



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



PUBLISHED BY

MID-ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS TO AID IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND MERIT

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APRIL 1955

THE BETHESDA MEETING

Tuesday, April 5th, 1955 found some sixty Mid-Atlantic superintendents and guests holding forth at the Bethesda Country Club for their April meeting.

Host superintendent, "Lum" Lunsden welcomed us to Bethesda and made it a point to have on hand many of his club officials to greet us. They were: Mr. F.O. Day, Club President; Al Sepulveda, assistant greens chairman; John Watson, Club Secretary and his assistant, Arthur Alley; Joe Tait, Chairman of House Committee; Tom Manning, former chairman and member of the greens committee; and John Russ, the Swimming Committee Chairman. Our old friend Harry Grismer was on hand, as was Jim Hunter who is Lum's assistant.

Bethesda Country Club has made great advances since our last gathering at this club in May 1951. The constructive suggestion report for that meeting showed that the fairways on the new nine were underfed. That it was necessary to cross in front of several tees during the course of play. The practice putting green was quite a distance from the club house, and was located in a dangerous position just off of the eighteenth fairway. It is now situated on the lawn in front of the club house. The other conditions mentioned now no longer exist. The new fairways have shown much improvement during the last four years. The crisscrossing of holes in going from one green to another tee has been eliminated.

It is most gratifying to this association to see that recommendations mentioned in the May 1951 "NEWSLETTER", which carried our first constructive suggestion report have been carried out at Bethesda, resulting in an even better golf course. It is the satisfaction that comes from results like this that gives us the encouragement to keep up our constructive suggestion feature.

We found "Lum's" greens to be uncontaminated with clover and Poa Annua. The stand of bent grass was pure and clean of unwanted growth. Some of the putting surfaces on the first nine showed a few minor scars left from last season, caused by either wilt, a late attack of brown patch, or a fertilizer burn. These spots are not serious and should fill in with favorable growing weather.

One fact that is worthy of mentioning is that the Bethesda greens have no areas that are not available for cup locations. Their entire surface provides ample space for changes. Quite a few of the approaches and aprons contain localized hard spots that show bare ground. We would suggest that these areas be aerated, ground limestone applied, then sodded or spot seeded, heavily fertilized and followed with a top dressing of good loam. By doing this they could be greatly improved.

There is some evidence of a buildup of thatch and excess grass exists on quite a few of the greens. Such conditions, if allowed to continue, could cause much trouble later on in the season when temperatures become high. This unwanted growth should be removed by vertical mowing or heavy brushing or raking followed by close cutting. Some of the greens have a decided grain to them which will be greatly reduced, if not eliminated, by vertical mowing. Grain in greens when discovered should be eliminated at once for better putting.

On some of the greens the mixture of C-1 or C-19 seems to be separating. We have often heard Dr. O.J. Noer express the opinion that this may some day come to pass. Is wilt or disease attack a contributing cause? C-1 seems to stand up under adverse conditions better than its companion C-19 and will recover from trouble very readily if given a chance.

Ruben Hines in conducting this constructive suggestion report commented on how well advanced the course was for this early in the season. He told us that "Lum" was well qualified to look after the wants of Bethesda's layout. We agree with this. "Lum" is an old timer in the game and knows the growing of grass from A to Z.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

SUBJECT: * THE USE OF KRILIUM IN GOLF COURSE GREENS

GUEST SPEAKER: - MR. D.D. REICHERT OF THE MONSANTO CHEMICAL COMPANY

Mr. Reichert presented his interesting talk on the use of Krilium with the aid of both slides and sound film. He told us that, "Krilium helps to keep the soil in a continuous state of cultivation and tilth, that it would prevent a hard surface crust from forming which could hinder emergence of plants and cause excessive run-off. That it would help maintain a soft loose soil which would allow air and water to enter as needed. Also, roots would be helped to spread more quickly and easily."

Krilium is rated as a chemical soil conditioner that gives fast easy control of soil structure. One application is said to fix and hold soil for years in a state of tilth most favorable for plant growth.

The material works by chemical action on the clay particles in the soil. Clay particles are almost too small to be seen by the naked eye. They tend to pack and become solid soil - the type that is mucky when wet and hard as concrete when dry. When you cultivate you break up this solid clay - but it won't stay broken up unless conditioned in some manner. Krilium causes the tiny clay particles to cluster together into spongy crumbs called aggregates. Given a few hours to set it fixes the clay in crumbs indefinitely. The substance enters the spongy aggregate and forms links between the clay particles to prevent breakdown.

Soil treated with Krilium resists erosion, it absorbs water very readily. The soil will not wash no matter how heavily watered. Sealing and crusting stops. Air gets down deeply into the soil. Soil bacteria multiply rapidly. Heavy impervious soil can be made into good seed beds and kept that way. The effects last for years. On treated soil surplus water drains out quickly.

It helps to prevent over saturation.

Mr. Reichert said one pound of Krilium would treat one cubic yard of soil at a cost of \$1.80. The recommended application of the material per 1,000 sq. ft. of surface to a depth of 6 inches is 20 pounds. Hence, the cost of using it in putting green construction will be governed by the depth which it is to be worked into the soil. Mr. Reichert estimates that the cost for treating a new green of 5,000 square feet should be around \$180.00, this would place the Krilium in the soil to a depth of 3 inches.

Krilium can be introduced into established greens by adding it to compost. The greens are first aerified and the soil cores are removed, then top dressing containing the material is worked into the aerifier holes. Dry materials such as fertilizer, sand etc., can be used as carriers. It is necessary to have all materials well mixed and blended before making the application.

Soil should be well cultivated before applying Krilium. It should be added at least from 24 to 48 hours before the soil is to be used. A soil that is workably moist is desired, one that easily crumbles between the fingers, and is slightly dry on the surface. The recommended amount of Krilium should be evenly spread over the prepared ground and incorporated into the soil through mechanical tilling. The better the cultivation and mixing, the better the soil structure that Krilium will fix and maintain.

Jim Reid is doing quite a bit of work with Krilium at the Suburban Club in Baltimore. It will be well to follow his work with the material and watch what the final results are. At the moment, Jim says: It looks good and he is well pleased. Time will tell and let's hope that Krilium turns out to be another tool to be used to the advantage of good golf turf. There is one thing to remember - unless you follow the instructions for its use to the letter, the results may not be satisfactory. One very important factor is the moisture content of the soil prior to incorporation of Krilium.

WORD OF THANKS

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the members of the Bethesda Country Club for the privilege of holding our April meeting at their Club.

REGIONAL TURF SERVICE.

On Friday, April 1st, 1955 the Green Section of the USGA set up the Regional Turf Service for the Mid-Atlantic area. Our old friend, Mr. Charles K. Hallowell is to be the director and will be assisted by Mr. William Bengeyfield. This association welcomes both of these gentlemen to the district and they are hereby assured that we will co-operate with them in any way possible.

Throughout the years of the Green Section's existence the Mid-Atlantic has benefited by personal contacts and friendships with the staff of the Green Section. This association has always been a pleasant one as well as being of high educational value to our members. Let's make it a point to see that the

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relationship continues.

The last director at Beltsville was our good friend, Al Radko. We owe Al much. To him we say: we have lost a buddy who was modest, unassuming, but highly efficient.

A MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Mr. L. Robert Shields
Pres. Mid-Atlantic Association
of Golf Course Superintendents
c/o Woodmont Country Club
Rockville, Maryland

Dear Bob,

I regret not having talked with you at the Columbia Country Club meeting, but do greatly appreciate the co-operation of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents in staging such a successful meeting.

As soon as I get this wide and varied territory in the Mid-Atlantic section organized I will be in to see you. Please know and inform the members of your organization that I am deeply interested in all their activities. I will do whatever I possibly can to assist the Association.

Looking forward to working with you, I am

Sincerely yours,
Charles K. Hallowell
Mid-Atlantic Director
USGA Green Section

GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

Amid perfect golf weather, 37 members and guests partook in the regular monthly tournament on a tricky but well-groomed course.

The highlight for the golfers was the 18th green, one of the finest finishing holes in the area, where amid the jokes and jeers of a critical gallery many a member had to blast out of a myriad of traps surrounding the green.

In the last "NEWSLETTER" it was stated that the tournament would be a strict handicap event, however a misunderstanding resulted in some members playing under the assumption that it was a blind bogey. To avoid any ill feeling, a draw was held and prizes awarded for this event also.

Many thanks to Professional Harry Griesmer and his assistant Freddie Moore for their help in conducting the tournament for us.

The prizes were awarded as follows:

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Blind Bogey

1st
Jimmy Thomas
G.L.Cornell

2nd
Joe Cockriel
Louis Bargmann

Low Gross

1st
N. Discati
Jim Brand

2nd
Tom Manning

Low Net

1st - Harry Allanson
2nd - Chas. Schalestock
3rd - Adn. Phillips
4th - R. Hines, Jr.
E.E. Stanley
5th - R. Hines, Sr.
A.B. Alley
Bill Peterson

At the Bainbridge meeting we again will have a Handicap Tournament and handicaps will be assigned on the basis of the last two month's scores. Members who haven't competed this year will be asked to please give an honest handicap before participating. All guests will be asked to show handicap cards. There will be no blind bogey. No handicaps over 36. (L.W. Brown please take note.)

Louis Bargmann,
Golf Chairman

NEXT MEETING

Dear Bob,

I talked to Captain Catlett of the Navy Training Center at Bainbridge.

Everything is in order for our May 3rd meeting. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. and there will be a social period before dinner.

The Captain made the following suggestions:

1. Everyone is required to wear ties
2. The "NEWSLETTER" will gain them admission at the gate, but if anyone has trouble getting in, call Ext. 267 and ask for Commander Tatro.

Bainbridge can be reached by going north from Baltimore on Route 40. Turn left at the first light on the other side of the Susquehanna Bridge and keep going until the entrance is reached. On Route 1, turn right immediately after crossing the Conowingo Dam. It is about 5 miles to the Center. It can't be missed.

Leo Cleary will be our speaker. His subject will be " WEED CONTROL ."

Hope we have a good turnout at Bainbridge,

Yours,

James A. Reid

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INVITATION TO BAINBRIDGE

Mr. Robert E. Scott, Sect.-Treas.
Mid-Atlantic Assoc. of Golf Course Supts.
1409 Medfield Ave., Baltimore-11- Md.

Dear Mr. Scott:

For the past year I have read with considerable interest the reports of the Association's monthly meeting.

It gives me great pleasure to extend to you and your membership an invitation to visit Bainbridge on May 3.

Under separate cover the Chairman of your reception committee, Captain W.J. Catlett, Jr.- U.S.N. is sending you programs and guide to the Golf Course from Rts. 1 and 40.

Looking forward to meeting you in May, I am,

Most sincerely,

H. W. Howe
Capt., USN.
Center Commander

NEXT MEETING

PLACE - Bainbridge Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland

DATE - May 3, 1955

GOLF * 12 noon

SOCIAL PERIOD - 6 p.m.

DINNER - 7 p.m. , followed by Business Meeting

DIRECTIONS * See page 5 of this "NEWSLETTER"

Note: Captain Catlett's request that ties be worn at this meeting.

DELINQUENT DUES

Dues for membership in this association are now past due. Unless yours are paid in the very near future, your name will be dropped from the mailing list, in accordance with the by-laws.

Bob Scott, Jr.
Secretary-treasurer

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TO MEMBERS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

St. Charles Ill.
March 31, 1955

We have been asked to help locate a working superintendent to take over all maintenance work on the Big Bend Golf Course, Uhrichsville, Ohio. The man to be engaged will hire and pay his own help and pay all expenses for the course maintenance out of a percentage fee of all green fees taken in. There will be no expenses except when course is in play. Season is from about April 10 to October 15 or later.

For details on this matter, write to:

Mr. Robert B. Hillis
Big Bend Golf Course
Uhrichsville, Ohio

It is suggested that those interested in this employment be consistent with the pay scale applicable to the area.

ALSO

We have been asked to help locate a superintendent for the Topeka Country Club, Topeka, Kansas. Requirements include clubhouse grounds maintenance and ability to work without constant direction. For further information write to:

Mr. Dick Jacobs
c/o Fleming Wholesale Grocery Co.
Topeka, Kansas

We would appreciate hearing of your response to these inquiries. Please mention that these employment inquiries were referred to you by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Very truly yours,

Agar M. Brown,
Secretary

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SAFETY HAS NO QUITTING TIME

READ THE GOLF COURSE REPORTER ----JOIN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

CONTINUATION OF EXCERPTS FROM A PAPER GIVEN BY BOB SCOTT, SR. AT THE BALTIMORE
TURF CONFERENCE

TOP DRESSING

Top dressing as a regular part of maintenance on putting greens dropped off considerably during the past twenty-five years. It used to be a usual thing to top dress with sand just before winter set in, then top dress with compost in the spring. It was thought then that the sand would penetrate into the soil and thereby lighten it if the soil was on the heavy side. The type of sand used was usually too fine and all it did was to make a layer some of which can still be seen in the old greens today. Top dressing still has its place, especially if the greens are Bermuda. Personally, I do not think it is necessary for regular maintenance on established greens. Spot or hand dressing of low uneven places should be done regularly as sometimes depressions will develop from cup changing and clover just loves to start in them. More top dressing is being done after aerating with coarse sand, humus or whatever material is deemed necessary to improve existing conditions. Top dressing that is done today is made of screened top soil mixed with coarse sand, humus or whatever material is deemed necessary to improve existing conditions and is usually applied with a mechanical spreader immediately after aerating.

THATCH CONTROL

Thatch control is something we did not worry too much about in the past, so that may be the reason for more of it now. Seeded greens usually did not thatch or show grain except in spots where a coarse strain of bent was evident, so one reason may be the strain of bent that is being used. Another may be over-feeding for growth or color. Height of cut, cutting with the front rollers on or lack of brushing may be other causes. A heavy thatch may make a green look like a million dollars, but the putting surface not worth ten cents. I was born and lived for years in a thatched cottage in Scotland and I don't remember the rain ever coming through the roof, so we know thatch on sloping greens will certainly cause the run off of a lot of water. This prevents chemicals used for insect control, disease control or fertilizer from reaching the source as intended. Thatch or grain makes for very poor putting- slick one way, stiff the other. It does not seem to me that there is much poling of the greens in the early morning as formerly. I believe that is a big help if it is done against the grain. It also reduces the weight factor of soaking wet grass in the catcher. Thatch on fairways of bent or Bermuda can also be troublesome, the same as on the greens. The thatch or pillow effect can cause the golfer to lose strokes by the ball moving while addressing it.

Verti cutting, aerifying, combing can do a good reducing job, then watching the diet or plant food factor to keep the thatch down.

SICKNESS DEPARTMENT

Our friend and fellow member Gus Hook, Superintendent of Parks for the city of Baltimore is in Mercy Hospital after a heart attack. So is Irvin Schloss, Golf Professional at Mt. Pleasant. We wish these men a speedy recovery so they will be able to participate in their big event - the Eastern Open - which they originated