



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



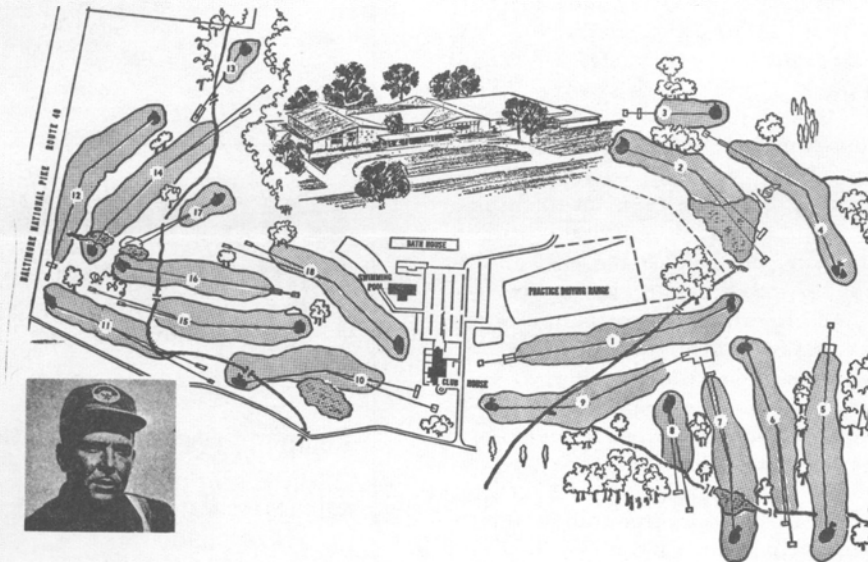
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NO. 8



NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at Turf Valley Country Club, Ellicott City, Maryland. Lunch can be purchased in the mens grill. The course will be open all day for those wishing to play golf. The cocktail hour will start at 5:00 P.M. with dinner and educational program following.

This is a joint meeting with the Philadelphia area chapter. Last year we had approximately 150 in attendance at Harry McSloy's courses in Wilmington. Let's try to top this attendance record.

We are very fortunate in having Dr. Fred Grau as our guest speaker for the evening. Dr. Grau's topic will be "Flashbacks", a review of Turf History. He will trace the expansion of the Turfgrass Industry since 1945. How this was done is important in continuing to plan for the future.

OUR HOST

George Riddle has been at Turf Valley since work was begun on the courses in 1957. He supervised the construction of the course and buildings and in 1963 George assumed the duties of golf course superintendent.

THE COURSE

Turf Valley is a 36 hole, layout settled between two rolling hills. It was designed by Edward Ault and built by the Pistorio Construction Company. The original 18 holes opened for play in 1959; the third nine in 1962; and the fourth nine in 1965.

MAINTENANCE

The greens consist of C1, C7 and C19. They are topseeded heavily spring and fall, receive an application of 10-6-4 spring and fall with an application of organic in late spring for a total of 11 lbs. N. They receive an application of 10 lbs. of lead arsenate spring and fall and receive doses of chlordan as needed for pest control. The greens are sprayed weekly with thiram and mercury fungicides and maintained at 1/4 inch height year round.

The tees are common Kentucky Bluegrass and Merion, receive the same fertilization as the fairways and are cut at 5/8 inch.

The fairways contain common Kentucky Bluegrass and Pennlawn Fescue. They receive 600 lbs. 10-6-4 per acre in early spring, 500 lbs. organic in the late spring and 500 lbs. 10-6-4 in the fall. Burnt lime is applied every year at 1/2 ton per acre. They are maintained at 3/4 to 1 inch height.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

From Washington: Take route 29 North to route 40. Turn left, West. Go 4 miles to Turf Valley on the right.

From Baltimore: Take route 40 12 miles to club on the right.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George W. Cleaver

The annual family picnic was enjoyed by many of our superintendents and their families. A vote of thanks is extended to Mr. Parker Shirling for a most enjoyable day. Mr. Shirling thought of everything from a hay ride to steamed crabs which is a must at an Eastern Shore picnic. Of course we can't forget Brownie and his Model T. Thank you, Brownie for bringing back memories to several and pleasure to the children.

I want to take this opportunity to compliment Bob Shields on the wonderful article he wrote for the newsletter. It was well written, to the point and gave us a lot to think about. We often hear how much research and experimenting the Universities do with turf, but I think the golf course superintendents do just about as much. Everything he does with fertilizer, seed and chemicals, even labor is an experiment. If the weather is favorable with what you are doing at that particular time everything is fine. But, as Bob pointed out, if you have a quick change in the weather, like 1 1/2 inches of rain one day then a few days later 2 1/2 inches which you did not anticipate, look out. Then it is time for another experiment. See what I mean, us superintendents are managers of experimental farms.

The Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be attending our next membership meeting at Turf Valley Country Club. I am looking for a big turnout to welcome them. This is your opportunity to talk about old problems and new ideas.

GOLF COMMITTEE

Bert Yingling

Turf Valley Country Club will be the scene of our joint meeting with the Philadelphia Superintendents September 10th. Those who journeyed to the Wilmington Country Club last September should remember the hospitality that was showered upon us, so let's have a real turnout and welcome them to the Mid Atlantic.

There was no tolf at our picnic but was I amazed when I arrived to see Parker taking large divots out of his fairway sod. Of course he was showing how simple it would be to replace tees and fix fairways with sod at about \$.62 a yd., but heavens sake, don't tell the club members this or they might start taking their divots home with them and we won't have any fairways at all.

PYTHIUM BLIGHT

The following article was circulated to Newspapers throughout the affected areas by Buchen Public Relations representing GCSAA.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 19, 1968

An uncontrollable grass killing fungus, Pythium Blight, is wreaking havoc with American golf courses.

Golfers should not panic, however. No courses have been closed as a result of the disease which in many areas of the country is also known as "cottony blight." But some fairways, greens, and green collars--aprons or fringes--are marked off as ground under repair. When a ball comes to rest in these areas, a free lift is granted under local rule

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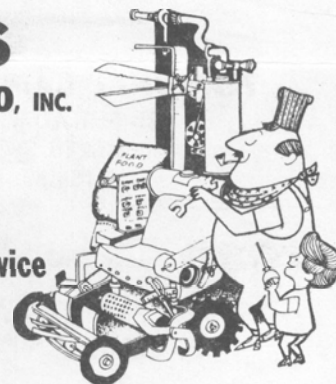
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These facts were brought to light in a just completed, spot-check survey conducted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), among research scientists, agronomists, golf course superintendents and other golf agencies around the country.

A combination of unusually long periods of warm, humid weather and excessive rain was the chief source of trouble, the survey showed. Afterwards, a whitish cobwebby substance forms in and on top of the turf, in the early morning. As the sun rises and the infected turf becomes water soaked, the fungus darkens giving off a greasy appearance.

Later in the day, the "web" disappears and the infected leaves take on a tan to red color. In early infection periods these spots often run in streaks, following the surface drainage pattern of the links.

According to the survey, the disease is most aggressive in moisture saturated atmospheres, when temperatures range between 85 and 95 degrees. It has no known cause nor cure, nor are there any preventative measures for curbing it. This leaves the golf superintendent completely helpless and at the mercy of the weather.

Chemical programs may contain the bug briefly, but the surest "stopper" is cool, dry weather.

The most seriously damaged courses, the survey noted, are in the following critical areas:

Metropolitan St. Louis and the remainder of the crabgrass belt ranging from Kansas City to Washington, D.C.; the Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati areas of Ohio, and the Carolinas; Central Illinois and Central Indiana.

Non-critical but serious, these areas include, the New England States; Northern Ohio bordering on Lake Erie; Palm Springs and San Francisco Bay areas of California; Central and Northern New Jersey, plus Metropolitan New York and Northern Virginia.

Other less serious cases have been reported in Michigan, Texas, Northern Illinois, Northern Indiana, Wisconsin and Florida.

GCSAA cautioned club officials and greens chairmen of courses not in Pythium areas.

They should not get that smug feeling, GCSAA warned. Pythium could strike their courses at any moment. Remember, August is one of the hottest months of the year and it isn't over yet. In the meantime, swing away.

Based in Des Plaines, Illinois, GCSAA is composed of nearly 3,000 golf course superintendents who are in charge of keeping the nation's courses in top shape for the millions of golfers who enjoy the game.

MIDWEST REGIONAL TURF CONFERENCE

Mr. Edmund B. Ault local Golf Course Architect and member of the Mid-Atlantic has been kept quite busy this past year as guest speaker for various superintendents associations. He has addressed the Pittsburgh area superintendents association, the Tidewater superintendents association, the Midwest Regional Turf Conference and the West Virginia Turf Conference.

The following is a reprint of his talk at Purdue to the Regional Turf Foundation, March 1968. This is one of the biggest regional conferences in the country each year and this year 670 registered for the meeting.

WHAT AN ARCHITECT NEEDS TO KNOW

A step-by-step procedure taken by the architect in developing the golf course from plans to play.

1. **TYPE OF COURSE DESIRED.** The initial meeting with the group, or owners, may get an answer immediately, especially when it is to be a municipal course, a course that may be being developed for a profit, a course being built with government financing, or a golf course encompassing a homesite complex. On the other hand, leading questions must be asked by the architect as to whether the group expects at a later date to hold a sectional or title tournament on the course, the number of members it eventually plans to have, and other related facilities that may be proposed for a later date.

2. SITE ANALYSIS AND SITE PLANNING.

- A. Past land use (productive farm, type of farm, pasture land, virgin soil (never under cultivation).
- B. Major drainage. Effects of the site being considered as related to offsite drainage.
- C. Availability of state and federal soils maps.
- D. Test borings on certain areas of the site for exploration of drainage problems. Clay layer of impermeable material close to the surface which may impede good drainage.

Site planning must include not only the design or layout of the golf course, but also determine the most advantageous location for clubhouse and other support facilities such as tennis, swimming, cart storage, pool, parking, etc. In considering the clubhouse location, the availability of existing utilities that may be used economically must be considered.

3. **SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT.** As a rule the volume of disposal from a country club cannot be handled through a normal septic field. Small treatment plants or local disposal systems must be considered.

4. **SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS.** To prepare proper specifications for the construction of a golf course, it requires three distinct professions:

1. The architect
2. The agronomist
3. The engineer

The architect must be knowledgeable about the second two professions, but must rely on them for technical and positive decisions in agronomy and engineering. At times it is very trying and frustrating to the modern golf architect to make a decision as to what standards of green construction he should incorporate in the specifications.

Types of Grasses

Architects who design courses in all sections of the United States and different parts of the world must be in areas which are borderline to both the cool and warm season grasses. The architect must rely on the recommendations of available agronomist, and seek out the type of bentgrass, bermudas, etc., that have been proven successful within this area for tees, fairways and greens.

Irrigation

The source of water may dictate its cost and sufficiency and the type of grasses that can be supported. Three major types of irrigation systems are generalized 1968 for 18 holes —

1. Fully automatic - approximately \$120,000
2. Semi-Automatic system - between \$75,000 and \$85,000

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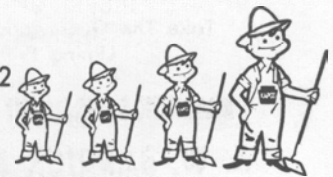
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3. Manual control system - about \$65,000

The agronomist and architect should now recommend to the club the type of system which should be installed, taking into consideration the following important factors:

- A. Construction budget for the golf course
- B. Type of grasses being used
- C. Volume of play expected on the course
- D. Level of maintenance expected
- E. How much is system needed in a year

If a golf course is being built in an area where it is only irrigated between rains during the months of July, August and September, it is rather difficult to recommend the same type of system which may be designed for a course that needs irrigation 12 months a year. Existing old clubs, who install a complete automatic system covering greens, tees and fairways, assume that, with the installation of such a complete automatic system, many of their problems will be solved. It is easy to mislead the owners as to what they can expect because of the physical analysis of the greens construction.

My advice to a great many clubs, who have consulted me regarding automatic irrigation for the greens, is to first rebuild the greens to accept this modern watering method. I believe this is better advice than installing an irrigation system than can do far more damage than good on small, compacted, impermeable greens that have no sub-drainage and inadequate surface drainage.

Putting the Plans, Specifications and Construction Drawings Into Effect

A good golf course cannot be built with plans and specifications alone. Beginning about 12 years ago, I recommended to all owners that they place a qualified golf course superintendent on the job the day construction started. I still insist that this practice be followed. You can readily see the advantages to everyone - architect, owners, builders and the superintendent himself.

The contract will then read that the contractor will be released as soon as he has completed the planting of the course in full accordance with the plans and specifications. The golf course superintendent, who has been on the job from the start, has his crew organized and takes over the establishment of the turf after planting.

What is the difference if the contractor is bidding to establish the turf (because he certainly will include a figure in his initial bid), or whether the superintendent spends an equal sum in a better manner to accomplish the same end? He has interest, experience and is qualified to manage and complete this important end of the contract.

Finally, when one attends the majority of turf conferences and hears the reports and findings on new materials and practices that are acceptable and progressive to modern golf course construction, how are these findings placed in the hands of those who are responsible and can bring them into practice? That is why I'm here this year.

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA AREA CLUBS

Denny McCammon

Anyone who says they aren't looking forward to the first snowfall is a procrastinator! What can anyone do with weather like the past 30 days?

BILL HUMPHRIES at International says all he's been doing is spraying and mowing but from the looks of his nice

greens, he's been doing something more than that. There is some real nice grass out there.... At Reston, MIKE BURKHOLDER has a nice project to look forward to for the next month. A transcontinental Pipeline is going right across the course. So far, they have only hit the waterline once, but I'll bet there will be more to come... JACK McCLENAHAN at Westwood is going to start on a fairway renovation program to try to heal up his bare playing areas. He already has the lime and fertilizer down and his seed mix is 40% Common Blue, 40% Merion and 20% Fylking. His new tees will be in play for the Labor Day weekend... South of Vienna at C.C. of Fairfax, SAM KESSEL has just received word of a new load of equipment, so he can start a fairway renovation program this fall too. On the list is a new tractor, a sweeper and a slicer-seeder rig... Over at Twin Lakes, BUCK WHETSELL reports all operations there are normal with some Pythium this month though. BUCK says when his man mowing aprons runs his mower through some Pythium, the mower is brought in, washed off and then goes to the next area to avoid spreading the disease. Good idea - does anyone else have any preventive practices like this? Let's hear from you if you do... Up at BILL SWICK's club, word comes to us that BILL is now the general manager of Sterling Recreation Center. A nice promotion for BILL and congratulations are in order. BILL will still have charge of the golf course, but all the other facilities as well... VIRGIL ROBINSON at Chantilly has been having Pythium trouble like the rest of us, but says he thinks he may be getting the pesky stuff under control... At Washington Golf, LEE DIETER has started his greens rebuilding project. The number four hole is now torn up and is being revised entirely. They are playing temporary greens during the project which will run well into the fall months... TOM DOERER from Ft. Belvoir brought out a good point. He says that this year has not been as much a question of chemical use and application as it has been a question of proper and careful maintenance practices, and he is 100% right... Here at Springfield C.C., better known as "Crabgrass Central", we too are planning a fall fairway program, scheduled for the first week in September. We will aerify, verti-cut and overseed with a blue grass mix and hope for cool nights.

VISIT TO O. M. SCOTTS

Russ Kerns, George Cleaver, Angelo Cammarato, John McDonald, Bob Shields, George Thompson, Dave Fairbanks and Ed Dembnicki accompanied by Brian Finger, were guests of O.M. Scotts and Sons Co. at Marysville, Ohio. We were joined there by 29 superintendents from California. We spent July 30th touring their seed plant, research facilities including over 500 acres in research plots. We were all amazed and impressed by the amount and extent of research being conducted by the Scotts people. Any superintendent who has the chance to visit the Marysville plant can be assured he will come away richer in knowledge than when he arrived.



Bob Shields & Dave Fairbanks
Elmer Border & Ed Dembnicki

We spent July 1st visiting next years site of the PGA Tournament: National Cash Register Course at Dayton, Ohio. Jack Hart, Superintendent, conducted a most informative tour of the three golf courses he supervises.

IN MEMORIUM

We are all saddened by the passing of H.B. Musser on August 12, 1968. A pioneer in the Turf Industry, responsible for Penn State Top staff of Turf specialists, Turf research facilities and getting the knowledge gained to the superintendent. His book "Turf Management" is still considered the Bible to all turfmen. We will all miss his presence at Turf educational gatherings of which he was always a part.

VERY IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT

Our next meeting will be held on October 8 instead of October 1 as previously announced at the Norbeck Country Club. Bill Livingston Host.

ENCLOSURE DEPARTMENT

This month you will find an enclosure for two things. We would like ideas for speakers and topics for the Baltimore conference as well as comments you may have on it. Also we would like to know what kind of ideas you might have concerning good or bad points about the National. What would you like to see done differently? You are the ones supporting the GCSAA, so let's hear from you - any comments you may have, write them down and get them back to any officer or director of the Mid-Atlantic. Bob Milligan and Denny McCammon are our representatives on the National Advisory Committee.

TURF STAND SENSITIVITY UP WITH FALL FERTILIZATION

Fall application of fertilizer will increase turf density the next year. This is a finding of The Lawn Institute, Marysville, Ohio.

Director of the Institute, Dr. Robert Schery, reports that heavy autumn fertilization increased the bluegrass turf stand by 48% over an untreated check area.

Goal of the tests was to study any burn from over-application of fertilizer. Rates up to 4 times that recommended by the manufacturer were used in the fall of 1966. Mid-summer grass counts in 1967 showed an average of 428 grass culms or shoots per square foot in treated turf. The untreated check strip averaged 288 culms per square foot.

FAMILY PICNIC AT PRINCETON TURF



Susie and George Cleaver and Betty Silvar



Mrs. Elwyn Deal and surprise guest
Dr. Bill Daniel from Purdue University



Elwyn Deal, George Thompson and Bob Orazi



Lois Gumm, Bernice and Bob Shields



Leon and Mrs. Brown with their Model T
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Ed Dembnicki, Dr. George Langford and
George Gumm

A great time was had by all! Thanks, Parker.

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COMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Host</u>
Sept. 10	Turf Valley C. C.	George Riddle
Oct. 8	Norbeck C. C.	Bill Livingston (tourn.)
Nov. 12	Army & Navy C. C. Arlington	Dell Hemmersley
Dec. 3	Crofton C. C.	Lee Redman
Jan. 6-7, 1969	Baltimore Turf Conference	

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

1306 Mimosa Lane
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