



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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On Tuesday, October 7, 1958, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held their regular monthly meeting at the golf course of the Andrews Field Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Maryland. Some fifty odd members and guests were in attendance to be greeted by the hosts for the occasion - Captain F.M. Johnson, the officer in charge of the club's golf activities, Base Commander Colonel Newton, President of the Andrews golf council, Colonels Bullard and Miller, also members of the golf council. Ray Bitchison, golf course superintendent and Don Saylor, the home pro.

A surprise visitor and guest was Jim Latham, the Southeastern Director of the U.S.G.A. Green Section. Jim works out of the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. He told us how bent grasses were beginning to be used in certain parts of the south. According to Jim, creeping bent greens are being maintained successfully as far south as Chattanooga, Knoxville, Atlanta, Nashville, and the mountain regions of the Carolinas.

Jim also mentioned that bermuda grasses were constantly being introduced north of the Mason-Dixon line. He is a strong advocate of the use of bermudas in all areas where they can be grown without being subject to winterkill. To quote him, "closely clipped bermuda tees and fairways are second to none." Last winter was hard on bermuda turf in the south, much of the grass was severely set back by the unusual cold weather. We were told that heavy trampling on bermuda sod when frozen was a factor to guard against, especially does this hold good on tees. Jim's parting words to us were to keep our golfers happy and to use what we have to the best advantage.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT

The Constructive Suggestion Report was led by our Prexy, Bob Shields. The tees on a whole were found to be in very good shape. The eighteenth tee was outstanding in the quality of its turf, it has a sod of U-3 bermuda. As Jim Latham told us, U-3 is one of the hardiest and most wear resistant of all the bermudas and is doing fine here. It was recommended that Andrews maintain both winter and summer tees, that way both cool and warm season grasses could be used to the best advantage.

As to the fairways, the old stock recommendation, weed and feed, holds good. Somehow when golf budgets are made up, fairways seem to be forgotten - they are supposed to take care of themselves. Adequate fertilization of fairways pays big dividends golf wise. Those fairways where irrigation had been applied were in excellent shape, and it was quite evident that there had not been any excessive misuse of water. On most watered fairways one often finds that far too much water has been used with the final result being weeds instead of grass.

It was suggested that traps on the course be held to a minimum to help speed up play when congestion on the course was heavy. Many of the course's sand hazards have not been

placed to the best advantage and the sand used is too fine a texture. Considerable work could be done on the roughs in the nature of clean-up. Trees need to be thinned out and much scrub growth removed. This would permit the use of power gang mowing equipment in the roughs and also help to keep golf play moving.

The greens still showed some scars due to the ravages of this past unfavorable season. In order to hasten their healing in it was suggested that the height of cut be slightly higher and during the hot months of summer the mowers could be raised to 5/16". As both nines were not built at the same time experience gained from the first construction showed the need for more top soil in the greens. This was corrected when the second nine was built by Mr. Frank Murray, resulting in a better and more resilient turf.

C-1 and C-19 bents were the selections used for the putting green grasses. Applications of a nitroform fertilizer were made to the greens in June, July and August plus one of the Agricos. 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 renovation of the seventh, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth greens was recommended, particularly the seventh. Quick surface and subgrade drainage is to be emphasized.

Recommendation was to use a coarser sand in the soil mixture of the greens. Immediate aerification and fertilization of the greens was advised and an application of dolomitic lime if soil tests show lime is needed. Wider collars would be an improvement around the larger greens.

The patrons of the Andrews Air Force golf course are fortunate in having an individual of the caliber of Captain Johnson in charge of the supervision of their golf course maintenance. One can see that he has put much planning and study into his work. Andrews is reaping the profits of accomplishment through the continuity of long time management.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

<u>LOW GROSS</u>	<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>DONOR</u>
1st - F.M. Johnson - 78	Wirst Watch	G.L. Cornell Co.
2nd - Wm. Schrieber - 79	\$25 Govt. Bond	F.W. Bolgiano
3rd - John Connolly - 81	\$10 Pro Shop Mchds.	MAGCSA
4th - Joe Reposkey - 81	\$10 Pro Shop Mchds.	MAGCSA

<u>LOW NET</u>	<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>DONOR</u>
Lewis Lamp - 75	\$25 Bond	F.W. Bolgiano
Tom Dawson - 75	\$10 Pro Shop Mchds.	MAGCSA
Fred Sappenfield - 77	Radio	Joe Keegan
Richard Stedmen - 78	\$10 Pro Shop Mchds.	MAGCSA
J. Cockriel - 78	\$10 Pro Shop Mchds.	MAGCSA
Mike Burkholder - 78	\$10 Pro Shop Mchds.	MAGCSA

Three Golf Balls Each - John Burt, 79 ; E. Stanley, 79 ; E. McElligott, 80; R. Kerns, 82; T. Doerer, 82; B. Strouth, 85; Rueben Hines -86; Franci Coupe, 88; Harry Allanson, 90 and J. Graham, 91.

ASSOCIATE WINNERS--

A. Jedenoff - low gross 85	\$10 Pro Shop Mrchds.	MAGCSA
A.E. Rabbitt - low net 73	\$10 Pro Shop Mrchds.	MAGCSA
Frank Haske - 2nd Low Net -76	2 golf balls	
C. Lynch - 3rd low net-77	2 golf balls	

The golf Committee and members of the Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the prize donors for their contributions and support that helped make the tournament a success. You can show your appreciation by patronizing these suppliers.

TRIP TO CHICAGO

Mr. Mike Burkholder of Fairfax Golf Course is the lucky winner of the Toro-sponsored drawing for the round trip free airplane trip to Chicago for the National Turfgrass Conference to be held the last week in January.

The Mid-Atlantic is most grateful to the Toro distributors of this area for sponsoring this event and making it possible for one of our members to attend the National Meeting. Our thanks are hereby extended.

1959 OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee is having difficulty forming a complete slate of officers for the coming election. Chairman Ernie Stanley says he and his committee are open for any suggestions and would appreciate hearing from you if you think you know someone who would make a good officer for the Association.

FROM THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Word has been received that the National Secretary Mr. Agar M. Brown has resigned from his office effective Dec. 31 or sooner if a replacement can be found.

Mid-Atlantic members enjoyed working with Agar during the last National Meeting and wish him every success in the future. To Mr. Bob Williams our National President who has the difficult task of finding a new Secretary, we pledge our loyalty and support.

NEW NATIONAL MEMBER

The most recent local man to join the National Association is Lewis Lamp, superintendent at Winchester Golf Club over in Virginia. May we extend him a hearty welcome. Lewis is one of those fortunate superintendents who has had the experience of actually building a 9 hole golf course. He wants us to visit Winchester next year to see what he has done.

NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS GOLF TOURNAMENT

The winner of the Superintendents Golf Championship played at Pinehurst, N.C. on October 2-3 was John Connolly of Fairfax. Joe Reposkey of Frostburg, Md. won 2nd place in the Pro-Superintendent division. John Burt from Patuxent River, Md. also played and took home a prize.

We congratulate these men for their golf prowess and endurance. They won the hard way - playing 18 holes in the rain each day.

Other Mid-Atlantic representatives present were: Jim Reynold, Goerge Wingo, Bob Shields and Jim Thomas.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Woodholme Country Club, Pikesville, Maryland on November 11 with Carroll Hitchcock as host superintendent.

GOLF- 12 noon

INSPECTION of the Golf Course - all afternoon

SOCIAL HOUR - 5 p.m.

Dinner - 6.p.m.

MEETING - Following dinner

BUSINESS OF THE DAY - ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1959.

COMING EVENTS

MEETING - G.L. Cornell Co. December 2

ANNUAL BALTIMORE TURFGRASS CONFERENCE - January 8-9 , Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore

NATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE -- January 25-30 - Sherman Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

NATURE'S AUTUMN MYSTERY - Excerpt from " Ford Farming , Fall 1956"

Nature holds many secrets and the most closely guarded are those closest to life itself. One of the most mysterious and spectacular of plant life processes is the annual autumn splendor of the dying leaves. Locked up in this colorful mystery might be the secrets that could help farmers raise better crops and do it easier and cheaper. Investigations have revealed a few clues to the color changes in leaves, but the greater mysteries of exactly why and how remain unsolved. Through the microscope scientists have discovered some of the working of plant life which cause leaves to change color. They have seen that every leaf is made of hundreds of thousands of tiny cells - like hollow, thin-walled bricks filled with water. Inside each cell are blobs of colored chemicals. The green chemical makes leaves green. This green substance is the only thing known to man which, with the help of light, turns water and carbon dioxide (the same gas that putts the "fixz" in soda pop) into sugar - food! The life sustaining magic of this green substance is still puzzling scientists.

Blobs of yellow and brown chemicals are also contained in the cells of green leaves. But these don't color the leaves until the green chemical disappears. Green leaves get ready for the color change long before the arrival of Jack Frost. Mature leaves have a cut-off zone which you can see at the base of the leaf stem where it joins the twig. A tiny furrow or a different color marks this separation layer of the cells. Some of these cells slowly disintegrate and dry out. As they do, they choke the tubes that carry materials in and out of the leaf. Before the leaf falls, all the " pipes " to the leaf are pinched closed and sealed.

All summer these open tubes carry materials to the leaf to replenish the green food-making chemical as it is used up. Then in the fall, as the tubes close, the leaf gets fewer raw materials and the green chemical is used up faster than it's replaces. With the green substance disappearing, the yellow substance becomes visible. Soon the green is gone and the leaves are yellow. You've see this occur in corn, aspens, elms and birches.