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MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Affiliated 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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OCTOBER 1958

The September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic was held at Shenandoah Retreat Country Club near Bluefield, Virginia where John Leavell is golf course superintendent - as well as Pro, Manager, Big Chief and Bottle Washer. John was in fine fettle for the occasion and got the meeting off to a good start with a couple of fishing yarns as only he can tell them. Dr. E.M. Freeman, owner of Retreat, played the perfect host and personally prepared steaks for the 40 superintendents and guests present.

The meeting got under way after dinner and after the introduction of guests when President Bob Shields asked Fred Sappenfield to conduct the Constructive Suggestion Report. The report in very brief form follows:

Manage water very carefully. Keep greens on dry side so they can take more rain without causing trouble.

Penn Cross over-seeding of greens not too satisfactory. Try C-1 and C-19 or C-1 and C-7 bents on greens in this protected area. Suggest sod nursery or practice putting green of this combination as a trial.

When watering greens, water well over outside of putting surface so these areas won't draw moisture from the green. One man said it takes 5000 gallons of water per green per day but that figure may be a little high. Each superintendent should determine this figure for himself.

Use Chlordane at 10 oz. 50% actual per thousand square feet for control of sod worms or 6 lb. arsenite of lead for each 5000 sq. ft. green. Do not water in.

An effective control for crab grass is 1 qt. of PMA in the 150 gal. spray tank for 9 greens on weekly applications.

Plant tees to U-3 bermuda in summer, then fertilize often and cut low.

On fairways use verti-combs for mechanical control of crabgrass now. Fertilize liberally with the heaviest rates in the fall. Use Chloradane for sod worm and beetle grub control.

FROM USGA SOUTHWESTERN TURFLATTER, JULY 1955- Dr. Marvin H. Ferguson, Director

SOD WEBWORMS

Numerous golf courses have been infested with sod webworms this year. Some of the courses infested had been damaged badly before the source of the trouble was recognized. Typically, sod webworm injury is similar to that caused by dollar spot on turf. Brown spots appear which may vary from the size of a fingernail to that of a 25¢ piece. Close inspection will disclose a chewed appearance on some of the grass blades.

Sod webworms are not difficult to control but they are difficult to find. The injury is such that it is easily confused with a number of other troubles. Sod webworm attacks may come during a period of disease activity, or following a fungicide, fertilizer or other chemical burn. In such cases, the presence of sod webworms is unusually difficult to recognize because one may confuse their activity with another type of injury. One sure way to determine the presence of sod webworms is to drench the turf with a solution of pyrethrum. A solution of

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one part pyrethrum to 440 parts of water used at the rate of about 100 gallons per 1000 square feet will cause the webworms to come to the surface very quickly.

Sod webworms may be any of some 70 species which belong to the genus GRAMBUS. The full grown larva is a grayish-green worm about 1/2 to 3/4 inches long. He resembles the army worm in some respects. The larva eats the leaves of tender grass at night and during the heat of the day remains below the surface of the turf in a silken tunnel. This silken tunnel is covered by bits of grass and organic matter so that the worm is very difficult to find. After reaching full growth the larva changes to a pupae and eventually emerges as a full grown moth. This moth is brownish-gray to dull gray and sometimes resembles a stick or twig of dry grass when the moth is resting with its wings folded. The moth is 1/2 to 3/4 inch in length. Observation of these small moths around a putting green area should be a "tip-off" to impending trouble.

The moth drops its eggs while on the wing. The eggs fall into the turf and hatch in 7 to 10 days, producing the small larva which begins to feed immediately. There may be several broods in a year. Therefore one must keep a constant lookout for them.

Almost any good insecticide will control sod webworms. Pyrethrum, rotenone, and arsenate of lead are among the materials used for many years for their control. Probably the most commonly used insecticide for this purpose at the present time is chlordane. It is well to use chlordane, DDF or dieldrin as a regular preventive spray during the summer months. When adjacent areas become dry and hot, the cool moist putting green is an attractive place for the sod webworm moth to deposit her eggs.

A preventive spray program and constant vigilance can save you a great deal of trouble. And when other trouble strikes, don't overlook the possibility of sod webworms attacking while your attention is diverted.

TOM DAWSON RESIGNS FROM COUNTRY CLUB OF VIRGINIA

Former association President Tom Dawson has resigned from the Country Club of Virginia at Richmond to accept a position as Sales Engineer with the Richmond Power Equipment Co.- new Toro distributors in that area. His new duties will be to set up a sales program for Toro products in southern Virginia.

At the Country Club since 1951, Tom was well liked by all who came in contact with him and the work that he did brought credit to himself and to this association. In recognition of his outstanding work in preparing for the 1955 National Amateur Tournament the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America presented Tom with the " Citation of Merit " for that year. In 1956 he was President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. In 1957 he won the Leo Fesser award which is presented annually to the superintendent writing the best article on golf course maintenance. At the National Turfgrass Conference last February he was Chairman of the Ladies' Program Committee and added considerably to the success of the Washington meeting.

Tom's position at the Country Club will be filled by Harry Mc Sloy who moves north from Portsmouth, Virginia. Tom's shoes are mighty big ones to fill, Harry, but we know you can do the job. We wish you every success and offer any help or cooperation we might give.

MID- ATLANTIC MISCELLANEA

Frank Dunlap is out of the hospital but still is not as well as he would like to be. Do as the Doctor says, Frank, and take it easier.

Ruben Hines reports good progress on the two courses he and Ruben, Jr. have under construction.

The Young and Yingling Hagerstown course will have complete fairway watering. Fairways were seeded this fall to Merion Blue and Ky. 31. Greens will be G-7.

Frank Murray, the Mid-Atlantic course builder, applied a novel idea to his construction job at Lebanon Country Club in Pennsylvania. The first thing he and his flying partner Russell Roberts do when they start building a new golf course is to clear and smooth a fairway which they then use as a temporary landing strip. Flying their own light plane from their own private landing strip near Rockville, Maryland they can be on the job, or have a key man there on very short notice and still be back home before dark. Russ says everything went without incident this summer as he made the 80 minute trip back and forth but says he did have to race a couple of storms that got on his tail. Murray and Roberts announce the opening of their new southern office at 2345 N.E. 27th St., Pompano Beach, Florida.

Joe Reposky, formerly at Talbot Country Club on Maryland's Eastern Shore, is now at Maplehurst Country Club, Frostburg, Pennsylvania.

Jimmy Thomas now has the responsibility of caring for two 18 hole golf courses now that Army*navy Country Club has purchased Fairfax Golf Course. He is most fortunate in having a man like Mike Burkholder at Fairfax.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Secretary-Treasurer Francis Coupe says dues statements, both local and national, will be in your hands in the next couple of weeks. He asks that you make every effort to get them back in to him or the National Secretary Agar Brown as soon as possible.

COMING EVENTS

- November 4 - Mid-Atlantic meeting at Woodholme Country Club and election of Officers for 1959.
- December 2 - Mid-Atlantic meeting at G.L. Cornell Co.
- January 8 and 9 - Annual Baltimore Turfgrass Conference
- January 25-30 - National Turfgrass Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

FROM THE HEART OF AMERICA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOC. "TURF NEWS" Oct. 1957.
L.E. Lambert, Editor

HAVE YOU?

- Checked your tile lines and made sure all the catchbasins and outlet structures are in good repair for the winter months?
- Checked for broken tiles and repaired them if found?
- Checked the sand traps for the amount of replacement sand required so it can be hauled while the ground is frozen?
- Marked the trees to be removed during the winter months?
- Checked the pH of your soil to determine if lime will be required so you can apply it during the winter months?
- Checked your water hose before storing for the winter and noted the number of feet needing replacement?
- Inspected the water lines and self-closing valves for leakage and noted repairs necessary?
- Have you checked your maintenance buildings and storage buildings for leaky roofs and broken window glass?
- Checked the winter tee markers and flags to be used while repairs are being made to your

summer equipment?

Inspected each piece of mowing equipment for its condition and whether it is advisable to repair it or replace it?

Checked the oil consumption of your tractors to determine which ones should receive an overhaul job this winter?

Installed anti-freeze solutions in the radiators of the watercooled equipment you will be using during the winter?

Drained and checked all equipment placed in storage to prevent freezing?

Protected all metal parts which might rust or corrode with a protective coating of oil or grease?

Put your snow moving equipment in good shape and have it ready for an emergency or sudden storm?

Hauled in enough dirt or topdressing material and stored it under cover so that you will have it in the Spring when you may not be able to get it?

Checked you inventory of small tools, supplies, repair parts and equipment ? Do you have what you think you have?

Assembled the facts and figures to make up your annual report to the greens chairman?

Started to plan your budget requests for next year and estimated your probable needs?

Checked with other department heads for projects they may be planning which will require your cooperation and the assistance of your crew?

Made plans to attend the 30th National Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Sherman Hotel in Chicago, Ill. on January 25-30, 1959?

Paid your Golf Course Superintendents Association dues?

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at Andrews Field Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Md. on October 7, 1958. Host, Capt. F.M. Johnson, says he has lots of reconstruction work going on, but we are welcome to play the course and look things over. Your suggestions on the work in progress will be appreciated.

Events on tap for this meeting are: (1). Playoff of golf tournament and awarding of prizes, (2) Door prizes for non-golfers attending (3) Drawing to see who wins the free trip to the National Meeting, paid for by Mid-Atlantic Toro dealers, Winner need not be present. (4) Nominating Committee to present slate of officers for 1959.

MEETING PLACE- Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Maryland

Date- October 7, 1958

Time - Golf - 12 noon

Inspection of golf course- All afternoon

Social Hour - 5-6 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Meeting - Following dinner

Ties at Andrews Field . Andrews Field is a military installation. From experience we know that such places require ties at social functions on the base. Do not insult our host by appearing out of " uniform ". Show everyone that golf course superintendents can get dressed up at least once a month.