



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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OCTOBER MEETING - WOODMONT COUNTRY CLUB

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held at Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, Maryland, on October 1, 1963. The annual superintendent's golf tournament will be played on this date with registration beginning at noon. The social hour will be from 5 to 6 P.M. followed by dinner and the business meeting. Host superintendent, Bob Shields, will act as guest speaker and will explain through color slides some of his methods of maintenance.

OUR HOST



L. R. (Bob) Shields first entered the golf field in 1946 through the interest of his twin brothers, Ray and Roy. He has been superintendent at Woodmont since 1952. The results of his handiwork are quite evident as you will see from the beautiful flower beds and grounds of the clubhouse to the remotest sand trap on the golf course. He has served as a director, secretary-treasurer, president and editor of the Newsletter of our association and is currently on the board of directors of the National Association. His countless hours of devoted leadership have helped this association attain its present stature.

WELCOME TO WOODMONT

by L. Robert Shields

On behalf of the members of Woodmont; the greens committee chairman, Mr. "Chips" Cantor, and past committee chairman, Mr. Leo Freudberg, I'd like to welcome the Mid-Atlantic superintendents to the club on October 1st. Our golf professional, Tony Marlowe, and his entire staff will be in the shop to greet you and assist in any way. Jimmy Roan will serve you in the locker room and caddy master, Jim Tally, will help conduct the golf tournament from the first tee. Club manager, Mr. Jacques Aimi, will go all out to make your visit to the dining room more enjoyable than when you were here last about three years ago.

Please join in the discussion at the meeting so that we may, from your constructive suggestions, learn how to better serve the members of our club.

The tournament will be played over our south course but you are welcome to play the north course if you so desire. Regardless of your choice of courses we hope the weather is good and hope you have a pleasant day.

If you drive to visit with us, please drive safely.

THE COURSE

The north course was built by Frank Murray from plans by architect, Al Tull and was opened for play in 1950. The white tees measure 6514 yards, par is 72.

The south course was completed in 1960 and measures 6290 yards for a par of 72. The back nine on this course was designed by Al Tull and built by superintendent, Bob Shields. It was opened for play by Vice President Nixon in 1956. The first nine was designed and built by Bob in 1959 and opened for play in 1960. It has fairway water outlets every 90 feet down the center of each fairway. The course is fairly short when compared to the north course but hazards are placed in such a manner that only the long hitter out of line is penalized. Also the greens are small and the fairways are narrow to compensate for the low yardage.

MAINTENANCE

The greens were planted to C-1 and C-19 bentgrass. They receive a total of 8 - 9 pounds of actual nitrogen per square foot per season applied at two week intervals during the summer. A water soluble material is used during the hot months of July and August. Greens are cut

three times a week at 1/4 inch and are aeriated two or three times per season. No top dressing has been done on the north course since 1955. Spraying is started in the spring when disease appears and is continued at weekly intervals until weather gets cool in the fall.

Collars are being converted to merion Kentucky bluegrass by stripping off worn turf and resodding.

Tees are U-3 bermudagrass cut at 1/2 inch three times a week and fertilized weekly during the growing season.

Fairways on the north course are mostly poa-annua but all have been planted to U-3 bermudagrass which is expected to predominate in another two seasons. The south course had near perfect U-3 fairways a year ago but experienced some winter kill this past winter. Another growing season will be needed to bring them back to peak condition. All fairways are cut at one inch in an effort to hold both poa and U-3. The north course is fertilized spring and fall but the south course receives high nitrogen every two weeks from June to September. The south course has watered fairways.

Roughs are composed of Kentucky bluegrass and chewing fescue cut at two inches with only that portion adjacent to the fairways receiving fertilizer once a year.

Water is supplied by three ponds of about two acres each. The capacity of the pumps is 800 gallons per minute but a new pond and pumping station are in the plans so that north course fairways can also be irrigated.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

Woodmont Country Club is located one mile south of Rockville on Rockville's main street, East Montgomery Avenue which is Wisconsin Avenue extended from the District of Columbia.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by James E. Thomas

The principal purpose of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents is to promote research, the interchange of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to our profession, and the promotion of justice and education for our membership. We also distribute monthly the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter to further these aims and goals.

Likewise, we are striving to raise our prestige as Golf Course Superintendents in the eyes of the golfing public. As a first step in achieving these objectives, we must conduct ourselves with the proper decorum at all of the Association's meetings which we attend. Rudeness and unnecessary boisterous language is out of place at our gatherings. It certainly creates and leaves a bad impression among club officials who are our hosts. We must appreciate and realize that we are their guests and should conduct ourselves as such at all times.

At several of the Association's meetings this season extreme discourtesy has been shown to our guest speakers. Their talks have often been interrupted while they were speaking, and loud idle conversation has been carried on in the background during the course of their dissertations. Our guest speakers are professional men - let's respect them as such. The service they render is a "Labour of Love" - not a command performance.

The Shenandoah Retreat meeting was a very enjoyable one. Dr. Freeman, the owner; and John Leavell, the Shenandoah Major-Domo; along with his most gracious wife were excellent hosts. Bob Miller of Dupont Chemicals gave an outstanding and most informative talk on the use of fertilizers, stressing the fact that most all of the materials available are good in their proper places when applied correctly at the right time.

THE MID-ATLANTIC 10 YEARS AGO

by L. Robert Shields

On October 6, 1953, seventy members and guests met with Superintendent, Jack Athey, at Kenwood Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland. We were the guests of the Holmead boys, Bob and Neil, who also handled the arrangements for this meeting. They were the owners of the National Capital Toro Company at that time. As Neil put it, "We picked up the tab for George Cornell and his friends."

To summarize: Sands and silt have little or no chemical activity, contribute mainly framework to soils. Clays and colloids are chemically active mainly by the process known as Base Exchange whereby cations are exchanged on the surface of negatively-charged nuclei. Soil acidity is one well-known condition that is developed by this process.

CORRECTION

A misprint occurred in the next-to-last paragraph of the article on "Something About Soil-- A Review" by Dr. Grau in the March issue of the NEWSLETTER. It read "All land clothed with grass (we give not to golf courses)". It should have been "All land clothed with grass (we give a nod to golf courses)".

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

The spring meeting of the Board of Directors of the GCSAA will be held April 24, 25, and 26th in New Orleans. This is going to be an important and involved meeting with many important decisions to be made. One is an answer to the question, "How far do we want to go as superintendents?". Shall the job move ahead as a profession or should it revert back to the farmer-greenskeeper type of job it used to be? Some superintendents think we are moving too fast while others think we are going too slow. Another question, "Shall we go along with our number one employee and let him lead us, with his knowledge and experience, to greater heights; or shall we switch 'horses' in mid-stream and change to one less experienced in our problems or perhaps less enthused with our work?".

At New Orleans, we will receive a full report from Price Waterhouse on the office management survey they have been conducting for us and full details of their findings will be reported to you at the May meeting.

Also while there, we will look over the facilities available at hotels and possibly schedule a future National Turfgrass Conference in this famous old southern city.

Ideas, subjects and speakers are needed for the conference program in Cleveland next February. If you would like to contribute, contact the writer and the information will be passed on to the program chairman.

POTASH AND THE GRASS PLANT

by Dr. W. K. Griffith

Potassium is only one of several essential nutrients for grass production. Nitrogen is another--and perhaps even more important on grass. Its outward effects are usually spectacular. The response is often so great that there is a tendency to forget or overlook the fact that other nutrients are also important.

Recent soil test surveys taken in Indiana and Maryland show that putting greens test 70 to 80% medium to low in potassium, over 60% for fairways, and 75 to 95% for new turf areas. The need for a closer look at potassium fertilization is obvious.

Why Low K in Soils? (1) As nitrogen fertilization increases, the amount of K removed from the soil increases through greater growth. (2) Frequent clipping and their removals remove large amounts of K. (3) Use of ammoniacal N replaces K on the soil colloid. Potassium is then leached out of the root zone. Where irrigation is used, K leaching will be increased. (4) The use of heavy rates of N tends to lower the exchangeable K available to plants.

The Role of Potassium (1) Helps form and translocate carbohydrates. (2) Helps resist drought. (3) Helps resist winter injury and improves turf density. (4) Helps retard diseases. (5) Helps protein formation.

Recognition and Action The first step in potassium fertilization is to recognize the need. The best method available is through soil testing. Using soil tests will help you to determine the best ratio and amount for your area.

In the past, the major turf fertilizers have been N:2:1 or N:2:2 ratio. However, the removal and need data indicate an N:2:4 ratio is more in line. Remember it is not any one nutrient that is important, but a balance of all to keep grass productive.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

To have on hand an adequate stock of chemicals; such as, fungicides, herbicides,

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There were 29 golfers competing for prizes solicited by prize committee chairman, Bob Holmead, for the annual golf tournament.

During the business meeting Jim Reid, membership chairman, made a plea for more members in the National Association and stated that if we have a good membership in that group it might be possible to some day have the National Turfgrass Conference and Show in Washington.

Admiral Phillips stated that the superintendent is invaluable to a golf course and said that if it were not for the golf course there would be no country club. He said the superintendent makes the golf course "tick" but should sell himself to his green chairman, the greens committee and club officials.

Dr. Cory, a guest at the meeting, thanked our hosts for the day of hospitality and announced that preparations were under way for the coming Mid-Atlantic Turfgrass Conference in Baltimore and asked for suggestions for topics for discussion at that meeting.

POSITION OPEN

Hawthorne Country Club, La Plata, Maryland, is seeking a qualified man to supervise construction on their nine hole course which is now under construction and to stay on as superintendent after completion. Interested parties should contact Mr. Frank Turner at WE 4-8138, La Plata, Maryland, and arrange for an interview.

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

What is being done to ease the lack of golf playing facilities and meet the needs for the future? Developers of new planned communities and real estate subdivisions are including golf facilities in their master plans. This practice is proving popular among the residents and profitable to the developer.

Over 100 industries in the nation have golf courses for their employees. Each year a few more come into being. Many schools and colleges have their own golf courses (about 150 in the country) or have plans for them. The Armed Services are continually adding golf facilities at military installations.

Cities, counties and states throughout the nation are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of golf as a national recreational activity and are initiating action for construction of public golf facilities. In some instances, where suitable open space areas are not available for construction of facilities, municipalities are purchasing existing country clubs and converting them to a public operation. Westport, Connecticut, provides an excellent example. About three years ago, Westport purchased the existing 18-hole Longshore Country Club for \$1,925,000. The 182-acre facility was renamed Longshore Club Park when it became a municipal operation. With a \$10 annual family membership fee plus \$2 green fee each time a member played, it netted the city \$60,000 during its first year of operation.

Many counties in the United States are building and operating successful golf ventures. In some instances city and county park and recreation departments are merging in an effort to plan and operate needed recreational facilities (including golf) more effectively. And many state parks are adding public golf courses - an outstanding example is Bethpage State Park, New York, where five 18-hole public golf courses are operating out of the same clubhouse.

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