

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on Monday, March 8, 1965, in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic P. G. A. Seminar at the New Adult Education Center of the University of Maryland.

Please note that among the speakers listed below is our own Mid-Atlantic President Thomas E. Doerer, Jr. The officers and directors of your association hope that the Mid-Atlantic will have a good representation at the meeting. There will be no formal business meeting this month. All officers and directors should be present as photographs will be taken.

Dr. W. H. Elkins, President, University of Maryland
Welcoming Address

Warren Cantrell, President, P. G. A.
Opening Address

Dr. J. Ewers, Executive Director, P. G. A.

Col. Harry Eckhoff, Eastern Director, N. G. F.
"Progress of Golf"

Joseph Dey, Executive Director, U. S. G. A.
"Conditioning Golf Courses for Tournament Play"

12 - 1:30
Lunch

Robert Trent Jones
"Golf Course Design"

Dr. O. J. Noer, Agronomist, R. T. Jones
"Turf Management"

Edward Johnston, Vice President, Mid-Atlantic Golf Association
"What a Qualified Pro Means to a Course"

Thomas E. Doerer, Jr., Superintendent, Fort Belvoir
"Understanding a Qualified Superintendent"

Dr. Fred Grau, Consulting Agronomist

Superintendents who wish to come Wednesday from 9 till 10 AM for a question and answer session are welcome. A panel consisting of three professionals and three of our Mid-Atlantic superintendents will be moderated by Thomas E. Doerer. The superintendents on the panel will be Jack Oulla, George Gumm and James E. Thomas.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

The 36th Annual Turfgrass Conference held in Cleveland on February 7th through 12th was attended by 2611 interested turf men from all parts of the globe. There were several Japanese superintendents present along with representatives from Hawaii and several other countries.

The Middle Atlantic was well represented, in fact, they stole the show by having their own Mr. L. Robert Shields elected to the presidency for the coming year. We all wish Bob much success during his tenure of office.

The theme of the show, as we saw it, was one of great changes and promise over the next few years in the fields of research and development.

Automatic watering was one of the highlights of the show. New and better ways of handling our water problems were stressed. Particular emphasis was placed on good sound judgment in the use of systems. It was brought out that the over-using of water was the cause, in many cases, of the wholesale loss of grass on tees, greens and fairways.

Many slides were used to illustrate the various maintenance practices used on courses that have traffic problems. The speakers did an excellent job of presenting their subjects to the audience; all meetings were well attended. More and better public relations were stressed, mainly because of the complex problems of running a modern day golf plant. The game of golf is no longer a sport enjoyed by a select few but has grown to be a way of life for all to enjoy. All in all, we can, as superintendents; professional golfers and managers look to many changes in the future.

THANKS TO MID-ATLANTIC

from Bob Shields

Thanks to you, my Mid-Atlantic friends, for the part you have played in electing me President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. This is a big and a very important responsibility to assume, but I accept it with great confidence knowing that I have, and always have had, the faithful support of one of the best and most progressive local chapters, the Mid-Atlantic.

You have witnessed the advances our profession has made in the last few years and I know you join with me in exerting every effort to continue this elevation of the status of superintendents. We have made great strides and we are proud of it but we know the best is yet to come.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

There were many impressive highlights at the Cleveland Conference but also there were two very sad occasions. One was the passing of Joe Venturella, superintendent of Diablo Country Club, Oakland, Calif., in his room at the hotel on Saturday night preceding the Conference. Another was the death of Past President L. E. "Red" Lambert, at his home in Kansas City on Saturday after he had returned home from the Conference.



Between these two unfortunate Saturdays was a week of constant activity. The Mayor of the City of Cleveland was there; the Governor of the State of Ohio paid a visit; four men interested in golf came all the way from Japan; the Hawaiian member presented leis; Tommy Doerer had a fine article in the Conference Reporter; Past President Jim Thomas represented the Mid-Atlantic at the Educational Session; our good will ambassador Jim Reid saw all his old friends and made as many new ones; George Gumm, Angie and Lou White found themselves an angel with free meal tickets and each gained at least an ounce or two; George Cleaver and Sheldon Betterly faithfully attended each educational session as did many other Mid-Atlantic people. George, Brownie, Tom and Ken played the genial hosts in the Cornell suite making it a memorable occasion to visit that room. Paul Bond ably represented Bob Adams' National Capitol Toro and was very much impressed with what he saw at this, his first, Conference. Mrs. Wayne Jerome, on reading Maury Fitzgerald's column stating that Bob Shields lost his luggage, sent a small crocheted pot holder in the form of a man's shorts. The note said, "I hear you lost your pants. Will this help any?" Maury got his story wrong - the luggage was left at home for Frank Haske to bring later in his car.

Personal highlights for me were, of course, the election and being congratulated by so many people, many of whom were strangers to me; being photographed with Governor Rhodes and greeting Mayor Locher on opening day; having my picture and a write-up in the local paper in Akron where I grew up; introducing the members of my family at the big banquet; receiving the beautiful Hawaiian leis of real flowers from Bill Hayashi of Oahu Country Club in Honolulu and the kiss that went with it from Mary Turner. The most impressive moment of all for most came at the conclusion of the banquet when Past President, Dave Moote, suggested a toast to the Queen and then presented to GCSAA a new maple leaf Canadian flag. The 900 people in the audience arose as one and applauded long and loud, some with tears of emotion as they recalled their many Canadian friends. Mr. Moote finally had to ask that the applause be stopped so that he could go on with the program. This was truly a great tribute to a great nation but some of us knew that part of the tribute was to Dave personally for the outstanding job he did for our association during his year as President.

Sorry that Frank Dunlap could not attend (his doctor wouldn't let him) but happy to see his young, handsome son John, who is assistant to Past President Mal McLaren at Cleveland's Oakwood Club, very busy helping with host association affairs.

Our new Executive Director, Mr. Ben Chlevin, functioned with perfection and endeared himself to all who came in contact with him. We look forward to many pleasant hours of working with him, his assistant Willard Titlow and the other members of the office staff. The office will be moved from Jacksonville Beach, Florida, to the Chicago area some time within the next six months.

Attendance at Cleveland was 2610 with 911 at the banquet on Thursday night. Between 40 and 50 members of the Mid-Atlantic were in attendance.

QUALITY IN PRESENTATION

by Fred V. Grau

As each educational turfgrass conference ends there are varied comments on the quality of the many presentations. This brief note attempts to characterize the best of all of them over a period of years. No individual is singled out for criticism. Let the shoe fit as it may.

SLIDES - A few pertinent well-chosen Kodachrome slides can emphasize points and "paint a picture" that would take "a thousand words". The speaker who rates a "Bravo! Well done!" in my book is one who never shows a slide so poor that he has to apologize for it (amateur, borrowed camera, poor light, forgot to focus, etc., etc.). This speaker never shows a black and white chart or graph that is cluttered and confused with figures, names and symbols that no one but an expert can understand or even read. Clarity and simplicity are the keynotes of good visual aids.

Another speaker who rates No. 1 on my list is the one who, when he has finished, has the audience wide-eyed and asking, "Why didn't he show more?". A speaker never, never, never should bore his audience with too many slides of dubious quality and value. Then there is the speaker who, when he has finished, has the members of his audience saying to each other, "Why did he quit so soon? I could have listened to him for hours!". How

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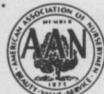
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sad it is when a speaker, entranced with his fluency and the melodious resonance of his own voice, drones on and on far beyond his allotted time.

Thirty years ago I joined the staff of the Pennsylvania State College (now Pennsylvania State University) as Extension Agronomist. How I wish that all conference speakers could have had the full experience of talking to people in churches, schools, barns and equipment sheds not equipped with public address systems.

This, now, is my own way of addressing an audience. I've never read it in a book. Speak so that the tallest and the smallest man in the back row feel that you are talking directly to them. In this way, every person in the audience will feel that you are addressing him personally. Lift your head so that your voice can soar to the rafters or to the stars. Never, never, never let your chin drop so that you are talking into your tie clip. (Your audience will get the impression that you belong to the National Association of Mumlbers.)

A final word is due the Master of Ceremonies or the Moderator. The finest compliment he can bestow on the speaker he introduces is BREVITY. When the moderator launches into a long, dreary recitation of the past history and accomplishments (?) of the fidgeting speaker, and encroaches on his allotted time (and that of others), he has done a disservice to himself, to the speaker, to the audience and to the sponsoring organization. Such a moderator does a service only to the next year's educational committee in that they quickly decide that they won't have him on their program the next year.

These comments have been derived from more than thirty years of conferences. No direct reference to any one year, person, or program is intended or implied. Local associations can gain stature by monitoring and polishing the presentations of members chosen to address the National Conference.

Not exclusively, but particularly, do we need quality of presentation at the national level. Golf course superintendents desire recognition. One way to achieve it is to learn to present a subject that the audience can understand, in such a way that people will want you to repeat it, and, when you are through, will call for "Encore".

POSITION OPEN

New 18-hole golf course in the Washington area is looking for a qualified superintendent to assist in the construction. Salary open - depending on experience - contact Mr. V. Trapasso, 124 South Royal St., Alexandria, Virginia; or Mr. Carl Osterloh, Route 2, Box 198, Lorton, Virginia, phone 703-339-5421. Construction to start early spring.

V.P.I. AGRONOMY COURSES

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, is seeking student enrollment for their Agronomy courses, one of which is directed towards anyone wishing to enter the field of turf management. Those seeking further information should contact Dr. H. L. Dunton, Department of Agronomy, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

HONORED

The February Issue of the Suburban Club Bulletin honored the club's superintendent, our association's own James Reid. The words of praise were long and many. We who know Jim know also that he is deserving of every word.

U.S.G.A. GOLF HANDBOOK

A recent publication of the United States Golf Association which should be in the library of all golf club officials and department heads is the U.S.G.A. GOLF HANDBOOK, edited by Joseph C. Dey, Jr., U.S.G.A. Executive Director. The publication is divided into eight chapters and contains much pertinent information relative to the many operational phases of the game of golf.

The contents of the handbook are: the rules of golf, the golf committee, handicapping and course rating, the green committee, the rules of amateur status, safety, publications and films, and the United States Golf Association.

This Golf Handbook is a MUST and should be in the hands of all Golf Course Superintendents and Green Committee Chairmen. The cost of the publication is five dollars and is obtainable from the United States Golf Association, 40 East 38th Street, New York, New York.

AS WE FIND THEM

Taken from--the Bulletin of the U.S.G.A. Green Section. Issue of August, 1928
Found one green committee figuring on how to keep turf on tees slightly over 100 sq. ft. in area. Greens were all close to 10,000 sq. ft. Couldn't cut down size of greens, for members would kick. All wanted sod on tees but could not afford to build them larger.

It must be admitted some members take as many as five or six strokes on each putting green, but even the best of them take at least one stroke on every tee. Why are courses built with such uneven distribution of expense on greens and tees?

Saw a line of tile being laid from a low pocket. Men were told to lay it 18 inches deep, and when they came to the ridge which cut off the surface water they still kept placing the tile exactly 18 inches below the surface.

Water will not run up over a hill through a drain tile any more easily than it runs uphill any other way. Later some green committee member will explain, "the trouble can't be poor drainage, for we already have a tile line through here."

On a construction job a battery of heavy tractors were watched slipping around across wet clay soil where some day a green approach would be located. After the soil became more thoroughly puddled and baked than are most country roads, there would probably be a thin layer of topsoil spread on to level off the rough spots before planting. In a few months players will begin to ask, "What is the trouble with the turf on those approaches?"

Discovered a new theory for aerating greens. A tile system is to be laid under the green and from this a long pipe is to be run up a nearby hillside and thence up a tree to give a chimney effect and create a draught under the green.

Someone has suggested that this pipe instead of running up the tree be connected to the 19th hole. Then when members start "blowing about some of their shots they can be requested to direct their air currents down that pipe to help the great cause of aerating that suffering green".

A few years after the course was built it was decided to extend the water system to water some special landing areas and approaches. Decided to tap into the old water mains. By the time those mains were discovered the course looked like a badly shelled battlefield.

Some day, in addition to men and machines, there may be a little "foresight" used in constructing golf courses. If such a day ever comes there will be a diagram of water and tile lines placed on record. Then it will be easily possible to reach either without digging up the whole course.

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