



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

L. R. SHIELDS EDITOR WOODMONT COUNTRY CLUB BOX 352, ROCKVILLE, MD.
JAMES E. THOMAS EDITOR ARMY NAVY COUNTRY CLUB ARLINGTON, VA.

The first regular Mid-Atlantic meeting of the 1955 season was held at the Officer's Golf Club, Fort Belvoir, Virginia with Master Sergeant Tom Fullerton as our host superintendent. The Sergeant in making early arrangements for our coming wanted to know how many to expect. He was told that our average attendance in mid-season was between fifty and sixty, but as March is very early in the year, there might not be a turnout of more than forty people.

After what happened, we are through making any future guesses. The first meeting of the year, heretofore, has always been a weak one from the standpoint of attendance. A final count of those who sat down to the dinner table showed that 79 members and guests were present. This is an all time attendance record for the Mid-Atlantic, exceeding by 7 the figure set at Columbia Country Club last May. President Bob Shields says: "This turnout is a tribute to Sgt. Fullerton and the club officials and proves that our policy of visiting clubs that we have never visited before is sound."

As soon as a very excellent steak dinner was finished, and it alone was worth making the journey, President Shields opened the meeting by announcing the passing of former member Charles J. Treacy of a heart attack at Phoenix, Arizona where he was employed as superintendent at Phoenix Country Club. Charlie was secretary-treasurer of the association in 1951 and had many friends in the Mid-Atlantic area. His untimely passing was marked by a moment of silence at the beginning of the meeting.

Next our host was introduced, who in turn presented the following Belvoir officers: Col. I.B. Chubbuck, club president, Col. A.H. Makholm, greenschairman, and other club officers- Maj. J.A. Offner, Capt. A. Heady and G.A. Leonard. Club pro Eddie Stevens was on hand and did a good job of welcoming Mid-Atlantic members. Eddie previously had conducted the golf tournament for us.

Each official extended us a warm and cordial welcome to the post. We appreciate very much the privilege of being allowed to meet at Fort Belvoir and hope that the opportunity occurs again real soon. Also, we invite them to meet with us at any or all of our gatherings during the season.

Bob Scott, Sr. introduced the man who is to succeed him as superintendent at Baltimore Country Club, Mr. LeRoy McElheny. Mac received an official welcome extended by the chairman on behalf of the association and the assurance that we are behind him 100%. We wish him every success on his new job.

The first item on the program was the constructive suggestion report led by Jimmy Thomas.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Any long term program of golf course improvement needs continuity of thought in planning and a reasonable degree of permanence in personnel for complete success. A change over in supervision along with club officials every two or three years in most cases wipes out the careful preparations and experience gained by those who are being replaced.

Many military installations, nowadays, have golf facilities on their grounds. Around Washington, D.C. alone there are some ten or twelve such layouts. We are wondering why the several different branches of Special Service have not stepped into the picture and trained GI personnel to operate military golf courses. As their scope of activity encompasses recreation, why don't they include golf in the program?. Such a move would certainly improve the standard of play and maintenance on Army and Navy golf courses.

The present eighteen hole layout at Fort Belvoir is about five years old and considering the rocky and rugged terrain it is built upon, much has been accomplished in a short period of time. Those who have been a part of this deserve much credit and commendation for their work.

We do not recommend any drastic change in the present turf management other than the continued improvement of that which is already in existence. The playing areas of tees and greens are ample in size and they have a fair stand of grass which could be thickened up considerably by judicious use of lime and fertilizer. As a word of caution in following this advice make fertilizer applications frequently and at moderate rates, guard against extra heavy doses which would burn the vegetation. Organics are to be preferred as they are safest and easiest to apply. A weed removal plan before fertilization would be beneficial. Sodium Arsenite and 2-4D are the best herbicides to use and should be applied at prescribed rates. We would continue to remove rocks and stones from playing areas as time and labor permits. This could be followed up with spot seeding and a light mulching.

As open as the property is bermuda grass would provide a much more suitable turf on the tees and fairways than the present sparse stand of blue grass. Bermuda is a grass that thrives under high temperatures and grows very rapidly during the summer months when a good turf is most needed. Also, it will tolerate a great deal of wear and tear and heals quickly. Prior to seeding apply 500# of 5-10-5 fertilizer per acre and then at the time of seeding apply 250#. After seeding apply another 250#. The above schedule should be followed on a weather permitting basis.

Bermuda grass may be planted either by seed, sod or sprigs. The sowing of seed is advised in the spring as soon as all possibility of frost has passed. Hulled seed should be sown at the rate of 80# to the acre and with a drill seeder for best results. Some un-hulled seed could be used which would provide a staggered germination and might be beneficial if adverse weather conditions should exist. The recommended rate is 60# hulled with 20# unhulled.

It was good to see that Sergeant Fullerton had removed soil cores from each one of the greens with a hole cutter making it easier for us to form an opinion on how they had been constructed. They appear to have a very thin layer of top soil high in organic matter and the mixture is lacking in sufficient sharp sand. The sub soil is in the nature of a very heavy clay which holds moisture in the upper areas instead of permitting it to run through. This means that water control and drainage are very important in the management of the greens.

It is recommended that the greens be aerated frequently and this operation followed by applying a top dressing mixture of good loam containing not less than fifty percent sharp concrete sand. This mixture should be well worked into the holes made by the aerating machine by using a drag mat, by poling or with the back of a rake. As a final word, we would like to emphasize the importance of good water management, but lean to the dry side as much as possible. Proper watering comes with experience and close observatin of the moisture needed on each green.

Many putting green fertilizer programs are available. Any one that will supply 8-10 pounds of actual nitrogen (half organic and half inorganic) per thousand square feet per year is good. Never apply more than one pound actual nitrogen per thousand square feet at any one time and apply at ten day or two week intervals. In hot weather cut amounts to 1/4 or 1/8 pounds nitrogen per thousand.

NEW COMMITTEES

Our new president announces the following committee appointments:

Executive Committee:-

Chairman- Jim Thomas	
Jim Reid	Louis Bergman
Dick Watson	Cliff Eisley
Frances Coupe	Chas. Schalestock

Membership Committee:-

Chairman- Chas. Schalestock
(Pick two men to help)

Golf Committee:-

Chair: Bargman Sheridan
Seacrist Hancock

Program Committee:-

Jim Reid
(Pick two men to help and for their experience)

Transportation:-

Geo. Cornell	Bob and Neal Holmead
Wilson Disney	Jack Witcher
	John Milan

Tournament Prize Committee:-

Frank Haske
Leon Brown

National Policy Committee:-

Jim Reid
Jim Thomas

SPECIAL MEETINGS TO INTRODUCE NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The USGA Green Section announces the appointment of a Regional Director for the Mid-Atlantic area. The gentleman will be introduced at two special meetings sponsored by the USGA, the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents and the several golf associations of this area. One meeting will be held at Columbia Country Club on April 1 at 8 p.m. and the other at the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond on April 4 at 8 p.m. These are not dinner meetings.

Every member of this association is urged to attend either one of these meetings or both to show the Green Section that we are behind them in this move to give more turf grass service to our clubs. Also each superintendent is asked to personally invite his greenschairman to attend so that the new program can be explained to all.

The Green Section and the Mid-Atlantic have been close friends for many years. This association has received every possible co-operation and consideration from the Green Section through our close contacts with the office at Beltsville and much favorable prestige has come our way through these contacts. We haven't forgotten the pleasant and educational meetings with Dr. Fred Grau when he was Green Section Director and boosted the superintendent at every opportunity. To Dr. Grau also goes the credit for the idea of the zoysia fairway planting project from which we received nation wide publicity for testing zoysia on a large scale.

Another Green Section man who has been of great service to us is Charlie Wilson who is now director of the Western Office. Charlie showed us how we could be of more service to clubs we visit by writing a Constructive Suggestion Report telling the club how we think the golf course might be improved. This idea has been adopted by other superintendents' associations all over the country and has done much to elevate the standing of the golf course superintendent.

Other Green Section personalities who were always ready to assist while they were connected with the Beltsville office are Marvin Ferguson, Bob Elder, and Al Radko, all of whom taught service.

Here are some facts about the Green Section that few of our members realize:

1. The Green Section is a scientific agency whose mission is to assist the USGA member clubs in the upkeep of their golf courses.
2. It operates for service and not for profit.
3. It was created because the member clubs needed a turf research and advisory agency.
4. It was formed November 30, 1920 " for the purpose of collecting and distributing information of value respecting the proper maintenance and upkeep of golf courses" and still exists for that purpose.
5. The Green Section has developed many new grasses, materials and methods now in standard use.
6. It is the only scientific agency whose work is devoted solely in the interests of golf courses.

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Their work is devoted to our work, but their work cannot succeed without our co-operation. We owe it to ourselves, our golf courses and to golf to give this program our wholehearted support. Meet with the Green Section representatives at either of the above mentioned meetings and get acquainted with the new regional director. We will probably be working very closely with him in the near future and will want to help him get his program off to a good start.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at the Bethesda Country Club on Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, Maryland on April 5, with T.S. Lumsden as host superintendent.

Golf - 12 noon
Social Period - 5 to 6 p.m.
Dinner- 6 p.m.
Meeting - following dinner
Guest Speaker- D.D. Reichert
Subject:- The use of Krilium in golf course greens.

DIRECTIONS:-

Bethesda Country Club is located on Bradley Blvd. which state route #191 and one of the main cross streets in Bethesda, Md. From either Richmond, Hagerstown, Washington or Baltimore go to Bethesda and find Bradley Blvd. then turn west about 5 miles to the club.

The Transportation Committee is at your service. Call one of them for transportation to Bethesda Country Club.

Golf Committee Report

For the first outing of the season at Fort Belvoir a blind bogey was held with 17 participating. Rusty swings were in evidence as only one player broke 80- Joe Haposkey had a 76. Winners were as follows- 1st Richard Dick, 2nd Thomas Pocicio, 3rd Bob Shields and Louis Bargmann.

For the Bethesda meeting handicaps will be bases on the honor system. Those who have established handicaps will please present same at 1st tee before teeing off. When registering to play, all who do not have handicaps will select a handicap true to the best of their knowledge. Prizes will be awarded for both gross and net. Henceforth all meeting scores will be on file and after the Bethesda meeting handicaps will be adjusted monthly on scores turned in at meetings. One score card per foresome will be required and scores must be attested. The final yearly tournament will be played using handicaps established during the season. All members, associate members and guests are eligible to participate in monthly tournaments and are urged to do so. However the annual fall tournament is limited to regular and life members who are able to qualify. Putting contests, Hole-in-One contests and other features are planned for coming season as the situation permits.

Your Golf Committee
Louis Bargmann, Chairman

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Following is a continuation of the talk made by veteran superintendent Bob Scott, Sr. at the Baltimore Turfgrass Conference titled " Twenty-five years in Golf Course Management. "-

GRASS CUTTING

The cutting of grass today has, I believe, kept up with the times. Power and speed is evident everywhere. It might be called the push and pull age, push a button or pull a lever and go. Who among us remembers the days when we had to push a Shanks or Coldwell putting green mower with no ball bearings, just bushings, or drive an old horse hooked to a Triplex fairway mower or sit on the top of a Coldwell power roller mower. What a job of compaction it did, and no real way to relieve it either.

There are cutting units now for all purposes, so many in fact it is a job in itself selecting the right one. There is still an art in cutting greens and fairways to get the best results - changing the direction of cutting regularly, adjusting the height of cutting best suited to the types of turf required, and cutting with combs or brushes in front of the reels.

The machines of today are built to perform as nearly perfect as possible, and the superintendent should keep a close watch on them to see that they do not get out of adjustment. Twenty-five years of improvement have done wonders however, lighter and stronger machines for cutting greens and fairways are something to be hoped for in the future.

FERTILIZING

When one looks back at the many kinds of fertilizers used to grow turf up until about 25 years ago, it is enough to make any self respecting grass turn up its nose and say something nasty. However the elements were there even though in crude form and some very good results were obtained. Spreading barnyard manure or chicken manure or sludge was the usual procedure on fairways and other areas. The greens were usually top dressed with compost which had well rotted manure and bone meal as the main ingredients. Chemical fertilizers were available, but mostly made for agricultural purposes and if I remember right they were rather vague about the analysis. The Guanos from South America were also used. Spring fertilizing was the usual procedure so there was always enough residue to produce a nice crop of crab grass, clover and weeds through the summer months.

As time went by refinements took place and one began to learn what was in the bag. How the PH was affected. Soil testing outfits were now available and corrections could be made by liming or the use of Sulphate of Ammonia to get the PH more in line with what the grass needed to grow.

Up until World War III there were plenty of good organic fertilizers available to mix with the chemical ones which produced the water soluble nitrogen, phosphate and potash. Cottonseed and soy bean meal, animal or fish tankage were some of the organics that are now going into chicken and hog feed and are now practically unobtainable for fertilizing purposes.

Lately the trend has been to quick acting easily applied fertilizers for both root and foliage action so it is important to keep up with the times, attend the meetings and conferences of our associations and follow the

results of the experimental stations. Also do some testing ourselves on our own soils and grasses.

PEST CONTROL

Pest control is not so much of a problem as it used to be. During the past 25 years we have come to know them and we give our thanks to the entomologists who identified them and to the scientists and chemical men who made the insecticides to control them. When the Japanese Beetle first landed on our shores we were really caught unprepared. None of the insecticides we had at that time would come close to killing them. I remember visiting a course outside of Philadelphia named Sandy Ruh. What a mess! Turf destroyed, trees defoliated and no sign of anything except trappings to stop them. A year or two later a group of Baltimore superintendents visited Elkton, Md. at the invitation, I believe, of Dr. Cory and Dr. Langford, our State Entomologists. There they were still testing various types of traps, but as yet no sure cure except that arsenate of lead was proving to be a big help killing them in the grub stage.

Then came the discovery of the milky white disease. How happy we were to supply Dr. Cory and Dr. Langford with healthy grubs to inoculate with the disease spores so that they could multiply the disease, spread it around and help to stop our enemy. Also about that time Dr. Cory sent out some of the Tiphia wasps which were brought over from Japan to some of the Baltimore courses which included Five Farms. I am glad to say that between them and the spreading of the Milky White disease, the turf at Five Farms was saved. The wasp must have multiplied fast for students from College Park have collected thousands every year since to send to other places where the beetles are without natural parasites. Then came severe attacks on our greens and fairways of Chinch bugs. Again Dr. Cory and Dr. Langford were a big help in getting them under control. The discovery of DDT, Chlordane and other good insecticides has given us the means of getting rid of ants, sod web worms cut worms, angle worms, stink worms, which mar our greens if left untreated. The dry weather of this past year showed other small insects at work. Some of the finer grasses, mostly bents on the lowest and wettest parts of our fairways were turning brown or disappearing altogether. Getting down on our knees and examining the turf closely we found swarms of the common garden leaf hopper sucking the life out of the grass. A spraying of chlordane fixed them and also some Chinch bugs that were found there. Every season has its insect problems.

Let us leave the past for just a few minutes and see what the future might hold. The spraying of these soluble fertilizers plus chemicals for insect, disease and weed control may be done by airplane, also a chemical to dwarf the grass and save cutting. Recently I read an article in the paper about such a chemical being developed in England:- quote -

" NEW CHEMICAL DWARFS GRASS" * Bingley, England- Nov. 15, 1954

A British scientist reported today a new chemical has been developed which may make the chore of lawn mowing a thing of the past. The chemical slows the growing rate of grass from the normal 12 - 18 inches a year to as little as 2 inches, said John R. Escritt. But Escritt said the chemical has certain disadvantages:

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1. It gives the weeds a chance to thrive although these can be controlled with chemical weed killers.

2. In inexperienced hands it may discolor the grass. For these reasons it would be sold for the present only to expert gardeners, such as park superintendents and golf course greenkeepers."

So in the future instead of the golfers saying as was said about me sometime ago " Who is that crazy old buzzard crawling about on the fairways" they may say about some golf course superintendent " who is that crazy old buzzard flying about in the helicopter."

Good Reading

THE GOLF COURSE REPORTER

The name of the official publication of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is THE GOLF COURSE REPORTER. It is published for and by golf course superintendents and covers all subjects in connection with the maintenance of golf courses. It should be in your educational file to keep you up-to-date on turf grass problems and for information on what other superintendents are doing.

Subscription rates are \$3.00 per year. Write Agar M. Brown, Box #106, St. Charles, Illinois.

You can't say "it can't be done until you try it" - Edgar A. Guest

Hope is a better champion than ~~hope~~^{FEAR} - Martin Tupper

Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits - Thomas Edison

If you never do more than you are paid for you will never be paid for more than you do

A man can do more than he thinks he can, but usually less than he thinks he does - Ladies Home Journal

Don't let your pride get inflated - you may have to swallow it someday.