



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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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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From Golfdom!

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency has announced that its pesticide applicator certification deadline may be extended past October of next year.

The EPA has told the House Agricultural Committee, "If in late 1975 or early 1976 we are significantly behind schedule, it may be advisable to request an appropriate delay in time."

Editors note — Does anyone doubt that we will definitely have the October 76 deadline extended?

Presidents Message

This has been a season that many of us will long remember and most likely never forget. We have heard the same story from many sections of the country — heavy continuous rains, and then high temperatures coupled with high humidity and goodbye golf course turf. Disease incidence has been at an all time high, wet wilt, sunscald, etc., etc., etc., we could go on and on with the many problems that have confronted many superintendents for the past several weeks. Now hopefully the breaks will come with the advent of the fall season. I for one, when summer problems occur, like to look back a few years to the words spoken by a few of our Mid-Atlantic superintendents — gentlemen who have passed on to the evergreen pastures, Jim Reid, Frank Dunlop, and Carroll Hitchcock—and these men all said the same thing, "When August 15 rolls around you have it made, nights are becoming longer and temperatures begin backing down." For many years now I have found this to be fact, especially in the Baltimore-Washington area. Cheer up fellows, get out the big guns and be ready to make your move the day after Labor Day.

Alex Watson

"Summer is what we wait for all year, complain about when it arrives, and wonder where it went after it's gone."

Anon



The Emmet Gary Scholarships of the Maryland State Golf Association were presented at the Eleventh Annual Awards Program sponsored by the Agronomy Club of the University of Maryland. Pictured are (l. to r.) Dr. Palmer Hopkins, Director of Student Aid; Mr. Alvin Dulcan, Vice President of the Maryland State Golf Association; Mr. Mark I. Schlossberg, scholarship recipient; Robert J. Beyer, scholarship recipient.

From the Hudson Valley Foreground Newsletter

Editor Bill Smart writes of New York's Hudson Valley Weather. . . "The heat and humidity, combined with record rain, has all the courses here about looking like manicured swamps, smelling like wet diapers and with disease that must be making record sales for the chemical peddlers. Last week I had brown patch, dollar spot, helminth, fairy ring, pythium and frog eye all active on fairways—not to mention both wet and dry wilt, golf car damage, snot spots, possible dung beetle (yes they are active again in the valley and on Long Island) and damage I can't even identify but just call it, 'That shit working on number twelve.' All in all a year to make you very humble."

Editor's note: Their "dung Beetle" is the name used for *ATAENIUS SPRETULUS*

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Sept. 9 Joint Meeting

Philadelphia-Mid-Atlantic

Green Spring Valley Hunt Club

Garrison, Md.

The Green Spring Valley Hunt Club was organized in 1892 to promote the very popular sport of fox-hunting. The kennels of the hounds, which were used in the chase, were kept on the original tract of land for many years but, as more space was needed, they were moved to the Worthington Valley. This branch of the Club became known as the "Upper Club." Several dozen of the Hunting Members still participate in the thrice-weekly hunts during the late fall and winter.

Tennis and Golf are now the primary activities at the "Lower Club" in the Green Spring Valley. Many of the present members are the children, grand-children and great-grandchildren of the original eighty members.

Construction of the Golf Course was begun in 1912 at which time nine holes were laid out by the members. In 1930, two more holes were added and 1 par 3 eliminated, making a total of ten holes which it remained until 1957. About this time, Jess W. Sweetser, former United States and British Amateur Champion, became a member of the Club and his personal friend, Robert Trent Jones, designed an additional eight holes which were then built, making it an eighteen hole Golf Course. The course is 6,489 yards long from blue tees and 6,089 yards from white tees. In 1974, a record 11,200 round of golf were played.

Grant Pensinger, Superintendent at Green Spring Valley since August of 1973, came here from the

Chambersburg Golf Club, a private nine hole course located in Scotland, Pennsylvania, where he had been employed for seven years. Grant is of the "old guard" type of superintendent in that much of his education in Golf Course Management is self accumulated. He has spent many years working and learning on the course itself, having served an apprenticeship under Arthur Edgar, Golf Course Pro and Superintendent at Chambersburg for forty years before he died in 1967. Mr. Edgar was widely known and respected for his expert knowledge of Turf Management. Grant has also taken many special courses at Penn State and attended a large number of seminars held there. In January of 1975, he attained certification, a fact of which he is quite proud.

Directions: Interstate 95 to Balt. Beltway 695 to Exit 20 (Reisterstown Rd.) Turn right — go approximately 2 miles to Green Spring Valley Rd. Turn right, club on left 1/2 block.

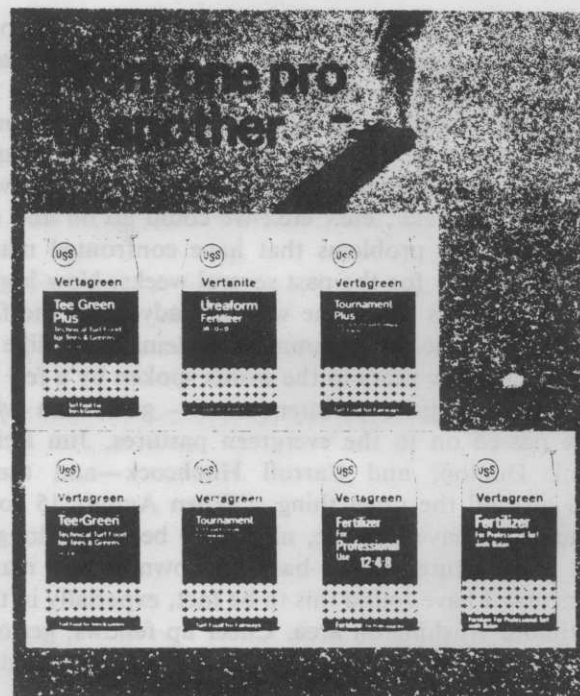
Golf Tournament: Two man team

11:00 A.M. — 1:00 P.M. 1st Tee

Social Hour: 6:30

Dinner: 7:30

Speaker: Warren Bidwell,
Supt., Congressional C.C., Bethesda, Md.



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Mr. Charles Fillah (c.) was the recipient of the Maryland Turfgrass Association Scholarship. The presentation was made by Mr. David Hamilton (l.), Vice President of the Maryland Turfgrass Association and Dr. Palmer Hopkins (r.), Director of Student Aid at the University of Maryland.

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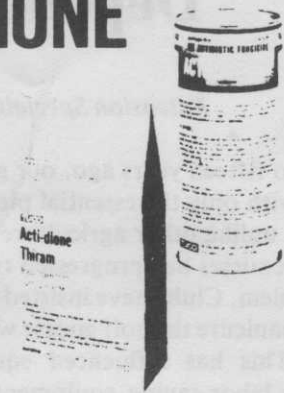
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Becoming Equipment Dependent

Dr. A. J. Powell
Extension Specialist, Turf—V.P.I. & S.V.

Ten to fifteen years ago, our golf courses were maintained with only the essential pieces of equipment. This was not unlike other agriculture. But turf maintenance on golf courses has progressed rapidly. Labor has been the problem. Clubs have insisted that the superintendent better manicure the golf course with the same amount of labor. This has influenced equipment companies to produce labor-saving equipment and certainly has influenced the golf course superintendent to purchase this equipment. Because of the small sales potential, this equipment has been expensive. But because of the labor problem, it has been well worth the money. Just how far can we go?

Because of the large equipment inventory at every club, qualified mechanics play musical chairs more than the superintendents. A mechanic that fits within the price structure of a golf course is a highly important individual and a rare commodity. It may be that we are presently seeing that the capabilities and quality of the mechanic influences to a large degree the success of the superintendent. It is not uncommon to see a good superintendent on a course that shows a lack of care resulting from equipment problems.

Because of labor expense it is becoming easier to justify equipment. Fortunately the specialty turf equipment companies are highly competitive and any golf course can at least be supplied by three separate companies. Many feel that this isn't competitive enough—more can be done. Almost every day you can hear the complaint, "I can get the equipment, but I cannot get the parts. I cannot get the maintenance. Somebody's at fault. I'm going to switch companies." This is not uncommon because it happens in many other industries, including all types of agricultural supplies. But let's not always point the finger at the other person. Look at yourself and your operation for a moment. Do you have a qualified mechanic? Do you properly maintain your equipment? Can the mechanic or yourself properly identify component parts in the machine? When you call the equipment company or make an official order, do you always record the part numbers correctly? Do you always complete the list of parts you need? How can you be haphazard in your ordering procedure and yet be so critical of the haphazardness of the supply? You should always insist that you have an up-to-date parts list and every order should be made from that parts list by number and quantity rather than trying to identify the appearance of the piece over the telephone to the salesman.

Also, be truthful with the salesman. He has enough problems identifying faults in the machine rather than



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having to identify negligence on your part. Cooperate with him. Your club will often get special cost-saving deals. He certainly shouldn't have to furnish you with a new pencil and pen set or new brief case of a dozen golf balls everytime he visits you. If you are not going to buy his equipment, tell him so. If you tell him you are interested in his equipment, give him a chance rather than going behind his back and purchasing from another company. Many people can easily be pinned a sucker. Become friends with all salesmen but do not become obligated to any. Don't always expect the lowest price. Buy the equipment you have confidence in.

Another problem is time. Why wait until the last second to make equipment purchases and part orders. You know well in advance that your aerifier needs tines and that the carburator is falling off your sod cutter. Again, a good mechanic is essential. However, you must work for the future as well as the present. Keep as much of your own parts inventory as you can. A suggested parts inventory list is supplied when you purchase major pieces of equipment. Develop a system of paperwork in which you can keep a list of parts needed and parts expected to be needed shortly. As parts orders arrive, you can easily check these from the list.

You are the manager of a very expensive operation. Even with a good mechanic, you must make a periodic equipment inspections and plan ahead. New and improved equipment reaches our market yearly and the industry is dependent upon the equipment. Proper equipment maintenance is a *must* for proper turf maintenance.



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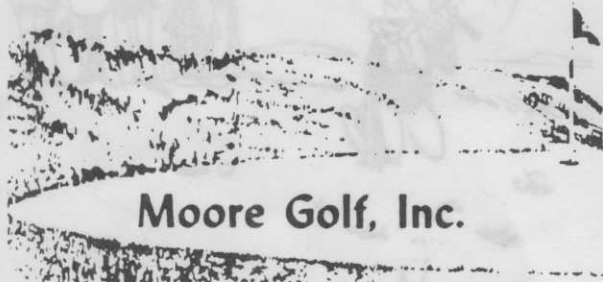
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Japanese Beetle, Please Step Aside

No longer is the Japanese Beetle (or grub) listed as our most obnoxious summer insect pest. Rapidly taking over the number one spot is the newcomer — *ATAENIUS SPRETULUS*; a grub only about one tenth the size of our former number one enemy. *Ataenius Spretulus* has emerged through out the Mid-Atlantic as the most destructive grub ever to be coped with. Wide spread infestations have been noted on many area golf courses, taking on the appearance of wilted out patches ranging in size from four inches to two feet in diameter. Another tell-tale sign is any areas birds begin to chew up that are wilted in appearance (also skunk damaged areas).

The insects in early July will be located in the soil immediately below the thatch, ranging in number from 20 to 150 individual grubs per square foot. This insect is attracted to any poorly drained areas. The mature beetle is black in color and difficult to see without close observation.

Control Methods:

The Eastern Region of the U.S.G.A. Greens Section reports: "Preliminary findings indicate that the best time to apply Diazinon or Dursban for control is late May. With specific research lacking, the rates at the time of this letter are tentatively Diazinon at four pounds active per acre and Dursban at two pounds active per acre. Aeration and/or spiking of infested areas prior to application of the insecticide is recommended. Wetting agents to further aid in the penetration of the insecticides may also be helpful. The insecticides must also be watered in very well. Insecticides are most effective when applied to young stages of insect development. Presently there appears to be only one annual brood." The above quote was taken from Bill Smart's Hudson Valley "Foreground".

Turf damage from *Ataenius Spretulus* is being reported all along the East coast, predominately north of us. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Ohio newsletters all report of heavy grub damage this year. We can now add the states of Maryland and Virginia (and presumably Pennsylvania and Delaware) to the southward movement of the *Ataenius Spretulus* grub.

What the Consumer has to say About Lawn Care-

When You are Willing to Listen!

by Dr. Joseph E. Howland, Turfgrass Specialist,
University of Nevada

Presented at the Turfgrass Seminar, University of California, Los Angeles, November 23, 1971.

Just who is this lawnmower?

What do we know about him?

1. Interest is HIGH during first 3 years—and his know-how (and success) almost non-existent.
2. Buys on impulse these first years—and with almost no brand awareness.
3. His failures lead to brand switching (and reading ads) during years 3-5.
4. Any success leads to intense brand loyalty. Continued failure leads to rapid loss of interest in what the lawn looks like—unless he moves into another home, in which event the high interest of first year ownership returns and the cycle repeats.
5. Product guarantees are of little interest in first 3 years—lawn owner doesn't appreciate how much he needs them.
6. Product guarantees are suspect in later years—lawn owner has discovered how difficult it is to achieve success in lawnkeeping.
7. . . . but product guarantee can be of vital importance in closing the sale (reason for MANY Scotts sales, completely overriding high-price hesitancy).
8. At ALL ages (and intensities of interest) there is a great hunger for the leadership of a "father image" advisor (main reason 3,000,000 families read LAWN CARE Magazine and 200,000 wrote me each year with their questions.)
9. Just about every lawnmower is delightfully articulate about lawns, eager to talk about them, eager to help others succeed in a frustrating, maddening job.



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10. . . . yet he resents being swamped with what he considers unneeded information—"Just tell me what I MUST do to be reasonably happy with my lawn—exactly what to do, exactly what NOT to do—and remember, I do NOT want to become a gardener!"
11. Accepts far less "Success" than garden writers insist he try for.
12. Likes pre-measured doses.
13. Resents anything making mistakes easy.
14. Expects products to work - do what is claimed for them.
15. . . . but only *emotional* satisfaction is necessary—"This year have a lawn you are proud of."
16. Ignores diseases, also insects, unless rampant and causing great lawn damage in the neighborhood.
17. Has no interest in preventive products *except* for crabgrass (and this only because of years of heavy advertising following years of grief with summer crabgrass killers.)
18. 50% fertilize once/year; 10% fertilize twice/year (maybe in 2 year cycle). So. Calif. is 85-50%.

From Hudson Valley Foreground

National GCSAA Superintendents survey not
representative of Mid-Atlantic area— Mid-Atlantic
included with all of East Coast.

Membership Changes

The following have made application for membership to the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. This list is being published here in accordance with our by-laws. Unless written objection is received 30 days after publication, these men will become active members with their requested classification.

		Signed by
Michael Wayne Hall	A	Angelo Cammarota
Paint Branch Golf Course		Ron Hall
Herman Dade, Jr.	A	Mike McKenzie
Country Club of Leesburg		Tony Goodley
Donald K. Allen	D	Lou White
Green Hill Yacht & Co.		Ben Stag

GCSAA Reports...

The EPA is now in the process of developing their list of restricted pesticides. Pesticides will be classed by their active ingredients. So far, of the 117 active ingredients reviewed by the EPA, only 10 have been tentatively listed as restricted for all uses. Thirty-one others may be restricted for certain uses and 76 are being considered for general use.

To date, EPA has cancelled registrations on Aldrin and Dieldren, which may still be obtained if formulated before August 2, 1974.

Chlordane, the most recently banned chemical, is still available if suppliers have any end of season stock.

What a depressing subject to write about!



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