



# 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

DAVE CANAVAN, Editor, Bolling Officers Club, Jeffersonton, Va., West 7-2571

## December, 1961

The November meeting at G. L. Cornell Co. was its usual success. Approximately two hundred and sixty persons turned out to enjoy George's hospitality. Along with the six barrels of oysters that were consumed, the guests also did away with five hundred steaks. This certainly adds proof to the suspicions that George Gumm is not the only one that sneaks back for an extra steak. While we are on statistics, seven hundred cups of coffee were enjoyed by George's guests, and there is also the possibility that a few bottles of Scotch were consumed before the evening was through. Our many thanks to George, Brownie and the boys for a wonderful time.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at Brooks Manor Country Club in Norbeck, Maryland on December 5, 1961. Martin L. Yeatman is the host superintendent. The guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Robert J. Fulton of Summers Fertilizer Co., better known as Kapco. Mr. Fulton's talk will be on the very basic, but often forgotten, principles of fertilizers and fertilizing. This is the last meeting of the year, so let's have a good turnout.

The Director's Meeting will be held at four o'clock, and it is hoped that all will make a special effort to be there, as this is our last scheduled meeting before the Baltimore Turf Conference. Also scheduled for this meeting is the election of officers for 1962.

**Directions to Brooke Manor Country Club:** For the benefit of those not familiar with the location of Brooke Manor, it is on Georgia Avenue, Extended, about one mile beyond Norbeck, Maryland. From Virginia, take Key Bridge to Wisconsin Avenue to East-West Highway, right on East-West Highway to Georgia Avenue, left on Georgia Avenue to club. From Baltimore, take Route 1 or 29 to University Boulevard, right on University Boulevard to Georgia Avenue, right on Georgia Avenue to Club.

**Mid-Atlantic Golf Team:** At the Board of Directors Meeting on November 16 at Beltsville, Stanley Zontek was appointed to select a golf team to represent the Mid-Atlantic in Miami. The golf tournament dates are January 24 - 26. This is the week before the conference. In order that Stan may know who is available to make up the team, he has requested that all those interested in the tournament get in touch with him either at the Brooke Manor meeting or at his home.

Stanley Zontek  
1720 Cody Drive  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
JUniper 8-8397 (after 4:00)

**Meeting Sites for 1962:** Meeting places have already been arranged for all but four of next year's meetings. The months still available are April, May, August and December. If you are desirous of having a meeting at your club, please contact Angelo Cammarota as soon as possible, as it is presently planned to have all meeting sites confirmed by the thirtieth of December.

**Employment Openings:** We have been asked to help locate a golf course superintendent for the following opening:

The Trenton Country Club; Trenton 8, New Jersey; is seeking a golf course superintendent for their 18 hole course. They would prefer a superintendent under age 45 who has had some college background plus some practical experience. Although living quarters are not provided, the club is located in an area where housing is plentiful. The club further states that they have the finest equipment to work with and an excellent budget. Applicants with the proper qualifications should write to:

Mr. George C. McGready  
c/o Trenton Country Club  
Trenton 8, New Jersey

The city of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, is also seeking a qualified golf course superintendent. They desire a man with a Bachelor of Science Degree or five years of fulltime experience in golf course maintenance and operation. An equitable ratio of formal training and experience will be acceptable. The duties will be to supervise maintenance and upkeep of the new 18 hole municipal course to open July 1, 1962. For further information and application forms contact:

Mr. J. B. Moore  
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation  
City of Fort Walton Beach  
Fort Walton Beach, Florida

**New Member:** At the November 16 Directors Meeting the application of Joseph P. Kelly, superintendent of Bonnie View Country Club, was reviewed. Mr. Kelly was accepted as an associate member. We wish to welcome him to the Association.

**Dues:** Treasurer Angelo Cammarota has announced that fifty per cent of the dues for 1962 are now in. If you have not as yet paid yours, please get them in as soon as possible.

**From the St. Petersburg Times:** The following is an article by Jay Black published on November 3, 1961.

### Your Yard's Tough? Keep A Golf Course

One of the least publicized positions attached to this wonderful game of golf is that of greens superintendent. However, the men who perform the duties of the job are of major importance to a golf or country club. A course gains its stature through the condition of its greens, fairways and tees. It is the duty of a greens superintendent to establish and maintain these.

This week, during the course of a one-hour conversation, Reuben Hines Sr. and Reuben Hines Jr. filled in a few of the wide gaps in my meager knowledge of turf.

From these founders and operators of the Hines Grass Nurseries in Brooksville, Md. and St. Petersburg, I learned why so many strains of grass bear numbers in their names. "These are the numbers as-

signed experiments by university experiment stations," revealed Reuben Jr., "for example, Tiftfine 328."

I said, 'I thought that was Tifton.'

"No," says Reuben Sr., "It's Tiftfine . . . know how it came about? The first part comes from the grass town of Tifton, Ga. The second half of the name because it's such a 'fine' strain. Tift-fine . . . together, Tiftfine."

"Well, I'll be doggoned."

"You know Dad is the founder of the most prominent bent grass in the country, Congressional C-19."

"How do you develop a new grass?"

"We seek grass in its natural state. We're looking for grass that'll hold color, make a good putting surface, and resist disease. We take it into nurseries and experiment stations where it's cared for four or five years. At the end of this period of time, we know what it'll do."

"IS THERE a perfect grass?"

"No, it's like the game of golf. With turf people, it's never-ending research and development. And there's more today than ever before because the increased public demand for better golf courses forces a greens superintendent to study, learn, improve. If he doesn't he loses out."

"What's the most popular grass for Florida golf courses?"

"Well, for the greens I'd say Everglades No. 1 and Tiftfine 328. For tees and fairways it would be Ormond . . . but there's a lot of interest developing in Tiftway 419; it grows more slowly and straighter . . . makes for a good lie in the fairway."

Reuben, Sr. has been with the Georgetown Preparatory School in Washington for seventeen years. He has been in the turf business since 1925.

RECENTLY he completed a first, a Hines Original, in the Washington, D. C. area. It's a practice range . . . minus drivers. Designed to sharpen iron and short game play, there are five greens distant to the hitting area to the tune of 75 to 175 yards. A player can start at one end of the long practice tee with his wedge and by the time he reaches the other end he has hit to five greens and worked up, say, to his 3-iron.

The range also has sand traps. Reuben tells me they stand in line to practice coming out of these. And there's also a practice putting green at this sporty layout designed by this fellow who also built two practice putting greens atop an apartment house in Alexandria, Va.

It was an enlightening and enjoyable hour spent with Reuben Hines, Jr., Greens superintendent at the Sunset Golf Club, and Reuben Hines, Sr., consulting greens superintendent at Sunset for the next six months.

**Editorial:** It is certainly gratifying to find a reporter who, when looking for an article on turf, went to the golf course superintendent. Not long ago I read an article pertaining to the construction of a new green on the golf course. The reporter chose to interview the pro at the club as he had been there for some twenty-five years. His description of the new construction and the strains of grass to be used in particular were appallingly inaccurate. While perhaps the average golfer would not find the article too bad, any member that had ever served on a greens committee or talked to any golf course superintendent or any person who had ever read the first thing about bent grass would realize that this supposed expert knew nothing of his subject. When the discussion of the condition of a golf course comes up, the pro, being the most readily available man, is the one to give his views to the reporters. The pro is also the better known of the club employees, and this is another reason why he is usually the man to be quoted. This is very much pointed out in the big tournaments when a pro is asked to compare the course now to when he last played there some ten or fifteen years before. While this is always interesting and makes good copy, the chances are that the club has a qualified superintendent who could make a very accurate comparison and point out the reasons for the changes in playing conditions.

It would be well for all superintendents to get to know their local reporters. The chances are that he is going to write something pertaining to turf on your golf course or some other golf course within the next year. If you have gone to the trouble of making his acquaintance, he will be able to get out a much more accurate column, and I'm sure he will appreciate your help.

**1961 Rosters:** The 1961 rosters have been prepared and will be put in the mail shortly.

#### DUES ARE OVERDUE

by Jack Gormley

About your dues - if you still owe  
You're causin' work as you sure know  
For every bill that Angie sends  
Takes plenty of his time, my friends  
He wrote to you and wrote and still  
You just ignore his every bill.

We really hate to have to cry  
That's why we make this final try:  
We'll keep you on our list - so choose  
To let us have your check for dues.  
But if your check is in the mail  
Then please excuse this plaintive wail.

