



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

VOL XIX

MARCH 1969

HIGHLIGHT OF THE PENN STATE CONFERENCE

The highlight of the Penn State Turfgrass Conference, held February 10-13, was the talk "Just Back From Viet Nam", given by Dr. Fred V. Grau at the Annual Dinner. Because of Dr. Grau's popularity and thorough knowledge of turfgrasses and agronomy, he was called upon by the Dept. of the Air Force to help solve the increasing problem of wind blown sand at the Cameron Bay Air Base in South Viet Nam. Dr. Grau stated that one of the main reasons he accepted the challenge, was because, "I have a twenty-two year old son in jungle training in Louisiana, preparing to go to Viet Nam." The sand at Cameron Bay is near one hundred feet deep, there is no water available for irrigation, and with a constant wind, the sand gets into the jet engines, bomb mechanisms, and finely tuned equipment. During his temporary duty, he was given a GS-15 rating. To Dr. Grau, this meant getting into the VIP lounges, a staff car, and most important, maid service! A construction plan was drawn up, using deep bulldozed furrows, to slow down the wind velocity, sprigged with native vegetative plants, seed mulch, spinifex, and thimberstylis. This would be sprayed with Coharex, a resin material, which binds the sand particles together. These furrows would be backed up with snow fencing and the planting of Casherina Trees (Australian Pine) before the monsoon in October of this year. The total cost, using local labor and planting materials was kept in the neighberhood of \$50,000. I'm sure we all wish this project the best of luck and that the monsoon does arrive in October, as hoped.

After his talk, Dr. Grau was presented the United States Golf Association Green Section Award, given annually for distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. The award was presented by Alexander M. Radko, Director, Eastern Region and National Research Director. Dr. Grau had been previously named the recipient of the award at the USGA Green Section Annual Conference in New York, January 24-25 but because of his absence, the plaque was held until the Penn State Conference. All we can say is, "Congratulations, Dr. Grau, you are certainly well deserving of the award." His name joins the growing list of previous winners.



Shown above is Al Radko, Director of the Eastern Region of the USGA Green Section as he presented Dr. Fred Grau with the USGA Award.

1961 - Dr. John Monteith, Colorado Springs, Colorado
1962 - Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, Amherst, Mass.
1963 - O. J. Noer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1964 - Joseph Valentine, Ardmore, Pennsylvania
1965 - Dr. Glenn W. Burton, Tifton, Georgia
1966 - Professor H. Burton Musser, State College, Pa.
1967 - Elmer J. Michael, Pittsford, New York
1968 - James L. Haines, Denver, Colorado
1969 - Dr. Fred V. Grau, College Park, Maryland

MAY MEETING - SPRINGFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association will be held at Springfield Country Club in Springfield, Virginia on April 8, 1969. This will be a joint meeting with the Central Virginia Turfgrass Association and a large turn-out is expected. The golf course will be open for play after noon and lunch may be purchased in the grille room.

OUR HOST

Denny McCammon, our host and member of the Mid-Atlantic, has been the superintendent at Springfield since February of 1966. Denny came to Virginia from Muncie, Indiana, where he was the superintendent at a privately owned club for the first four years after his graduation from Purdue University in 1962. He has been in golf course work since he was only fourteen and started on a small 18 hole course in northern Indiana. Outside of taking care of the golf course, Denny has his hands full editing the Newsletter for our association and trying to keep it in the mail so the members will get it on time.

THE COURSE

The course was designed by Ault and Jamison and lies in the middle of a tremendous residential development. The entire perimeter of the 6581 yard layout is surrounded by suburbia, many of the homes being owned by golfing members. Edward R. Carr, one of the largest area developers, roughed out the course and the front nine was built by Thomas Carroll in 1959-60. The back nine was built and seeded by the first superintendent on the job at the time. The course will celebrate its ninth anniversary in May.

MAINTENANCE

The greens are C1 and C9 with a little bit of <u>Poa</u>. Control of <u>Poa</u> is currently under way with the use of Betasan. So far, good results are being observed, but there is still some evidence of the weed still in some of the greens. Fairway maintenance will include this year the initiation of Balan for crabgrass control, then next year for <u>Poa</u> control. A totally automatic water system was installed last year and definite improvement should be observed this year, particularly in the fairway areas.

DIRECTIONS

Turn off Shirley Highway at the Springfield -Franconia exit. Then head west on Route 644 (or Keene Mill Road). The club is three miles outside the center of town on the left hand side of the road.

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA AREA

It seems everyone in the area is putting on the last bed knife or painting the last bench. All we need now is some spring weather, and the golfers will be on top of us, ready to start a whole new season.

Out at Chantilly, Virgil Robinson says he is ready for some warm weather. Virg has gotten several new pieces of equipment and is anxious to see some green grass so he can try them out.

At Washington Golf, Lee Dieter says he would like to clear the air about his Astro-tees. He says he feels that in certain areas that it does have its place, and he is pleased with the results at his course. He feels the main problem is freezing and thawing which causes the forms to heave up out of the ground.





Over at Fort Belvoir, Tom Doerer is quite busy. The crew is cleaning out wooded areas and have been working on renovation of several traps. Tom is replacing the first green, which is presently only 4500 sq. ft. and enlarging it to nearly 9000 sq. ft. His reason for enlarging the green is to handle all the traffic on the area as well as gaining more cupping space. Tom also plans to add about 200 trees to the course and is presently top-dressing all his trees readying up for spring.

Pine Crest No. 2 is still closed and Ken Lohr still hasn't set an opening date. They have also done a lot of clearing in their wooded areas. The No. 1 course is open whenever possible but they are still in winter greens. Ken says that due to the cold weather they are late in uncovering the Bermuda greens. And as a final touch, all the equipment at both courses has gotten a new coat of paint.

At Westwood, Jack McClenahan is boasting that he has the most outstanding two-holer in the state. It not only has running water, (his shop doesn't even have that) but it has electric heat and city sewage as well. Jack has been doing some clubhouse landscaping, and there are also plans for many new trees to be planted along the property lines of the club.

Out at Twin Lakes, Buck Whetsell has set his opening date as March 15. The course has been closed since December 15 - wouldn't that be great? Buck says the greens and trees are in excellent shape due to the lack of winter play and spring will find them in fine condition. All their equipment has been painted, tee markers have been made, and all the other winter work is now complete.

At Army-Navy, the greens are still closed, Steve Tobash, the pro, and the greens committee have all given Del Hammersly the support he needed in controlling the winter play. Del says the greens are in tremendous shape and is well pleased. Del's winter project has been installing about one thousand feet of cart paths around the golf course.

At Springfield, Denny McCammon is still plugging along at the sand trap project. The weather finally got cold enough at the right time to allow trucks to get on the course to dump sand into the traps.

And in my corner here at the Country Club of Fairfax, we have been quite busy also. All equipment has been painted and repaired and the maintenance building has been entirely insulated as well as getting a new coat of paint. We have also been doing quite a bit of tree trimming and woods clearing for better air movement.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

At the last board of directors meeting held on the 24th of February, several items were discussed, several decisions were made, and three new members were accepted.

One new policy enacted will be that each member playing golf at the monthly meetings will be required to register for both golf and meal. If the member does not stay to eat with the group, he will be charged for his meal and required to pay for it. This will eliminate the small faction which plays golf, then cuts out, leaving the association holding the bag for his meal ticket. The board felt that by enactment of this decision that everyone would benefit. Let's not forget that the main purpose of these meetings, contrary to popular opinion, is not to play golf.

The other new policy decided on is a limitation on guests to 3 times for the same guest. This decision was made to expand the guest privileges of the super to encourage bringing new faces occasionally.

NEWS FROM BALTIMORE

From the Suburban Club, Bob Miller reports he has a new greens chairman. He is Norman Bernstein, and he is replacing Irv Kaufman, Bob's chairman for the past seven years. Mr. Kaufman was recently elected to the office of club president. The replacement for Angie at Bonnie View in Baltimore is Louis Rudinski, as of the first of February. We welcome Louis to the Mid-Atlantic area and hope we will be seeing him as a new member.

Angie's new address, by the way, is P.O. Box 124, Marlton, N.J.

Russel Kerns at Woodholme reports that his new fairway plantings from last fall look rather off-color right now. But come spring, they should shape up quite rapidly. Russel completely renovated all the fairways in August, planting with Fylking and Pelo. Going in to the winter, they look beautiful and he is anxious to see what happens in a Month or two.

GOLF OF THE FUTURE

Once golfers trudged around the course, But now they ride in carts. A first step, this, but this is how All human progress starts. Someday machines will swing the clubs, And tour the course in par. And golfers then will have no need To leave the clubhouse bar.

Richard Armor

Weblite for Quality Turf

Direct from research plots to the Golf Course. Weblite is available for mixing with your own soil or as a complete sterile soil mix for greens construction or top dressing.

WEBLITE CORPORATIONP.O. Box 780Roanoke, Va. 24004Telephone: Area Code 703—345-1426

TOP SOIL

TOP DRESSING

EGYPT FARMS, INC. Riderwood, Maryland 21139

JOHN W. STRICKLAND 823-4812 823-0302

POTTING SOILS

G. L. CORNELL COMPANY

16031 Industrial Drive • Gaithersburg Md. 20760 Phone: 948-2000 (Area Code 301)

GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

FUNGICIDES — SPRINKLERS — INSECTICIDES MISCELLANEOUS GOLF SUPPLIES





NEW MEMBERS

New members to be considered for membership are as follows;

PAUL McKENZIE, the superintendent at Chartwell G. & C.C. in Severna, Md. Paul is applying as a class A member and is sponsored by Bert Yingling and Russ Kerns.

JOHN SHERBAN, course mamager at Andrews Air Force Base in Camp Springs, Md. John is applying as a class E member and is sponsored by Bill Peterson and Lee Dieter.

JOHN STRICKLAND, president and general manager of Egypt Farms in Riderwood, Md. John is applying as a class E member and is sponsored by George Cleaver and Russ Kerns.

MEMBERSHIP FREEZE

Also decided at the same board meeting was a freeze on all membership applications except class A and B. The reason for this is so that a study committee can review our membership to determine what percentage makes up each classification. If our membership reaches more than 50% of any other class than A or B, we stand to loose our National affiliation. So until we can review our entire membership, no new applications except for A or B will be accepted.

TENTATIVE MEETING PLACES

The following is a list of tentative meeting places and dates. We will publish the firm list as soon as it is available.

April 8 — Springfield Golf and Country Club — Joint meeting with the Central Virginia Turfgrass Assn. May 13 — OPEN

June 3 ---Suburban Club (Note this is the first Tuesday) July ? ---Family picnic -- Place to be decided on September ? ---Joint meeting with Philadelphia chapter October 13 ---Woodmont C. C. Annual Tournament November ---OPEN December ---OPEN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HOW TO HIRE A SUPERINTENDENT

The first step, if you are in need of a superintendent, is to contact your local Golf Course Superintendents Association. If you do not know any members of this association, call on a neighboring club and one of the professional people at that club will direct you to a GCSAA member. The only information we require is the name and address of the person to be contacted, along with the name of the club. This information will be sent at once to all class AA, A & B Superintendents in the section. Interested members will correspond with the club officer. The club, in turn, may inquire into the association for verification of classification and attendance at educational meetings.

It is the duty of all members of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA to pass this information to to Bob Miller; the membership chairman, or Ed Dembnicki; the secretary, to make this system work. If the system is short-cut the club is short-changed by not having a field of candidates from which to choose, or the benefit of the association's classification. They may not get a professional turfgrass man at all. Superintendents chosen not through the system may be hesitant to join or be active in the local association. It is, therefore, important that the system function and provide a healthy and competitive service to both our members and the clubs.

One other aid is forthcoming, in that we plan to assist our members with standard contract forms. Anyone with suggestions on contracts please pass them to a director, or plan to attend the next directors meeting when this will be considered.

This article is intended to be a guideline to employers and to provide information to our members as to the processing of inquiries. The board of directors will not make personal recommendations.

Robert Milligan

REWARD

WANTED: A seal or emblem for the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Association. Draft, sketch, trace or photograph your ideas and submit them to Lee Dieter. The winner will be chosen by the directors by a majority vote at the next directors meeting.

OLDE TYME CORNER

Here are some more thrilling excerpts from Leonard Barron's book "Lawnmaking." Once again, please keep in mind that this book was copyrighted in 1906 and these ideas are 63 years old.

This month we will look at an item of concern to all of us, brought out at the meeting at Indian Spring on the 4th of March. The topic is closing greens in inclement weather.

From Chapter XIII, "The Peculiar Requirements of Putting Greens", Mr; Walter J. Travis, well known world's golf champion, writes thus: Another thing: do not under any circumstances, keep players off the regular greens at any time. The more they are played on, the better, irrespective of time or weather conditions. Play on them day in and day out, the year round. They will be improved by it, although it is hard to believe this when the frost is coming out of the ground and deep heel marks are left by the players. Rolling will correct this.

Comment: No wonder there is static on some supers at some of the older clubs with information like this having been printed.

THE LOGICAL CHOICE Greensaw Golf course superintendents every-BORDEN Fairways where are turning to Borden Greens TURE FOOD & Fairways Turf Care Products. • Greens & Fairways 45 (30-5-10) Greens & Fairways 16-8-8 · Greens & Fairways 75% Organic Greens & Fairways Greenskeeper (25 - 5 - 10)(13-3-9) Greens & Fairways 36 (24-6-6) · Greens & Fairways Turfgrass Borden 38 (38% N) Food (16-5-11) For prices and name of nearest distributor, write BORDEN INC / Chemical Division, Turf Products, Box G, Columbus, Ohio 43203. Contact: G.W. "Junior" Ruckman, Jr. - 2407 Lewisdale Drive Hyattsville, Md. 20783 - Phone (301) 422-9075 Arnold Palmer on Vertagreen "It doesn't take a professional golfer to appreciate professional turf, but it does take a professional fertilizer to grow it! Vertagreen has the complete line of golf course fertilizers and protection products that make for professional turf." Vertagreen Tee-Green, Tournament, and Vertanite fertilizers plus Vertigard Turf Protection products can team up to put your course in championship form. Every product in the Vertagreen Professional Turf Program is made especially for golf turf. And every product is backed by the expert services of your local Vertagreen representative. "One professional to another, why not give him a call." Vertagreen Professional Turf Products from Agri-Chemicals, Inc. a Subsidiary of United States Steel Corporation P.O. Box 1685 Atlanta, Georgia 30301 AQUA-GRO QUALITY BLENDED WETTING AGENT AQUA-T LOW COST BLENDED WETTING AGENT STOMA-SEAL CHEMICAL CONTROL OF WILT Aqua-gro granul CONVENIENCE OF APPLICATION

And from Chapter IV, "Which is Better - Turf or Seed?" "Sods are generally cut for convenience's sake three feet long and one foot foot wide, and in quantity can usually be bought at fifty cents, or less, a turf. I Know of one man who has developed the regular business of growing sod for sale. His trade is in a city that is famous for its well kept gardens. He uses only the highest grade lawn mixture for raising his crop which is given careful attention from first to last and he gets thirty cents per square foot, thus realizing a profit of between five and six hundred dollars per acre every three years. No turfs are cut and sold under that age. This is necessary, in fact, because the Kentucky bluegrass will not have made proper growth before this time.

Comment: All sod growers please note these prices. Could you show a better profit with them?

Next month - an exciting look at weed control and rolling. Can't wait? Well, you'll have to control yourselves until then.

FROM THE EDITOR

A problem was brought out at the last board meeting concerning employment referrals in our profession. It seems that here just recently the National has not had any job openings going through their referral service. Not only that, however, but several local associations have reported the same situation. This is a bad predicament to let ourselves get into and some immediate action should be initiated to correct this. The place to start, naturally, is with the club itself. As soon as a vacancy comes open for a superintendent, for whatever reason, the local should be there to get the information about the job. For if the club obtains a qualified replacement, (qualified stressed), then the association and the club make out better all the way around.

The problem that both locals and clubs are getting into, if they don't follow this method is that the club may get a man from an outside source independent of the local to do the job. His wage will probably be below the area average but probably equal to his ability and the wage average in the local is dropped because of this fellow. Then in a few years, if he lasts that long, the man is released and we find the same procedure repeated again.

If the local is contacted and no applicants are available, then the National should be notified as to the position being open. They will then send the interviewing club a form to fill out concerning the necessary information about the operation and superintendents looking for openings will receive a copy of this information.

So club officials and superintendents, take note! You'll be doing yourselves, your club, and everyone concerned a great favor if you handle this situation, should it present itself, in this way.

AN OPINION

The following is in reply to an appeal to an editorial in the January Newsletter asking for opinions and ideas from the members. These are the writers' opinions and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the group as a whole. The letter was written by Jim Smith, golf course superintendent at Argyle Country Club.

"I would like to say now that I think it is time that the Association started to make a change in its theme from "what a superintendent can do for the country club" to "what a country club can do for the superintendent." Also, I would like to see the organization take a stand against some of its' own members who undermine the superintendent, calling themselves an advisor or a consultant.

As an example I shall use my own experience at the I.M.F.'s Bretton Woods Club. After my yearly physical, my doctor informed me that I had suffered a mild heart attack during the past year. This has prompted me to relate my experiences to you. In November of 1967, a meeting was held consisting of the golf course architect, a committee of I.M.F. people and myself. At this time a firm decision was made that the course would be open for play on May 30, 1968. Water and sewer lines had to be put in yet and I volunteered to do both these jobs with my golf course crew so they could work through the winter. Although this was only November, no permits were on the job. Finally, in February sewer permits were issued and it was't until April that water permits were obtained. Needless to say, with all the problems that went with all this, the problem of being ready to open in just seven more weeks was also at the door. The severe winter also took its' toll at the club, with dessication on both greens and tees. A decision was made at that time to sod both these areas so we could go ahead on schedule and open on time. The course did open on May 30 and golf was played. But soon after opening, a sudden decision was made that a golf course consultant was needed. This consultant decided that I could not fill a sand trap

without his approval. It goes without saying that the golf course was in sad shape after such a severe winter, but I received no help on this problem from my consultant.

I don't know what you as an association think, but I deserved a little more than a dismissal.

WIFFY COX DIES

Wiffy Cox, golf pro at Congressional Country Club, died on the 20th of February. Mr. Cox died on the way to a hospital after complaining that he did not feel well enough to work that day. He had undergone surgery in June and had not fully recovered. He was 72 years old.

His term of office at Congressional started in 1937 and except for 4 war years, he had been there ever since.

Wiffy was largely responsible for getting the U.S. Open Championship at Congressional in 1964. This tournament helped both the Mid-Atlantic PGA and the Mid-Atlantic GCSA to gain recognition.

NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION

Just as a matter of information, the February issue of the Mid-Atlantic Newsletter went to 23 states and Canada and there were 248 copies mailed. Editors of 34 other newsletters receive copies each month and 7 colleges receive one also. Six national trade publications are sent a copy and the sports editors of four newspapers are also receiving it. It can be easily seen that a lot of people see what we are doing here on the East coast and with our increasing circulation, it is more important than ever that we maintain our high goals and standards.

MOTTO OF THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Consider the day lost when you don't catch h--about something wrong on the golf course.

Jim Wild

Published monthly by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the advancement of the golf course superintendent through education and merit.

Telephone 703-451-6619

Denny McCammon Springfield Golf and Country Club Editor-Director ----703-451-6619

Sam Kessel Country Club of Fairfax Virginia Editor -----703-273-7094 or 703-385-9340

Dick Silvar Baltimore Country Club Baltimore Metro Editor - 307-252-0110 or 301-252-4498

Dave Fairbank Lakewood Country Club D.C. and Suburban Md. Editor - 301-762-0570 or 301-946-3159

Above are the names, addresses, and phone rembers of the area editors. For contributions or information, contact the person covering your atea.

U

I

FRANKLIN D.



8301 KEENE MILL ROAD SPRINGFIELD, VA. 22150