



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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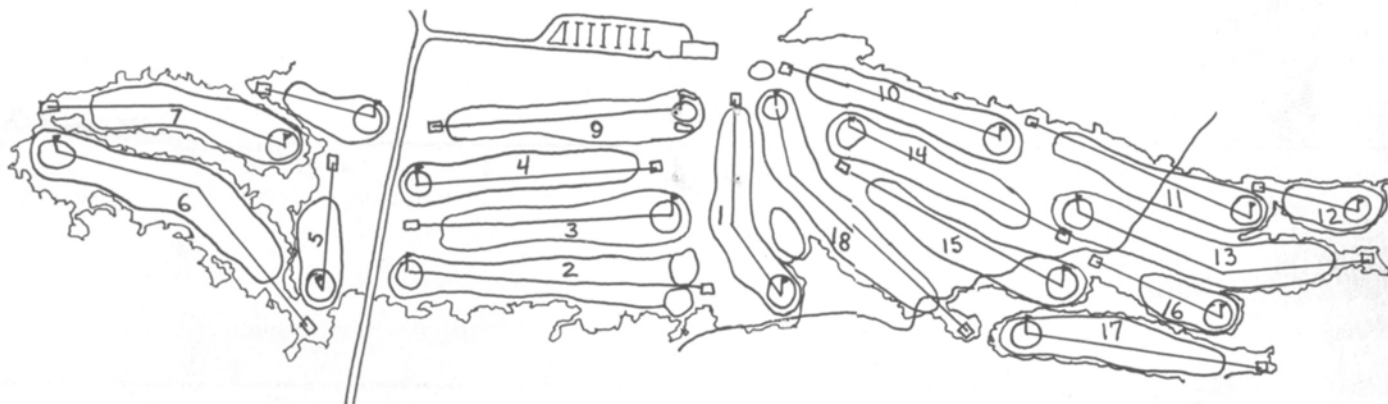
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ISLAND VIEW COUNTRY CLUB Sterling, Virginia



NEXT MEETING

The August 2nd meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held at the Island View Club (Potomac Electric Power Company Recreation Center) in Sterling, Virginia. This meeting will be our Annual Family Picnic Day. Refreshments will be available during the day at a nominal charge. The picnic will begin at 5:30 PM. The course will be open for golf. Also available for the sports minded will be facilities for volley ball, badminton, horse shoes, baseball or soft ball and there is a playground available for children.



Robert Martino

OUR HOST

Robert Martino, our host and one of the directors of the Mid-Atlantic, has been superintendent at Island View since June, 1963. Bob came to Island View from Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring where he was assistant to Mr. P. W. LeDuc for eleven years.

THE CLUB AND GOLF COURSE

Island View is a private 18-hole layout owned and operated by the Potomac Electric Power Company. The course was built by Thomas E. Carroll and Sons under the supervision of the construction superintendent, Morgan Tiller. Mr. Tiller is now the golf professional at Island View. Eddie Ault was the architect. Construction of the course was begun in June, 1960, and completed and ready for play July 1, 1961. The completely electric clubhouse was opened the following year.

MAINTENANCE

The greens are C-1 and C-19 creeping bentgrass, their average size is 8,500 sq. ft. They are fertilized with 10 to 12 pounds of N from a 12-4-8 fertilizer. The collars are bentgrass and the aprons are merion bluegrass and are fed the same as the greens. The greens are mowed at this time of the year at 1/4 inch. They are cut at 3/16 inch during the cool spring and fall months.

The fairways are a mixture of bentgrass, bluegrass, redtop and creeping fescues. They are cut at one inch.

The tees are merion bluegrass with a mixture of other bluegrasses. They are cut at 1/2 inch all seasons and are also fed at the same rate as the greens.

The roughs are Kentucky 31 and are cut at two inches throughout the entire year.

The traps are big and shallow. Some have been reshaped.

DIRECTIONS

Take 495 Beltway to exit Vienna, Virginia (123) to Tysons Corners. Take route 7 west 14 miles, pass Sterling Park to top of hill, turn right at next junction (637) and follow to Recreation Center.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Cammarota

Our association would like to express its sincere regret regarding the death of O. J. Noer, a real friend to all golf course superintendents. We have lost a faithful booster of the superintendent and a man seriously dedicated to golf turf research. We feel that an appropriate memorial will be established in his honor.

I feel that this is an opportune time for us all to think of the many men in the turf research field who spend much of their time in an effort to make our task easier. The men in our state universities and experiment stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville and the U. S. Golf Association Green Section all contribute to projects that will eventually aid us. Many of their efforts are not fully appreciated or properly evaluated.

We become so involved in our every day problems, particularly in the peak of our growing season, that we may easily forget the ones working to ease our problems. As we pause and meditate in deep respect of a passing friend, we should also pay tribute to our many faithful and dedicated research men who will continue to serve us now and in the future.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

There is still no official announcement naming the men who must have been appointed by this time to fill the vacancies in the national office created by the resignation of the assistant to the executive director and the managing editor.

If these positions have been filled then there must be some good reason why the fact has not been publicized. Lets hope that Mr. Chlevin will enlighten us soon.

The following is not National but is worthy of your consideration and I'd like to pass it on to you.

At most private clubs in the Mid-Atlantic area Monday is the slowest day in the week for golf, probably due to the fact that most members play golf on Saturday and Sunday then must go back to work on Monday and have little time for golf on that day.

Because few people are at the club on Mondays, the golf professional and the club house manager select Monday as their day off. The club house is closed and little if any food service is provided. The golf shop retains a skeleton crew to issue whatever golf bags are needed but no teaching lessons are scheduled.

By tradition the club is supposed to be closed on Mondays and superintendents have for years looked forward to the first day of the week so they could get some work done and get the course ready for play without having to stop to wait for golfers. This was always the day to begin new construction projects that interfere with play so as to get as much work done as possible before the tournaments start again on Tuesday.

But what is happening today? The ladies are scheduling their tournaments on Monday by using good feminine logic. "The golf course is there and not many people are using it. Why shouldn't we be allowed to play golf on Monday?"

The answer is of course - the golf course has had two days of heavy play over the weekend and needs a day of rest to recover from the shock of all those foot prints, divots and golf cart wheel tracks. Also the golf course superintendent needs a day when he can work on his course without getting hell for doing the job he was hired to do.

I do not advocate that all golf be prohibited on Monday but I would like to suggest that Monday be designated as "Maintenance Day" at all clubs. Clubs have "Ladies' Day," "Doctor's Day" and many other special days - why not a "Maintenance Day"?

This would:

1. Give the superintendent one day out of the week when he could work without interference. He could aerify greens or fairways without having to hurry to clean up the surface or water fairways without the necessity of rushing to turn off sprinklers before players come up.
2. Let it be known that a golf course requires maintenance and care and that the people who do it are human beings and not magicians whom players never see. The course is always taken for granted.
3. Place more emphasis on the playing condition of the golf course and on the man responsible for its care.
4. Perhaps discourage some lady golfers who know that every day is ladies day and who complain loudest when workers interfere with their golf.

No one would suggest that all play be stopped but if Monday were called "Maintenance Day" then golfers would know to expect some type of maintenance work on Monday and would take "pot-luck" if they decided to play that day.

Without play there would be no need for maintenance, but without maintenance there could be no play so the question of who has the right-of-way, the golfer or the maintenance man, has not been decided and won't be. As a matter of courtesy we have always stood aside and allowed the player to play through but with spiraling wage rates and soaring budgets how long can this practice continue before the dues paying member says "fire the superintendent," for spending too much money.

Night work is not the answer although we do what we can at night. Night work will increase costs and lower efficiency and besides, how can we find people and train them to work at night when we can't find them to work days.

One day for maintenance wouldn't solve our many problems but it would help. Lets have a "Maintenance Day" at every club every week and let Monday be listed as "Maintenance Day" in the club bulletin right under the words, Club Closed.

ODE TO THE DIVOT

by Joe Kirkwood

Replacing the turf is part of the game.
And those who don't do it, must bear the shame
For killing the roots in the fairway of fun
Which golf brings to all - not only to one.

Turf broken and bleeding and left there to die -
A victim of carelessness . . . wondering why.
Players don't stop in their holiday round,
To bring it back home to its place in the ground.

Golf is a good game - and good for you too.
Turf is golf's garden - so whatever you do,
Repair your turf damage with true, faithful care.
Don't leave it to others behind you somewhere.

Divots from fairways - and holes in greens too
Must be cared for by someone, and this means you.
To think of golf's carpet as lush living beauty,
Should be part of the game - a golfer's first duty.

FUTURE MEETINGS - Open Meeting Date

The September 13th meeting will be held at Turf Valley. We do have an open date for the October 4th meeting. Anyone interested in hosting the Association is requested to contact

Robert Milligan, Gunpowder Golf Club in Laurel, Maryland, 776-7528 or 935-2558. The October meeting is scheduled to be our annual Superintendents Golf Tournament.

NEW MEMBERS

This month we are happy to welcome three new members to the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Mr. James Brock is a class A member in the National and has been at Oakcrest Country Club for three and one half years.

Mr. Charles Croley is a familiar face to many as he was previously with the U.S.G.A. Green Section. Mr. Croley has been at Reston for three months.

Mr. Preston Licklider has been superintendent at Loudoun Golf and Country Club for 5 years.

MEMORIAL

On July 12th, O. J. Noer passed away in a Milwaukee, Wisconsin, hospital after a lingering illness of several weeks. O. J., as we all knew him, made many lasting contributions to the maintenance and care of grasses tees, fairways, and greens.

His travels and experiences were world wide: he gave much of himself towards aiding the golf course superintendent to solve many difficult problems of maintenance. All of us have lost a friend and benefactor.

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

compiled by James E. Thomas

"EVERYONE", Benjamin Franklin once remarked, "has his special business or calling - if he is to do his job really well, let him stick to it."

THE GREENS KEEPER

Edgar A. Guest

He's on the job at the break of day and when the stars come out,
There's always trouble on the course for him to fret about,
He starts the gang to work at the break of dawn and follows them around
Then listens to the committeemen whose wisdom is profound,
They talk of "bents" and "fescues" in a way that makes him squirm
For they acquire much knowledge in one brief official term.
His talk is one that calls for tact, for lacking that it means
Next year there will be another man brought on to keep the greens.

The members seldom know his name, or have a smile for him,
They only wonder why the course is not in trim.
They only rave and rage and rant while hunting for a ball
And wonder why the greensman hasn't cut the rough this fall.
And when they find a cuppy lie or foot prints in a trap
"The course is in a rotten shape!" declares each gloomy chap,
And yet my hat is off to him, when winter intervenes,
I want to pay my tribute to the man who keeps the greens.

He's on the job from dawn to dusk, a million pests to fight,
'Tis his to see that every green is watered well at night.
The weeds attack his finest work, the drought destroys his grass,
The rain beats down the tender shoots, but still the players pass
And they still play the game they love, a happy golfing clan
Who never stop to count the odds against a single man.
And so I wave my hand to him, who toils in sturdy jeans,
The best old friend golfers have - the man who keeps the greens.

(Note, the above poem was published in the USGA Green Section bulletin of January 25, 1923. Edgar A. Guest, as well as being a poet, was a golf enthusiast from the Detroit, Michigan, area.)

AS WE FIND THEM

A greens chairman once told me he did not consider a good greenkeeper an essential part of a golf course. "We use any cheap help for that job. He doesn't have to use his head. We see that he gets the Bulletin regularly, and he simply follows that."

AND THAT FELLOW IS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN! I SUPPOSE WHEN HE NEEDS A NEW CHIEF ENGINEER FOR HIS BIG FACTORY HE SIMPLY GOES OUT AND GETS ANY CHEAP LABORER FOR THE JOB. THEN HE PROBABLY GIVES HIM A COPY OF "THE BULLETIN OF THE WHEELS AND BOILER SECTION OF THE UNITED STATES FACTORY ASSOCIATION" AND TELLS HIM TO GO TO IT. OH, YES! ASK ME ANOTHER!

One newly appointed chairman apologized for the condition of the golf course (it looked in fine shape to me) and explained, "I have not been in charge many months, and since my appointment I have been too busy with my business to properly fulfill my obligations as head of this important committee." Then he explained his theories of turf culture which he hoped to have put into practice.

FOR THE FUTURE WELFARE OF THE COURSE, MAY THAT FELLOW'S BUSINESS AFFAIRS INCREASE, MAY HE GO ON A LONG JOURNEY, HAVE MALARIA, HAY FEVER, AND THE GOUT UNTIL A NEW OFFICIAL IS APPOINTED.

One Chairman of the greens committee (Let's see, wasn't there more than one?) frankly admitted he knew nothing about grass and, furthermore, had not time to learn anything about it. Fortunately for the club (and this is what made him stand out as any exceptional chairman of his class), he did not try to force his ignorant will on the greenkeeper and the club management.

ANOTHER CHAIRMAN OF THAT MUCH ABUSED COMMITTEE EXPLAINED, "I REGARD MY FUNCTION AS CHIEF ADVISORY. I HAVE A GREENKEEPER WITH YEARS OF PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WHO POSSESSES ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ASSETS IN ANY JOB: AN OPEN MIND. MY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING WAS OF A SCIENTIFIC NATURE, AND I AM THEREFORE ABLE TO FOLLOW ANY SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS READILY. MY GREENKEEPER BRINGS ANY SUCH PROBLEMS TO ME, I TAKE ANY PROBLEM OF A PRACTICAL NATURE TO HIM. WE TRY TO DEVELOP THIS TEAMWORK SYSTEM EVERYWHERE ON THE COURSE."

His course certainly proclaimed the wisdom in that scheme, for everywhere one could see evidences of an effort to "get together" - even to the grass around the divots. (Bulletin USGA Green Section, December 1927)

LAWN GRASS DISEASES

Grass diseases are an ever present threat and are easily transported by the wind, splashed about by rain, or carried around on such implements as lawn mowers, or even on shoes! They can cause tremendous losses when weather conditions favor infection and the destruction of economic plants. Their occurrence is usually restricted to certain growing periods of the year, which makes their identification and control a little easier. It is a good practice to keep a record of all disease occurrences: their location, time of attack, temperature, humidity, and moisture content of the soil. Remember diseases don't just happen, they are brought about by certain existing conditions; we often assist their happening by not adhering to good cultural practices. Record keeping will point out that diseases can appear in the same identical spot every year.

Most of us strive to practice preventative control through the use of certain recommended chemicals. So why not supplement the use of fungicides with good cultural practices of maintenance. Some of these are: the removal of excessive mat and thatch; good water management; the providing of good air circulation; proper soil mixtures; adequate fertilization, but not too much nor too little; and last but by no means least, sufficient drainage.

THE NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION
Its PURPOSE - Its PROGRAMS Part III

by Harry C. Eckhoff
Executive Director N.G.F.

Aids in Planning and Instruction

The National Golf Foundation has numerous planning publications - among them: Planning and Building the Golf Course, Planning Information for Private Golf Clubs, and Planning

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the Golf Clubhouse. It is constantly up-dating such publications. During the past six months the Foundation has developed 15 new Information Sheets in the field of golf facility planning, financing and operation.

Likewise, the Foundation has developed numerous golf instruction materials including full color motion pictures, loop films and filmstrips. In the production of such materials there is always close coordination with the USGA, the PGA or other appropriate organizations. Members of the PGA Educational Committee were consultants on all the Foundation's golf instruction films now in use.

The Scope of Golf

According to the National Golf Foundation records there were 8,323 golf courses in play in the United States on October 1, 1965. This includes 430 new facilities opened during fiscal year 1965, of which 315 were regulation length layouts and 115 were par 3's.

Leading the list with new golf courses opening for play in 1965 is California with 49. Other states in the first 10 are New York-36, Ohio-31, Pennsylvania-30, Michigan-29, Minnesota-22, Illinois-21, Kentucky-20, Florida and North Carolina each 19.

The Foundation estimates that there are now about 7,750,000 golfers who play 15 rounds of golf or more annually; that there are approximately another million who play less than 15 rounds. This is an increase of more than 70% over 5 years ago.

Golf is the big leader in sales of athletic and sporting goods according to the Athletic Goods Manufacturers Association Census Report for 1964.

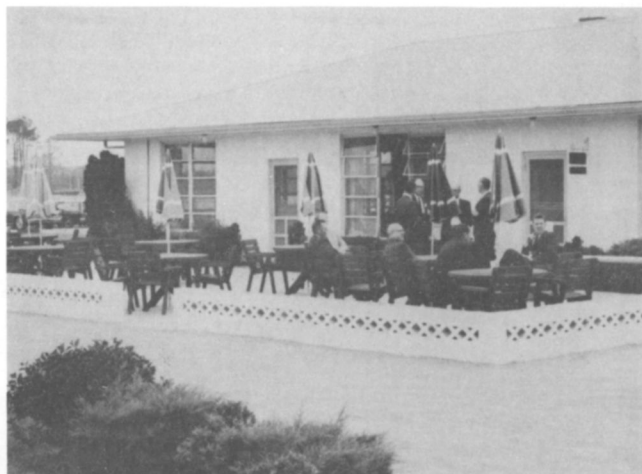
On the basis of manufacturers' selling prices, golf equipment sales in 1964 totalled \$128,249,046; about an eight percent increase over 1963.

Golf equipment sales accounted for 51% of the athletic and sporting goods total sales of \$250,254,463 for 1964. A further breakdown of golf equipment sales for 1964 follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measure</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Value</u>
Golf Clubs	each	10,731,574	\$70,439,099
Golf Balls	dozen	6,145,199	43,473,126
Golf Bags	each	863,492	10,086,682
Golf Carts	each	172,174	2,774,725
Other Golf Equipment			1,475,414

What's Ahead!

Will there be a continued growth of golf? On the basis of expected population increases alone it is doubtful that there ever will be enough golf courses to meet the growing demand. In 1931 there was one golf course for approximately 21,000 persons in the nation. Today there is a golf course for about every 24,000.



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Scene of June meeting M.A.G.C.S.A.

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