



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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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.

MAY 1956

The April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at Courthouse Country Club on April 3 with sixty-eight members and guests in attendance.

Red Hancock, host superintendent, introduced his Greens Committee Chairman Mr. Hains "Curley" Osborne - the man largely responsible for building the golf course and club house. Also, a Greens Committee member, Mr. Howard; Club Manager Mr. Tom Powell and Golf Professional Mr. Dick James. Guests introduced were real estate men Dick Stedman and Charlie Lynch who are building a golf course in northern Virginia; W.B. Lewis - contractor and builder of Prospect Hill Country Club golf course at Bowie, Maryland. Bill Foy, assistant to Bob Shields at Woodmont and destined to become superintendent of the new 9 holes under construction at that club. Mr. Leon Horowitz, owner of Westbriar Country Club at Vienna, Virginia and Frank Dunlap, new superintendent at Baltimore Country Club.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was accepted. The secretary read communications from Mr. George Cobb regarding an employment opening at Sapphire Country Club in North Carolina and from Dr. George Langford of the University of Maryland seeking funds for the establishment of a fund bearing the name of Dr. Ernest N. Cory to be used to aid worthy students in the College of Agriculture.

Member Jim Reid reported on National Association activities and ended by saying that all who are not National members should re-examine the benefits of membership and carefully consider what the National can do for a man's standing as a superintendent and what the individual can do to help the National help him.

The dean of Mid-Atlantic superintendents, Mr. Ruben Hines took the floor and explained that he had been contractor and builder of the second nine holes at Courthouse and explained some of the advance planning that went into the construction. Ruben asked Mr. Osborne to say a few words and those present heard the Courthouse Greens Chairman pay our Association one of the finest compliments we have ever received. Mr. Osborne stated that we built the golf course, that if there were no Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, the club would never have been built. He said he knew he could get help from this group and that knowledge gave him the courage necessary to proceed with construction. He urged us to continue to strive for better men and more information to encourage others to do the same as he did. In closing, he paid tribute to the late Bill Glover and challenged us to be superintendents as good as Bill was.

Mr. Hines and his son, Ruben Jr., who was superintendent at Courthouse during the construction period, ran before and after color slides of the tee and green sites and showed some of the drainage problems they encountered.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

John Leavell acted as moderator and conducted the constructive suggestion report. He opened by pointing out that the greens were soft from the recent rains and off color slightly because of cold weather and poor growing conditions. He asked that surface traffic damage be disregarded and that basic problems be considered.

Greens -

It was suggested that the height of cut be checked and set at 1/4" or lower, then mow greens 3 or 4 times a week.

Aerify, verticut and top dress at once to improve greens surfaces.

Initiate a fertility program that will attempt to supply 1# of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet spread out over the growing season. One half of this nitrogen should be in organic form.

Check the ph of the soil and take immediate steps to correct any acidity found.

Plant a sod nursery at once for patching greens.

Tees-

Some of the tees are not level and should be reworked and smoothed.

Some should be reworked and planted to U-3 bermuda.

Where space is available, winter yeas should be provided so the play could be taken off the regular tees during winter months. Where tees can't be built, plans should be made for re-sodding the surface each spring.

Sod nurseries of grasses for tee and fairway patching are greatly needed.

Fairways-

The fairways are good in spite of the small amount of fertilizer put on last fall. The volunteer blue grass would be helped considerably by an application of fertilizer put on at this time and again next fall.

It was pointed out that better results would be obtained by cultivating, fertilizing and seeding across the slopes instead of up and down. This practice, if followed carefully, will go a long way towards eliminating wash-outs on the hill sides.

Traps-

Traps are well built and show up to the best advantage with sand up on the banks. A lighter colored, washed sand is suggested to give more contrast and to resist packing.

NEW MEMBERS

New members accepted after being proposed by the Membership Committee were- Frank Duhnlap of Baltimore Country Club and B.L. Whetsell, Westbriar Country Club - both as regular members. W.B. Lewis, Prospect Hill Country Club; Richard Steadman, builder of a new course in Annandale and William Stevenson, gardener at National Bureau of Standards, joined the association as associate members.

The application of Mr. Robert Hopkins, pro-superintendent at Martinsburg Country Club Martinsburg, W.Va., was referred back to the Membership Committee for more detailed study.

NATIONAL OFFICIALS MEET

The Board of Directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America met at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington on April 14 and 15.

Members present were Elmer Border, San Francisco; Red Lambert, Kansas City; Don Strand, Chicago; National President, Ward Cornwell, Detroit; Jack Gormley, Albany; Paul Weiss, Philadelphia; Jim Thomas, Washington; Frank Dunlap, Baltimore and Agar M. Brown, Executive Secretary from the Chicago office.

The business of the National Association was discussed. One subject considered was how to finance National meetings and the decision reached will be of great interest to us when the meeting comes to Washington in 1958. Details on this matter will be forth coming from the National.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again we are entering another golf season. I hope that all your preparatory work is finished and that your plans for the battle ahead are made. None of us know what is ahead, but we do know that we will have a battle to keep near-perfect conditions at all times.

All the information we have picked up at the local and national conferences and association meetings will help us now to fight that battle. Not forgetting the information we have on hand through our association "NEWSLETTER", the National Association "GOLF COURSE REPORTER", "GOLFDOM" etc. So with all this added to our personal know-how we should do better this year than ever before.

Many of us learned some lessons the hard way last year. We can't afford to let these things happen again and I know we won't. So- Keep on your toes, Keep up with the latest information, and do your very best.

Good luck and Best Wishes for your best season ever.

Robert E. Scott

1958 NATIONAL MEETING

Washington, the capital of our nation, and the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents are to be hosts to the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents in February 1958. We, as members of this association, have a big job -- playing host to a thousand to twelve hundred guests from all over the United States, its possessions and Canada. You will find the delegates a wonderful group of people -- interested in their work, wanting to learn how we in the East and the Mid-Atlantic area in particular keep and maintain our golf courses. Washington is noted as one of the most difficult areas in the country for growing fine grasses.

We will also have to entertain the ladies and we are sure there will be between four and five hundred of them. There is so much to see in Washington and time is so short that it will take very detailed planning to create a successful program.

Those of you who have attended conferences can attest to their value; how they have helped you to improve the management of your courses and the new ideas gained from meeting and talking to our fellow superintendents. No club could afford, by itself, the cost of trying out new ideas, new weed controls, new fertilizers, new equipment, and a host of other things, but dozens of superintendents trying individual ideas, the green section colleges, commercial houses, chemical houses and others assimilating their findings and giving us their reports at these conferences are the reasons why we are so far advanced in the maintenance of golf courses in the United States and Canada. Any superintendent who misses these conferences is not doing justice to his club, and any club that does not send its superintendent to the conference is not doing the right thing for the best interest of its members.

We are looking forward and hoping for the greatest conference our association has ever seen. Coming to Washington, the hub of our nation, our guests will have many things of interest to see and it is up to us as hosts and representatives of the National Association and members of the Mid-Atlantic Association to see that when they leave they can say that the 1958 meeting in Washington was the greatest they ever attended.

Won't you help by volunteering to serve on one of the following committees?

Educational Program
Ways and Means
District Show and Program Sales
Publicity
Entertainment and Transportation

Bob Shields
General Chairman

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DR. CORY HONORED

Dr. E.N. Cory, the man who has conducted the annual Baltimore Turfgrass Conference for us for the past 20 years, is to be honored by a dinner on May 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the University dining hall. The occasion is his retirement after 47 years at the University.

Also, a fund is being established bearing Dr. Cory's name and is to be used to aid worthy students in the College of Agriculture. The committee in charge wants to provide an opportunity for all of Dr. Cory's friends to participate.

Contributions for the Student Aid Fund are invited and checks should be made payable to "The Cory Fund". Reservations for the dinner as well as the contributions should be sent to Dr. George S. Langford, Dept. of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

FROM THE SECRETARY - TREASURER

Dear Bob,

Will you please mention in the next "NEWSLETTER" that May 1st is the deadline date for the payment of Association dues of regular and associate members.

At the last Executive Committee meeting I was instructed to follow the By-laws closer this year than they have been followed in the past. Section IV of the By-laws reads as follows- "All members who shall fail to pay their dues for the current year by May 1st shall be automatically dropped from membership in the Association and shall be so notified by the Secretary.

At the Farmington meeting I will notify those who have not paid their dues and will send cards to those who are not present at that meeting to tell them that they are being dropped from our rolls.

This may seem a bit rough to some, but they should consider that the Secretary-Treasurer's job is no snap and try to help by getting their dues in on time. It's much easier to carry 100 paid up members on the roll than 10 delinquent members.

Enclosed is the list of those members who will be delinquent on May 1st, but don't publish them in the next "NEWSLETTER" as some of them might pay their dues by that time.

Yours truly,

J.S. Connolly
Sec.-Treas.

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 1 at Farmington Country Club, Charlottesville, Va. at 12 noon. Marcus Pleasants, host superintendent, takes pleasure in inviting you to see what he has done at Farmington since Charlie Schalestock left a couple of years ago.

Farmington abounds with history and tradition and much can be learned about a distinct way of life that was the old south by talking to Mr. Pleasants and Mr. R. F. Loving, owner-manager of this fine southern club. The long trip will be worth the effort.

Golf- 12 noon. Be on time.

Dinner - early - so we can get started back

Meeting - following dinner

Speaker - Mr. Lawrence Leonard, Sports Editor,
Richmond News Leader

Subject : Publicity and Public Relations

TRANSPORTATION

It's more fun to travel in a group, so get in touch with George Cornell or Brownie and arrange to ride down with them and the congenial bunch that takes advantage of the transportation committee hospitality.

Other transportation committee members are Jack Witcher, John Milan and Wilson Disney.

For those wishing to drive their own cars, turn right off of Route 250, four miles west of Charlottesville.