



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

L. R. SHIELDS
JAMES E. THOMAS

Editor Woodmont Country Club, Box 352, Rockville, Md.
Editor Army Navy Country Club, Arlington, Va.

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Tuesday, March 3rd was the first regularly scheduled meeting of the season for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. It was held at the James River Country Club, Warwick, Virginia, which is the home course of Hurley Savage. Hurley is a member of the Mid-Atlantic, The Tidewater Turfgrass Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Since James River is in the Newport News area we were able to hold a joint meeting with our immediate neighbors, the members of the Tidewater Turfgrass Association. This frequent get together with them is fast becoming an annual affair, and we look forward to these gatherings with anticipated pleasure.

Dr. Fred Grau of the Nitroform Corporation was our guest and principal speaker. Fred presented his program by giving a talk and combining it with illustrated slides. As a preamble to his presentation, he ran across the screen several pictures of superintendents of both the Tidewater and Mid-Atlantic areas. These were snapshots taken on visits to different golf courses during his many travels about the countryside.

Dr. Grau, by showing us slides of golf courses around the country, gave us many actual visual illustrations of both good and bad maintenance practices. He also made timely comparisons of the different warm and cool season grasses. The progress being made with the formulation of chemicals and fertilizers was covered in his talk. We thank the good Doctor for being with us and hope to have him as our guest often during the season. He always has a worthwhile message for us.

Time did not permit a Constructive Suggestion Report. However, Hurley Savage asked that a few of us review what we saw on his golf course. As a first comment, Hurley is to be commended on the job of grooming he does at James River. Its tidiness is always pleasing to the eye. There is one major improvement that the James River Country Club could make and that is the enlargement of all teeing areas. Dr. Fred Grau hit the nail on the head by saying "that it would be better if the club would start growing tees instead of trees." Most of the tees are much too small in size and are nestled in tree pockets. The tees are located in heavily timbered coves and as a result, are in constant shade most of the day. This condition is not conducive to the establishment of a good stand of turf, especially bermuda grass. As a suggestion to the club, why not enlarge one or two tees and thin out the trees around them? The resulting improvement from such a project could be used as a selling point for doing the remaining tees.

The hollow extending out over the golf course from the James River has a few seepage spots that could be greatly improved by using a little drain tile. This is a small job that could be done with very little expense to the club and it would pay dividends in player satisfaction. As to the greens, their contours are well worked out so as to provide good surface drainage. However, on some holes a little tree thinning so as to remove the shade from across the greens would help.

Before closing the educational part of this "Newsletter" it is only fitting to thank the James River Country Club for a most enjoyable day. Hurley Savage and his Greens Committee, headed by their Chairman, Mr. Charles E. Knight, Jr., were perfect hosts and they entertained us royally.

FRED WILLIAMS RETIRES

After 37 years of active service as Executive Secretary of the USGA Green Section, Mr. Fred Williams has retired. All of us did not have the pleasure of personally knowing Fred, yet many of the Green Section articles on the growing of fine turf and the maintenance of golf courses have received their final editing by him before being published. It can truly be said that he was one of golf's most important behind-the-scenes workers, a right hand man to all who have directed the destinies of the USGA Green Section. The United States Golf Association did not fail to reward Fred Williams for his many years of faithful service; he was given a bonus check, a dinner attended by a few former associates, a leather brief case by the Green Section staff, and an album of testimonial letters from many who were acquainted with him.

NEW TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Rumor has it that Virginia is about to have a new organization of golf course superintendents and turf men. The group is being helped to organize by Dr. Roy Blazer of VPI at Blacksburg, Virginia. The organizational meeting is to take place at the Roanoke Country Club on March 26th. Southwest Virginia and Eastern West Virginia have enough golf activity to support such a move and we wish the new group every success in their efforts.

FROM THE SECRETARY

- #1. - Reminder on dues - last day - April 30th
- #2. - Russell Werns, a regular member, resigned. He is now Superintendent at Miami Shores Golf Club, Miami, Florida. He forwards regards to all.
- #3. - The October meeting is scheduled for Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
- #4. - Fred Williams, Secretary U.S.G.A., Green Section, Beltsville, Maryland retires. After 37 years service, we voted \$100.00 to the Fred Williams Foundation, for work with the boys. Fred has over 10,000 volumes of reading matter in his home library, much of it on golf and sports. He is quite an avid sports enthusiast, with boys' baseball as one of his favorites.

Tom Doerer, Jr.

TOM RYAN GONE

On Sunday, March 1st, golfers on the Mid-Atlantic area were saddened by the news of the death of Tom Ryan, former superintendent of the Bellehaven Country Club, Alexandria Virginia. Tom's death occurred on the anniversary of his retirement from that club. Tom was 60 years old and had spent 37 active years in golf. Tom Ryan was a former Secretary of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents and a member of long standing, having joined the Association in 1931. The Association members extend their sympathy and condolences to his family.