

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



CHARTER

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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

Volume XXX

July 1977

Number 7

July Meeting

The July Meeting will be held at Hunt Valley Golf Club, located in Phoenix, Maryland, on Tuesday, July 12th.

Your host superintendent is Bob Orazi. Bob was born in Rhode Island and attended the University of Rhode Island, where he majored in Agronomy. Bob graduated in 1960.

The original 18 hole course was built in 1969, designed by Ed Ault of Silver Spring, Maryland. Bob assisted during construction in the grading and seeding of the greens and tees and remained on, following construction, as Golf Course Superintendent.

In May of 1975 another 9 holes were started at Hunt Valley as part of an expansion program which included a swimming pool complex and 4 Har-Tru tennis courts, plus 2 all weather tennis courts, in addition to expansion of the clubhouse. The new 9 were designed by Algie Pulley and opened for play in May of this year.

All greens are Penncross Creeping Bent. The majority of tees are a blend of 3 Colonial Bent varieties. Some of the tees have been converted to Bluegrass and Ryegrass varieties. The fairways are primarily a blend of several Bluegrass varieties.

Bob received his maintenance experience under the watchful eyes of Alex Watson at Sparrows Point Country Club. Prior to working with Alex, he worked in the field of Golf Course construction, where he was involved with the construction of 7 other golf courses.



BOB ORAZI

Directions to the Club: Exit on Shawan Road East from Interstate 83 North. Proceed to York Road and then turn right. Approximately 1/2 mile on York Road turn left onto Ashland/Papermill Roads. Continue along Papermill Road for approximately 2 miles and turn left on Phoenix Road. Entrance to golf course is on right off Phoenix Road.

Program: Golf: Anytime
Cocktail Hour: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Peter Chapin - topic:
"Motivation"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members,

It has been encouraging to your Board of Directors to see attendance picking up at our monthly meetings. It's hard to put a finger on exactly why our attendance has increased, but for whatever reason or reasons, it most definitely is encouraging.

Our July 12 meeting at Hunt Valley Golf Club will be hosted by Bob Orazi and will be highlighted by Bob's new nine hole addition: Take it from me, you've got to see it. Bob has done a super job of establishing nine holes of Good Golf on some pretty rough terrain.

Bob Milligan has once again donated the use of his Gunpowder Country Club in Laurel for our annual picnic, August 9th. Mark the date down, August 9th, for fun and frolic with the family. Ben Stagg, Ken Braun, or Paul Barefoot will be in touch with you with requests for food stuffs.

Yours for finer turf for better Golf.

Bill Emerson

Future Shock - Are You Preparing for 1984?

JOHN R. HALL, III

It is important that those of us who derive our livelihood from the turfgrass industry develop a strong understanding of how this industry might be influenced by future problems in the area of energy, food and fertilizer. Golf course superintendents should develop a particularly strong sense of perspective, realizing their importance in the historical development of the modern turfgrass industry in the United States. In these times of rapid change, one needs to be constantly aware of how the turfgrass industry could be influenced by shortages of energy, food and fertilizer.

In order for a superintendent to develop a sense of perspective, it is necessary that he be aware of his important role in the historical development of the turfgrass industry. References to turfgrass are present in Biblical literature as well as some of the earlier references to the turf gardens present in the palace of the Chinese emperor Wu-Ti in 157 B.C. Later in the British history of the 1300's, statements are made referring to "bowling on the green". In 1665, J. Rea was recorded as being the first seller of sod. Golf and the turf industry, as we know it today, was given its start with the formation of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St.

(continued on page 4)

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WAYNE'S PLACE



As most of you know by now, our annual Family Picnic will be held August 9th, at Gunpowder Country Club. Our host will be, of course, Bob Milligan. As in the past few years, it will be a bring-your-own-food type of picnic. All the ladies will be asked to make up a salad, casserole, or dessert, enough to feed 10 people. Anyone wishing information on what to bring should contact Ken Braun in Baltimore, Paul Barefoot in Washington, or Ben Stagg on the Eastern Shore. Let's all work together to make this the biggest and best picnic ever. Tell your kids that there will be an extra special ride for their enjoyment.



Two of our Superintendents are in the hospital. Lou Rudinski of Baltimore Country Club had a heart attack last week. He is in the Fallston General Hospital in Baltimore. Lou is doing well, but please, no visitors yet. Lou, Best Wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ken Lohr of Pinecrest Golf Center is also in the hospital following surgery. Ken expects to be out and around in the next few days.



Many of our members have asked me about the change of name from Brandywine Country Club to the Marlton Country Club, and how it came about. The Brandywine Club was originally the Marlton Club ten years ago when it was a nine hole facility. Boise Cascade took over in 1969 and changed the name to Brandywine, but never legally changed the name as it was recorded with P.G. County. When our new owner began construction on our new club complex, he changed the name back to Marlton.

As you can see, the club complex includes tennis courts, a swimming pool, and an extensive club facility. The club currently operates privately except for daily tee play on the golf course. I hope to have a Meeting in the new building in Fall 1978 or early 1979.



MARLTON COUNTRY CLUB



Anyone who is interested in hosting a M.A.A.G.C.S. monthly meeting or tournament next year should contact any member of the board, or more specifically, Sam Kessel. Many of our long time members have not hosted meetings lately, and some have never hosted meetings at all. Give us a chance to see your course, club and hospitality at work. The whole procedure has been simplified for the superintendent. A brief write-up of what is expected of the host, club and Mid-Atlantic members at each individual club.

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Future Shock

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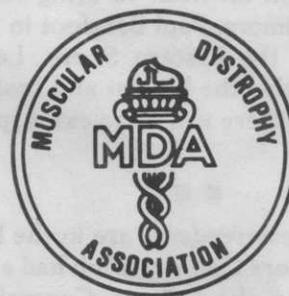
Andrews in 1754. A milestone in the development of the turf industry was marked by the request for a patent on a reel-type mower designed by Edwin Budding in 1830. By 1880, turfgrass variety trials had been developed by W. J. Beal at the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. In 1886, the first Agricultural Experiment Station turf research was initiated at the University of Connecticut. Theodore Havemeyer was elected the first president of the U.S. Golf Association in 1894. In 1901, the first Federal funds in the amount of \$17,000 were granted to several states with established turfgrass research programs "for turfing lawns and pleasure grounds". In 1916, C. V. Piper and R. E. Oakley initiated the Arlington Turf Gardens which were located at the site of the present Pentagon. In 1927, Mr. O. J. Noer began the publication of *Golfdom* magazine, now known as *Golf Business*. In 1928, the National Association of Greenskeepers was formed. This organization, now called the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America boasts a membership of over 4,000.

In the late 20's and early 30's, the art of greenskeeping was recorded in publications, as greenskeepers began to destroy the connotation of greenskeepers as simply "grass farmers". During the early 30's the writings of such notables as Edward Dearie of Ridgemoor Country Club and Matt Melville of Southmoor Country Club

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Dates to Remember

JULY 12

Hunt Valley Golf Club

AUGUST 9

Family Picnic - Gunpowder Country Club

AUGUST 24

U.S.D.A. Field Days - Beltsville

SEPTEMBER 20

Suburban Country Club

OCTOBER 11

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NOVEMBER 11

Maryland Country Club

DECEMBER 13

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Future Shock

(continued from page 4)

made great strides toward developing a professional attitude about greenskeepers.

There can be no doubt that the development of interest in the game of golf has been a prime driving force for the development of the turfgrass industry in the U.S. The period of most rapid increase in the number of golf courses in the United States occurred between 1960 and 1965. At this time, the annual rate of golf course growth has decreased considerably to the point where between 1970 and 1975 only 236 golf courses per year were under construction. Another disturbing observation that could have negative impact on the turfgrass industry in the future is the noted projection by A. C. Nielson Company that the number of golfers decreased 3% between the years of 1973 and 1976.

The game of golf and the people associated with the game of golf have provided leadership for the development of the turfgrass industry that exists today. Quality turf has been indelibly planted in the minds of American people by the early "greenskeepers" of America. The golf industry has undoubtedly been one of the prime driving forces in the development of the green industry of today, in fact, many refer to the turfgrass industry as being the core and driving force for today's "Green Industry". It is important that golf course superintendents be aware of where the turfgrass industry is today, where it is going tomorrow and how the turfgrass industry might be influenced by energy, food and fertilizer availability.

The Middle East oil embargo of 1973-74 made us immediately aware of the importance of oil to the economic well-being of the United States. Rapid fluctuations in oil prices have had a ripple wave effect on prices throughout the economy. Material prices rose 159% in a period from 1971 to 1974. This was the largest rate of increase in material prices in 150 years of recorded economic history. Recently published figures on mineral depletion rates of several imported minerals leads one to surmise that the natural resources, which have so long supported our economy and high standard of living, are of limited availability. The United States imports approximately 22 metals and with 7 of these the

amount imported represents more than 50% of the total used in the United States.

The world energy requirement is almost directly correlated with the rapid increase in the world's population. In 1973, it was estimated that the world population was approximately 3.86 billion. Estimates of world population experts indicate that we may approach 16 billion people on the face of the earth by the year 2135 at our current growth rate.

The United States has developed a high energy-intensive economy. In 1973, the U.S. population represented 6% of the world's population and was utilizing approximately 33% of the energy made available for the world. Our rapid economic growth and high standard of living has been supported by this energy-intensive economic system. Our rate of growth and the development of our high standard of living have never been seriously hampered by energy conservation programs. Except in the time of war, energy conservation has seldom been requested of the American people.

Analyzing the energy efficiency of various nations by determining their ability to generate Gross National Product (GNP) per unit of energy utilized, it becomes immediately obvious that the United States is relatively inefficient, utilizing approximately 18 Milowatt hours of energy for each \$1,000 worth of GNP generated. Countries such as Switzerland and Sweden were considerably more efficient in generating GNP with

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Future Shock

(continued from page 6)

their available energy resources. Switzerland and Sweden required approximately 6 and 10 Milowatt hours, respectively, to generate \$1,000 of GNP.

Our current energy use patterns are not in proportion to the reserves of fossil energy resources available. For instance, natural gas currently represents about 3% of our recoverable fossil fuel reserve, and yet today, 33% of the total fossil fuel used in the United States is natural gas. This portends of future shortages in natural gas availability. Domestic oil production in 1973 represented less than 60% of our consumption and Arab countries provided 26% of our imported oil. This dependency on Middle East oil is likely to increase as we move into the 1980's. In 1970, the United States was importing 400,000 metric barrels of oil/day from the Middle East, and by 1980 this is predicted to increase to 6 million metric barrels/day. This most promising energy source of the immediate future appears to be the fission breeder reactor, but this system is meeting several environmental blocks. In 1975, no less than 20 state legislatures passed bills to restrict or prohibit development of nuclear power. The obvious long-term energy source is solar energy, but it will not be developed until it is economically competitive with existing energy sources. It is inevitable that there will be periodic lags in energy availability as technology speeds to keep up with population.

49th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will lead off "Turfgrass 78"

After many years of discussing the merits of a trade show in conjunction with an educational conference, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents' board has decided to support the Maryland Turfgrass Council, the Professional Grounds Management Society, and the Maryland Turfgrass Association in a joint venture called "Turfgrass 78".

We who serve the Mid-Atlantic superintendents on the board of directors have been a little skeptical about embarking on something as yet untried. We could, however, see a tremendous opportunity to provide a service to *all* people with a professional interest in turf and at the same time generate some revenue for a much needed turf survey and additional research in Maryland.

Before we agreed to support "Turfgrass 78", we had three specifications:

- 1) We maintain our own autonomy
- 2) We have 10 hours for golf course education
- 3) We have separate registration for Mid-Atlantic Superintendents' conference

The Maryland Turfgrass Council was very amenable to all of our requests or specifications, even to the point of agreeing to our dates of January 9th and 10th, 1978. We would like to have stayed in Baltimore, but there was no place on 695 that could give us the facilities that the Sheraton Lanham has to offer. We could have continued with a small, intimate conference which was fine. It was

a conference run by superintendents, for superintendents, and it was always a fine meeting. The meeting gave many of us the opportunity to become speakers and improve ourselves professionally. It also gave us some insight in the mechanics of running a conference. We had a *class* affair. But, we were not picking up any more attendance. Last year's conference was a tribute to the 140 who braved the heaviest snowfall of the year. Realistically, we could not expect to pick up more than 200 people at the most, and that is not enough to generate revenue. We can increase our attendance significantly with a trade show. Hopefully we can attract some of our southern neighbors from Virginia and the Carolinas.

The preliminary setup is to have our conference on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Our banquet will be on Monday night as usual, with the trade show opening about 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday. A general turf conference and P.G.M.S. sessions will follow on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I will be most grateful to have your suggestions for speakers and topics for the Golf Turf session.

I think we, as superintendents, have an obligation to support our respected state's turf program as much as possible, and I can think of no better way than to get behind "Turfgrass 78" and promote it as much as possible.

Sincerely,

George B. Thompson, Educational Chairman
Mid-Atlantic Asso. of Golf Course Supts.

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

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