



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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NO. 5

President's Message

by Lee C. Dieter

I have just returned from attending our joint meeting at Shannon Green with the Central Virginia Turfgrass Association. Our congratulations and thanks to Fritz Zeller. He was a gracious host.

I was disappointed, however, at the attendance at the meeting. Only 50 Mid-Atlantic members attended this meeting. That is just slightly over half of our regular attendance. Let's all get out to our next meeting at Laurel Pines.

A change in procedure at our Fredricksburg meeting was the collection for dinner tickets at the pro-shop. We are trying to discourage those few members and guests who feel they don't have the time to spend an evening with us at our meeting. They do, however, have time to come and play our host's golf course.

If the occasion should arise that personal matters would make it impossible for you or your guests to attend the business meeting, proper etiquette would require you to be excused by your host and the president of your association.

MAY MEETING

Our next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held at Gilbert Shapiro's Laurel Pines Country Club, Laurel, Maryland on May 8.

Gillie owns and has operated the whole country club at Laurel Pines since it's opening in 1959, which features an 18 hole regulation size golf course, swimming pool, driving range, and clubhouse.

Gillie is currently involved in major reconstruction on two holes, 13 and 14, which suffered severe damage from Hurricane Agnes. The golf course will be open for play through out this reconstruction and everyone is urged to bring their golf sticks along. For those of you not planning on playing golf, get out there early enough to walk out and view the reconstruction that is now underway.

The renovation plans include elevating 13 and 14 fairways and reconstructing the tees and greens for those two holes. Also under construction are two ponds, one of which is to be a two acre lake. The dredging for the large lake will provide the necessary fill for elevating the two fairways.

Social hour will be at 6:30 pm and dinner will be at 7:30 p.m.

Directions to the club:

From Virginia - Take the Baltimore Washington Parkway to Maryland Route 197 (Laurel-Bowie). Turn left. Club is on the right about 2½ miles.

From Baltimore - Take the Baltimore Washington Parkway to Route 198 to Laurel. Turn right. Go to light at Route 197. Turn left. Club is on left 1/3 mile.

APRIL AT SHANNON GREEN

Fritz Zeller's Sannon Green Golf Course was the site of our joint Mid-Atlantic, Central Virginia, and the Tidewater Golf Course Superintendents Associations.

The rains came down, and even sleet and snow were visible at times during the day, accompanied by occasional gusty 50 mph winds; all of which never deterred over 40 entries in this month's golf tournament. Low gross went to Steve Skowronski with a 79. Lou White and Gene Day followed with a tie for low net for 71.

Dr. A. J. Powell of V.P.I. was our guest speaker for the evening. His topic, cost analysis of fertilizers, brought out some valid reasons why we all should be aware of what makes up the cost of fertilizer production. Rarely are any two similar fertilizers available at similar prices. Some of the variables mentioned below will Help us justify the selection and cost of the fertilizer we choose to use. Basically our costs of fertilizers are determined by the following:

1. Volume sold
2. Raw products used
3. Blending costs
4. Shipping costs
5. Physical characteristics

At a quick glance the variable in these five factors are obviously different with each fertilizer we purchase. Consequently we should be able to pin point these variables and justify the purchase of a particular fertilizer.

Choice of fertilizer should be made by the following:

1. Offset of labor reduction
2. More easily applied
3. More safely applied
4. More accurately applied
5. Offset of lesser plant needs.

Dr. Powell illustrated how any given fertilizer can be evaluated and furthermore compared to other competitive products by using the two lists above in conjunction with deciphering the label of the contents on a bag of fertilizer. The key to price breakdowns is to be familiar with what raw materials are selling for; for example, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. Only then can one determine how much of the cost per pound of fertilizer is involved with the blending and shipping costs. Add to the cost per pound your application costs, and you then have the total figures needed for selection of a fertilizer.

GOLF - IT'S AN EASY GAME

Everyone can learn to play golf! Once a player has mastered the grip and stance, all he has to bear in mind, in the brief two-second interval it takes to swing, is to keep his left elbow pointed in toward the left hip and his right arm loose and closer to the body than the left . . . and take the clubhead past his right knee. . . and then break the wrists at just the right instant while the left arm is still traveling straight back from the ball and the right arm stays glued to the body . . . and the hips come around in a perfect circle — and meanwhile everything will be mucked up unless the weight is 60 percent on the left foot and 40 percent on the right at the start . . . not an ounce more or less . . . and at just the right point in the turn the left knee bends in toward the right in a dragging notion until the left heel comes up off the ground. . . but not too far . . . and be sure the hands are over the right foot. . . but not on the toe more than the heel . . . except that the left side of the right foot is tilted off the ground . . . but not too far. . . and be sure the hands at the top of the swing are high and the shaft points along a line parallel with the ground. . . and if it's a downhill lie the shaft is supposed to be pointed downhill, too . . . and pause at the top of the swing and count one, jerk the left arm straight down like a bellringer yanking a belfry rope . . . and don't uncock the wrists too soon and pull the left hip around in a circle . . . but don't let the shoulders turn with the hips, they have to be facing the hole — and now transfer the weight 60 percent to the left foot and 40 percent on the right . . . not an ounce more or less . . . and tilt the left foot now so the right side of it is straight. . . that's the one you hit against . . . watch out for the left hand, it's supposed to be extended. . . but not too stiff or the shot won't go anywhere. . . and don't let it get loose or you'll hook. . . and let the wrists uncock. . . but don't force them or you'll smother the shot. . . and don't break too soon but keep your head down. . . then hit the ball! That's all there is to it!

American Christmas Tree Grower's Journal

FOR THOSE WHO LOOK AHEAD

The October, 1973 Mid-Atlantic meeting to be held at Woodmont Country Club has been changed to the first Tuesday (October 2) instead of the regular second Tuesday (October 9).

AND SPEAKING OF WOODMONT...

Bob shields, of Woodmont C.C., recently purchased a used farm hay bailer! According to Bob this new piece of equipment is saving his men many long hours of straw removal from his ten clay tennis courts. Prior to the bailer all his crew worked with pitch forks to move all the straw off the court into trucks and again off the trucks into a storage building for drying and than a third time to stack the hay once it dries out. The bails are moved only once now and are stacked for storage on rainy days — ingenuity.

A man who enjoys responsibility usually gets it. A man who merely likes exercising authority, usually loses it.

It is a rare man who can forgive the person he has wronged.

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GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT

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MISCELLANEOUS GOLF SUPPLIES

Golf Course Students Receive Scholarships

Four second-year students in turfgrass and golf course management at the Institute of Applied Agriculture on the University of Maryland campus in College Park have been awarded \$350 scholarships by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for the 1972-73 school year.

They are George S. Wist of Odenton (Anne Arundel County); Thayne A. Loendorf of Hyattsville and Thomas K. List of Adelphi, both residents of Prince Georges County, and Mark P. Hollick of Ligonier, Pa.

A total of 31 persons have completed the Institute's two-year professional program for turfgrass and golf course management since it was begun in 1966, according to Dr. Douglas T. Hawes, agronomy instructor, who supervises the program.

Of these, 15 graduates are now golf course superintendents, nine are assistant superintendents, and two are employed in turfgrass-related fields. An additional three graduates are in military service, and only two have left the profession, Dr. Hawes noted.

There is no better test of a man's character than his behavior when he is wrong.

MARYLAND TURF PLOT STUDIES

Dr. Jack Hall requests assistance from some superintendents in Maryland for chemical test plots studies. Dr. Hall stated he needed about 3 or 4,000 sq. ft. minimum areas of silver crab infested bluegrass. If anyone has such an area that is not in prominent use, please contact Dr. Hall for further information.

Dr. Hall also mentioned that some non-turf oriented students are looking for outside summer employment and are interested in golf course maintenance. If you are still lining up our summer help and have need of extra help, contact Dr. Hall for a summer worker.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Lou White, Green Spring Yacht and Golf Course of Salisbury, Md., has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Mid-Atlantic to fill the vacancy of Dick Silvar. Lou will serve as our golf chairman.

Everybody sets out to do something, and everybody does something but not everybody does what he sets out to do.

George Moore

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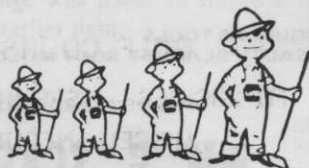
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THE OSHA DIRTY DOZEN

The list below was taken from the "Greenpatch" newsletter of the Michigan Turfgrass Association, and was submitted for publication by Tom Harris of C. L. Cornell Company. Tom mentioned that Cornell has already been inspected by OSHA.

Recent Occupational Safety and Health inspections indicate that the following list of items represent some of the areas often cited by a Federal Compliance officer.

1. Slippery surfaces around dangerous machinery, stairs, walkways, entrances and loading ramps.
2. Failure to control insects and rodents.
3. Failure to provide proper employee cleanup procedures.
4. Dirty and dangerous electrical equipment and motors that can be a fire hazard.
5. Failure to provide adequate grounding on electrical cords and outlets.
6. Blocked fire extinguishers; lack of marking on extinguishers; extinguishers not inspected on a regular basis.
7. Aisles not maintained in a clean safe condition; aisles not marked; aisles blocked.
8. Failure to provide point of operation guarding such as: saws, grinders, etc. not color coded to show danger.
9. Failure to maintain housekeeping such as: passageways covered with oil, dirty water fountains, failure to keep restrooms clean, failure to keep areas free of rags and waste and to store in approved containers, etc.
10. Failure to repair or remove broken ladders from service.

11. Flammable materials not in proper containers. Safety cans not labeled and color coded as to contents. Improper or inadequate grounding of flammable drums or containers.
12. Failure to install a readily visible sign indicating exit.

Editor's Note:

Other areas of equal importance

1. Air pressure for cleaning. Perhaps the OSHA violation cited more than any others is the requirement limiting air pressure for cleaning equipment to 30 p.s.i. Inspectors are quite fussy about this one," the council report warns.
2. Fan Guarding. All fans within seven feet of the floor must be guarded; openings should be no greater than 1/2" width.
3. Overhead storage areas overloaded or without guard rails.
4. Machines without guard rails.
5. Bench grinders with chipped wheels or without proper workrests or guards.
6. Oxygen and fuel gases unsecured or stored together.
7. Battery charging areas with unmarked exits, no "no smoking" signs, no water available for diluting spilled electrolytes, and improper ventilation.
8. Poorly ventilated welding areas.
9. Paint and flammable materials stored outside proper areas and near welding areas.
10. Paint spray booths that are too small and force painting outside the booth.

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National News

New GCSAA Conference date in Anaheim, California. The date of the Conference was moved up from Feb. 17-22 to Feb. 10-15 This change was made to improve on the facilities available at this earlier date.

It isn't enough to ask intelligent questions; you have to listen intelligently to the answers.

COMMUNICATION

Any Superintendent of a golf course operation realizes that communications with his club are difficult. We do not operate out of a central office in the club and often times we are not even able to get up to the club to get our lunch or mail. With no answering service, no secretary, or assistant to "always be available" we repeatedly loose contact with the club and its members and staff. This I consider is a major downfall of our profession. When nobody knows where we are or what we are doing people often assume we are not even on the job. As long as this situation exists we loose ground on our professional static.

Other than the greens committee chairman, the golf pro, and the club manager we should strive to improve communications with our members - eat lunch with them when you can, play an occasional round of golf on your course with your members, attend club golf functions that the ladies and men golfers often have during the year.

One of the most useful means of communication a superintendent has is the monthly publication, "newsletter", that most clubs put out each month. Each month the superintendent should write a couple paragraphs for his club's newsletter informing his members on the activities his greens crew is involved in or jobs they have completed that are worth mentioning. Following is the short, informative article I wrote for this month's *Newsette* at Manor Country Club.

Early this past fall our greens crew began to tackle the largest job we have ever faced on our golf course - that of leaf removal without burning.

Prior to 1972 we were permitted to burn leaves in the fall so long as no complaints were coming in about the smoke. Each year we burned the majority of our leaves in the general area where they fell which enabled our crew to minimize the hours required for leaf clean-up.

This past fall however we were faced with absolutly no permission to burn any leaves at any time. Consequently we had to haul every load of leaves off the course to the back parking lot.

We converted our dump truck and other vehicles to haul our leaves, and at one point we even used a rental moving van to haul out some of our larger loads. Unfortunately though proper leaf removal equipment is not yet available and we spent many long man hours in collecting and moving leaves off the course.

From early October through this past February we spent a total of 2,137 hours on just leaf clean-up. Hopefully new mechanical equipment will be available in the near future that will enable us to reduce the hours required to remove the leaves from our golf course each fall.

Craig Spottswood
 Golf Course Superintendent

Inflation is when the thing you bought a few years ago now costs more to repair than you paid for it.

Conversation is the slowest form of human communication.

Don Herold

IMPROVE YOUR MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

I've never heard a superintendent state that he has a surplus of qualified labor.

I've never heard a superintendent state that he couldn't use an extra good man.

I've also never seen any improvement in available equipment operators over the past years. The reason of course is that our manpower quality requirements are vastly growing each year as we procure more and more equipment that require more capable, intelligent manpower. Well then, where do we turn for more qualified labor when we are hardly, if at all, able to increase our men's salaries to compensate for yearly inflation?

Our definite course of action to take is to strive for improved management practices. Careful instruction, more intense training, coupled with close supervision of all operations is more necessary now than in years past when mobilization was limited to only tractor operators on the golf course. The days are long gone when our tractor operators were the only machine operators on the greens crew.

Where do we start to improve on our management practices? We must be determined to improve on the existing quality and output of our present work force. A good start in this direction is to list what improvements we would like to see within our work force and tackle each problem separately; for example, let's discuss one reoccurring problem, correcting errors and mistakes.

Errors and mistakes in an organization often seem to be an invention of the devil, deliberately designed to harass superintendents. Reducing them is a constant challenge. When you are plagued by errors, here are a few simple fundamentals you may have forgotten, or may not be stressing as much as you should.

In the first place, let us appreciate that nobody is perfect. If a man has made his first error in two years, it is smarter to congratulate him on his excellent record than to scold him for his one mistake. You also can not expect to eliminate mistakes simply by punishing people. Eventually, that hurts morale more than it helps in other ways. To cut down errors you need sympathetic, willful cooperation.

When mistakes occur, no matter how serious, do not immediately set out with the idea of blaming somebody. That is unimportant and it won't remedy the damage. The important thing is to find out how it happened and how it can be prevented in the future. Then be sure everyone understands and agrees.

Instead of blaming people, mistakes should be an occasion for careful examination of work habits. An employee is not necessarily a bad or inferior person because he makes mistakes. He may be doing things the wrong way because no one has taken the trouble to teach him better.

Be sympathetic. Appreciate the fact that no one deliberately makes mistakes — it is rarely done on purpose. Show the people involved what a waste it is to them and to the country club. Nobody benefits. It makes them look bad, and you and your crew look bad too.

Do be encouraging. If a man makes even a little progress in cutting down errors, show him you have noticed and appreciate it. Tell him to keep trying — you know he can do even better.

In brief, put yourself in the shoes of the person who made the error. If you were he, what would make you want

to do better in the future? That's the key to the situation. If you approach mistakes in this manner, if you don't let indignation and anger dictate what you do, you will have a much better chance of making some real progress.

What management practice would you like to write about yourself next month? We can all learn from each other.

* * * * *

There are three times when you should never say anything important to a person; when he is tired, when he is angry, and when he has just made a mistake.

Dr. David Phillips.

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Management Steps for Better Water Use

By Dr. Robert W. Miller
 Assoc. Prof. of Agronomy
 Ohio State University

1. Mowing Practices—Lowering the mowing height reduces the efficiency of water utilization. As the height of mowing is lowered the number of roots produced and the depth of the root system is reduced. Higher mowed grasses actually have greater water use rates than low cut grasses but the loss is uptake of water because of poorer root systems more than overrides any advantages of lower mowing. Infrequent mowings also reduces the efficiency of water utilization for the same reasons. The use of a dull or improperly adjusted mower will increase the water use rate of grasses.
2. Irrigation Practices—Excessive watering of grasses result in a poor root system, increases the water use rate, and decreases water absorption by the plant.
3. Fertility Level — Excessive nitrogen fertilization of turfgrasses stimulates top growth, reduces root growth, increases the water use rate and lowers turf quality.
4. Turfgrass Pests — Turfgrasses injured by disease or insects will have higher water use rates than healthy grasses.
5. Traffic — Grasses worn by traffic have higher water use rates. Traffic should be managed whenever possible to prevent concentration of traffic.
6. Soil Aeration—Grasses grown on poorly aerated soil are inefficient in water utilization. Several management factors mentioned above effect soil aeration. Good management along with the use of mechanical devices for soil aeration will improve water use efficiency.

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Never pay a compliment as though you expected a receipt.

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A CHANGE IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the March Board Meeting two membership classification changes were read and are being published here in accordance with our by laws. Unless written objection is received within 30 days after publication, these men will become active members with their requested classification.
 Wayne Evans.....Class E to Class B
 Kenneth BraunClass H to Class D

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1973 Mid-Atlantic Meetings

- May 8** Laurel Pines C. C., Laurel, Md.
Host: Gilbert Shapiro
- June 12** Washington Golf & C.C., Arlington, Va.
Host: Lee Dieter
- July 10** Breton 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. 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.

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MID-ATLANTIC News Letter

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