



# 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 XXIV

JUNE, 1973

NO. 6

BATTERY OPERATED FAN  
TO WARD OFF HEAT STROKE

REAR VIEW MIRROR TO  
HELP DODGE GOLF BALLS

PRESCRIPTION GOGGLES FOR  
RAKING SAND TRAP

RESPIRATOR FOR DAYS  
WHEN AIR POLLUTION  
IS HEAVY

OSHA RULES ON  
RAKING SAND TRAP

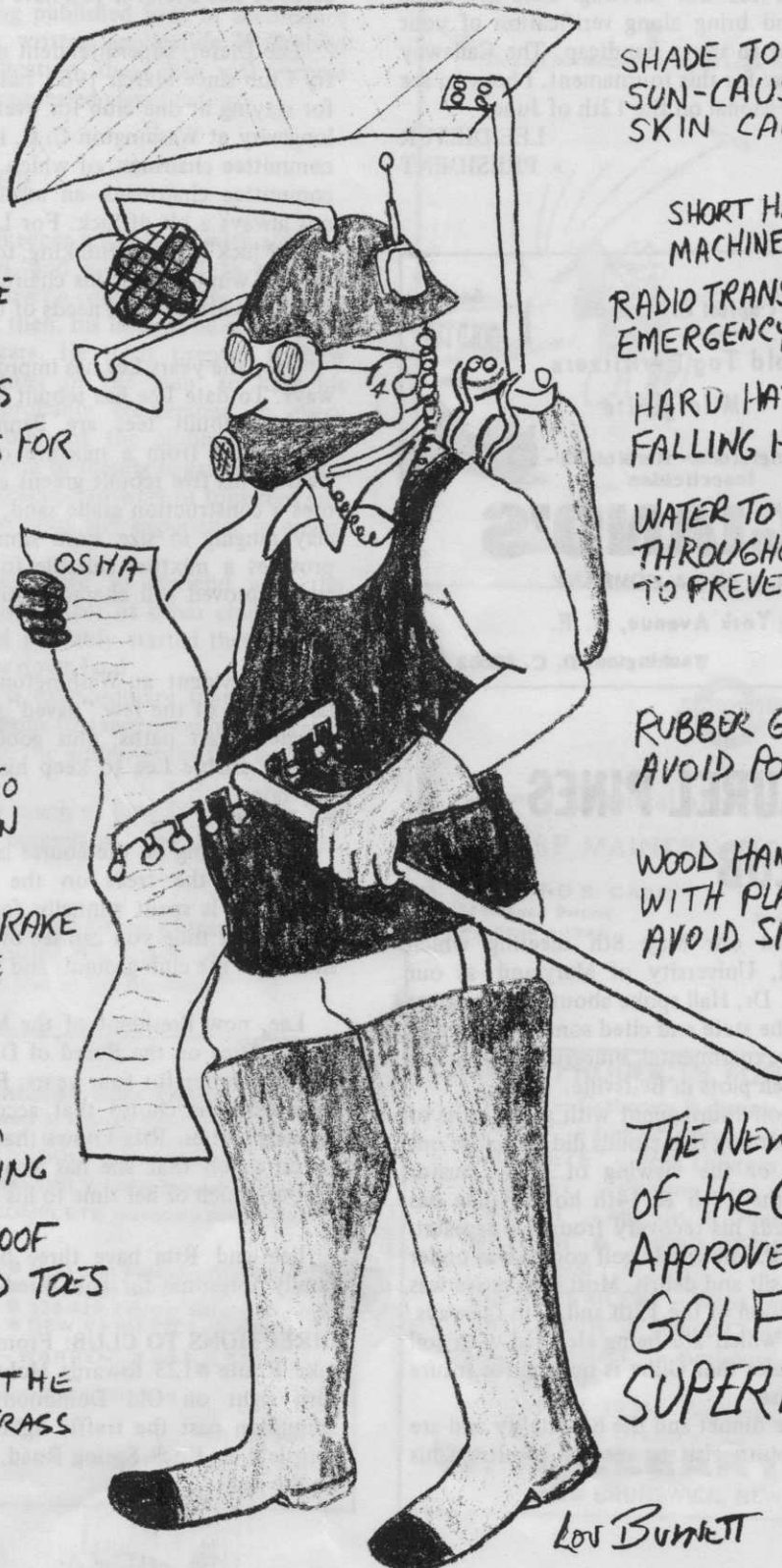
RUBBER APRON TO  
REPEL HERBICIDE IN  
SAND TRAP

RUBBER TIPS ON RAKE  
TO BE USED WHILE  
TRANSPORTING

\*EAR PLUGS TO  
PREVENT BRAIN  
DAMAGE FROM  
GOLFERS SWEARING

SNAKE BITE-PROOF  
BOOTS WITH HARD TOES

CARTOON FROM THE  
GEORGIA TURFGRASS  
NEWS



SHADE TO THWART  
SUN-CAUSED  
SKIN CANCER

SHORT HAIR TO AVOID  
MACHINERY ENTANGLEMENT  
RADIO TRANSMITTER TO  
EMERGENCY ROOM

HARD HAT TO AVOID  
FALLING HICKORY NUTS

WATER TO CIRCULATE  
THROUGHOUT SUIT  
TO PREVENT OVERHEATING

RUBBER GLOVES TO  
AVOID POISON OAK

WOOD HANDLE COATED  
WITH PLASTIC TO  
AVOID SPLINTERS

THE NEW LOOK...  
OF THE OSHA  
APPROVED  
GOLF COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENT

Low BURNETT

## President's Message

Teaching, advising, praising, and consoling are all part of his job. He is in constant touch with our golf club members. Sometimes we envy him and at times we pity him. June 12 is your day to thank him for the job he is doing for you and your club. We have all talked about Pro-Superintendent relations — well, here is your chance to put your words into action. Let's all bring our golf professional to our June 12 meeting at Washington Golf & C. C. and show them a terrific time.

Good food — cash prizes (for the pros) — and a fine social hour is planned for this meeting. Lets get those reservation cards in and bring along verification of your handicap if you intend to use a handicap. The Callaway system will also be in use for this tournament. I hope to see you and your golf professional on the 12th of June.

LEE DIETER  
PRESIDENT

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## MAY AT LAUREL PINES COUNTRY CLUB

Gillie Shapiro hosted our May 8th meeting which featured Dr. Jack Hall, University of Maryland, as our speaker for the evening. Dr. Hall spoke about the Turfgrass Research Programs for the state and cited some of the more promising varieties of experimental bluegrasses they are working on at the research plots in Beltsville.

Bob Orazi won the golf tournament with a low gross of 78. Fortunately the threatening rain clouds did not close out our golf for the day, or the viewing of Gillie's major construction work on the 13th & 14th holes. Gillie has made great strides towards his recovery from the devastating Agnes storms of 1972. The whole golf course was under water and covered with silt and debris. Most impressive was the extensive reconstruction of the 13th and 14th fairways, greens, and tees; all of which are being elevated with soil taken from a two acre lake that Gillie is making for future watering of the golf course.

Everyone enjoyed the dinner and the hospitality and are looking forward to a return visit to see the results of his renovation work.

## JUNE MEETING - PRO-SUPT. TOURNAMENT

Our meeting will be held on June 12 at Washington Golf & Country club in Arlington, Virginia, the host will be Lee Dieter. This day will mark a new first within our association, a Pro-Supt tournament. Everybody is invited to attend. Bring along your club Professional or assistant Pro. and enjoy a round of golf—you may even get a free lesson! Postcards and flyers were sent out to those of you with professionals and you are requested to promptly return the cards to Lee Dieter if you have not already done so.

Lee Dieter, superintendent at Washington Golf & Country Club since March 1961, has almost set a Virginia record for staying at one club for over 12 years. Lee contends his longevity at Washington C. C. is due to having good greens committee chairman, of which he has had only four. Good committee chairmans—an asset to any superintendent—are not always a bit of luck. For Lee to have continuously had “good luck” is false thinking, for obviously Lee has worked hard at winning over his chairman's confidence and can get across his ideas of the needs of the golf course.

Over the years Lee has improved the golf course in many ways. To date Lee has rebuilt 13 tees and 5 greens. Eleven of his rebuilt tees are Penncross bentgrass and were constructed from a mixture of 80% sand and 20% peat. Two of his five rebuilt greens are also of this mixture. Lee uses a construction grade sand, usually with 4% silt and 4% clay ranging in size from ¼mm.-1mm. This “dirty” sand provides a mixture suitable for increased water retention and improved soil characteristics without leading to compaction.

Also evident at Washington C. C. is tee to green cart paths, one of the few “paved” courses in our area. The tee to green cart paths, plus good drainage through out the course, enable Lee to keep his course open for play after any rain.

Landscaping on the course is abundant. Lee has planted almost all the trees on the course, some \$600.00 to \$1,000.00 is spent annually for landscaping materials. At the present time you can see over 150 varieties of trees and shrubs on the club grounds and golf course.

Lee, now President of the Mid-Atlantic Assn., has held every office on the Board of Directors including Editor of the Newsletter for four years. Rita, his wife, has been a big help with his chores that accompany a board member's responsibilities. Rita knows that when Lee has been elected to do a job that she has also been elected and willfully devotes much of her time to his success.

Lee and Rita have three boys which make up Lee's family foresome for golf- Fred-6, Chris-7, and Michael-11.

**DIRECTIONS TO CLUB:** From the Virginia Beltway #495 take Route #123 towards McLean. Go about 5 miles and turn right on Old Dominion Drive. Continue on Old Dominion past the traffic light at Williamsburg Blvd. and turn left on Rock Spring Road. The parking lot is ½ block on the right.

# MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Application for membership to the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendent Association as a class A has been made by the following:

James F. Erbaugh  
Garrison Lake Golf Club  
Route # 2 Box 267  
Smyrna, Delaware

This application was signed by Warren Bidwell and Charles Ewing.

Donald G. Hendrie has requested his membership application be changed from a Class E to a Class A.

These changes are being published here in accordance with our by laws. Unless written application is received within 30 days after publication, these men will become active members with their requested classification.

## SIXTY SEVEN YEARS AGO

If an unfortunate greenkeeper is provided with a desert, prairie, or sour heath land, and is expected to produce, without delay, perfect lies over a course perhaps containing well over a hundred acres; then, his lot will be an unhappy one for two or three years. He must prepare to hear criticism from every member of the club, to have his methods discussed and probably condemned in every corner of the smoking room of the clubhouse; to be confronted with the opinions of members gardeners — no doubt worthy men, and excellent growers of tomatoes and cucumbers, but possibly without any experience in green-keeping.

For a certainty he will have to contend with the members of the greens committees of other clubs which have existed for years, and probably started their courses on fine old common turf, or down land.

He will be told that it is extraordinary that treatment grass will stand if success begins to dawn upon his miserable efforts. And all this because the golfer thinks that any silly fool can grow grass.

But this will not matter much so long as he retains the confidence of his greens committee, and is allowed to persevere.

H. S. Colt


"Golf Greens and Green Keeping" — 1906

"Angie Cammarota submitted this article. According to him it was written before he was in the business."


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*"He's not just another duffer. He's chairman of the greens committee."*



*D. Tucker*



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# IMPROVE YOUR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

## PART II

Responsibility of others is one of the chief causes of tension in executives. To prove this idea, an experiment was conducted in the 1950's with two monkeys.

Scientists devised a method of giving one of the monkeys "executive training" under carefully controlled laboratory conditions.

The monkey chosen for executive training was strapped in a chair with his feet on a plate capable of giving him a minor electric shock. Then they put a light over the chair and turned the light on 20 seconds before each shock. A lever was placed by the monkey's chair. If he pulled the lever after the light came on, the light would go out and there would be no shock. The executive monkey learned to avoid the shock very quickly.

The scientists then placed another monkey across the room with the same set up, except that the second monkey's lever didn't work. However, the monkeys soon learned that the first monkey's lever would work for both, turning off the second monkey's light and protecting him from shock as well. This made the first monkey an executive, since he was now responsible for preventing shock from the second one.

The first monkey was intelligent. He quickly took over, protecting both himself and his colleague from shock, responding to both lights or either light without difficulty.

There was no outward change in either monkey as the experiment continued, but after a while, the executive monkey, responding to the stress of responsibility for another, developed stomach ulcers. The second monkey's health remained unchanged.

A golf course superintendent is a true executive, more than just a functional official or administrator. Executives have traits or characteristics which are important to the success of any golf course operation. As executives, we should develop methods to advance the performance of the work which we supervise. Unless improvement is a current part of our daily activities our own future is probably in danger. We must rely upon our own self development to avoid becoming slaves to our growing responsibilities. Since our jobs have become more advanced in technology each year, we should make every effort to attend seminars and conferences to keep abreast of changes within our industry.

As executives, we are confronted with a variety of problems. To them we apply our ingenuity, training, education, and experience. Decisions are made, action is taken, and a degree of accomplishment results. We should then compare these results with the goals originally aimed for the measure our quality of performance as a superintendent and manager of operations, equipment, and manpower. Self evaluation is not as easy as it sounds — but necessary for a progressive superintendent, or any executive.

A superintendent possesses all-around or balanced skills, sort of semi-professional plumber, electrician, carpenter, construction engineer, horticulturalist, arborist, landscaper, plant pathologist, mechanic, agronomist, etc., none of which are beneficial to the development of your management skills, or title as superintendent.

To be a jack of all trades is typical of any efficient golf course superintendent; being a functional, effective supervisor requires "tools" that are not as tangible as are needed in the aforementioned trades. Craig Spottswood

To be more specific, the basic fundamentals that we apply at our country club — such as defining objectives, planning for their completion, organizing operations, motivating personnel, writing reports, preparing speeches, and evaluating your results, are all management skills. These skills are not inherited, but must be developed. We need to practice the use of these management skills as we would the use of any equipment.

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# Lightning Protection for Trees

## The Nature of Lightning

Lightning is electricity that has both high amperage (rate of flow) and high voltage (pressure). High voltage enables lightning to travel great distances through the air. High amperage is the main reason for lightning's destructive power.

Experiments have proved that a charge of electricity must have a thousand times the voltage of household current to travel, or jump just 1 foot through the air. Lightning, therefore, which usually travels over 2,000 feet between cloud and earth, must have extremely high voltage. But high voltage without large amperage is relatively harmless. The amperage of lightning discharges between clouds and earth sometimes reaches 200,000 amperes or more.

Lightning follows the line of least resistance. The air through which lightning must pass between clouds and the earth is an insulating material of high resistance. Materials used in building construction have less electrical resistance than air. When such materials lie between the clouds and the earth, lightning naturally goes along the line of low resistance that they provide.

Lightning protection systems for building give lightning readymade lines of low resistance. They do this by providing unbroken bodies of material that have lower resistance than any other in the immediate neighborhood. A protection system routes lightning along a known, controlled course between the air and the moist earth. Well installed and maintained, a lightning protection system will route lightning with over 90 percent effectiveness.

## Protection for Trees

Trees are often ruined or severely damaged by lightning. This is hazardous because the lightning discharge is transmitted to nearby areas. Also, if the tree is sufficiently damaged it may fall on a building or green.

Trees that especially need protection are those that are higher than nearby buildings. Other trees that should be protected are those that are individually valuable, such as your accent trees on the course or those which are positioned to govern the play of a particular golf hole.

Protect a tree by installing one or more 10 inch air terminals at the highest secure part of the tree and grounding them through conductors. Very large trees may need two conductors and several air terminals.

Where there is a small group of trees, only a few of the tallest need to be protected.

Mount the conductors with long shanked screw fasteners to keep the conductors from contact with the tree when a lightning discharge is being carried in the system.

To make a ground connection, dig a trench and bury the unraveled end of the conductor cable in the ground. Make the trench shallow near the tree to prevent damage to the roots. Make it slant downward away from the base of the tree so as to reach moist soil.

## Installation

Generally, it will be necessary to have an expert plan and install a lightning protection system. Few persons have the equipment and skill to install and to test their own lightning protection system. You should know, however, what the proper materials are and the methods used in the installation.

Follow the work carefully, especially the ground connection installation. All ground connections should be tested with special equipment to make sure that they are adequate for lightning protection requirements. Use materials approved by Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. All such materials are clearly labeled.

## Inspection and Maintenance

Make a periodic inspection of your lightning protection system to be sure it is in working order. Look for bent, loose, or missing air terminals, broken conductor cables, and loose connecting clamps.

## Air Terminals —

Rods or tubes of copper, 10 to 24 inches in length.

## Conductors —

## Conductors —

Connect air terminals with ground, made of any good electricity-conducting material that will stand exposure to weather. usually aluminum or copper.

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One acre of grass has a cooling effect equal to a 70 ton air conditioner, and gives off about 2,400 gallons of water on a warm summer day. Dr. H. J. Carew, Michigan State.

## Bed Time Reading

The following books are suggested reading for up to date facts and information related to our turf industry and golf course operations.

**TURFGRASS SCIENCE AND CULTURE**, by James B. Beard, 658 pages, \$18.25. This book gives equal attention to both cool and warm season turfgrasses, their characteristics, adaptation, use, cultural requirements and cultivars. A unique feature of the book is its in-depth discussion of the environmental factors affecting turfgrasses and their culture.

**THE MODERN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT**, by Richard Viergever, 107 pages, \$9.75. The author, who has had many years as a golf course superintendent expresses many knowledgable ideas gained from experience. Whether learning to manage a golf course or already on one, this book is interesting and worthwhile.

**LAWNS – BASIC FACTORS, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF FINE TURF AREAS**, Jonas Vengris, 229 pages, \$8.75. This is a very valuable reference to anyone engaged in turf maintenance or construction. Care of lawns from selection of turf varieties to maintenance of established grass is thoroughly covered.

The above books may be ordered from Park Management, P.O. Box 409, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911.

The following books may also be of interest. They are available from Prentice-Hall, Ind., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632.

**SOILS: THE INTRODUCTION TO SOILS AND PLANT GROWTH**, Donahue, Shichluna, and Robertson, 573 pages, \$10.75. Here is a new guide giving all the latest techniques for building soil structures resistant to wind and water erosion – more capable of supporting the healthy plant growth you want.

**PLANT PROPAGATION: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES**, Hartmann and Kester, 702 pages, \$17.25. This guide covers every aspect of plant propagation – giving all the latest techniques for propagating by seeds, cuttings, budding and grafting.

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## Out Of The Mouths.....

"Once, when General Ulysses S. Grant was visiting Scotland, his host gave him a demonstration of a game, new to Grant, called golf. Carefully, the host placed the ball on the tee and took a mighty swing, sending chunks of turf flying but not touching the ball. Grant watched the exhibition quietly, but after the sixth unsuccessful attempt to hit the ball, he turned to his perspiring, embarrassed host and commented: "There seems to be a fair amount of exercise in the game, but I fail to see the purpose of the ball."

Reprinted from "Divots" – Miami Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association

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**Brian Finger**  
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Phone: 301/774-4194

# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

## 1973 Mid-Atlantic Meetings

June 12 Washington Golf & C.C., Arlington, Va.  
Host: Lee Dieter

July 10 Breton Woods, Germantown, Md. (Picnic)  
Host: Gerald Gerard

Aug. 1 USDA Turfgrass Field Day

Aug. 14 Green Hill Yacht and C.C.  
Host: Lou White

Sept. 11 Hunt Valley C.C., Cockeysville, Md. (Joint)  
Host: Bob Orazi

Oct. 2 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

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.

Craig A. Spottswood  
Manor Country Club  
Rockville, Maryland 20853  
Editor – 301-929-1707

# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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ROCKVILLE, MD. 20853

