

MID-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

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NO. 7

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on Tuesday, August 13, at the Princeton Turf Farms, Inc., Centreville, Maryland.

ACTIVITIES

This is our family picnic affair. Games for the children - sprinklers to run under. Softball for the adults and older children and all topped off with a good old fashion country picnic. Two dollars for adults and one dollar for children under 12. 1 P.M. for games and fun - picnic at 4:30 P.M. In case of rain we will go to the 4-H Park, which is only about 3 miles from the farm on Maryland Highway #18.

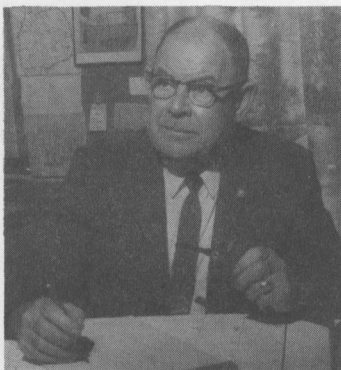
MENU

Ham ----- Hot Dogs
Chicken Salad
Cole Slaw
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Sliced Tomatoes
Pickles & Olives
Homemade Rolls - butter
Cup Cakes
Iced Tea

STEAMED CRABS WILL BE FURNISHED - Bring your own knives to open crabs.

OUR HOST

Princeton Turf Farms, Inc., are growers and producers of cultivated sod. They have State certified farms in three area locations - Cranbury, N.J., Kansas City, Missouri, Centreville, Maryland. Parker Shirling is Vice-President and General Manager of the Maryland operations.



Parker was born at Pleasant Hill, Missouri, a small town outside of Kansas City. His "green thumb" was obtained back thru two generations of florists, the Kellogg Flower and Plant Company, which at that time had over 30 acres under glass. They later moved to Kansas City where he continued in the florist business both during and after his schooling.

Parker is married, has two children, both grown, and five grandchildren. He later moved to Concordia, Kansas, where in 1942, he re-entered the agricultural field in the growing and dehydration of alfalfa. In 1962, he was transferred east by the parent company to go into the sod production business. Before opening the Maryland operations he spent some time at Rutgers and later at Maryland with their respective turf departments.

Since starting the Maryland operations they have grown from approximately 250 acres to just under 1000 acres under cultivation.

Parker is past president and presently a member of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Turf-grass Association. He also holds memberships in the following organizations:

New Jersey Turfgrass Association
 Delaware Valley Sod Producers Association
 Virginia Cultivated Turfgrass Association
 Maryland Nurserymen's Association
 Landscape Contractors of Metropolitan Washington
 A. L. C. A.
 Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Assn.
 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Parker also works in close harmony with the various State Agricultural Departments and Extension Services, in the development of better grades of cultivated sod, by way of sod laws and certification programs.

DIRECTIONS TO PRINCETON TURF FARMS

Cross the Bay Bridge on U.S. Highway 50 and 301 - When 50 turns off to Easton and the Resort Areas, STAY on 301 going north to New Jersey and New York - You will pass flasher light at Queenstown turnoff - GO 2 MILES MORE on 301 and you will see farm and signs ON YOUR RIGHT. We will have arrows to picnic area.

If you go to Centreville stop light, you have gone too far.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George W. Cleaver

One year ago Angelo gave the membership requirements for the "Future Cardiac Club". Read your June 1967 Newsletter then take a few hours for relaxation and bring your family to the picnic, August 13, 1968, at Princeton Turf Farms, Centreville, Maryland.

Each time a membership meeting was held at Chestnut Ridge C. C. we had the Constructive Suggestion Report. Each time this report has helped the superintendent and the club. Most of all it enlightened the Greens Chairman.

When you play golf you see the course as your members see it, which is different than what you see everyday as you supervise the men.

About forty Mid-Atlantic members play golf at each meeting. When these golfing superintendents play they see the golf course from both view points and are not concerned with the daily problems. Where else can you get the knowledge and experience of forty people interested in your problems?

At our last directors meeting Robert Milligan and Dennis McCammon were appointed to serve on the National Advisory Committee. This Committee meets during the turf conference but the agenda is arranged throughout the year. If you have constructive suggestions on what you think the National should do, contact Bob or Dennis and they will send it to the National office.

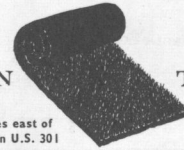
LADIES NIGHT

The Association would like to thank the following Companies for their participation to the Cocktail Hour.

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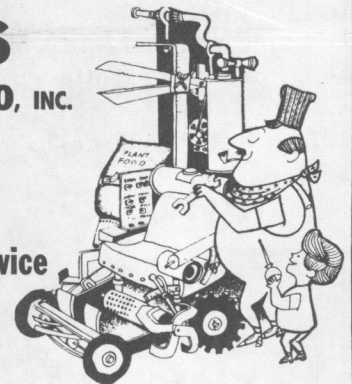
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"TRU-GREEN"—Liquid Chelating agent

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VERY IMPORTANT DEPARTMENT

Tuesday, September 10 - joint meeting with Philadelphia group at Turf Valley C.C. Dr. Fred V. Grau will be our featured speaker.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Maurice Leroy Calp, Longview Golf Course, Free-land, Md., applying for Class B membership.

Freeman Earl Miller, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. applying for Class E membership.

1969 BALTIMORE TURF CONFERENCE

The Committee is still open for suggestions regarding our Turf Conference. Please give your suggestions to any members of the Board or Educational Committee published last month.

GREENS TROUBLE AT WOODMONT

Bob Shields

At the last meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors, President Cleaver asked me if I would write about my greens troubles at Woodmont so that possibly others might learn from the experience and perhaps avoid a similar situation. Let me hasten to state that my motive in writing this is not to share the responsibility with you by having you listen to my problems. The responsibility is all mine. My Greens Committee, composed of four very interested club members, are willing to share but they can not be expected to because they are all new to the Committee this year.

For years Woodmont Country Club was noted for near perfect examples of C-1, C-19 bent grass greens. Troubles were limited to a little dollar spot in Spring and Fall, an occasional dry spot or fairy ring, a little silver crab or perhaps a fertilizer burn now and then, but nothing very serious. I have been aware of a gradual buildup in Poa Annua on the putting surfaces over the years and perhaps knew a day of reckoning was coming, but when and in what manner I didn't know and therefore could not convince club officials that drastic measures might be necessary to control Poa. Warnings have been given many times that we might have to rebuild greens someday or take nine holes out of play but when Poa is good no one will listen.

In an effort to avoid such expensive measures I started on an arsenate of lead program for the control of Poa in the Fall of 1963 with lead at the rate of 10# per thousand square feet. The following spring another 10 pound application was made and then 5# each spring and fall since that time. It could be that my greens trouble this year is the result of lead accumulation in the soil. If so, then perhaps I can expect less Poa in the future.

On the morning of Tuesday, June 25th, my assistant, Craig Spottswood and foremen George Wyatt and Roscoe

Claggett discussed the work for the day. Craig mentioned algae on some of the greens due to the severe wet weather experienced this spring and suggested we lime to control it. Roscoe, who is the fertilizer expert on our maintenance crew, announced that our schedule called for a fertilizer application on greens that day. Knowing that lime and fertilizer cannot be applied together, and hoping for an end to the wet weather, I made the decision to get on one more application of fertilizer before the month of July (when no fertilizer can be applied safely - except liquid) came along and we couldn't fertilize. With a little break in the weather the algae would dry up or at the worst it could wait until the following week without serious trouble. We applied 50# of an all organic 7% nitrogen material to each of our 400 square foot greens using the hydraulic proportioner followed by a small amount of water to wash out the hose lines. This 50# of fertilizer was well below my established never exceed limitation to never apply more than 1 pound actual nitrogen per thousand square feet at any one time.

Everything went well but there was no let up in the rain and 1-1/2 inches came down on Thursday the 27th of June and the algae didn't dry up. Thursday is our regular spray day for greens and we had just sprayed with 2 lb. of Calo Clor and one quart of Penetrol to each 9 greens before the rain came about 4 p.m. Could these chemicals have been a contributing cause? I doubt it. We can't apply lime on Friday because we are short of help and because we are busy with other jobs getting ready for the 4th of July Holiday and weekend. It can't be done on Saturday or Sunday and when finally Monday comes I decide to wait until Tuesday, our regular greens mowing day, to apply the lime behind the greens mowers.

I had plenty of time to decide what kind of lime to use - hydrated, ground burnt or dolomitic. I liked the idea of using Dolomite to gain the benefit of the magnesium it contains and the ground burnt because of its non-burning qualities, but being short of labor, discarded both because they are bulky and take considerable time to apply. I chose hydrated lime because only a small amount is needed (5 lb. per thousand square feet), to do the job, it goes on fast and is easy to apply through the proportioner although I don't like this method of application because water must be used as the carrier to try to cure an existing problem caused by an excess of moisture. Also, a small amount of water is used to wash the lime off the grass blades to eliminate the white appearance after the lime dries.

About 5 p.m. on July 2 - another rain. This time 2-1/2" fell in about two hours. Next morning the greens were soggy, the sun came out hot and discoloration began to appear. It rained again that night and temperatures went above 90 degrees on both the 4th and the 5th. By the weekend there were large yellow areas in all 36 greens as well as in the three practice putting greens, the two extra greens and the putting green sod nursery. All, that is, except two regular greens and the new practice putting green. Every surface swale and every low place was bad and 90% of all Poa Annuua was killed leaving round spots of all sizes completely dead.

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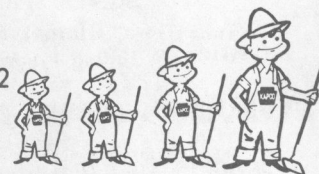
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The Maryland Open was played on July 9th and 10th on greens that were no longer green. When I next saw Maury Fitzgerald, I thanked him for being so kind by writing in his Sunday column in the Washington Post that the tournament was played on "burned out greens". His writing could have been a hundred times stronger and more bitter and he would have been absolutely right. The greens were much worse than burned out and I was one very low Superintendent when I attended the Chestnut Ridge meeting the night of July 9th. I think I even toyed with the idea of stealing a small plane and flying it to Cuba where I could fight something easy, like Castro, and forget about weather, insects, diseases, soils and temperamental golfers, employees and machines that won't run. I discarded that idea tho' because who wants to quit as a failure.

The biggest boost to my morale came on Thursday the 11th - both Lee Dieter and Dave Fairbanks stopped in saying "we heard you have bad greens and wonder if there is anything we can do to help". Next day Buel Hitchcock came down and offered to lend me some Penn Cross seed until my order could be delivered by Charlie Johnson. Good idea, but we learned that one of his men had used the seed he had in mind so I'd have to wait for Charlie. On Saturday Grafton Lumsden came over from Bethesda Country Club with the same question, "What can I do to help? I have 30 lb. of Penn Cross and a new spiker." I accepted his kind offer with humble thanks and within an hour the seed was soaking in water to start the pre-germination process so it would be ready for sowing on Monday. Everything worked. We got 18 greens spiked, mowed and seeded that day and Charlie delivered more seed so we were able to do the same to the other 18 on Tuesday. The rate of application was one pound of seed to each thousand square feet.

At this writing - two weeks later - the seed has started to sprout and little needle-like spears are sticking up everywhere. The surviving bent is making progress in spite of daily 90 degree temperature that has required almost constant hand watering to keep the surfaces cool. Some greens have come back very good and are covered except for isolated small spots where Poa was killed, but other greens have as much as 75% bare, brown, dead areas where it's difficult to find the new seedlings. Some of these places will have to be sodded from the nursery or severely grooved and then re-seeded. I lean toward the latter.

In my search for the exact cause of the present problem I run into many contributing factors as happens to all of us in this business. Some of them are as follows: 1. Woodmont greens are nearly 20 years old, resulting in a certain amount of thatch buildup which would cause shallow rooting that could have been knocked out a day or so after the heavy rain as we assumed that moisture was ample when it oozed around the shoe soles. Fred Grau has said that grass can die for lack of moisture when the roots are under water and can't go about the natural process of absorbing water because the excess water has driven the oxygen from the soil. Extended

periods of rainfall or continuous heavy applications of water in hot summer weather will cause this. Maybe I overlooked the symptoms on July 3.

2. Perhaps the heavy rain floated the organic nitrogen (applied a week earlier) and the hydrated lime together into the drainage swales where the lime caused an immediate release of nitrogen resulting in a concentration in these areas that killed the grass.
3. It is possible that heavy traffic that same day could have caused some of the trouble. Outside the swale ways, the most heavily damaged areas on each green was the path a golfer would take to get to the next tee.
4. It could have been the reaction of the arsenate of lead or the result of a buildup of lead in the soil. I'm inclined to believe that lead is involved in some way because of an almost complete kill of Poa, but of course this could have been due to too high heat. Sometimes I think I have a new strain of Poa Annua. The kind I used to know had wide leaf blades but this is very fine, like velvet bent and very fluffy.
5. I had not top dressed greens in years up until this spring when a light application was put on. I don't see how this could have had a bearing on the problem, but it does represent a change from the past program. What do you think?
6. The most logical conclusion is that this trouble was a combination of two or more of the above possible causes and I have already started on a program of spiking, aerifying, top dressing and seeding to get the thatch under control and get a head start on the summer Poa.

Perhaps in my efforts to find faster, easier, safer ways of doing things to save time, money and labor I have overlooked or neglected some of the old accepted and proven methods of procedure. From now on it's back to basics with me in everything I do on the golf course. Specifically, I'm going to verticut, aerify and top dress when these things need to be done - not just when I think I can do them without getting complaints from golfers. I'm going to install some drains in greens that drain only in one direction and I'm going to check and recheck my greens fertility program and my mowing and watering practices. I intend to fight Poa Annua with every mechanical, chemical and cultural method available. Thatch and mat development will be watched very closely to get present buildup under control and prevent future development.

I believe in looking for something good in everything that happens and from this experience I hope for the following:

1. Perhaps a complete kill of the Poa as a result of the past lead program.
2. A better putting surface from the Penn Cross seed which was put down at this time instead of the usual fall planting when Poa is germinating.
3. A better understanding by the members of my Greens Committee of some of the problems a Golf Course Superintendent encounters in maintaining a modern golf course. Their support is desperately needed before any corrective program can be carried out successfully.

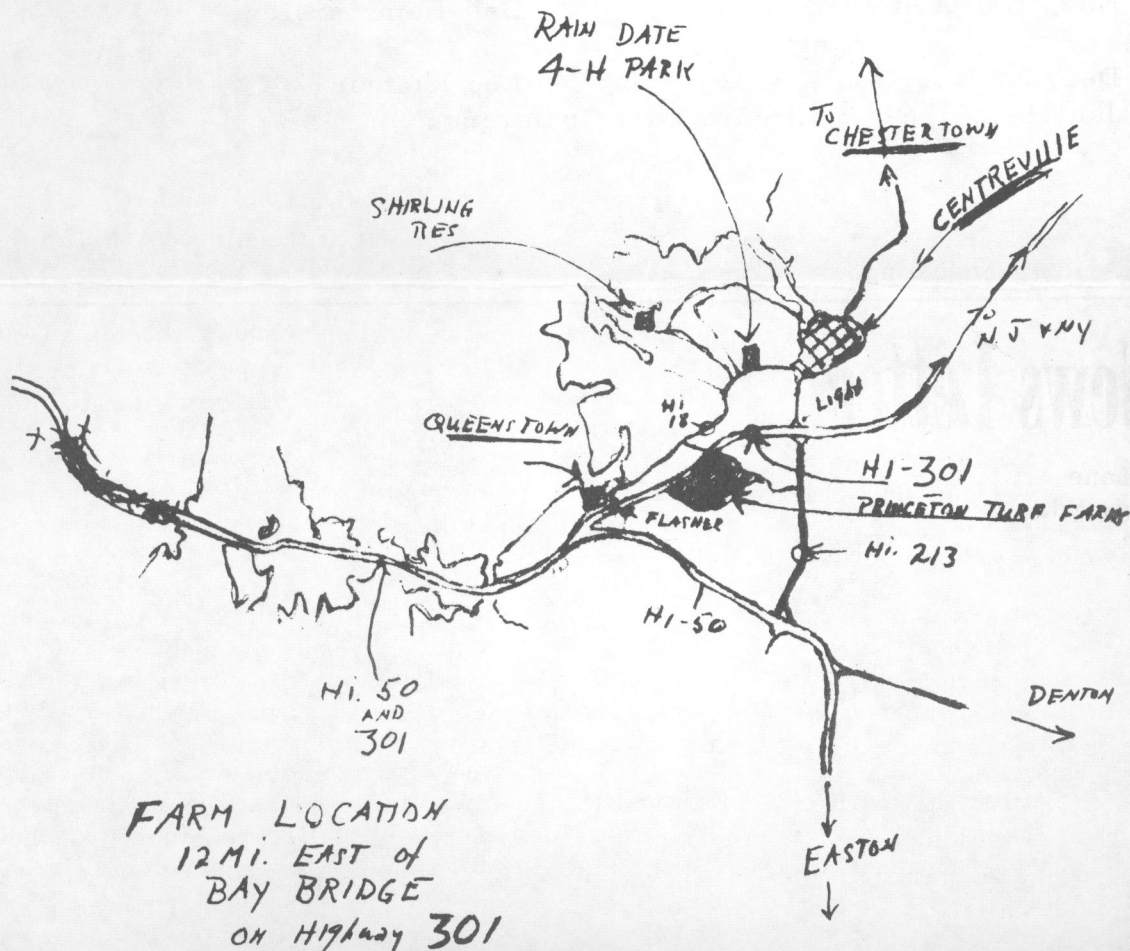
There is one thing of which I am certain and that is that I'm going to be quick to offer my help and assistance to any fellow Superintendent who might be having trouble with his golf course. To have four Mid-Atlantic Superintendents rush to my aid only points out something that I have known all along - the Mid Atlantic is made up of some very nice people.

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA AREA CLUBS

Denny McCammon

As all of you are aware, the past 30 days has been a pathological nightmare. There have only been two or three clubs in the area who have not been hit by one disease or another, one of which was Ft. Belvoir. TOM DOERER says he has been very fortunate and no disease has been present. He says that other than being as dry as all the rest of us, the course is in good shape and no new projects are underway for a change.....BUCK WHETSELL at TWIN LAKES is another lucky fellow who has fared very well with no disease. It's a good thing too, because from the sound of things, BUCK has enough else going to keep him quite busy. The irrigation system has just about been all cleaned, re-adjusted and put back

together, and he is now busy adding topsoil in bare areas getting ready to stand his fall hydro-seeding. Besides some nice new equipment like an F-10 and a thatcher-slicer, TWIN LAKES has hired an assistant manager to help BUCK in his work, so he can get out on the golf course more, much to BUCK's liking, he adds.....VIRGIL ROBINSON, back at CHANTILLY from a two-week, all expense paid vacation at A.P. Hill, had a disease all right, but it is in the form of a sewer line going all over the golf course to facilitate a new sub-division nearby. So far, only one direct hit on the water line, but there will surely be more to come.....JACK McCLENAHAN at WESTWOOD however, has to take the "hard luck" award for disease this summer. Some stranger got in his greens, which Dr. Couch at V.P.I. diagnosed over the phone as Fusarium roreum. Then, just for kicks, dollar spot ate up some of the fairways. But JACK took all this in stride, saying that he is going to bag this stuff up and sell it to the Government for biological warfare.....BOB MARTINO at PEPCP is another lucky guy who hasn't had any disease this year. His new shop is going up fast and he figures he will be moved in by the first part of September. BOB has been rebuilding all his traps this summer and putting new white silica sand in all of them. Over in Arlington at WASHINGTON GOLF CLUB, LEE DIETER has had a lot of dollar spot in his fairways too. The bad thing about it is that the cost of spraying large areas for disease is so prohibitive. LEE's sick greens are coming on strong with very little evidence left now that they were even damaged. The fall project at Arlington is the rebuilding of three greens. They will be doing numbers 4, 9, and 18. The greens will be entirely redone, new irrigation put in and seeded to Penn Cross. Algie Pulley did the design work and the construction is scheduled to start on August 19.....Down the street from LEE in Arlington at ARMY-NAVY C.C., DEL HAMMERSLY is having his disease troubles also. The big rain just before the fourth of July washed a lot of chemicals and lime into low areas and caused a lot of poor growing situations. Then the real kick in the pants came in the form of Phythium on the same greens. So DEL is waiting for the first snow with the rest of us. DEL's counterpart at the FAIRFAX ARMY-NAVY CLUB, CHARLES MOCK, says he's got his hands full with dollar spot and goose grass, just like the majority of us. CHARLES says a Pre-San program for crab and goose grass is on schedule for next year's budget.....And finally at SPRINGFIELD, I guess we're just as dry and diseased as the rest of the other clubs around. RUSSEL ROBERTS' men have been occasionally checking out problems and fixing leaks in the new water system which, by the way, is working very nicely.....Question for the month - Was everyone's budget able to withstand the additional cost of extra fungicides needed this summer? Allowance should probably be considered for padding next year's chemical budget.



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COMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Host</u>
Aug. 3	Princeton Turf Farms	Parker Shirling (picnic)
Sept. 10	Turf Valley C.C.	George Riddle
Oct. 1	Norbeck C.C.	Bill Livingston (tourn.)
Nov. 12	Army & Navy C.C. Arlington	Dell Hammersley
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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