



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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OCTOBER 1959

Beaver Creek Country Club, Hagerstown, Maryland was the site of the September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Messrs. John Young and Bert Yingling owners and operators of the club, were our hosts for the day and our fellow member, Clarence Jett, is the superintendent in charge of the grounds.

The design and construction of the golf course can be credited to Reuben Hines, Sr. Reuben has created a pleasing layout over rolling terrain and the property is well adapted for the playing of golf. From the championship tees the course measures 6,867 yards, the yardage from the white markers is 6,553 yards. Both lengths play to a par of 72. The distance from the red tees, used by the ladies, is 6,157 yards.

The first and tenth holes are parallel fairways, each averaging over 400 yards in length, and they separate the property into two sections. The South portion containing the first nine holes and the North half the second nine holes. Both nines finish at the clubhouse, with the ninth green situated in close proximity to the tenth tee.

All tees are large and of simple construction. The greens are planted to C-7 (Cohansey) strain of creeping bent grass. They have good surface drainage and are gently undulating with every inch of their surface being available for cupping locations.

There is still considerable work necessary to bring the fairways into good playing condition. They were seeded in the Fall of 1958 and while the stand of grass was still in the seedling stage, a flash rain storm caused severe erosion damage to the newly planted areas. This, followed by a hot dry summer, has been an added handicap to the establishment of a good sod.

With the arrival of cool weather the owners intend to fertilize liberally, reseed all thin areas, practice soil erosion control where needed by using mulching materials, strips of sod and board checks.

When the course does finally come into its own, from a superintendent's viewpoint, it will be a dream come true. There is plenty of air circulation over the property, the grounds drain well, and most of the contours lend themselves to machine maintenance. Reuben surely had his fellow superintendent in mind when he built the course, nor did he forget the interests of his employers.

As full clubhouse facilities were not yet available, after finishing playing golf we retired to a nearby restaurant for dinner and a short meeting. During the meeting slides were shown describing the different stages of construction work performed in building the course. To our hosts we express thanks and appreciation for their hospitality and we wish them the best of success in their golf venture. We wish success also to the newly acquired superintendent of Beaver Creek, Mr. Clarence Jett.

We were happy to see Clarence Lindsay of Fountainhead Country Club in attendance. Clarence as you know has been unable to attend association meetings because of the illness of his wife.

Tom Dawson is the proud winner of the first place in a Toro sales contest. The prize was a boat and motor and an all-expense paid trip to the Toro plant in Minneapolis. Congratulations to you, Tom.

OPEN LETTER TO JOHN YOUNG

Mr. John Young
Beaver Creek Country Club
Hagerstown, Maryland

September 5, 1959

Dear John,

If you don't mind I'll put in my two cents' worth of recommendations on how to go about over-seeding your fairways at Beaver Creek.

You are on the right track because you know that September is the best time to seed and you are making preparations to do the job.

It seems to me your big problem will be in getting the seed in good contact with the soil. With the ground as hard and dry as it is, I'm afraid your alfalfa drill may not penetrate deep enough to make an opening for the seed. If it doesn't, then use a farm disc set straight to make shallow cuts. Run over with the disc once from tee to green, then go over again across the fairway to make sure the soil is open. Come right in behind with a chain link harrow to break up lumps and smooth.

This may sound like harsh treatment but sometimes we have to get rough. If players complain, then close the nine holes you are working on and let them just play nine. This job has to be done and done right now.

With the fairways cut up you are ready to seed. The alfalfa drill will work now or you could use a Brillion seeder or cyclone seeder. Here again I'd divide the seed and go over the fairway in two directions to assure even distribution. CAUTION: don't get too far ahead with the discing operation or one rain before seeding will mean it has to be done over.

You surely must have some merion growing from last year's seed, so for this year's seeding rate I'd use half of the amount used last year or about ~~44~~ to the acre. Seed when the soil is dry.

If the ground is hard, rolling won't do much good, so in that case, water as soon as the seeding job is finished then, if you want to, roll it the next day. Don't let a sprinkler run long enough to start water to running, but instead water lightly and more often. Keep up the watering until the next rain - then as needed after that.

If you have not already fertilized (I hope you have), then do it before you disc and then water in lightly. If the ground is hard you could have the fertilizer spread by truck, but don't wait for anything. Remember what happened last year when you waited to seed?

If you can't get the fertilizer on now then go ahead and seed. You can fertilize a month later when the seed is up by using a material that won't burn, Milorganite would be my choice.

Those washes in the fairways look bad to you I know, but remember, 90% of them wouldn't show if you had good grass coverage. Stick to your seeding job, then when it's finished go ahead on the washouts. Seeding can only be done now, but ditch repairs can go on all winter.

You and Bert are to be commended on the good job you have done in building and getting your course into play so soon. Let's hope that next year you can take a little time out for golf.

Bob Shields.

RESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

Our next meeting will be at Fort Belvoir where our hard working secretary, Tom Doerer, Jr. is superintendent.

From all reports from Belvoir, Tommie has sprigged in all of the #328 bermuda he could get his hands on. The results of this project should be worth seeing.

We will also have our annual golf tournament at Belvoir, so sharpen up your game and come prepared to win a prize.

We haven't secured a speaker for this meeting for one reason, The Superintendents of the Mid-Atlantic area have had their troubles this year due to weather, fertilizers, chemicals, etc. We think it would be a good time to compare notes on our troubles. Bring yours along and maybe some of the other boys have an answer.

Best regards,
Jim Reynolds.

SHORT SHOTS FROM FATHER-IN-LAW

Dear Bob,

I hope you have had a good season. Always remember that the American Medical Society, this year, has announced that it takes 35 miles of Golf Course Grass Cutting to WALK OFF one pound of Country Club Fat.

Dewey

EMPLOYMENT OPENINGS

Chester River Yacht and Country Club
Chestertown Maryland.

Nine holes built in 1928. House and utilities furnished.
Contact: Harry S. Russell, Sect.-Mgr.
Chester River Yacht and Country Club, Chestertown, Maryland

Seaford Golf Club
Seaford, Delaware. - Pro-superintendent or superintendent
Write: W.H. Filer, Secretary.

Rock Creek Park Golf Course, Washington, D.C. - Contact S.G. Leoffler - Executive 3-7325.

This is only a listing of positions open in the Mid-Atlantic area. If you are interested in employment in some other area, contact the association Secretary, Tom Doerer, or write to the National Secretary, Dr. Gene Nutter, Box 1385, Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

MID-ATLANTIC MISCELLANY

Frank Haske is now associated with the golf course construction firm of Murray and Roberts. At present he is acting as construction engineer on the new Shady Grove Country Club 18-hole layout at Sam Eig's Washingtonian Motel near Gaithersburg, Maryland. Frank says that work has actually started after many delays and that he is busy clearing the fairways that run through the woods. Some fairway work in the open must wait until a crop of corn is removed in October.

Many reports have come to us indicating the greens and fairways at Norbeck Country Club are in very good condition. The team of Bill Wright and his chairman, Mr. Charles Fishman, are to be commended.

We believe the summer of 1959 will be long remembered as the most difficult season the Mid-Atlantic area had had in a long time. Pythium was especially troublesome during 21 straight days in August when temperatures soared above 90 degrees and the humidity stayed at 75%.

A visit to Wayne Jerome's new Cedar Crest Country Club near Centerville, Virginia would be most enlightening to anyone with a fairway problem. He seeded common bermuda in July and had near perfect coverage just 6 weeks later. It will be interesting to see how the planting survives the winter.

Another local golf course gives way to housing. Bob Harper says he will close the gate at White Flint on October 1st and the public 9-hole course will be turned over to the bulldozer.

NEXT MEETING

PLACE ; FORT BELVOIR OFFICERS' GOLF CLUB
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

DATE : Tuesday, October 6th

Golf : 12 noon

Social: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting: Following dinner

HOST : Tom Doerer

COMING EVENTS:

Annual Turfgrass Conference and Show of the National Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

Place : Huston, Texas

Date : February 1-5 , 1960

Golf tournament, Educational Conference and Industry Show.