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MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS

1951
DECEMBER NEWS LETTER

Last Meeting

On Tuesday, December 4, 137 members and their guests met with George Cornell at the G. L. Cornell Co. in Bethesda for steak and oysters. Year after year Mr. Cornell has been host to this Association at this time of the year and each party is always better than the one before. This year was no exception and offered each individual the opportunity to enjoy fine Maryland oysters, tender steaks and good fellowship.

This meeting as usual brought out the largest attendance of any meeting since the previous Cornell meeting. As one humorist said "There were some there whom we had not seen in a year and they ate as tho they hadn't eaten in that time". It is rumored that one "gentleman" ate three steaks and after hearing of the power of the oyster finished off a half bushel.

No formal business was transacted by the association, the meeting was not called to order, it was truly as our Past President Hugh McRae once said "everybody talking, nobody listening."

We must extend our most sincere thanks and appreciation, both collectively and individually, to George Cornell, Leon Brown and all connected with the G. L. Cornell Co. for making this most enjoyable occasion possible.

Annual Conference

The next meeting is considered by all serious Turf men to be the most important gathering in the year in this area. As in the past the Annual Turf Conference will be held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel in Baltimore and will be under the direction of our good friend and adviser, Dr. Ernest N. Cory of the Department of Entomology, University of Maryland.

Dr. Cory and the members of the Education Committee have assembled a list of speakers worthy of your attendance and a list of subjects aimed at both informing the individual and renewing the memory of those more experienced.

The theme of the conference is "The Physical Make Up of Soils". Through an examination of the Constructive Suggestion Reports it was found that in each we dwelled on either thatch or mat, soil strata, compaction, the underlying causes of each and the necessary corrective measures. In keeping with the topic of the past year the theme for the conference "The Physical Make up of Soils" was naturally selected. Since it is a well known fact that a particular turf is no better than the underlying soil it will help all of us to try to learn how to improve our turf from below.

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Tribute to Green-Section

The greatest advance made by the Association in 1951 was the origination of the Constructive Suggestion Report. In this report the members present at each monthly meeting would give their suggestions as to how the course visited could be improved or any trouble corrected. After these ideas were all assembled a committee would edit them then make up a report and send it to the Clubs Green Chairman.

Reports from the start have been received with considerable interest and enthusiasm by the Clubs visited and the Association has received requests from Clubs not on our schedule for special visits in order for such a report to be made on their courses. The Golf Course Reporter and Golfdom have given the Mid-Atlantic some valuable national publicity endorsing the idea and encouraging its continuance.

The person most responsible for this advance by having conceived the idea is Charlie Wilson. The Association is very grateful to Charlie for this contribution and also for his invaluable help in editing the reports and supplying the push that got the Turf News Letter out on time each month. It is ideas such as this that makes Charlie one of the outstanding young turf specialists of the nation and some day all of us can say "I knew him when". This Association is indebted to the entire staff of the Green-Section for their cooperation during 1951. Especially Al Radco for filling in so capably when Charlie was out of town, Mrs. Ann Drenan for typing and Dr. Grau for making it all possible by giving his sanction.

Transcript of Proceedings

Each person attending the conference will receive a written transcript of the proceedings through the courtesy of West Point Lawn Products that will make a valuable addition to your turf library. Be certain your correct address is on the registration form.

Dues statement

You will find enclosed your statement for membership dues for 1952. To have this obligation out of the way and to make things easier for Charlie Schalestock the new Secretary-treasurer why not come prepared to pay your dues during the turf conference.

Reservations

Those who plan to stay at the Hotel should phone at once for reservations. To be assured prompt consideration please state that you are to attend the Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference.

Projects for 1952

1. To plant an entire fairway to Zoysia Z-65 and overseed with B-27 blue grass in order to introduce the fine playing qualities of Zoysia to the player. This project is planned for May or June - your reactions are solicited.
2. To draw up a set of by-laws for the organization perhaps copied in part from the National Association.

Another Reminder

There is still time to make plans to attend the National Turf Conference and Show in Columbus, Ohio, February 4 to 8. At the latest count six information seeking members of the Mid-Atlantic said they were going to attend and that number alone is enough to assure a fine time but there should be many, many more representatives from an organization such as ours. Go if you can - you will never regret it.

Sincerely,

Bob Shields,
President