

## **Topdressing by Michael Larsen**

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Due to the abrasive nature of the topdressing, we do not mow the day after topdressing but resume our regular mowing schedule the second day. If you have an old set of reels for your greensmowers, I would suggest you use these for your first mowing after topdressing.

With topdressing every 3 weeks, the greens receive about 10 applications a year. The cost of such a program is minimal. I budget \$3,000 a year for topdressing which represents less than 2% of my budget. This is sufficient to complete my topdressing program with enough on hand to repair divots and ball marks.

I do not think of my verticutting and topdressing programs as an extra operation to perform, but consider it as part of my regular maintenance program. I realize that uncontrollable circumstances, such as rain, sometimes interrupt schedules, but as turfgrass managers we learn very early in our careers to be flexible and always find some way to "Get the job done".

Unfortunately budgetary limitations may prevent some of you from topdressing with the frequency that I do, but I feel many of us could budget our time and money to topdress more frequently. Topdressing, usually represents a small percentage of a budget. When comparing dollars to benefits, a consistent topdressing program is a bargain in providing golfers with quality putting greens.

## **BWRC — March Meeting**

The 1980 Mid-Atlantic year started off with a bang. Over seventy members and guests enjoyed an outstanding buffet and open bar at Bretton Woods. Host Gerry Gerard and General Manager, Tom Yann received a big round of applause for giving us an enjoyable evening.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Ron Seilel, Director, Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland. He told us about the Institute of Applied Agriculture and stressed the point that they are lacking students for the coming year.

Dr. Dave Wehner explained to us the reasons that he is leaving the University of Maryland. He said that his main reason was the lack of research facilities and the present uncertainties of the future turf program. He will be going to the University of Illinois. He said that we all should write letters to the State government protesting the sale of the turf research farm.

Six golfers braved the cool weather to play 9 holes. No golf prizes were given.

Ben Stagg won the 50-50.

## **APRIL 8 MEETING MID-ATLANTIC A.G.C.S.**

WELCOME to Green Hill Yacht and Country Club. Green Hill is an 18 hole private country club organized in 1925 and opened for play in 1927. The original club house was built in 1928. In its early years it was a flat course, tees, greens and fairways. In 1931 the club acquired the services of Dr. Werner from Philadelphia, Pa. to design new greens and traps for the nine holes. In 1949 Mr. Alfred Tull designed the new nine and Russell Kerns, the Superintendent at that time, built the new nine. The course was opened for play in 1951. It was seeded to bluegrass and fescue.

In 1965 I came to Green Hill and in 1967 began planting Bermuda grass fairways and tees. Needless to say, we have since gone to a mixture of Manhattan, Citation and Pennfine ryegrass. We still have about seventy percent Bermuda.

Our fertilizer program is conservative. Four to five pounds "N" per thousand on fairways; six pounds "N" on tees; and five to six on greens.

We use Balan on our fairways and Ronstar in the approaches and tees. Two applications, April and August 1st. Tri-calcium Ars nate will be applied for the last time this spring unless I can find some from any place. We spray on a preventive program.

We do have drainage problems and will probably be working on these when you arrive.

I was raised on the golf course and worked under my father who was the first "Greens Keeper". I came back to Green Hill from the Elks Club in Salisbury in 1965.

**Golf:** Anytime after 11:30 — Carts-\$12.00

**Lunch:** Available any time — Cash Bar

**Dinner:** 6:30 — \$12.50

**Program:** There will be no guest speaker. Lou White has asked for an open meeting for discussion about his golf course.

**Directions:** Rt. 50 East to Salisbury, Md; cross single railroad track; turn right on Rt. 349; follow to sign on left 8 miles out; turn left on 352 to club. **YOU ALL COME!!**

Lou White