



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

VOL XIX

OCTOBER 1969

NO. 10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SOCIAL MEETING REPORT

Our first social meeting was a roaring success with 130 members and guests in attendance. The speaker for the evening was Rodger Zion, Congressman from Indiana, who spoke on IYQ=IYQ2. This means if you like someone, you are more likely to be successful in your dealings with them. Congressman Zion had an excellent suggestion; Imagine each of your employees is wearing a sign that reads "make me feel important". Most people respond to respect and a feeling of importance and they will do a better job for you. Many members said that more such social meetings were in order, but we must point out that our professional association has speakers who normally center their talks on turf grass management. To quote George Thompson, "Most of our ladies hear enough about this subject at home."

A good time was had by all.

Bob Milligan

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mid Atlantic GCSA will be held at the Burning Tree C.C. in Bethesda, Md. on November 10, 1969. Our host will be Richard Anderson. Dick has informed us that the clubhouse will be closed and if you want regreshments between nines, hot dogs and the like will be available from the Golf Shop at the club.

We can tee off for golf anytime after 11 a.m. and carts will be available. The evening meal and meeting will be held at the Governor's House Restaurant at 8400 Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda. Burning Tree is not equipped to handle a group as large as ours, so we had to find an outside location. Cocktail hour at the Governor's House will be from 5 to 6 and dinner will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. To get to the restaurant, turn south off 495 on Wisconsin Ave. toward Bethesda. It is on the right hand side going south.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB

From 495, turn on River Road exit and turn right. Take the first left off River Road onto Burdette Road and go about ½ mile. The Club is on the left.

ODDS-N-ENDS

Peter Poa from the New Jersey Golf Course Report gives us this interesting letter to his chairman.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I'm sorry I shouted at you the other day when you questioned me about whether we were having any trouble with the course. However, I don't think it was necessary for my Assistant to grab me on the pretense that I was about to start swinging.

Yes Sir! We have been having some trouble with the course; in fact several of the members have suggested that we are stretching the truth be calling it a golf course. As you may remember, it rained the entire month of July—record amounts. Well, during the first two weeks of August, while you were away on vacation, it turned hot and dry. Now I know you have said there's nothing unusual about such weather at that time of year, and I guess there isn't. But after ten inches of rain? Let us say in layman's terms the grass just didn't have the ambition, or the guts to survive. We literally saw aerial roots growing to nowhere on the Bent, and the Poa (which comprises most of our turf population, regardless of what you think I told you in the spring) had just enough roots to keep it from tipping over. It sure was interesting to watch the man syringing fairways progress up the fairways with the wilt both ahead and behind him. Of course, as I told you earlier, I was very glad to be able to get back to watering seven nights a week. That \$18 item under Misc. last month was for a case of 6-12.

Then at the end of August we went back to our normal climate for this year, late abysmal swamp. I imagine one of the things you were questioning me about the other day is called "wet, wilted, rotten, dead

grass". It's not very attractive, and from what I'm told is very difficult to play from. In fact, I've been told the latter so many times that I suggested to three of the worst offenders that they resign—they already had.

Those large brown thin areas on the greens are disease. We realize that fungicides should prevent them, and I have written several pointed letters to the manufacturers of the 5 chemicals we applied in two weeks. The small tan spots on the fairways are called "dollar spot". As soon as we get the sprayer out of the mud on the 15th fairway, we'll get right on those areas.

We do hope to get the greens top-dressed this fall, however, it may be a little difficult as the operation really takes six men, and we only have four since our "summer professionals" have left for school. I sure hope we can get Mr. Looney's son back next year. I can't quite agree with the Board that just because he cut that word in the 9th fairway with a greensmower, he should not be asked back. After all he is a member's son, and certainly was a help on those weekends that parties didn't interfere.

In closing I certainly want to thank that kind member, who sent me the case of beer the day we lost 5 greens and 11 fairways to disease and wilt. I really wasn't feeling too chipper anyway, and his note—"You might as well drink, you haven't done very well at anything else", really set me up.

Yours truly,
Peter Poa

The New England DCSA has undertaken a real barnstorming project in the form of a "Sound Off" Column where each month, anyone from club members to officials can question, comment, or criticize any part of our work pertaining to improvement and maintenance. Hopefully Gerry Finn and Dean Robertson will not be hung in effigy over truthful answers to some of these "thoughtful questions." It is a great idea and roses to them for initiating it. Following are two letters written to them with editorial comments. How would you have answered them? Be truthful now!


"Let me start off with the fact that I enjoy the Newsletter. However, I seem to draw the assumption that the golf course superintendent is beginning to grow too big for his britches. For instance, the other day I couldn't play my own course because the superintendent had decided that 'two days of continuous rain made the course unplayable.' I pay my dues on time and believe this entitles me to play my course any time I wish. Do you really think you people should have that much authority?"

Frank Thornton
Wilbraham, Mass.

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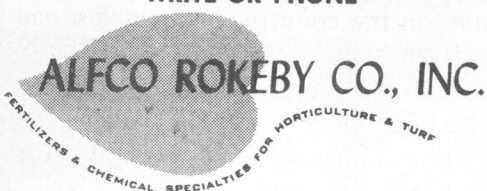
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The superintendent agrees that club members deserve to be accommodated at all times. But he also is the sole judge on the advisability of declaring the golf course unplayable. You should be thankful you have a super who knows enough to keep the course free of traffic when its rate of damage susceptibility is at an all-time high, especially after heavy rains.

"I am a member of an 18-hole course but my business hours dictate unusual golf dates, like every Monday. It just so happens that our superintendent and his work crew seem to take over the course that day and I find myself inconvenienced by workers in my putting line, roaring motors at the top of my back swing etc. Can't those guys find some other time to annoy people?"

Peter Farnsworth
Boston, Mass.

Your complaint would be valid if you could do one thing for your superintendent. That is, arrange with your fellow members one day of the week when you stay off the course and allow the work to be completed. If you manage such a remedy to an age-old problem, pass it along to every other course in the country. Otherwise, change your business schedule.

From Bill Smart's Fore Ground in the Hudson Valley GCSA comes this editorial plus editorial comment.

POOR LEE

Lee Trevino, to whom life is a series of new experiences, had a unique one on Thursday. This is what the '68 U.S. open champion reported yesterday.

"Last night, after I finished playing here at Westchester, I went fishing with a friend in a small pond in New Canaan. Somehow, I overturned the boat. After that, my \$2,200 watch didn't run. And I didn't catch any fish."

Editor's Note: Boy, I know just how Lee feels. I wrecked my watch on a fairway head the other day, now Mickey's hand catches in the crack in the plastic and I keep working overtime.

GREATER WASHINGTON MEETING

Child labor laws and wage-hour laws were the topic at the Greater Washington meeting held at Gunpowder C.C. on September 23. Charles Angells from the Philadelphia office of the U.S. Dept. of Labor was the speaker of the evening. Mr. Angell gave several interesting highlights of the what to's and the what not to's in hiring help and paying them. Three publications from the USDL were distributed and all of them have a large amount of easy to understand information in

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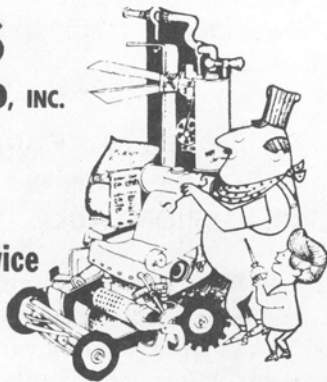
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them. These publications are available from the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions in Washington, D.C.

TRAPPED

Now that winter is here (almost), it's time to think about cold weather work. One of the first projects that comes to mind is sand trap work. In the September issue of the USGA Green Section Record, Al Radko has an article that answers a lot of questions which are most often asked concerning traps and regulations concerning them. The following few remarks are just a portion of the entire article but should satisfy the member who asks the questions.

"There is no set regulation regarding size. Large bunkers are eye catching, yes, even spectacular; few, in fact will agree that the larger ones add to the general beauty of the golf course more so than the smaller ones. There is one thing for sure - the larger the bunker, the more costly it is to rake and restore it to its original smoothness after a days play.

There is no set rule with regard to number. Labor is the major cost of the golf course operation, and a course with emphasis on sand is going to be costlier to maintain than a course that combines a fair share of tree and grass hazards with sand.

Preferably, sand in bunkers should contain no particle over 1/4 mm. The largest percentage should be in the 1/2-1/4 mm. size. This is especially important for courses located where sand is subject to wind erosion. Sand in bunkers should be of similar texture as sand used for topdressing soil mixtures.

Depth of sand is important to maintenance. The rule of thumb of most supers is to introduce or keep sand to a settled depth of 4-6 inches. To compute the amount of sand required, it takes 37 1/2 cubic yards of sand to cover 2000 square feet to a 6 inch depth.

Surface and internal drainage are always of paramount importance, just as it is on any area of the golf course. Bunkers with good drainage seldom get dirty with clay sifting up thru the sand where they are flooded. Good surface drainage means that the pitch is so slight and so subtle that the sand doesn't move but the water does."

IN MEMORIAM

Services for Robert Scott, superintendent at the Baltimore C.C. for 34 years, were held on September 22. Mr. Scott was 80 and had been retired from the club since 1955. Mr. Scott was born in Scotland in 1899 near a small golf course. His life consisted of maintaining, constructing, and rebuilding courses all over the United

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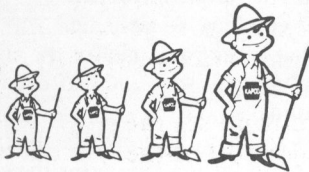
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States. He was a co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA and was a member of the GCSAA.

Bernie Branson, superintendent at Cedar Crest C.C. was killed October 5 when his was hit by a motorcycle on Route 50 in Fairfax County. His wife was also seriously injured in the collision. Mr. Branson was the brother-in-law of Wayne Jerome, a past member of the Mid-Atlantic.

NEW ADDRESS

The Wayne Jeromes have sent their new location to us. Until December 1, their address is 6008 N.W. 10th Street, Margate, Fla. 33063. After December 1, the street will be: 6611 N.W. 21st Street, Margate, Fla. 33063. Wayne's club address is: Coral Springs C.C., Box 8301, Coral Springs, Fla. 33060.

MULTIPLICATION TABLE

Did you have any geraniums on the course this year? You might try this gardening experiment over the winter and test your green thumb in the flower department. When the geraniums become leggy, cut off about the top 2 or 3 inches with a sharp knife. Then get some plastic pots with good soil mix and cut the plants with a clean cut just below a leaf joint. Remove any damaged leaves and make sure each cutting has 2 or 3 joints left on it. Place the cuttings in the mix after you push a small hole in the soil. Putting the cuttings in without a hole for the stems could injure the stem. Water well, but do not flood, then place a small plastic bag over each cutting. They should be out of the sun but in good light, and in 2 to 3 weeks, Presto! New geraniums for next year.

RAMBLINGS

It's interesting to see all the garden magazines that are stopping ads by chemical companies who have compounds with DDT in them. They are scaring the socks off ol' Harry Home owner.

According to Solid Wastes Management magazine, it costs New York State \$.30 for each bottle it picks up. This is 7 times the cost to make the darn thing! In a typical year, Americans throw away 48 billion cans, 26 billion bottles, 30 million tons of paper, 4 million tons of plastic, and 100 million wornout tires weighing 1 million tons.

Have you planted your spring bulbs yet? Now is the time, you know. Something that might be nice is to force some bulbs to put in the clubhouse in January or February. You'd be surprised how well it goes over.

How about coloring the grass around the 10th tee this winter? It doesn't cost much and would be a terrific conversation piece.

Hope the shelf life on Pythium controls is more than 90 days. There's a lot of it left over in chemical rooms this fall, that's for sure.

Just re-subscribed to Rock and Dirt, a big newspaper type publication that comes out 3 times a month. It's printed in Crossville, Tenn., but they have ads from all over the U.S. from companies selling all kinds of equipment, paint, machinery, and repair parts. It's a lot of fun to read and well worth the \$4.00 for a year's subscription. Do you have fire extinguishers on your tractors? Remember, those machines represent a big hunk of your budget and all it takes is one spark.

EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

The following is a list of the questions asked in the survey run in 1967. This will be reprinted in its entirety within the next few months, but we would like to know if you class AA, A, or B members have any other questions you would like to see included in the list. This is not the final form and it is not to be returned. The final form with any additional corrections or new questions will be sent at a later date. When they are returned, they need not be signed. All we want is for them to be filled out and sent back.

MID ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you a member of the Mid Atlantic. _____
2. Are you a member of the National. _____
3. Are you a Superintendent. _____
4. Are you a Pro Superintendent. _____
5. What classification. _____
6. Age. _____
7. What is your educational background. Number of years of education. _____
8. List and Technical Schools attended. _____
9. What is your basic salary. \$ _____
10. Do you work full time. _____
11. Do you work part time. _____
12. How many months. _____
13. Do you have a house furnished. _____
14. Do you pay the utilities. _____
15. How much. \$ _____
16. How far do you drive to work each day. _____ miles.
17. Do you have transportation furnished. _____
18. If not, do you get your Gas and Oil furnished. _____
19. Do you get a car allowance each month. _____
20. Do you receive any Christmas Bonus. _____
21. How much. \$ _____
22. Do you have Hospitalization. _____
23. How much does the Club pay. _____
24. Does the Club furnish a Life Insurance policy. _____
25. How much. \$ _____

26. Does the Club have any Disability or Sick benefits. _____
27. Does the Club have any Retirement Plan. _____
28. Do you contribute into the plan. _____
29. Are you in the Scudder-Stevens Plan _____
30. How much do you pay each month. \$ _____
31. How much vacation do you get. _____ weeks.
32. Do you get paid for your vacation. _____
33. Do you get any Sick leave. _____
34. Do you get paid for Sick leave. _____
35. Does the Club pay your Mid Atlantic dues. _____
36. Does the Club pay your National dues. _____
37. Does the Club pay all your expenses to the monthly meetings _____
38. Does the Club pay all your expenses to the National meetings. _____
39. Does the Club pay for your Technical Books and Magazines _____
40. Do you have any outside business interest. _____
41. Does the Club know about it. _____
42. Number of holes on your course. _____
43. Number of men in your crew. _____
44. Do you have an Assistant _____ What is his Salary. \$ _____
45. Do you have a Foreman. _____ What is his Salary. \$ _____
46. Do you have a Mechanic. _____ What is his Salary. \$ _____
47. What is the pay scale for the crew. FROM _____ TO _____ /HR.
48. Do you pay time and half over 40 hrs., Sunday and Holidays Holidays. _____
49. Do you pay the crew straight time. _____
50. Do you favor a Union for the crew. _____
51. Do you favor a Union for the Superintendent. _____

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52. Number of hours the crew work each week. Average. _____
53. Number of hours the Superintendent works each week.
Average. _____
54. What is your Operating Budget. \$ _____
55. Do you have a Contract with the Club. _____

This information is strictly confidential and will not be available to anyone but the Employment Committee and the officers of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

NEWSLETTER MAILING

Anyone not getting their newsletter regularly? If you aren't, please check with one of the three editors and make sure we have your correct address. Our circulation is getting larger all the time and once in awhile we omit someone.

MEETING PLACES

November 10 - Burning Tree C.C. Meal and business meeting will be held at the Governors House Restaurant in Bethesda. Host is Richard Anderson.

December 9 - Indian Spring C.C. This is our annual election meeting. Host is Ed Dembnicki.

FROM THE EDITOR

It's raining this morning and leaves are falling quietly from all the trees. Guess we ought to check the sweeper and blower—make sure they are working. Fall is sure a beautiful time of the year, but it's kind of sad, too. Kind of like getting old and having served your purpose, but having served it well. It's a good time to realize the healing power and forgiveness of ol' Mother Nature. She's the only woman in the world that we had all better respect, because just when we start getting cocky with her, she'll grab us by the heels and slap our little round bottoms to "reassure" us as to who is the boss. A good example is the summer just past.

So many of the newsletters coming in here had articles telling of the severity of the terrible summer weather in every state in the country. The midwest had our typical weather from here on the East coast, the New England area had Florida rain and every other area measured extremes of every size and shape from too wet to too dry. Be that as it may, fall is here now, unmistakably so. We can all see the new grass sprouting, the color from the mums in the planting beds, the red leaves in the shrubs from the Euonymous, and the spectacular beauty of the trees in Virginia's Skyline Drive as well as our own golf courses.

Ours is a humble job since we depend on many people for our well being, both personal as well as professional. We depend on our members, our officials, our associates, people we see every day. But there is one person whom we often forget and whom we depend on every day but who goes without thanks many times, especially during the summer months when a seven day week is commonplace. Fall makes us realize just how humble and indebted we really are to the good Lord and it also makes us realize that Nature does forgive. However rough the going may get, sticking with it and being determined to do our best is always the best solution to the problem, whatever it may be.

The past growing season has been like chapters in a fiction novel, with one month leading to another and now here we are almost at the end and it looks as though everyone will live happily ever after. But it can be said we have all learned something by it. There surely is a moral.

POST CARDS

Enclosed in this month's newsletter you will find a postcard for updating our Membership Directory. If all the information asked for is still the same for you, fine. But if anything has changed, please make the correction and return the card to Ed.

GOLF AT WOODMONT

The last meeting was held at Woodmont and was a great success in two ways. The golf course was in superb condition and there was a large turnout of ladies in attendance. Four of the ladies played golf and low gross was won by Mrs. Yingling. Ruth Milligan took the honors for the low net score and from all indications, the women who played had a great time.

Several guests played and low gross was taken by Frank Mehle, while low net was won by Herb Sommers.

Commercial trophy was won by big Bernie Nees from Bolgiano's.

Of the members who played, top honors went for low gross to Joe Baidy who beat Bill Emerson. Bill did all right though, bringing in second low gross. Third low gross went to Bert Yingling. There was a four way tie for fourth place between Bob Martino, Woody Pitman, Ernie Stanley, and Bob Milligan.

In the low net department, top dog was Jim Estep followed in second place by Tom Commalle. Third was taken by Grafton Lumsden and there was a three way tie for fourth low net. Contenders were Ed Dembnicki, John Leavell, and Dick Anderson. But Paul Barefoot won a prize too! Three golf balls for the most tries!



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.

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