

OUR HOST

Charles Schalestock has been in the golf business for 37 years. He started out as a superintendent in the New York metropolitan area where he spent 19 years. He moved to Farmington and spent 6 years there. It was at Farmington that he obtained his initial experience in dynamiting the subsurface of greens to improve soil drainage and relieve compaction. In 1948, Mr. Schalestock left Farmington to go to Norbeck where he supervised construction of the course and stayed on there for 4 years as superintendent. It was at this time "Charlie" decided to go into the field of golf course design and construction in Virginia, Maryland and Ohio. In 1961, he came back to Virginia to Court House Country Club, also known as the Country Club of Fairfax.

THE COURSE

The Country Club of Fairfax originally began as a 6 hole course. About 14 years ago, it was developed into 9 holes. In 1955, 9 more holes were designed and built by Ruben Hines. The completed 18 now measures 6,465 yards with a par of 72.

MAINTENANCE

The greens, built at different times, contain different grasses. Five are C-7 bentgrass, nine are a mixture of 1 and 19 bentgrasses and four are 95% poa annua. All greens are cut at 1/4 inch year round. Sound cultural practices are used supplemented with thiram and mecuricals, insecticides and herbicides used as needed. A total of 13 lbs. N is provided with cyanamide in the winter. Complete fertilizer with 25% organic is applied in spring with supplemental feedings of organics in the summer and complete fertilizer again in the fall.

The tees are cut at 5/8 inch and are handled individually according to grasses contained. Cool season grasses, bluegrass, poa and bent are fertilized spring and fall. The bermuda tees are fed two or three times during the summer.

The predominant grasses in the fairways are poa and bluegrass with varying percentages of fescue and bent. The unwatered fairways are fertilized spring and fall at 2 lbs. N per season. They are cut at 3/4 inch and raised to 7/8 inch in summer.

Native bermuda is predominant in the roughs. The 2 1/4 inch height has allowed them to fill in and provide good cover during the growing season.

Future plans include, as funds provide, reconstruction of greens; redesign of 5 holes and reconstruction of tees.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

495 (Beltway) to Va. and Rt. 236 Fairfax West. Go 4 miles to Rt. 123 (center of town of Fairfax). Take Rt. 123 South 4 miles to club on right.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas A. Doerer, Jr.

Some 65 superintendents and guests enjoyed our June 2nd meeting at the Lakewood Country Club. It has been two years since our last meeting at this beautiful club, and we noted many fine improvements had been made. The new clubhouse is certainly something to be proud of. President, Harry Ostrosky; golf professional, Dick Wilson; manager, Don Brimmer; and host-superintendent, Jack Oulla went all out to make our golf day and meeting one of the best so far this season.

Dr. George Langford, entomologist from the University of Maryland, brought as his guest Dr. Deal, a new member of their fine turf staff. Dr. Deal, being new to our area, mentioned in his brief talk that he would be paying each golf course superintendent in the area a personal visit some time this season. Welcome to you, Dr. Deal. We are certainly looking forward to your visits.

Mr. Frank Haske, chairman of our flower and entertainment committee and also a board member, has arranged another of his fine programs, Ladies Night - July 15, 1964. Get your tickets early as the show, "West Side Story", is a sellout and all tickets must be picked up by July 8th. A social hour, buffet dinner and show will highlight the evening's entertainment. Social hour - 5 PM to 6:30 PM, Buffet - 6:30 to 8, Showtime - 8:30 PM sharp.

Let's all bring our wives, guests or friends and make this our event of the year.

RANDOM TRAVEL NOTES

by Dr. Fred V. Grau

Travel engagements have blocked my attendance at meetings in the Mid-Atlantic area but have permitted me to make observations which I would like to share.

Sulfate of potash. In New England, in Ohio, in Texas, in the Midwest and on the West Coast it is clear that K_2SO_4 is developing sturdy turf that is stiff and highly resistant to wear. One course in Dalton, Mass., uses very little P but goes heavy on K_2SO_4 , soluble. With 600 playing members there is no sign of wear. I called the greens "rugged". In northern Ohio most superintendents are using K_2SO_4 with excellent results. Similar reports are being written in other parts of the country.

K_2SO_4 yields both potash and sulfur. Sulfur is an essential plant nutrient. Soil micro-organisms must have sulfur. The slight acidity created easily can be corrected with lime.

The best dividends from K_2SO_4 are (1) greater resistance to disease, (2) stiffer grass that mows better and springs back after traffic passes.

Some suppliers seem to experience some difficulty in locating sugar-fine soluble sulfate of potash. Muriate is more common and more easily procured but it carries chlorine, no sulfur.

Hydrated Lime. Years ago when sulfate of ammonia was popular there were cases of severe ammonia burns when hydrated lime and sulfate of ammonia were used too closely together. Hydrated lime fell from popularity. Today this very useful inexpensive chemical is returning to popularity. We know that its use at low rates ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 pound per M^2) in summer can check some of the serious hot-weather diseases. It refreshes weak grass and gives it added life and vigor. We know too that hydrated lime can be used with safety blended in the sprayer or proportioner with insoluble ureaform without release of ammonia.

Water. Constant attention to the principles of using water, plus frequent reminders in newsletters and other publications, is paying handsome dividends. Never have I seen so many superintendents using water so sensibly and effectively. One of the weak spots now seems to be the irrigation of newly-built golf courses. Huge automatic systems that are designed to deliver lots of water fast to mature turf simply are not the type of equipment that deliver the proper quantities to bare seedbeds or to tender seedling turf. Nothing yet designed can take the place of intelligent hand watering on new greens. I've seen too much gully erosion on brand new greens (and fairways) to suit me or anyone else. The basic principles still are (1) water when needed (2) water only so fast as soil can absorb it.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

Our National Association is making good progress under the leadership of our new president, Dave Moote, and executive director, Dr. Gene Nutter. Membership is at an all time high with 2,085 members now in good standing, and we are still growing. Eighteen new members were accepted during the month of June. This number is an increase of 154 over the number that existed at this time last year.

Our association is solvent. With approximately \$120,000 in cash assets at our disposal we occupy an enviable financial position in the golf world. More and more discussion is being heard on the desirability of having our own building. There are many superintendents who think we should establish ourselves permanently somewhere and put down some roots to support us during our coming turbulent, growing years. The "bootstrap" era of our progress is about gone. A new office building, which could be erected without any change in the dues structure and without any assessment of the members, would add stature and permanence to the title, Golf Course Superintendent. It could be an indication of, and a monument to our determination to retain our identity in golf and not be swallowed up by others more aggressive and more visionary.

Your National Board would like some sincere, honest thought given to this particular subject to help determine just which way we want to go and how far. During discussion, which sooner or later must come, try to think objectively of what is good for all superintendents everywhere and leave out all thought of local politics or regionalism.

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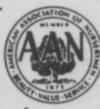
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The National Open at Congressional Country Club was a great success. GCSAA commends the work of the Mid-Atlantic in acting as greens security guards. The golf course was in beautiful shape and we wish to commend superintendent, John Henley, for a job well done. We are sorry he was not on hand to receive credit due him from the winners and USGA officials. John's fairways were outstanding and Mid-Atlantic superintendents will feel pressure from their club members to supply turf of equal quality. Unknowingly, John, by his work, will help many superintendents obtain that much needed fairway watering system.

LADIES NIGHT

The second annual Ladies Night of the Mid-Atlantic Association will be held on Wednesday, July 15th at the Washingtonian Motel.

The cocktail hour from 5 to 6:30 is being sponsored through the hospitality of the following distributors and suppliers: G. L. Cornell Co., National Capital Toro, Baltimore Toro, F. W. Bolgiano, Agrico of Virginia, Agrico of Baltimore, Herbert Bryant Co., J. C. Milan Co., National Chemsearch, Virginia Pine Bark Processing Co., and Rokeby Chemical Co.

The buffet dinner is being served from 6:30 to 8:00; showtime for "West Side Story" starring Anna Maria Alberghetti is 8:30.

All reservations MUST be in to Frank Haske, 5815 Ridgeway Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, NO LATER THAN July 8th.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

Now is the time to give some thought to the problems of the critical months of July and August. They can be the most trying times of the year for those of us who are responsible for the management of fine turf grasses, and since we have reached the peak of the golf playing season we desire our golf courses to be at their best.

Now that summer has arrived, the word CONTROL has a very important meaning: grass diseases, insects, and weeds need to be controlled; or, should we say MANAGED and PREVENTED. All of this is easy to mention, but oftentimes very difficult to practice and accomplish. We need to exercise constant vigilance and daily observation of prevalent conditions, as alertness can be a most valuable ally and assistant.

We know that during the summer most grass diseases occur when temperatures and humidity are on the high side. That some of the contributing factors in their development are: the practice of applying water beyond the field capacity of the soil, the excessive use of fertilizers (particularly nitrogen), allowing thatch to build up, and the development of compaction. Also, let's not forget the importance of good air circulation, and the necessity for drainage of unusable and excessive water (both surface and internal).

There is a wide choice of proven fungicides to help us in our disease control programs, and the proper one to use is the matter of one's own personal choice and opinion. During the seasons when diseases are most prevalent it is advisable to follow a preventative program of weekly applications of a reliable fungicide.

The control of insects requires us to have a knowledge of how to recognize the pests we are dealing with, their habits and conditions they thrive under, whether or not they are controlled by contact or absorption poisons. This information can best be obtained by going to one of our entomologist friends, and asking him for his advice as to the proper insecticide to use, also, how to apply it properly.

Weeds are controlled by both pre and post emergence programs, by hand-weeding, cultural methods, and most important by a good program of TURF CULTURE - weeds have a hard time thriving in a dense and healthy sod. It is all important to control the first crop of weeds as soon as they germinate, if possible, taking care not to let them get a head start and upper hand. The suppression of unwanted plants and vegetation is a broad subject, and one needs to keep abreast of the latest developments and research.

As a word of caution: new fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides are constantly being formulated and recommended. Perhaps, we should try them out on a small scale first, and make sure that they are a proven product before we attempt to use them.

BILLBUGS FOUND DAMAGING ZOYSIA GRASS IN MARYLAND by Dr. G.S. Langford
Zoysia grass has been quite free from insect damage in Maryland. Recently Dr. E.E. Deal, turf agronomist, University of Maryland, received a report that a zoysia lawn was dying. Investigation showed that the lawn was being killed by billbugs. Subsequent surveys of the University Park area where the billbug damage was found showed other lawns with damage. The type and extent of damage to the lawn in University Park indicates that billbugs can be a serious pest of Meyer's zoysia.

The billbug in question, Sphenophorus venatus, according to the literature, is common in the south and is known to have damaged zoysia grass from Florida to west Texas and northward into North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois and Kansas. Points in our area from which this insect has been reported include Washington, D. C., Chevy Chase, Marshall Hall and Piney Point, Maryland, and Falls Church, Virginia.

Adult billbugs are beetles with long snouts. They are from 1/5 to 3/4 inch in length and color may range from yellowish to reddish brown to jet black. Adults often play possum when disturbed and are practically invisible on the soil so long as they remain motionless. The adults damage grass by attacking the stems near the surface of the soil. They also feed on the leaves.

The young of billbugs are tiny grubs. They are white, short, chunky and without legs. The newly hatched grubs start out feeding on the interior of the grass stem, and as this becomes exhausted they complete their growth in the soil by feeding upon fibrous roots.

In general there is one generation of billbugs a year. Overwintering adults make their appearance in May.

Chlordane is effective for control. It may be used in dust, granule or spray form. U.S. Department of Agriculture's Home and Garden Bulletin No. 53 suggests the following dosages of chlordane for each 1,000 sq. ft. of turf to be treated: For dust and granules use 10 lbs. of 5% material. For spraying use 1 1/4 lbs. of 40% chlordane wettable powder, or 8 fluid ozs. of 75% chlordane emulsifiable concentrate.

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

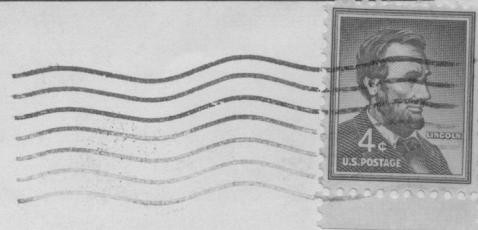
Plans are being made to dedicate our annual golf tournament to the memory of Willis H. Glover, past president of our association, friend and fellow member. For handicapping purposes all members will be required to enter five scores preceding the tournament.

NEW MEMBERS

The following is a list of new members recently received into the Mid-Atlantic Association: Joseph W. Watson, Grafton T. Lumsden, Joseph E. Mosher, John S. Hill, Leroy Solley, John J. Gross, Ralph Strouth.

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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