



CHARTER

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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October Meeting

WELCOME TO WOODMONT

Again it is my pleasure to invite you and your guests to visit Woodmont Country Club - to play golf, cocktails, dinner and then a meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members:

As the pressure of our profession winds down this time of year, it is time to evaluate the experience of the past golfing season and make plans for the future. The same evaluation and future planning is also being done by "your" Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. To assist "your" directors in this task I ask each of you to take a couple hours of "your" time and jot down "your" ideas for improving "your" association. Mail "your" recommendations to me:

Bill Emerson
21 County Court
Gaithersburg, Md. 20760

Our October meeting is the second Tuesday, the eleventh, at Bob Shield's beautiful Woodmont Country Club. I always look forward to Woodmont, and I'm sure we'll have a good turnout as October is the month of our Annual Golf Tournament. Come on out and enjoy a day of playing rather than working for the game of golf.

Yours for better turf for better golf.

Bill Emerson

Woodmont has two 18 hole golf courses, and you can play either one, but the association tournament will be played on the South Course.

Frank Murray built the North Course, and it was opened to play in 1950. The 6514 yard course was designed by Al Tull, who also did Norbeck and Westwood. He drew up plans for the back nine of the South Course, and we built it ourselves. It was opened for play in 1956 when Vice President Nixon cut the ribbon. The front nine of the South Course were designed and built by Leo Freudberg, Green Chairman at that time and myself. It was opened in 1960 and measures 6290 yards.

The greens were C-1 and C-9 bent grass when the course opened, but after many years of overseeding with Penncross bent grass seed, very little of the original grass remains. They are seeded at the rate of one pound of Penncross bent to each green during each month of the growing season.

The fairways were seeded with blue grass and fescue, but that didn't last long so we planted U-3 Bermuda. That went out with the cold winter of '62-'63, but we kept planting the strains that survived the winter with only short-lived success. We used Paraquat two years in a row and then seeded with common Bermuda, but fairways never got real good until too late in the season.

In 1973 we overseeded with Perennial Rye grass and have done so each fall since that time. As you play the course, you will see very little Bermuda grass on the fairways - the rye grass has almost crowded it out of the picture.

This year's fairway seeding operation may be in progress while you are here. We apologize for any interruption of play, but the job must be done.

We are overseeding with Pennfine and Yorktown Rye at 100 pounds per acre. The fairways were aerified twice, followed by the disc-type seeder with Pennfine seed. Two weeks later the Yorktown was planted by cross-seeding the first planting.

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The tees are also seeded to perennial rye grass and are cut at 3/4" three times a week. Numbers one and five tees are bent grass tees built on John Strickland's Egypt Farms sand mix, on top of gravel and tile. Divot marks look bad, but they heal quickly. The height of cut is 1/2 inch, and they receive the same treatment the greens receive.

Tee-off time is anytime after 12:00 noon. See our starter Frank, at the first tee. Tony Marlowe, Golf Professional, will be around to assist or answer questions regarding the tournament. Golf carts are available, but please, no hand carts.

CLUB RULE: The Club has a rule that coats and ties must be worn in the dining room. The Mid-Atlantic made the same rule years ago, and I think it should be observed. Inform your guests about this rule so no one will feel embarrassed.

Lunch will be available in the Men's Grill, if necessary. We ask that you sign a charge ticket and be billed through your club.

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October Meeting

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PROGRAM FOR THE DAY:

Lunch: 11:30
Golf: 12:00 noon (See Mid-Atlantic Golf Chair)
Golf Cart: \$4.00 each man (No Greens Fee)
Cocktails: 6:00 p.m. (Drinks \$1.75; Beer \$1.00)
Dinner: 7:00 p.m., \$12.50
Meeting: 8:00 p.m.
Speaker: Arranged by George Thompson

DIRECTIONS TO WOODMONT:

The Club is located at 1201 Rockville Pike, one mile south of Rockville. From Washington Beltway, take Exit 19 North on Rockville Pike, four miles on left, behind Congressional Shopping Center.

LADIES:

Sorry, no ladies this meeting. The ladies will be invited to a special Ladies' Night at Sparrows Point Country Club in October.

Present and Future Changes in Golf Course Maintenance

The goal of producing and maintaining the best possible turf for golf has remained constant through the years, but the tools and techniques used in maintenance have constantly changed and continue to do so.

We are well into the age of mechanization, automation and specialization. As with almost all professions, the apprentice has been replaced by the student.

The apprentice often worked for a small income or none at all to learn a trade, and he was prone to learn pat answers from the master tradesman or craftsman for handling routine situations and only a few unusual problems. He learned from experience, which is a harsh but usually lasting method which will never be totally replaced.

The student first gains a background in fundamental principles through formal education which applies to almost all situations. Upon completion of the formal phase of his education, the student is employed at a reasonable wage so that he may complete his technical knowledge to practical situations.

Briefly stated, the apprentice learns from experience, and the student gains experience while learning.

The Greenkeeper has given way to the Golf Course Superintendent or Turf Manager, and the Agronomist or turf specialist has arrived on the scene as a necessary part of our changing technology.

The Greenkeeper was usually a successful apprentice. The Golf Course Superintendent is a professional businessman. Turf management per se may be only a modest portion of the duties ascribed to today's successful Golf Course Superintendent, since a large portion of his time is consumed with purchasing, personnel management, equipment maintenance and repair, bookkeeping, irrigation design, installation, maintenance and use, landscape architecture and building maintenance to name a few areas in which he must have a working knowledge. He also is likely to have a respectable golf handicap.

Because of these divergent areas of responsibility, it is therefore improbable that the Golf Course Superintendent will be able to maintain more than a good

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