



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

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JULY 1958

A small group of 27 Mid-Atlantic superintendents and guests met with Harry Allanson at Jefferson-Lakeside Club in Richmond on June 3, 1958.

On hand with Harry to greet arrivals were Mr. Bernard Strohs, Greens Chairman; Mr. Allen Brody, golf professional, and Mr. Emil Evancho, the club manager. Their hospitality and service was generously given and is greatly appreciated. Guest of the evening was Mr. Lawrence Leonard, Sports Editor of the Richmond News Leader.

For the first time in a long time there wasn't a Baltimore superintendent present.

Perfect golf weather led 16 " golfers " to try old man par. Result - par won, everybody lost, everybody except Haske. Stedman paid off to Frank and will be sick about it for a long time.

We saw a well kept golf course, the greens and traps were near perfect. Fairways and tees were a little off, caused no doubt by the cold, wet spring weather which has held back the bermuda grass. The rough was like no other rough we have ever seen - large beautiful trees, some of which had limbs hanging down to the fairway edge almost completely covering the ground between fairways.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

Some of the points brought out during the discussion period were :

Cut greens at 1/4" beginning with cool weather next fall. 5/16" is likely to form excessive thatch.

Verti-cut greens lightly to remove surface runners.

Some fertilizer on fairways this summer would improve the bermuda.

Fertilize bermuda tees every two weeks and cut at 1/2" or lower.

Remove the tree limbs that extend to the fairway line and interfere with golf. Also cut any low hanging branch that prevents club back-swing or tractor mowing.

BINGO PARTY

The social get-together at Indian Spring Country Club on June 11 was a lot of fun for all who attended. Bob Elder and Greens Chairman Eddie Ault did fine jobs as hosts and callers at the Bingo games that followed the buffet dinner. There was plenty of food left even after Paul Weiss went back for thirds. Tom Dawson should have been there.

Entertainment Chairman, Bob Elder picked out 14 valuable prizes that were won by lucky superintendents or their wives. Our thanks to Bob for a job well done.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee it was voted that the policy of the association regarding guest golfers at local meetings would be that all superintendents wishing to bring guests for golf clear through the host superintendent in advance of the meeting by post card or phone.

The reason for this is that the club or superintendent should say who plays the course - not the association.

This rule does not apply to other club officials such as Green Chairmen, Club Presidents, Managers or Pros.

JIMMY THOMAS WRITES

The months of July and August in the Mid-Atlantic area are often critical periods in our golf course maintenance programs. Our turfgrass management practices at this season of the year can spell success or failure.

What we have done earlier in the year, such as: proper fertilization, verticutting and aerification helps to strengthen our grasses to withstand the possible shocks and rigors of a summer of high humidity and temperatures in the nineties. Early advance preparations ahead of the hot months aids us in combating the days of adverse weather that are in front of us.

One of the big problems we may have to face in the next few weeks is proper and adequate water management. This cannot be emphasized too strongly. The correct relationship between air and water in the soil structure must be closely watched and kept in proper balance. Too much of either can be disastrous.

We should constantly be on our guard against overwatering. Soils that are not well drained can soon become saturated and when in such a state during hot weather conditions are not favorable for the existence of grass roots.

When soil pores are completely filled with water all air is excluded from them, then plants die and suffocate from the lack of oxygen. Yet, on the other hand, sufficient moisture must be available in the plant's root zone or else the top growth will wilt and succumb. This is why it is all important to maintain the proper distribution of both air and water in our soils. Particularly is this so when temperatures are in the upper levels.

During periods of low humidity evaporation takes place very rapidly and if accompanied by a breeze, conditions can become very aggravated. Then we must be on our guard against wilt and be ready to provide water in sufficient quantities so as to restore our grasses to their normal health and appearance.

In times of high humidity the atmosphere is laden with moisture and evaporation is very slow. When such a condition exists water management requires all our skill, then we must be very careful to apply no more water than is actually needed. A good policy to follow would be - not too much or not too little at any time. However, it is easy to give such advise - to follow it is a horse of another color.

Practically every summer there is trouble on some greens on a number of courses and

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occasionally on all of the greens. On other courses serious trouble is seldom encountered. Such situations existed again in 1957. As we see the problem, there are three or four things that have a marked bearing on whether you may encounter trouble or not. Study the following:

1. Lack of nitrogen at a uniform level throughout the growing season.
2. Poor watering practices - too much, too little or lack of uniform distribution.
3. Inadequate programs of disease and insect control.
4. Compaction.
5. Poor physical condition due to faulty building of green.
6. Tree roots.

These and many other new items make the position of golf course superintendent one of the most interesting of all agricultural professions. How true this statement is. It is the reason why so many of us follow golf as our life's vocation. The privilege of working hand in hand with Mother Nature seems to compensate us for the long hours and devotion we give our jobs.

The new developments and methods in equipment, materials and know-how of the last few years makes it imperative that we keep abreast of what is going on around and about us. This age we live in moves at a very fast clip; if we are to be modern and up-to-date it behooves us to attend all of the association's monthly meetings. Do not be content with just being present, take part in the discussions, ask questions, and give your fellow superintendent the benefit of your own knowledge. You know- he can learn from you and in turn you from him.

GROUP PHOTO

The Secretary of the National Association, Mr. Agar M. Brown, has asked for a group picture of the Mid-Atlantic membership for publication in the "GOLF COURSE REPORTER".

Arrangements have been made to have a photographer at the Woodmont meeting to take the picture. The time for the group assembly has been set for 6 or 6:30, so the photographer can get away. Plans have been made for an outside picture.

Prints of the 8x10 picture may be ordered at the time by leaving name, address and \$1.00 with the photographer.

WELCOME TO WOODMONT

It gives great pleasure to welcome you to Woodmont on behalf of Mr. Leo Freudberg, Greens Chairman; Mr. Ernest Oberhammer, Club Manager, Mr. Clarence Doser, Golf Professional and the members of our club.

At Woodmont we have three regulation nines and a short 9 of all Par threes, which we call the Freudberg Iron Duke. As a member of the Mid-Atlantic you are invited to play any of these courses you might care to.

The "Duke" is a good test of golf and might appeal to the fellow who gets here late, or one who thinks he can place 9 good iron shots and 18 putts for par.

Our 18, built by Frank Murray in 1948 with Al Tull as architect, is perhaps a little long, but is no serious problem for the fellow who can hit straight.

We are especially proud of our new 9, which was opened last August by Vice-President Nixon and Ambassador Abba Eban, because we built it ourselves.

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Al Tull was called in in the spring of 1955 to draw up plans for the layout. He did the job in very short order because he was already familiar with the area, but it was August 1 before we got the necessary machines, money and O.K. from the Board of Directors to start construction. The greens were planted in October 1956 which is the date of the association's last visit to Woodmont.

Give the courses a try, then tell us how we can improve or change them to make them more enjoyable to our members.

Our biggest headaches are tees and collars - the same as during your last visit. We have almost solved the tee problem by planting all or part of each tee to improved bermudas. For the collars we have planted 3 acres of Merion blue grass over beyond the Iron Duke and plan to strip the old sod this fall, then resod with the Merion. (I stole the idea from Carroll Hitchcock at Woodholme where we visit in November.)

Our maintenance shop is open for your inspection if you care to visit. There to answer questions will be mechanic, Clyde Asbury and foreman, George Wyatt.

Hope to see you on the 8th.

Bob Shields

NEXT MEETING

PLACE - WOODMONT COUNTRY CLUB
Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland

DATE - Tuesday, July 8, 1958

TIME - Golf - 12 noon
Social Hour - 5:30
Dinner - 6:30
Meeting - Following Dinner

HOST - Bob Shields

FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE

We have several requests on hand from young men who wish to work as assistants or as trainees on golf courses this season. Some of these men have had previous experience in golf course work while others are graduating from Agronomy courses in schools.

We would like to have this office act as a clearing house between these young men and prospective employees. If there are any members of your Association who would have a job opening for such an individual or who would like to have further correspondence directly with these fellows, please have him drop this office a note.

Hiring such men will do double-barrel good. A man with interest in the field can be employed and a superintendent can further train a man for the profession.

TEN INCHES OF DEW - Excerpt from FORD FARMING- Summer 1958

Tests in Ohio show that dew can add up to a valuable 10 inches of water a year, reports West Virginia University. In some years, dew may supply a fifth of the water used by a crop.