



# 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

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THE 1961 MID-ATLANTIC TURFGRASS CONFERENCE held in Baltimore on January 9-10 was the most successful ever held. Attendance was good - 182 registered - the speakers did a very good job and we made a little profit to apply toward the 1962 Conference.

Cooperation and coordination has to be perfect for an affair of this kind to succeed and this one did, so we are indebted to many people. First of course is Dr. George Langford who, as Conference Director, did the planning that made everything work. He was assisted by a Program Committee consisting of Chairman Tom Doerer, Frank Dunlap, Fred Grau, George Gumm, Charles Hallowell, Bob Shields and Buck Whetsell.

Second is the impressive list of speakers who so generously gave their time, thought and effort. On hand was Bill Clark, President of the Mid-Atlantic PGA; Jim Thomas, President of the GCSAA; Mr. William Chapin, Chairman of the USGA Green Section; Dr. William Daniel, Purdue University; and Dr. H.B. Couch of Penn State.

Also contributing to the success of the meeting was Merrell Whittlesey, President of the Golf Writers of America and Golf Editor of the WASHINGTON EVENING STAR. Two well known local favorites - Dr. Felix Juska and Dr. Fred V. Grau helped considerably - as did newcomers to the program, Dr. Paul Santelmann, Dr. Richard Schmidt and Wade Stith.

From the ranks of Superintendents came Hurley Savage, Harry McSloy, Tom Doerer, Frank Tull, Bob Shields, Wayne Jerome and Frank Dunlap.

Special thanks go to Mal McLaren, Past President of the National Association and Superintendent at Oakwood Country Club. Mal would not accept so much as expense money for his trip down from Cleveland. He said he did it as a tribute and to show his respect for an old friend in the Mid-Atlantic area - outgoing President Frank Dunlap. How's that for comradeship among Superintendents?

The Chapter extends thanks and appreciation to all speakers and participants and to those who made the Social Hour so gay and pleasant. They are: Wilson Disney of the F.W. Bolgianp Company; Jack Witcher, Gustin's Baltimore Toro; Bob Adams, National Capital Toro; and George Cornell of the G.L. Cornell Company.

THE U S G A MEETING. The Educational Program of the USGA Green Section Meeting in New York on January 27 was one of the best meetings we have attended. The subject was - "The Golf Course Worker - Training and Direction."

The talk given by Tom Leonard, Superintendent, Oaks River Country Club Houston, Texas, is briefly outlines below.

Superintendents should have year plan, monthly plan, weekly plan and daily plan. Year plan is worked out with the Greens Committee. Monthly plan should be worked up around the Club's golf activities so as not to interfere with golf tournament schedule. The weekly plan should include all work planned for the week.

- Leonard's daily plan is explained in this manner -
1. Go over the day's work with the assistant, explaining what is to be done, by whom, with what equipment and how it is to be accomplished.
  2. Plan program in a way that least interferes with play.
  3. Wherever possible plan to complete big operations as soon as possible so they won't interfere with plans for following day. Don't get too many irons in the fire.
  4. Listen to the weather man and have alternate program should bad weather come. This is a good time for employee meetings.
  5. Place each employee where he is most beneficial, keeping in mind his abilities, attitude and desires.
  6. Keep trained man on same job but also have understudy or some one who can replace that man should he be absent.
  7. Always have work available. Men don't like to be idle.
  8. Have step-by-step procedures made up for each operation. For instance - green mowing might read like this: (1) Pole off the dew. (2) Look for spikes and stones. (3) Remove flag stick. (4) Start cutting on edge of green, not in center. (5) Keep cutting lines straight. Mow in different directions each time. (6) Empty clipping basket often in designated spot. (7) Mow at normal walking speed. (8) Turn slowly on the collar. (9) Mow outside circle last. (10) Pole green of clippings. (11) Replace flag stick. Replace wheels. (12) Clean the mower.
  9. Keep employees informed. Give them as much information as possible. The more they know about the operation of a golf course the easier your job will be. Familiarize each man with each machine. Encourage men to report leaks, breaks, greens damage, disease or missing equipment. When each man knows what is going on and why he is in a better position to answer intelligently any question asked by members, resulting in a better employee with higher morale. Members will appreciate this extra courtesy.
  10. Safety. Talk, act and live safety, constantly encouraging employees to work safely. Caution them on hidden dangers they might or might not be aware of. To do so shows him that you are concerned with him as a person. Encourage him also to want to work safely and to look out for the man working with him. Accident prevention is better than compensation.

Another thought from the USGA Meeting ( this one contributed by Eddie Ault ) " If the student hasn't learned, the teacher hasn't taught. " Keep that in mind when you are breaking in a new man on the greensmower this coming spring.

U.S.G.A. TURFGRASS AWARD. The first annual award " For Outstanding Contribution to Golf Through Turfgrass Work. " was presented to Dr. John Montieth at the New York Meeting. Dr. Montieth is well known in this area through his work as Director of the old Arlington Turf Farm which was located where the Pentagon Building is now. Later he was Director of the USGA Green Section at Beltsville and many Mid-Atlantic members came in contact with him there. He was presented a small placque which is a replica of the large placque to be hung in Golf House with new names added each year. He was cited for his work in developing the first chemical control for dollar spot and brown patch, for developing Congressional, Arlington, Toronto and Cohansey bent grasses for putting greens and for testing two of the Zoysia grasses at the Beltsville Station.

THE NATIONAL MEETING. Nineteen Mid-Atlantic members attended the National Turfgrass Conference in Toronto the first week in February. There were 1,608 registrations. We can all be justifiably proud of the presiding job done by President Jimmy Thomas, both at the Membership Meetings and as Master of Ceremonies at the banquet. He proved beyond a doubt that the saying " Once a Texan, always a Texan " is true by standing when the band played " Deep in the Heart of Texas. "

THE NEW OFFICERS ELECTED ARE:

PRESIDENT : L. E. Lambert  
V. PRES. : Sherwood Moore  
DIRECTORS : George Lamphear, David Moote, Edward Roberts, L.W. Dubose ( appointed )

At the membership meeting the members voted to raise the dues from \$35 to \$50 per year effective January 1, 1962. This was done to cover the increased cost of running the association and to keep the GOLF COURSE REPORTER in publication.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS. Five factors that gauge the success of a superintendent: Self-discipline, Management ability, Attitude, Relations with people, and Technical knowledge. The first letters of these words combined spell S M A R T .

Work closely with your Greens Chairman, Pro and Manager.  
Do more writing in order to develop your ability to express yourself on paper and practice public speaking at every opportunity to build self-confidence.  
Sell yourself- you have to or hire a public relations man to do it for you.  
Continue self education by reading, attending conferences, carrying on experiments and watching results.  
Fairways continue to be overall problem on golf courses. Greens are no longer much of a problem; the tee problem has been just about solved, now an all-out effort is being directed toward fairway improvement.  
The general guidepost to fertilization is : apply enough P & K each year to make sure there is no deficiency of these elements. Beyond that, turf response may be expected in proportion to the amount of nitrogen applied.  
The "eyeball" test and common sense must be used in applying Nitrogen.  
A practical turf fertilization program is one that provides adequate turf nutrition and at the same time fits the local situation as to available funds, labor, and general maintenance routine.

WINTER PLAY. Water is a friend on the golf course, but becomes a foe at this time of year when combined with winter play. Wet soil easily loses its structure under play during freezing and thawing because desirable soil aggregates are easily crushed into compact, tight masses that leave little chance for water and air movement.

Green Chairmen and members often lose track of this fact and concentrate on surface damage such as foot prints. They fail to realize that we can easily repair or replace surface damage with little trouble, but to change soil structure under the surface of a green means cutting off the sod, roto-tilling the soil and putting the sod back down. This winter snow has been bad for the golfer but very good for the greens because it has kept the golfers off and helped retain the soil structure.

A fallacy among members is that the snow will insure a trouble-free golf course all next summer and that there will be no shortage of moisture in the soil. This is not true. Problems will arise, as they always have, when rains are not evenly spaced/ If we have a hot, dry May or June all soil moisture will be lost, more crab grass will come in and fairways will be very hard.

We are sorry our golfers didn't get their winter golf and hope they will receive some reconciliation from the fact that the snow did help the greens by keeping them off.

NOW IS THE TIME . Even tho' the ground is frozen, work can still go on on the golf course. Some superintendents add sand to the traps at this time when wheel marks aren't so apt to show. Some repair their pond piers or bridges at a time when they can walk on the ice. We know of one superintendent who cut holes in the ice, put the pilings thru and built a pier to support the intake pipe for his pump. Other superintendents keep close to the maintenance shop repairing machines, mixing and ~~straining~~ ~~topdressing~~, painting equipment and building new tee benches.

Watch for good days and have ball washers and clean towels out for the early birds. Move cups as soon as the ground thaws out. Watch closely or another freeze will delay the job. As the weather warms tree pruning can start. February and March are good times to prune fruit trees and shrubs and vines. Trees such as maples, magnolias and dogwoods that bleed so much when cut at this time of year should not be pruned until later when growth has started.

MEETING PLACES FOR 1961. Following is the tentative schedule of meeting places for the Mid-Atlantic Chapter during 1961. Please consult your "NEWSLETTER" each month for definite places and dates.

March 7, Manor Club, Norbeck, Stanley Zontec, host  
April 4, Andrews AFB, Andrews Field, Ray Etchison  
May 2, OPEN  
June 6, Winchester Country Club, Winchester, Virginia, Lewis Lamp  
July 11, OPEN  
August 1, USDA Field Day, Beltsville, Maryland, Dr. Felix Juska  
September 5, OPEN  
October 3, Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland, Bob Shields  
November 7, Cornell Co., Bethesda, Maryland, George Cornell  
November 14, OPEN  
December 5, OPEN.

Some of the open dates are available. Contact Buck Whetsell or George Gumm. A complete Educational program is being drawn up and will be published at a later date.

Buck Whetsell, Program Chairman

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting is set for March 7 at Manor Club, Norbeck, Maryland with Stanley Zontec as host superintendent. Golf- 12 noon, if weather is good. Social hour - 5-6 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Business meeting following dinner.

NEW EDITOR. David Canavan has been appointed Editor of the "NEWSLETTER" by Chapter President George Gumm. Dave, superintendent at Bolling Officers Club, Warrenton, Va. will assume his new duties with the next issue. Bob Shields is retiring from the office after 10 years of "licking, stuffing and sticking" envelopes.

PAGE FILLER . The new membership directory is ready. Get yours from Secretary Cammarota. Pay your 1961 dues- both National and Local. Return the enclosed Dinner Reservation Card now. Write an article for the "NEWSLETTER".