

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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NEXT MEETING

The December meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held on the 7th at the Adult Education Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

Anyone wishing to play golf will be welcome anytime during the day on the University of Maryland Golf Course. Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

COMING ELECTION

The next meeting of the Association will be the general membership meeting consisting of officer's reports, any unfinished business and the election of officers and directors.

The nominating committee has submitted the following names for your consideration:

- President: Sheldon Betterly, Chantilly Country Club, Centreville, Virginia
Angelo Cammarota, Bonnie View Country Club, Baltimore, Maryland
- Vice President: Bob Martino, Island View Golf Course, Sterling, Virginia
Edward Morse, Maryland Country Club, Belaire, Maryland
- Secretary-Treasurer: George Cleaver, Chestnut Ridge Country Club, Lutherville, Md.
- Directors: (two to be elected for three year terms)
Bill Emerson, Crofton Golf Club, Crofton, Maryland;
Bradley Strouth, Northwest Park Golf Course, Silver Spring, Maryland;
Russel Kerns, Greenhill Yacht and Country Club, Salisbury, Maryland;
Bob Milligan, Gunpowder Golf Course, Laurel, Maryland

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas Doerer, Jr.

Mr. William Emerson, superintendent of the new and spacious Crofton Golf Club, Crofton, Maryland, hosted some sixty superintendents and their guests Tuesday, November 2nd. Bill enlightened all those present as to the value of having a superintendent on the job at the time of construction.

Mr. Eddie Ault, the course architect, gave us a brief outline of the thinking behind his design of this tremendous layout. Both of these talks left all present with some food for thought in the building and maintenance ends of a new golf course.

Mr. George Gumm, our educational director, followed the talks with a constructive suggestion question and answer period. Many interesting comments were made from the floor.

Dr. Fred Grau sent his regrets for not having been able to attend this meeting. However, he submitted a letter that was read to the members dealing with some of the agronomy aspects of the seeding and fertilization of this very sandy soil. As usual, these comments were in the typical Grau fashion, very enlightening.

Your association has some very interesting meetings coming up in the months of December and January. They are as follows:

December 2nd - Testimonial dinner for Mr. Wilson Disney of the F. W. Bolgiano Company.

The master of ceremonies will be, none other than Robert Shields, our National President. Bring your wife or girl friend and have an enjoyable evening. There will be many interesting speakers for this occasion.

December 7th - Annual elections for president, vice president, secretary-treasurer and two directors. The meeting will be held at the Adult Education Center, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland. Golf - any time during the day. Dinner served from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. The meeting will start at 7 PM sharp. Cards are being mailed to all members. Please return your reservations for the dinner. We will have to notify the University of those who wish dinner.

January 10th and 11th - Our Annual Maryland Turf Conference will be held at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Downtown Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. George Gumm and his committee has gone all out to make this one of our best conferences. Let's have a big turn out for this, our 37th conference.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

Because of an over crowded agenda at the Crofton meeting last month, I did not have the opportunity to report to you regarding the meeting of the National Board at the Chicago headquarters office on October 28, 29 and 30.

An Open House was held the afternoon of October 28 at the association office to introduce the board members to the staff. Approximately 85 people attended representing U.S.G.A., C.M.A., P.G.A., the National Golf Foundation, the local press and the different golf associations in that area. Also present were National Past Presidents Ray Nelson, Bob Williams, Ray Gerber, Carl Bretslaff and Ward Cornwell.

While in the area, I visited two north side golf courses - Briarwood in Deerfield where Paul Voykin is superintendent and Bob-O-Link in Highland Park with Bob Williams as superintendent. Both courses use Mexican laborers who come up from south Texas in early spring and then go back home around Thanksgiving. Bob says he is attending night school taking a course in Spanish so he can talk to his men. Another example of the many things a superintendent must do to get his job done.

At the fall Board Meeting San Francisco was selected as the site for the 1968 Turfgrass Conference and Show. It may be necessary to hold the exhibit show in Brooks Hall, which is separated from the Hilton Hotel, but other features made this selection desirable. One is weather. San Francisco weather in February is mild - just right for golf, so a superintendent golf tournament is in the plans. It will be played on one or more of the famous courses in the Monterey area south of San Francisco where sometimes "in the rough" means "in the ocean".

George Gumm, Russ Kerns and I were all set to fly to Palm Beach in the small plane on November 8 but rain, poor visibility and low ceilings that day prevented us from starting. I went down on a commercial flight next day to attend the National Meeting of the P.G.A. and met Warren Cantrell, Lou Strong, Harold Sargent, Tom Crane and had the pleasure of sitting next to and talking to Bob Goldwater (Barry's brother) from Phoenix Country Club and Bruce Forbes from Montreal.

At this meeting the Master of Ceremonies, Harold Sargent, said, "This next man I am about to introduce represents a lot of other men whom we (professional golfers) could not do without. They keep our golf courses in fine condition and make the game more enjoyable for all of us". He then called on me and asked me to say a few words. I left with the feeling that the pros are regular guys who have gone through some very trying experiences but have learned very much from these experiences. Superintendents have much in common with golf professionals and we hope we always enjoy the fellowship and friendship that exists between our two associations.

While in the Miami area I visited the McAllister Hotel on Biscayne Boulevard where the 1954 Conference was held. Its much the same except that all signs in the lobby are in both English and Spanish. That section of Miami is now heavily populated with Cuban refugees. Also crossed the causeway to Miami Beach and drove up Collins Avenue to the Deauville Hotel where the 1962 Conference was held. I walked through the lobby

looking for Jim Reid, Al Watson, Charlie Schalestock or just anybody from the Mid-Atlantic but no luck, couldn't find anybody. Gillie Shapiro liked Florida so well I thought he might have stayed there but I couldn't find him across the street in the Pompernickle Restaurant where I went for one of their big pastrami sandwiches with Koser pickles.

Also visited Marion Luke at the Country Club of Florida in Delray Beach and Otto Schmeisser at Gulf Stream Country Club. Otto tells me that neither he nor the golf professional are allowed in the club house.

The weather in Florida at this time was 85° but I couldn't enjoy much of it and was back home and on the job in a day and a half.

Another day and a half trip to Chicago November 16 to attend the Annual Turfgrass Clinic sponsored by the Mid-West Association of Golf Course Superintendents at Medinah Country Club where I spoke on the subject, "Timely Tips for Turf in Trying Times". Gerald Dearie, superintendent at Medinah, conducted a small group through his elaborate club house; through his maintenance shop and office; and around the golf course, a beautifully maintained monument to golf consisting of three 18 hole full length courses.

IN MEMORIUM

HITCHCOCK, CARROLL E. - Veteran Golf Course Superintendent of the Woodholme Country Club, Pikesville, Maryland. His death occurred Sunday, October 31, 1965.

Carroll, as we all know him, was one of six Charter Members and Founders of the original Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers. He was one of the outstanding Golf Course Superintendents of the Mid-Atlantic area and also, a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

We have all lost a friend, one whom will be missed. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents extends to his family their deepest sympathy.

WINTER PROTECTION OF GREENS - Part II by J. R. Watson, Jr., Director
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Disease - Winter disease, primarily snowmold and fusarium patch, often may cause considerable damage to golf course turfgrass in late fall, winter, and early spring - whenever moisture and temperature are conducive to their development. Snowmold and other winter diseases are readily prevented by one or more treatments with fungicides containing mercury (inorganic or organic), Thirium, Cadmium or various mixtures and combinations of the basic compounds. Mixing the appropriate fungicide with Milorganite or topdressing containing peat and applying this mixture in late fall, early winter, will provide protection. More than one treatment may be required if rainfall is excessive or repeated and thawing occurs.

Freeze and Frost Damage - Other forms of physiological winter injury are related to damage resulting from low temperatures and includes dessication, chilling injury and frost injury. Dessication is basically a wilting phenomenon. It occurs when plants are transpiring moisture in excess of that which the roots are able to absorb. When soil is partially dry, saturated or frozen, the roots simply cannot take in enough water to offset that being transpired (or to meet metabolic requirements) and the plant "dessicates" or dries up. Dessication may well be responsible for more winterkill than all other phenomena mentioned. It is particularly devastating when it occurs in combination with snowmold and fusarium patch.

Chilling Injury - Plants vary in their ability to resist or tolerate low temperature. Many plants native to tropical or sub-tropical regions - flowers, shrubs, etc. - may be seriously injured by temperatures above the freezing point. They are usually killed by the first touch of frost. Nature of the killing is related to a disturbance of the metabolic or physiological activity.

Frost Injury is the more common form of low temperature injury and may occur in all plants. Some may be frozen solid without damage, others may be killed at or slightly

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above freezing. Within the grasses, a difference is exhibited between the warm and cool season groups in this respect.

More important perhaps than species differences is the fact that for a single plant the range of frost killing temperature varies widely and depends on the physiological state of the plant at the time it is exposed. Grass that is not properly "hardened off" is far more subject to injury. Soft succulent growth may occur when temperature is high; then if a sudden drop in temperature occurs, the plants may be severely damaged or killed.

Frost injury to the plant may be caused by ice formation within the plant cells (intracellular) or on the outside of the plant surface. Ice formation within the cells is normally associated with rapid or sudden drops in temperature. Such is always fatal. Ice formation between the cells may or may not kill the plant; however, death will occur if the grass is subject to traffic. So will death occur when frosted (external ice formation) grass is subject to traffic. Other conditions which may produce death from ice formation between cells are rapid thawing, length of time frozen and the number of times the plant is frozen and thawed.

Methods of Preventing Frost Injury - Methods of protecting against frost damage will vary, depending on the amount of play and provisions for alternate playing areas - temporary greens. Techniques for preventing injury are: 1) sprinkler irrigation; 2) soil heating or warming with electric wires; 3) covers such as snow, various mulches and polyethylene blankets.

Sprinkler Irrigation - The principal of this technique is similar to smudging (as practiced in citrus groves) in that heat is added to the surface of the green. The heat comes from that contained in the water itself, from the soil (if droplets are small enough - fog like - they will help hold ground heat) and from the heat of fusion - heat required to convert liquid to solid. This technique may be used in fall and especially in early spring - it may at least, produce gradually freezing or thawing and hence less damage. Greens will need to have good drainage if the system is to run for two or three days. It appears that a precipitation rate of about one tenth of an inch per hour is most satisfactory for this purpose.

Soil Warming - The technique of using electric wires embedded in the soil has been receiving attention for the past few years. It has been used on playing fields in Great Britain and Sweden. In the past few years, experiments have been conducted at Lethbridge, Alberta (Dr. Jack Lebeau); Tucson, Arizona (Dr. Arden Baltensberger); and at Purdue University (Dr. Bill Daniel). In addition, tests currently are being conducted at Texas A and M, University of Minnesota and at the Toro Research and Development Center.

This technique shows considerable promise and results of the various tests should be followed closely - especially by those superintendents located at clubs where winter play is presently causing difficulty.

COVERS - In areas where winter play does not occur; or if it does, temporary greens are used golf course superintendents employ several techniques to protect greens. Most of these are methods for preventing dessication. They include 1) hauling of water to greens when snow is absent especially in late winter - early spring when high wind movement occurs before irrigation systems are turned on. 2) The erecting of snow fence and piling of brush to hold snow in place. Snow is an excellent protector or insulator, and if adequate snowfall occurs, this technique is quite effective. 3) Covering the greens with various types of organic mulch, such as straw and peat, which provides adequate insulation and holds sufficient moisture to prevent dessication. It is seldom possible to remove all of the litter from the green in the spring and a substantial amount of organic matter is added to the greens each year. This further contributes to the build-up of thatch on the greens. Such an environment is also conducive to disease development. 4) Covering greens, tees and other critical areas with polyethylene appears to offer a positive means of protecting against dessication. This technique has been used in a number of locations the past few years and has been quite successful. When failures have occurred, they seem to be related to time of removal of the tarps.

Methods of Preventing Damage When Frost Occurs - The most important factor involved in preventing damage to greens when frost does occur is to avoid subjecting them to Traffic. Traffic on frosted or partially frozen grass causes the ice crystals to puncture the cells and mechanically kill the plants. In the event traffic cannot be avoided wash the frost off with sprinklers. Do this early before the sun comes up. If a heavy frost has occurred it is a good idea to use the sprinklers even if traffic is not anticipated. Sprinkling may slow down the rate of thaw as well as release heat as discussed earlier.

It is well to keep in mind that sound management practices are basic to an effective winter protection programs. Early fall practices are especially important because it is during the fall that food reserves are being stored. The plants must draw upon these reserves for initiation of growth the following spring - or - each time during the winter months when temperatures conducive to growth occur.

CROFTON MEETING

Our host, Bill Emerson, asked us if we would conduct a constructive suggestion report on his course at the last meeting. Some suggestions followed many compliments addressed to Bill. Among them were the following:

Greens: Mr. Ault was asked why the greens were designed so large, average 8,500 sq. ft. Some of the superintendents thought that they would be too expensive and time consuming to maintain. Mr. Ault said the main reason was the diversibility of play to the green. He feels the hole can be lengthened or shortened two to three clubs simply by moving the pin. It was mentioned that Penncross greens take a lot of water and fertilizer. Bill wondered what his fellow superintendents thought about aerifying at this time of year. The fellows who thought it was too late were primarily concerned that the greens would not heal back over before they stopped growing. Several others said it was really better to aerify late than not at all.

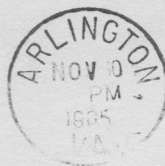
Collars: The superintendents commented that the collars looked very good but some thought they were a little too narrow in the areas next to traps. They pointed out that sand from the traps would accumulate on the greens and having to turn the greens mowers on that narrow area could cause turf wear. Bill's answer was that he found if he left the collars narrow in these areas the players didn't pull their hand carts between the trap and green.

Tees: The membership thought the Penncross tees were very nice but wondered if disease, traffic, etc. wouldn't prove that they are too expensive to maintain.

Fairways: Several superintendents thought the light sandy soil and fairway irrigation would make the introduction of Bermuda quite easy. Also suggested was that the fairways be narrowed somewhat.

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