



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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THE AUGUST MEETING of the Association was held August 2 at Sparrows Point Country Club with approximately sixty members and guests on hand. President Frank Dunlap presided and introduced G.F. Rambe, member of the Board of Directors; W.A. Rouse, Club Secretary; J. Cordrey, Greens Chairman; Nicholas McGowan, Club Manager; John Jendrasak, Golf Pro and W.A. Lenz, Past Greens Chairman. Also introduced was Joe Warner, grounds crew foreman who has been acting as Superintendent since Paul Weiss, Jr. moved to Shawnee-on-the-Delaware. Charles Hallowell of the U.S.G.A. Green Section made a short talk as did Jimmy Thomas, President of the Golf Course Superintendents of America.

GUEST SPEAKER of the evening was Mr. Lou Sullivan of American Agricultural Chemical Co. who spoke on "SOIL TESTING". Some of the points he made are listed here.

SOIL TESTING is defined as a rapid analytical method of measuring the soil Ph and also the plant foods that are available in the soil. The value of this information is obvious. If the soil is too sour, the test will show this and to what extent and how much lime is needed to correct the acidity. If plant foods are deficient or if the fertility is out of balance, this will also show and corrective measures can be taken. The sample taking must be done properly or else the results may be as bad or even worse than no test at all.

THE SAMPLE MUST BE REPRESENTATIVE of the soil in the area from which it came. On a green 10 or 15 plugs to a depth of 2" is suggested. Fairway soil samples are taken from 10 to 15 berings or even more in the case of very large areas. The samples are placed in sample boxes provided or in new paper bags and allowed to dry, then taken to the laboratory. Information about the sample is important in helping the lab technicians with their work and should contain a complete description of the stand of grass, soil, drainage etc. For a better picture of what is going on in the area from which the sample came the lab requests a history of the fertilizer and lime program over the past year.

RESULTS ARE RETURNED with recommendations on the amount of nitrogen needed and how much phosphorus, potash and lime should go along with it. A feeding program for the whole season is also given, but we realize that a great deal of judgment is needed by the man in charge of the turf to get the best results from any program. Soil testing takes the guess work out of feeding and can prevent costly mistakes or point the way to correcting a bad situation that could be developing on your course.

THE CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION REPORT, led by Report Chairman, Bob Shields, centered mostly on #10 green, how it got into the present condition and how to correct the trouble. The consensus of opinion was that this green should be stripped, the soil re-worked, then raked smooth and replanted. This work should be started at once. Greens other than #10 were in good condition, but some thatch build-up was apparent. Steps to control it should be taken now. Tees were not as good as they were in 1955 when the Association last visited the Point. The U-3 Bermuda grass should be given the management it likes - namely regular high nitrogen feeding and regular low cut, 1/2" or lower. Other courses in this area now have near perfect tees by using bermuda grass.