



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Director
LEE C. DIETER
Editors
EDWARD DEMBNICKI
WILLIAM EMERSON

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

The Country Club of Virginia
Richmond, Virginia



XVII

February, 1967

No. 2

NEXT MEETING

The March meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held at the Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, on Tuesday, March 14. This will be a joint meeting with our neighbors - "The Central Virginia Turfgrass Association". Golf for those who care to play at the James River Golf Course. If caddies are desired, they must be picked up at the Westhampton Course. If anyone wants a cart, please call the Pro, "Darryl Napier" in advance for arrangements. Phone 703-288-2891.

Dinner and meeting will be held at the Westhampton Clubhouse. Cocktail hour from 5:00 to 6:00 p. m. Dinner at 6:00 p. m. The guest speaker will be Mr. John Shoulder from V. P. I.



OUR HOST

John Cook has been superintendent at The Country Club of Virginia since March, 1963. John graduated from Stockbridge School, University of Massachusetts, in 1961. After graduation he spent one year at Forest Park C. C. in Adams, Massachusetts. He came to his present club in November of 1962 and succeeded Harry McSloy as superintendent when Harry moved on to Wilmington. John and his wife, Rosolyn, have three children, Michelle 4, John Jr. 19 months, and Jennifer 3 months.

THE CLUB AND GOLF COURSE

The County Club of Virginia has two courses. The in-town clubhouse and 18 hole layout called the Westhampton Golf Course. Another 18 hole layout is on the outskirts of town and this is the James River Course which will be open to play for our members. The club has over 5,000 members and is known nationally for hosting the U. S. G. A. Amateur in 1955.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February is the month most often associated with the heart, along with Valentine's Day, it is American Heart Month.

DON'T FORGET THE HEART FUND.

HELP COMBAT THE NATIONS GREATEST KILLER, HEART DESEASE.

5 mi river rd.

by Angelo Cammarota

I would also like to express myself strictly from the heart, with genuine sincerity. My thoughts in the past week have been of all the fine people that helped make our conference a success. It was with a deep feeling of pride that I accepted, not for myself, but for our Association, the kind comments

about the wonderful affair at the Hilton Hotel in February.

It was like a quarterback of a great football team scoring a touchdown and receiving the applause of the crowd. I suppose people seem to forget that only with good team effort, good coaching and planning from many members, all help to execute a good play. So it was with a twinge of conscience that I received the expressions of thanks from many of the guests at the conference.

As I walked through the many areas of the hotel, I could see most of our members and their wives working at the various assigned duties. We ought to be especially proud of our ladies for their excellent performance and unselfish attention devoted to the Ladies Program. Their congenial fellowship contributed much to the achievement of our aim, to please everyone at the conference. Our thanks to them for their efforts. Their only reward will be the satisfaction in knowing of the sincere appreciation we have of them. It was a real comfort to have their pleasant support.

The exceptional work of, Paul Barefoot with the Floral Display, and the Supt's Offices in the exhibition area, Frank Haske's untiring efforts to give the ladies something to remember in Washington, D. C. Bob Shield's, "Mower Grinding Project". George Gumm and all the Committee Chairmen, plus all the members who contributed time to their assigned duties, certainly will make a fellow feel proud to be part of the Mid-Atlantic G. C. S. A. I want to thank everyone personally for willingly helping to achieve what was expected of us as the Host Association.

Many other things contributed to the record breaking attendance of this Conference. The excellent hotel facilities, the exhibition areas, the meeting rooms, the excellent educational program, and finally the extra hard work of the national office. Their work was placed a few days behind schedule because of the heavy snow storm in the Chicago area prior to the Conference. The five ladies in the office worked many hours overtime to get ready for Registration Day. Their pleasant attitude towards everyone at the registration desks was another plus feature to add to this affair. You can be sure that behind the scenes our National Directors are working hard and giving much of their time, not only during the Conference, but many days before and after the conference dates to make it a real success. With this cooperative spirit in the coming years we can expect bigger and better things in the future from your Association. We can all help to make our next conference a big show by planning NOW for the trip to California next year.

Our only real disappointment was in not getting George Gumm elected to the National Board. You can be sure we will try again next year, and perhaps concentrate all of our efforts in this direction. We will not have the responsibility of a Host Association. We'll try harder, We'll patiently wait, to test our fate, and We'll be back in '68.

Our March meeting, with our neighboring Supt's in Richmond, Virginia can only be a success if you plan to be with us. It has been a few years since we had a joint meeting with the group. So let's all get out to this one, help make it the big meeting of this year. We'll be looking for you in March.

IDEAS + PLANNING + WORK = SUCCESS

by George C. Gumm

The time proven formula of IDEAS + PLANNING + WORK = SUCCESS certainly was evident in all tasks performed by the committees of The Mid-Atlantic Association for the 3,326 guests at the 38th International Turfgrass Conference and Show.

I wish to thank everyone for their work in making the conference a success. We have always been known as a chapter that works together and this was evident to our guests.

Now that we have the memories of the conference in our minds, it is our intention to make up a booklet on the undertakings of the Host Chapter for the preparation of the National Conference. This

booklet will be sent to G. C. S. A. A. Headquarters to aid them in the future.

WINTER SHOP TALK

by Tom Doerer, Jr.

Many times I am sure Superintendents are confronted with questions regarding their work in the off season periods. A few of these remarks are as follows --

Member -- What do you fellows do during the winter particularly when the grounds are covered with snow?

Superintendent -- We train our help.

Member -- How could you train your help in this kind of weather?

Superintendent -- We have our own little seminars, discussion groups, show slides of the men working on projects during the season, and shop talk in general. This type of training is done once a month, using about 4 hours of work time at each session. We have our mechanic, while tearing down and repairing equipment bring in each man who will be using the equipment to assist him in the repairs. This enables the employee to learn more about the equipment he will be using. This we feel helps to eliminate breakdowns and abusive use during the season. It also, we feel, develops a sort of personal pride of ownership in the employee. Each of our eight employees spends two weeks in the shop on repairs.

Our mechanic has his own desk wherein he keeps parts manuals and catalogues. As he uses parts they are listed by parts number and description. This list is turned over to the superintendent for replacement purchasing. This also acts as a stock control of parts, also helps in budgeting for the next season. We amortize all of the machinery based on its usage over a period of life expectancy. For instance, a greens mower after four years of usage is salvaged and replaced with a new one. This we find is more economical than repairs or costly breakdowns during the season.

Member -- What other work do you do ---?

Superintendent -- We are always trying to improve our working conditions around our buildings and shops. This year we set up a visible parts department by using 1/4" peg board 4' x 8' and displaying all parts. There are separate areas for each type of machinery. Greens mower parts are located in one area as are all other parts for the respective brand name machines we use in our golf course work. We feel this will save many man hours during the season.

Member -- What do the men who are not working in the shop do?

Superintendent -- I am pleased to hear you ask that question. The men you refer to are busy painting and repairing all the Tee benches, ball washers, sharpening hand tools, painting the buildings, repairing walkways, pruning trees, clearing underbrush -- repairing water systems. In general, we clean up the debris from last years golf party and get our areas ready for next years party.

Member -- How long does this work take?

Superintendent -- It takes more time than nature allows between golf seasons, approximately four months. During this four month period we manage to attend many Turf Conferences and meetings in general - The International Turfgrass Conference and Show, sponsored by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the U.S.G.A. meeting held regionally each year, the Central

Virginia Turfgrass Conference, Middle Atlantic Turf Conference held in Baltimore each year. These meetings keep us up to date as to the improvements in the turf industry.

Member -- This is time consuming and costly - isn't it?

Superintendent -- These meetings take about two weeks of our time in the off season. They do cost money but the amount is not prohibitive. Most clubs set this up in their budgets as a fringe benefit to their superintendent.

Member -- Thank you Mr. Superintendent, I certainly did not realize the amount of planning and work. Next time I will replace my divots and repair my ball marks.

Superintendent -- I appreciate your interest in our work, we would appreciate you visiting our maintenance area some time. Maybe you could offer some suggestions as to how we can improve our program.

TEMPORARY GREENS?

by Lee C. Dieter

The decision of when to play temporary greens is one that causes a great deal of anxiety among superintendents in this area.

There is no question that play on dormant grass is harmful to it. We all know this. The question is, however, is this damage done to the extent that we should keep our members from enjoying their winter golf?

Each course is different - soils; drainage, existing grasses; amount of play, and, of course, economics among other factors differ in all cases. Some courses have soils that have no percolation. Others have no surface drainage. Some grasses are more sensitive to winter injury. Many clubs in the area do absolutely no club house business during periods of extended bad weather. A severe financial drain is felt in many clubs. In some cases, budgets must be cut to offset this loss. Each superintendent must weigh these factors and make the decision for his own individual course.

At Washington Golf and County Club we don't play temporary greens. When conditions are extreme (heavy ground thaw, extremely wet) I close the whole course. The tees and other turf areas take as much damage under these conditions as the greens do.

I feel that our conditions are much more moderate than other courses in the area. Our soil has an exceptionally good percolation rate and the surface drainage is excellent. When the ground is frozen several inches deep in areas back away from the river, we, many times, just have a surface freeze that thaws before noon. Our old greens with heavy soils and *Poa Annua* seem to take the traffic quite well. The newer greens have been built with better drainage and the Bent seems to stand up fine. Of course, all greens must be topdressed in the spring to true up the putting surface again. Our modern maintenance equipment and materials help me to bring the course back into condition in the spring.

The members expect a playable course at all times of the year and I feel that it is my job to try to give it to them.

PREVENTIVE VANDALISM

by George B Thompson

Preventive is not a strange word to a golf course superintendent. We apply preventive fungicides. We irrigate to prevent wilt and desiccation. We apply pre-emergence herbicides to prevent crabgrass and other annual weeds. We practice preventive maintenance of equipment to stop costly breakdown. Every task we perform is of a preventive nature.

Then why not restrict play on regular greens and tees during periods of freezing and thawing to prevent vandalism. The word vandalism may be unwarranted here but I don't think so. Naturally no dues-paying member would appreciate being called a vandal, but isn't he? Webster's definition of vandalism is "Malicious or ignorant destruction, especially of that which is beautiful or artistic". There is no question that damage and (or) destruction does occur during extreme weather if play is allowed. We have all seen it.

There have been numerous articles written on this subject by authorities in our field. To refresh your memories let me quote a few paragraphs from various publications.

R. E. Schmidt, V. P. I. - "Frozen soil attracts moisture from deeper unfrozen soil. Upon thawing, the soil moisture content is high and may be severely compacted or puddled when subject to traffic."

C. R. Skogley, U. R. I., states in the Nov. - Dec. 1965 Golf Course Reporter - "The indirect and invisible mechanical injury, although not obvious, may well be the most serious effect of winter play."

A. M. Radco, Director, Eastern Region U. S. G. A. Green Section - This report followed the hard winter of 1958-59. "Traffic injury from winter play was also pronounced. The winter being an open season; more winter cup placements and walk off areas is sparse at this writing."

The U. S. G. A. Green Section recommendations are clearly stated in January, 1966 Green Section Record under the heading "The Case for Temporary Greens".

From the book "The Nature and Properties of Soil" by Buckman and Bradley, "When traffic is permitted on soils that are waterlogged as a result of frost action; all benefits of a good greens management program may be overcome rapidly. Certainly the benefits occurring as a result of alternate freezing and thawing will be lost."

In the July, 1966 issue of Park Maintenance, C. Wilson, Agronomist for the Milwaukee Sewage Commission says - "Have the courage to close the course from play during extreme weather. It is a mistake to sacrifice the yearly condition of a course for the total membership for the few that might play when frost is coming out of the ground."

Dr. James Watson, Jr., Director, Agronomy Division, Toro Mfg. Corp., Minneapolis, Minnesota has thoroughly researched winter injury. The NEWSLETTER published a two part series in Oct. - Nov. 1965 titled "Winter Protection of Greens".

And finally Dr. Fred Grau published the following in April, 1965 Golfdom. Course Closed Temporarily - "In the interests of all the members, and in an attempt to preserve the high quality of our greens, the course is closed to play until conditions warrant resumption of traffic."

Foot and wheel traffic on frozen grass causes the grass to turn brown and die. Ice crystals within the grass blades are distorted and rupture living cells causing death.

When the frost is thawed by the warm sun, the surface of the greens remain overly wet for a short time. In this condition foot traffic can cause severe damage by breaking roots, cheating compaction, and footprinting so badly that pleasurable putting is not possible.

Every effort is made to keep the course playable but when nature fails to cooperate and brings frost or floods, we have no choice but to limit play. The understanding and consideration of the members are greatly appreciated."

GUSTIN'S BALTIMORE TORO ✓

All Types of Power Turf Equipment

Greens Mowers - Tractors & Gangs

Complete Parts & Service

2205 E. Joppa Road, Baltimore, Md.
NO 8-0500

GL CORNELL *Company* ✓

16031 INDUSTRIAL DRIVE • GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND 20760

PHONE: 948-2000 AREA CODE 301



Golf Course
Equipment
and
Supplies



Want turf feeding flexibility? ✓

Call on AGRICO®

AGRICO COUNTRY CLUB FERTILIZER is

- Available in a variety of analyses formulated for use on greens, tees and fairways.
- Homogenized . . . not blended . . . for even plant food distribution.
- Available with pesticides for insect control.
- Available with herbicides for control of broadleaf weeds, clover and chickweeds.

AGRI-TONE 28-7-14 and AGRI-TONE 20-20-20
Water Soluble Fertilizers

AGRINITE-natural organic nitrogen

AGRICO CHEMICAL CO.
Baltimore, Md.—Alexandria, Va.



For Golf Course Use ✓

Seeds

Golf Tag Fertilizers

Milorganite

Fungicides - Insecticides

F. W. BOLGIANO & COMPANY
411 New York Avenue, N. E.
LI 7-4800 Washington 2, D. C.

Specialists in Golf Course Maintenance Chemicals

Weed Killers - Insecticides - Fungicides

Fertilizers by Swift & Co.

J. L. Milan Co. 3216 Carlisle Ave.

Phone: 947-0898 Baltimore 16, Md.

NATIONAL CAPITAL TORO, INC. ✓

928 PHILADELPHIA AVENUE

SILVER SPRING, MD.

Uniper 5-1322

Fertilizers

Sprinklers

TORO POWER MOWERS . . . FOR MODERN LIVING

Complete Turf Maintenance Equipment

Complete Service Available

WELL KNOWN
FOR QUALITY ✓

Merion Bluegrass • Meyer Z-52 Zoysia • U-3 Bermuda

Unlimited supply of premium turf grasses for golf courses, landscaping, etc. Acre prices available.



SUMMIT HALL

The First Turf Farm of America



Gaithersburg, Maryland

(301) WI 8-2900

Complete Golf Course Construction ✓

MOORE GOLF, INC.

DIVISION OF
MOORE, KELLY & REDDISH, INC.

Roads, Lakes, Playing Fields, Irrigation Systems

P. O. BOX 371
CULPEPER, VA.

825-9211

It is our responsibility as golf course superintendents to transmit information like this to the membership, through reports, word of mouth or by posting it on the bulletin board. If the Green Committee, Board of Governors and general membership have this information and know what to expect, then our problems will be less compounded. If this information is made available and the membership refuses to allow restriction of play at least you have tried. Let them take the responsibility and maybe they will also take responsibility in the heat of summer when the soil, which was so severely sealed and compacted the previous winter, refuses to sustain growth.

Maybe then they won't complain too much if you have to purchase another 50 yards of topdressing material and add more labor to do the extra topdressing and aerating. All of a sudden you find you have so much Poa that you can't afford to loose it, so you must syringe more to keep that now dominate grass, using unproductive labor hours that we have too many of already.

Granted, restricting play can be difficult at time. Dues-paying members join a club mainly to play golf. If this is taken away, tempers sometimes flare. However, many members do not play at all in the winter and others play well-conditioned clubs in the south. When spring comes these people expect, and are entitled to, good playing conditions.

I feel justified in restricting winter play and will continue to do so as long as I have the authority.

POSITIONS OPEN

Golf Development, Inc.
Route #2 Box 137-A
Nokesville, Virginia 22123

This company is opening a public golf course of which nine holes are ready for play and the second nine is about 60 percent finished. They are looking for a class "A" superintendent. Starting salary is negotiable at time of interview, however, they are paying the average salary of most courses in the area.

Hershey Country Club is presently in search of an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Contact:

John P Meszards, Director
Hershey Rose Gardens and Arboretum
Hershey, Pennsylvania 17033

FLOWER COMMITTEE

by Russ Kerns

Congratulations and flowers were sent to our "retired" Newsletter secretary-typist, Mrs. Lee Dieter, when she gave birth to a baby boy (a future Superintendent) on Wednesday morning of the Conference week.

"Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow." This was practiced by our own Jim Reid. He put off the removal of his "loose screw" until after our Washington Conference. He is now partially confined with a new "walking" cast on his leg. We all wish him well and hope he will soon be back on his job.

WANTED

One (1) color slide showing the flower arrangement of the National Association Emblem as displayed at the Washington Conference. Mrs. Eleanor Kerns, Box 287, RFD 7, Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21208.

BARRICK

Ground Burned Lime

Take The Guesswork Out Of Your
Liming Program

Buy

BARRICK'S GROUND BURNED LIME

S. W. BARRICK & SONS, Inc.

WOODSBORO, MARYLAND
301-845-2901

AQUA - GRO
QUALITY BLENDED WETTING AGENT

AQUA - T
LOW COST WETTING AGENT

STOMA - SEAL
CHEMICAL CONTROL OF WILT

Distributed by:
G.L. CORNELL CO. • GUSTIN'S BALTIMORE TORO

CLEARY PRODUCTS FOR BETTER TURF

- "PMAS"—Crabgrass & disease control
- "CADDY"—Liquid cadmium fungicide
- "SPOTRETE"—75% Thiuram
- "PM 2, 4-D"—weed control
- "ALL WET"—Wetting agent
- "THIMER"—Mercury & Thiuram
- "METHAR" & "SUPER METHAR"—Crabgrass control
- "CLEARYS, MCCP"—Weed control in bent grass

W. A. CLEARY CORP.

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Home phone: Freeland 636-0830
Plant phone: White Haven 443-9961

(Certified)

HUMIX

BLUE RIDGE SOIL PEP CO., INC.

Original Pennsylvania Peat Producers
White Haven, Pa.

BULK PEAT HUMUS Top Dressing For Golf Courses
Made to Specifications

ALLEN DEAL

LEN O'HARA



CULTIVATED SOD

- Blue Grasses
- Fescues
- Bermudas
- Bent Grass
- Mixtures
- Zoysia

ALL TURF Irrigated—Cultivated and Maintained to proper
height for two years prior to lifting.

State Inspected - Personal inspection invited.

CENTREVILLE, MD. Highway 301
Phone: 301-827-8454

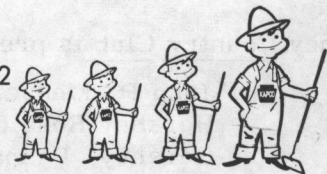
PARKER SHIRLING

YOUR COURSE DESERVES QUALITY

KAPCO CUSTOM MIXING IS QUALITY

For Best Results Contact —

John Gross
620 Regester Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21212
Phone 377-6172

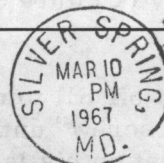


You Know You'll Grow with KAPCO

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

5007 - 34th St., North
Arlington 7, Va.

Mr. George Cleaver
Box 121 A
Lutherville, Md.



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
DENTAL HEALTH WEEK

