



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

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THE CORNELL MEETING

On Tuesday, December 4th, at 6 P.M. we travelled from far away and nearby to attend the annual year end party of the George L. Cornell Company. As usual, our genial host and good friend, George Cornell, assisted by Leon Brown, Frank Haske and their staff of co-workers saw to our every need and want. The evening was a perfect one and a huge success; the weatherman was kind and sociability was everywhere.

The "spirits" of everyone were convivial and all had keen appetites, as well as unquenchable thirsts. Many charcoal broiled steaks plus trimmings, oysters and refreshments, suddenly disappeared - as usual. The evening's attendance was around two hundred, about the same as last year. On hand were club officials, golf pros, superintendents, dealers and sales representatives and members of the press.

George should be a caterer instead of a dealer in golf course equipment. He has staged so many of these affairs that now as a result they go off with streamlined proficiency. Each year sees new innovations added. We always look forward to the Cornell "Shindig" because we meet friends of long standing and leave cares and worries of our jobs behind us. George, spoken words cannot fully express our appreciation and gratitude.

A COMPLIMENT

A tribute to the golf course superintendents of the Mid-Atlantic area - Mr. Robert W. Brownell, President, District of Columbia Golf Association writes:

"The member clubs of the District of Columbia Golf Association enjoyed a banner year in the 1956 season. To my knowledge, every one of our member clubs had more play than ever before. Member - guest and intra-club tournaments being scheduled by our member clubs again increased over the previous years. One of the factors influencing the popularity of golf in our association has been the ever improving conditions of our courses in spite of some terrifying climatic conditions. Our course superintendents have been performing a wonderful job not only in course maintenance but in developing new techniques. We are proud of them."
(Extract from the Nov. 1956 "Mid-Atlantic Turfletter" of the USGA Green Section.)

(2)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is the Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference. It will be held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel in Baltimore on January 17 and 18. The program committee, headed by Dr. George S. Langford has worked hard to come up with a program designed to please you and add to your education by bringing together both nationally known and local speakers. A copy of the program is enclosed.

This is a two day meeting, so plan to stay overnight so as "not to miss anything". Make hotel reservations now by writing - Reservations Clerk, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland.

Registration begins at 9:30 and the committee asks that you be on time so the program can begin as scheduled.

1957 Dues

Membership dues for 1957 are due and payable January 1. Dues notices have been mailed and should be in your hands by now. Secretary-treasurer Francis Coupe says he will greet you at the registration desk in case you desire to pay your dues at the Baltimore Meeting. He would appreciate it if you would come prepared to take care of this matter so as to save the trouble of second notices.

NATIONAL MEETING

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will hold the National Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Kentucky Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky February 10 thru 15.

This meeting is a "must" for superintendents who are determined to make a success of their jobs. Time and effort spent here will be well worth while to you and your club for many years to come because you will see the latest in machinery and learn new methods to better apply your present machines. All phases of golf course maintenance techniques are covered as well as methods and procedures in turfgrass culture. Remember- "increased knowledge means increased usefulness". -(West Pointers, Dec. 1956"

Explain these facts to your Chairman, convince him that you are going in interest of the club and that information gained will be used at the club. If you do this sincerely, chances are he will insist on the expenses being borne by the greens budget.

If your club has never sent you to a National Meeting and you are unable to sell the Chairman on the idea, then go at your own expense. While you are there keep your eyes and ears open and bring back a report on things you have seen and learned that might be put to use on your course. Put your report in writing and send copies to the Greens Chairman and the club President, then watch their reactions.

Transportation to Louisville can easily be arranged. Just decide whether you want to go by train, plane, bus or car and make reservations. If you want to drive or want to ride with someone who is, then talk with everyone you meet at Baltimore about the National Meeting. We are certain you can make satisfactory arrangements.

A very important coming event that be of interest to all of us will be the 29th National Turfgrass Conference and Show to be held at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C., February 2-6, 1958. It is up to all of us to make this the most successful meeting of its kind ever held. The help and support of every Mid-Atlantic member will be needed. As a part of this assistance we should all belong to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Do you belong to the National? If not, why not join at once?

THROUGH '56 WITH THE MID-ATLANTIC

The year 1956 will be recorded in the Mid-Atlantic area as a good year for the association and for the superintendent in general. Rains were frequent and fairly evenly spaced which helped keep dry weather problems to a minimum. Superintendents who followed basic rules of bent grass maintenance and worked closely with nature didn't have too much trouble this year. Disease was noticeably less this year than last, but some experienced brown patch in November which was considered most unusual.

The most outstanding thing about 1956 was the building boom which hasn't let up yet. New courses are being built at an astounding rate and making the demand for qualified superintendent a matter of great concern to clubs and to superintendents' associations. New construction in this area brought about the addition of 18 new holes at Ft. Meade, 18 at Prospect Hill, a new 18 at Laurel Pines, complete new 18 at Chestnut Ridge, new 27 hole layout at Indian Spring, an 18 hole all par 3 course at Pinecrest with greens planted to Uganda grass, and 18 more started at Brookmanor. Nine new holes each were added at Congressional, Woodmont, Andrews Field, Sligo and a host of rebuilt greens at many other Courses. Annapolis Country Club rebuilt each of their 9 greens and are so proud of them that they have invited the association to visit there in July.

At some of these courses new superintendents will be needed, but at most of them the man in charge now will be asked to assume the additional responsibility of maintaining the new greens. Superintendents in these positions will have an even greater opportunity to be of service to their clubs and by so doing, reap the benefits.

Bob Scott, Jr, President, Tom Dawson, Vice President and John Connolly, Secretary-treasurer were the officers in charge of the association during 1956. They held the Baltimore Turfgrass Conference, ten regular meetings and published eleven Mid-Atlantic "NEWS LETTERS". President Scott represented the membership at a testimonial dinner given Dr. E.N. Cory on the occasion of Dr. Cory's retirement from the University of Maryland as professor of Entomology.

1956 got off to a sad start for us due to the untimely passing of Charter member Dick Scott on Dec. 31, 1955. Many members paid their respect by turning out for the funeral and acting as pall bearers.

January 17 and 18 found 117 members and guests of the association in very serious study and concentration at the annual Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference in Baltimore where area and national experts are called upon to answer the question "how do you do it?". The highlight of this meeting was the presentation to Dr. Cory of a silver serving set made on behalf of the members for 20 years of service and assistance. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Cory paid the organization a great compliment by saying he had never known a more sincere group- sincere in their work and sincere in their personal relationships. He said he had received the greatest pleasure from his work of conducting the short course for us.

The second feature of this meeting was the announcement that Mr. Frank Dunlap had accepted the position of golf course superintendent at Baltimore Country Club and had moved into the Mid-Atlantic area. Those who knew Frank by having met him at National meetings realized what his dynamic personality and leadership ability could have on the future of this association. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

February was the outstanding month of the year for those willing to make the cross country trip to Long Beach, California to attend the National Turfgrass Conference. We were expertly represented on the speakers' platform by our illustrious Vice-President, Tom Dawson who did such a good job of telling the audience how to "Keep them Informed" that his talk has been published by every superintendent publication in the country. Our President at that time, Jimmy Thomas, was moderator at one of the educational meetings and gave his membership committee report at the regular membership meeting. On the golf course in California one of our members, Joe Reposkey, successfully retained his GCSA golf title for a second time by besting the best of the National golfers. Ten representatives from this area were in attendance at Long Beach.

There was no regular Mid-Atlantic meeting during this month of February because of the National Meeting.

In March we met in the Auditorium at the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville with the Greensection and the USDA as hosts. Mr. Hallowell had not returned from California, but Dr. Felix Juska did a fine job with the educational part of the meeting. An interesting feature was a trip through some of the greenhouses.

The April meeting was held in Virginia at Court House Country Club where Red Hancock was superintendent. The Greenscommittee Chairman, Hans Osborne said Court House would not have attempted to build their new golf course if there had not been a local association of golf course superintendents. He urged us to try to encourage better men to become superintendents and to try to become better superintendents ourselves.

On May 1 forty-nine members and guests met at Farmington Country Club at Charlottesville where Marcus Pleasants is in charge of a well kept golf course. Mr. Lawrence Leonard, Sports Editor of the Richmond " News Leader" as guest speaker, said " the average golfer did not realize the work, enery, thought and planning necessary to maintain a well kept and beautiful golf course and did not take into consideration the adverse weather conditions, severe attacks of plant disease and the insects the superintendent has to cope with".

At Farmington we welcomed Sgt. Pat Gardner of Ft. Belvoir back home after a three year tour.

June 5 was the date of the Manor Country Club meeting where Ernie Parsley played host to 78 superintendents and guests. Greenschairmen present were: Louis Fuchs, Manor; Martin McCarthy, Columbia; Col. Crumm, Ft. Belvoir; Allen Poe, Bethesda; Capt. F.H. Johnston, Andrews Field; Eddie Ault, Indian Spring; and Adm. J.S. Phillips, Army-Navy Country Club.

At Manor the association membership dues were increased to \$10.00 effective Janl, 1957, to provide working capital for the 1958 National Turfggrass Conference to be held in Washington.

It was announced that Tom Dawson and Miss Patricia Cloud had married on June 2 at Drewryville, Virginia.

For the July meeting 83 members and friends advanced on Ft. Meade to see Sgt. Fred Slack and the 36 holes of golf he maintains. A second 18 had been built and was opened for our meeting.

At Meade we saw the results of Methyl Bromide applied two weeks previous and also a demonstration of steps to follow in using this material for the elimination of bermuda grass.

On August 7 we received a warm welcome at BrookManor Farms Country Club where Frank Murray and Martin " Marty" Yeatman were hosts. Frank demonstrated to the 77 present his method of building a tee with the one-yard pan behind a tractor and showed his new 18 hole course under way across the road from Brooke Manor. We were amazed at the improvement in Brooke Manor greens over the time we had seen them rpreviously.

We went across the Potomac into the Blue Ridge Mountains where John Leavell holds forth at Shenandoah Retreat Country Club.

We found a neat little golf course tucked away on a flat area between the mountains and a bend in the Shenandoah River. John is living proof that a superintendent can find happiness and a spot that's just made for him if he will work hard and keep trying.

The speaker at Retreat was Dr. Fred Grau. He str@ssed the fact that we all need to get behind the National Association and give that body all the support we can in order to advance the standing of the golf course superintendent. He reported that research workers around the

country are advocating the use of higher percentages of sand in new putting green construction - some even as high as 90%.

The entire association was saddened by the death of Clifton M. Eisele on September 18, of a stroke at the age of 63. Cliff was greatly respected and admired by all who knew him and was a sincere friend and booster of this organization.

At Woodmont Country Club on October 2nd Bob Shields greeted the largest number of members and guests ever to attend a regular monthly meeting.

One hundred and three attended to play in the annual tournament for the title of best superintendent-golfer, see some very good greens, new greens being stolonized, tees split down the center and planted to U-3 bermuda and C-1 and C-19 bent grass and to hear Dr. Bill Klmparens talk on "Fungus Diseases".

Bill Schreiber of Cedar Point Golf Club ran off with the golf title and is now the man to beat at golf in 1957.

In November we went south to visit Jim Reynolds and Monacan Hills Country Club at Richmond. Some 49 men from the Mid-Atlantic and Tidewater Associations held a joint meeting and heard Mr. Fred McKay discuss the subject "Turf for the last 50 years". One of the points made was a challenge to the superintendent to find better grasses for use in his particular area for each particular purpose. He urged that we try harder to sell ourselves to our members.

A pleasant surprise at Richmond was the return of Sgt. Junior Broadus who has been overseas for the past three years. Junior is back at Quantico, this time as golf professional.

Officers elected at this meeting to guide the association through 1957 are: Tom Dawson, President; Paul Weiss, Jr., Vice President; and Francis Coupe, Secretary-treasurer. To these three go the task and privilege of conducting the affairs of the Mid-Atlantic and preparing the group for the National Meeting in February of 1958.

A report of the December meeting is covered elsewhere in this "NEWSLETTER".

Dr. Fred. V. Grau requests that the enclosed questionnaire on warm season grasses be returned to him immediately so that he will have it for the Conference in Baltimore. If additional space is needed for answers, use the reverse side of the sheet.

For transportation to Baltimore call George Cornell at OL-2-6600 or Bob Adams at JU-7-7800.