

Co-operative Monthly Sessions Great Help To Supts., Clubs

ACCORDING to informed club officials and superintendents, and certainly according to GOLFDOM's knowledge and belief, the pattern of the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. monthly meetings is one of the most definitely valuable contributions superintendents' collective effort has made to progress in maintenance.

The Mid-Atlantic members operate in a territory where weather conditions and, often, old construction, punish the courses and superintendents without mercy. In coping with a troublesome and complex array of problems the Mid-Atlantic men at their monthly meetings at various courses play and inspect the host courses, discuss matters with the host superintendent and in the association's monthly "Turf News Letter" submit definite suggestions for the help of the superintendent and chairman.

Frequently visiting turf experts join with the Mid-Atlantic supts. At the July Mid-Atlantic meeting Al Radko, acting Eastern Director of the USGA Green Section; Tom Mascaro of West Point Products Corp., and Fred Grau, Graumurray Grass Service, were among those active in the program. The Fountainhead CC, Hagerstown, Md., was host with Lloyd Stouffer, chmn.; Clarence Lindsay, supt., and Arnold Hamecke receiving for the club. Three other chairmen—Essex of Columbia CC, Fuchs of Manor CC, Adm. Phillips, Army & Navy CC—also were present, as was ex-chmn. Dinsmore of Belle Haven CC.

Mayor Winslow Burhams of Hagerstown attended the meeting of 56 superintendents and other visitors.

Constructive Suggestions

The "Constructive Suggestion Report" on the Fountainhead course is in the usual concise practical style of these summaries. It read:

"Al Radko, Acting Eastern Director of the USGA Green Section, directed the discussion for constructive suggestions of the Fountainhead course. Al complimented Clarence Lindsay on the fine condition of the golf course and brought out the point that Clarence is one of our most

faithful members—he attends and supports all of our local meetings regularly. In addition, he attends many national and state turf conferences throughout the year. As a result, Fountainhead CC derives the benefits of the things he has learned at these conferences and meetings, and the condition of the course showed it.

Greens

"Al complimented Clarence on the condition of his putting greens and emphasized that from all outward appearances the watering technique was very good. The greens putted very well, were well manicured, and were in very good condition despite the heat, humidity and lack of rainfall.

"Clarence then gave a short history of the establishment of his greens and the maintenance and management practices that he follows. The greens have no tile sub-surface drainage, and therefore are completely dependent on surface drainage which was excellent. The physical condition of the greens has been improved by incorporating a top-soil mixture of sand and soil into the root zone through an intensive aeration program. All of the greens are seeded, using one-third Astoria, one-third Highland, and one-third Seaside bents.

"It is recommended that a nursery of the improved strains of C-1 Arlington and C-19 Congressional be established and maintained as putting green replacement sod if the need for replacement sod arises at some future date. The bent-grass selection which Clarence is managing as putting green turf on the 15th fairway appears to be worthy of expansion and trial in some putting green areas. Perhaps the practice putting green would be a good testing area for this selection.

"Greens number 15 and 16 are the most troublesome on the course due to their pocketed and low locations. It is felt that in the long-range program some thought should be given to elevating these greens, with subsurface drainage provided, for better air circulation. If for one reason or another, the thinning-out of trees or brush is not possible, root pruning of trees is advisable as the tree roots around



Bidwell photo

ENGEL DESCRIBES RESEARCH RESULTS AT RUTGERS

Rutgers University annual turf field day this year drew 175, mainly of those interested in golf turf although other turf interests were well represented. In this view, Dr. Ralph Engel is explaining one group of the plots to some golf course superintendents. U-3 Bermuda and zoysia plots received considerable attention, as did an outstanding exhibit of disease prevention and control with a combination of Tersan and Calo-Clor.

No. 16 are unquestionably competing with the grasses for nutrients.

"The collars on greens were especially good. They were well grassed, and showed the effects of good mowing and watering technique.

Tees

"The turf on most tees was good despite the smallness of the tees. On many of the short par 3 sunny tees it appears as though some thought should be given to the introduction of U-3 bermudagrass or the improved strains of Zoysia. These grasses will bear traffic better and will stand up under heavy play better than the present tee grasses.

"Only a small amount of planting stock is necessary to start a nursery which in the long-range program could be built up to sizable areas. A good turf nursery is good insurance—it is there to use as needed.

Roughs

"A spray program using 2,4-D is recommended for the roughs to eliminate the broad leaf weeds such as Buckhorn and plantain. It is also recommended that the roughs be mowed more often to prevent some of the weeds from heading. Rotary mowers are coming more and more into the picture as they do an excellent job of rough mowing."

Asks Other Experts' Advice

In preparing for the Aug. 4 Mid-Atlantic meeting at Woodmont CC, Rockville, Md., Bob Shields planned as a little side-

show operation of a horse-drawn mower to remind the supts. how far they'd come in course maintenance.

Shields and his chairman, Leo Freudberg, prepared a list of specific problems at Woodmont they wanted visiting superintendents to observe, study and discuss. The list, mimeographed, was handed out to Mid-Atlantic members as they teed off.

As an indication of the attitude that prevails at these inspection rounds, tours and meetings, the Mid-Atlantic July bulletin carried this note:

"Bob Shields has asked for a special Constructive Suggestion Report and for fear that some of you may overlook his troubles he lists some of them below and asks that you help him solve them." Then Bob listed clover in fairway, silver crab around greens, cause of trouble on No. 6 green every year, cause of ever-present dollar spot, and hard tees. He also wanted to know if the fellows thought Woodmont needed additional tees, traps and drinking fountains.

Leo Freudberg, Woodmont's chairman, asked that the superintendents make special efforts to have chairmen attend so they may learn what superintendents are doing for golf in the area.

Freudberg, Adm. Phillips, Stouffer, Essex, Fuchs, Dinsmore, and other chairmen whose courses have been visited by the constructively cooperating superintendents can tell chairmen anywhere in the U. S. that when they get help of the sort the Mid-Atlantic members give, the clubs are tremendously benefitted.