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TURF NEWS LETTER

(Official organ of Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents)
(Prepared in Cooperation with USGA Green Section)

February 12, 1952

THE BELT VILLE MEETING

Fifty-one members and guests were in attendance at the Bureau of Plant Industry for the February 12th meeting. Among the guests were Bill Johnson, Past President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. We were fortunate to have Bill Johnson at the meeting, who is one of the leading exponents of Better Turf on the West Coast. Bill was in Washington to visit his daughter who recently was hospitalized by an attack of Polio. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that Bill's next visit can be made under more favorable circumstances. The Association sent flowers to Bill's daughter.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

Shape of Things to Come

Fred V. Grau, Director, United States Golf Association Green Section, and our host for the day, welcomed the group and extended an invitation to the Mid-Atlantic Association to meet at the Bureau of Plant Industry again next year. Highlights of Dr. Grau's excellent talk with kodachrome slides on the "Shape of Things to Come," included:

1. Better Turf for the Nation - The primary function of any turf organization. Dr. Grau recalled the meeting that he attended with the Mid-Atlantic in 1946, and mentioned that this group is now recognized as one of the outstanding and leading Associations in the country.

2. Continuation of the Decentralized Program - The tremendous growth of interest in Better Turf is responsible for the development of Turf Advisory Committees. In time to come Dr. Grau foresees four levels of advisory service.

A. National - Continuation of the close support between the GCSAA and the Green Section leading to the formation of a National Turf Advisory Council. Active participation of superintendents in Turf Advisory Committees will be a large factor in developing personnel for this national council.

B. Regional - Based on the activities of turf interests normally faced with similar problems. The Mid-Atlantic Education and Policy Committee serves in this capacity at the present time.

C. State - Using Pennsylvania as an example, other states will develop programs of turf research, extension and teaching, guided by Turf Advisory Committees, duly recognized by the College.

D. Local - Mid-Atlantic Association an outstanding example which will serve as a guide for other local turf advisory committees.

Financial support will be the key to the sound development of these turf advisory committees. In 1951 Green Section Service Subscriptions brought in \$6300. Seventy percent of this fund is channeled into turf research, and in the past this fund has been responsible for the development of new leaders in turf, as well as contributing the fuel for the answers to many turf problems. Commercial firms, in the main, have been the source of this fund, although today golf courses in ever increasing numbers are subscribing to this plan in addition to their regular membership dues. Dr. Grau passed out Green Section Service Subscription blanks to the assembly with a request for new Subscribers, particularly among firms that make their income from turf but who have not been providing financial aid.

3. Recent Developments - A kodachrome story on "The Shape of Things to Come," indicated trends towards increased use of Zoysia in vegetative plantings and also as direct seeding; wider acceptance of Merion bluegrass and increased seed production of this strain; continued and increasing use of motorized caddy carts; Alta or Kentucky 31 fescue for roughs; and polycross creeping bent seed for putting greens.

Tregaron in the Spring

Hugh McRae showed the importance of color to golf in a movie on Tregaron, the Davies Estate. A riot of color would best explain the beauty of this estate, and one can not help but agree with Hugh, that beauty in landscaping will tend to pacify all, even those who go out of their way to find fault with a golf course. The following remarks, taken from Hugh's introductory talk, are worthy of note, and if followed can not help but improve a superintendent's relations with his club members.

"The average superintendent concentrates so much on his greens and fairways that he is firmly convinced there is nothing else on the golf course. Some pictures shown last week at Columbus of the Grand Hotel in Alabama nicely demonstrated that greens and fairways are only a part of the overall picture.

"There are many clubs where only 50% of the members play golf, and to those who only play a little tennis or swim, there is nothing more relaxing than well landscaped grounds around the clubhouse, and regardless of what your landscape architect recommends, there is nothing more relaxing than color.

"A careful selection of trees and other shrubs can provide color the whole season, and for an investment of \$100 to \$200 and the care of one acre of land, enough rooted material can be planted to eventually take care of the whole course. By planting tight and thinning out as required, a minimum of space and maintenance makes it possible for even the most undermanned course to take care of part of this work.

"Most of the shrubs shown can stand reasonable shade - in fact some prefer it, and the initial planting is the thing that counts. Late fall and early spring suits both the superintendent and the plants, and with the exception of azaleas, bugs are not a problem. When grouped heavily azaleas can be sprayed in a short time, and two sprayings each summer is all that is required.

"Just why privet should be always selected to hide the garbage cans has always puzzled me when there are a dozen flowering shrubs that would do a better job with less care. Where you have a fence exposed to the fairway tie a piece of chicken wire on it and let the honeysuckle climb. When this is sheared as you would a hedge, you have one of the prettiest pictures on the course, as treated in this way it will flower right through the summer on the hard wood.

"Crepe Myrtle in all the colors from white to red cannot be overplanted. In July and August when the greens are beginning to look a little sad, a good planting of this southern shrub, preferably facing east or south, will send the average golfer back to the clubhouse talking about the beautiful color at #6 instead of the first thought that came into his head when he saw the green.

"Superintendents, to my mind, should be no less psychological than the game they sponsor."

Appreciation

This Association wishes to express its appreciation to both Dr. Grau and Hugh McRae for their well prepared educational contributions which did so much to assure the success of our Beltsville meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING

Charlie Schalestock is doing such a beautiful and complete job on the minutes of our monthly meetings that your Education and Policy Committee will only cover the highlights of the business meeting in the future.

Highlights

Prexy Bob Shields reported 26 from the Mid-Atlantic area were at the GCSAA meeting in Columbus Bill Glover expressed appreciation to the Mid-Atlantic for their successful efforts in having him re-elected to the Board of Directors Consensus of opinion showed it was Bill's competence more than any other factor that was responsible for his return to the Board for another term of office. . . . Bob read a letter from Mr. Tufts to Jim Thomas thanking the Mid-Atlantic for their recognition and appreciation of the Green Section staff Mr. Tufts stated that the Mid-Atlantic was a recognized leader in the field and it was his hope that more locals in time would become equally as strong.

Bob Shields mentioned a side trip with Charlie Wilson to Cincinnati to see John McCoy and Taylor Boyd John (Cincinnati Country Club) is a

mechanic and inventor par excellence with motorized fertilizer spreaders and compost screens Taylor (Camargo Country Club) is a recognized authority on Golf Course Records as well as being one of the foremost turf experts in the Cincinnati area Taylor's records show beyond a question of doubt that better turf could be had for less cost at Camargo even in these days of rising prices Bob has a copy of the forms Taylor uses for anyone interested.

Jim Thomas, acting on Charlie Schalestock's suggestion, proposed that O. J. Noer should be an honorary member of the Mid-Atlantic. . . . Everyone in complete agreement as well as complete amazement that it hadn't been done before.

New Committee Members

Prexy Bob Shields announced the following committee appointments for 1952. At the same time he wishes to express his appreciation for the fine support he had from committee members and the membership as a whole in 1951.

Education and Policy Committee ✓

Bob Scott Jr., Chairman - Thomas, Watson, Glover, Lumsden, LeDuc, Reid, McCarty, Wilson, Radko, Phillips

Membership Committee ✓

Francis Coupe, Chairman - McRae, Edgar, Treacey, Leverton, Campbell

Publicity Committee

Bill Glover and Bob Scott, Sr. ✓

Nominating Committee ✓

John Connolly, Chairman - Hitchcock, Fitts, Dick Scott

Golf Committee

Bill Srieber, Chairman - Hines, Leavell, Stanley, Cornell, Hanrahan

Transportation Committee

Cornell, Disney, Hatcher, Milan

Turf Conference Committee

Leon Brown, Chairman - Kidwell, Neil Holmead, Bob Holmead, Smith

GCS/A Policy Committee

Thomas and Schalestock

The President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer are ex-officio members of all committees. Duties of Committee Members can and should be obtained from Charlie Schalestock.

Zoysia Planting Project

This is another reminder that April 22, will be here before we realize it. Remember to circle the date on your calendar, and be at Fairfax at 9:00 a.m. with as many workmen as you can spare.

Jim Thomas suggested, and it was unanimously agreed that this will be our only meeting in April. In order to assure the success of the planting project our Manor meeting will be canceled

The Zoysia Project is the Mid-Atlantic's opportunity to boost research and production years ahead of the present schedule. The project will be talked about for years to come, and the Mid-Atlantic will receive much of the credit. At least 50 superintendents will be needed to make this venture a success.

Correction

Because of an error in the December Newsletter, "Golfdom" mentioned that Z-65 zoysia seedlings would be planted at Fairfax. This never was intended for planting on this scale. Z-73 is the strain to be planted at Fairfax because of the proven vigor and spreading ability of Z-73 seedlings in existing turf.

NEXT MEETING - LAKESIDE COUNTRY CLUB

Harry Allanson, Israel November, and Lakeside Country Club, Richmond, Virginia, again play host to this Association on March 4. You will recall last year that our efforts were hampered somewhat because of the terrific downpour. This is our first opportunity of the year to get the rust out of our bones with a game of golf and to hear one of the foremost weed control men in the country discuss "Chickweed and Clover Control."

The Speaker - Dr. Warren Shaw

Many of you will recall Dr. Roy Lovvorn's excellent talk on "Crabgrass Control" at our Bethesda meeting last year. On March 4, we will be favored by a talk on Chickweed Control from Dr. Warren Shaw, also of the Weed Control Division at the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Dr. Shaw is possibly the only man in the country to do all of his undergraduate and graduate work on weed control problems. Both his Master and Doctor thesis papers were on this subject. Further, Dr. Shaw is coordinator for all weed control work in the southern states. His activities at Beltsville include the development and evaluation of new herbicides; and the physiological effects of herbicides on crops and weeds. As an example of the scope of his investigations some 1300 chemical compounds were tested at Beltsville in 1951, and only 50 of these show promise for further investigation. Dr. Shaw works very closely with the USGA Green Section on weeds in turf in addition to weed problems in agronomic crops of every description.

We are honored to have Dr. Shaw as guest speaker, and trust that all members will make every effort to attend the Lakeside meeting.

Directions and Transportation

Lakeside Country Club is located one mile north of Richmond, Virginia, on U. S. 1. Car pools will be formed in Baltimore at the Baltimore Toro Company office; and in Washington at G. L. Cornell Company, F. W. Boigiano Company, and the National Capital Toro Company. Final arrangements should be made with either Witcher, Cornell, Disney or the Holmead boys.

The Baltimore group should leave for Richmond no later than 8:00 a.m.

The Washington group should leave no later than 8:30 a.m.

Remember

Golf at:

Lakeside Country Club
Richmond, Virginia
March 4, 1952 - 12:00 p.m.

Dinner and Meeting at:

Lakeside Country Club
Richmond, Virginia
March 4, 1952 - 6:00 p.m.

Coming Events

February 25 - 28: Fifth Cornell Turf Conference, New York State
College of Agriculture, Cornell University,
Ithaca, N. Y. Statler Inn - John F. Cornman

April 22: Zoysia Planting Project, Fairfax Country Club, 9:00 a.m.