



CHARTER

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

VOLUME XXVI

AUGUST 1975

NO. 8

August Meeting Loudoun Golf and Country Club

On August 12, the Mid-Atlantic meeting will be held at Loudoun Golf and Country Club in Purcellville, Virginia. Your host Tony Goodley was born and raised in Battle Creek, Michigan and graduated from North Carolina State's Turfgrass Management 2 year program in 1971. He also was assistant superintendent at North Ridge Country Club in Raliegh, N.C., while attending school, under Ray Autry.

After graduation, he was assistant to Fritz Zeller at Shannon Green in Fredericksburg, Virginia for one year. From there to his first superintendents position at the Summit Golf Club in Cross Junction, Virginia for 2 1/2 years, before taking over at Loudoun Golf and Country Club in October, 1974.

The course at Loudoun was first opened in 1927 as a public course, consisting of 9 holes. In 1960 the second nine was added, being designed by Jamison & Ault Arch, and constructed by Loudoun's own Pro, Billy Dillon, his father and a crew of one. In 1969 the course turned private, posting a membership of over 400.

The fairways and tees consist of bluegrass, rye and some Bermuda. The greens consist of bents in the c-1 Washington & pencross variety. Manual irrigation is on the greens and tees only.

Your host club manager, Col. Paul T. Boleyn (U.S. Army retired, 29 years active duty) who has assumed command this past February, has assured us that everyone will be well taken care of.

There will be a cash bar — beer only.

Golf — 11:00 am
Lunch at clubhouse — Cash
Social Hour — 5:30 - 6:30
Dinner — 6Z:30 - Cash

Directions — Going west from Washington take Route 7 to Leesburg. Continue west on route 7, 9 miles to Purcellville. The club is located on the west side of Purcellville bordering on Route 7, on the left hand side.

Looking Ahead to September

The September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Association to be held September 9, at Green Spring Valley Hunt Club.

There will be a two man golf tournament and we need 20 participants from the Mid-Atlantic to make up our team. All A & B members grab a partner and sign up early.

Call Ron Hall, golf committee chairman at 301-879-2025 (Maryland Golf and Country Club) or at home — 301-838-0282.

Only 20 players will be permitted to sign up for this event — if you want to be a part of the Mid-Atlantic team — sign up right away!

Presidents Message

At our meeting for August, we are requesting that our A & B members read and study the new proposed changes of the by-laws. Note the changes and compare them with an old set, and if you have valid questions regarding these recommendations be prepared to air your views and opinions at our forthcoming meeting.

I and the Board want your full cooperation in helping us conduct a solid, gentlemanly, procedural meeting.

Our chairman and director, Virgil Robinson, and his most able committee have done an outstanding job in the formulation of the proposed changes in the by-laws and they all deserve a great deal of thanks from us all, for the work they have done.

I do hope that we will have a large attendance of our voting membership as this season is of utmost importance to our organization. Please follow through with the above requests and I feel sure we will all be pleased with the final outcome of the meeting.

"Always do a little more each day than is expected of you and soon more can be expected of you than you can do." A.B. Prescott.

Alex Watson

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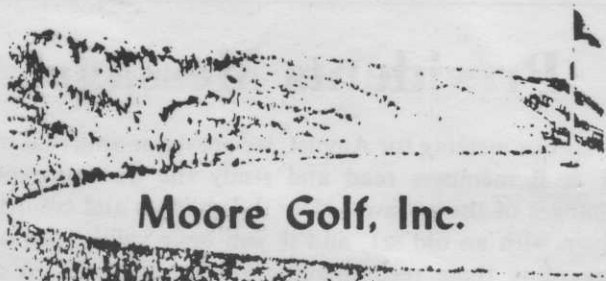
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Correction Notice

Last Month's "Milorganite Poem" was submitted by Dick Jones of Adams Equipment Inc. Dick received the poem from Charlie Wilson of Milorganite on a recent visit to our area. The poem sounds like something that Charlie would make up, but he denies authorship! I still believe he wrote it.



John Gross — as many of us fondly remember him.

Tribute to a Gentleman John J. Gross

July 2, 1975 was a sad day for all members of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents for on that day John J. Gross, fellow member, departed for his Church Triumphant.

John first joined the Mid-Atlantic in 1963 as a fertilizer salesman. He had just transferred, at the age of 65, an age when most people are looking forward to leisure, from the farm fertilizer branch of his company to the golf course and institutional sales force. In 1970, after being let out by the fertilizer company because of his age, John found yet another career, that of a chemical and golf course supplies salesman, a position he held until the day he died, but that was John.

John served the Mid-Atlantic well both as a salesman and as a fellow member. In January at the annual Turf Conference, the membership paid tribute to him and presented him with a plaque for his outstanding service to the association.

To have known John J. Gross was a privilege; here was a man who loved God, family, friends, work, and Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

God Bless You John. . . We will all miss you.

Bill Emerson

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



Twenty Years Ago

by L.R. Shields
 Woodmont Country Club

Following is an excerpt from the Mid-Atlantic News-
 letter in 1955 after the National Conference held in St.
 Louis.

A panel consisting of a Golf Professional, a Club
 Manager, a Golf Course Superintendent, and a Greens
 Committee Chairman had this to say on the subject
 "What can we do for each other".

James Fogerty; Vice President of PGS suggests a
 daily meeting at lunch between the club manager, golf
 professional, and golf course superintendent for an
 exchange of thoughts on club operations. A club retire-
 ment plan for club employees. The golf pro is in a good
 position to pass on to the superintendent the comments
 — both bad and good — that members make
 concerning the condition of the golf course.

Thomas C. McCuffey; Club Managers Association,
 made these observations: Friction occurs as a result of
 misunderstanding between pro, superintendent and
 manager. A division of responsibility is necessary for a
 successful operation. Each department head to his own
 vocation and responsibility. A pooling of information
 insures progress and accomplishment. Specialization
 brings about the need for group organizations. Loyalty
 demands cooperation. Superintendents should practice
 better record keeping also as to be able to prepare their
 budgets more adequately and to be able to account for
 all money spent. Golf courses should be made to play as
 easily as possible for players on weekends.

Ward Cornwell; Golf Course Superintendents
 Association of America, said: That trouble on a golf
 course can be a sign of friction in existence somewhere.
 A well groomed golf course benefits all departments.
 Superintendents have little or no contact with members
 and little or no chance to sell themselves on their ideas.
 A long term Greens Chairman insures a successful golf
 course operation through program continuity.

J. Porter Henry; Veteran Greens Chairman,
 Algonquin Golf Club, Webster Grove, Missouri,
 comments: That golf course superintendents have
 made great progress in golf course maintenance in the
 past twenty years. That superintendents deserve much
 credit for advancements made in club operations.
 Good greens are a matter of much care. Superintendents
 cannot afford to practice isolationism. Statistics are
 often misleading and unreliable. Committees should be
 kept golf minded. The golf dollar should be managed
 wisely. More cooperation and understanding is needed
 between architects and superintendents.

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*There are 865 species of trees native to the continental
 United States, including a few imports that have become
 naturalized to the extent of reproducing themselves in
 the wild state.*

Wake Up America

Do you sometimes get the feeling that you're being dictated to? Well you are! By every manufacturer of mechanical equipment in the country. They're always pushing the Consumer around.

They try to tell you what kind of fuel to burn in your engines, what kind of lubricating oil is best for your engines, and what libricants should be used in various types of gear boxes. They tell you which is the proper way and safest way to operate the equipment they manufacture; and what speeds will do the best job, give the longest life, and offer the lowest maintenance costs. They even have the guts to ask you to read the owner's manual so you become familiar with how the machine is operated, adjusted and maintained.

Well we're starting a movement to stop all this pushing and shoving around! Why? Well we're Americans, and we don't have to listen because we can operate our equipment anyway we please; safely, unsafely, out of adjustment, without preventive maintenance, and we don't have to listen to anyone about anything.

It's our right to abuse our equipment because we paid for it, we pay for all the worn out parts, and if we don't

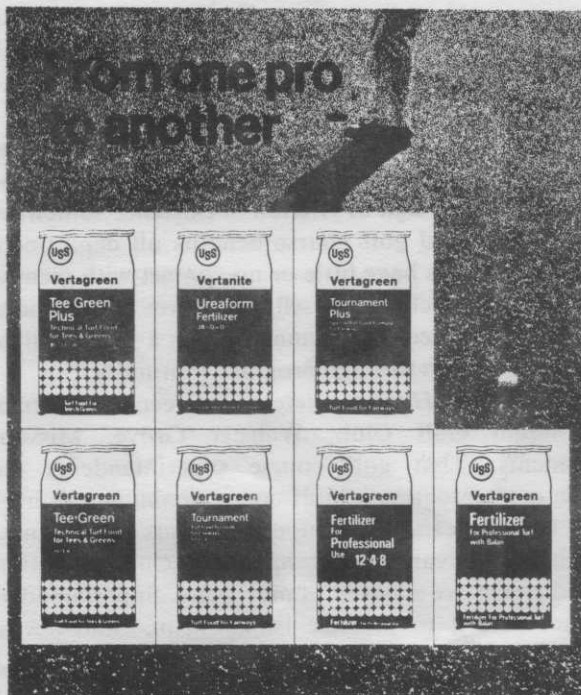
want to get our money's worth, or life expectancy out of each piece of equipment we buy, it's nobody's business but ours. I say, "Keep resisting America, we'll show those Know-It-Alls who's boss." The way I see it, we'll win in the end. We've got the majority working on our team.

Just think, the only thing we will lose, is our right to warranty and to be able to complain to the manufacturer about what a lousy product he builds. If you want to join our team, simply listen to all those engineers, test experts, manufacturers, quality control people, and above all the guy who had to learn the hard way.

Yours truly,

Mr. I. Abuzit

Christopher Columbus didn't know where he was going, or how long it would take. . . When he got there, he didn't know where he had been, and it cost him nothing, personally, to make the trip. What a politician he would have made today.



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Pythium Prevention

At a recent Greater Washington GCSA meeting at the Country Club of Fairfax Dr. Houston Couch, noted pathologist from V.P.I., told the group of a economical program of pythium prevention that I would like to pass on to all our Mid-Atlantic members.

Dr. Couch advocated a late spring application of ZINEB or PARZATE C at 4oz/M followed by two week intervals of 2oz/M application for the remaining summer months. This old stand-by chemical is still of value for its former uses of alge and helminth control.

Dr. Couch stated the use of Zineb or Parzate C will not prevent all attacks of the multitude of varieties of pythium disease; what it will do though is slow the disease down to where SP or Koban can be applied to stop any outbreak of pythium before any serious damage occurs. In that the killing speed of a pythium attack can be devastating we can't afford to disregard a program. SP and Koban are extremely expensive for general preventative use and Zineb or Parzate C are both reasonably priced fungicides. Dr. Couch did mention we still might consider the use of the more expensive chemicals for a preventative program on any bothersome greens with a past history of pythium outbreaks.

A recent USGA GREENS SECTION bulletin from Holman Griffin, dated June 20, 1975 stated the following:

"Although the weather conditions may not be conducive to outbreaks of *pythium spp* on your golf course at present we are receiving numerous reports from both lowland and mountain areas of the Mid-Atlantic attesting to the devastating effect of this disease in a very, very short time (loss of 50% of the turf on some putting greens in less than one hour under ideal conditions for the disease's development, especially with free water present)."

The following is from Kenneth Quant, editor of Verdure, the Chicago land GCSA newsletter.

"A new fungus disease has made its appearance on the Chicago scene and already it appears to be a shoo-in for rookie-of-the-year honors. It is called *pythium graminicola* and it can be controlled very easily with Tersan SP. (Koban would probably also do the job.)

That sounds easy, but the problem is that *pythium graminicola* symptoms do not look anything like the symptoms of *pythium ultimum*, the normal pythium we can expect in this area. In fact, the symptoms look very much like those associated with Red Leafspot. The turf begins to turn yellowish to brownish as if it were starved and begins to thin out rapidly. There is no grease spotting or distinctive mycellium, only a severe thinning of turf. Spraying with any of the leafspot fungicides will only slow the disease down, it will not stop it. So if you think you have Red Leafspot, and you can't seem to stop it, try some Tersan SP or Koban."

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The problem of identification now adds more complications to living with this disease. The above quote from the Chicagoland Newsletter applies equally here in the Mid-Atlantic area.

I had three greens showing the above symptoms and I applied several leaf spot fungicides to those three greens. After a week of no improvements I applied S.P. after noting the other typical pythium brown patches developing within my collars. All disease stopped immediately! Unfortunately I miss-diagnosed pythium for leaf spot and consequently I'm still plugging out the diseased centers of the stricken greens. These three greens were old poa greens with poor air circulation and very poor drainage — ideal conditions for pythium.

Dr. Couch also advocated picking up all grass clippings from the collars and removal of thatch build-up within the greens, as a mechanical preventative for pythium.

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LOFTS

The Lawn Institute Says New Grasses Do Not Require Heavy Fertilization

Dr. Robert W. Schery of The Lawn Institute, Marysville, Ohio, writes that, contrary to what is sometimes thought, topflight lawn bluegrasses are not really an exceptionally "hungry" lot. It is true, says Dr. Schery, that Merion Kentucky Bluegrass, which spearheaded the breakthrough into fine turf, does require several pounds of nitrogen annually for each thousand square feet of turf. Most of the other new bluegrasses, however, are more modest in their requirements.

The Lawn Institute, because of tight fertilizer supplies, cut almost in half their customary turf feeding schedule, and so far has seen little loss of quality in the new bluegrasses. On a reasonably good soil, Dr. Schery states, many of the new bluegrasses could endure a total lack of fertilization, although thinness and weeds could eventually become problems.

Not many of the new cultivars have been with us long enough to determine their exact fertilizer requirements. A few, like Baron and Fylking, however, have been on the market and have been widely accepted for some time, and both are reputed not to require excessive feeding. Baron, says Dr. Schery, is especially versatile and provides good turf even under low maintenance.

One of the things new bluegrasses are chosen for is a dark green color. Though common grass needs a frequent feeding to maintain a dark color, the new selections as Nugget, Glade, and Pennstar, and of such "man-made" cultivars as Sodco, from Purdue, or the Rutgers hybrids, disguises a mild nitrogen deficiency.

Fine fescues, recommended with bluegrass in mixtures, are even more modest in their fertilizer requirements, according to Dr. Schery. Jamestown may have the darkest hue, and Highlight, Koket, and Ruby boast a good color. The same seems to be true of most of the new "turf-type" perennial ryegrasses, which require no more fertilization than bluegrass.

Bluegrass, says Dr. Schery, may be hungrier for fertilizer when "instant" or soluble nitrogen is used. This colors the grass within days, but the effect wears off quickly. Gradual-release material will give an effect that is less intense but longer lasting. Any bluegrass, Dr. Schery concludes, will give a good account of itself if fed with a good lawn fertilizer once or twice a year.

*Charles Johnson
Lofts Pedigree Seed
from April issue of "Seed Trade News"*



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Dates to Remember

August 12 Loudoun Golf and Country Club
By-Laws Revision Meeting
Host — Tony Goodley

September 9 Green Spring Valley Hunt Club
Warren Bidwell — Speaker
Joint Meeting Philadelphia GCSA
Two Man Team Golf Tournament
Host — Grant Pensinger

October 14 Woodmont Country Club
Annual Golf Tournament
Ladies Invited
Host — L.R. Shields

November 11 Piney Branch Golf Course
(Tentative)

November 18 Ladies Night — Shady Grove
Johnny Cash

December 9 Army Navy Country Club
Election Meeting
Host — David Fairbank



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Correspondence

Dear Mr. Spottswood:

In the April issue of our Mid Atlantic News Letter, L.R. "Bob" Shields writes, "since Lime can be applied at any time, and since pH changes take place in the soil very slowly and there are benefits to be obtained by using Lime against disease and algae, it seems like good management to me to make Lime applications during the summer instead of during the winter. I have followed this practice for years and will do so again this year."

We are grateful for "Mr. Bob's" comments favoring the use of Lime on Golf Courses during the summer months, and we are particularly proud to list him among the many superintendents who depend on us for an Annual Lime Application.

Hydrated Lime, used properly can be of great assistance in the control of disease on greens. Of equal import, however, Ground Burned Lime — which you convert to Hydrated Lime when you turn on your fairway sprinklers, is excellent insurance against diseases such as dollar spot, snow mold and brown patch on fairways. A vigorous turf is the answer and we are all aware that strength in growth cannot be maintained in an acid soil.

So, as "Mr. Bob" says "*why wait until winter*", call us to Lime those fairways now. We are prepared to serve your needs with a proven product — Barrick's Ground Burned Lime — properly applied by an experienced spread team.

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Cordially,


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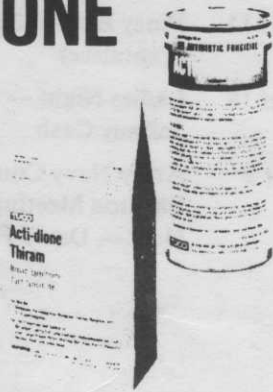


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