is so puddled and packed until the water cannot enter and infiltrate into the soil quick enough, or the subdrainage is so poor that the water that enters cannot drain away. Quite often both conditions are found to exist. If the soil becomes puddled, such areas will become so hard when dry that a pitched ball will bounce as off concrete.

Such a soil may have become compacted because it is high in clay and silt particles, and is therefore highly plastic. If such a soil is less than a foot thick over a previous fill, then improvement of the soil structure and profile by mechanical means may be all that is necessary. However, with a tight clay soil existing on the surface of the green it often follows that the same type of soil lies below and hence both surface soil improvement and tiling are required.

In order to discover the needs of a tight surface soil some experimentation and research is in order. As a start mix sieved samples of such a soil with different amounts of sand and peat until a mixture is obtained that will not be greasy between the fingers when wet and will not be like a bullet when dry.

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