



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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NEXT MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the MAGCSA will be held on Wednesday, August 4th at the USDA in Beltsville, Maryland. Our host for the day will be Dr. Felix Juska. Please note the date since it is not our usual day.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BELTSVILLE CLUB

From the Washington Beltway 495, get off on Route 1 north which is exit 27. Go north and just after you pass the first gas station on your right, bear to the right on the access road to the USDA library. Just after turning right, bear left at the fork and cross Route 1 since no left turn is permitted at the stoplight. Cross onto the USDA campus and follow the signs.

MEETING PLACES

August 4 Wednesday, U.S.D.A. Field Day
Host – Dr. Felix Juska

September 14, Joint with Philadelphia,
Kennet Sq. C.C. Host – Paul Weldin

October 5, 1st Tuesday, Golf Tournament,
Woodmont C.C. Host – Bob Shields

November 9, Bethesda C.C. Host – Grafton
Lumsden

December 14, Hobbits Glen C.C.. – Host,
Chip McDonald

FUNGUSHEAD SEZ

You know it's going to be a rough season when you open a box of insecticide and find that grubworms have eaten nearly all of it.

You know it's going to be a rough season when a member asks you how soon the course is going to be in shape, and you thought it was.

You know it's going to be a rough season when the University Pathology Department can't find enough grass on your course to tell you what killed it.

You know it's going to be a rough season when you swerve the fairway mower to miss the Treasurer's golf ball and run over the President's clubs.

You know it's going to be a rough season when your fellow Superintendents wipe their shoes off with an old fungicide bag before they leave your place.

IN BALANCE WITH NATURE

by John Carew

Chairman, Horticulture Dept. Mich. State U.

In the beginning – there was Earth, beautiful and wild, and then man came to dwell. At first, he lived like other animals feeding himself on creatures and plants around him.

And this was called IN BALANCE WITH NATURE.

Soon man multiplied. He grew tired of ceaseless hunting for food; he built homes and villages. Wild plants and animals were domesticated.

Some men became Farmers so that others might become Industrialists, Artists or Doctors. And this was called Society. Man and Society progressed.

With his God-given ingenuity, man learned

to feed, clothe, protect and transport himself more efficiently so he might enjoy Life.

He built cars, houses on top of each other, and nylon. And life was more enjoyable. The men called Farmers became efficient.

A single Farmer grew food for 41 Industrialists, Artists and Doctors. And Writers, Engineers and Teachers as well.

To protect his crops and animals, the Farmer produced substances to repel or destroy insects, diseases and weeds. These were called Pesticides. Similar substances were made by Doctors to protect humans. These were called Medicine.

The Age of Science had arrived and with it came better diet and longer, happier lives for members of Society. Soon it came to pass that certain well-fed members of Society disapproved of the Farmer using Science. They spoke harshly of his techniques for feeding, protecting, and preserving plants and animals. They deplored his upsetting the Balance of Nature. They longed for the Good Old Days.

All this had emotional appeal to the rest of Society. By this time Farmers had become so efficient. Society gave them a new title: Unimportant Minority.

Because Society could not ever imagine a shortage of food; laws were passed abolishing Pesticides, Fertilizers and Food Preservatives.

Insects, disease and weeds flourished. Crops and animals died. Food became scarce. To survive Industrialists, Artists and Doctors were forced to grow their own food. They were not very efficient.

People and governments fought wars to gain more agricultural land. Millions of people were exterminated. The remaining few lived like animals, feeding themselves on creatures and plants around them.

And this was called IN BALANCE WITH NATURE.

EDITORIAL

Well, the summer "don't have the times" have hit and hit hard. Just about every super that HAS the time to admit it admits to the fact he just doesn't have enough hours in the day to get everything done he has to do.

We've had a few things going our way this year though. We had an adequate amount of rainfall this spring when we needed to get the grass moving, there has been more summer help floating around looking for work this year than anyone can remember (even at Springfield) and we've been blessed with a delightful new group of chemicals which from all reports seem to be the best ever.

If these chemicals work in the Mid Atlantic area, and they seem to be doing very well, then they will work most anywhere in the country.

The days of the "one chemical control" are gone. The equipment, the men and the chemicals are all becoming specialized. We are in a one chemical period, but it's only for one disease.

This means a little more effort on our part to make an extra application or two, but the results are well worth it if the directions are followed and PROPER MANAGEMENT prevails.

The July 11 Parade section in the Washington Post had an interesting article entitled "The 4-Day Work Week is Spreading." There were several examples of companies ranging from municipalities to banks to heavy industry of these administrations putting their employees on a 4 day 40 hour work week.

In ALL cases sited, production and morale were up and absenteeism was down. The 4/40 week is slow in catching on, but it is to be expected since it is still fairly new comparatively speaking and it will take time to phase it in just as the 5-day week had to be shuffled in the 30's and 40's as the 6-day week went out.

Very interesting you say - So what? Well, let's look at it a minute and see how this might apply to golf courses.

One firm using this 4/40 week staggers the days off among their employees so there is always a complement on the job to serve the people and get the job done. Obviously, this is the only possible way this system could be adapted to our particular setup, but if handled correctly it just might work.

One company offers an annual bonus of \$240.00 from which they deduct \$20.00 for each day an employee is absent. This is one good incentive and probably there are others. From all indications, every company or organization that has tried this 4/40 week has been more than satisfied and an author of a book extolling the virtues of the plan feels that within the next five years, nearly every business in the country will be giving it serious considerations.

Well there's only one teensy weensy little spot of wonder as far as we're concerned and that is OK, so your men work this 4-day week on a split shift — so all the work DOES get done. But who is there to supervise THEM? Ha! Guess who? This would mean the super might either condition HIS schedule through better organization to benefit from this short week too or work even LONGER hours while he stays there to supervise.

This has a lot of promise and SHOULD bring on some comment. Personally, it sounds good and has a lot of possibilities. Now — if we could get the GRASS to cooperate. . .

SOME GOODIES

Jim Beard, Paul Reike and a 6-man research team from Michigan State University drew some interesting facts and figures from several studies recently made. Jim is a personal friend from Purdue and at the rate he is going he is someday going to be one of the best known figures in the turf research field.

A couple of items of Interest:

Their tests showed sod rooting was most rapid when (a) placed on moist rather than dry soil; (b) maintained at a relatively low nitrogen level prior to harvest; and (c) harvested at 0.4 to 0.6

inch depth.

Demonstrated that FUSARIUM blight disease development could be minimized by avoiding turfgrass moisture stress through proper irrigation practices.

Showed seed germination of POA ANNUA to be highest under alternating day-night temperature in the 55 to 75 degree range and to cease at soil temperature of 80 degrees or higher.

Found ball roll distance was increased somewhat by (a) spiking; (b) coring; or (c) light topdressing while mowing at 2 or 3 day intervals seriously impaired the distance of ballroll.

Showed that as little as a 4 mph wind can reduce the maximum temperatures of a bentgrass turf by 10 to 15 degrees.

Found the timing of syringing during heat stress can be critical in the degree of turfgrass heating that occurs. Syringing 1 to 2 hours before the 2 p.m. maximum is preferred.

Found that the application of more than one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet in any one application results in the exhaustion of the carbohydrate reserve.

It's nice to see someone actually working on golf course conditions to see how the grass REALLY grows besides in a 2' x 3' plot or a 4" flower pot.

LADIES NIGHT

Don't forget Ladies Night on Thursday, August 12 at Shady Grove. It is our usual once a year get together for wives and girlfriends (never both together, however) and is always worth the trip to gay old Gaithersburg. August 2nd is the deadline so get your reservations mailed to

Sam Kessel
2318 Stryker Avenue
Vienna, Virginia 22180

The cost is \$18.00 per couple for members and \$28.00 per couple for guests. The guest price is FIRM so don't try to put the squeeze on Sam for a "Thursday special"

The show that evening, by the way, will be Robert Goulet. SWOON!!

ANOTHER GOOD MAN

Although there hasn't been any official notice, we have received word Jack Hurley died last month in Wilmington on the 17th green at Wilmington Country Club. Jack was well liked by all

who knew him and his death will be a loss to us as well as DuPont.

HEADLINES

At last! A super on the front page of a big paper! George Thompson from Columbia really scored on the front page of the Potomac Supplement July 11. There was a full color photo of Big George on the front, a 5 page write up and some great color pictures of George, some of his crew and a lot of equipment. The article was fairly well done, made up of 80% truth, 10% fantasy and 10% plain old B.S. But George gave the man interviewing him what he asked for and after that, it was all his.

The article did several things. It made the golfer as well as the entire reading audience a LITTLE more aware of who we are, what we do and how we do it. It made them stop and think, by God, there's a little more to that job than it looks like.

The day after the article came out, at LEAST 6 people mentioned it to ME so you know a lot of people, both golfers and non-golfers alike sat up and took a little more than just a casual interest.

The writer responsible was Dennis McCarthy, a free lance writer for the Post and a former professional golfer. A copy of this Newsletter will go to him as well as an unofficial "thank you" from all the supers in the area who

have been in there fighting all along.

Maybe Mr. McCarthy can find time to visit a few more courses in the area and we'll show him what problems and solutions we all have.

BOARD MEETING

At the last board meeting, one classification change was discussed. Virgil Robinson from Chantilly Natonal Golf and Country Club, requested a change from B to A. Virgil met the requirements and the change was approved.

One new membership application was read. It was for Michael Hanna, the assistant to Bob Smith at Hillendale Golf Club. Mike's address is 6116 Greenspring avenue in Balitmore, 21209 Unless written opposition to this notice is received within 30 days after printing, the application will be accepted.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

Have you ever seen your golf course from the air? It is really a good way to see dry spots, wet spots, areas that need to be fertilized, poorly drained traps and a variety of other places you've never seen from the ground. An aerial photo is a must for every super, but getting up and really seeing it is really the way to go.

Bad year for bugs! Insects seem to be a real problem this year. Armyworms, cutworms, Jap beetles and tent caterpillars are really in force. But when and what do you spray in 95 degree heat like we've had for 3 weeks or more?

Citrine works well on filamentous algae in ponds. This is not a promotional pitch, just information being passed on first hand to you. Followed at recommended rates, you can use water that same night with no ill effect.

The new shop at Lakewood is really nice. If you take a ride out to see Dave, be sure to take a bib along to catch the slobber as you drool. He and George Thompson and their buildings make me sick!



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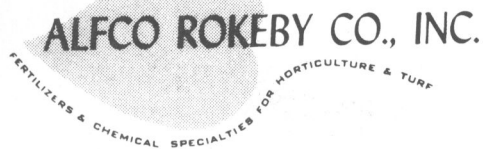
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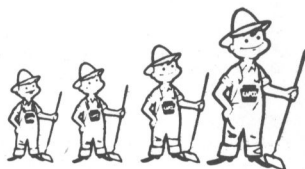
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