



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

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MARCH 1957

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents inaugurated the 1957 season by holding their Annual Turfgrass Conference at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland on Thursday and Friday, January 17th and 18th, 1957.

The meeting was well-attended. Many visitors were present from nearby areas, some of them for the first time. The Philadelphia Golf Course Superintendents' Association was on hand with a strong delegation led by Paul Weiss, Vice President of the National and their own prexy, Frank Tull. We are always glad to see these boys, they help to make our Conference click and we consider them part of it. Hurley Savage, President of the Tidewater Turfgrass Association was also a participant.

The final count of those present showed that some one hundred and thirty seven turf enthusiasts were in attendance for the purpose of reviewing and increasing their knowledge of grass culture, upkeep and golf course management. They came from as far away as Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New Jersey and North Carolina.

It was the concensus of everyone present that the Conference was one of the most outstanding ever conducted by the Association. The credit for this success goes to the committee in charge : Robert E. Scott, Jr., Charles K. Hallowell and Chairman Dr. George S. Langford. To these three individuals we owe a debt of gratitude and appreciation for their efforts and untiring work. The results accomplished meant that much advance thought and planning had gone into the project.

Our guest speakers all made outstanding contributions to the program. Some of their talks will appear in the monthly " NEWSLETTER " during the season, so you will be able to review and refresh your memory as to what they said.

Dr. Russel B. Alderfer, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. told us " That no soil is a dead soil ", that beneath us in the earth we tread upon the soil is teeming with minute organisms. They help nature to produce soils of good productivity. Through their activity the ground is opened up for the passage of air, water and plant nutrients.

The final product of their energy is humus which is so vital to the physical and chemical action within the soil. It controls the release of plant food and is a storehouse for organic nitrogen as well as moisture. Further benefits are the control of erosion, better aeration and the binding of loose sandy soils. Also, heavier soils are made mellow and friable. We found out that in a live soil organic matter increases productive soil organisms, and that a soil population of productive soil organisms helps soil structure, fertility and tilth.

The panel discussion " We Built New Greens " brought out all the pertinent facts necessary for the construction of good putting greens. Those superintendents covering the topic had all recently built new greens, and their work was still fresh in their minds. Good drainage for both surface and subsoil was stressed. Also, noted was the importance of sufficient air circulation around putting greens. The value of a good soil mixture was fully emphasized, so was the planting of the greens to the proper strains of grasses. Sub-grades were properly contoured before the finishing fill was put into place, thus saving valuable top soil.

After listening to what the panel members had to say in regards to their work we realize that they all must have done outstanding jobs. Warren Bidwell and Leonard Strong each showed films of the actual labor performed on their courses. The pictures were informative and gave us a visual scene of their operations.

Fertilization:- This part of the program was centered on the proper feeding of the grass plant; principally the use of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potash. The use of lime and certain other trace elements was also mentioned. Some of the benefits of lime are to raise the PH of an acid soil and to also make plant nutrients become more available. It flocculates the soil and thereby assists the entrance of air and water.

Two forms of lime are used on a golf course, they are hydrated and dolomitic. The first mentioned is quick acting and great care must be exercised in its use. It is useful in destroying algae and helps to prevent the formation of unwanted thatch. Dolomitic limestone is a safer form to apply as its action is slower and it also supplies the grass plant with needed magnesium, Magnesium and Iron go to make up the green coloring in the leaves and stems of the plant.

An overdose of lime in the soil can cause iron chlorosis in grass plants. The iron becomes unavailable. This condition is corrected by foliar feeding of minute quantities of ferrous sulphate. We were told to feed our grasses judiciously. Not too much, nor too little. Just enough to keep them growing healthily and strong enough to be resistant to traffic. Over feeding causes a lush growth and the grass becomes susceptible to disease and bruising. It is up to us to find out what our own grasses will tolerate in the rates of feeding and then stay within those ranges of tolerance.

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Water:- Its use, purpose and application was fully explained. Water is nature's own solvent. Through it, nutrients and chemicals are placed into solution and made available for a plant's growth. Properly managed, it is a faithful servant; yet when misused on a golf course it becomes a causation of great destruction. We were told to apply it to our greens slowly and evenly and never at a rate of application faster than the ground would absorb it, nor should we saturate our soils. When the latter is done, there is a possibility of our grasses being drowned out, or in other words, they die from suffocation. This is brought on by the excess amount of water excluding all of the air from the soil. As a summary on the use of water on a golf course - we have another example of where our own practical experience should guide us.

We were also told about wetting agents that would enable soils to have a better water-holding capacity and absorption. That when they were properly applied the soil would not have to be watered as often because water that is applied runs in and not off.

Weeds:- The chemical control of weeds in turfgrasses was discussed and illustrated with slides. We were given the names of some of the herbicides used for the eradication of weeds in golf turf and the proper rates of application to use for their control and elimination. The weeds mentioned were crabgrass, goosegrass, plantain, chickweed, dandelion and poa annua. The most difficult ones to handle and control were said to be goosegrass and poa annua. The most used herbicides and chemicals were 2,4D, sodium arsenite, PMAs and arsenate of lead.

Grasses:- Both cool season and warm season grasses were covered at length. Dr. Felix Juska of the United States Department of Agriculture told us of his grass plots at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. Also, that we would have a chance to see them this coming summer as he is planning to hold a Field Day at Beltsville this year. The Doctor described some of the work being carried on at other Experiment Stations around the country.

Two of our friends of long standing, Dr. Bert Musser of State College Pennsylvania and Dr. Fred Grau of College Park, Md, were on hand to tell us about cool season and warm season grasses. A Mid-Atlantic Conference would not be complete if these two men were not in attendance and a part of it.

Dr. Musser told us about the new improved strains of bents and fescues which have been developed at State College and what results to expect of them. We were told how they could be managed and handled to the best advantage. Among the bent grass strains mentioned were Penncross (Polycross), Pennlube and Lula bent.

Dr. Grau covered all of the new bermuda grasses. He fully described their good and bad points and how we could use them to the best advantage on our golf courses. He also explained a survey made on the amount of bermuda used in this area.

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Hurley Savage, President of the Tidewater Turfgrass Association and golf course superintendent at the James River Country Club, Newport News, Virginia gave us a very interesting talk on the use of bermudas in his area. The main feature of his talk was the methods used in converting bermuda grass greens over to rye grass during the off season period of the winter months.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1957

January 17-18	-- Baltimore Conference
February	-- No Meeting (National Conference)
March 5	-- Ft. Belvoir
April 10	-- Baltimore Country Club
May 7	-- Green Hill Yatch Club, Quantico, Md.
June 4	-- Fairfax
July 2	-- Open
Aug. 6	## Beltsville Field Day
Sept. 10	-- Chestnut Ridge Country Club
Oct. 1	-- Congressional Country Club
Nov. 5	-- Open
Dec. 3	-- G.L.Cornell Co.

Please note that two dates are open. Anyone interested in inviting the Association to visit their course should contact the Secretary or any member of the Executive Committee.

SOCIAL

It has been suggested that the Association hold a social affair at some club and invite the ladies to attend.

Such a party was held at Prince Georges a few years back and was considered a real success. Perhaps if there is interest enough we could do the same again and let our wives become better acquainted with each other before the National Meeting next February.

EMPLOYMENT OPENING

It was announced at the Baltimore Meeting that the position of Golf Course Superintendent is open at Goose Creek Country Club, Leesburg, Va.

Anyone interested may obtain an interview by calling Mr. Jenkins at SPRING 7-2500 in Leesburg.

NATIONAL NOTES

As was expected, the National Meeting of Golf Course Superintendents held at Louisville, Ky. the week of Feb. 10 was the best ever. The registration at this annual all-superintendents show was 1095 and represented golf maintenance people from every state.

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From the Mid-Atlantic area went 23 superintendents and three commercial men who hold associate memberships plus three superintendents from the Norfolk area. The group from the Washington- Baltimore area was led by our two National Board-of Director members, Jim Thomas and Frank Dunlap. These two were closely followed by Mid-Atlantic President, Tom Dawson and Vice-President, Paul Weiss, Jr. There to extend a personal invitation, on your behalf, to all the National members to attend the 1958 Meeting in Washington was General Chairman, Bob Shields.

The meeting was a success in more than just attendance. Jimmy Thomas was defeated for office of Vice-President, but only by a few votes. It was a defeat for Jimmy, but a success for the Mid-Atlantic because it had everyone of us working on Jim's behalf seeking votes from anyone we could button-hole and get to listen. By working together we gathered 57 proxy votes and a lot of friends for the Mid-Atlantic. After the meeting in Washington, we should be able to take our rightful place in National affairs, and help carry the cause of the superintendent on to great heights. Jimmy was re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Our own Tom Dawson was awarded the coveted Leo Feser Award in Literature for the best written article pertaining to the work of a superintendent. This was the first time for this annual award and Tom can long be justly proud of his achievements and his plaque. He has our congratulations. For a review of the article written by Tom, see "NEWSLETTER" March 1956.

A program of securing new national members was adopted in lieu of an increase in dues. This was done because those in attendance felt that all superintendents gain by the work of the National and all superintendents should support the work. All Mid-Atlantic members will hear more of this program during the year and all who are not GCSA members will be urged to join.

Worth mentioning is the fact that at Louisville we had the pleasure of seeing again our good friends, Fred Grau, Marvin Ferguson, Charlie Wilson and Al Radco.

CORRESPONDENCE

7 February 1957

Mr. E.R. Shields
Woodmont Country Club
Rockville, Maryland

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your note confirming the date 5 March 1957. I have already reserved the Woodlawn Officers Club for dinner and the meeting. Its not one of the showplaces of Fort Belvoir, but adequate for our meeting, and not too far from the golf club.

I've just found out that Fort Belvoir will be host this year for the Second Army Golf Tournament, scheduled the latter part of July. It is going to be a feather in our cap and yet, a lot of work to be ready for the matches. You may understand why I am anxious for the assistance from all greens superintendents. I really believe that they will deserve about 90% of the

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credit if we can keep the greens from going out in mid summer.

Should you have any preference as to dinner menu give me a call.
Looking forward to seeing you soon, I remain,
RUSS BAKER

NEXT MEETING

The March meeting will be held at the Officers Golf Club , Ft. Belvoir, Virginia , March 5, 1957. The hosts will be Jim Naughton, golf course superintendent and Capt. Russell Baker, secretary of the club.

Next Meeting - Ft. Belvoir Officers Club

Date - Tuesday, March 5, 1957

Golf - 12 noon

Social Period- 5 p.m.

Dinner - 6 p.m.

Meeting - Following dinner

REMINDER

At military installations, ties are required at officers clubs and in dining rooms. To avoid embarrassment to you or your host please wear a tie. In fact, it could be safely stated that ties are in order at every club we visit in order to show that superintendents can get dressed up at least once a month. See yourself as others see you and remember that you are a golf course superintendent and have reason to be proud of it.

DIRECTIONS

From Washington and Baltimore

Follow Shirley Highway, U.S.1 to Ft. Belvoir sign on right about 20 miles south of Army- Navy Country Club. Enter Ft. Belvoir and follow road to right about 2 miles to route #617, then turn left to club.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

This committee consists of Jack Witcher, Baltimore Toro Co. in Baltimore, Bob Adams, National Capital Toro in Silver Spring and George Cornell of G.L.Cornell Co. in Bethesda. If you are looking for a ride or just seeking information give them a call. They are always ready to serve you.

COMING EVENTS

April Meeting - to be held at Baltimore Country Club, Baltimore, Md. on WEDNESDAY April 10, 1957.