



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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On Tuesday, April 7th, 1959, the members of the Mid-Atlantic visited the Bethesda Country Club for the regular monthly meeting. Bethesda is the home course of Mid-Atlantic member T.S. Lumsden. Lum, as most of us know him, is one of the old timers of the district and has been at his present location better than a decade. Under his supervision Bethesda Country Club has grown from a small nine hole layout to a full length course of eighteen holes.

Those of us who have seen this expansion take place fully realize what has been accomplished by this man's untiring efforts. In reviewing the fruits of Lum's work the old adage comes to mind of "Little strokes fell great oaks." This has really come to pass at Bethesda. A pleasing golf course has been created under very trying conditions, such as a small working budget, poor terrain and bad soil conditions.

It has only been a few years back that the greens were heavily infested with crab grass and poa annua. These pests have been overcome and what was once a superintendent's headache is no longer a problem. Under Lum invasion of weeds and unwanted grasses has been reduced to a minimum and is no longer a cause for worry and concern.

Roughs which were once a jungle of undergrowth and an eyesore to the players are now a thing of the past. A general cleanup of all unsightly areas has taken place and their appearance now is most pleasing to the eye. The condition of the fairways has shown a marked improvement under a sound, well managed fertilization program. Side hill erosion has been brought under control and where badly eroded places once existed the spots have been repaired and grassed over.

The greens were well carpeted with a good tight sod, although a few of them were beginning to show signs of grain and too much mat. However, at the time of our visit, Lum had not gotten around to his usual Spring program of verticutting and aerifying. No doubt but that this has been done and is out of the way. The putting swards by now should be in excellent condition ready for the season's onslaught of players and hot weather.

It can truly be said, superintendent T.S. Lumsden has mastered many of the obstacles that have stood in his path. He has used adverse conditions and hard going as a guide and a pattern on how to create and maintain a better kept golf course. He has profited by his mistakes, and used them to an advantage. This is a lesson we all could follow and copy. We know that the membership of the Bethesda Country Club must be very proud of their golf course superintendent.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Three new members were accepted at the April meeting as Regular Members. They are : Angelo Commorola, Green Hill Yacht and Country Club, Quantico, Maryland; Cliff Olinger, G. Oak Lodge, Chestertown, Maryland; and Fred Sappenfield, Willow Oaks Country Club, Richmond, Virginia. These men are all members of the National Association and bring many years of experience to our fellowship. We welcome them to our association.