



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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President's Message

by Lee C. Dieter

I have just returned from attending our joint meeting at Shannon Green with the Central Virginia Turfgrass Association. Our congratulations and thanks to Fritz Zeller. He was a gracious host.

I was disappointed, however, at the attendance at the meeting. Only 50 Mid-Atlantic members attended this meeting. That is just slightly over half of our regular attendance. Let's all get out to our next meeting at Laurel Pines.

A change in procedure at our Fredricksburg meeting was the collection for dinner tickets at the pro-shop. We are trying to discourage those few members and guests who feel they don't have the time to spend an evening with us at our meeting. They do, however, have time to come and play our host's golf course.

If the occasion should arise that personal matters would make it impossible for you or your guests to attend the business meeting, proper etiquette would require you to be excused by your host and the president of your association.

MAY MEETING

Our next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held at Gilbert Shapiro's Laurel Pines Country Club, Laurel, Maryland on May 8.

Gillie owns and has operated the whole country club at Laurel Pines since it's opening in 1959, which features an 18 hole regulation size golf course, swimming pool, driving range, and clubhouse.

Gillie is currently involved in major reconstruction on two holes, 13 and 14, which suffered severe damage from Hurricane Agnes. The golf course will be open for play through out this reconstruction and everyone is urged to bring their golf sticks along. For those of you not planning on playing golf, get out there early enough to walk out and view the reconstruction that is now underway.

The renovation plans include elevating 13 and 14 fairways and reconstructing the tees and greens for those two holes. Also under construction are two ponds, one of which is to be a two acre lake. The dredging for the large lake will provide the necessary fill for elevating the two fairways.

Social hour will be at 6:30 pm and dinner will be at 7:30 p.m.

Directions to the club:

From Virginia - Take the Baltimore Washington Parkway to Maryland Route 197 (Laurel-Bowie). Turn left. Club is on the right about 2½ miles.

From Baltimore - Take the Baltimore Washington Parkway to Route 198 to Laurel. Turn right. Go to light at Route 197. Turn left. Club is on left 1/3 mile.

APRIL AT SHANNON GREEN

Fritz Zeller's Sannon Green Golf Course was the site of our joint Mid-Atlantic, Central Virginia, and the Tidewater Golf Course Superintendents Associations.

The rains came down, and even sleet and snow were visible at times during the day, accompanied by occasional gusty 50 mph winds; all of which never deterred over 40 entries in this month's golf tournament. Low gross went to Steve Skowronski with a 79. Lou White and Gene Day followed with a tie for low net for 71.

Dr. A. J. Powell of V.P.I. was our guest speaker for the evening. His topic, cost analysis of fertilizers, brought out some valid reasons why we all should be aware of what makes up the cost of fertilizer production. Rarely are any two similar fertilizers available at similar prices. Some of the variables mentioned below will Help us justify the selection and cost of the fertilizer we choose to use. Basically our costs of fertilizers are determined by the following:

1. Volume sold
2. Raw products used
3. Blending costs
4. Shipping costs
5. Physical characteristics

At a quick glance the variable in these five factors are obviously different with each fertilizer we purchase. Consequently we should be able to pin point these variables and justify the purchase of a particular fertilizer.

Choice of fertilizer should be made by the following:

1. Offset of labor reduction
2. More easily applied
3. More safely applied
4. More accurately applied
5. Offset of lesser plant needs.

Dr. Powell illustrated how any given fertilizer can be evaluated and furthermore compared to other competitive products by using the two lists above in conjunction with deciphering the label of the contents on a bag of fertilizer. The key to price breakdowns is to be familiar with what raw materials are selling for; for example, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. Only then can one determine how much of the cost per pound of fertilizer is involved with the blending and shipping costs. Add to the cost per pound your application costs, and you then have the total figures needed for selection of a fertilizer.

GOLF - IT'S AN EASY GAME

Everyone can learn to play golf! Once a player has mastered the grip and stance, all he has to bear in mind, in the brief two-second interval it takes to swing, is to keep his left elbow pointed in toward the left hip and his right arm loose and closer to the body than the left . . . and take the clubhead past his right knee. . . and then break the wrists at just the right instant while the left arm is still traveling straight back from the ball and the right arm stays glued to the body . . . and the hips come around in a perfect circle — and meanwhile everything will be mucked up unless the weight is 60 percent on the left foot and 40 percent on the right at the start . . . not an ounce more or less . . . and at just the right point in the turn the left knee bends in toward the right in a dragging notion until the left heel comes up off the ground. . . but not too far . . . and be sure the hands are over the right foot. . . but not on the toe more than the heel . . . except that the left side of the right foot is tilted off the ground . . . but not too far. . . and be sure the hands at the top of the swing are high and the shaft points along a line parallel with the ground. . . and if it's a downhill lie the shaft is supposed to be pointed downhill, too . . . and pause at the top of the swing and count one, jerk the left arm straight down like a bellringer yanking a belfry rope . . . and don't uncock the wrists too soon and pull the left hip around in a circle . . . but don't let the shoulders turn with the hips, they have to be facing the hole — and now transfer the weight 60 percent to the left foot and 40 percent on the right . . . not an ounce more or less . . . and tilt the left foot now so the right side of it is straight. . . that's the one you hit against . . . watch out for the left hand, it's supposed to be extended. . . but not too stiff or the shot won't go anywhere. . . and don't let it get loose or you'll hook. . . and let the wrists uncock. . . but don't force them or you'll smother the shot. . . and don't break too soon but keep your head down. . . then hit the ball! That's all there is to it!

American Christmas Tree Grower's Journal

FOR THOSE WHO LOOK AHEAD

The October, 1973 Mid-Atlantic meeting to be held at Woodmont Country Club has been changed to the first Tuesday (October 2) instead of the regular second Tuesday (October 9).

AND SPEAKING OF WOODMONT...

Bob shields, of Woodmont C.C., recently purchased a used farm hay bailer! According to Bob this new piece of equipment is saving his men many long hours of straw removal from his ten clay tennis courts. Prior to the bailer all his crew worked with pitch forks to move all the straw off the court into trucks and again off the trucks into a storage building for drying and than a third time to stack the hay once it dries out. The bails are moved only once now and are stacked for storage on rainy days — ingenuity.

A man who enjoys responsibility usually gets it. A man who merely likes exercising authority, usually loses it.

It is a rare man who can forgive the person he has wronged.

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