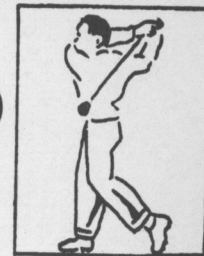




MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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.

AUGUST 1956

NEXT MEETING

DATE: AUGUST 7, 1956

PLACE: BROOKE MANOR COUNTRY CLUB
NORBECK, MD.

GOLF: 12 NOON

SOCIAL PERIOD: 5-6:30

DINNER: 6:30 sharp

MEETING: Following dinner

HOST: FRANK MURRAY

The Fort George G. Meade Golf Club was the setting for the July meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. The date was Tuesday, July 10, 1956. Eighty-three members and guests were present for the meeting and dinner. The day was perfect for an outing and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Meade club officials enthusiastically rolled out a red carpet of welcome for us. Before the business and educational meeting got under way we were served and enjoyed an exceptionally well-planned steak dinner.

Lt. Bonita, who is the man responsible for the operation of the Fort Meade golf plant, introduced the following official Post personnel: Colonel Lindsay, Post Commander; Colonel Ritchie, first President of the golf club; Colonels Chard and Allen, both very active in the Club's golf activities; Mr. Saap, one of the station's agronomists. Also present was the operating staff: Steve Tobash, golf professional; Sergeants Slack and Jones, and Charles Mason. The latter three are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the two courses.

METHYL BROMIDE DEMONSTRATION

The Cornell Chemical Company of Baltimore demonstrated the use of Dowfume on several plots off of the practice field area. The applications were made on June 29th at the rate of one pound of material for each one hundred square feet. One application was made in a heavy patch of bermuda sod, and another in an area heavily populated with weeds. Both showed a complete plant kill and soil sterilization. Also we were shown how the material was applied and covered.

As a part of the educational program, a representative of the Cornell Chemical Company told of the different materials that are now available for the elimination and control of weeds.

He also answered several questions from the floor on the subject. The message prepared for us was a very instructive one and it is regrettable that our program was so crowded. Due to the lateness of the hour, we did not get to hear all of the information that had been prepared for us. It is hoped that we can have them back again before too long.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Fort George G. Meade golf club has a thirty-six hole layout, with both eighteens in close proximity to each other and they leaving the club house from parallel starting tees. The first eighteen has been in existence for several years while the second unit of the plant is a newly constructed one that was started about two years ago and is still in the process of development.

The new eighteen hole course is the creation of golf architect George C. Cobb. Mr. Cobb has designed and constructed several of the newer courses in this vicinity. The credit for the golf expansion at this Maryland army post goes to Lt. General Floyd Parks, Retired, who is one of the Army's most prominent golfers.

The new course has been designed and constructed over property that has a gentle roll and contour and is well adapted for golf play. While many of the holes have been cut out of pine woods the clearing has been done in such a manner as to provide wide fairways with open roughs on each side. This insures ample air circulation and necessary light and sunshine so essential for the development of good turf around tees, fairways and greens. This also helps to control grass diseases and will enable the soil to dry out quickly after excessive precipitation.

The tees are large and provide many different marker changes, a feature that will hold wear and tear to a minimum. The growth on tees is farther advanced than in other areas, possible due to extra fertilizer and water. Fairways are wide and gently rolling and have been piped for irrigation. The greens are planted to C-1 and C-19 bents, are large in size, have good drainage and

(3)

plenty of character. When the property matures it could easily be one of the show courses of the district. Needless to say, it is a layout of championship caliber.

The tees appear to have made more progress towards maturity than the rest of the new development. An occasional aerification and light fertilization at frequent intervals would be of great value to them. (By this is meant weekly applications at light rates.) Regular mowing is a must.

The fairways should receive several applications of a complete fertilizer at normal rates as soon as the heat of summer has passed. On the portions where bermuda grass is in evidence, spot applications of a high nitrogen fertilizer can be applied to good advantage now during the bermuda growing season. After the fairways have reached their full development we would advise that they be completely reseeded to bermuda grass within the next few years. Fertilizer should be applied only when the grass and soil are in a dry condition.

It would be well not to over irrigate the fairways, apply water only in sufficient amounts to maintain steady growth and color. A good judicious feeding of plant food has far more value than the promiscuous misuse of water. A good practice in fairway watering is to allow the soil to dry out and the grass plant to become a bit thirsty before turning on the sprinklers.

As to the new greens, complete coverage can be hastened by the planting and inserting of four inch plugs in the bare spots. A weekly application of a good organic fertilizer at a rate which will furnish one quarter of a pound of actual nitrogen per one thousand square feet will maintain a steady and uniform growth. Be patient and do not try to force your growth too fast. Remove weeds and unwanted plants as they appear. Practice weekly preventative applications of turf fungicides at prescribed rates for the control of turf grass diseases.

Good water management is of the most vital importance. This fact cannot be stressed too strongly. Saturation of the soil to excess is an enemy and foe in the maintenance of good turfgrass. Apply only enough water to maintain healthy turf of good appearance and quality. A slow steady application of water close to the consistency of a fine mist is to be preferred instead of a fast heavy watering which produces large drops. The first soaks into the ground as it is applied, the latter stands in puddles and has a fast runoff.

Always provide enough water for deep moisture penetration into the soil, but not to the point of over-saturation. When normal foot pressure brings moisture to the surface, it is time to think of turning off the faucet. Many a fine putting green has been damaged by too much water.

Playing to a putting green when its soil is over loaded with excess moisture due to periods of abnormally wet weather can do great

damage. This is a sore bone of contention between golfers and those in charge of turf upkeep. As a result, many putting greens are either lost or are in poor shape when sometimes closing them for a few hours would maintain them in desired condition. Too much water excluded air from the soil and if the conditions exists for too long a period, the grass plant suffocated. Heavy foot trampling at such a time aggravates the situation.

All of what has been said above will also apply to the maintenance of the original eighteen. In general, practice good judicious water and fertilization management. Strive to maintain a good steady slow and even growth of grass. Do not go over-board in anything, minimum rates and applications made at frequent intervals will help keep on the safe side.

CORRECTION

Page 2, paragraph 2 pf the July "NEWSLETTER" should have read " 1958 " instead of 1956 National Turfgrass Conference and Show. We regret this error.

The following was taken from Al Radko's "NORTHEASTERN TURFLETTER" dated May 1956. We consider it valuable material for adding to your turf library and should be followed when new tree plantings are considered.

TROUBLESOME TREES

1. White Poplar -- The #1 enemy of golf courses
2. Willow -- Troublesome, except when planted in an out of the way place, away from drainage lines, out of the line of play.
3. Silver Maple-- (sometimes called soft or swamp maple). Don't use unless you cannot get anything else to grow.
4. Sycamore-- Lace flies and aphids hurt them badly, and leaves drop early. Require excellent spraying program to keep in good condition.
5. Chinese Elm-- After a good ice storm all branches break off, leaving only the trunk.
6. Honey Locust -- Seed pod set an undesirable feature.
7. Elm-- Dutch elm disease kills them. This beautiful tree now lost for all practical purposes.

DESIRABLE TREES

1. Pin, Red and Scarlet Oak -- The Pin Oak is a good selection for wet or damp ground.
2. Sweet Gum -- Don't plant at fairway edge.
3. Moraine Locust-- This one is patented and doesn't set seed pods.
4. Beech -- Has silvery grey bark the entire year.
5. Sophora(Chinese scholar tree-- Blooms in August.
6. Grey Birch-- Grows quickly. Suggested for undergrowth for more permanent trees. Plant a group of trees including grey birch and about the time the grey birch begins to weaken, Oaks etc. will come in.

7. Sugar Maple -- A good tree. Plant only where soil is free of stone to a depth of 4 feet.
8. Sour Gum -- Excellent for wet ground. Leaves turn red early in late summer. Move only in spring.
9. Ginkgo -- A good tree. No insect or disease problems. Takes 15 to 20 years to form a good sized tree.
10. Evergreens -- Excellent. No leaf problem. Are beautiful trees. White Pine, Austrian Pine and Japanese Black Pine are toughest and most picturesque evergreen trees. Caution: If Hemlock trees are used, they should be planted only in well-drained soils and should be protected from wind over the first winter.

MEETING PLACE CHANGED

Instead of holding the August meeting at the new University of Maryland golf course as originally scheduled, a special advisory committee will be appointed by the President to visit Maryland and give any assistance possible.

The Executive Committee decided to cancel the regular meeting because it meant meeting at two courses - at Maryland to inspect the new layout and somewhere else to play golf and hold a meeting. Experience has proven that such arrangements are not too successful.

NEXT MEETING

The August meeting will be held at Brooke Manor Country Club Norbeck, Maryland, August 7, 1956 with Frank Murray as host superintendent. This being the season when we are usually bitten by the building and re-building bug and since Frank is our best known local builder, this meeting will be dedicated to golf course construction.

You are invited to inspect the work being done across Georgia Ave. from Brooke Manor on an 18 hole course that Mr. Murray and Russell Roberts, his associate, are building. Frank says that greens and tees may be under construction and if so you are welcome to watch and ask questions. A feature of this meeting will be a tee building demonstration put on at Brooke Manor by Murray and Roberts with Jimmy Gross running the tractor and one yard pan.

DIRECTIONS

Brooke Manor is located on Georgia Avenue extended one mile north of Norbeck, Maryland. From the District of Columbia, go out Georgia Avenue (Maryland State route #97) past the entrance to Manor Club to Club on left.

From Baltimore- Out Frederick Ave. to Rt. #29, left on 29 to Junction state route 108. right on 108 to Olney, then left on Georgia Ave. extended (Md. Rt. #97) to club on right.

KNOW YOUR HOST

Mr. Murray got into the golf building and maintenance picture by way of greens chairmanship. He held that position at Congressional Country Club (he is still a member there) in 1936 and 1937 and while trying to rebuild some tees and greens found the work interesting and decided that if he ever had the opportunity he would try it as a full time job.

The opportunity came right after the war when Mr. Leo Freudberg, Woodmont greens chairman, saw the work Frank had done as road building contractor at the National Institutes of Health, next door to the old Woodmont Club in Bethesda. Leo was looking for someone to build the present Woodmont course and selected Mr. Murray to do the job.

After it was completed in 1949, Frank managed to keep busy building Cedar Point, Norbeck, Westbriar, Brooke Manor, Swan Creek and Andrews Field. At Brooke Manor he is builder, owner, manager, greenschairman and superintendent.

A person you will want to meet at this meeting is Brooke Johns, owner of the land and buildings and operator of the club house. Brooke is famous as the local boy who reached the top in big-time vaudeville in the 1920's playing opposite Anne Pennington as a song and dance man.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

This committee is ready to serve you. For more details, call Jack Witcher at Baltimore Toro Co. in Baltimore or George Cornell at G.L.Cornell Co. in the Washington area.

COMING EVENTS

- August 14, Turf Field Day
Plant Industry Station
Beltsville, Maryland
- Sept. 11 - Meeting at Shenandoah Retreat Country Club
Bluemont, Virginia
John Leavell, host
- Oct. 2 - Meeting at Woodmont Country Club
Rockville, Maryland
Bob Shields, host