



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
JAMES E. THOMAS

Editor Woodmont Country Club, Box 352, Rockville, Md.
Editor Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

April 1956

THE BELTSVILLE MEETING

Our first regular meeting for the 1956 season was held in the auditorium of the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland on Tuesday, March 6th. There were close to forty superintendents and guests present. Due to the absence of our president, Bob Scott, Jr., who was attending a luncheon at the University of Maryland, Vic-president Tom Dawson, Jr. acted as master of ceremonies for the occasion.

We were also minus a secretary-treasurer as John Connolly is still vacationing in the south. Bob Shields ably filled in at this post for the meeting. Bob read a letter from Tom Fisher, a former superintendent at the Burning Tree Golf Course. Tom, who now resides in his native Scotland, thanked the Association for recognizing and acknowledging his activities in behalf of the organization in its early formative days and for being made a Life Member. He also expressed his thanks for being placed on the mailing list to receive the "NEWSLETTER".

The business part of the meeting was short and to the point. Tom Dawson introduced Frank Dunlap to those of us present. We are glad to be able to count Frank as one of us. He is a hard worker and booster for the cause of the golf course superintendent and we will all benefit from knowing him. That which has been a loss to the Cleveland District will be our gain.

Another welcome surprise for the day was the appearance of Charlie Schalestock. Charlie- it was good to see you up and about and in the harness again. We have missed you and your stimulating participation in our programs. You have made a remarkable recovery - keep well.

The following new members were proposed and accepted and then introduced to the association. We are glad to add their names to our membership roster. They were: Henry (Dutch) Fahrenwald, pro-supt. at Swan Creek C.C.; Clarence Nordsiek, Zoysia Farm Nurseries; and Malcolm Butterfield of Edgewater Country Club, Charlestown, W. Va. - all for associate membership. Benjamin J. Benita of Ft. Meade Golf Course was accepted as a Regular Member. The status of Bob Elder of Indian Spring Country Club was changed from Associate to Regular. Lt. Benita tells us that he was associated with Army Golf Course while stationed in Germany. Perhaps at one of our meetings we can get him to tell us of his turfgrass experiences overseas.

The following guests were introduced: Mr. Sam Mumford, head of the Maintenance Dept. of the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission and responsible for the public parks and playgrounds in Montgomery County. Mr. Bradley Strauss who has taken the superintendent's position vacated by Red Hancock at Sligo & Glenbrook public courses. Mr. PMA Cleary (Leo) to most of us, was also presented to the group.

EDUCATIONAL

The educational portion of the meeting was handled by Dr. Felix Juska, head of the grass culture for the Department of Agriculture at Beltsville. Dr. Warren Shaw who was to have given us a talk on weed control was unable to attend, however he sent word by Dr. Juska that he would be pleased to appear before us at some future date.

Dr. Juska opened the program by saying that the spring-like temperatures had no doubt kept many at home with thoughts in their minds of fertilization and spring house cleaning. He told us of the work he has outlined for his Plant Industry Station activities and also gave a brief summary of the talk he presented at the Penn State Turfgrass Conference in February.

Some of these are a series of trials for crabgrass eradication and are being made at two different heights of cut and with the use of fifteen different chemicals.

The evaluation of several blue grasses are being made with selections coming from the state of Washington, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Also, different strains of Bermudas and Zoysias, some of them coming from Africa. The latter are to be tested for winter hardiness in this climate.

Nursery stocks of seedling Zoysias are being tested for early spring and fall color.

A study is being made on the use of calcium cyanamid as a fertilizer material. Also, when and how to apply it for the best use and results in grasslands, soil beds and soil sterilization.

Our host also told us of some of his work at Michigan State Agriculture College. A few of the highlights were: That in the spring and autumn fertilization periods, split applications of fertilizer frequently applied were to be preferred to single heavy applications.

Michigan State is running a series of fertilization trials at two different levels of fertility and heights of cut with and without irrigation.

Grass plots have shown that fescues have been the predominant grasses where the rate of fertility was low. High nitrogen feeding has produced a very satisfactory stand of Merion blue grass. Under low nitrogen and close cutting, weeds were very plentiful.

A point was brought out that to classify rye grass as a nurse plant was a misnomer, as its growth was very rapid and it could easily smother out a less aggressive grass. Its real purpose is to provide a quick coverage and stabilize the existing soil bed. This would lead us to believe that in a mixture with other grasses, its use should be held to a minimum for best results.

(3)

The last part of our meeting was guided tour through the Station's greenhouses. The two we visited were devoted to grass culture and weed control. Much of the work Dr. Juska described to us is carried on in the winter months under glass, the plants being contained in small wooden frames or sizable crocks. Conditions necessary for good growth are simulated as nearly as possible. Light, moisture and heat being the conditions needed. This inside winter work is a foundation for many of the summer activities of the outside.

The final part of our trip was thru one of the sections devoted to weed control. Mr. Walter Gentner of the weed control section took over at this point. He told us that at the present time chemicals related to the urea group were being tried out and evaluated for weed control. Each year a different member of the chemical family is used. The four plants always used as guinea pigs are: crab grass, rye, mustard and pig-weed. The main objective of these tests as explained by Mr. Gentner is to find chemicals that will kill weeds selectively - that is - kill one plant without injury to another.

One of the rooms contained soil bins. Here soils were produced so as to afford ideal growing conditions for the plants that were to be grown. These soils are placed in a specially constructed asphalt covered container, then they are put in a steam oven and sterilized at a high temperature. After this, they are planted to both wide and narrow leaf plants and then lightly covered with soil. This is followed by the sowing of weed seeds over the newly planted soil. The next step is to wait for germination and growth.

Before leaving the green house, we were taken through the store room where different chemical weedicides were both stored and formulated. Also, the different machines and equipment used were shown and their use explained and demonstrated.

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to both Dr. Juska and Mr. Gentner for providing us with a most instructive and pleasant afternoon. We hope that they will again invite us to the Plant Industry Station and that they in turn will attend a few of our monthly meetings this season.

GOLF COMMITTEE REPORT

The first Golf Tournament of the 1956 season will be held at Count House Country Club on Tuesday, April 3, 1956.

At that meeting, we will issue a list of handicaps for golfing members and associates based on score cards turned in during the 1955 season. Handicaps were determined on the basis of 3 best scores out of 6 to 10 rounds, 2 best scores out of 3 to 6 rounds. Below 3 scores, a 2 stroke penalty under a 12 handicap; over 12 handicap 25% penalty of the handicap total.

The above basis of handicapping will prevail during the 1956 season. After a total of 10 scores have been turned in, we will then use the best 4 of them up to 15, then best 5 out of 20 to determine your handicap.

Guests this year will be grouped in a separate tournament with prizes pro-rated according to the number of participants.

(4)

Be sure to bring your clubs to Court House. Entry Feee will be \$1.00. Club Rules will prevail. Be sure to check on local rules before teeing off. Please turn in your score cards.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Present at the March 13 meeting of the Executive Committee held at the Plant Industry Station in Beltsville were - Bob Scott, Jr., Jim Reid, John Connolly, Louie Bargmann, Admiral Phillips, Charlie Hallowell, Jim Thomas, Bob Shields and Paul Weiss.

The Golf Committee report was received as was the membership report and the president's and secretary's reports.

The golf committee and membership committee reported. So did the president and secretary, but the subject that received the most consideration was the National Turfgrass Conference which is to be held in Washington in 1958 with the Mid-Atlantic as host association.

Bob Shields was elected General Chairman of this event and he is in the process of lining up committees at this time. The Executive Committee feels that no stone should be left unturned in our efforts to make the 1958 conference a success and one that will be remebered as having brought credit to our association. You will hear more and more of this as time progresses.

Bob Shields,
Chrmn. Executive Comm.

EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS

We have been asked to help locate a superintendent for the Pittsburgh Field Club. This 18 hole course has watered fairways; housing provided. For further particulars please write to the Green Chairman of the club:

Mr. J.M. Lloyd
c/o Pittsburgh Field Club
Pittsburgh, 15, Pa.

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

Unusual employment opportunities are available in Mexico. Our National member, Carlos Smith is seeking two or three older men who can act as supervisors on new course construction being built under his direction. The work load may not be a great as in this country. However, Mr. Smith is looking for men with construction knowledge. Experience with Bermuda grass would be of help. Favorable currency exchange is to be considered. For further particulars write:

Mr. Carlos S. Smith
Apartado Postal 700
Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

We would appreciate hearing of your response to these inquireies. Please mention that these employment inquirees were referred to by this office.

Agar M. Brown, Secretary, Golf Course Supt. Assoc. Amer.

(5)

Sleepy Hollow Golf Club, Nitro, W.Va., has just completed an 18 hole golf course which will open for play June 2, 1956. The superintendent's job is open at this club. Anyone interested may write to:

Mr. M.K. Hoke, treasurer
Sleepy Hollow Golf Club
Nitro, W. Va.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 3, 1956 at Courthouse Country Club, Fairfax, Va., Red Hancock, host.

PLACE: Court House Country Club
State Highway 123
Fairfax, Virginia

GOLF : 12 noon

Social Period : 5 p.m.
Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

MEETING: Following Dinner

KNOW YOUR HOST

Your host superintendent at Court House is Red Hancock.

Red was born in the District of Columbia a little over 40 years ago, and worked at many different jobs through the years until Roger Peacock started him in golf course work at Sligo Park Golf Course in 1947.

From 1948 until 1952 he worked with Bob Shields and together they rebuilt most of the greens at Sligo and some at Glenbrook, the second course which was acquired in 1950 by the employer- the Park & Planning Commission, Montgomery County.

In 1952 when Bob went to Woodmont, Red was made superintendent of the two courses and held that position until about a month ago when he moved to Court House.

He is married and has six children. They live about two miles from the Club.

Red has been on the association golf committee for a number of years and is very much interested in association activities and his new job. If you have not met him, just look for a red head and introduce yourself. This is a good opportunity to get acquainted.

DIRECTIONS:

Court House Country Club is 2 miles south of Fairfax on State Rt. 123. From Wash. & Balto - Take U.S. 50 or 29 south out of Wash. to Junction 123, turn left & continue through town of Fairfax to club about 2 miles on rt. An alternate route for those in N.W. Wash. is to cross Chain Bridge & turn

right on Route 123 through Fairfax to Club.

From Richmond - Come up U.S. 1 to Woodbridge, then turn left on 123 through Occoquan to Club on left.

COMMITTEES FOR 1956

Membership Committee:

Chairman -
Paul Weiss, Jr. - Baltimore
James Reynolds - Richmond

Golf Committee :

Louis Bargmann Bob Scott Sr., - Baltimore
Pat Sheridan Harry Allanson - Richmond
Red Hancock

Program Committee :

Tom Dawson - Chairman

National Policy Committee - Jim Reid, Tom Dawson, Jimmy Thomas

Nominating Committee - Dick Watson - Chairman

Auditing Committee -

Publicity Committee - Cliff Eisley

Transportation Committee -

Jack Witcher George Cornell
John Milan Wilson Disney

Executive Committee:

Chairman - Bob Shields Cliff Eisley
 Louis Bargmann Adm. John S. Phillips
 Tom Dawson Bob Scott, Jr.
 Jim Reid Jimmy Thomas
 Dick Watson

~~JOHN CONNOLLY~~
All members of All committees are invited to all Executive Committee meetings.