



# 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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NO. 10

## President's Message

One of the highlights of my year as president most certainly has had to be the opportunity to attend the testimonial dinner for Herb and Joe Graffis.

This event was held in Chicago the end of July, and every segment of the business of golf was well represented.

It was a pleasure to honor these men who have done so much for the business of golf. GCSAA members contributed \$750.00 thus far toward a scholarship fund in the names of Joe and Herb Graffis.

Many many men who are and were notables in the world of golf attended this function and some made comments concerning the work of Herb and Joe. Bob Hope made a telephone call to the assembly which was put over a microphone so all could hear; Mr. Cox of the club managers' association and Deane Beman of the professional golfers made presentation while such notables as Robert Trent Jones and many men who were known in the world of golf thirty years ago could be seen throughout the crowd.

The Mid-Atlantic was represented at the function by Dr. Fred Grau, Eddie Ault, George Cornell, and myself.

The GCSAA was represented by director Ted Woehle, Connie Sheetz and Nick Geanopolis, and fourteen chapter representatives.

*Only the female species of the holly tree produces berries.*

## Turfgrass Field Day Is A Success

Nearly 300 persons from a six-state area and the District of Columbia attended the first Maryland turfgrass research and equipment field day on August 8, according to Dr. David S. Ross, Extension agricultural engineer at the University of Maryland in College Park.

The event was held at the university's Hopkins plant research farm near Calverton (Montgomery County) on Cherry Hill Road, north of College Park.

Turfgrass maintenance professional workers concerned with highways, hospitals, parks, sod farms, gold courses, military bases, educational institutions, governmental agencies and public utilities were among those in attendance.

They saw 23 experiments being conducted to learn more about turfgrass varieties, insect control and disease resistance, fertilization, drought-tolerance, mowing height and other factors affecting the maintenance of good quality turfgrass under Maryland conditions.

In addition, 11 equipment dealers provided a display of machinery needed to maintain established turfgrass. The equipment included mowers—ranging from small, heavy-duty walk-behind units for small areas—to larger turf-type tractors and mowers for parks and highways. Sprayers, fertilizer spreaders, seeders trailers and sweepers were also displayed.

The field day was sponsored by the agronomy and agricultural engineering departments at the University of Maryland, along with the Cooperative Extension Service and the Maryland Turfgrass Council. Co-chairmen were Dr. Ross and Dr. John R. Hall, Extension turf management specialist.

For further information contact:  
Milt Nelson: (301) 454-3622

## Dates to Remember

October 8	Suburban Country Club Host: Robert Miller	November 12	Laural Pines Country Club. Host: Gilbert Shapiro
October 25	Ladies Night, Hunt Valley. Plan for guests and baby sitter early. Dinner and Dancing.	December 10	Eagles Nest Country Club. Host: Bill Emerson Annual Election Meeting.
November 6-7	GCSAA Pesticide Seminar "Principles of Chemical Usage" Baltimore, Maryland	February 16-21, 1975	GCSAA Conference and Show. Pre-Conference Seminars. New Orleans, Louisiana.

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# Shutterbug Part 2

Last month I discussed the many advantages of including a camera within your inventory of turf maintenance equipment. Questions facing you now are which camera is best for the golf course? How much will it cost? Who pays for the camera? How do you put the camera to good use without creating a lot of additional work and general inconvenience?

The first question is which camera is best for the golf course? Without hesitation, I would only consider a 35 mm, as this is a versatile and compact camera. Within the 35 mm category, another choice is to be made, as there are two distinct types, SLR and rangefinder - viewfinder. The SLR (single lens reflex) provides a view through the lens and has lens interchangeability, a nice but expensive luxury, unnecessary for the majority of your needs. The rangefinder-viewfinder 35 mm has but one fixed lens and the viewer composes pictures through a window frame and not directly through the camera lens. This rangefinder-viewfinder is a more compact and simpler camera, which still provides for quality pictures under all lighting conditions. Both negative and slide pictures are available with this type of camera.

Other than the 35 mm camera a polaroid camera is of great value to the superintendent. The value of an instant picture outweighs the disadvantages of handling the large clumsy camera. The polaroid gives you instant pictures (vandalism, etc.) that are easy to pass around for viewing — most of your 35 mm pictures will be color slides, requiring a projector and screen for viewing. Ideally, you should have both the 35 mm and the polaroid.

The second question is how much should you spend? Like everything, you get what you pay for; at least this was the case before inflation. A 35 mm camera can cost anywhere from \$30 to well over \$1,000. Your ultimate cost will depend upon overall quality and automation. The main mistake to avoid is to not forgo lens quality for automation. Automatic features such as a built in light meter, drop in cartridges, etc., are nice to have, but always keep in mind the lens is the heart of the camera. The lens is what produces quality results, not all the extra automatic frills. A simple 35 mm of good quality will take abuse and require little attention, and will be reasonably priced. Expect to spend \$75 to \$100 for a camera that has lasting quality with enough versatility to be useful on the golf course. Another point to consider; don't purchase anymore quality than you want to keep lying around your truck or office — you will be reluctant to make the best use of the camera if you are too concerned about protecting it from abuse.

The third question is who will pay for the camera? Some superintendents assume the expense of a camera, film and processing; others purchase a camera and the club pays for the film and processing, and still others have the club pay for the whole works. There are distinct advantages and disadvantages to each way of obtaining a camera for the golf course. I find the ideal method is compromise. I've had the club purchase a polaroid for quick black and white pictures, while I purchase a 35 mm for color slides. The

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club pays for poloroid film and I pay for the 35 mm film. I still benefit from the use of the poloroid for pictures for publication reports, etc., and retain ownership of all slides I take with the 35 mm. If you go the route I did be sure the club carries insurance for your camera if you keep it at the club.

Finally, how can you put your camera to best use? There is but one way and only one way to make a camera produce results, and that is to keep it with you at all times. Put the camera in the vehicle you use for yourself and leave it there. Build a little dust box for protection if you have to, but keep it in the vehicle at all times. A camera in the office will do you no good because you will never go back for it when a picture is needed. Secondly, many good photos include action or movement, men working, etc., and you will effortlessly capture the action on film if you only have to reach a couple of feet for the camers.

To further simplify picture taking on the golf course I would like to conclude this article with some helpful tips on quality picture taking that I have learned the long and hard way — thru experience and mistakes.

#### GUIDELINES

1. Do not jerk camera when tripping the shutter.
2. Compose the picture mentally before looking through viewfinder.
3. Preset either lens speed or aperture before shooting.
4. Don't over focus — your eyes won't adjust to quick in and out focusing.
5. Bracket your exposures if in doubt — take three shots.
6. Keep a filter and lens shade on camera to protect lens.
7. Hand held shots — use no lower shutter speed than speed of lens (i.e. 50 mm lens = 1/50 second).
8. Take light reading from grass if in doubt of camera settings.
9. Keep horizon straight and in upper third or half of frame.
10. Make good use of 35 mm 1" x 1½" rectangle to compose best picture.
11. Use a familiar size item to show size relationship in pictures.
12. Store camera and film away from direct heat and dust.
13. Use a neck or wrist strap — never hand carry camera.
14. Use only one film — don't switch around.
15. Discard bad slides after first editing.
16. Label and date your boxes of slides.
17. Store your camera in a plastic bag.
18. Make annual master log of photos to simplify future use.
19. Keep extra film on hand.
20. Don't hesitate to take pictures — 35 mm slides are cheap.

---

*When Alaric, King of the Goths, pounced on the gates of Rome in the year 408, he demanded as the city's ransom 5,000 pounds of gold, 30,000 pounds of silver and 3,000 pounds of pepper.*



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# Correspondence



August 16, 1974

Mr. Craig Spottswood  
Kenwood Country Club  
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Craig:

Just a word on Dr. Daniel's letter concerning licensing of superintendents for pesticide application. I too would like to think of the superintendent in the same category as a farm manager. This approach would certainly make it easy for him to obtain and spray any chemical he desired. But from a practical standpoint, I do not see how the superintendent can expect to be classified in the same category with the grower of the world's short food supply by the regulatory people.

Regulatory agencies have been set up and the people in these agencies know they have to step lightly on the farmer. So to increase their power, prestige, and budgets they have to regulate somebody. Therefore, why not someone in the recreation industry who applies insecticides with fog nozzles minutes before a golfer walks into the area. Let's be realistic; there is no tendency to reduce the amount of government regulation. Superintendents will most likely not be considered commercial applicators but they will most likely be subject to regulations more stringent than those presently being applied to farmers. Let's begin to prepare for them by more carefully reading the labels on those pesticides.

Sincerely,

Douglas T. Hawes, Assistant Professor  
INSTITUTE OF APPLIED AGRICULTURE  
University of Maryland  
College Park, Maryland 20742

*As Evil Knevil drifted safely in the Snake River Canyon, one viewer who had paid \$10 was noted to say, as he climbed into his Edsal and drove off "This is a big rip off - why are they always doing this to me?"*

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August 29, 1974

Dear Craig:

I do not know if my survey will mean anything, but I finally sent it anyway.

We have had a good year here in St. Louis. It was the first year we have played the ball down all summer at Bellerive C.C. Zoysia grass fairways are really the rage now in St. Louis and Kansas City areas. Local sources of sod were all sold out before the season began. Strip sodding into fairways is the most common method of installation for country clubs.

There is still one bermuda grass from Westwood C.C. that survives the winters and is very aggressive. It makes excellent turf for a course stemed bermuda grass because the internode length is very close. In competition with zoysia is fairways it will take over completely.

New greens construction has been either USGA, Purr-Wick, or Sand-Organic.

There are many sands available of fine particle size (.1mm) with traces of silt and clay (about 6% of volume). Over a pea gravel base a perched water table can be created in the bottom of twelve inches of sand. After five years of play these sand-organic greens are performing well.

The maintenance problems are about the same as those in the Mid-Atlantic area. St. Louis is considered the arm pit of the mid-west for growing fine turf.

An old friend (George Gumm) has stopped by a couple of times this summer. I am getting a group together now for a hunting trip to Canada soon, but I would also like to get out and see Denny McCammon for some great skiing. I guess I will see most of ya-all in New Orleans come February.

Sincerely,

Lee Redman  
Bellerive Country Club  
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*If we represent the sun as a globe two feet in diameter, the earth on the same scale would be the size of a small pea.*



Craig:

Your item on GC Chemicals was excellent!

In reviewing Dr. Hawe's letter in Dr. Daniels item in June, Doug has stated things as they are. Dr. Daniels stated what should be in our industry. I am inclined to agree with both of them. However, I believe we can have a great effect on what the outcome will be by our action in the future. I was most disappointed that the Turf Industry was not recognized to be big enough to have its own separate category with all our specific problems. Are we not professional enough to accept the responsibility that is required to be Certified Pesticide Applicators.

Our Maryland Turf Grass Council is planning to inform us all in what will be needed in knowledge and procedure to be licensed and finally certified.

You can depend on your Council to keep you abreast of any new development in "Pest Control" - New items in Maryland.

My sincere thanks to you for your co-operation and good coverage you gave us in the past.

Many thanks.

Keep up the fine work.

Respectfully,

Angie

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## September Joint Meeting Huge Success

Over 125 members attended our annual meeting with our neighboring Philadelphia Superintendents Association. Paul Weldin, Host Superintendent, tells us we were really lucky on the weather — the course had been closed to play from rain prior to our meeting. Sixty four challenged the immaculately groomed course with Bill Emerson coming in first place with an 83. Tommy Richardson, Ron Hall's Greens Committee Chairman, captured 2nd place with an 83 — losing the coin toss to break first place tie. First low net with an 84 went to Tom Camalli, with a tie for 2nd low net shared by Charlie Johnson and Parker Shirling. Brian Finger walked off with the prize for swatting his ball the most times — 128 strokes.

During our traditional dinner social hour, Bill Entwistle, superintendent of Buena Vista C.C. in Buena Vista, New Jersey, put on his knickers, grabbed his caddy, Dick Valentine, and proceeded to the 1st tee to give everyone a free lesson. What a demonstration! Bill used every trick shot known to golf, from rubber shaft clubs to balls that exploded. When he asked for the power hitter of the crowd to step up, Bill Emerson was corralled and ushered up to smash out one of his famous drives. When Bill powerfully sent the ball over a nearby mountain, the ball exploded and was followed by a stream of blue smoke. Paul Barefoot was the next helper. Paul provided his shoe as a golf tee — with his foot still in it. Bill picked the ball clean off Paul's shoe, but not before he thoroughly missed his practice shot on a spare shoe, sending the shoe down the first fairway. Amazingly, all of Bill's shots ended up down the center of the fairway.

After the dinner, William Custard, T.V. weatherman from the Philadelphia area, spoke to our group about becoming our own weatherman. He was more entertaining than informative, but then the weather is such a broad topic to cover in a short evening's talk.

Some of our Eastern Shore Mid-Atlantic members traveled over 300 miles round trip to attend this meeting. We should all look up to these members as examples of leaders in our association, for they travel further for meetings than anyone else and they have a far better attendance record than the rest of us. Our hats are off to our Eastern Shore members!

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## October 8th Suburban Country Club

The monthly meeting and annual golf tournament of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA will be held at the Suburban Club — Park Heights and Slade Avenue in Pikesville, Md. Golf will be open to players after 11:00 am. Lunch will be served on a cash basis after 12 noon in the Kneipe room. Cocktails will start at 6 pm and dinner will be served at 7 pm. Cost of the dinner will be \$9.50.

Host Bob Miller took over the superintendent duties April 15, 1966, when the late Jim Reid retired. Golf Pro Don Beach, Manager Bob Caulfield and Golf Chairman Alan Brehrend welcome all members and guests for the tournament and meeting.

The Bill Glover Trophy will be awarded to the gross champion in the golf tournament and the Ruben Hines Trophy will be awarded for low net. Other gross and net prizes will be awarded. Entry fee will be \$3.00. Long drive, closest to the pin and booby prizes will be offered to players who have the above skills. Golf carts will be allotted one per foursome, due to the number of carts available.

Our guest speaker will be Bill Clarke, National P.G.A. president from the Hillendale Country Club.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB —

From Washington and points south — Come North on the Baltimore Beltway (695) to exit 21 (Park Heights Ave.). Go South on Park Heights past the first traffic light and the club is on the right side of Park Heights Avenue.

From Philadelphia and points north — Come South on 95 and 695 to exit 21 (Stevenson Rd.). At the top of the ramp turn left onto Stevenson Rd. and go to traffic light. Turn left at the light. Club is on the right as you go left on Park Heights Avenue.



## Peat Moss

Doing any landscaping this fall? If so you probably will be purchasing some peat moss. Suffice to say peat moss is available in different forms commonly called humus; but how often do we specify a particular kind of peat? Before you place this fall's order take time to evaluate what is available as compared to your special golf course needs.

The peats are desirable forms of organic matter. The best ones are the residues of marsh plants which have been preserved under water. The type of decomposition to which they have been subjected leaves them in a form that is highly resistant to further decay. As a result their beneficial effects on the soil extend over comparatively long periods.

Peats vary considerably in structure, stage of decomposition, capacity to absorb water, and organic-matter content. The moisture-absorptive capacity and organic-matter content are the most important items from the standpoint of effects upon physical soil properties. Peat should absorb four to five times its dry weight of water, and the organic-matter content should be 90% or more by weight on a dry-matter basis.

Commercial peats can be grouped into four main classes: 1) Raw Peats, 2) Cultivated Peats, 3) Moss Peats, and 4) Sedimentary Peats.

Raw peat is the material just as it comes from the bed, which has been processed by drying, shredding or pulverizing, and screening. Cultivated peat is raw peat that has been tilled to break it up mechanically and to quicken the rate of decay. Cultivation stimulates the development of organisms responsible for decomposition. In peat of this type some of the more readily decomposable materials have been lost and the residue is more resistant to further breakdown. The commercial material is in excellent physical condition for thorough mixing into the soil. Its commercial value depends upon its moisture content, its capacity to absorb water, and the amount of actual organic matter which it contains.

The moss peat is composed principally of sphagnum mosses which have undergone partial decay. It is finely fibrous and very light and fluffy. Unless well pulverized, it is in poor condition for mixing into soils. Because of its higher rate of decomposition and its extremely light spongy character it is not so suitable a soil conditioner for turf use as the raw and cultivated peats.

The sedimentary peats have little value for soil conditioning. They are composed of high percentages of very fine particles of organic matter mixed with silt and clay, which have been deposited in shallow lakes and ponds. They are often sticky and plastic when wet and highly compact and hard when dry.

Rotted manure, spent mushroom soil, charcoal, sawdust, buckwheat hulls, fused cinder, peanut hulls, and by-products like tannery sludge, sewage sludge, ground cocoa shells, and similar materials which may be available locally can be used as supplementary sources of organic matter. Their general character and rates of decay must be considered in estimating their value. For a material to be considered of value of organic matter it must contain porosity and a high degree of stability. Manures, for example, consist of 70% - 80% moisture and 20-30% dry matter. They decay rapidly and within a comparatively short time only about 2 - 3% of the original weight of material remains in the soil as humus. In the preparation of topdressing material, mushroom soil is valuable for use as the soil portion of the mixture, but does not supply sufficient humus to justify its use to increase soil organic matter permanently. Most of the other organic by-product materials, such as sewage and tannery sludges, are of the same general character as manure. They break down rapidly and leave relatively little humus for permanent improvement.

Attempts to use various by-products hulls such as cocoa shells and hulls from rice, peanuts, and buckwheat as soil conditioners have not been very satisfactory, unless they have been composted first. These materials are light and fluffy and are difficult to mix into the soil uniformly.



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State and Federal laws require that certain information be on each seed container. The pure live seed is figured from this label. Take the percent pure seed and multiply it by the percent germination to obtain the percentage of pure live seed. This pure live seed is that you can reasonably expect to germinate, and should be your basic guideline for comparing different seed lots for price per pound.

**MID-ATLANTIC News Letter**

9015 SPRING HILL LANE  
CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015  
Home: 301/986-0596

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  
Kenwood Country Club  
Bethesda, Maryland  
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American Society of Consulting Arborists,  
and the International Shade Tree Conference

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