



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

VOLUME XXIII

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1972

NO. 11

President's Message

We have two important meetings forthcoming. The first is the International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Boston, Mass., January 7 thru 12, 1973. The second is our own 44th annual Mid-Atlantic Turf Conference at the Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md., February 12 thru 13, 1973. The Mid-Atlantic has always had great attendance at National meetings and we are one of the only local associations who sponsor our own Turf Conference. We can't stress enough the importance of continuing education. As education is the prime goal of any Superintendent's Association, the Mid-Atlantic By-Laws state our object under Section C as follows: "The purposes of this Association are to promote research, to interchange scientific and practical knowledge relating to the care of golf courses and turfgrass operations, including the production, maintenance, and improvement of turfgrass, to encourage cooperation with other associations whose interest parallel or complement those of this Association and to promote justice and education to and for its members." Let us not lose sight of these purposes.

George B. Thompson,
President

December Meeting

Our December meeting will be held in Garrison, Maryland (North Baltimore area) at the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club. Our december meeting is our annual Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors election meeting; all A & B members should attend and vote for the delegate of their choice.

1973 Slate of Delegates

President - Lee Dieter
Vice President - Paul Barefoot
Secretary Treasurer - Dave Fairbank
Directors - Lou Rudensky
Tom Commally
Dick Silvar

Jack McClenahan, our host, has been at the Green Spring Valley Hunt Club for almost three years. Jack was formerly at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna, Virginia for seven years before taking on the Hunt Club.

The Green Spring Valley Hunt Club dates back to 1892 when hunt clubs were more in fashion than the game of golf. The addition of a golf course began in 1920 when eleven holes were built to introduce the new game. In 1950, an additional seven holes were built by Robert Trent Jones which offers a unique course with two different design concepts. The eleven holes built in 1920 are still basically unchanged from the original 1920 design.

Golf anytime
Social Hour - 6-7 pm.
Dinner - 7 pm
Election - 8 pm

Directions - Take Baltimore Beltway #695 north to Exit 20 (Reisterstown Road). Go north on Reisterstown Road 1½ to 2 miles to Green Spring Valley Road. Turn right. Club is on the left, about 600 yards.

Norbeck C.C. - November Meeting

Our November meeting at Norbeck C.C. resulted in a large turnout in spite of heavy rains and a miss-scheduled GCSAA Management Seminar on the same date as our meeting.

Some six golf enthusiasts swam the front nine before seeking shelter. Lou White, from Green Hill Yacht & C.C., stated the course was immaculately groomed and he was disappointed that more people could not have played and enjoyed the golf course.

Bill Livingston, our host, was ready for the rain; during the past summer he installed over 5000 feet of fairway drainage and 7000 feet of new cart paths. Russell Roberts installed the drainage lines.

Bill, a golf course superintendent for the past 25 years, has been at Norbeck C.C. since 1966. Prior to Norbeck Bill worked north of us at the "Shawnee on the Delaware C.C." Owned by Fred Waring. Bill obtained his certification as CGCS at the 1972 Turf Conference in Cincinnati.

Our speaker for the evening was Peter Spinney, a pollution control expert from Wapora Inc., a research and consulting firm concerned with pollution control. Mr. Spinney spoke largely on the use of the sludge materials as potential fertilizer for the turf industry. In the years to come he will be expected to contribute our efforts in the ever increasing battle of pollution control thru the utilization of waste materials. Many questions followed Mr. Spinney's presentation; costs of sludge, how it's treated, what are the fertilizer values, and what are the results and long range effects to be expected. Unfortunately concrete answers are not yet available and the utilization of treated sludge and waste materials as fertilizer is still in its infancy stages of development in our area. At the present time cost is still the biggest factor, but we can all be assured of eventually using sludge and waste materials to help reduce our pollution crisis.

When golf course superintendents help absolve our communities disposal of sludge we will be recognized as a concerned professional association actively producing visible results of pollution control.

Our Mid-Atlantic association should pioneer the results of research firms, such as Wapora Inc., in order to assist the government, universities, and pollution research organizations to develop economical and practical disposal of sewerage sludge materials.

October Meeting — Eagle's Nest Golf Course

Our October meeting featured our annual Mid-Atlantic golf tournament and was highlighted by Geoffrey Cornish, well known golf course architect, who was our guest speaker for the evening.

Bill Emerson, our host superintendent, ran a well organized meeting and provided all the tournament entries with a challenging, well manicured golf course. Bill has been with Eagles Nest from the early construction stages through the final seeding of fairways and greens. Back in 1961 Bill worked for More Golf Inc., building a public golf course in Saratoga Springs, New York. This construction experience, coupled with his past experiences, enabled Bill to produce a top quality golf course that will stand the test of time and traffic. Bill has worked in the Mid-Atlantic area since 1963 when he took over Crofton Golf Course in Crofton, Maryland.

Following our superb dinner and oysters we were fortunate to have as our speaker, Mr. Geoffrey Cornish, one of golfs' foremost architects. Mr. Cornish presented a slide presentation illustrating golf course designs. (Mr. Cornish designed Eagles Nest Golf Course in 1969.) He stated that golf courses now occupy over 1,850 square miles of land; an area approximately the size of the state of Delaware.

Golf course construction and design will change in the future. As our population rapidly increases choice golf course terrain will become a housing development or will be developed commercially. Rough, hilly, wooded terrain will eventually be the only ground available for a golf course. One slide illustrated a course under construction in the state of Vermont; typical "Vermont sandy loam" was a boulder the size of a house, situated among other "stones" the size of automobiles.

Over the years, course designs have undergone several alterations. most evident being the change from a penal design to a strategic design. A penal design was evident when all hazards of the game were positioned to frequently penalize the average golfer. The updated strategic design offers a long safe route to the green and often a short hazardous route, thereby requiring strategy of the golfer as to whether or not to attempt a difficult shot or play safe.

A good golf hole is one that makes any golfer think before he hits his tee shot. The option of placing a drive over an obstacle or down the middle keeps the course enjoyable for the average golfer. The good player should be challenged with each stroke of the game. Bill Emerson's first hole is a perfect example of a well planned golf hole. A severe dog leg to the right with a challenging access route to the green from over the trees. The average golfer will stick to the middle of the fairway and will have an open second shot to the green.

The average golfer pays the bulk cost of golf course maintenance and should not be discouraged from playing by being confronted with the toughest 18 holes in golf. A golf hole can be challenging with only a well placed tree or trap to govern the tactical play of a hole.

Trap Design	Greens	Fairway
World War I	at edge of green	anywhere
World War II	25-30 feet out	150-170 yards out
Contemporary	12-15 feet out	240 yards out on left 220 yards out on right

The contemporary fairway trap design will penalize the good golfer who tries a short cut. An occasional 180 yard fairway trap is still installed to offer the average golfer an obstacle to shoot over.

Old traps were commonly holes in the ground brim full of sand. Today's design offers raised traps with some grass lip or sides to provide aesthetic appeal to the hole as well as a hazard. Raised traps are better drained and easier to maintain. New traps are also considerably larger in size and vary in design. Frequently 500 to 1,000 cubic yards of sand are required to fill a sand trap today.

Extensive well planned landscaping beautifies the grounds and offers much potential variation for hazards on the course. Once again, Bill Emerson's course is a good example of careful landscape design. Trees are used for barriers between greens and tees, dogleg hazards, erosion control, green backdrops, screens and general beautification. (Carl Schoening, Chief horticulturist, Department of Parks, M.N.C.P. & P.C. wrote us a good article on the beauty of trees in our May newsletter.)

Mr. Cornish finished his presentation by pointing out that all great golf courses contain the four principles below:

1. Improved design
2. Sound specifications
3. Methodical construction
4. Much landscaping.

Mid-Atlantic

Meeting Reminder

ANY MEMBER OR GUEST PLAYING GOLF STAYS FOR DINNER.

Do not bother to come if you only want to play golf.

If your host superintendent requests cards, be courteous enough to return cards before coming to the meeting.