

Regional Green Seminar Recap

By Chris Ayers

What would you say to a one-day seminar jointly sponsored by the United States Golf Association, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and the Maryland State Golf Association? Especially, what would you think of three featured members of the USGA staff, three respected university professors, a Past President of MAAGCS, an excellent crabcake lunch, and a cocktail reception to finish the day? A total of 245 superintendents, assistant superintendents, golf professionals, general managers, club officials, state golf officials, and members of the media who took advantage of this exceptional educational opportunity and attended the annual Regional Green Seminar at Woodholme Country Club on March 20.

James Farrell and Stanley Zontek of the USGA, Dean Graves of MAAGCS, and Bobby Abbo of the MSGA—the respective organizers and hosts for the event—did a fabulous job of pairing well known speakers with timely topics. Due to the number of non-superintendent attendees, this seminar differed from many that we usually attend during the winter months. This was not a “preacher speaking to the choir” seminar. Many of the talks were geared toward novices and useful information was disseminated in a manner in which many in the audience with little or no turf background could find useful. Hopefully, there are many more informed decision-makers at our clubs these days as a result of this seminar.

To touch on just some of the highlights:

James Farrell, Manager Northeast Region USGA Regional Affairs

Electronic communications via E-mail and the Internet can be :

- An efficient communication tool

- A valuable resource for information and help
- Relatively inexpensive (assuming you have a computer and modem)

Kieth Happ, Agronomist Mid-Atlantic Region USGA Green Section

Bunker Management

- There is no such thing as an improperly placed bunker (Donald Ross)
- They should be refereed to as “bunkers” not “traps” and are considered hazards
- Bunker rakes are to be placed “down and out”
- Maintenance and definition of boundary are extremely important
- Each individual course must decide the color and type of sand appropriate for its facility

Stanley Zontek, Director Mid-Atlantic Region USGA Green Section

Achieving a Proper Balance Using Trees

- The game of golf is played on grass (the part you see) and trees hinder the proper development of roots (the part you do not see) that are essential for healthy turf
- Trees have a place on the golf course, but location, number, and variety must be considered
- Who put that tree there anyway ?
- Thunder & Lightning can occur at anytime

Dr. Karl Danneberger, Asst. Professor Dept. of Agronomy Ohio State University

Rolling Greens & Alternative Spikes

- Rolling increases your green speeds, but depending upon the time of year and the amount of growth and or

thatch, it may be short lived

- There is very little difference between types of rollers and the corresponding increase in speed
- Alternative spikes do not cause unseen long-lasting depressions or dimples unless the green is extremely wet/soft

Dr. Bruce Clark, Associate Professor Plant Pathology Rutgers University, Cook College

The Very Latest in Summer Patch Control

- Acidifying fertilizers, like ammonium sulphate, reduce the incidence of summer patch
- DMI fungicides and a new class which includes Heritage work best when applied preventatively to areas where summer patch has been a problem in the past

Dr. Peter Dernoeden, Professor Dept. Of Agronomy University of Maryland

The Very Latest on Diseases of Bentgrass and Perennial Ryegrass Fairways

- Grey leaf spot is relatively new to our area and here to stay and can now be lumped in with Brown Patch and Pythium as problem diseases in ryegrass fairways - THANKS PETE
- Grey leaf spot could possibly extend the spray season until the first frost
- Bentgrass fairways are susceptible to many of the same diseases prevalent in ryegrass fairways, but not nearly as severe.
- Dollar spot is the most common disease in Bentgrass fairways.
- Fine leaf fescues, especially hard fescue, will have an increasing role in answering the question of what type of grass should we be using in our roughs

(Continued on page 6)

Stephen Potter, CGCS, Golf Course Superintendent Woodholme Country Club

Bentgrass Conversion Strategies at Woodholme

- Impetus - gray leaf spot & under-standing membership
- The Process : new contours, Round-up, aeration (2x), slit seeding (various varieties and rates), drop seeding, dragging, and patience
- Higher rate—5#/M as opposed to 2#/M—significantly better - germination, density, and Poa prevention

Stanley Zontek, Director Mid-Atlantic Region USGA Green Section

Understanding the Turfgrass Options

- There is not one single grass that does not have a list of pros and cons
- All have either disease, playability, or establishment concerns
- Research being done to improve turf varieties and their adaptability
- Each course must determine its needs and budget in order to best select a grass type

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

Position Statement Regarding the Use of Alternative Footwear Options to Metal Spikes.

The Golf Course Association of America (GCSAA) recognizes there is considerable information establishing the benefits of alternatives to metal spikes. It is GCSAA's position that facilities should consider requiring the use of these alternatives. GCSAA recognizes that many factors affect the decision to mandate alternatives to metal spikes. These factors may include any or all of the following:

- Design of the golf course
- Perceptions of golfers
- Quality expectations of golfers
- Region of the country
- Turfgrass species and varieties used on the golf course
- Climate
- Level of ability of golfers
- Amount of foot traffic on the golf course
- Maintenance levels and budgets
- Liability or legal issues

While it is the responsibility of each golf course to determine what policy is best

for their facility, GCSAA is committed to facilitating the development of these policies through the accumulation and dissemination of information. As a result, it is in the best interest of facilities to consult with the golf course superintendent before making a decision. GCSAA will serve as a comprehensive source of information in the following areas:

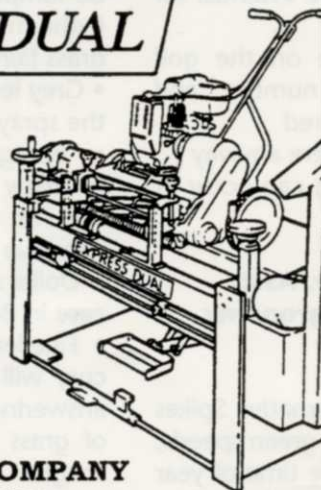
- Agronomic questions
- Financial impacts
- Legal questions
- Golf course aesthetics
- Golfers' perceptions
- Anecdotal information
- Impacts on playability

Where valid information exists in these areas, GCSAA will collect and make it available through its various resources to its members and the industry. Where information does not exist in a particular area, GCSAA will identify and encourage research to obtain this information.

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