

Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference Shows Advance

Mid-Atlantic Assn. of Golf Course Supts. held its annual turf conference Jan. 8 and 9 at Baltimore, Md. Dr. Ernest N. Cory of the University of Maryland was director of the conference. The theme of the meeting was "The physical make-up of soils."

O. J. Noer of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission was the first speaker. Following his introductory remarks he, assisted by Dr. Edward Strickling, Charles Wilson and Al Radko, conducted a laboratory demonstration on soils.

A panel consisting of the following men displayed plugs taken from greens at their respective clubs: Bob Scott, of the Baltimore CC; Bill Glover of Fairfax CC, Fairfax, Va.; Charles Schalestock of Farmington CC, Charlottesville, Va.; Jim Thomas of Army-Navy CC, Arlington, Va.; James Roach of the Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Va. and Bob Shields of Sligo Park GC, Silver Spring, Md.

Each gave a history of the greens from which the plugs were taken; also a comprehensive report on the materials used for topdressing mixes. The purpose of this phase of the program was to explore the possibilities of establishing standards

in topdressing. Although no conclusions were reached the lively discussions indicated keen interest in the subject.

The first day of the conference was concluded by a dinner, after which Col. W. K. Bonnell, Washington, D. C. entertained approximately 88 turf men with kodachrome projected slides of beautiful scenes in Japan.

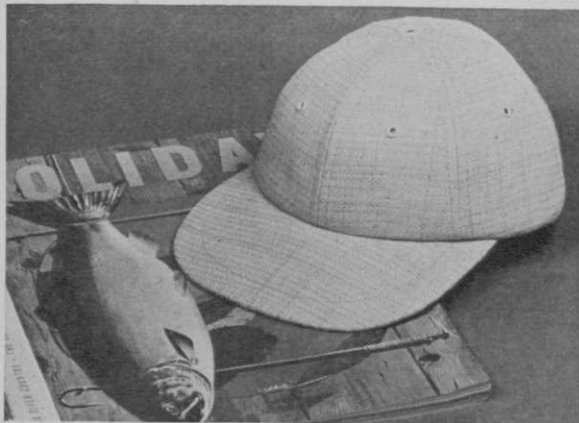
The second day of the conference opened with a panel discussion on "Factors that are important in design and construction of greens". Adm. John Phillips of the Army-Navy CC, was chairman of this session. Admiral Phillips is the type of green chairman every golf course superintendent wants. He introduced Bill Glover and Bob Scott, who covered all known facets of this important subject.

A. M. Hedge of the USDA showed a motion-picture and commented on "Soil Erosion". Everyone in attendance was greatly impressed by the dramatic presentation through micro-photographic filming of the devastating power of rain drops when falling on barren soil. It certainly served to remind us of the important part grass plays in preventing soil erosion.

Dr. Fred Grau of the USGA gave a review of the outstanding results achieved at Beltsville during 1951. He stressed an

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optimistic outlook on the possibilities of Zoysia grasses.

Al Radko gave a comprehensive summary of crabgrass control, using table slides. —CHARLES SCHALESTOCK

Bob Scott, during the design and construction session at the Mid-Atlantic meeting showed how to make clay models of greens for planning purposes. Those models help when the shot-making and maintenance factors are being coordinated before building.

Scott remarked that people seldom realize how much turf and turf management has advanced from 35 years ago. "Then," said Bob, "there was more grass around a golf course than on it." Bill Glover made a practical observation at the Mid-Atlantic meeting: "The scientist discovers; the superintendent proves."

Among the many high spots at that meeting was Fred Grau's review of turf work at Beltsville. Fred showed big blocks of Meyer Zoysia (X-52) overseeded with Merion bluegrass (B-27) brought from the Plant Experiment station, and explained them.

Those exhibits gave the experts at Baltimore basis for the belief that we're entering a period of great change and improvement in golf grasses.

—TOM MASCARO

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