



**MID-
ATLANTIC**

News Letter



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It all comes at once, regardless of how much winter planning I do, it still hits me all at one time - Training Seasonal Help, Mowing Program, Application of Pre-emergence & Post-emergence Herbicides, Grub Proofing, Topdressing, Spot Seeding and how about all the new wet areas that developed the past two years.

The preceding projects may help to explain the shortest president's message on record.

George B. Thompson
President
Mid-Atlantic GCSAA

APRIL MEETING - WESTWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Our April meeting at Westwood brought out all our winter hibernating golfers. Some forty members played golf as compared to only four at last month's Springfield meeting. Bob Martino and Bernie Bornhorn walked away with best ball with Bert Yingling and Craig Spottswood winning 2nd best ball.

Dave Fairbanks, tournament chairman, has requested all participating golfers to be sure to turn their signed score cards in at each meeting. Dave will compile our scores and establish a handicap system after our fifth round this year. All handicaps will derive from our monthly meeting golf rounds and not from established handicaps from home clubs.

Walley Stedding, our host superintendent, provided us with an equipment display from three area suppliers - Jacobsen, International Harvester, and Hahn-Westpoint.

Those of you who played golf probably noticed the extensive drain work Walley recently installed. Walley, using a combination of tile and french stone drains, is nearing the completion of

his drainage program. Also evident was the complete overseeding of all fairways and tees.

Years ago Westwood was a municipal, small budget course without much sophistication. Walley and his greens chairman, Stewart Lauer, are working on a full "face lifting" on the whole grounds starting with a sound realistic budget.

Dr. A. J. Powell of V.P.I., Blacksburg, Va., presented an excellent, informative talk on the use and values of non-ionic soil surfactants and wetting agents in general. One point of interest was that some surfactants can become absorbed in the clay and become ineffective thus providing only temporary relief from compaction. Dr. Powell also stated that broad applications of uniform rates were not beneficial where soils and water tables differ. Individual areas should be tested for reaction to wetting agents. Considerable field testing of surfactants is needed and results will become available in the next few years.

One highlight of the evening was the presentation of a certification plaque to Allen MacCurrach of Chevy Chase Club. Bob Shields made the presentation.

MAY MEETING

The May meeting will be held at Crofton Country Club - Host Tom Comalli - Guest Speaker - Dr. Fred Grau.

Directions to Club: From Washington Beltway take Rt. 50 east. Turn off Md. Rt. 3 north six miles to Crofton on right. From Baltimore, Rt. 3 south - Crofton on left 21 miles from Baltimore.

INSTITUTE OF APPLIED AGRICULTURE

The Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland has a record size freshman class enrollment for the fall of 1972. As of this early date, 23 students are presently enrolled for

the turf curriculum.

Professor Douglas Hawes, head instructor, has informed us that this year's students are all squared away for summer placement at area golf courses, either as assistants or as students in their summer golf course work program. "One main prerequisite of all our students is that they work on a golf course during the summer months", says Doug Hawes. The summer placement program provides area superintendents with enthusiastic, intelligent, and very often experienced labor. One important extra - these students must complete a rather extensive report on your course which provides the superintendent with much valuable information on all course measurements, updated equipment inventory, etc.

Professor Hawes says next year's students will come from a wide area; one from North Dakota, five from Virginia, two from Pennsylvania, and one from New Jersey. Only slightly more than half the class will be from Maryland.

Keep in touch with Doug Hawes during the year and get your bid in early for an assistant or summer student for the 1973 season.

NOTES FROM THE CINCINNATI CONFERENCE

One aspect of our conference was quite interesting - one whole day of presentation talks was devoted to the discussion of golf carts. Obviously more and more superintendents are becoming involved in the mushrooming trend of cart use on all golf courses. In our relatively early stage of involvement with golf carts, we find our basic problems still lie with cart path construction and the control of traffic on fairways - at least this was the general conception BEFORE attending some of these talks at the National this year.

Robert Balfour, Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Club Car, Inc., of Augusta, Georgia, made a presentation titled "Golf Cars and Legal Responsibilities". (Reprinted in "The Proceedings of the 43rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show" - Read it on pp. 27-31).

Mr. Balfour stated that the increasing number of golf cart accidents is causing serious concern in all parts of the country. Safety standards, both state and nationwide, are being considered. For example:

Annual golf car inspection with state stickers attached to each.

Golf car routes inspected and approved by

state engineers.

Bridges reconstructed with safety of golf carts in mind, including side rails, etc.

Present bridges modified where necessary to meet safety requirements.

Three wheel golf cars eliminated because of instability. Only the use of four wheel golf cars will be permitted.

A prediction of some 60,000 golf car accidents during the 1972 golf season certainly illustrates the critical need for adequate safety regulations.

Now down to some serious questions. Would the golf course superintendent be held responsible when a golf cart accident is related to the condition of the golf course? "The superintendent opened the course to carts today" says the injured party "but I skidded off the wet bridge and lost control of the cart".

Can the cause of such an accident be attributed to the superintendent?

Is the superintendent personally liable when the club is sued by the injured party?

Does the club have accident insurance, and if so, what does this insurance cover?

In an article in the "Wall Street Journal," April 20, 1971, it was stated, "More and more, golf cart accidents are winding up in litigation. A broken ankle recently won \$97,500 from the golf course involved in an out of court settlement. A Pittsburgh lady is suing her golf course for \$75,000. The average damage suit awarded today is \$11,473, with an average award on product liability suits of \$25,000."

Personal injury litigation is a multi-billion dollar business. A golf cart accident can stem from faulty cart path construction to just plain poor driver perception or "lack of common sense". Mechanical failures, ground under repair, hilly terrain, etc., are also common causes for accidents resulting in long drawn out expensive law suits, all of which could conceivably involve the superintendent. The idea that some people have of "sue one, sue all" is rapidly catching on since the law is changing in favor of the plaintiff.

Keep in mind how you as a superintendent are involved with the decision of whether to allow cart use after rainy weather. You have to protect the cart user from areas under construction, washed out spots, sunken drains, and irrigation lines. You must check the stability and width of cart bridges, the state of repair of cart paths, and carefully plan cart paths on steep slopes so as to eliminate long straight downhill runs. If you are also in charge of cart maintenance, point out to your mechanic the importance of day to day

service of the steering and brakes and the consequences he could be faced with as well as yourself if a lawsuit should come about and be traced back to the mechanical failures of the cart.

Last but not least, talk to your greens chairman and check on the club insurance policies to be sure that you are personally protected in any legal action involving cart accidents. Find out if each cart user signs a release of liability for any personal injury incurred during the use of the golf cart on the golf course. Get your protection program started now while the season is still early.

Contact the AGCMA for their safety suggestions and safety decals for carts.

American Golf Car Manufacturers Assoc.

734 15th St., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005

Craig Spottswood
Editor

COMMENT

While reading the many press releases and publicity we received from the Cincinnati and national newspapers concerning our conference the following in the National Observer struck my attention - "Courses are Becoming too Manicured".

According to the insert the majority of the superintendents feel courses will become even more manicured because that's the way the golfer wants them. Now I ask you, what's wrong with that? One veteran superintendent stated, "We're going to do what those players want 'cause if people aren't playing golf they're not going to need us around much longer." Isn't the golfer right in his quest for perfection, but how about the superintendent? One could get the impression some of us manicured our courses because we have to, not because we want to. The days of the "cow pasture course" are over and if a man is satisfied with that type of condition his dreams and visions, if he ever had any, have come to a halt.

First the golfer only demanded good greens, then greenlike tees, fairways and now some are demanding perfect roughs. Under the heavy traffic and adverse conditions we face today maybe he is asking too much, but how about our sense of pride and accomplishment?

Superintendent Sherwood Moore once had a member tell him, "I wish I loved my job the way you do yours." Most of us can relate to the above so shouldn't we strive for that perfection. Let the golfer set the goal and we can perfect it.

What would your reply be if one day a crew

member came to you and said, "Mr. Jones, ever since you came here why are we always tearing something up on the course?" If you say, "As long as I'm here there will be something torn up" you are striving to reach that goal of perfection as professional turf men.

Ed Heath
Editor

COMMON COMPLAINTS

Now that another season is upon us, maybe it would be a good idea to check the common complaints of the golfer, superintendent and worker so a better relationship can be achieved.

THE GOLFER:

1. Tees are not level, not smooth
2. Tee markers are not moved often enough
- grass cover too sparse
3. Tee markers are placed too close to one another
4. Tee markers are not squared away with the correct line of flight
5. Pin placements are unfair at times
6. Pin placements (cups) are moved too infrequently. Grass is sparse around cups or long and scraggly at perimeter of cups.
7. Cups are not replaced properly - sometimes too low, or too high or too near last cup placement
8. Greens bumpy - not perfectly true
9. Too much grain, mat, or thatch in greens
10. Greens too soft or too hard - ball marks numerous and repaired badly - wonder whose responsibility that is!
11. Traps raked inadequately or not at all
12. Traps edged improperly or unfairly - traps constructed so that they restrict backswing are most unfair
13. Roughs too lush near edge of fairways
15. Roads through course too numerous - made by constant traffic or course equipment
15. Clean towels for ball washers not replaced often enough

SUPERINTENDENT & WORKERS:

In return, the superintendent and the workers ask primarily for understanding and appreciation from the membership which

frequently is reflected in the way the member conducts himself on the course. If the member is careless in littering the course, in dragging his feet over greens, in burning greens with cigarettes, in taking divots unnecessarily, in failing to repair ball marks, in recklessly working though traps, in driving electric cars in restricted areas and numerous other minor but thoughtless acts, then the worker can only interpret these things to mean his efforts are not appreciated.

QUOTE FROM DR. POWELL

Dr. A. J. Powell, turf specialist at Virginia Tech, formerly with the University of Maryland was quoted in The Evening Star Newspaper this month concerning an article, "Bluegrass Can be Kept Green" by Wilbur H. Youngman. Dr. Powell told the homeowner about the stress periods of blue grass and how important it is to provide a proper management program regarding all aspects of lawn care.



THE BEAUTY OF TREES

The following article was submitted by Carl Schoening, Chief Horticulturist for The Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission.

Trees are perhaps the largest single factor which enhance our golf courses. Trees contribute grace and beauty to the landscape; afford a natural screen for objectionable views, wind and noise

abatement and provide cooling restful shade on sun-drenched summer days.

Much of the charm of an older, well established golf course lies in the large eye-appealing mature trees outlining the fairways, framing the greens and shading the clubhouse.

The selection of trees for your golf course is an important and long lasting decision and one that should be given due consideration and research. Considerable time, effort and money can be spent in planting and caring for trees - therefore, you should formulate your plans in advance for your tree planting effort. Trees may be selected for a variety of reasons - mature form and size, flowering characteristics, fall coloration, fruiting characteristics, winter effectiveness, screening ability, disease resistance and site adaptability, such as for wind resistance or for wet or extremely dry situations. Thought should be given as to whether you desire a specimen tree or are selecting trees for mass or group plantings. Other factors to consider in selecting shade or ornamental trees would be limiting your choice to trees of reliable hardiness in your locale; determining the mature size as you appraise rate of growth and longevity; selecting the form that is best suited for the intended use; and determining the availability of the trees you have chosen from your preferred nursery source.

Trees with undesirable characteristics, such as fruits that produce an objectionable odor, insect and disease susceptibility, brittleness, shallow root systems, and trees that produce an abundance of seed that tend to sprout in lawns and flowerbeds are best to be avoided in your original selection.

Even though your golf course may have many fine trees there may be good reasons for planting additional flowering trees as background plantings for greens; for fairway delineation; and to increase the degree of difficulty or to change the appearance of a golf hole. Flowering trees are outstanding planted in odd numbered groups of 3, 5, 7 or 9, and against a background of evergreen trees for full effectiveness.

Evergreen trees, such as Hemlock, Spruce, Fir and Pines, should represent a high percentage of the trees on your course, especially used for winter effect, as screen planting and background trees.

Plan to do your tree planting in the late fall or early spring when the shade and flowering trees

are dormant and your work schedule is at a slower pace. Many shade and ornamental trees may be successfully planted bare root and this is, of course, the most economical method of purchasing trees. Be sure to place your order well in advance and specify your preferred delivery date.

There are two helpful brochures on tree selection available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the University of Maryland.

Trees for Shade and Beauty
Home and Garden Bulletin No. 117
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

and

Trees for Shade and Landscaping in
Maryland
Cooperative Extension Serv. Bulletin No. 183
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

If you desire additional specific help in selecting trees for your area your Horticultural County Agent, Extension Landscape Specialist at your local University or Park Horticulturist are available for your inquiries.

Carl E. Schoening
Chief Horticulturist
Department of Parks
M.N.C.P. & P.C.

TURFGRASS COUNCIL FOR MARYLAND

The formation of a Maryland Turf Grass Council for the state of Maryland got its start at a Mid-Atlantic Board Meeting, April 20.

Dr. John Hall, University of Maryland, called a special meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents, Maryland Turf Grass Growers and people in related turf industries to discuss and get started a state-wide council for the promotion of turf grass in the state, and recognition of the professional people in turf production and management.

The Mid-Atlantic was the first contributor to the new council - \$300.

The state of Virginia formed a similar council nine years ago which has brought together all the professional people in the turf industry.

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NEWSLETTER MAILBAG

Someone heard the plea for comment in the April issue of the newsletter. We appreciate this response. Keep the letters coming!

Dear Craig,

Please find enclosed a clipping from "Club Management" magazine attesting to the gentlemanly businesslike way the National GCSAA Tournament was played. Also, note that simple courteous behavior made news.

I will repeat my plea for a better monthly golf outing for the Mid-Atlantic than the blind bogey. It is time for the Association to budget a modest amount for each month, so that the people who claim "they never win so they don't donate" will get out and play. I never played in a Mid-Atlantic outing without learning something about how the host manages his course. It is time we also show people the Mid-Atlantics are not just "Blind Bogey Bums". It takes only five rounds to establish a handicap.

Sincerely,
Bob Mulligan
Gunpowder C.C.

Thanks Bob, especially for the "Club Management" article reprinted below. We all like to know when others outside our organization take recognition of our group.

As for your plea for a better monthly golf outing, Dave Fairbanks announced at the April meeting at Westwood C.C. that the new handicap system will be put into operation as promptly as possible. See the article on the April meeting for details. We too hope this will get the "bashful supers" out to knock the little white ball around and observe the host's course.

GCSAA IMPRESSES HOST CLUB MANAGER

The club manager who was host for the 1972 tournament conducted by the Golf Course

Superintendents Association of America was so impressed by the superintendents who planned and participated that he feels all managers should learn more about the GCSAA and its members.

"I found the GCSAA to be a well organized business association composed of educated, courteous gentlemen who were indeed very appreciative of any and all services given them," Ken Creely, Jr., said after the tournament in February at Killearn Golf and Country Club, Tallahassee, Florida.

"Their (GCSAA) representative, Palmer Maples of the Standard Club, Atlanta, was extremely well organized and a pleasure to work with," Mr. Creely said. "Although the many details involved in presenting such a tournament were as numerous as they were complicated, through Mr. Maples' assistance the tournament was a complete success."

Mr. Creely, who has attended CMAA Conferences, said he believed CMAA members "could learn a great deal by being exposed more frequently to the GCSAA and its representatives."

I think it unfortunate that so many club managers set themselves on an unrealistic pedestal and do not appreciate the hard work and efforts their superintendents have made," he said. "I also think it unfortunate that the three associations (CMAA, GCSAA and the professional Golfers' Association) are not more closely united."

If uniform standards and guidelines could be created within our association, the end result could be better working conditions and an overall improvement of the image of people within our industry," he added.

Reprinted from the
April Issue "Club Management"

WHAT! ANOTHER LIABILITY?? \$25,000 FINE

The March issue of GOLFDOM magazine printed an explanation of how the impending Federal Environmental Pesticide Act will affect all golf course superintendents. We hope that the National GCSAA will be heard before final judgement day.

Reprinted below is the article on what the impending law means.

"The impending Federal Environmental

Pesticide Control act will ultimately require golf course superintendents to register as Certified Pesticide Applicators, unless they are content to use the pesticides available to homeowners. This certification must occur within four years of the bill's enactment, which is expected no later than spring, 1972. States can elect to license Certified Pesticide Applicators (CPAs). In states that don't exercise this prerogative, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will administer the licensing. Presumably, the EPA will require licensing applicants to pass an examination testing their knowledge and skill in applying pesticides whose improper use would endanger either the applicator or the environment. As Certified Pesticide Applicators, golf course superintendents may be required to keep records and file reports with state or Federal officials.

Under the expanded Federal authority provided in the new law, all commercially marketed pesticides will fall under EPA jurisdiction. When its new registration system goes into effect, presumably within the next year or two, EPA will regulate each pesticide in one of four ways: 1) Ban its use totally, by rejecting its registration application; 2) Register it as a "restricted use" pesticide, i.e., a pesticide that may be applied only by a CPA; 3) Register it as a "general use" pesticide, i.e., a pesticide approved for general public sale, or 4) Register it as both a restricted and general use pesticide, distinguishing its restricted from its general uses.

Expanded Federal regulation will naturally tend to make pesticide controls more uniform throughout the United States. The states will generally retain authority to impose stricter controls than the EPAs but they cannot weaken any EPA controls.

Judged by EPAs current policy, DDT will probably be banned. Other pesticide candidates for a Federal ban are those containing lindane, mercury, arsenic, lead compounds, chloradane, endrin, heptachlor, toxaphene and several others. If any of the foregoing are not banned, they will probably be restricted.

One interesting feature of the act is the discriminatory favoritism accorded farmers. Although they collectively post a far greater ecological hazard than all other pesticide users combined, almost infinitely greater than the nation's golf course superintendents, farmers are favored in the proposed act's provisions:

1) Golf superintendents and other pesticide users are liable to a \$25,000 maximum fine for violating the act; farmers are limited to a \$1,000 fine;

2) Farmers are exempted from the record-keeping and report-filing that may be required of golf superintendents and other CPAs.

3) Licensing standards must be "separate" (translate "easier") for farmers than for golf course superintendents and other CPAs.

One interesting sidelight; no one from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America testified at the House Agriculture Committee's hearings, which were swarming with farm, industry and conservation lobbyists.

Questions about the bill's provisions should be addressed to Pesticides Regulation Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C."

C.W. Griffin

We, the Mid-Atlantic group, covering the Washington area, are in a strategic position to assist the National GCSAA as a lobbying force on all Federal government regulatory matters. If, when dealing with this serious regulation of the use of pesticides, we stand aside and don't make any attempt to be heard, we will be just as much to blame as the National. Congress is in our backyard and we will continue to take positive action to represent our organization before all appropriate government authorities.

Within the past year the Mid-Atlantic has taken the initiative to attend and lobby for golf course superintendents and has partially gained a lobbying foothold. Obviously we need to do much more work in this area. You may be called upon to assist in the near future.

Please keep informed as to what the daily papers report on any changes or decisions regarding pesticides and restrictions. An informed superintendent is a must, if we are to be heard in the right places.

Craig Spottswood
Editor



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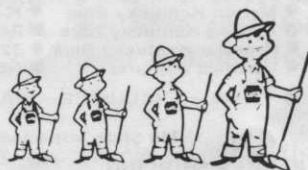
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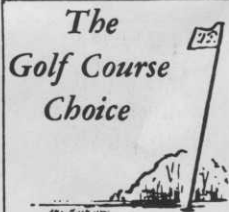


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MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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