

# ATLANTIC NEWS Letter



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

VOL XVIII

DECEMBER 1968

NO. 12



Monday, January 6

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:30 a.m. Call to Order Dr. George S. Langford State Entomologist University of Maryland

Welcome

Dr. Frank L. Bentz, Jr. Vice President, Agricultural Affairs, University of Md.

The President's Message George Cleaver, President Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents Baltimore, Maryland

Dew is Not Dew Tom Mascaro West Point Products Corporation West Point, Pennsylvania Trends in Golf Today Col. Harry E. Eckhoff National Golf Foundation Arlington, Virginia

Recent Developments in Turf Dr. Elwyn E. Deal Turf Specialist University of Maryland

12:15 p.m. Luncheon
Educational Programs for the
Golf Course Superintendent at
the University of Maryland
Dr. Gordon M. Cairns
Dean of Agriculture
University of Maryland

1:30 p.m. Presiding
Douglas T. Hawes
Institute of Applied Agriculture
University of Maryland

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION of GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

Under the Auspices
of the
Extension Service
University of Maryland



Holiday Inn, Downtown

Howard and Lombard Streets

Baltimore, Maryland

January 6 and 7, 1969

The Need for Basics
L. Robert Shields, Superintendent
Woodmont Country Club
Rockville, Maryland

New Turfgrass Varieties
Dr. C.R. Funk, Jr.
Rutgers — The State University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Grass Seed for Golf Courses M.H. Day, Supervisor Seed Inspection University of Maryland

Pruning Ornamental Trees & Shrubs Francis R. Gouin Department of Horticulture University of Maryland

Benlate 1991—A Turf Fungicide Robert T. Miller E.I. duPont deNemours & Co. Wilmington, Delaware Pythium and Fusarium
Diseases in Grass
Dr. George A. Bean
Dept. of Botany
University of Maryland

6:30 p.m. Social Hour—
Courtesy of
F.W. Bolgiano & Co.
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G.L. Cornell Co.
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Gustins Balt. Toro, Inc.
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Nat'l. Capital Toro, Inc.
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Borden Inc.
Turf and Garden Products
Columbus, Ohio

7:00 Dinner

Toastmaster
George C. Gumm
Superintendent
Ocean City Golf &
Yacht Club
Berlin, Maryland

Introduction of Guests

Chips and Putts
Fred King
Golf Professional
Andrews A.F.B., Md.

Special Awards

Installation of Officers

Tuesday, January 7

9:00 a.m. Presiding David S. Fairbanks Lakewood Country Club Rockville, Maryland

Tractors - Safety & Maint. Guy W. Gienger Agricultural Engineering University of Maryland College Park, Maryland Pesticide Safety
David Shriver
Department of Entomology
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Symposium on Poa annua
Living with Poa annua
(Status Quo)
Lee C. Dieter
Superintendent
Washington Golf and
Country Club
Arlington, Virginia

Control of Poa annua with Betasan or Pre-San Dennis McCammon Superintendent Springfield Golf & C.C. Springfield, Virginia

Controlling Poa annua with Arsenates Dr. W.H. Daniels Turf Specialist Purdue University La Fayette, Indiana

Highlights of the Conference-A Summary

Angelo Cammarota Superintendent Bonnie View Country Club Baltimore, Maryland

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Paul J. Barefoot
Angelo Cammarota
Elwyn E. Deal
Russell W. Kerns
George S. Langford
Dennis McCammon
George B. Thompson
George W. Cleaver, Pres.
Robert C. Milligan, Chairman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE George W. Cleaver

It is difficult for me to realize at this time that this is my last message to you. The year 1968 has passed so rapidly and so many things have transpired during its passing that I am at a loss for words to adequately express my feelings.

My first thoughts are of appreciation and gratitude to you, who have supported and assisted me in our endeavor this past year.

I am especially grateful to the directors for the work

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they performed. Robert Milligan, Education, for arranging all the meeting places and the Baltimore Conference; Edward Dembnicki, Newsletter, for improving our monthly publication we are all proud of; Bert Yingling, Golf, for running the monthly golf program and the annual golf tournament; Bob Shields, Membership, for enlarging our membership by 24 new members; Paul Barefoot and George Thompson for the excellent ladies night; Dennis McCammon for the Virginia News article each month in the newsletter. May I at this time extend my personal thanks to the Secretary, Russell Kerns, and President Emeritus, Angelo Cammarota for their assistance in making this year one of the greatest for me.

The first conference in 1969 will be the "Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference" under the auspices of the University of Maryland, held in Baltimore, Maryland on January 6-7, 1969. Don't vegetate-educate, attend this conference.

#### ELECTION RESULTS

The following members were elected to office at our last meeting at Crofton C.C.

President Vice-President Secretary-Treasurer New Directors

Bob Milligan Russell Kerns Edward Dembnicki Lee Dieter

Dennis McCammon \*Robert C. Miller

\*Elected to fill the unexpired term of Ed Dembnicki who was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Dr. J. M. Duich informs us that the Penn. State Turf Conference date has been changed from January 13-16 to February 10-13, 1969.

#### PROJECT 1968

David S. Fairbank

For six years, the membership had been talking about the coming of Richie Parkway, a four lane highway bisecting Lakewood Country Club in Rockville, Maryland, and every year, the same answer, no progress with the city and property owners. After the first few years, it sounded like "cry wolf" and people began to discount the fact that it would ever come about. The club, all this time, had put off the installation of fairway irrigation because they were afraid of losing their investment if the highway did go through. It even got to the point that we began to lose some members because we were falling behing all the other area clubs. In the summer, Lakewood looked like the Sahara Desert, with eighteen oases dotted across the two hundred and five acres. As far as I was concerned, it looked unpleasant but it certainly cut down on a lot of worries when all the bluegrass and fescue went dormant or the poa died out. All I had to contend with were eighteen oases out there scattered around.

Things have changed, "I'm not alone anymore," I now have irrigated fairways and twenty-one holes to contend with in 1969. It all started in April of 1968, when the word came down that the Board of Directors had signed with the city and the property owners concerned and we would lose holes five and six because of the highway in October 1969. I'm just beginning to regain my sanity because from that day in April until the end of

September, when the grass on the new construction areas popped their heads from the clay, my soul and body belonged to my greens chairman. Both his wife and mine were ready to look for new husbands because of the meetings that he would schedule. I don't know how a decision was ever reached through all the hassel that went on behind those closed doors but when it was all over, Russell Roberts Company was retained to design and install an automatic tee and green, manual fairway irrigation system. The company also constructed two complete golf holes, a green, four tees, and a fairway, designed by Edmund B. Ault, Ltd. We also had a new 12,000 square foot practice putting green and driving range tee designed and constructed by Russell Roberts.

Only being a superintendent for a period of four years, I thought I had encountered some difficult summers to maintain a golf course, until the year 1968 came along. It started out as usual, couldn't find any help to hire, and then the June rains with irrigation trenches full of water and long grass everywhere. After June passed, the installation of the irrigation system went pretty smooth but trying to oversee the installation and also keep a close eye on my golf course began to get quite exhausting. Yes, I had my share of pythium this summer, it hit my #11 green on July 8 and on the 11th, I had six greens infested. I had it on those six greens until the third week in August when the weather changed. During this five or six week period, the irrigation was being wrapped up, and the construction on the new holes had started. Talk about nightmares, with an irrigation system going in, new hole construction, disease eating up the only green areas on the golf course, I thought for sure, this was the summer when I would get out of this crazy business. I had said that in summers gone by but this was it!

I guess things could have been worse if the irrigation insallation and the new hole construction hadn't been done by a professional. I, and the membership of Lakewood Country Club, have only praise for the manner in which Russell Roberts has fulfilled his contract so far. I have seen some irrigation work done where there was no thought or consideration for the members who want to play golf or the superintendent who has to maintain his golf course. The hole that was being worked on, was out of play to the membership one or two days, depending on the size, and the same day it was returned to play, I was able to mow it. There was no mowing around irrigation ditches here at Lakewood because they had been filled and graded level with the surrounding turf. Yes, he came back after a rain and refilled them again, and again, and again; this not only made it more enjoyable to the member, but it certainly made it easier on me. The course construction went as smooth as the irrigation, with the exception of the dust. During July, we only had one decent rain on the second, and that was a two and a half inch washer. Luckily, we had no serious washouts after the stolenizing of the greens and the seeding of the other playing areas. It was surprising, because we had almost four and a half inches of rain after seeding in September, but they were all slow, steady, soaking rains.

We decided to use one hundred percent cohancy bentgrass on our greens since our present greens are predominantly that strain. Our tees and fairways were

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 seeded to a mixture of 45% Common Kentucky Bluegrass, 45% Fvlking Kentucky Bluegrass, and 10% Annual Ryegrass. Would you believe, Russell Roberts even used some race horse oats on some of the steep slopes, and because of this, we didn't have any wash on them either. We had our official dedication of the irrigation system and reconstruction in September and some of the material requirements were brought out were: 35,000 yards of soil material moved, 800 tons of gravel 1,700 tons of sand, and 4,000 feet of drain tile. The club was pretty proud of the fact that all this work was done without any increase in member cost or any loans of any type, my budget will probably suffer for a few years though.

Everything is up now, been moved a few times, and is looking real well going into winter. I'm starting to regain some of the weight I lost this summer and I think I'll just sit in my office all winter and get fat. I think a lot of our members, along with myself, are still a little shaken by the fact that after these past six years of wondering and disbelieving that this work would ever be done, it's all been signed, sealed, and delivered in a period of eight months. Next year will be the test, to see the results of our struggle this summer and the eventual changeover of play for our eighteen holes in the fall. I can only benefit from all that happened here this summer, irrigation, construction, disease, dust, members, weather and whatever other problems were around that time didn't allow me to recognize. Of all the years I've looked forward to winter, this has got to be the one!

#### 1968 — A MOST DIFFICULT YEAR FOR GRASSES

by Alexander M. Radko, Eastern Director USGA Green Section

Reprinted from the Metropolitan GCSA publication "Tee to Green".

You name it and we've had it in '68. This has been a most difficult year for golf turf and unquestionably one of the toughest of all time for courses in the Northeast.

Winter

Desiccation caused for severe weaknesses on several areas of most golf courses, greens in particular were badly affected. Recovery was extremely slow, greens were not up to their usual standard until mid-summer. Spring

The rains came and the skies were overcast for most of the spring, the sun shone very little. Greens grew soft and weak, they never really "hardened off." This put them at a decided disadvantage going into the summer. Summer

The sun, high temperatures, high humidity (at night-time too) caused grasses to be extremely susceptible to wilt and disease. It was impossible to irrigate without over-watering if the grasses were to be saved. Super-intendents who had automatic systems were able to get around more quickly to syringe. CONTINUOUS GREEN AND FAIRWAY SYRINGING WAS THE ORDER OF THE SEASON. This was very unusual that fairways should need this sort of attention. The period beginning the second week in July through early August was most critical. Every day, weekends included, constant and uninterrupted syringing was required in the attempt to save the grasses, Poa annua in particular. Golf car use during these weeks proved to be damaging. Tire marks turned into brown streaks an weeds encroached. This

was one period when fairways suffered badly from car use and this unquestionably added to summer weaknesses.

Diseases ran rampant, insect activity was high, and where weaknesses developed, weeds were quick to encroach. Crabgrass invasion was particularly severe. In effect the crabgrass belt moved north this summer, and the Northeast experienced the kind of invasion that courses in the crabgrass zone normally experience. (The so-called crabgrass zone normally extends from upper Virginia to St. Louis, Missouri, to Philadelphia.) It will take concerted effort on the part of Superintendents over the next year to control this weed.

All in all, it was one of the poorest weather years, and as a result, one of the most difficult management years on record for golf turfgrasses.

\* Reprinted from the Metropolitan G C S A Publication " Tee to Green "

#### WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A SUPERINTENDENT

Dennis McCammon

The following is taken in part from an article in the May-June 1947 issue of the Golf Course Reporter. It was written by Lawrence McKnight of Sandy Run Country Club in Wayland, Massachusetts. Although the article was written twenty years ago, the necessary qualifications for being a successful greens superintendent are still basically the same as will be shown in the following excerpts.

The superintendent-

Should always be striving to better his work

Must be a leader of men, for his own men are always looking to him for advice and instruction. He must have their faith and their respect.

Must have faith and ability in himself.

Must be honest and a man of good character. He must be one who has learned the value of the material things in life.

Must be of good habits, pleasant personality, and neat regarding himself and his surroundings.

Must be liberal in thought and ever alert to new ideas, never forgetting the old an tried ones.

Must be a hard worker, one who has no thought for time when there is work to be done.

Is a man who has learned the hard way - experience plus a good deal of study and research.

Should never be satisfied that he knows all the answers. He knows from past experience that a man never knows all the answers to turf management.

Must be an instructor to his men in their daily work.

Must be a mechanic to keep old equipment together and in running condition.

Must be a carpenter to make repairs on bridges, shelters, etc.

Must be a tree surgeon to care for trees and landscaping at his club.

Must be a gardener to care for flowers and gardens.

Must be a doctor to diagnose the diseases and sicknesses of turf and the treatment of them.

Must be a chemist knowing how to properly mix chamicals, their use, purpose, reactions, and results.

Must know soil management and fertilization.

Must be a diplomat to get along with his greens chairman and his club members.

Must be a lawyer to defend his plans and convictions against the bulget offered by his chairman.

Should have sense enough to know his value and work to his employer and salesman enough to sell their value to his club for a salary equal to this value.

His interest in the welfare of his club should be even greater than that of the owner. It is his world and his livelihood so long as he works there. Should he ever desire a change of clubs, the club he leaves, its condition and its appearance and the reputation he has built for himself there will be his best reference.

Can you "modern" superintendents think of anything else to add to this list? The biggest item I can see that is not in the list if the furthering of education by the superintendent whether by books and periodicals or educational conferences. And what better opportunity do we have than in Janua y with the Baltimore and the National. Let's all make this a record turnout year.

#### THE ART OF LOSING

Bill Emerson

Having been defeated for the office of director of our Association for the fourth straight year I felt that it was about time I did some research on "The Art of Loding".

I came across an essay in Time magazine, November 15 issue "The difficult art of losing" which gave me some food for thought and encouragement. I would like to pass some of it onto other losers, and winners too.

From the outset, Americans have been so compulsive about winning that losing is almost un-American. To a nation that has never lost a war, Douglas MacArthur was being logical: "There can be no substitute for winning".

Actually there are a great many substitutes for victory in our great society, losers are blessed with enormous opportunities to weather defeat by switching to new direction of adventure. The comeback is an especially American dream. Yet that itself only indicates a desperate need to win.

Indeed, a society that equates defeat with failure runs the risk of creating angry outcasts who eventually seek revenge and justification. Lee Harvey Oswald almost certainly murdered John F. Kennedy partly to borrow for himself the luster of a glamorous winner.

Americans cherish sportsmanship, which asks the loser to leap gracefully over the net and shake the hend of the man he would probably prefer to throttle. As sportswriter Grantland Rice once put it with classic corn: "For when the one great scorer comes to mark against your name, He writes - not that you won or lost - but how you played the game".

In many ways defeat is a better teacher than success, which often tempts winners to keep repeating the tactics that achieved their triumphs. Defeat, on the other hand, is both a humbling and a corrective process. It compels a man to examine why he lost and beyond that, to discover what he has left.

Without the American passion for winning, the U.S. would clearly be a far less dynamic place. Men should reach beyond their grasp.

The art of losing lies somewhere between making a demon of success and a cult of failure. Not that losing is ever better than winning of course, it isn't. Still, the fact is that losers often learn while winners mostly worry.

So cheer up fellow losers, try to remember the immortal words of some of Americas more famous losers. Adlai Stevenson, after losing to "Ike" in 1952 said, "I felt like a little boy who had stubbed his toe in the dark. He was too old to cry, but it hurt too much to laugh. Or how about "I certainly did my damnedest to remove the administration from power, but the majority of the people wished otherwise. -Wendall Wilkie, 1940. My particular favorite was said by William Jennings Bryant after losing his third try for the Presidency, "I am reminded of the drunk who, when he had been thrown down the stairs of a club for the third time, gathered himself up and said, "I am onto those people. They don't want me in there".

My congratulations to all of our 1968 winners.

#### DELAWARE TURF CONFERENCE

About a dozen Mid-Atlantic members journeyed to Newark, Delaware to attend the 2nd Annual Delaware Turfgrass Conference at the University of Delaware. Dr. Bill Mitchell, Harry McSloy and co-workers are to be commended for a most outstanding educational program. About 140 registered for the two day conference. This is about a 25% increase in attendance over their 1st Turfgrass Conference.

#### POSITIONS OPEN

I Crofton Golf and Country Club Salary \$10,000 Operating Budget \$75,000 Applications should be addressed to:

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#### COMING EVENTS

Date
January 6-7
January 19-24
January 28-29
February 10-13
February 19-21

Place
1969 Baltimore Turf Conference
International Turfgrass Conference
VPI Turf Conference
Penn State Turf Conference
Rutger's Golf & Fine Turf Conference

# ATLANTIC NEWS Letter

1306 Mimosa Lane Silver Spring, Md.