



CHARTER

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

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Number 11

November Meeting

On January 8th the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendent's Association will be meeting at the Maryland Golf & Country Club in Bel Air Maryland.

Your host will be Ron Hall. Ron has been the Golf Course Superintendent at Maryland since 1969.

Maryland Golf & Country Club was opened for play in

1961. It is situated on the rolling hills of the Glenangus Farm. Glenangus Farm was owned by the late Colonel Larry MacPhail, former owner of the New York Yankees.

The golf course measures 6,800 yards. The front nine was by William F. Gordon, and the back nine by Russell Roberts.

Golf can be played anytime after 12:00 noon. The social hour will start at 5:00 p.m., and dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Henry Indyk.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLUB:

From Interstate 695 take I-95 North to exit #5 (Rt. 24). North on Rt. 24 4½ miles to Macphail Rd. Right on Macphail Rd. to the Club (approximately 3 miles).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow Members:

You don't run your golf courses like you did in 1960, yet in 1977 we still run the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents like it was run in 1960. The needs of members of our association, like the

times, change.

I have no definite recommendations as to how to best re-vamp our association to better serve our members, but I do feel that with some minor overhauling the Mid-Atlantic Association could better serve membership needs in 1978. Your Board members would like to hear your ideas on this subject. Write us, call us, or better yet, tell us and your fellow members at the next meeting.

See you all at the meeting on November 8th, second Tuesday, at Ron Hall's Bel Air, Maryland retreat at Maryland Golf and Country Club.

Yours for finer turf for better golf.

Bill Emerson

Mr. Superintendent Are You An "Endangered Species"?

By Stan Frederiksen, *Manager*
Turf Products, Mallinckrodt, Inc.
St. Louis, MO

Mr. Golf Course Superintendent - is your future as a career turf manager "clouded"? Perhaps much more than you think. Let's take a look at some very ominous considerations you will have to face in the very near future.

Back in the early '60s, Miss Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* was published. It had an everlasting impact upon the world of growing things, including your "thing," highly maintained fine turf. Undoubtedly its original purpose was a truly noble one - to focus public attention upon the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides and the adverse effect this could have on man and his world, not to mention the Earth's millions of other living inhabitants.

However, the overreaction by federal, state and local government officials was startling. Federal agencies,

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Endangered Species

(continued from page 1)

armed with powers delegated to them by Congress, began removing from the marketplace pesticides they found had caused some kind of harm, either to people or the "environment." They also began removing pesticides they felt "might," even under the remotest possible circumstances cause some sort of problem, whether there had ever been such problem reported in connection with those pesticides or not. Further, the "possibility" of potential harm was not limited to that associated with people. The new phrases "balance of nature" and "endangered species" and others began to appear. One group or another began worrying whether in the next 15 or 20 years the "purple-crested-thing-a-ma-bob" would become extinct because of the impact in the "environment" of chemical pesticides. Strangely enough, some of these groups paid little attention to the very basic question - "Should the world be made safe and adaptable for people? - or for 'endangered species'?"

Let's make some observations as to what has happened since *Silent Spring* to bring us to where we are at present, with respect to pesticides and their use:

1. Gone from the market place are many of the important pesticides that helped farmers grow plentiful food crops that you could buy inexpensively. The same pesticides helped you grow beautiful fine turf. Few of these ever caused problems, but (found some government agencies), they "just might" cause problems, and so they were banned.
2. Gone is the incentive on the part of chemical companies to develop new pesticides to help your career. Why should they? There's now only one chance in several thousand that any new compound could ever become commercially available as a pesticide.
3. Gone is the source of many of your turf pesticides - that source being pesticides originally researched and developed for food crops. Because turf is such a small segment of the agriculture market, very few, if any, companies would ever embark on a program of research to develop a pesticide just for turf when

(continued on page 4)

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WAYNE'S PLACE



Congratulations are in order to Dick Fischer. Dick is Superintendent at the Lake Monticello Golf Course in Charlottesville, Virginia. Dick was awarded his Certified Golf Course Superintendent's Status and was presented his plaque at our October meeting. Dick was presented his plaque by our Vice President Sam Kessel. This was a great personal pleasure for Sam, as Dick once worked for Sam as his assistant at Country Club of Fairfax.



I've just received a flyer in the mail from the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendent's Association. This flyer announced their 12th Annual Turf Symposium October 26th and 27th at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In the last year I've received 20 flyers announcing Turf Symposiums, seminars and conferences from all over the country, but this year Wisconsin has come up with a very refreshing and very

important format for their symposium. They have pointed out that growing grass is not enough anymore for the progressive golf course superintendent. Their talks include "Professionalism At Its Best", "Pride in Our Profession", and "Keeping Your Head On Straight During Stress", presented by Carl D. Koutsky, M.D. The other lectures include Budgeting, Personnel Management and Club Operations and Economics.

Personally, I get "turfed" to death at many seminars. I hope that the 12th Annual Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium is a resounding success, and I further hope that other associations will follow their lead.

WAYNE EVANS

Memorial Tournament Successful Again

A large thank you is in order to Bob Shields and his Woodmont staff. Bob and company have made us feel right at home once again. Thanks Bob, you're the greatest.

Congratulations are also in order to all of our winners, they were:

LOW GROSS, CLASS A & B

- 1st - David Kroll (Rueben Hines Trophy)
- 2nd - Paul O'Leary
- 3rd - Stanley Lawson
- 4th - Bob Miller
- 5th - Ron Hall

LOW NET, CLASS A & B

- 1st - Sam Kessel (Bill Glover Trophy)
- 2nd - Ralph Strouth
- 3rd - Grant Pensinger
- 4th - Martin Nadinichek
- 5th - Bert Yingling

CLASS C & D

- Low Net - Steve Fowler
- Low Gross - Bill Neus

CLASS E

- Low Net - Brian Finger
- Low Gross - Tom Comalli

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Agrifacts . . .

The farmer always had to contend with the weather. The year without summer was 1816. Ice formed one-half inch thick in May; a three-inch snow fell in June and ice was still one-eighth inch thick in July.

In 1850, the value of equipment and implements on an average farm was valued at \$115. Today, that valuation might be multiplied a thousand-fold or more.

Memorial Tournament

(continued from page 3)

GUESTS

- Low Net - Chuck Sissell
- Low Gross - Harry Allen
- LONGEST DRIVE - David Kroll
- CLOSEST TO PIN - Bob Miller

Gentlemen, congratulations. To all other contestants, better luck next year.

Endangered Species

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the chance for its commercial success is so slim. With pesticides for food crops in jeopardy, you can imagine how remote is the possibility of new pesticides for turf.

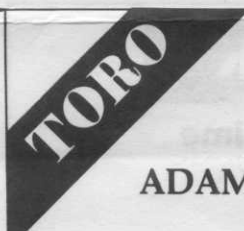
4. Just after *Silent Spring* appeared, the food pesticides people found their warehouses filled with pesticide compounds that the government had banned for food crop use. When a magazine writer said that, "A \$14 million market has opened up for fungicides on golf course turf," you can bet the food pesticides manufacturers started moving their erstwhile unsaleable (for food crop use) fungicides over into the turf market, rightly reasoning that "very few people eat grass." It was at this time (mid 1960's) that you saw entry into the turf fungicides markets, firms which had never participated in such markets before.
5. Right after *Silent Spring*, Monsanto published a resounding rebuttal to the book. To discover what the world would be like without pesticides, read the October, 1962, issue of Monsanto Magazine article entitled "The Desolate Year." It depicts a world without pesticides, overrun with insects and other pests, and presents a frightening picture of how tenuous is the thread that holds civilization together. Without pesticides, the human race could literally be eliminated.



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INTERRUPTIONS: There is an art to avoiding them

You walk into your shop in the morning. The phone is ringing. You pick it up and spend the next 15 minutes talking.

Immediately after hanging up the phone, someone is in front of your desk waiting to talk to you about a problem. You spend 20 minutes discussing ways to alleviate that problem.

Then you turn to some paperwork that must be done before you head to the course. On the way out of the door you see someone who stops and talks with you for 30 minutes.

All the while your work is waiting for you. As a manager you are being given a heavy dose of the interruptions. Interruptions often wreak havoc with a manager's effectiveness.

Interruptions are not always obvious -- some are deceptive. They masquerade as legitimate concerns and we hesitate to label them time wasters. This presumption of legitimacy is attached to telephone calls as well as visitors.

You may say that callers and visitors wouldn't stop by without a good reason. But sometimes a caller or visitor simply wants to socialize or to procrastinate.

There are several ways to get an upperhand on the interruption syndrome. One is to manage your use of the telephone; another is to gain control over shop conversations; a third is to plan for uninterrupted think time.

Good management dictates that incoming telephone calls be prevented from destroying a manager's concentration. Many callers ask for the superintendent because they identify his name with that of the course. The wise manager introduces his staff to clients, speaks highly of their competencies and suggests, "Jim is our expert on pesticide application. I depend on him to keep our members informed."

Consider the telephone a message machine and get off the line promptly. Avoid openings that invite long, drawn out conversations. Instead of saying, "Hi, Fred. How was the golf game last Saturday?", say "Hi, Fred. I need a couple of quick answers if you have a minute."

Visitors can cause problems for managers, too. It is difficult to determine in advance the importance of a visit, so managing visits involves many alternatives.

Consider some of these options:

- a. have fixed reception hours -- this allows callers to know when you are available. It also gives your staff a fixed period of time when they can see you if they have problems.
- b. face your desk away from the door so that you are not interrupted by passersby.
- c. meet the visitors outside your office.
- d. confer standing up.
- e. at the outset, tell the visitor you have only a certain number of minutes to give him, then adhere to that figure.
- f. give the visitor your undivided attention. Do not allow interruptions.
- g. hold occasional luncheon meetings -- to remove the pressure for social visits during business hours.
- h. meet regularly with your staff -- a well-informed

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Interruptions

(continued from page 5)

staff has less need to confer in an unplanned manner.

Uninterrupted think time allows the superintendent the time he needs for thoughtful planning. Some practices that may work for you include:

- a. instituting a quiet hour at the start of the day
- b. coming to the shop early
- c. having a hideaway known to only one staff member

Although interruption control and scheduled think time can greatly improve a manager's effectiveness, there is another tool available -- delegation of duties.

Photo Quiz:

Which of our
Mid-Atlantic Golf Courses
is this?

HINT: New construction, and we've been there this year.



ANSWER (to last month's photo quiz):
Ocean City Yacht and Country Club.

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Dates to Remember

NOVEMBER 8
Maryland Country Club

NOVEMBER 11
Ladies' Night at Sparrows' Point

DECEMBER 13
Election Night at U.S. Naval Academy

Agriquotes . . .

Agriculture is the most healthy, the most useful, and the most noble employment of Man - George Washington.

With attention to the cultivation of grass, farmers often double the value of an old farm in a few years and grow rich on farms on which their predecessors had nearly starved - Benjamin Rush.

"A good supervisor", someone once said, "is a guy who can step on your toes without messing up your shine."



Announcing Ladies' Night

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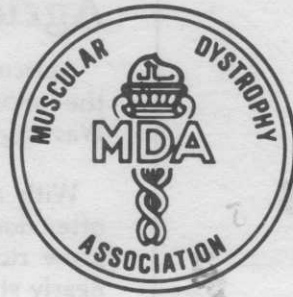
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Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

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