

MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



Director
ROBERT MARTINO
Editors
JAMES E. THOMAS
LEE C. DIETER

Published by
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the
Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

Vol. XIV

March 25, 1964

No. 3



SCOTT

NEXT MEETING

The April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held on the 7th at the Elkridge Club in Baltimore, Maryland. The course will be open for play, weather permitting, but all golfers are requested to tee off, if possible, before 1:30 P.M. Lunch may be purchased in the men's grill room on the north end of the clubhouse. Dinner will be served at 6 P.M. Our guest speaker will be W. K. Griffith of the American Potash Institute who will speak on Potash and the Grass Plant. Also present at the meeting will be Elkridge's golf professional, Mel Howard; greens chairman, Mr. Vandervoort Rand; and golf committee chairman, Mr. R. Gerard Willse.

OUR HOST

Robert Scott, Jr., son of a co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic, has been superintendent of the Elkridge course for two and a half years and a member of the Mid-Atlantic since 1947. He started in his profession under his dad at the Baltimore Country Club, served as superintendent of the Bonnie View Country Club for five years, then the Mount Pleasant Golf Course for three and a half years. Upon the retirement of his uncle, Dave Edgar, a charter member of the Mid-Atlantic, Bob became superintendent of Elkridge in November of 1961.

THE CLUB AND GOLF COURSE

The Elkridge Club was founded in 1878 as a Hunt Club with golf making an appearance in the mid-1890's when a nine hole course was built on the property. The course was enlarged to 18 holes in 1923. The layout is the same today except for some improvements made in 1957-58 by Robert Trent Jones. Yardage is 6237 with a par of 70.

The Clubhouse still used today is the original from 1878. Before that date it was the home of former Governor Augustus W. Bradford of Maryland. It is said the governor built a new home and moved into it only to have it burned by Virginia raiders. So Governor Bradford moved back to the old mansion which is now the Elkridge Clubhouse.

MAINTENANCE

The greens were planted when built to south German mixed bent. This grass is still the basis of all greens along with plenty of poa annua except for the newer areas added to No. 3 and No. 9 where pencross bent was planted. The height of cut is 3/16 inch until the hottest part of the year when they are raised to 1/4 inch. The greens are fertilized as needed with organic fertilizers about six times per season.

The fairways are a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and south German mixed bents from the original seeding. Poa Annua came in as was natural for this area. Highland bent and merion bluegrass have been added in recent years to improve the fairways. The height of cut is 3/4 inch except when hot weather may require the height to be raised to 7/8 inch.

U-3 bermuda had been plugged into the fairways in past years but survived only in No. 3, 7, 11 and 15 fairways to any extent. A more recent spring planting of 6 fairways in 1962 was eliminated by the hard winter of that year.

After the fall of 1961, when 500 lb. per acre of 10-0-8 was applied twice, only organic fertilizers have been used on the fairways. The organic fertilizer is applied spring and fall at 500 lb. per acre.

The fairways have improved greatly but an increase in chickweed now indicates a return to inorganic fertilizers, especially in the fall. A liquid fertilizer was sprayed on all fairways

in early fall 1962, combined with wetting agent. Its analysis, 15-10-5. The fairways are watered with three sets of movable aluminum pipe and sprinklers from water lines along the edge of fairways. City water is used and boosted with our own pump when watering.

The tees are mostly small and old fashioned but have, with a few exceptions, accommodated the limited play. The grass on the tees is all cool season except for parts of No. 8, 13, and 17 where some native and U-3 bermuda have taken over. Organic fertilizers have been used as needs indicate but at least spring, summer and fall. The height of cut is 1/2 inch except during the hottest weather when they are raised if necessary.

The roughs are red fescue or bluegrass, according to location, from original planting. Height of cut is 1 1/2 inch or over.

FUTURE

A tree planting program is taking place at the present time. It is planned that tees and traps will continue to be modernized.

DIRECTIONS

From Washington, D.C., and Virginia take Route 1 or Washington Expressway to the Baltimore Beltway. North on Beltway to Charles Street, down Charles Street to golf course on right below Bellona Avenue.

From Hagerstown take Route 40 to the Baltimore Beltway. Same as above.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas E. Doerer, Jr.

YOUR PRESIDENT'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE GCSAA INTERNATIONAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE -- Mrs. Doerer and I, along with Jim and Ruth Thomas arrived in Philadelphia on Sunday afternoon. After checking in we toured the areas set aside for the association's activities. It was evident considerable time and effort had been spent on arrangements for the conference. The meeting rooms, registration desk, and hotel lobby were clearly marked with attractive signs. Philadelphia superintendents were on hand greeting all arrivals in a typical "City of Brotherly Love" manner. We soon felt at home and became a part of this great show.

Our wives left us to attend a meeting in the ladies hospitality room. This being the first conference my wife had had the pleasure of participating in; she was impressed with the warm and friendly atmosphere prevailing among those present, particularly, by the greetings received from the chairlady, Mrs. Paul Weiss, Sr. After chatting and visiting awhile, Mrs. Doerer felt as if she was with friends of long standing, and she had nothing but fine comments to make of everyone she had met.

On Monday morning the conference was officially opened by GCSAA past president, Paul Weiss, Sr. He extended greetings to all present in his usual friendly and humorous manner. The speakers at the educational sessions of Monday and Tuesday gave us many words of wit, humor, and wisdom; their topics were timely and excellent ones, and were well presented.

Monday was my birthday, so the evening found me as a dinner guest at a party honoring the occasion. My host was one of our gracious and generous friends from the Washington area. The event was a surprise one, and I left the festive board feeling ten years younger, rather than a year older. Believe me - I had had no "Hadacol".

The opening of the equipment show was on Tuesday morning. There was on exhibit a large display and assortment of golf course machinery, chemicals, fertilizers, etc. Along with old and established products there were many new machines and materials being presented for the first time; all designed to make the life of the golf course superintendent an easier one. The only booth missing, probably an oversight, was one telling us how to increase and stretch the greens budget so we could purchase everything we saw.

The next stop, a most interesting one, was the Advisory Committee meeting; a group composed of two members from each of the GCSAA affiliated chapters. As a result of their deliberations many sound and worthy suggestions were presented to the Executive Committee for review. It was quite evident that this fine body should be encouraged and assisted to the fullest extent by our Board of Governors. More time should be allowed for their meetings, as they are sincerely devoted to the welfare of the GCSAA and its members.

We deprecate the loss of good farm land to the suburban sprawl and to the highway systems but we do not seem to know how to stop this type of soil rape. We know how to build soil fertility and soil productivity but the lessons are so often ignored.

Soil is a product of the ages. It is our most precious natural resource, vulnerable and non-renewable. All land clothed with grass (we give not to golf courses) is most resistant to loss and degradation.

Until next month when we shall continue our study of soils, I recommend a review of the 1938 Yearbook of Agriculture "Soils and Men", and the 1957 USDA Yearbook, "Soils".

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

The job of vice president of the National has kept me busy since returning from the fabulous Philadelphia meeting. As a member of the Board of Directors, I was assigned the task of locating a firm of impartial office management specialists who would look into the operation of our Jacksonville headquarters office.

The first problem was to obtain the names of companies who were qualified to perform this type of service for an association such as ours. Here the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington was helpful in providing names and addresses of many. After many letters and long distance phone calls, we selected the nationally known firm of Price Waterhouse and Company at a meeting in the company's New York City office on March 9. Present were president Moote, secretary Ted Roberts, past president Sherwood Moore (unofficially), myself and H. Hendricks and Rod Hammond of Price Waterhouse. Executive director, Dr. Nutter was called in after the agreement had been made and together we briefed Mr. Hammond on our operation and instructed him to leave the next day for Jacksonville Beach.

The Board is looking for answers to questions such as these:

Is our office staff adequate? Is the staff being adequately compensated? Are they properly qualified and trained for their work? Is our number one employee overworked? Is office efficiency up to par? Could the physical arrangement of the office be improved? Would it be better to have the headquarters office located in some other city?

I don't want to give the impression that there is trouble in our office. I assure you there is complete harmony. The problem is we are growing so fast we have trouble keeping up and want to make sure we are not left behind still clinging to outmoded ideas, procedures and methods. Price Waterhouse will evaluate our set up and then say we are on the right track and doing a good job or will make suggestions whereby improvements can be made. This report will be forthcoming about the end of April.

Every step and every action by your Board of Directors is geared to upgrading our profession and to presenting the superintendent in a more favorable light. We are fortunate in having the services of Dr. Nutter who is also dedicated to this ideal and is always looking for ways to put it into effect.

The new association jackets are available for \$35 each. Write the National office for order forms.

NOW IS THE TIME ...

To prepare for heavy play which is just around the corner. Will you be ready? Early putting green maintenance should include aerifying, vertical mowing, fertilization and liming if needed. Vertical mowing and aerifying open up the soil for the entrance of plant nutrients, reduces graininess, relieves compaction, prevents a build-up of thatch, improves drainage, and helps to control diseases. Fertilization is the feeding which keeps our grass plants growing and in good health. It needs to be properly balanced when applied, and if this is not done in moderation serious trouble can develop.

Lime properly used benefits our soils in many ways, both chemically and physically, and it also provides certain plant nutrients. For putting greens, the use of agriculture lime is preferred (ground or dolomitic). Its need and use will be governed by the PH reading of the soil. Some of the functions of the element are: correction of a too acid soil condition; it provides the grass plant with calcium and magnesium; helps to make fertilizers more

available; causes clay particles to aggregate as granules and by doing so provides better drainage and aeration of the soil.

A light top dressing may be in order to true-up putting surfaces, if your greens were played on during the winter when they were too soft and are uneven and full of foot prints. Be sure the compost you use is sterile, otherwise your efforts could be offset by an unwanted weed infestation.

The withholding of greens irrigation until there is a definite need of water is a good practice, by doing so a stronger and deeper root system will develop resulting in a better turf. Too much water is as bad as not enough; remember plants can drown and suffocate for lack of oxygen in the root zone.

When planning maintenance operations around putting greens be sure and keep the Green Committee informed as to what you intend to do. They can be of great help if they are aware of your plans. It is one of the best ways for the superintendent to keep all of the club members happy. He has a good reason for most of his activities and usually members won't criticize if they know what these reasons are, as unexplained activity which interfere with golfing creates discontentment amongst players.

QUESTIONNAIRE

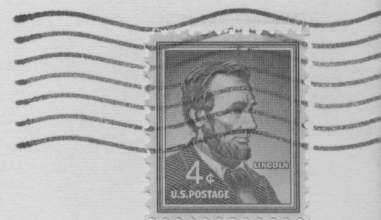
A form will be sent to all class A and B members of our association. Questions will include items on budget, equipment and salaries. Full cooperation of all members will be appreciated and expected. All replies are strictly Confidential.

JOB OPENING

The Maryland Park and Planning Commission has an employment opportunity for an experienced landscape gardner. Salary range depending on experience. Qualifications: landscape experience is essential and ability to handle workmen desirable, preferred age range 30 to 45 years. College of specialized school training optional. Contact Mr. Carl Schoening, Park Horticulturist at JUniper 9-1480, Ext. 70, or write to him at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, for an interview.

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

5007 - 34th St., North
Arlington 7, Va.



Mr. George Cleaver
Box 121 A
Lutherville, Md.