



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 November meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents was held at the Woodholme Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland on Tuesday, November 11, 1958 with 41 superintendents and guests present. Our fellow member, Carroll Hitchcock is the "Keeper of the Greens" at Woodholme.

Carroll can well afford to be proud of the job he has done for his membership and we surmise that they hold their golf course superintendent in high esteem. Everything about the property was well groomed, its tidiness was outstanding.

Those of us who played the layout could not help but be envious of what we saw. No doubt, but that many were silently wishing to themselves that they were wearing their host's shoes.

Among the guests present for the meeting were: Carroll McMasters, the Woodholme golf professional; Mr. Martin F. McCarthy, Chairman, Mid-Atlantic Section of the U.S.G.A. Green Section; Mr. Gilbert Shapiro, owner of the Laurel Pines Golf Course, Laurel, Md. and Lt. M.K. Freer, member of Cedar Point Golf Committee.

We had the pleasure of having two visiting superintendents from Richmond, Virginia, Wallace Mallory from the Hermitage Country Club and Harry McSloy of the Country Club of Virginia. Also present were: Messrs. Young and Yingling of Hagerstown, Maryland, who are the owners and operators of the new course, Beaver Creek, being constructed at Hagerstown, Maryland.

We are happy to welcome Harry McSloy as a new member of our Mid-Atlantic group. Harry has been a hard working war-horse for the Tidewater Turfgrass Association ever since the formation of that organization. He was their perennial Secretary-Treasurer. We are glad to have Harry with us, and Tidewater's loss will be our gain. It was a real pleasure to see the two Scotts, Bob Sr. and Bob Jr., at a meeting again. We haven't seen enough of them the last couple of years. Come again, boys.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Due to the perfect condition of the Woodholme golf course, we found it hard to criticize or make suggestions for improvements. Our Proxy, Bob Shields, served as moderator for the many questions that were asked about the operation of the course. The big question seemed to be -- "How do you do it?"

Woodholme greens are gradually being converted to the G-7 (Cohansey) strain of bent. They are mowed at a regular cutting height of 3/16", the fertilizer practices followed are both foliar and inorganic, also a brand containing both urea-form and organic materials. There is a narrow fringe between the aprons and the greens which is mowed at a height of 1/2" that is a separate maintenance operation. The remaining greens to be planted to Cohansey are greens number 9-10-15-17 and the practice putting green. The greens before

being re-grassed were a mixture of many different bent that has not proven satisfactory.

Carroll Hitchcock told us that the greens were sodded from grass planted and grown in his own nurseries. After the sod was laid it was covered with strips of 3/8" plywood and then rolled with a tennis court roller, followed by topdressing, fertilization and watering. Aerification is practised both spring and fall and often during the season if it appears to be needed. He seemed to think that his disease problem had been lessened with C-7 and that the grass has a deeper root system than most bents.

The tees were found to be in excellent shape with most of them composed of both warm and cool season grasses. On many holes they had been taken out of play for the winter season and temporary tees were being used. During the regular season, the U-3 bermuda tees are mowed at a height of 1/2", two or three times a week or as needed with a grass catcher on the mower. The bermudas are fertilized with a 10-6-4 inorganic, the brand used also contains some urea-form and organic fertilizers. This is repeated whenever a need for feeding is indicated by the grasses.

The trapping on the course was well done, and was not to an excess. All traps were filled with white sand in ample quantities and were so constructed that the surface water drained away from them in most instances.

The fairways were well covered with cool season grasses adaptable to this area, such as poa annua, blue grass, fescue and bent. Some highland bent seed has recently been sowed into them at the rate of sixty pounds per acre. The introduction of U-3 bermuda to some areas on a trial basis is contemplated. The fairways are aerified several times a year and are fertilized annually at the rate of 800 pounds per acre, applied in two split applications of 400 pounds each. Chlordane has been applied for grub control at the recommended manufacturer's dosages.

A FEW RANDOM NOTES

In the area behind the maintenance sheds we noticed a large stockpile of compost prepared for topdressing use later on. The pile was quite sizeable and contained enough material to last several seasons.

Someone commented about the thickness of the flag poles used on the greens. Carroll told us that he was plagued with a lot of vandalism and as a result of it, his annual loss of flags, poles and tee markers was getting to be quite a replacement problem. So in the off months when play has slackened, he uses his equipment odds and ends on the tee and greens. Old bamboo whipping poles made satisfactory winter flag poles. This subject of vandalism is getting to be quite a problem with many of us and how to control it could stand a bit of discussion.

The construction work seen on the fifth hole was done so as to afford more visibility for the approach to the fairway and green. Traps and mounds that created a blind shot to the hole were removed and the improvement in the playing qualities of the hole is quite noticeable.

Woodholme through their progressive superintendent seems to be thinking ahead quite a bit. They have several nurseries of bents, zoysias, and merion blue grass. They are preparing to take care of tomorrow as well as today. Every golf course should have ample nurseries of the grasses growing on the course and a power sod cutter for easy cutting and moving.

In reviewing the October Constructive Suggestion Report concerning the golf course at the Andrews Air Force Base, your Editors find that several of the points brought out by those in attendance need clarification. By mentioning fertilizers and other products by their specific names, it was not our intention to imply that the use of those particular brands could cause their users trouble. Many factors enter into the loss of turfgrass, and the real cause is often hard to place and point out. This is particularly true after the trouble has happened.

It is the policy of the "NEWSLETTER" to speak of fertilizers as urea-form, organic, and inorganic. This also applies to chemicals, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, etc. When brands are mentioned it is an error and a slip up on our part. We do not aim to endorse or condemn any established product that is on the competitive market, but we do urge our readers to try them themselves. Their findings are at times difficult to describe without naming brands.

We also wish to call to your attention another error that occurred in the last "NEWSLETTER". The sentence in the third paragraph on Page 2 which read "A caution was sounded to avoid the use of high analysis fertilizers during the hot season of the year; an organic applied often at a very high rate is to be preferred!" The sentence should have read - "an organic applied at a very low rate is to be preferred."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jim Reynolds of Hermitage Country Club, Richmond, Virginia is the new President of the Mid-Atlantic, after having been unanimously elected at Woodholme at the November meeting. Jim accepted by urging closer cooperation between members and willing acceptance by members of any committee work to which they might be appointed. He also urged full attendance at the Baltimore Turfgrass Conference on January 8-9 and the National Conference in Chicago January 25-30.

The new Vice-President is Jim Thomas of Army-Navy Country Club and Tom Doerer, Jr. of Fredericksburg, Va. is Secretary-Treasurer.

Retiring President, Bob Shields, thanked the committee heads for their cooperation during his term and wished the new officers success in 1959.

WORTHINGTON REPAIR SCHOOL

A clinic on how to repair 30" Worthington fairway units was held at the G.L.Cornell Co. on November 17. The school was open to anyone interested in the service and repair of these machine and many useful tips and points of information were given out by Worthington factory representative, Purdy Carson, who led the discussion.

A few of the tips brought out are listed here:

Keep fairway unit adjustment springs paired together. Tighten bed knife screws from center of backing out to the ends. Square off front of bedknife with 10" file during the cutting season. Keep ground wheels tight. Use plastic mustard dispenser to add new grease to roller. Use 250 gear grease. If there are no leaks through cover gaskets and seals, then 1 pint of Marfax 00 or Mobile grease #1 in each housing should last all season. Use grease suction gun to apply. If adjustment handle gets tight, remove and clean out hole with 3/8" tap, add small amount of grease and replace. Reverse ground wheel gears by switching to opposite sides of mower to get maximum service from these gears. Build a fairway mower wash rack and wash units after each day's mowing.

Check tire pressure on units and tractors often and keep them properly inflated. 7:50 x 16 tires take 6 pounds air pressure. Save all maintenance manuals and refer to them often. Use them to help train new men. Cut 100 yards in morning, then stop to adjust cutting edges. Adjust again after lunch. Do not adjust so tight that metal rubs against metal. It's better to run too loose than too tight. Reel should continue to spin after tractor stops. Replace points and condensers on PGM every time mower is torn down. Use J-12#J spark plugs. Clean gas tank cap before removing to keep clippings out of tank. Use clean white gasoline. Check batteries more often and use distilled water when filling. Run sickle bar at no more than 3 m.p.h. and keep blades sharp. Keep all rotary blades sharp and in balance. Proper mowing speed in 5-6 miles per hour.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is a social affair thanks to Mr. George Cornell. It will be held at the G.L.Cornell Company plant at 4715 Miller Ave., Bethesda, Maryland. on December 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Reservation notices are in the hands of all Mid-Atlantic members and should be returned at once if they have not already been mailed. Names of guests were requested on the card so George could have identification badges made up in advance - just another Cornell service.

1959 MEETING PLACES

There are still some openings for meeting places next year. If you would like to have the Mid-Atlantic Association visit your club, then contact one of the officers at the Cornell Meeting. There will be no meeting in February.

COMING EVENTS

Annual Mid-Atlantic Baltimore Turfgrass Conference - Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, January 8-9. Dr. George Langford - Director.

National Turfgrass Conference and Show - Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois - January 25-30.