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Charlottesville, Va.

TURF NEWS LETTER

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

THE BELTSVILLE MEETING

February 17, 1953

The Annual Beltsville Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held in the auditorium of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The USGA Green Section staff consisting of Dr. Fred V. Grau, Al Radko and Bob Elder, were the hosts for the 36 members attending.

From the number present our hosts no doubt concluded that many of our loyal members were still recuperating from the Atlantic City meeting.

BUSINESS MEETING

President Jim Thomas called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. Charlie Schalestock read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the treasurer's report - both were approved as read. Charlie next read letters which had been received from Dr. Grau, Al Radko, Charlie Wilson, Mr. O. J. Noer, Mr. Isreal November, and Mr. Densmore, thanking the Association for the privilege of being honorary members. Letters were also received from Dr. Jim Watson of Toro Mfg. Co., Dr. Jack Harper of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Mr. T. L. Gustin of Philadelphia Toro, praising the Association for its outstanding work, and expressed their desire to continue receiving our Newsletter. Charlie then read Dr. Grau's memorandum informing us of his resignation as Director of the Green Section. We are all sorry to hear of this and we all sincerely hope that in his new position (as yet undetermined) that he will continue to be a leader in the field of Turf. The Mid-Atlantic finds it most difficult to say Bon Voyage to Fred and sincerely hopes that our paths continue to cross and recross in the many fields of TURF. Letters also were received from Dr. Vaughn of Michigan State, and Dr. Shaw of the USDA, thanking us for the privilege of presenting their papers at our Baltimore Conference. Gentlemen, you are confused, the privilege was ours.

A letter was received from Mr. Essex, Committee Chairman of Columbia Country Club, stating that the Board of Governors had approved our proposed plan regarding the establishment of a zoysia fairway on their course. Al Radko indicated that the Green Section intends to go through with the zoysia project which have been proposed.

Bob Shields gave the Education and Policy Committee report outlining the plans for the proposed zoysia projects.

Mr. Hines reported that the Membership Committee intended to set up a program to bring around our delinquent members. When reporting on the Publicity Committee, Bill Glover stated that this Association doesn't realize how outstanding it really is. We have gained recognition both locally and nationally as one of the leading Associations in the country. We are presented with a real challenge - can we uphold the position we have made ourselves?

John Lovell, Chairman of the Golf Committee, suggested the Calloway system as the system of handicapping to use in our tournaments. John said the Calloway system would give the high handicap man equal advantages with the low handicap man.

The business meeting was adjourned and the members retired to the Station Cafeteria for lunch. After lunch the afternoon session was opened by Al Radko, the master of ceremonies for the afternoon's events. The Green Section staff arranged for a group of speakers who would do justice to a national meeting. Al stated that this organization is indeed lucky to be situated so near the hub of agricultural research, from which we can derive such a volume of valuable information. We are indeed grateful for the opportunity of having these leading figures in their respective fields speak before us on this occasion.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES

Diseases of Turf Grasses

Dr. K. W. Kreitlow, Sr. Pathologist,
Div. of Forage Crops, BPI, U. S. Dept.
of Agriculture

Our first speaker for this afternoon was Dr. Kreitlow, who is the Senior Pathologist for Division of Forage Crops and Diseases here at the Plant Industry Station. Since the Green Section is considered part of the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases, Dr. Kreitlow has kept a watchful eye on the development of zoysia. Realizing the important role zoysia will play in future turf development Dr. Kreitlow began research work on zoysia to determine whether or not it is susceptible to any turf disease organisms. The only disease he has found to which zoysia is susceptible has been the dollarspot organism. Zoysia seedlings were inoculated with this disease in the greenhouse. The infection spreads along the leaf and down into the sheath, eventually killing the plant. At present there has been no work done in the field, and they have not found any zoysia turf in the field which has been infected with the dollarspot organism. At present they have all three zoysia species in the greenhouse, and several of the improved strains which they intend to inoculate with the disease. This summer they intend to make field inoculations for further study. In closing, Dr. Kreitlow stated that the future possibilities of totally disease-free zoysia turf looks very promising.

Synthetic Soil Conditioners

Dr. M. S. Anderson, Sr. Chemist,
Soils Div., BPI, USDA

The well-known Dr. Anderson of the Soils Department here at the BPI Station

received the first samples of these so-called miracle conditioners for testing two years ago. Dr. Anderson began by explaining that the purpose of these new soil conditioners is to assist in producing the desired granulated condition in the soil. The soil conditioners cannot produce this desired condition of good tilth by themselves. The soil must first be put into good tilth, then the soil conditioners thoroughly and intimately incorporated into the soil to help stabilize this desired condition of good tilth.

The soil conditioners are available in dry or liquid form. The materials in the dry form tend to cake-up readily, therefore, an inert material has been added to help prevent this condition. It is important, however, to know the percentage of active material, as too much may do more harm than good.

Dr. Anderson next mentioned a few of the advantages of these materials when used properly. They may be incorporated in the soil close to the surface to help prevent erosion, and surface splashing. There is very little movement of the material once it is placed in the soil. These conditioners are for heavy soils. By helping to provide a granular condition, they assist in the movement of water and air through the soil. At present there is no known benefit to established turf through the use of these new synthetic soil conditioners.

In his closing statement Dr. Anderson emphasized the fact that there is a great deal more information needed on these materials before we can feel justified and secure in using them.

Further Studies on Urea-form

Dr. K. G. Clark - W. H. Armiger,
Sr. Chemist, Div. of Fertilizer and
Agricultural Lime, and Assoc. Agronomist,
Soils Div. respectively, BPI, USDA

To begin his talk Dr. Clark of the Fertilizer and Agricultural Lime Division, USDA, stated that in the more recent years there has been an increased demand for synthetic organic fertilizers. One of the most successful of these synthetic organics to be developed is ureaform. This is urea treated with formaldehyde.

In 1950, Dr. Clark began an experiment here at Beltsville to evaluate the rates of nitrification of an inorganic nitrogen fertilizer, a natural organic, and some of the synthetic organics. For this experiment Dr. Clark used ammonium nitrate for the inorganic nitrogen, Milorganite as the natural organic, and five different ureaform preparations as the synthetic organic fertilizers. They were applied at the rate of 4 pounds of N per 1,000 square feet. The ammonium nitrate provided a readily available supply of nitrogen, giving the grass a quick, lush growth. The Milorganite and the ureaform provided the grasses with a slowly available form of nitrogen producing a more uniform, heartier growth. If the materials are applied in late spring the ammonium nitrate shows the most effective results when they are compared right after application. If compared in midseason, they all rate about the same and by fall the ureaforms appear to have given the best results. Dr. Clark stated that these observations are not conclusive, but that the ureaforms do show a great deal of promise. Because of the great demand for new synthetic urea in other commercial fields there is only a limited supply available for production of ureaform. Another problem confronting

the producers of ureaform manufacturers is a method of determining whether the urea, the nitrogen carrier, is of high quality material, after it has been mixed with the other chemicals in making the fertilizer. Dr. Clark feels sure these problems will be overcome in the not too distant future, and that these improved fertilizers will help to provide us with a more desirable playing turf.

Crabgrass Control Studies at Beltsville

Dr. W. C. Shaw, Agronomist, Div. of
Weed Investigation, BPI, USDA

Dr. Shaw, with whom we are all familiar and deeply indebted to for his other informative talks before our group, discussed the work he is conducting on crabgrass control here at Beltsville. He began by stating that the members of this group and others like us are engaged in the most intensive form of agriculture being practiced today. But, like all other people engaged in agriculture, we have several problems in common. One of these is the control of weeds. Weeds are not plants which grow where they shouldn't be growing, they are simply growing where they are not desired. The best method to control weeds are by ecological and cultural practices. That is to say, use the improved strains of grasses and maintenance methods. Chemical controls should be used as supplementary to the above mentioned practices. The crabgrass control experiment being conducted by Dr. Shaw in cooperation with the USGA Green Section here at Beltsville, is designed to determine the effects of several maintenance practices and different chemicals on the control of crabgrass. Because this experiment was not started until rather late in the summer of 1952 no definite conclusions can be drawn. Dr. Shaw did state, however, that several combinations of chemicals showed real promise of control.

Dr. Shaw also mentioned that C.I.P.C., one of the chemicals he has been working with, gives good control of chickweed in bluegrass turf when used at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds per acre at this time of year. An experiment is in the planning stage now to determine the effect of C.I.P.C. will have on Poa annua, fescues, and bents, when used to control chickweed.

In closing Dr. Shaw reminded us again that when using chemicals caution should be stressed, and to depend on research for our answers, as research points the way.

New Aspects of Growth Regulators

Dr. P. C. Marth, Physiologist, Basic
Growth Studies & Horticultural Corps
BPI, USDA

Dr. Paul Marth, our next speaker of the afternoon, discussed the experimental studies he conducted in the early summer of 1950 on the use of Maleic Hydrazide as a chemical lawn mower. The experiment was conducted on bluegrass turf cut at $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches using solutions of 0, .5, 1.0, and 2.0% Maleic hydrazide. In all cases immediately following the applications there was a loss of color and burning. This burning ranged from light to medium on the low rate and heavy burning on the higher rates. Because of the injury to the turf at this time of year, crabgrass took over. Instead of a decrease in the amount of clippings,

there was an increase, and instead of having the desired bluegrass turf, Dr. Marth ended up with the typical Washington lawn - crabgrass. As far as maleic hydrazide - well it just doesn't take the place of the lawn mower.

As Dr. Marth conducts research on growth inhibitors for B.P.I. he brought along several slides showing some experiments which had more desirable results.

Our Station Lawns

Mr. R. R. Knight, Grounds Superintendent,
BPI, USDA

Mr. Raymond Knight, Superintendent of the Grounds at BPI, gave a very interesting talk on the work he has done using the improved strains of grasses. The improved strains for which he had the highest praise were Alta fescue, Kentucky 31, Merion bluegrass, Meyer zoysia, and the combination of Meyer and Merion. Ray presented a series of slides showing the establishment and steady improvement of the BPI front lawn, using Alta fescue. At present Ray is plugging the entire front lawn with Meyer zoysia using a new plugging machine which, to date, has proven fairly successful. He stated that in the next four or five years he hopes to have the entire BPI Station grounds planted to zoysia. The first area planted to Meyer zoysia was behind the South Building in 1948. Now it is considered one of the best pieces of turf on the Station. Mr. Knight has always worked in close cooperation with Dr. Grau and the Green Section staff, and is always more than willing to lend a helping hand. Dr. Grau expressed his appreciation and thanks to Mr. Knight for all the assistance he has given the Green Section through the years.

Highlights from the National

Mr. Jim Thomas, President, Mid-Atlantic
Assn. of Golf Course Superintendents and
Dr. Fred V. Grau, Director, United
States Golf Association Green Section

President Jim Thomas next presented a few of the highlights from the National Superintendents Meeting at Atlantic City. This 1953 meeting was the largest since the conference in Chicago. There was a total attendance of close to 1,000, and of this number 35 were representatives of the Mid-Atlantic Association. This Association was greatly honored in having so many of its members and associates on the program. These members included Bill Glover, Bob Shields and Charlie Schalestock, and our most honorable member Admiral Jack Phillips, each of whom gave an interesting and informative talk. Bill talked on "Operation Zoysia", Bob on Fertilizer, Charlie on Golf Course Records and Adm. Phillips asked several good questions on "Why Interfere with our Golf?", and each talk was well received and reflected nothing but credit on our organization.

Our final speaker for the day was Dr. Fred V. Grau. In presenting his summary of National Meeting, Dr. Grau began by giving credit to the Golf Course Superintendents Association for focusing the nation's interest on Golf Turf, and its improvement. He continued by stating that although there are many new developments in turf grasses, maintenance practices, machines, materials, and methods the man must still do the work. He must maintain the balance. Let us recognize

his position and help him to do an even more efficient job. The concern of many at the Conference was - Where are the young men? We must provide an educational program to educate and interest young men in this type of position.

Some of the impressions gained at this Conference show the need for a decentralized research program for the development of Better Turf. Warm-season grasses are still met with mixed feelings, but with a keen interest.

On conclusion Dr. Grau stated we must strive for even greater perfection for those for whom we work.

COMING EVENTS

- March 10: Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Va.
Host Superintendent; Charles Schalestock.
- March 9-11; Turf Conference, Iowa Golf Course Superintendents and Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa. H. L. Lantz.
- March 11-13; Minnesota Turf Conference, sponsored by Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.
- April 7: Washington Golf & Country Club, Arlington, Va.
Host Superintendent; Francis Coupe'.
- April 22-23; Seventh Annual Southeastern Turf Management Conference, Tifton, Georgia. B. P. Robinson
- May 5: James River Country Club of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
Host Superintendent; Tom Dawson

GOOD READING

Bulletin 542 - Sept., 1951

"Urea-Formaldehyde and other Nitrogenous fertilizers for use on turf."
The Pennsylvania State College, School of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, State College, Pennsylvania.

Farmers Bulletin No. 2047

"Maintaining Drainage Systems" U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

KNOW YOUR HOST

Charles Schalestock, the superintendent of Farmington Country Club, will be our host for the March meeting of this Association. Charlie first worked at a Club in New Jersey, and became Superintendent of Farmington in 1948 where he has been doing a fine job. Charlie is one of the outstanding members of this organization. He has served two terms as our Secretary and Treasurer of the Association and deserves our hearty congratulation for his fine work. Charlie is also very active in the National Golf Course Superintendents Association and is a member of the Nominations Committee. For our Farmington meeting Charlie has scheduled to demonstrate the methods of using dynamite to open drainage channels, breaking hardpans, and aerating putting greens. Charlie plans to begin his

demonstration at 10:45 A.M. so come early and enjoy the interesting program he has arranged.

NEXT MEETING

Place: Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Virginia

Date: March 10, 1953

Time: 10:30 A.M. - Dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Transportation - for directions and transportation facilities consult your Transportation Committee representative. Members of this committee are Mr. Witcher, Mr. Wilson Disney, Mr. George Cornell, and the Holmead Boys. Due to an oversight we failed to list Neil and Bob Holmead as members of the Transportation committee in our January Newsletter. Our humble appologies Gentlemen. Car pools will be formed, and a meeting place will be designated. For those who are driving - turn right off of highway 250 four miles west of Charlottesville. Shine up your clubs, gents, we are opening the season at Farmington. See you there.

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