



# 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

OCTOBER, 1973

NO. 10

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well it's over, that 13th summer that I had my apprehensions that it would never end. It wasn't quite the worst summer in my 13 years at Washington Golf & C.C. but it came close. As I look back it seems like a year ago when that unusual June hot spell hit us. Cursing our Washington weather helps us blow off a little steam, but it sure doesn't make it any easier to grow grass does it? I never heard so many superintendents talking about moving north. You always hear a little grumbling but the talk seems to be reaching a peak this year. This is the time of year when vague memories of my grass growing years in Pennsylvania come back. Dreams of golf courses where the worst problems were 1. Getting the grass cut, 2. Getting the snow plowed, and 3. Brown patch.

A club member asked a superintendent friend of mine what they could do to have better turf on their course; he answered "that's easy, just move 200 miles north."

## WELCOME TO WOODMONT

*by Bob Shields*

Another two years have gone by since the Mid-Atlantic members met at Woodmont Country Club and again it's my pleasure to invite you to the October 2nd, meeting. The members of the Board of Directors and the Greens Committee Chairman, Mr. Arthur Becker, wish you a pleasant day of golf and a successful meeting.

Golf Professional, Tony Marlowe, will be in the Golf Shop to meet you and to assist in any way. Dick Scereto will conduct the tournament and get you started off the first tee. Frank, the locker room attendant will help you find a place to put your clothes while you are playing golf. Mr. Aimi, Club Manager, says he will put on another one of his famous buffets so you won't go home hungry.

Woodmont has two 18 hole golf courses. The north course was designed by Al Tull and built by Frank Murray. It was opened for play in 1950. The back nine on the South course was designed by Al Tull and built by Leo Freudberg and myself in 1956. It's short but our members love it.

The tournament will be played on the south course where our bermuda grass fairways are in pretty good

condition. While you are here take a look at the north course fairways to see what happens when golfers insist on cutting blue grass at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.

All greens were C-1 C-19 bent grass at one time but all have been overseeded with Pennncross bent for several years at the rate of one pound of seed per month to each green during the growing season, after spiking.

Tees were U-3 Bermuda grass at one time, but all have been planted to P-16 bermuda. Those in the shade are what is left of poa after a hot summer. Tees are cut to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Collars were bent grass at one time, but as they went bad we resodded with merion blue. As that faded away we sodded again with Windsor blue which looked good until this summer. This fall we will drill in Windsor seed.

Fairways are my big problem. Years ago fairways turned brown every summer and golfers didn't complain because everything was brown due to Washington's notorious summer heat. Then we planted Bermuda grass cut at  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on the tees and it looked so good the golfers wanted playing surfaces like that on fairways. Having two 18's it was decided to have one course in cool season grasses and the other in warm season, heat tolerant, Bermuda grass. We planted the south course fairways with U-3 Bermuda grass using a planting machine we developed ourselves and using U-3 stolons harvested from our Bermuda grass tees. This worked fine until the winter of 63,64 when we lost 80% of our fairways due to winter kill. In the years following we planted any Bermuda we could find that had survived the cold winter hoping it would survive another in some other location. It did not.

About two years ago, Dr. Felix Juska released a tested variety named P-16 and gave us enough to start a small nursery for further testing. We have been planting P-16 on all south course tees and bare spots all around the course during the last two seasons and have not seen any winter kill, but we know last winter was very mild. The entire 18th fairway was sprigged with P-16 stolons a year ago and the planting lines across the fairway are quite visible. We have great hopes for P-16 but to have better assurance of good fairways we have overseeded each spring with Arizona bermuda seed for the past two years. This fall we plan to overseed tees and fairways with Pennfine ryegrass and hope it will stay with us until the Bermuda grass comes out in late spring. The south course fairways are cut at  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

The north course tees and fairways will be seeded to a mixture of Windsor, merion and park Kentucky blue grass seed this fall and cut at  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.

If you don't care to play golf but would like to look over the course, I'll be happy to show you around and

discuss some of our problems with you. Perhaps you would like to inspect a new green we just built to USGA specifications which will be open for play next spring.

We solicit your constructive suggestions on how we might improve our golf courses, or on how we might be of greater service to our club members.

We hope the weather is good, that you have a pleasant day, and that you have a safe trip to and from Woodmont.

Costs for the day will be as follows:

Golf car	\$ 8.00 plus tax
Dinner	\$10.00 tax and tips included
Drinks	\$1.25-\$1.50

We do request that you make arrangements for lunch before you come to play golf.

Guests are welcome at this meeting but make certain they understand that golf guests are expected to stay for dinner. In other words, if your guest can't stay for dinner, don't invite him to play golf. This is a Mid-Atlantic policy — not a Woodmont rule. Return cards were sent out earlier. Anyone who did not return his card and still wants to come should contact me at 301-424-7482 or 301-424-8439 so that reservations can be made.

Directions to the club — Woodmont Country Club is located one mile south of Rockville at 1201 Rockville Pike, which is Wisconsin Avenue extended from the District of Columbia. Take exit 19 north from the Washington Beltway and proceed 4 miles north towards Rockville to the club entrance sign on the left.

Golf may be played anytime after 12 noon, the social hour will be at 6:30pm and dinner will be at 7:00pm.

It isn't what you know that counts, it's what you think of — in time.

The more you say, the less people remember.

## MARTINO WINS TRIP TO LONDON

*The following article is reprinted from the Gaithersburg Gazette.*

Montgomery Village Superintendent, Robert Martino, is bound for London, England, as a result of his victory last February in the Golf Course Superintendents of America Tournament. Martino's combined score of 148 for the 36 holes at the Hilton Head, South Carolina tournament has enabled him to visit England, along with three other Americans, to compete in the international tournament in early October.

It's been a long journey from caddying for a quarter a round in Clarksburg, W. Va., to scratch tournament golf and London, England. Bob Martino appears to have weathered the trip well. Sporting the tanned health good looks of a man who works and plays outside, Martino impresses one with a shyly confident nature concerning his accomplishments in amateur golf — which are many.

While readily admitting this his upcoming trip to Europe is the "most prestigious" result of his list of amateur victories, that list alone is enough to make the weekend duffer turn green with envy. Besides winning this year's "Supers Tourney" (a tournament which, by its very nature, includes some of the best amateurs in the country), Martino

won the same tournament at Houston, Texas, in 1970 and at Tallahassee, Fla., in 1972. Fortunately for his opponents he did not participate in the 1971 Supers Tournament.

Martino says he was "surprised" at receiving a letter from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in June informing him of his opportunity to travel to England and participate against "supers" from America, Europe, and Canada. "I have three watches from the previous wins," he says, shyly displaying one of the awarded time pieces. "This is the first time in the history of the tournament that a trip was made available," he continues. Martino plans to spend part of his time in England "visiting other golf courses and seeing how they operate."



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Martino consistently (and modestly) shoots "around par" golf. This "around par" ability has earned him many local amateur victories through the years. In 1960 and 1961 he won the Brookmanor Country Club Invitational. In 1959 and 1962 he captured top honors in the Bellhaven Fourball Tournament. Martino was "Club Champ" at Argyle Country Club in 1958, 1959, and 1960. In 1964 he won the Manor Club Member-Guest Tournament.

Despite his obvious success as a "super" and as an amateur golfer, Martino reluctantly admits to his one and only regret in life — the fact that he "never turned pro." Considering his ability with a set of clubs, this seems a legitimate longing.

Martino was born and raised in Clarksburg, W. Va. As one of 14 children, he "had to make money some way" and

took up caddying at 25 cents a round (18 holes) at a local private club. While he admits that he "took to golf naturally," he also adds that he availed himself of every opportunity to play "anywhere and anytime I could" to improve his game. Caddies were allowed on the private course each Monday morning and Martino was always "one of the first there." As well as he can remember, Martino was 11 when he became serious about golf.

At least once a week Martino can be seen on the Village links attempting to improve his already enviable game. "I play only about once a week since my operation (for ulcers) last March," he says. "During September I hope to get in at least two or three days a week" in preparation for the tournament in October.

During this period Martino intends to "work hard on my woods" which he considers the weakest part of his game. Putting, however, should prove no problem. "Putting is definitely the high point of my game," he says.

## FEBRUARY CONFERENCE PLAN AHEAD FOR AIR TRAVEL

Air travel plans to Anaheim, California, for the 1974 conference and show should be made well in advance to benefit from special reduced rates.

A recently received flyer from our GCSAA Executive Director, Conrad Scheetz, states that American Airlines will offer up to a 48% reduction in fares between Washington and Los Angeles if plans are made three months in advance. Three months in advance is mid-November of this year. The plan is called the "look ahead plan". Other airlines might offer similar advance notice flight plans if you look into the numerous possibilities. As of yet, the Mid-Atlantic has not officially planned on a charter or group rate plan, either of which still might be a possibility for those people not able to take advantage of the 3-month advance registration plans.

## GOLF COURSES IN NORTHEAST IN WORST CONDITION IN 20 YEARS

Golf courses in the northeast area of the United States are in their worst condition in the last 20 years. Varying types of weather since spring have caused havoc to fairways and greens.

"If anything could go wrong it did. This is the worst year for fine turf grasses that I can remember and I've been around for 20 years. It's rare to find a course not in trouble," said Al Radko, eastern director of the United States Golf Association's Green Section and its national research director.

Radko listed a weather chronology of events that has resulted in this year's increase of turf diseases, the Long Island and Westchester invasion of a weevil, and a resurgence of crab grass. Crab grass, of course, is known to suburban gardeners but golfers don't like to hit shots from its surface. Neither do most of them enjoy playing "winter rules" in professional competition or in friendly matches in mid-summer. It's all right, they say, when there is frost on the hard ground.

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But since June, two-thirds of the tournaments supervised by the Metropolitan Golf Association, because of unfavorable course conditions, have allowed players to move the ball from its original position to a preferred lie.

### Rich Event Postponed

One August deluge forced postponement of the \$250,000 Westchester Classic. When it was resumed, officials decided to allow all contestants to lift and clean and move the ball on all fairways on a course, which in other years was readily groomed for the play of the experts.

"It all started," said Radko, "with cool, rainy and cloudy spring weather. Then we had bright sunlight in July. It was too much sunlight. It wilted the grass. They became weak and spindly. It was as if someone, who had been in solitary confinement in a cold-dark cellar for three months, suddenly was exposed to the blazing sun.

"Then, we had heat and humidity that brought on diseases plus heavy rains that caused drainage problems and so much flooding that the grasses couldn't breathe. More hot weather and humidity followed."

This also posed a problem for course superintendents. With golfers anxious to play, should the heavy wet fairways and greens be cut? Or should they be given time to dry out? The golfers had to be pleased and the mowers went to work, which caused damage and some scalping.

### Need for Research

What can be done now? Ted Horton, superintendent of the Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamoroneck, where the 1974 United States Open will be played, says research and development of new grasses will be an answer to offset seather damage to courses.

Last year, the U.S.G.A. and Rutgers University, developed Bonnieblut, a new bluegrass hybrid, "there are a hundred new varieties but it takes years to breed a plant and then offer it commercially," said Horton.

Estimates of golf-course maintenance in the metropolitan area range from \$80,000 to \$120,000 annually. One survey revealed the national average for upkeep per hole for a course is \$5,300 a year.

The weevil is being fought by insecticides developed at Cornell University, said Radko. Among the turf diseases that have been prevalent in this recent scourge of courses are pythium, dollar spot, brown patch and fusarium.

While artificial turf has been introduced and used on football and baseball fields, there is no present concept to carpet a golf course of a mile or more in length in this fashion. At \$20 per square foot that would be a rather costly job," said one official. "I don't think we'll ever have it in golf," commented Radko.

*Reprinted from The New York Times, Sept. 2, 1973.*

## COMMERCIAL ADVERTISERS

Our 1974 newsletter format will feature an option for a change in size of your ads if desired. Our present rates of \$12.00 per month for 1/8 of a page would increase according to your choice of ad size; 1/4-page for \$24.00, 3/8-page for \$36.00, and 1/2-page for \$48.00. Please consider your next year's advertising early so that we may plan the newsletter accordingly. All advertisers will be charged for the initial cost of new logo plates if no plate is submitted with an increased size request.

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# ARIZONA SUBIRRIGATION

Researchers in Arizona recently demonstrated that quality Bermuda-turf could be produced using subirrigation with the water supplied by buried perforated pipe. Subirrigation is now being studied in Arizona as a possible means of alleviating temperature related adversities in Penncross bentgrass by improving the characteristics of the root system. The results of an initial study on subirrigation of bent-grass show that bentgrass turf which was subirrigated with a fluctuating water table was less subject to summer heat stress than surface irrigated turf. A major problem experienced with the subirrigated turf was that of providing an environment conducive to proper nitrogen assimilation and metabolism. This problem seemed to be most severe when irrigation was from a stable water table. Dessication occurred more frequently in the surface irrigated turf than in that which was subirrigated.

Subirrigation appears to have some potential for maintaining bentgrass greens in hot, dry areas — why not also in our Mid-Atlantic humid areas? Send your thoughts on this subject to the Newsletter Mailbag.

# OH-OH\*EPA AND MOTHER NATURE

We have just recently emerged from a devastating summer growing season. Our season pushed off with constant spring rains and abnormally cold weather. The soil seemed to take forever to warm up enough to see Bermuda growth begin a new year. The summer culminated with a record breaking stretch of no rain, high temperatures, high humidity, and the longest pollution alert yet recorded. While the daily pollution alert is relatively new to us, new high temperatures and humidity records certainly are not ever new, even if this year's records supercede any tabulated since the mid-1950's, for we are indoctrinated to expect the worst weather each summer.

As a transitional geographical area we probably utilize a larger volume and variety of chemicals than any other area in America. We constantly contend with almost every known turf disease, weed, and insect that damages turf.

With the season finally becoming history, we can look back at all our empty chemical containers, boxes and bags, and wonder just where we would be today if turf herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides were not available for our use.

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Needless to say the latter, banning use of some hazardous chemicals has already confronted us, fortunately we have had no extremely serious repercussions to date. Now for the second problem — governmental regulations rendering chemical use impractical for golf courses — "how," you say, "can this possibly ever happen!" Just read the following article which appeared in the National Club Association Newsletter on August 29, 1973.

**Proposed EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) generic standards and regulations controlling the reentry of workers and others could force the closing of golf courses for a minimum of two days, and for as much as a week, after the application of pesticides and herbicides.**

According to the EPA, limitations on entering treated areas will be established as follows:

1. When labels on the chemicals bear the words, "Danger, Poison, and Skull and Crossbones symbol" the period before reentry will be 3 days. Such chemicals will be defined as "Highly Toxic."

2. Labels with the word, "Warning" will be categorized as "Moderately Toxic" and reentry to treated areas will be restricted to 2 days.

3. Chemicals with labels bearing the word, "Caution" will be classified as "Slightly Toxic" and entry to treated areas will be permitted only after inspection shows that all dust has settled and all spray has dried.

4. Some pesticides, under ill-defined circumstances have been implicated as being especially dangerous in certain parts of the country. Reentry into fields treated with these will be permitted only after 5 days.

The proposed regulations will permit early reentry into any restricted area only if protective clothing is worn by the person or persons in the area. The minimum protection allowed for class 2 and 3 chemicals is "a coverall of closely woven material, normal footwear to cover the entire foot and an approved respirator." Classes 1 or 4 will require "an impermeable garment to cover the entire body, hat, natural rubber gloves, impermeable shoe coverings, and goggles or a face shield and an approved respirator.

While these proposed regulations do not single out golf courses, other soon-to-be-issued regulations dealing with the certification of applicators make specific reference to "turf." At the forthcoming hearings the National Club Association will seek to clarify references and establish specific standards for golf courses.



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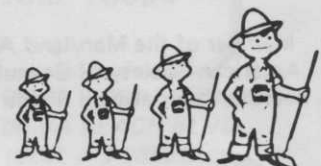


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What are the consequences of such governmental actions?

First of all, as I see it, the club could no longer ever plan ahead for any particular golf tournament; this would also include any PGA or USGA nationwide professional tournament. How could they plan ahead for the following season if, in order to have any golf course at all, we had to spray a fungicide to control a disease outbreak on our greens?

So be it resolved — we spray when necessary and virtually eliminate organized golf during periods of stress when systemics are not totally effective. The popularity of the game isn't dead yet, but it might be if we proclaim the need to spray our greens; especially with a class 1 or 4 chemical that will close the course for 5 days. Even with the mildest of chemicals the course would be closed for a minimum of 3 days unless all people were fully protected, including respirators — picture that if you will — perhaps golf pro shops will have to carry a whole new line of merchandise!

What if after we spray "the mildest of chemicals", class 1 or 3, we find that we need either a stronger solution, class 2 or 4, or find that we need to spray even the mild class 1 or 3 chemicals a second time. Class 1 or 4 will require an impermeable garment to cover the whole body; hat, natural rubber gloves, shoe coverings, and goggles or a face shield and an approved respirator. These standards would not only completely kill any golf enthusiast from ever playing golf again but would also render our job in maintaining the golf course virtually impossible. How many men would go out on the course during the heat of the summer with all this garb? Impossible, impractical, and worst yet all natural turf golf courses would be forced to be changed to synthetic turf.

The confusing implications of such EPA regulations would certainly totally cripple the sport of golf and drastically change the profession of golf course maintenance.

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Two things worry most people these days; one, that things may never get back to normal, and the other, that they already have.

Nothing is more depressing than to feel bad in the morning without having had any fun the night before.

The incredible happens just often enough to make life either disturbing or delightful.

It's always easier to dismiss a man than it is to train him. No great leader ever built a reputation on firing people. Many have built a reputation on developing them.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Ed Wilson of Twin Shields Golf Course has requested that his membership classification in the Mid-Atlantic be changed from B to A. This change is being published here in accordance with our by-laws. Unless written objection is received within 30 days after publication, this requested change will take place.

## PAPER WORK

Paper work accumulates, accumulates, and still accumulates, mounting higher on our desk each passing day. Record forms of weather, OSHA, man hours, equipment hours, related service charts, budgets, capital improvements, payrolls, chemicals, and or course endless preparation for never ending reports and presentations to club officials are just some of the time consuming office chores demanding our time. Our daily desk work is rapidly getting out of hand. As we keep more accurate and complete records of manpower hours, specific job costs, equipment service costs, materials, supplies, and other related costs of our operation we may soon be engulfed over our heads without the help of a secretary.

Fortunately we have assistants and foremans and mechinics, all specialized people who help manage personnel and equipment; but still our work load increases with the increased demands of members. Until we can secure a few hours from the club secretary each week, here are a few suggestions that will certainly help you keep organized without too much confusion.

1. Before you write a memo, consider whether a phone call might be quicker and cheaper.
2. When you must write, keep it brief. Get to your point and be done with it.
3. If your're receiving reports or copies of correspondence you don't use, ask people to take your name off the mailing list; otherwise don't clutter your office and desk with unnecessary magazines, etc.
4. If you can't visualize a future need for certain information, or if it's available elsewhere, don't file it.
5. Use a temporary file for information needed only briefly, then clean it out regularly. Don't burden permanent files.

Paper work, once started, never seems to die of its own accord, it just goes on forever. There should be a sound logical reason for every piece of paper work created, circulated, or filed. If there isn't it's a waste of time and money.

... A boat builder during World War II was rebuked by a bureaucrat from Washington for not filling out all the government forms properly. "How do you expect to keep track of production progress?" asked the official. "Oh, that's easy," replied the boat builder, "at the close of each day we weigh the boat and then we weigh the paper work you require. When the boat weighs as much as the paper, we know the boat is completed."

# IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

## 1973 Mid-Atlantic Meetings

- 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. 4** Indian Spring Country Club  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
Election Meeting  
Host: Herb Heinlein



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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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**MID-ATLANTIC** News Letter

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