



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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

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NO. 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Due to a lack of interest tomorrow has been canceled."

Let's hope this sign of the times never applies to our professional association. I trust the good attendance at our monthly meetings indicates an interest in our association, as well as a desire for personal knowledge to be acquired from our educational programs.

But where are we going? An example might be in deciding which direction to take in membership growth. Our large membership makes us a factor to be reckoned with in national elections and enables us to conduct big projects like the Baltimore Conference. But big monthly meetings, by necessity, are formal and little time for questions exists. One also does not care to ask what might be an immaterial or foolish question. Small meetings are informal and valuable in the free exchange of opinions and facts. Question: Do you prefer large or small meetings?

This year Virginia's Turf Conference moves as close as Fredericksburg, with no liaison to the Mid-Atlantic Conference. Those attending both conferences chance studying duplicate subjects. Please consider suggestions by our planning director for future conferences. He suggests the name be changed to Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference under the joint auspices of the University of Maryland & the Virginia Polytech Institute, rotate the location of the conference between Baltimore, Washington and Richmond, make this a joint venture of all turf associations in Maryland and Virginia and expand the conference to include an equipment show. This is a large project and would require our full endorsement and active support. Question: Would you favor a large sectional meeting as proposed?

I will ask these questions at our next business meeting.

Robert C. Milligan

NEXT MEETING

The August meeting of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 6 in Beltsville, Md. Our host will be Dr. Felix Juska from the USDA and

this will be the annual Field Day ^{JAMES P. DEPIANT} at the turf plots in back of the station. ^{CROPS DEPT.} Registration begins at 9 a.m.

DIRECTIONS TO THE STATION

Take the beltway (Route 495) to Route 1 north towards Beltsville. Just before the second light, merge to the right onto the new library road, then back left thru the light since left turns off Route 1 are prohibited at the intersection.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

In accordance with our by-laws, the following have applied for membership and if no discussion or opposition is given within 30 days after publication, these applications shall be accepted.

Tony Arch - Tony is affiliated with the Homestead Golf and Country Club in Springlake, N.J. He was sponsored by Russ Kerns and Bert Yingling and is applying as a class A member.

Louis Rudinski - Louis is Angelo's replacement at Bonni View and he is applying as a class A. His sponsors were Bill Emerson and Dick Silvar.

David Burdette - David is with Congressional Country Club and is being sponsored by George Thompson and Bob Shields as a class B member.

James Cantrell - Jim is also applying for a class B membership. He is with the Bainbridge Naval Training Station and his sponsors are George Gumm and Russell Kerns.

Roy E. Hounshell - Roy is Curtis Payne's assistant at Allview G.C. under the Columbia Parks Recreation Assn. and he is applying as a class D member.

MEETING PLACES

August 6 - USDA Field Day, Beltsville, Md.
Host, Dr. Felix Juska

September 9 - Cavalier C.C. in Philadelphia. Joint meeting with Liberty Bell Group.

October 7 - Woodmont C.C. in Rockville, Md.

Host Bob Shields. Ladies will be welcome to attend this meeting.

November 10 - Burning Tree C.C. Host, Richard Anderson. Meal and business meeting will be held elsewhere. Place will be announced.

December 9 - Indian Spring C.C. Host, Ed Dembnicki. This will be our annual election meeting.

ERROR AND APOLOGY

Through bad proofing and failure to pay attention, last month's meeting place was listed incorrectly. Apologies for this editorial error are in order for Bob Martino, super at Island View G.C. where the picnic was really held. The annual family outing turned out to be a famous success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

ROSES TO -

Bob Miller, for getting mentioned in the June issue of the Golf Superintendent. Bob has a unique and inexpensive spray booth made in his shop which was worthy of mention in the "Thinking Superintendent" column. There are many supers in our own are who are surely doing things in their own operation which bear mentioning. Be thinking about them and even if you don't think they are good enough to be "National" material, send them to the local and we'll put them in here. Let's start our own "brain column."

ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN - BE PREPARED

The title and the following two articles are from the May issue of The Golf Journal and contain information we should all be more familiar with. They deal with first aid on the golf course when accidents occur. It might be wise to read these two or three times and commit some if not all the information to memory.

PROBLEM - STRUCK BY GOLF BALL

People are often struck by golf balls. If a person is struck on the head there is reason to suspect serious head injury, even perhaps a fractured skull.

First, keep the victim as quiet as possible. There is no need to determine if a fracture is present; the possible injury to the brain is more important.

The presence of swelling, or perhaps a wound on the head are important clues. Occasionally the pupils of the eyes will be unequal in size. Also, bleeding from the ear canal, the nose, or the mouth sometimes indicates head injury. The amount of blood is of little consequence; there could be only a few drops but even so it is an indication of brain injury.

One or more of the extremities may show evidence of paralysis; the face may be pale, flushed, or normal in color. The pulse may be slow and full, fast and weak, or normal.

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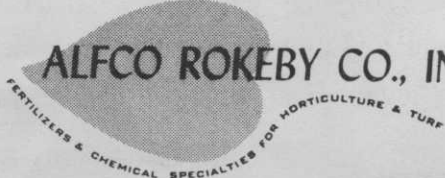
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Headache is quite severe, and there may be dizziness.

If the victim was unconscious, this is enough to suspect serious injury.

If the victim is unconscious, place something soft beneath his head, turn the head sideways so that secretions will drain from the mouth. If the victim is awake he may lie flat. Do not give stimulants.

If there is a bleeding wound, lay a dressing over it and apply a bandage to hold it in place. Get proper transportation and handle the victim very carefully to avoid bouncing or shaking.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Heat exhaustion is a constant problem in nearly all parts of the country.

Temperature in heat exhaustion victims can be normal, or a little below normal. The victim will be very tired, and he'll probably have a sick feeling in his stomach. He will be very weak, with pale, clammy skin. Perspiration will be profuse, and he will need help quickly.

First, he will need bed rest. Persons on the scene when a victim is stricken can administer salt (in case he is sick at first, this can be done by putting one half teaspoon of salt to one half glass of water every 15 minutes until he has had three or four doses). These victims should be seen by a physician.

LAST BOARD MEETING

At the last board meeting, several appointments were made for the upcoming National meeting in January. The first of these appointments was that of the National Advisory Committee. This committee will relay the feelings and ideas of our association to the National and at the same time will gather information from them to bring back to our own group. The men appointed were Lee Dieter, our planning director, and Denny McCammon, our editor-director and representative on the same committee last year.

Our voting delegate and his alternate were selected to cast our ballot at the election in Houston. The delegate selected was George Cleaver and his alternate is Ed Dembnicki.

The nominating committee for our annual election to be held in December was also selected. These men will be charged with the responsibility of selecting nominees to fill the vacancies left by any retiring board members and officers. Those selected are all past presidents and include George Gumm as chairman, Bob Shields and George Cleaver.

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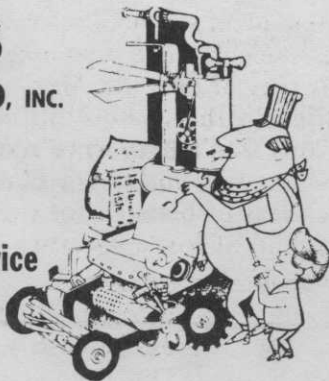
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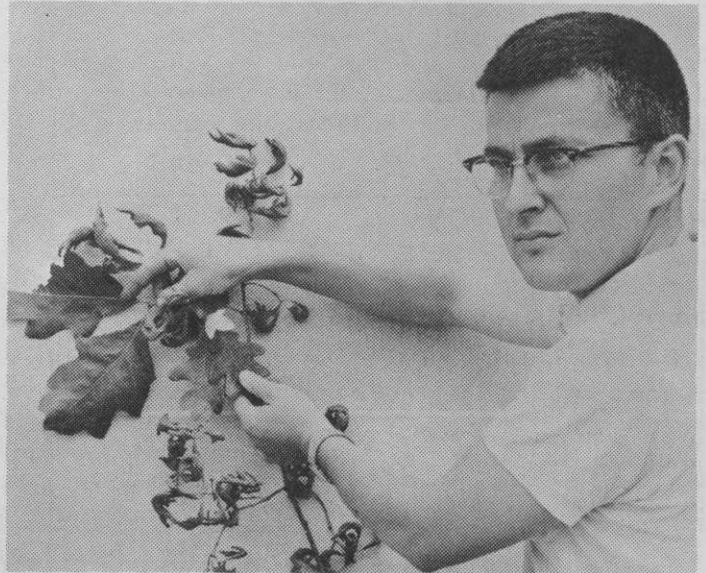
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It was also brought out by our education director George Thompson that the program planning for our Mid-Atlantic Conference is now underway. Any ideas or suggestions pertaining to speakers or topics should be presented to George. This is really an opportunity which you should all take advantage of if you have any ideas on what you would like to have on the program in January.



Herbicide damage on oak trees shows up as gnarled and twisted twigs and cupped, distorted leaves. Dr. Francis R. Gouin holds three normal leaves that show where this branch is beginning to recover from damage. The small twisted leaves on most of the branch are not manufacturing food for the tree. This kind of damage may not kill the tree, but will weaken it.

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here we are, better than half way thru the summer. After Labor Day, it's all downhill. Or is it? Then we can relax as all our college and high school help exits en masse with the leaves falling, fall overseeding and renovation, top dressing, aerifying, fall projects etc., etc., etc. And best of all, we can cut back to a 60 or 70 hour week. Along with these other chores, most supers will be preparing next year's budgets and expenses. There are two suggestions which come to mind on this subject, for better or for worse. The first is the timing of budget preparation and presentation. Most fiscal years come to an end some time late in the calendar year, usually when the grass is dormant and so are the majority of the golfers. This has the advantage of not coming as so much of a load on the super and taking time away from the course, but wouldn't it make more sense to submit the budget when the course really looks its best? This would bring it due ideally somewhere in June when the grass is really turning on and you look like a green god. It only makes sense to "strike while the mower is sharp." The biggest problem and really about the only one is naturally the conflict that comes up with the financial set-up of most clubs. There fiscal planning

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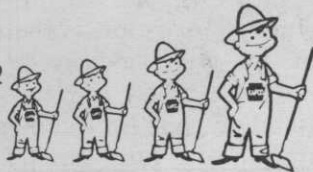
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is usually on a January - December or October - September type of situation, so there might be an immediate disagreement. But other than that, there is nothing else that comes to mind that might cause a problem. If the idea was agreeable with all concerned, there would need to be a meeting with the super and club officials to discuss and revise the necessary items to put the plan into action.

Another solution, if the idea was accepted, might be to make just the greens committee budget fall within a June - May fiscal year. But in any event, whatever the ideas and solutions might be, this arrangement would definitely be of help to the superintendent.

* * * * *

The other idea which bears some looking into is also within the budget, in the form of the superintendent's annual salary. An item that is included in this category that is coming in more and more on its own is that of benefits. Most supers have some kind of benefits but the trouble is that these benefits are few and likely don't amount to very much when really given a close examination. Many clubs are becoming oriented to the ideas of benefits for their key employees, which is becoming almost a necessity if a stable work staff is to be retained.

One way of looking at this idea is that the super may not want these benefits any other way but in cold cash each week. This is good to a point. But benefits of a non cash type are not subject to as much of a bite by the government as is the straight cash increase. These "non cash" benefits might include hospitalization insurance, which most clubs now have, housing facilities or a housing allowance, a car or transportation allowance, even to the point of taking care of gas, oil, and payments, a retirement or pension plan, and even a few other items which vary among clubs and supers.

Benefits are viewed differently by many supers and rightly so. The individual should ask for whatever suits his particular situation. Some men may be in the position where straight money increase may be better to them than any other form of benefit. But a married family man might want and need some of the other mentioned items. Another aspect of the situation is that if an enterprising super should initiate a program where he is getting several fringes, if he should leave the club, this makes it much easier for them to advertise in that they can offer these items as a selling point of the job. Being able to do this makes both parties look better.

At any rate, at contract renewal time, the subject of benefits should be given serious thought and discussion because both the club and the super stand to gain from it.

ODDS N' ENDS

From the Conn. Clippings in Chas. Baskins "Grass Catcher" we find "Wages for golf course maintenance employees continues to increase. Most

clubs are paying summer help around \$2 per hour and year round employees are receiving \$2.20 to \$4 per hour."

Obviously we here in the Mid-Atlantic area are not the only ones affected by the high cost of labor.

From the sound of things, the winter injury suffered by courses in the Northeast section was really bad. So bad in fact that the GCSA of New England published an open letter to club presidents and greens chairmen in their area. The purpose was to clear the air as to exactly what happened last winter and why the turf has not been perfect this year. The letter was well written, quite explanatory, and proves that their association is looking out for the well being of all their members. It might be well for other associations to ask themselves if they could make the same claim. At any rate, well done, N.E. Chapter.

The Metropolitan GCSA in New York state had an interesting speaker at their June meeting. She was Mrs. Allison Choate, a member of the Apawamis Club and a past Senior Women's Amateur Golf Champion in New York. She spoke briefly outlining what she felt was important to our lady golfers. The two items she stressed were fair pin placements and well groomed sand traps. Rather an interesting speaker, don't you agree?

Do you ever have water in your cups in the morning after watering? Try this idea - buy a hygiene syringe at the drug store and attach a 12" piece of fuel line from a greens mower to the end of it. Presto! Instant cup cleaner-outer. It really works slick, too.

THE NITROGEN DILEMMA: By Edward J. Heath

On Aug. 15, 1966 while visiting Warren Bidwell's Philadelphia C.C. I was astonished! His greens were of such quality and texture they were literally shaved to perfection. I asked his assistant how much nitrogen had been applied to date. He replied "2 pounds per 1000 sq. ft.". Why has this superintendent followed the principles of low nitrogen on his greens? What are the facts of high nitrogen verses low nitrogen on putting greens?

Referring to the USGA Green Section Record Sept. 1967, "Why the Nitrogen Race" by Alexander M. Radko, the role of nitrogen in putting green management is:

1) It provides color - the upper safe limits provide a deeper, darker green than the lower rates. (High Nitrogen - Good)

2) It encourages leaf growth - the upper limits provide more vegetative growth than the lower limits. (High Nitrogen - Bad)

3) It discourages root growth at the upper safe limits while the lower safe rates encourage far better root growth. (High Nitrogen - Bad)

4) It provides a soft, rank growth at the upper safe limits and a hardy, healthier growth at the lower limits. (High Nitrogen - Bad)

5) The higher rates encourage poa annua invasion far more than the greens fed on the low side. (High Nitrogen - Bad)

6) The higher rates require more critical water management than moderate rates. (High Nitrogen - Bad)

Except for color, is there any reason for keeping nitrogen at the high levels? Granted, color has a psychological effect on the golfer as well as the superintendent, but isn't golf played on turf, not color? The duration of a putt is not affected one bit by color.

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Nitrogen application on greens has varied somewhat over the years, but generally, the higher levels have dominated. Color and growth has been the main concern for getting the more important aspects. This phenomenon remains a mystery so superficial it has confused many of us. This false assumption that nitrogen is the sole answer to justify our immensely abused stamping grounds of greens reminds me of the man who said, "I had just begun to understand the atom, now someone splits the darn thing".

Naturally, in planning our fertilizer program we must consider, plant requirements, source of nutrients, soil texture and soil structure. Keeping in mind turf, like the human body, if fed too much at one time becomes fat, tired, and sluggish, unable to fight off adverse conditions. By feeding greens more frequently at lower rates even in the spring, a better balance of carbohydrates is achieved. This creates an overall healthier condition for the turf, and produces a superior putting surface.

When used correctly, nitrogen is the key element in the production of good turf, but why do some think if a little is good, a lot is better? Greens would fare far better if they were kept on the hungry side by fertilizing at lower rates. As compaction, thatch, and mat build-up, more nitrogen re-action takes place in the upper fraction of the soil profile. Heavy amounts cause blades to become thick and rank. The end result is a lush growth and thatch which is extremely difficult to thin out the remainder of the season. This fattening-up process produces a situation that only more and costlier maintenance can remedy. Stanley Metsker, of Boulder C.C., started his new Penncross greens on low nitrogen. He now maintains 4 pounds a year, has never varti-cut, and his greens are rated among the best in Colorado.

Each of us has his own problems in greens maintenance, especially with the heavier traffic we are experiencing today. However, the above role of nitrogen cannot be overlooked. We cannot standardize nitrogen applications for reasons already mentioned, but cannot we standardize low nitrogen?

Considerable work and study has been done regarding different roles of nitrogen and more research is needed. Research has been done at Virginia Polytechnic Institute on winter fertilization regarding nitrogen validity. This Institute has achieved good winter turf color without adverse physiological changes. This demonstrates heavy spring applications of nitrogen are not necessary for growth and color, but result in reduced root growth and carbohydrate reserves. The question is how widely this practice can be utilized in other winter climates. It cannot be overlooked as probably becoming instrumental along with the other new developments in golf course maintenance.

Refraining from high nitrogen takes courage and one is often tempted to push the little grass plant far past its physiological capabilities regardless of the consequences. If we keep in mind these all important relationships, a logical and practical conclusion can be reached. Feed the grass what it needs, when it needs it, in light frequent applications. Remember, keep the nitrogen low!

The late Professor Lawrence R. Dickerson once said, "Let the little grass plant grow, don't make it grow!"

Editor's note: In talking with Ed about his article, he said he didn't want to try and be a Ph.D., but that these were his views and that he wanted to share them with the other members in the association. We thank Ed for his contribution and welcome any comments.

GUIDE FOR EVALUATING EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE FACTOR	FAR EXCEEDS JOB REQUIREMENT	EXCEEDS JOB REQUIREMENT	MEETS JOB REQUIREMENT	NEEDS SOME IMPROVEMENT	DOES NOT MEET MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
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Timeliness	Is faster than a speeding bullet.	Fast as a speeding bullet.	Not quite as fast as a speeding bullet.	Would you believe a slow bullet?	Wounds self when attempting to shoot.
Initiative	Is stronger than a locomotive	Is stronger than a bull elephant.	Is stronger than a bull.	Shoots the bull.	Smells like a bull.
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William T. Ramburg is shown receiving his diploma and congratulations from Dr. Frank Bentz, Vice President for Agricultural Affairs, as the GCSA scholarship awardee graduates from the Institute of Applied Agriculture at College Park. Mr. Ramburg of Hyattsville, Md., formerly worked for George Thompson at Columbia Country Club. He is now Superintendent of the Elks' Golf Club, Salisbury, Md.

Also gratuating from the Turfgrass and Golf Course Management Program in the June 3 ceremony was Steven, son of Secretary Treasurer Edward Dembnicki, Superintendent of Indian Spring in Silver Spring, Md.

JOB OPENING

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