

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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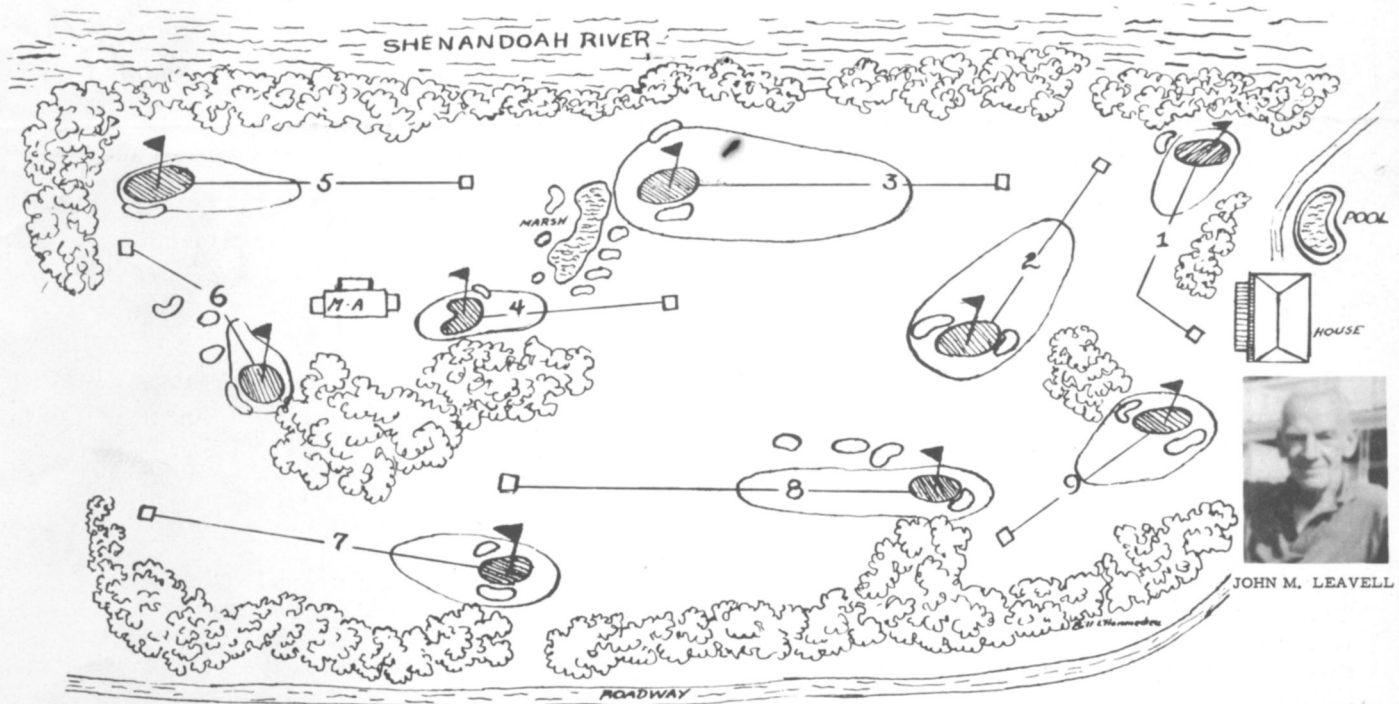
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SHENANDOAH RETREAT GOLF CLUB



JOHN M. LEAVELL

DISTANCE YARDS	WHITE TEES										RED TEES										
	335	235	440	130	535	185	480	435	180	2955	340	245	455	130	535	320	505	440	185	3155	6110
MENS PAR	4	3	4	3	5	3	5	4	3	34	4	3	5	3	5	4	5	4	3	36	70
HANDICAP	9	11	5	17	1	13	3	7	15	OUT	10	12	6	18	2	14	4	8	16	IN	TOTAL
HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	-	-

SEPTEMBER MEETING - SHENANDOAH RETREAT

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association will take place at Shenandoah Retreat Golf and Country Club, Berryville, Virginia, on the 10th of September, 1963. The challenging course will be open for golf all day. Lunch may be purchased in the dining room. The cocktail hour will be from 5 to 6 P.M. followed by dinner and the regular business meeting. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Robert Miller from Dupont whose topic will be "Nitrogen Fertilization."

OUR HOST

John M. Leavell, our host and veteran 17 year member of the Mid-Atlantic Association, has been superintendent, professional and club manager at Shenandoah Retreat since it opened in 1952. John entered his profession in 1931 as golf professional at French Lake Indiana where he later took over complete operation of the club's facilities. He returned to his native Washington area to be professional-greenskeeper at the Washington Aviation Club in Bethesda in 1946. It was this year that he joined our association. He remembers that occasion quite well and recalls that the meeting was held at Manor Club. He then went to the National Naval Medical Center. Mr. Leavell left this position to go to Andrews Air Force Base where he

supervised construction on the club's original nine holes. In 1951 he joined Dr. Freeman at Shenandoah where he supervised construction and then stepped up to his present position.

THE COURSE

The nine hole course lies in the cool foot hills of the Blue ridge Mountains next to the Shenandoah River. The interesting layout designed and built by Dr. E. M. Freeman measures 2955 and 3155 yards for a par of 70.

MAINTENANCE

The greens were originally seeded to seaside bent grass. They are cut at 3/16 to 1/4 inch and receive 8 pounds nitrogen annually. John is overseeding with penncross bent grass.

The aprons have recently been renovated. John used a herbicide to check the crabgrass then followed with heavy aerification, verticutting and seeding with penncross and seaside bent grasses.

The tees are bluegrass, fescue and highland bent cut at 3/4 inch and fertilized regularly with a 10-6-4 fertilizer.

Fairways are bluegrass, fescue and highland bent with a large amount of native bermuda. They are cut at 1 inch and fertilized every couple of years at 1000 pounds 10-6-4 per acre.

The roughs are bluegrass and fescue and are cut at 1 1/2 inches. John does admit that his roughs have quite a few weeds due to a policy of no fertilizer for rough areas but feels that periodic herbicide applications keep them under control.

CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Leavell has rebuilt several tees since the course was built. Due to the club's seasonal operation he feels that it is essential to keep the course in play at all times and that construction should not interfere with it.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

Take route 7, 13 miles west of Purcellville. Turn right at sign, follow signs to clubhouse.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by James E. Thomas

The recent Beltsville Field Day recalls to mind one of the last turf meetings held at the old Arlington Experimental Farm. At that time there was no agricultural station at Beltsville; the experimental farm was in Virginia just across the Potomac River from the District of Columbia. It was located between the Lincoln Memorial Bridge and Arlington Cemetery, and much of the station bordered along the river.

The Arlington Turf Gardens were the proving grounds for many of our present day methods and practices in turf culture. Here at its turf plots were to be found many of the selected strains of bent grasses that are used today on many of the putting greens scattered across the country. A few of them are: C-1, C-19, C-7, and C-27. These selected strains were gradually replacing Washington and Metropolitan bent grasses for use as putting green turf.

Then as now, soil texture was a pertinent topic of discussion. There were experiments with disease treatments and turf fertilizers. Chemical weed control was also very much in the picture along with the proper relationship between new seedings at adequate rates of fertilization.

The primary purpose of these meetings was to make it possible for golf course superintendents (greenskeepers in those days), green committee chairmen, and others interested in establishing and maintaining better turf to see first hand the results of the experiments being carried on at the turf gardens. It also afforded an opportunity to discuss special problems with the staff of the Green Section. During this period Dr. John Monteith, Jr., was director of the Green Section staff and Mr. Fred H. Williams was executive secretary.

These early turf field days were sponsored jointly by the former Greenskeeping Superintendents Association and the United States Golf Association Green Section. Today the bi-annual Beltsville Field Day is the successor of these early gatherings, they are directed and organized by Dr. Felix H. Juska of the Plant Industry Station. All turf growers are indebted to him for his efforts in their behalf. His research of modern developments helps to keep us abreast of the times.

Tuesday evening the Philadelphia Association entertained with a picture show showing slides of the area's golf courses. The narrator for the program was superintendent, Eb Steiniger of Pine Valley, New Jersey. Eb gave a Jackie Gleason performance, and his witty and humorous commentary was well received. We wonder if he has not missed his real calling.

The first business session was on Wednesday morning. The questions from the floor by the membership and the answers given by the directors were impressive. Many in the audience appeared to be not happy with the Executive Committee's decisions on some of the past recommendations which had been presented to them. There was some questioning on the wisdom of the real estate purchase and the proposed association building, communications, etc. At no time was rancor or ill will shown by anyone.

Previous commitments forced us to make an early departure for home, so the final two and a half days of the conference were missed. We departed with the realization our visit had been an educational, informative, and constructive one. We were pleased to later hear of the election of David Moote to the Presidency, and of our own L. R. "Bob" Shields to the Vice-Presidency; and to both of them is extended good luck and success during their tenure of office.

SOMETHING ABOUT SOIL - A REVIEW

by Fred V. Grau

Soil is the natural medium for the growth of land plants on the surface of the earth—a natural body composed of organic and mineral materials. (taken from Soils and Men, 1938 USDA Yearbook of Agriculture).

Soils are mixtures of fragmented and weathered minerals, organic matter, water and air. They have layers or horizons developed under the influence of climate and living organisms. Essentially five factors affect soil formation: (1) parent material; (2) climate; (3) biological activity; (4) relief (topography); and (5) time. Soils are dynamic, i.e. continually changing. With so many variables it is no wonder that there are so many different soils.

It may be said that there is no soil without organic matter. Similarly, there is no soil without microorganisms. Organic matter varies as to the type of vegetation that develops on it from less than 1% in desert soils to nearly pure organic matter in peat bogs. Cultivated soils in Maryland and Virginia may contain 2 to 4% organic matter. Decaying vegetation creates acids which dissolve minerals and alter soils. Micro-organisms change raw vegetable waste into soil organic matter; they develop colloids which modify soil structure by creating aggregates.

Soil Materials (Mineral) are classified by size: Gravel, Sands, Silt, Clay. Clay (finest) gives soil its character and is largely responsible for the exchange of nutrients. This capacity is called Base Exchange. Sandy-gravelly soils have very little base exchange (such as N. Virginia soils in the Ft. Belvoir area).

Classification of soils (naming) is necessary just as plants need to be classified to reduce confusion. The highest category recognizes two great groups: Pedocals—in which carbonates of Ca and Mg accumulate in all or part of the soil profile. Pedalfers—in which accumulate iron and aluminum compounds with absence of Ca and Mg accumulation.

Soils in the Mid-Atlantic area belong in the Pedalfer group. They become increasingly acid.

Three simple units of classification are:

SERIES: Soils developed from similar parent material. Penn series (red in color) developed from limestone rock.

TYPE: Specifies the texture of the surface soil i.e., sand, sandy loam, loam silt loam, clay loam, etc. Thus, one could have a Penn clay loam or Hagerstown loam.

PHASE: Defines characteristics not associated with soil profile but rather with the landscape. These characteristics are: slope, stoniness and degree of erosion.

As a nation we must devote more time and attention to understanding, to saving and to improving our soil resources. They are not renewable in this millenium. There is no excuse for erosion - we know how to stop it.

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THE MID-ATLANTIC 10 YEARS AGO

by L. Robert Shields

It was ten years ago that 38 members and guests of this Association met with host superintendent, Bob Williams, at the Naval Academy Golf Course at Annapolis. The temperature hit 100 degrees again for the fourth consecutive day and except for the near perfect bermuda grass fairways the golfers might have thought they were in the desert.

At the business meeting a letter from Mrs. Willis Glover was read thanking the members for their sympathy and consideration extended on the death of her husband. Another letter related to the confirmation of the acceptance of Jim Thomas to fill Bill Glover's unexpired term on the National Board of Directors.

It was brought out at this meeting that five years earlier only four members of the Mid-Atlantic held membership in the National. There were 31 National members in 1953 and Hugh MacRae suggested we strive for 100% as a tribute to Mr. Glover.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE OF GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT IV by Harry C. Eckhoff

There is every indication that there will be a continued need for more golf courses throughout the nation. At this time I would like to discuss certain factors and trends which will affect golf in the years immediately ahead.

First is the anticipated growth of population in the United States during the 10-year period 1960-1970. Reliable studies reveal that twenty-five million, or more, additional people will be added to our population by 1970. While there is expected to be an overall increase of about 19%, the 18 to 21 age group is expected to increase 56%.

Another segment of the nation's society - the over 60 age group - is constantly increasing. In the United States and Canada one of every seven persons is past 60 (about 14%).

Another factor which should increase golf play is increased leisure time. At the turn of the century, the work week was 60 hours. Shortly after World War II it was reduced to 40 hours. Today it has been reduced to 35 hours in some areas and there is every indication that it will continue to be lowered. Some studies indicate a 30 hour work week may be the general rule in the 1970's. With automation aiding both manufacturing and office workers, today's jobs are no longer as tiring as they formerly were. Likewise the migration to the suburbs is providing impetus for more outdoor recreational activity.

Family incomes are expected to increase about 20% by 1970 and almost half of the families in the nation will have annual income over \$7500 after taxes. With more leisure time and larger pay checks, it can be assumed that Americans will be spending a much higher percentage on recreation. Why not spend it on golf - a healthful outdoor game that can be played during one's entire lifetime!

POSITION OPEN

Wanted Green Superintendent for nine hole golf course at Salisbury, Maryland. All greens will be rebuilt and planted to pencecross bentgrass this year. Salary open. Make application to Elks Golf Club, Richwil Drive, Salisbury, Maryland.

TURFGRASS FIELD DAYS

John Shoulders and the staff at V.P.I. announce their annual Turf Field Day. It will be held September 4, 1963, from 9:45 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. EST at the V.P.I. Golf Course. Several experiments including weed control, fertility, and disease control studies will be observed. The new experimental green now under construction should be of interest to all.

Penn State Field Day will be held September 11th and 12th beginning at noon of the 11th at the turf plots in University Park, Pennsylvania. A program that promises to be of interest to all is scheduled.

CLUB OPENING

Tommy Doerer and his wife were recent guests at the grand opening of Bushfield Yacht and Country Club in Mount Holly, Virginia. It is located on the estate of George Washington's younger brother, John, which dates back to the late 1600's. Monty Goforth is superintendent on the course which will open in the near future.

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