



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



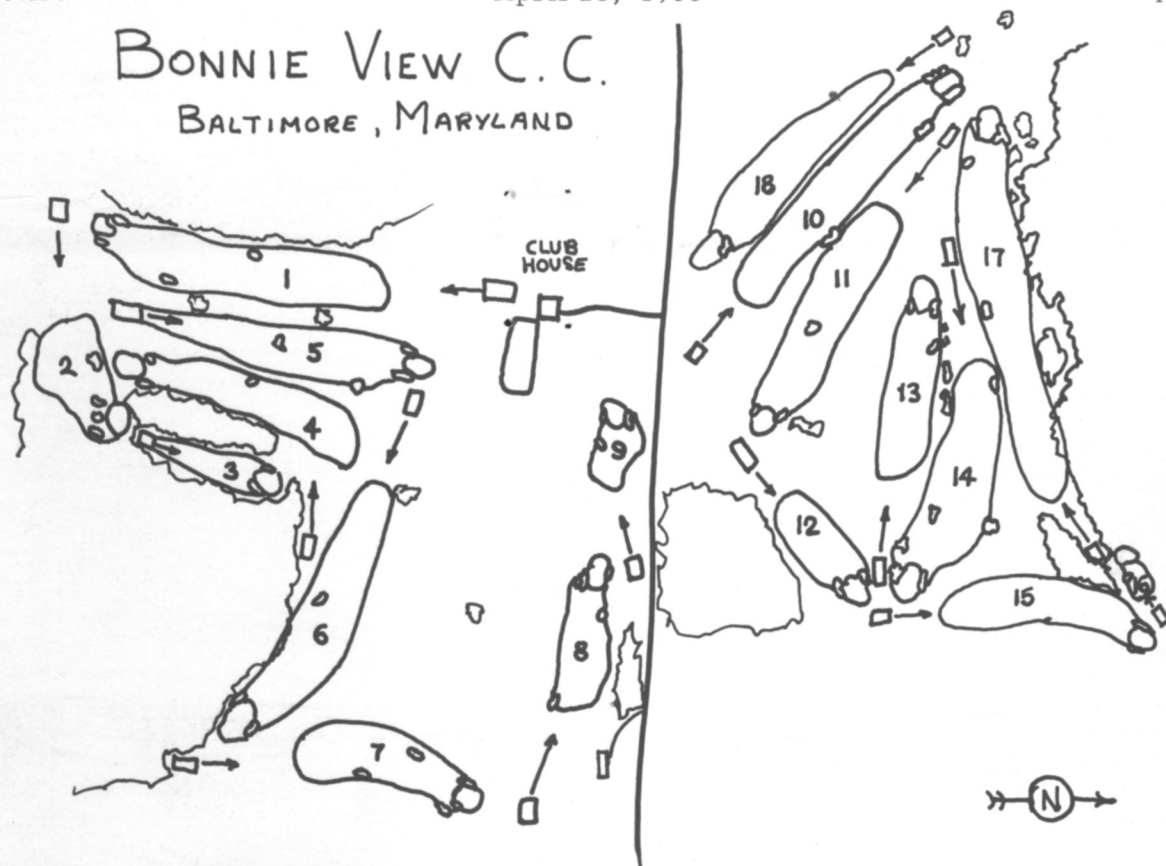
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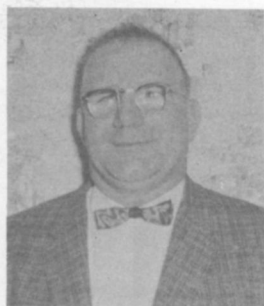


NEXT MEETING

The May 3rd meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held at Bonnie View Country Club in Baltimore, Maryland. Anyone wishing to play golf is requested to tee off between 11:00 AM and 1:30 PM. Lunch will be available. The cocktail hour will be from 6 to 7 with dinner at 7 and the business meeting immediately following. Dr. George Langford from the University of Maryland will be our guest speaker.

OUR HOST

Angelo Cammarota, the Mid-Atlantic G.C.S.A. President, will be our host. Angelo started in the golf course business in 1931 as an assistant to his father at Tavistock Country Club in Haddenfield, New Jersey. During the war, 1941-1946, he was assistant club manager at Tavistock. From 1947-1951 "Angie" served as Superintendent at two different clubs in Pennsawken, New Jersey, those being Iron Rock and Cooper River. In 1951 he left the golf course field to start his own landscape business. Angelo returned to golf in 1958 as Superintendent of the Green Hill Yacht and Country Club in Salisbury, Maryland. In 1963 he was named Superintendent of Bonnie View Country Club.



Angelo is married to the former Thelma Pennington of Haddenfield and has five children. His two sons, David and Nicholas, are Turf Management students at the Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland.

THE COURSE

Bonnie View was designed and built by William Gorden in 1933. Its 600 members purchased the 6,359 yard, par 72 course in 1953. Bonnie View has just completed a new irrigation system featuring automatic pop-ups on greens and tees and quick coupling valves on the fairways. New bridges, drinking fountains and a snack bar have been recently added.

MAINTENANCE

The greens average 5,000 sq. ft. and are C1 and C19 with two greens, number 3 and the putting green, of Pencross. Poa is also present. They are cut four times weekly at 1/4 inch. Eight pounds of N are applied annually with a 12-4-8 or organic fertilizer as the source. A preventative spray program is followed. Collars are treated the same as greens and are cut three times weekly at 5/8 inch.

The tees are a mixture of Kentucky Blue, Penlawn Fescue and Poa. They average 2,500 sq. ft. and are cut three times weekly at 5/8 inch. Four pounds of N are applied annually using 10-6-4 or organic fertilizer.

The fairways are a mixture of Kentucky Blue and Poa. They are cut three times weekly at 3/4 inch. Four pounds of N are applied annually using 10-6-4.

The roughs are cut at 2 1/2 inches weekly in season and are a mixture of Fescue and Bluegrass.

Angelo feels that budgets and labor are the golf course superintendent's biggest headaches. Budgets in general, he feels, do not increase as rapidly as labor costs and other items.

DIRECTIONS

Take Baltimore Beltway to Park Heights Avenue exit. Take Park Heights approximately one mile to Old Court Road. Left on Old Court approximately three blocks to Seven Mile Lane on the right. Seven Mile Lane about one mile to Smith Avenue. Left on Smith Avenue through two traffic lights to Bonnie View on the right.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Cammarota

"Listen my children and you shall hear," famous first words of a poem, at a crucial time in our nation's history. Many pages have been written and many lectures and speeches delivered on the "art of communication." The art of speaking has been studied for over 2,000 years, the art of listening has only recently been under study for approximately the past 20 years. Statistics show that men working in a supervisory capacity spend 40% of their time listening. The average man in this field, uses only 25% of his listening efficiency.

A good salesman listens for that which indicates the prospect to buy. Lawyers and debaters listen for contradictions, errors in evidence, and points of weakness in their opponent's arguments. Listening is a form of learning, it is a skill, a good habit, an act consciously performed. The purpose one has for listening will vary with the individual, in most cases will have a selfish motive. That which concerns us most will receive our undivided attention. Intelligent people listen because it is the courteous thing to do. The average speaker will speak at the rate of 125 words per minute, but we think at a much faster rate. Therefore, we can easily be distracted by any disturbance in the area of the room in which the speaker is presenting his topic.

We must remember that even a short speech will take hours of preparation and extemporaneous speaking is an art only few people can accomplish. (Quotes from a recent article in The Toastmasters Magazine, by Dr. S. A. Fessenden, Dept. of Speech, California St. College, Fullerton, California)

We should make a conscious effort to listen to the invited speakers at our monthly educational meeting, for they have given much of their time to present something of interest in our field. We also owe them a debt of gratitude for, in most cases, their services are free to our association. We owe them the courtesy of our close attention.

In recent months there have been some distractions in our audience by individuals who do not realize that they are not only distracting those seated close by who may be interested

in the topic of the speaker, but also interrupting the speaker's train of thought. May we suggest that anyone in the audience who can not behave in a gentlemanly manner, possibly because he may not be interested in the topic, the courteous thing to do is to quietly leave the room and permit those of us who are interested to listen to what the speaker has to say without distraction.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

The spring meeting of the Board of Directors of GCSAA scheduled for April 29 in Miami has been cancelled due to some new office changes and rescheduled for June 4 at the headquarters office.

The educational program for the 1967 Washington Conference will be considered at this meeting and any suggestions you might have as to speakers and subjects would be very much in order at this time.

The following was taken from the April, 1966, issue of "Kentuckiana Klipping," the monthly publication of the Kentuckiana Golf Course Superintendents Association. It was written by Gordon Duguid, superintendent at Big Springs Country Club in Louisville and president of the Kentuckiana group. The article was so appropriate for this time of year that I felt you would like to read it and perhaps join me in thanking Gordon for the use of it.

President's Report

by Gordon Duguid

"Now it comes again-Spring-that time of the year for which we have all been waiting but are never quite ready. There is always that last piece of equipment that needs some repairing or that set of flag poles that needs painting. But there never seems to be enough time. Well, don't ever forget that you are not alone!

You listen to the golf chairman talk about the great year that his committee has planned, all those new tournaments and the extra special events. Then, you hear the greens committee members telling about the wonderful condition the course will be in and how many extra little things are in the planning and you begin to realize just how much the club depends upon you and your knowledge of turf and how much responsibility you have.

There is always a lot of talk around the club each spring about how many more rounds of golf will be played this season over last and how cart traffic should increase by one third or so, and you begin to wonder how the grass will ever stand it and how you can possibly hold turf in the major wear areas.

The work now begins and there never seems to be enough hours in the day, this time of year, for everything that needs to be done. Opening day is fast approaching and there is so much to do to get the course in the shape you want it and you begin to wonder: "How did I ever get into this business in the first place?"

The best relief I have found, when everything seems to be going wrong, is to talk to another superintendent and hash over the problems. This is one of the major reasons for attending the association monthly meetings just for the chance to get away and talk to someone who knows what you are talking about and shares the same problems. Try it and see how much better you feel, see how you can return to the club, after a break like this, with a different outlook on everything.

Attend the monthly meetings, listen and discuss your problems with men of your kind. Take an active part and help YOUR ASSOCIATION to grow through your effort and interests."

POSITION OPEN

Kettler Brothers, a real estate development firm in Montgomery County, has undertaken a new project in the Gaithersburg area. A key feature of the 2,000 acre 30,000 population community will be a regulation 18 hole golf course. The greens, designed by Ed Ault, will average over 10,000 sq. ft. and the course will be fully irrigated.

The firm is interested in having a qualified golf course superintendent on hand during construction. Construction is scheduled to start May 15. The salary is open.

Interested persons may contact: H. R. Coleman
 4701 42nd St., N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20016

CONTRACT STUDY

Ed Morse has been appointed to head a committee to study the possibility of having a standard contract form for use by members of our association. Ed feels that if members could send him samples of their contracts it would be helpful in his committee's study.

Please forward samples to: Edward F. Morse
 Wheel Head
 Bel Air, Maryland

GOLF STATISTICS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1965
 from National Golf Foundation Information Sheet

Number of Golf Courses in the United States:		
Regulation		7,443
Par-3		880
	Total	<u>8,323</u>

Number of new courses opened for play in 1965:		
Regulation		346
Par-3		115
Additions to existing regulation golf courses		104
Additions to existing Par-3 courses		11
	Total	<u>576</u>

Estimated number of new courses and additions to be opened for play in 1966:		
Regulation		529
Par-3		93
	Total	<u>622</u>

Estimated number of college golf courses 163

Estimated number of industrial golf courses 116

Estimated number of golf driving ranges 4,500

Estimated number of acres devoted to golf facilities 806,200

Estimated number of golfers in the United States		
Number playing more than 15 rounds a year each		7,750,000
Number playing less than 15 rounds a year each		1,000,000
	Total	<u>8,750,000</u>

Estimated capital invested in golf facilities \$2,000,000,000

Estimated annual maintenance costs \$200,000,000

Estimated number of rounds of golf played in 1965 160,000,000

Estimated number of motorized golf cars in use in 1965:		
Electric		71,500
Gasoline		30,500
	Total	<u>102,000</u>

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

by Kenneth Welton

from August 1928 issue, USGA Green Section Bulletin

Golf course construction is often regarded as merely that process of taking soil from one place and piling it in another in such a manner as when it is finally smoothed out it will conform with the more or less definite plans of the course architect. Unfortunately, in many cases this is all that actually happens in construction work. Good golf course

construction should be more than molding of earth into prescribed forms as specified by an architect. After the course takes form it must be covered with turf, and this turf must be maintained under the trying conditions of every-day play. In construction work every effort should therefore be made not only to provide the course with a thick covering of turf, but to make every possible provision for the welfare of that turf in the years to come.

THE AIMS OF GOOD CONSTRUCTION

It must be remembered that the grass in turf on golf courses is often growing under extremely unnatural conditions. It is necessary to make allowances in the way of providing as nearly favorable environments as circumstances will permit, else difficulties will soon arise.

Grass, like animals, requires food, air and water. Unlike animals, plants are unable to move about to alter their environment, and the necessities for existence must therefore be provided where plants are placed. It is not sufficient to provide only one or two of the requirements, for if one is absent all others are of no avail. One frequently finds men struggling to keep turf alive by means of heavy applications of chemicals to provide food. They soon find that such applications are useless if, due to saturation of the soil, all air is excluded from the roots.

Food and water can be applied in proper amounts any time after the turf is established. On the other hand, it is difficult and costly undertaking to provide for the removal of excess water and the aeration of the soil any time after the course is built. Soil conditions should be made as near as perfect as possible before any seed is planted. To accomplish this it is necessary to understand some of the fundamental principles involved in soil structure and plant growth. In this discussion we can merely mention some of these elementary principles.

Soil, for convenience, is classified according to the fineness of its particles, ranging from the fine particles of clay to the coarse particles of sand or gravel. Also, soil contains decaying vegetable or animal material, which is commonly referred to as humus. There are also present in varying amounts a great variety of chemicals in the form of salts, alkalies and acids. These chemicals furnish food for the plants. Soil also contains countless numbers of bacteria and other microscopic animals as well as plant life. These organisms as a rule are beneficial in breaking down dead organic material and in making plant foods available. Thus some of the organisms found in manure help to decompose it and improve the soil wherever it is applied. Other microscopic organisms may be harmful and cause injuries to plant life. The ideal soil for giving it a crumbly structure with plenty of air spaces between the particles of soil. There must also be the right amount of water present in the soil to make this ideal soil effective in turf production. A well drained soil will warm up more quickly in the spring and hence induce earlier germination of seed or growth of grass than a poorly drained soil, and the growth will continue later in the fall. Roughly speaking, it takes five times as much heat to raise a volume of water one degree than an equal amount of air-dry soil.

Soil water is of three kinds, --gravitational, capillary, and hygroscopic. When heavy rain or excessive irrigation soaks the soil the spaces between the particles of soil are filled with water and the air is driven from the soil. If there is adequate provision for drainage this extra water runs out of the soil due to the pull of gravity and is referred to as gravitational water. After the excess water has drained away, there still remains a film of water surrounding each particle of soil. This is known as capillary water, and it is this water from which plants draw their supply under favorable conditions. When soil is dried in the air it still retains a certain amount of moisture, which is known as hygroscopic water. This latter is not available for use of plants and is therefore not to be considered here. Peat, for instance, may have a high percentage of hygroscopic water which, although not available to the plants, is often referred to in a misleading way in recommendation of peat, based on its so-called high water-holding capacity.

The main source from which plants and soil organisms derive their supply of moisture is capillary water. It is in the capillary water that most of the plant foods derived from the soil are held in solution. It is the presence of capillary water which provides also for the circulation of air in the soil, the water simply surrounding the soil particles as a thin

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sheet, continuous when the particles are close together, but allowing for air spaces when the soil is more open.

Oxygen in the soil is necessary for the roots, since there is an exchange of gasses in plants similar in some respect to breathing in animals. Air also aids the beneficial organisms in their normal development in the soil. When the pore space in loam or clay soils is present, the capillary water which held the soil in crumbs is dispelled, with the result that the soil particles fall apart. No matter how mellow the soil may be, the soil particles or crumbs at once begin to puddle or pack. The longer the saturated condition exists, the more compact the soil becomes.

Gravitational water seeps down around the soil particles in an open soil, carrying away with it injurious salts as well as toxic materials developed from root decay or the decay of other organic matter. It also fills up the pore spaces in the soil and thus displaces the air; but as nature abhors a vacuum, fresh air naturally enters the soil again as the free water descends. The gravitational water replenishes the capillary water around each soil particle, and the fresh oxygen supply assists in making fresh plant food available.

It would naturally be inferred that water which will carry away harmful salts will also carry away soluble salts which are of value. Doubtless much of the readily soluble fertilizing material used today is lost in this manner if applied in excessive amounts, or if the soil is too open in texture, such as a very sandy soil. If, however, the soil structure is right, the plant roots quickly absorb much of these soluble fertilizing elements, and a great deal of the soluble plant food remains also in the capillary water. The general tendency of capillarity is to bring water to the surface from varying depths, the flow being always from soil where the water films are relatively thick towards soils in which the films are thinner. This action is comparable to that when a piece of blotting paper is dipped in ink.

Hence the topsoil becomes dry, the soluble salts are brought into contact with the plant roots by being drawn to the surface in the capillary water. In this way the plant roots are able to select such soluble materials as they require as long as the materials are present; but the roots may reject to a certain extent injurious salts. In well drained soils both injurious and needful salts are finally washed or drained away beyond the power of the capillary attraction to bring them to the roots. Everything considered, soils should therefore not be allowed to remain saturated with water too long. And if the soil can not get rid of surplus water by natural drainage, ditches or lines of tile should be provided to carry it off.

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