



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



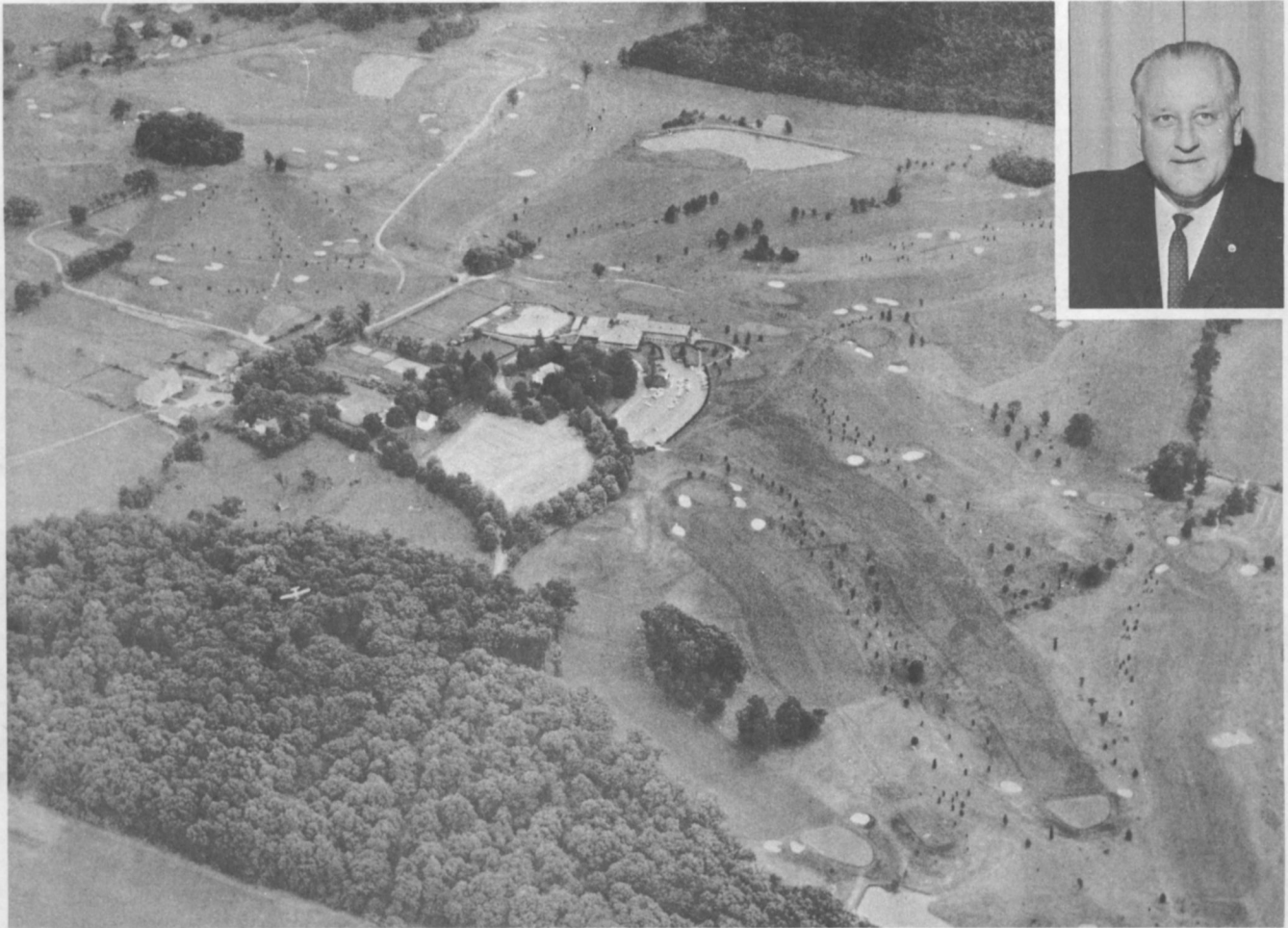
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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association will be held October 3 at Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland. The Annual Superintendents' Golf Tournament will be played on this date with registration beginning at noon. There will be a social hour followed by a buffet dinner and business meeting.

WELCOME TO WOODMONT COUNTRY CLUB

by Bob Shields

On behalf of the Members of the Board of Directors of Woodmont and the Green Committee Chairman, Mr. John Safer, I'd like to welcome the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents to the Club on October 3rd. Our golf professional, Tony Marlowe, and his entire staff will be in the shop to greet you and assist you in any way. Caddy master, Dick Secreto, will help conduct the golf tournament from the first tee. Woodmont has a new manager, Mr. Maurice Morris, who will go all out to make your visit enjoyable.

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

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 C. C. since 1952. Bob is a model golf course superintendent. With a complete knowledge of fine turf maintenance and construction, he has molded an outstanding 36 hole golf course, which he can indeed be proud of. Bob has held all local and national offices up to and including National President. Through devoted leadership, he has done much to elevate the superintendent's image and position.

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. A completely automatic green, tee, and fairway watering system was installed during the winter of 1965-66. This system was designed by Russel Roberts and is performing very satisfactorily.

The south course was completed in 1950 and measures 6290 yards for a par of 72. The back nine on this course was designed by Al Tull and built by Bob. It was opened for play by Vice-President Nixon in 1956. The first nine was designed by Leo Freudberg and built by Bob in 1959 and opened for play in 1960. It has fairway water snap valves every 90 feet. 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 stolonized with C-1 and C-19 bentgrass. They receive a total of 8-9 pounds of N/M/year. A water soluble material is used during July and August. Greens are cut three times a week and aeriated 2 or 3 times a year. Fungicides are applied on a preventative basis. Tees are U-3 Bermuda, cut 1/2 inch three times a week and fertilized weekly during the growing season. Fairways have an excellent stand of U-3. Bob opens them up in late summer to encourage Poa Annua for winter cover; all fairways receive high nitrogen. Roughs are composed of common Kentucky bluegrass and Chewings fescue. They are cut at 2 inches. Roughs adjacent to fairways are fed once a year.

DIRECTIONS TO WOODMONT C. C.

Woodmont is located one mile south of Rockville on Rockville Pike which is Wisconsin Avenue extended from the District of Columbia. This would be exit 19 on the Capital Beltway Route 495. From Baltimore you would proceed northwest once on the Beltway. From Virginia proceed northeast. Anyone traveling south on 70S should exit on Montrose Road and take a left turn at Rockville Pike intersection.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Cammarota

Our joint meeting in September with the Philadelphia Association was well attended by our group. Sixty-five members made the trip to Delaware. A total of one hundred fifty were present for dinner. Seventy-nine men played golf on the south course of the 36 hole layout of the Wilmington C. C.

Harry McSloy is to be commended for the condition of the courses in Wilmington. Also present for this meeting were three past Presidents of the National Association, Mr. L. R. (Bob) Shields, Paul Weiss, Sr., and Leonard Strong. Leonard is supposed to be retired, but he is just as active as ever in turf. Mr. Charles Hallowell, a faithful friend of both associations, was also with us. The Eastern Director of the U. S. G. A. Green Section, Mr. Al Radko, could not miss this chance to see so many superintendents in one visit. I hope we see more of these men with us in the future. They are always welcome at any of our meetings.

Joe Duich's talk to the superintendents was well received by everyone. Mr. Paul Weiss, Sr., requested the talk be published for the benefit of you who were not present for this meeting. Our news editor was on the spot and you can be sure it will be in our NEWSLETTER.

Not too many years ago many superintendents knew that Joe had a tough job to fill the large pair of shoes vacated by the retirement of Dr. B. Musser. I think we can safely say he has filled the shoes, and probably is ready for a larger size. It would not be easy to find anyone with the courage to be outspoken in his opinions and views on turf and related subjects. Irrespective of whose feathers are ruffled, our sincere thanks to him for devoting his time and effort to speak to us. Our appreciation should also be expressed to our host, the Philadelphia Association, David O. Miller, Jack Hurley, Harry McSloy, and the officials of the Wilmington C. C. for their hospitality.

The two joint meetings this year were highly accepted and successful, the spring meeting in Richmond and the meeting in September. Our Educational Committee will certainly plan to continue to schedule affairs like them in the years ahead. I hope many more of you plan to be present for the Annual Superintendents' Tournament at Woodmont C. C. Let's try to break the record set at Congressional this past spring where one hundred and one were present. We will only need one hundred and two. Reservation cards returned to Bob for the October meeting. I'll bet we can do it.

PENN STATE TURFGRASS FIELD DAYS

by George Thompson

Highlights of research being conducted by Dr. Joseph Duich and his associates at Penn State.

Herbicides

Pre-emergence Crabgrass control chemicals on Bluegrass - Generally speaking materials which have given good control in the past are still performing well, Dacthal, Tupersan, etc. There are some new formulations that look good also. Most of these are still in the experimental stage. Tupersan has a short residual and split applications are suggested. When we speak of Crabgrass we mean Common Crab. Ironically Silver Crabgrass was seeded at Penn State but the conditions are such that it wouldn't germinate. Dacthal has given excellent Goosegrass control on golf courses in the Philadelphia area.

Pre-emergence on Poa Annua - Betasan or Pre San has been applied to various Bents for two consecutive years at 15 pounds actual material per acre. This has shown a marked reduction in Poa Annua and has been the safest material to date on all Bentgrass strains. Dr. Duich does not recommend that you go all out on a Bensulide program as it is still a relatively new compound. However, if you have a problem green that is becoming contaminated with Poa Annua or Crabgrass, it

can be tried on a trial basis. The time to apply it is now. For Poa Annuua this material has a long residual which in some cases could present problems. Work is being done with activated charcoal to neutralize it.

Fungicides

A new fungicide is under observation (code name 1991), a Du Pont product. This fungicide is a systemic which is translocated in the plant. It moves upward and outward. It has given amazing control of dollarspot at 1/2 oz./1,000 rate. This product, 1991, was applied to Penncross which was severely infected. It resulted in 100% control and has a residual of at least 6 weeks, probably longer. If this fungicide continues to perform well it probably will be released in 1969.

Dollarspots Isolates - Penn State is collecting dollarspot isolates from various areas. They are infecting Colonial Bent with these isolates and as suspected, many of them are Cadmium resistant and some are resistant to other chemicals as well. If any superintendent in the Mid-Atlantic has a particular strain of dollarspot that is giving him trouble, Penn State would welcome a sample.

Superior Strains

Rye Grass - More emphasis is being applied to new Ryegrass varieties. Pelo has stood up well to 8 years in Long Island. This could have a place on tees. Another new variety released from Rutgers has also shown more perennial tendencies. It is called Manhattan, found in Central Park, New York City. These newer type Ryegrasses have not been evaluated very far inland as yet.

Bluegrass - Penn State is testing many, many types of Bluegrass. None of which could be called the best fairway grass or the best grass for tees. Some varieties are resistant to leaf spot but are susceptible to striped smut and vice versa. Of the varieties under observation, Fil King (0217) seemed to be resistant to striped smut and leaf spot as well as or better than others.

Fertilizer

A urea condensate Armour shows great promise. This material releases nitrogen slower than the solubles but at a faster rate than the urea form materials.

Soil Amendments

This experiment is always of interest to the golf course superintendents. Penn State has any and all putting green mixes. The materials used are three grades of sand, 5Q Rok, (coarse) Concrete sand (medium) and Mortar sand (fine). The soil used is Hagerstown silt loam. Water infiltration rates are recorded and they varied from .2 inches per hour to as much as 28 inches per hour. Generally speaking infiltration rates between one and two inches per hour approach the ideal. Some of the mixes that fit into this one to two inch category were: (1) 8-1-1 8 parts fine sand, 1 part peat and one part silt loam; (2) 5-4-1 Five parts 5QRok, four soil and one peat; (3) 6-3-1 Six concrete sand, three soil and one peat.

V. P. I. TURF FIELD DAY

by Sheldon Betterly

The V. P. I. turf field day was once again a very interesting and successful presentation of the latest information on turf research. A crowd of 235 people toured the turf plots with little or no confusion, thanks to the careful planning of associate extension agronomist, John Shoulders, and associate professor Dr. Dick Schmidt.

A few of the topics of the day were as follows:

1. The effect of crystallized shale and coarse sand in golf greens.

Dick Schmidt has done extensive work on compaction studies in his experimental green and has come up with some substantial recommendations as to percentage sand, crystallized shale, topsoil and humus.

2. Effect of fungicides on control of Sclerotinia Dollar Spot on bentgrass and Melting-Out of Kentucky bluegrass.

Dr. Houston B. Couch, head-Plant Pathology and Physiology Department, works closely with the Agronomy department in fungicides for turf.

Some fungicides that looked good were Daconil 2787, Fore, and some experimentals which at this time are only numbers.

3. Turfgrass Strains and Mixtures.

Dr. Bob Harrison, associate extension agronomist, gave us some information on experimental strains of bluegrasses. Also various mixtures of grasses were shown so that they could be compared for texture.

4. Nematode Studies.

The extensive research on nematodes is largely piloted by Dr. Al Williams, Plant Pathology and Physiology Department, at V. P. I. This field of study has shown us that there are many facets of turfgrass production that we know little about as yet. Damage is caused to turf by microorganisms we can barely see even through a microscope.

The day was most worthwhile to anyone in the turf profession and gave us some new ideas to carry back to our own courses.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - AGRONOMY FIELD DAY

Dr. Elwyn E. Deal in his short tenure at Maryland has established an impressive list of Turfgrass studies. A large group of Turfgrass specialists observed the following experiments:

1. Turfgrass varieties and Species. Warm season grasses sprigged, cool season grasses seeded.
2. Tufcote Bermudagrass Fertilization. Nitrogen source, several rates and frequencies of application studied.
3. Tufcote Bermuda Mowing Heights and Frequencies. Color and density generally best when turf is cut 3 times per week at 1/2 inch.
4. Bentgrass Varieties; management studies.
5. Tall Fescue Management for Athletic Fields.
6. Kentucky Bluegrass - Red Fescue Fertilization.
7. Kentucky Bluegrass Sod Studies.
8. Perennial Ryegrasses.
9. Meyer Zoysia Establishment. Pre-emergents Herbicides applied and the effect of Zoysia establishment studied.
10. Crabgrass Control Studies (Pre-emergence).

CHINCH BUG ON BENT GRASS

by Buck Whetsell

My experience with the Chinch bug on Bent grass has provided the following observations. The Chinch bug is a sucking insect, removing all juices from the leaves and stems of grass and causing dried up spots on greens. These tiny insects, ranging in length from 1/20" to 1/5" in size, are very hard to detect with the naked eye. The best way known to diagnose these insects is to take a metal can with both ends removed and insert it several inches into the ground. Fill the can with water. If you have Chinch bugs, they will drown and float to the top in five minutes or so.

The adult Chinch bugs have white patches on their wings, which are folded over their backs. The young are a bright red with white patches on their wings. The greens that were attacked with this very small insect have been sprayed with Diazinon and are looking lush and green again.

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DRAINING SEEPY HILLSIDES

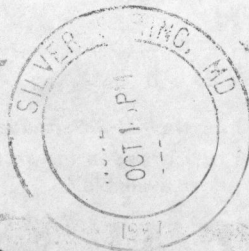
A wet area along a hillside usually is caused by an impervious layer of soil that stops the downward percolation of water. The water flows along the top of this dense layer until it comes out onto or near the soil surface.

This condition may be corrected by laying a tile drain above the line where the ground becomes wet. Place it deep enough to intercept the water flowing along the top of the impervious layer. Set the tile into the impervious layer and partially backfill with gravel.

The drain should run across the slope as nearly parallel to the seepy area as possible, with a continuous slight fall to the outlet into a ditch or water-way. An open drainage ditch sometimes can be used and considered a water hazard.

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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