



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Published by

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

JUNE, 1961

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on June 6 at Winchester. Our host, Lewis Lamp, is anxious to have us see his new 9 holes which he opened in May of 1959. The Mid-Atlantic last met there on July 7, 1959, and Lewis said the course has come a long way since then.

Lewis is in his seventh season as superintendent at Winchester Country Club. He lives on his farm right next to the golf course with his wife and one child. In his spare time he works on his collection of antique cars. He is now fixing up a 1924 touring car for Brownie. Lewis also is a ham radio operator. Coming back from Andrews last month he got lost in Washington. Fortunately he had his radio with him. He called out for directions and was returned safely to Winchester.

The last time we met at Winchester only twenty members showed up. Lewis always comes down out of the hills to see us. Let's show him we can get up there to see him. We will see you all at Winchester.

The club has a nice buffet dinner planned, and so please send in your reservation card. The schedule for the day is as follows:

12:00 Golf

4:30 Meeting of the Board of Directors

5:00 Social hour

6:00 Dinner

Please remember that Winchester is now on Daylight Savings Time.

Directions to Winchester Country Club: Coming to Winchester from Washington on Route 50, take a right at the first stop light, another right at the next stop light. This is E. Cork Street. The club is on the right about two miles out of town.

Coming from Washington and Frederick through Berryville on Route 7, take a left at the second stop light, another left at the second stop light. This puts you on E. Cork Street. Keep straight about two miles from town. The club is on the right.

Five years ago: The June, 1956, meeting was held at Manor Country Club, and some seventy-eight superintendents and guests turned out for the occasion. Our host superintendent five years ago was Ernest Parsley.

A brief prayer and a moment of silence was lead by Reuben Hines, Sr., for a former member, John Davis of National Capital Parks.

It was at this meeting that it was voted to raise the dues from five to ten dollars per year.

Five years ago must strike a familiar chord with Tom Dawson as it was then, on June the second, that Tom and Patricia were married.

A Constructive Suggestion Report was lead by Charles Hallowell. The main censure seemed to be over the lack of air drainage on the first nine holes.

The following is the first article I have received since taking over as editor. I wish to thank Hugh very much for his fine article, and I hope it will be an inspiration for others to follow his example.

Color for the Golf Course
by Hugh McRae

Following the two excellent articles by Warren Bidwell and Frances deVos on "Color for the Golf Course" I had expected to hear some comment, but it is obvious that there is very little interest among golf course superintendents in any other color besides green, and of course, the grass does come first. A golf course with beautiful color and poor grass would be very impractical.

It is unfortunate that when a golf course is planned there is only one thought in mind - when can we play the greens? There are times when it would seem that even the fairways are unnecessary. The plant nursery is just as important as the grass nursery and will pay just as big dividends in the final appearance of the golf course. One acre of liners of the right material can be planted for a very reasonable figure. If you use a landscape architect get a local man who has some knowledge of what grows well in your particular area.

Many of the club house areas probably looked good 25 or 30 years ago but poor maintenance practices; lack of good help and various other causes are responsible for their shabby appearance today. The influx of women golfers makes it almost imperative that the area around the clubhouse should be attractive at all times. Many misleading statements are made about the cost of maintaining color on a golf course - one I heard recently was that it requires four extra men. This, of course, is ridiculous, unless flower beds are cut out all over the place. If the existing planted areas and the correct material used, in the sun and shade, there is no reason why the cost should be more than the seed and the labor required for planting and weeding, some of which can be done when it is too wet for other work.

It is almost impossible to get too many Dogwoods in the foreground of the wooded

ares and if more color is required Maples, Gum, and Chestnut, Black and Red Oak, with splashes of White Pine make a very interesting landscape. Cherry trees are beautiful but are subject to web caterpillar at a time when there are more important things to do.

For the clubhouse area combinations of color to conform to the building lines using the varied colors of Spruce, Junipers, Hemlock, Ilex, an occasional Redwood, (Metasequoia) Snowball, Forsythia, Spirea, and Weigela where there is enough light, and Azaleas, Pieris, Rhododendron for part shade. White, pink, red and blue Salvias, Marigolds, Zinnias, and Petunias make excellent foreground material in the sunny areas while Impatiens will light up the darkest corners. Tea Roses should be avoided unless you have a surplus of labor, but climbing Roses should be used on large wall spaces and fences. Pyracantha Gruberi (the red one) even on a brick wall, makes an exceptional Fall Show. Chrysanthemums are something that can be used or left out, according to the labor situation, as a few Euonymus Elatus (Burning Bush) will provide a lot of color at that time with much less care.

Most of you fellows have all this information and could go ahead with such a program, but the average greens chairman for some reason, seems to think that all time spent away from grass is wasted.

I would suggest a lady greens chairman but there again we might have complications.

Employment opportunity: A job opening has been forwarded to us by the Philadelphia Association.

~~Warrington~~ Warrington Golf and Country Club
Almshouse Road
Warrington, Pennsylvania

This is an 18 hole private course. The course has been in play for four years. Salary is \$6000 and up with a \$42,000 maintenance budget. Interested members should contact the following man by letter only:

Mr. Sanford Oxman, Greens Chairman
1256 School Lane
Warrington, Pennsylvania.

Editorial: In looking back over past issued of the Newsletter and at employment opening notices sent out by the National Association, there is one often repeated line: "Find out the pay scale in your area and maintain it". The reasons for this request are very clear to all, and yet the Mid-Atlantic, one of the most respected chapters of the National, has not yet compiled a salary scale.

The purpose of a pay scale is not to provide the superintendent with a club that he can hold over his Board of Directors, but rather a gage by which they can go. Most clubs are willing to pay a good salary, but, in most cases, they don't know what this amounts to. How often have we seen a good superintendent happy with his job and in the good graces of his membership; yet, when he asks for a raise, he is turned down simply because the board feels he is drawing top pay now. All

too often this man leaves, and, only when they try to replace him, does the club find that in the past five years salaries in this profession have risen rapidly! They then have to pay more for a new superintendent, and many times he is a less competent man than the original one.

We are not mercenary in our aims, but if the clubs would only compare salaries to industry, they would see that the superintendent is not an overly well-paid man. A recent check of industry shows an average expenditure by the firms of 32 cents per hour for fringe benefits such as insurance and retirement plans. These are benefits very few clubs provide. The superintendent has never been a forty hour a week man nor has he had a union looking after him to see that he gets good wages.

The Superintendent Associations are professional groups and have no need for unions, but let us get behind a drive for finding out what our salary scale is and see if it needs to be raised. This will take everyone's help and cooperation. It will benefit us all so let's get the ball rolling.

The following poem was reprinted from Our Collaborator, which is published by the Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association. The name of the contributor was withheld at his request.

MY GET UP AND GO HAS GOT UP AND WENT

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my get up and go has got up and went.
But in spite of it all --- I'm able to grin
When I think of where my get up has been.

Old age is golden, so I've heard it said
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup
My eyes on the table until I wake up.
Ere sleep dims my eyes I say to myself
Is there anything else I should have laid on the shelf?

I am happy to say as I close my door
My friends are the same only perhaps even more.
When I was young, my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I grew older my slippers were blue
But still I could dance the whole night thru.
Now I am old, my slippers are black
I walk to the store and puff my way back.
The reason I know my youth is all spent
My get up and go has got up and went.

But I really don't mind, when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my get up has been.
Since I've retired from life's competition
I busy myself with complete repetition.

I get up each morning --- I dust off my wits,
Pick up the papers and read the "Obits"
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.