



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

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APRIL, 1973

NO. 4

MARCH MEETING

Our first meeting of the year was held at Manor Country club in Rockville, Maryland. Graig Spottswood, your Newsletter editor, was your host. Twenty golfers took advantage of the unseasonably warm weather and enjoyed a round of golf with no threat of rain. Tom Comalli took first prize with a 76 low gross followed by Lou Rudenski and Ron Hall who tied for low net.

Our business meeting featured George Cleaver, our newly elected Director of the GCSAA, who spoke on the multitude of goals, objectives, and benefits of our National Association. George pointed out three areas of responsibility we have as golf course superintendents.

1. **Turf Management.** Take care of your own golf course. While this may appear obvious to most of us I don't think we all are able to honestly state we are doing all we can on the home front. By and large we often get too tied up in major projects of improvements, renovation, etc., and often oversee the minor jobs of continuous "house cleaning." Housecleaning is what the members see; hand trimming, edging, and trash pick-up are tops on this list. Keeping up with the little things projects the image of quality maintenance.

2. **Administration.** A superintendent of operations is an administrator, the term is self explanatory. We are efficient administrators if we keep on top of all operations, plan ahead, and keep organized.

3. **Keeping up to Date.** George's third prerequisite of an efficient superintendent was to keep up to date on new advancements within our industry. Read your publications, attend local and national meetings, and exchange your ideas with other superintendents.

After George's presentation Lee Dieter, our Mid-Atlantic President, presented Dr. Fred Grau with a 25 year pin, signifying his twenty-five years active membership with our National GCSAA. Dr. Grau has been active in turf research for over 33 years. Without Dr. Grau's complete devotion and untiring assistance to our need of improved grass varieties and maintenance practices we would not have progressed as far as we have in the past three decades.

A presentation was made of two certification plaques by Herb Hinelein to Lou Rudinsky and Ron Hall which brings our total of certified superintendents up to nine for the Mid-Atlantic Assn. Ron and Lou have commented that the tests required for certification are every bit as difficult as rumored to be. "Cramming for the exams" and burning the midnight oil over text books are necessary to last through the full six hour exam period. Congratulations for your new achievement and contribution of professional status to our association.

Our events of the evening were capped off with the presentation of two silver trophies to our 1972 Tournament winners-1st prize to Tom Comalli and 2nd prize to runner-up Craig Rhoderick who was defeated by Tom in a play off match at Crofton Country Club.



Left Lee Dieter and right Dr. Fred Grau.

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held April 10, 1973, at the Shannon Green Golf Course, at the Sheraton Motor Inn, Fredericksburg, Virginia. This will be a joint meeting with the Central Virginia and the Tidewater GCSA. Golf may be played anytime, social hour will be at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. Our host will be Fritz Zeller.

Fritz has been superintendent of Shannon Green Golf Course since construction of the 7150 yard championship layout began in 1969, opening for play in May of 1971. Fritz started his career as a professional horticulturist in 1940 working for his father, a landscape architect and owner of a florist, nursery, and landscape contracting firm in Peoria, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in ornamental horticulture and received certificates in floriculture, landscape design and turf management. Fritz was in the Connecticut area for nine years serving at Bruce Golf Course, Greenwich, Connecticut; Oak Hill Golf Course, in Norwalk, Connecticut; and Fairview Golf Course, Greenwich, Connecticut. Before his move from the Midwest, he held positions as General Manager of Bryant's Nursery in Princeton, Illinois; Chief Horticulturist for the 2000 acre Park District of Peoria, Illinois, and consultant for the park's four golf courses. Fritz and his wife, Dena, have three children and reside in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Directions to the meeting – From the Virginia side of the Beltway take I 95 south and exit at Rt#3 to Culpepper. The Sheraton Motor Inn is on the right.

A Wet Year was 1972

The dark and gray skies of 1972 brought us over 52 inches of rainfall; too bad it wasn't distributed evenly throughout the year at one inch per week!

There are one hundred certified (CGCS) superintendents as of the Boston conference.

They're All Engaged In a Dirty Business

CHICAGO – The latest figures show that nearly 1,000 growers in the United States are producing about 225,000 acres of cultivated sod annually and more than 12 percent of these growers have farms of 500 acres or larger.

Landscapers buy about half the sod crop; 25 percent goes directly to homeowners and 10 percent to garden centers for resale. The rest is bought by schools, parks, golf courses, industry, etc.

The preceding article was reprinted from the *Washington Star*, February 20, 1973.

Agricultural Research

Is Agricultural research no longer important to the United States? It would certainly seem so with the President's proposed land grant college research budget which is to be reduced by 20% while the national budget increases by 8%. The fiscal year of 1974 begins July 1, 1973, and of all the research budgets proposed for 1974, 11 of 14 budgets are increased while three are to be decreased. The 20% proposed decrease in the agricultural budget is more than double the decrease proposed for the Department of Interior and 8 times greater than the proposed decrease in all other research budgets for fiscal 1974. Why?

Why is a question we cannot easily answer; and for us to only ask why will not change the catastrophic results of a budget cut of 20% in 1974.

An appeal has been made to members of our association to communicate with our congressmen from the states of Maryland and Virginia. It is strongly urged that we all take a few moments time to write a letter to our state senators and representatives from our congressional districts.

If Federal funds are not available to the Agricultural Research Stations, Land Grant Universities, and Extension Centers, we will no longer benefit from the data made available to us on the research of chemicals, fertilizers and new grass species.

Do we want to rely on regional door to door chemical salesmen for this information? Do we want to take a transient salesman's pitch as the absolute truth and endanger the health of our greens – and our jobs for that matter, because we no longer have an impartial research center to test and evaluate turf chemicals?

The Superintendents in the Washington – Maryland – Virginia areas have for years reaped the benefits of three nearby agricultural colleges, several extension centers, and the USDA Center in Beltsville, Md., to assist us with our day to day needs for information. We have always taken pride in the fact these sources for information are at our back door and that tests of chemicals, new grass species, fertilizers, etc., are readily available for us to evaluate for our own needs.

Keep in mind if you will, that turf grass is a "luxury branch" of the total agricultural research areas and that the 20% total cut in the agricultural research funds will be again broken down within the agricultural research priorities. Turf research monies will be depleted very quickly if a decision is to be made on what agricultural research projects are of the least necessity to the economy of our country.

We exist in a transitional zone of grasses; much dependent on research to help us thru our summers. We must continue to provide funds to this research and continue to improve the strands of disease and drought resistant grass varieties.

Craig Spottswood

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I am happy to have Denny McCammon appointed to the newsletter staff as editorial chairman. The newsletter is printed each month for the benefit of all Mid-Atlantic members and it is often difficult to represent 300 people with only one person writing all of the articles. For this reason "Denny's Column" has been initiated to interject more opinionated subjects. We hope more Mid-Atlantic members will take an active part in the make up of the newsletter by submitting comments to Denny for his column.

"DENNY'S COLUMN"

In February's newsletter, the President's Message listed all the new Board Members and their duties for the next year. As you may, or more than likely may not have noticed, the editorial chairman for this year is none other than "Old Poison Pen" McCammon. For some of the newer members of the association, I am sure you will hear a lot of grumbling from a few of the older members to the tune of "that loud mouthed so and so ought to have a censoring committee read his stuff before it is printed." Well, the material really isn't all that bad — some of it hits home a lot closer than we like it to, but it's for a purpose.

That purpose by and large is to convey information and quite often opinions (personal and professional) to the membership, and as the explanation of the job duties of the Editorial Chairman read, this is the purpose of the position.

So each month, the column will be devoted to a variety of things, public relations work, letters from members or non-members concerning problems or opinions, or maybe even some gossip once in a while. But whatever it may consist of, we would like to hear from you — the members — who are often taken for granted, and who may well have a contribution to make to the newsletter. We seem to ask each month for things from you, but response is little or nothing. It really is hard to believe that in an association as large and as progressive as the Mid-Atlantic that we don't get much more than we do from the members. But, be that as it may, keep it in mind, and if you are doing something different or unique on your job, or you know of a neighbor who is, let us know. We'd both like to see your name in print.

There has been a lot of job changing all over the country as well as in our own area within the past 3 or 4 months. This seems to be the year of the change on a national scale and just here in the Mid-Atlantic we have seen at least a half a dozen job changes. Change is a good thing when it is done right; and when the person leaves the job for an advancement, it is good. Sometimes the reason is not so good. But for whatever reason the man leaves, this puts the club in the position of being without a superintendent for a period of time.

This course of action is to advertise for a man to fill the position. Ethically, they should come to our own referral service first to give one of our own people a chance at the job. If they don't come to us, or even if they do, the

GCSAA has a very active referral service for clubs around the world.

But the clubs, in their haste to fill the position that they have, tend in many cases to overlook one thing which is very small but can leave a good impression or a bad one. That is common everyday courtesy.

When an applicant hears of a job, he writes, or at least he should, a cover letter and sends it along with a resume to the club. True, there are a lot of professional letter writing job jumpers who are usually looking for a free trip across the country but they are few in number when compared to the serious lookers. But for whatever reason a man has for writing about a job, he does deserve an answer even if the position has been filled.

We have all written letters and sent resumes to prospective clubs but how many times have we heard back in the form of even a postcard saying "Thank you for your interest, but we have filled the position." Very few! If you are contemplating a job change and you answer a couple of ads, see how many write back if they are not interested. If you do leave your club for another, if you can, see that they at least send a small not to the applicants. It makes them look a little more professional and you too.

Philadelphia Agriculture Secretary James McHale appointed Dr. Fred Grau, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, to the State Nursery Marketing Advisory Council on January 25, 1973. This is a volunteer effort wherein the members, by committee action, deliberate and advise on such things as industry survey, specifications research, trade practices, technological advances and ecology, to name a few.

Dr. Grau attended the first 1973 meeting which was held at Penn State on February 5, 1973. Thru his interest he was appointed to serve on two committees: State Specifications and Technological Advances. Fred Mummerl, specifications chairman, reported on a leaflet jointly produced and approved by the American Landscape Contractors Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects. The Nursery Council is also considering endorsement of the pamphlet. Since it contains specs on seed and sod, Dr. Grau will present it to the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council for consideration and possible editing and ratification. This appointment indicates a valuable "bridge" in communication that has been established. The next council meeting is scheduled for June 20, 1973 at the Ag Building in Harrisburg, Pa.

FIRST AID FOR HERBICIDE OVER-APPLICATION

1. Apply activated charcoal (200 lbs. per acre) to the surface.
 2. Irrigate heavily (two inches) to leach out free herbicide.
 3. Hole-punch if possible.
 4. Topdress heavily (one quarter inch).
 5. Stop mowing and fertilizing.
 6. Apply fungicide at regular intervals.
 7. Mow new growth only when necessary. Begin fertilizing lightly at this time. If step 3 was not done, aerify now and follow with a light topdressing.
 8. Keep traffic off until recovery is assured.
- Do these steps in order and as rapidly as possible.

WHY SHOULD SUPERINTENDENTS KNOW ABOUT THE RULES OF GOLF?

By W. R. King, Mohawk Golf Club

The answer is really pretty simple: Because they create the **conditions** to which a great many of the Rules are directed. Sure, Superintendents have help (????) from many sources — like the weather, insects, disease, vandals and even members! But fundamentally the Superintendent is responsible for every aspect of the condition of the golf course and since many of the Rules of Golf are intended to provide relief to the player from those “conditions”, he should know the relation between the Rules and the “conditions.”

“Why are the Rules of Golf so strict?”

“Why, oh why, are they so complex?”

“After all, isn’t it just a game?”

Questions like these are heard almost any day around any Club. Richard Tufts, of Pinehurst fame, long a member of the USGA Rules Committee, espouses in his book, “The Principles Behind the Rules of Golf,” the belief that there would be a far more sympathetic appreciation of the Rules if more golfers **really understood** the principles behind the Rules — especially what he calls the **two great principles**. These are:

“1. You play the course as you find it.”

“2. You put your ball in play at the start of the hole, play only your own ball and do not touch it until you lift it from the hole.”

Examined on the basis of these principles, the Rules of Golf consist almost entirely of statements that either afford the player relief where it would be unfair or impossible for him to follow the “principles” exactly, or penalize him when he violates the “principles” — plus, of course, a few statements regarding procedures.

It would appear from this that the reason the Rules have become so complex and so strict is that golfers, through the centuries, have either demanded more and more relief, or devised so many ways to violate the principles that lots of penalties have had to be established — probably both!

Consider that if it were not for the Rules of Golf and the relief they afford, every time a player put his ball in some trouble spot, HE WOULD HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY TO PLAY THAT BALL FROM THAT SPOT NO MATTER HOW MANY STROKES IT TOOK HIM! And if he lost it, or knocked it out of bounds, he could go home and come back another day! I think Rules are better, don’t you?

Now, let’s examine how the relief afforded the player by the Rules relates to the Golf Course Superintendent. There are many sets of circumstances and I will discuss just a few of them in some detail.

Out of Bounds. When a player hits his ball out of bounds, the Rules permit him to play another ball, adding a penalty stroke to the one already taken, so he lies three after playing the second ball. But — was the first ball really out of bounds? If it came to rest near the boundary, and the boundary was not positively defined, it could be either inside or outside — and the difference to the player could be one stroke, or possibly two, which is not unimportant to him — and the debates could create acrimony and even destroy friendships! The point is obvious: The Superintendent should see to it that out of bounds lines are marked so clearly that there can be no doubt as to whether the ball is in or out.

Loose Impediments. These are defined as natural objects, not fixed or growing, like leaves, twigs, acorns, worms or their casts, etc. Such things may be moved by the players without penalty, except when both the impediment and the player’s ball lie in a hazard. So the poor fellow whose ball comes to rest against an acorn or a twig in a bunker has no relief — he must play it “as is”, acorn and all! Or he may call it an unplayable lie, take a penalty stroke and drop the ball elsewhere in the bunker. And he’s pretty sure to be unhappy about it, especially if such loose impediments are regularly allowed to accumulate in the bunker by the — you guessed it — Superintendent.

Movable Obstructions. These are defined as anything artificial that may be placed or left on the course, e.g., beverage containers, package wraps, tools, a golf club, a sweater, etc. Such things may be moved by the player anywhere on the course. There seems to be a bit of grim injustice here — if a player’s ball comes to rest against a beer can in a bunker, he may move the can without penalty, something he couldn’t do with the acorn. And the myth about the player who put a match to the paper bag into which his ball had rolled in a bunker is just that — a myth. So cans and cigarette packages are better than acorns or twigs? Well, yes, in terms of the player, but I’m sure no self-respecting Superintendent would allow them to accumulate — and my opinion of the player or spectator who tosses away such trash on the course would have to be rated “X”. Campaign against him!

Immovable Obstruction. Defined as artificial objects which can’t be moved, like a ball washer, a tee bench or a rain shelter. The Rules permit the player to pick up his ball and drop it within two club lengths of such an obstruction when it interferes with his stance or the area of his intended swing. But when such obstructions are, perforce, in an area where a ball might frequently be played, it would sure help if there were at least some grass within the two club lengths where he has to drop it.

Ground Under Repair. I am sure no Superintendent likes to have areas of his golf course considered to be “ground under repair.” But I am equally sure that you all have them, from time to time. Through the green, the player whose ball comes to rest in ground under repair may lift and drop it within two club lengths, or he may play it where it lies. But if the boundaries of the ground under repair are not clearly defined and the ball comes to rest in a bad lie near the boundary, then the question becomes, “Is the ball really in ground under repair?” If it is, the player may drop it out without penalty; if it is not, he either plays the bad lie or calls it an unplayable lie and takes a penalty stroke. So, except for cases where the boundary is obvious, like an open construction ditch or a pile of dirt, the boundaries should be clearly marked. Fortunately, some new equipment has recently appeared on the market to facilitate the marking of such boundaries at a reasonable cost; use of it is recommended.

Hazards. Bunkers and water hazards are clearly defined in the Rules and since the Rules governing play of the ball, or the relief that may be afforded, are different when it is in the hazard from when it is not, it becomes important that the boundaries of the hazards also be clearly marked.

The Committee. The Rules say that "The Committee shall define accurately . . ." all these boundaries, and so forth, but let's not kid ourselves — it's the Superintendent who has to get it done. If his Club Committee don't seek him out to get such things done, then he should seek them out and, by cooperative effort and understanding, make the conditions he creates the best that circumstances permit.

Discussions of this character could be continued ad infinitum, but I will conclude before my Superintendent friends get the idea that I am totally "again 'em" — when just the opposite is true. Having played golf for fifty-two years, and on many courses — all the way from the oiled sand or cottonseed greens, and clay tees for agronomy we call golf courses today — I have nothing but the highest admiration for you gentlemen and the progress you have made, and especially for the degree of professionalism that has come to your ranks. And I hope that this little article will contribute to your further progress by creating more awareness of the relation of the Rules of Golf to your fine efforts.

Credit to *The Foreground*, Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, New York.

Newsletter Announcement

Please submit any articles for publication before the 15th of the month.

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NEW 1973 MID-ATLANTIC DIRECTORY

This newsletter contains a stamped and addressed postcard that you must fill out promptly and return to Sam Kessel. Sam can't complete this new directory until all cards are returned. Please include all information requested even if you have not moved or changed your address. All cards should be returned before our April 10th meeting in Fredericksburg. Sam should then be able to complete the new directory information at the meeting, hopefully. DO NOT DELAY — the sooner we can compile the new directory the sooner you will receive your updated copy.

GCSAA CONFERENCES

1974 — Feb. 17-22, Anaheim Convention Center
Anaheim, California

1975 — Feb. 16-21, New Orleans, Louisiana
Headquarters, The Rivergate

Aug. and Dec. Meetings

Contact: Paul Barefoot
U.S. Soldiers Home
726-9100, Ext. 239

South of the Equator all climbing vines twine from right to left.

North of the Equator they twine from left to right.

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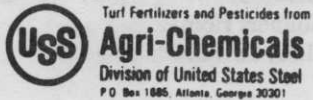
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1973 Mid-Atlantic Meetings

- April 10** Sheraton, Fredericksburg, Va. (joint)
Host: Fritz Zeller
- May 8** Laurel Pines C. C., Laurel, Md.
Host: Gilbert Shapiro
- June 12** Washington Golf & C.C., Arlington, Va.
Host Lee Dieter
- July 10** Bretton Woods, Germantown, Md. (Picnic)
Host: Gerald Gerard
- Aug. 14** OPEN – Is your club available??
- Sept. 11** Hunt Valley C. C., Cockeysville, Md. (joint)
Host: Bob Orazi
- Oct. 9** Woodmont C. C., Rockville, Md. (annual Tournament)
Host: Bob Shields
- Nov. 13** River Bend C. C., Great Falls, Va.
Host: Tom Haske
- Dec. 11** OPEN – Is your club available??
Election meeting

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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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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