



CHARTER

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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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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Number 10

October Meeting

WELCOME TO WOODMONT

Again it is my pleasure to invite you and your guests to visit Woodmont Country Club - to play golf, cocktails, dinner and then a meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members:

As the pressure of our profession winds down this time of year, it is time to evaluate the experience of the past golfing season and make plans for the future. The same evaluation and future planning is also being done by "your" Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. To assist "your" directors in this task I ask each of you to take a couple hours of "your" time and jot down "your" ideas for improving "your" association. Mail "your" recommendations to me:

Bill Emerson
21 County Court
Gaithersburg, Md. 20760

Our October meeting is the second Tuesday, the eleventh, at Bob Shield's beautiful Woodmont Country Club. I always look forward to Woodmont, and I'm sure we'll have a good turnout as October is the month of our Annual Golf Tournament. Come on out and enjoy a day of playing rather than working for the game of golf.

Yours for better turf for better golf.

Bill Emerson

Woodmont has two 18 hole golf courses, and you can play either one, but the association tournament will be played on the South Course.

Frank Murray built the North Course, and it was opened to play in 1950. The 6514 yard course was designed by Al Tull, who also did Norbeck and Westwood. He drew up plans for the back nine of the South Course, and we built it ourselves. It was opened for play in 1956 when Vice President Nixon cut the ribbon. The front nine of the South Course were designed and built by Leo Freudberg, Green Chairman at that time and myself. It was opened in 1960 and measures 6290 yards.

The greens were C-1 and C-9 bent grass when the course opened, but after many years of overseeding with Penncross bent grass seed, very little of the original grass remains. They are seeded at the rate of one pound of Penncross bent to each green during each month of the growing season.

The fairways were seeded with blue grass and fescue, but that didn't last long so we planted U-3 Bermuda. That went out with the cold winter of '62-'63, but we kept planting the strains that survived the winter with only short-lived success. We used Paraquat two years in a row and then seeded with common Bermuda, but fairways never got real good until too late in the season.

In 1973 we overseeded with Perennial Rye grass and have done so each fall since that time. As you play the course, you will see very little Bermuda grass on the fairways - the rye grass has almost crowded it out of the picture.

This year's fairway seeding operation may be in progress while you are here. We apologize for any interruption of play, but the job must be done.

We are overseeding with Pennfine and Yorktown Rye at 100 pounds per acre. The fairways were aerified twice, followed by the disc-type seeder with Pennfine seed. Two weeks later the Yorktown was planted by cross-seeding the first planting.

(continued on page 2)

October Meeting
(continued from page 1)

The tees are also seeded to perennial rye grass and are cut at 3/4" three times a week. Numbers one and five tees are bent grass tees built on John Strickland's Egypt Farms sand mix, on top of gravel and tile. Divot marks look bad, but they heal quickly. The height of cut is 1/2 inch, and they receive the same treatment the greens receive.

Tee-off time is anytime after 12:00 noon. See our starter Frank, at the first tee. Tony Marlowe, Golf Professional, will be around to assist or answer questions regarding the tournament. Golf carts are available, but please, no hand carts.

CLUB RULE: The Club has a rule that coats and ties must be worn in the dining room. The Mid-Atlantic made the same rule years ago, and I think it should be observed. Inform your guests about this rule so no one will feel embarrassed.

Lunch will be available in the Men's Grill, if necessary. We ask that you sign a charge ticket and be billed through your club.

(continued on page 3)

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October Meeting

(continued from page 2)

PROGRAM FOR THE DAY:

Lunch: 11:30
Golf: 12:00 noon (See Mid-Atlantic Golf Chair)
Golf Cart: \$4.00 each man (No Greens Fee)
Cocktails: 6:00 p.m. (Drinks \$1.75; Beer \$1.00)
Dinner: 7:00 p.m., \$12.50
Meeting: 8:00 p.m.
Speaker: Arranged by George Thompson

DIRECTIONS TO WOODMONT:

The Club is located at 1201 Rockville Pike, one mile south of Rockville. From Washington Beltway, take Exit 19 North on Rockville Pike, four miles on left, behind Congressional Shopping Center.

LADIES:

Sorry, no ladies this meeting. The ladies will be invited to a special Ladies' Night at Sparrows Point Country Club in October.

Present and Future Changes in Golf Course Maintenance

The goal of producing and maintaining the best possible turf for golf has remained constant through the years, but the tools and techniques used in maintenance have constantly changed and continue to do so.

We are well into the age of mechanization, automation and specialization. As with almost all professions, the apprentice has been replaced by the student.

The apprentice often worked for a small income or none at all to learn a trade, and he was prone to learn pat answers from the master tradesman or craftsman for handling routine situations and only a few unusual problems. He learned from experience, which is a harsh but usually lasting method which will never be totally replaced.

The student first gains a background in fundamental principles through formal education which applies to almost all situations. Upon completion of the formal phase of his education, the student is employed at a reasonable wage so that he may complete his technical knowledge to practical situations.

Briefly stated, the apprentice learns from experience, and the student gains experience while learning.

The Greenkeeper has given way to the Golf Course Superintendent or Turf Manager, and the Agronomist or turf specialist has arrived on the scene as a necessary part of our changing technology.

The Greenkeeper was usually a successful apprentice. The Golf Course Superintendent is a professional businessman. Turf management per se may be only a modest portion of the duties ascribed to today's successful Golf Course Superintendent, since a large portion of his time is consumed with purchasing, personnel management, equipment maintenance and repair, bookkeeping, irrigation design, installation, maintenance and use, landscape architecture and building maintenance to name a few areas in which he must have a working knowledge. He also is likely to have a respectable golf handicap.

Because of these divergent areas of responsibility, it is therefore improbable that the Golf Course Superintendent will be able to maintain more than a good

(continued on page 4)

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Present and Future Changes

(continued from page 3)

working knowledge of all of them and will need to rely on a specialist beyond that.

Research is vital to the continuing progress of turf management, and to develop acceptable answers to new and more complex problems that arise from day-to-day as our technology improves.

Between basic research and the practical application of the information it yields, there usually must be a catalyst. This catalyst is usually called an Agronomist and he functions to collect, evaluate and disseminate useful information concerning turfgrass management.

The Agronomist may also specialize in physiology, pathology, entomology, taxonomy or a seemingly endless list of related subjects; but in any event his efforts will be concentrated on a much smaller area of learning than that of the Golf Course Superintendent.

A large portion of today's Golf Course Superintendents have some formal education in the field of turf maintenance than ever before. However, no matter what level of formal education has been completed by the turf manager, there is a basic need for information which can most effectively be supplied by a specialist.

The cycle is complete only if there is a flow of turf management information from the research effort through the practical utilization phase and back again.

The individual who assumes that this cycle can be effectively short circuited simply has not been exposed to or realized the value of each state through which

information must flow in both directions at all times.

A glimpse of the future might reveal some superior plant materials, synthetic soils, better diagnostic aids for turf diseases as well as problems in general, disposable and/or recyclable machinery and parts, totally computerized maintenance operations as well as golf course environments.

About the only thing that will probably remain intact is the goal of producing and maintaining the best possible turf for golf, and the dedication of the individual coping with the challenge.

(This presentation made by Holman Griffin, NGF's Staff Agronomist and Southwestern Regional Director, at NGF's semi-annual staff meeting.)

Reprinted from *A Patch of Green*, July, 1977.



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Dates to Remember

OCTOBER 11
 Woodmont Country Club
 Annual Superintendent's Tournament

NOVEMBER 11
 Ladies' Night Sparrows' Point

DECEMBER 13
 U.S. Naval Academy



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MGCSA NEWS:

It was a perfect day for our meeting at Mt. Kisco. Fred Scheyhing had a great welcome-back day. He took a lot of kidding, but the golf course was in superb condition. Greens were fast and firm, and fairways nice and tight. It was a different course from previous times when it was so wet. I asked Fred about it and he said at previous meetings it always had rained hard the night before. He also might have changed some things after his stay in Baltimore. I am not a golfer, as you all know, but Mt. Kisco C.C. was the way a golf course should play. Fred and the Mt. Kisco staff followed it up with the great steak cookout. Everybody was letting off steam and the meeting was delayed. Paul Sartoretto did a good job with his Compatability Of Pesticides with some able assistance from an anonymous fan in the audience. We had a turnout of about 100 for dinner with another 60 reservations. We have to do better than that.

Whenever you talk to anybody about this season, one of the responses that repeats itself is that there is more play everywhere. This is good for the clubs to generate business, but it can get to the extreme when excessive play takes its toll in the end on the overall playing condition of the golf course. Everybody looks to a Monday in most cases, to catch up on maintenance, watering, spiking etc. If you can't do it then, it usually doesn't get done because of play the rest of the week. The golfers have had a banner year with hardly a weekend that I can recall that they were not able to play both Saturday and Sunday. Let's pray for a nice rain. We need it not only to refresh grass, but to replenish our water supply. When you pump water just about everyday, it doesn't take too long to take down the lake. It certainly will be reflected in your electricity costs.

You all probably have received your Maintenance Survey from the MGA. Please try to fill it out and return it as soon as possible. MGCSA is co-sponsoring the survey.

Garry Crothers



The Three Musketeers, left to right, Hans Richter, manager of the Mt. Kisco C.C., Fred Scheyhing, Jr. and Chef Raymond Buch. Looks like Fred is *really* back home. Ed.

Photo Quiz:

Which of our
Mid-Atlantic Golf Courses
is this?

HINT: We've been there this year.



ANSWER: Next Month

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Membership Applications

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Assistant, Suburban Club of Baltimore
CLASS D
Signed by Bob Miller and Ron Hall.

GARY LUCK
Superintendent, Garrison's Lake Golf Club
Smyrna, Delaware
CLASS B
Signed by Charles Ewing.

In accordance with our by-laws, these names have been published. If after 30 days the Board of Directors has not received in writing any reason why these men should not be accepted into our membership, they will be accepted.

To achieve all that is possible
We must attempt the impossible.
To be as much as we can be
We must dream of being more.

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October 11, 1977
Woodmont Country Club
Rockville, Maryland

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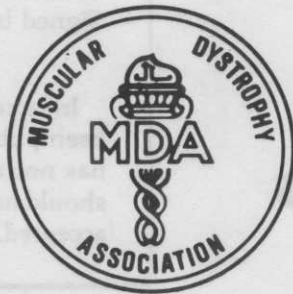
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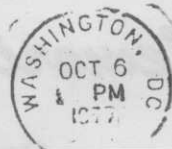


CHAPTER

Mid-Atlantic **Newsletter**

WAYNE EVANS
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