



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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NEXT MEETING

The June 7th meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will be held at the Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club, Ocean City, Maryland. Golf all day. Lunch will be available. The cocktail hour will be from 6 to 7 with dinner at 7 and the business meeting immediately following. Mr. Alexander Radko, Eastern Director, U.S.G.A. Green Section will be the guest speaker.



#11 - Par 3 - 167 Yards Ocean City Golf & Yacht Club
Berlin, Maryland

He is married to the former Lois Hopkins of Hackettstown, N.J., also his home town and they have five children, three sons, George, Robert and John, two daughters, Laurie and Cheryl. Their home is located on the club grounds.



George Gumm

OUR HOST

George Gumm will be our host. He is a past president of this Association and started in the golf course business in 1955 while in the Navy at Bainbridge, Maryland. Deciding to leave the service in 1957, he went to the West Chester Golf and Country Club, West Chester, Penn., as superintendent and his second year was appointed superintendent-manager. Upon the completion of the Ocean City Course in 1959, George was named superintendent.

THE COURSE

Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club was designed and built by William F. Gordon and Son in 1958. It is a resort course with 200 members and measures 6703 yards, with a par of 72. This past winter the back nine greens and tees were converted to automatic sprinklers and quick coupling valves for the fairway irrigation. This was done to the plans and supervision of Russell Roberts. Plans are to complete the front nine this fall.

MAINTENANCE

The greens are of Penncross Bentgrass and average 6,000 sq. ft. They are cut at 1/4 inch. Ten pounds of nitrogen is applied annually by split spring and fall applications of Uramite. All other nutrients are added as indicated by soil tests. No poa annua is present in greens and very little in the Penncross Bentgrass collars which are cut at 3/8 inch. Lead arsenate is applied at 5 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. every fall. Due to the contours, with the drainage to the center, heavy rainfall has made the closing of the course necessary. Drainage by using tile in a herringbone pattern and the use of a hole drill for French Drainage has helped considerably.

Tees average 3,000 sq. ft. and are sectioned with 1/2 in U-3 or T-328 bermuda which is

cut at 3/8 inch with a greens mower. They have 14 lbs. of N applied with 6 lbs. N as a 20-10-10 U.F. and 8 lbs. N as 10-2-4 chemical fertilizer. The Kentucky Bluegrass, creeping red fescue and highland bent sections receive 6 lbs. N of the 20-10-10 U.F. and are cut at 3/4 inch. A program of spraying spring and fall with Pre-San to control Poa Annua and crabgrass is being tried out.

The Fairways were seeded a mixture of Kentucky Bluegrass, creeping red fescue and highland bent and are cut at 1 inch and fertilized with 3 lbs. N annually. This is the fourth year that they have been treated with Dacthal for crab grass and the \$800.00 annual cost has been negligible to the improvement in the turf and ease of maintenance.

Roughs are cut at 1 1/2 inches weekly to speed up play and are fertilized with 1 1/2 lbs. N annually. They are sprayed for clover and broadleaf weeds. The grasses are K-31, Chewings and Illahee fescue.

There were two trees on the course in 1959 and the landscaping has been a hit and miss proposition to find trees that would take the salt spray and chemicals used in mosquito control. With the recent employment of a gardener and the planting of a tree nursery, an improvement is anticipated.

A Penncross nursery of 8,000 sq. ft., Merion bluegrass of 1 acre, and selected bermudas of 10,000 sq. ft. with a new fairway grass selection nursery of 10 mixtures in co-operation with Dr. Deal is considered a safety factor.

LODGING

For those who would like to stay overnight or bring their families for a days outing before the long summer, the Surf and Sands Motel, 22nd Street and Boardwalk will be available at a price of \$9.00 single, or \$12.00 double or family. Please fill out the enclosed card so that an Eastern Shore Dinner can be prepared and if indicated, your reservations for a motel will be made.

DIRECTIONS

Take Route 50 to Ocean City, and 1/2 mile before entering Ocean City turn right on Stephen Decatur Memorial Road (Md. 611) 8 miles to club on right.

WELCOME

You will be welcomed to the club by Mr. E. Bowen Quillin, president, Mr. O. Sheldon Chandler, greens chairman, "Mus" O'linger, golf professional and the entire staff.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Commaroto

Of all the problems we as superintendents must constantly face, labor seems to be the major item we cope with each year. This year it will be the most serious problem to solve. We have very little to encourage us. The outlook is bleak with many young men in the service, and older men seeking employment with more security in industry where they have better fringe benefits.

Ordinary labor can earn a much better wage in construction work, in some cases, in the metropolitan areas of most cities where there is a large concentration of golf courses. The construction worker can earn more than double the salary he would as a golf course worker. This will offset any loss of time for bad weather, which makes it more appealing to them as does the occasional extra day off.

In all the years that I personally have been associated with golf courses, not only in the Mid-Atlantic area but also in Philadelphia and New Jersey, most golf courses have always been 25% to 50% less in wage scale, not including the fringe benefits of outside industries. Until we can compete with this situation the problem will always be with us.

I can easily recall in the late 1930's when outside laborers' wages were \$.75 to \$1.00 per hour, most golf courses were paying from \$.50 to \$.60 per hour.

This would be a good topic for an open discussion at one of our monthly meetings. With a good discussion leader we could discuss "What is the Problem?," "What is the Solution?" and what would be the "Best Solution."

What ever the solution would be it certainly is going to involve more money, which means an increase in operating budgets. How will this affect all golf clubs? How much higher price will the golfer pay to enjoy the game of golf?

I am a little bewildered and perhaps confused at what the outcome will be. It may not develop this year but is surely is in the immediate future.

I believe now is the time to resolve ourselves to seeking the best solution to this most serious problem. Give it some thought. Perhaps you have a few good points to contribute. We always have space in our Newsletter for a good article on the subject.

NATIONAL NOTES

by Bob Shields

Things are very quiet on the National front at this time, which is normal, but routine matters keep the office staff busy.

The departure of Mr. Titlow and Mr. Doan has thrown a considerable work load on the remaining staff members but Mr. Chlevin is nearing the date when replacements for these two men can be named.

Dues statements are being prepared at this time for mailing some time in June. Your cooperation in promptly returning your check for membership dues would be greatly appreciated by the office staff.

It is not too early to start talking to your greens chairman about the 1966 Conference and Show to be held in Washington, February 5 - 10, at the new Hilton Hotel on Connecticut Avenue. Talk to your wife about it too and ask her if she will agree to serve on the reception committee and act as hostess to the visiting ladies. We need every one possible on this committee to help make the meeting a success.

The Golf Superintendent needs articles written by superintendents. Why not put in writing some of the things you have done or are thinking about and send them to the national office. Don't be concerned about the wording, punctuation or when to start a new paragraph. The office will do that, its the thought that counts.

Because the National Spring Board Meeting was postponed from May 'till June there is still time for ideas, subjects or speakers for next year's Conference Educational Program. If you have any thing along this line send it in at once.

The new membership placque is now available at headquarters office. You can easily obtain one by sending in an extra \$5.00 when you pay your dues. Further explanation and a picture of the placque will appear in the GCSAA Newsletter when it is published the latter part of May.

JOB OPENING

For an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Northwest Park Golf Course on Layhill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland. Excellent opportunity for experience and advancement. Salary range - \$5489 to \$7380 depending upon training and experience.

Qualifications: Graduate of two year turf management program or equivalent in related subjects.

Contact Mr. Carl Schoening, Sr., Park Horticulturist, for an interview or for further information.

Write: 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. Phone: JU 9-1480, Ext. 75

WHAT OTHERS HAVE TO SAY

Compiled by James E. Thomas

Richard (Dick) Blake, superintendent, Mt. Pleasant Country Club, Boylston, Massachusetts, also a newly elected Director of our GCSAA; Dick in the September-October 1965 issue of our Golf Course Reporter has this to say:

"working at the profession of golf course superintendent, we soon realize that education means absolutely nothing unless we adapt it to our everyday situation."

A few other pertinent remarks of his are:

"Turf is produced and maintained for use. Always consider the golfer and remember that the golf course belongs to the members; they pay the bills. Give them what they want, keep them informed, work with your green committee and chairman. They know what the members want and what they are willing to pay for.

Be a leader, set your standards at a high level -- develop a good practical budget adaptive to your particular situation.

Do the best job possible with what you are allotted. Be flexible, adjust, learn to compromise.

Learn to communicate. Recent surveys show that over 33 percent of all executive time is devoted to communications, the science of understanding.

We should be constantly looking for new and better methods, so we can increase our efficiency and produce better results. Experience teaches us caution, to consider all the facts before using new products on a large scale.

We must know what we are purchasing and what the total true costs are.

We should consider outside advice, but evaluate it closely as to source and motive.

We must support and encourage additional research at our state universities.

Share experiences with each other, keep up with progress. Learn from each other's mistakes -- you haven't time to make them all yourself.

Personal contacts of all people working towards a given objective inspires greater effort in that work."

Dick's emulations and objectives are a goal worth striving for.

By now everyone should have received his copy of the proceedings summary of the annual Baltimore Conference. Russell Roberts, a speaker on the panel IRRIGATION TODAY admonishes us to:

"Apply water only as fast as it is absorbed by the soil.

Be assured that every time you water, each square foot of the green gets its share.

Syringe as many times a day as you like and you can syringe without actually adding any water to the soil, which may already be too wet.

Maintain soil moisture at an optimum.

Make more efficient use of irrigation water.

Conserve soil nutrients in the root zone by not leaching them to lower levels in the soil.

Water area surrounding green which is so often neglected."

While the above observations were aimed at the automatic pop-up sprinkler irrigation of greens, Russell's remarks can also be applied to the manual operation of any watering system. Since before too long we will all be faced with the problems of seasonal irrigation, his advice is both timely and sound.

TOPSOIL

Nothing has yet been devised to replace good topsoil. With enough water, grass will grow on sand, silt, clay or peat provided the profile is uniform and deep and the soil is fertile. Grass does best on a medium sandy loam containing 15 to 20 percent organic matter by volume. The amount needed is figured by multiplying the area involved by the depth in inches desired, and dividing this total by 10, a factor for loosened soil. This gives cubic feet. To convert to cubic yards divide cubic feet by 27.

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THE NATIONAL GOLF FOUNDATION
Its PURPOSE - Its PROGRAMS

Part I by Harry C. Eckhoff
Executive Director NGF

7,750,000 golfers, over 8,000 golf courses and the surge in golf equipment sales to almost \$140 million a year is an astonishing testimony that golf, indeed, is the game of a lifetime.

Those of us who are concerned with interesting more people to play golf and are involved with the development of more needed golf courses for use of the nation's fast growing population should be pleased indeed that we are part of a program that is largely accepted by everyone.

Each year an increasing number of individuals take up the game and a growing number of developers build needed golf courses.

Since golf sales are directly tied to golf activity, individuals in the golf business will want to know what the National Golf Foundation is and how it operates to promote golf play and more golf facilities.

Purpose of the Foundation

What is the National Golf Foundation's purpose and where does it fit into the over-all golf picture? The National Golf Foundation was organized in 1936 as a non profit corporation by the leading manufacturers of golf playing equipment. Originally, its chief purpose was to give information and advice on the organization, financing, construction, maintenance and operation of golf courses due to the great need for such a service. Today - almost 30 years later - these same sponsors and others interested in enhancing a sound and continued growth of golf make possible the numerous activities of the Foundation.

Throughout the years the role of the Foundation has retained a fluid and vibrant quality. This flexibility has enabled the Foundation to diversity and gear its resources and effort toward three major areas: To stimulate golf activity, to assist in the development of additional golf facilities of all types wherever they are needed, and to offer both service and information pertaining to the instructional aspects of the game.

In the accomplishment of its purpose, the National Golf Foundation coordinates its efforts with all the major national groups associated with golf. Among them are: The United States Golf Association, the Professional Golfers' Association of America, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the Club Managers Association of America and the American Society of Golf Course Architects. It is not our desire to duplicate functions that are already being accomplished by another organization. It is our aim to be the national clearing house for golf information and to initiate and operate needed programs that will enhance the growth of golf. We receive many queries from all parts of the world for assistance and are proud to have the Canadian Professional Golfers' Association as one of our members.

I shall outline some of our current programs and recent results of these efforts.

Educational Services Program

Due to the many requests from the Nation's schools and colleges the Foundation, in July 1964, initiated an educational services program designed to assist educational institutions in improving golf instruction methods through golf workshops, clinics and demonstrations.

The response to this program has been far beyond all expectation. Over 6,700 individuals attended the more than 50 clinics and workshops conducted in 22 states and the District of Columbia during its first year of operation.

Due to its nationwide popularity, an expanded educational services program is now in effect. In addition to the Foundation's staff, qualified individuals in various regions of the country are being used to conduct educational clinics and workshops in their respective areas under the general supervision of and format established by the National Golf Foundation.

Purpose of this program is to upgrade golf teaching as the ever increasing numbers of students are exposed to the game of golf. It is hoped that the teacher responsible for golf instruction will seek out a golf professional in his area as a primary source of help and that mutual benefits will accrue.

If school teachers are successful in introducing students to the game of golf, additional thousands of individuals annually will wish to make it their life-time game and then the role of the golf professional in the life of our citizenry will be more important than ever before.

PEST CONTROL CHEMICALS MUST BE KEPT "FRESH"

The following article was taken from the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service "Press Pack".

Pest control chemicals, like many other things, can sometimes "spoil" if kept too long after the can is opened, says David Shriver, agricultural chemicals specialist at the University of Maryland.

Shriver says there is a great difference in the storage of shelf life of pesticides. No general statement can be made about how long the pesticide will stay "good," but there are some indicators you can look for if you have pesticides that have been stored for a period of time.

If the pesticide is an oil spray or emulsifiable concentrate it should develop a milky formation when mixed with water. If it does not show this milky color, it is likely too old for safe use.

Wettable powders that have become too old will not mix well with water and will form lumps. Excessive lumping of dusts and granular pesticides is a good sign that these have been around too long.

Aerosols (spray cans) are generally effective until they become clogged and will no longer spray. Failure to spray is usually a sign that the chemicals have corroded the container or that moisture has caused rust particles which close the opening.

However, if you have any doubt about the pesticide, Shriver says, it is best to dispose of it safely and buy a new supply.

The best way to dispose of empty and partly empty containers is to put them into a hole in the ground and cover them with at least 18 inches of soil.

DO NOT take surplus pesticides to a public dump.

If it is not possible to bury the containers, wrap them well in newspaper and place in the trash just before pickup.

But most important, keep all containers out of the reach of children. Keep the containers closed and in a locked storage until they can be discarded.



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