October Meeting
(continued from page 2)

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 As with almost all professions, the apprentice has been replaced by the student.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
Present and Future Changes
(continued from page 3)

working knowledge of all of them and will need to rely on
a specialist beyond that.

Research is vital to the continuing progress of turf
management, and to develop acceptable answers to new
and more complex problems that arise from day-to-day
as our technology improves.

Between basic research and the practical application of
the information it yields, there usually must be a
catalyst. This catalyst is usually called an Agronomist
and he functions to collect, evaluate and disseminate
useful information concerning turfgrass management.

The Agronomist may also specialize in physiology,
pathology, entomology, taxonomy or a seemingly
endless list of related subjects; but in any event his
efforts will be concentrated on a much smaller area of
learning than that of the Golf Course Superintendent.

A large portion of today's Golf Course Superintend-
ents have some formal education in the field of turf
maintenance than ever before. However, no matter
what level of formal education has been completed by
the turf manager, there is a basic need for information
which can most effectively be supplied by a specialist.

The cycle is complete only if there is a flow of turf
management information from the research effort
through the practical utilization phase and back again.

The individual who assumes that this cycle can be
effectively short circuited simply has not been exposed
to or realized the value of each state through which
information must flow in both directions at all times.

A glimpse of the future might reveal some superior
plant materials, synthetic soils, better diagnostic aids for
turf diseases as well as problems in general, disposable
and/or recyclable machinery and parts, totally comput-
erized maintenance operations as well as golf course
environments.

About the only thing that will probably remain intact
is the goal of producing and maintaining the best possible
turf for golf, and the dedication of the individual coping
with the challenge.

(This presentation made by Holman Griffin, NGF's
Staff Agronomist and Southwestern Regional Director,
at NGF's semi-annual staff meeting.)


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