



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 6

## June Meeting

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Members:

Our April and May general membership meetings were highlighted by the participation of the membership in open discussion of the various problems that the superintendent has to deal with daily. I, for one, enjoyed the give and take and was very happy to hear the candid opinions of so many of our members expressed, pro and con, on the various topics. The fact that we don't all agree on any issue tells me that we are healthy and have a viable organization.



The Superintendent-Professional Golf Tournament that was postponed in May was rescheduled and will be played in June at Indian Spring Country Club. Bring your pro or assistant-pro and enjoy a day of "sport" together.

The June meeting will also feature some nostalgia. The Board of Directors, on behalf of the membership, has chosen June to honor some of our members for their past contributions to the Mid-Atlantic. Take it from me you don't want to miss this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Indian Spring Country Club, Tuesday, June 13th. Herb Hienlien is our host and with so much happening I'm sure you'll enjoy the meeting.

Yours for finer turf for better golf,

Bill Emerson

Our June meeting will be held June 13th at the Indian Spring Country Club in Silver Spring, Maryland. Our host for the day will be Herb Hienlien. Herb has been gracious enough to host our Superintendent Pro Tournament which was canceled last month due to extreme weather conditions.



HERB AND MIKE HIENLIEN

Herb has been at the Indian Spring club for six years with his son Mike as his right-hand man. Of the over forty years that Herb has been a superintendent, he has been a member of GCSAA for 29 years. Herb served as president of the Allegheny Mountain Golf Course Association for 15 years, and president of the Golf Course Owner's Association of Pennsylvania for 5 years. He presently owns 50% of two 18-hole courses in the Pittsburgh area.

The Superintendent Pro Tournament will be played this month as it would have been played last month. Tee times can be arranged by calling Ken Braun at 301-486-2054. The cost will be \$10.00 per man for golf and prizes, and dinner alone will be \$10.00 per man.

To reach Indian Spring Country Club, take Washington Beltway Rt. 495 to the Georgia Avenue exit (#21) North to Layhill Road. Turn right on Layhill 1½ miles to the club on your right.

Golf - after 10:00 a.m.

Cocktails - 6:00 p.m.

Dinner - 7:00 p.m.

Lunch - available in mixed grill.

## Green Speed Can Be Measured With USGA's New Stimpmeter

Distribution of the first shipment of USGA's Stimpmeter should be underway, according to the USGA. The Stimpmeter was developed by USGA to help golf course superintendents assign numerical values to putting green speeds.

Most superintendents are well aware that green speed can vary considerably from hole to hole, but without tools to quantify speeds, making them consistent is difficult. The device made of extruded aluminum, is about 36 inches long and one and three-fourths inches wide, with a V-shaped groove along its length.

Alexander Radko, national director of the USGA Green Section, is quick to point out that the USGA has no desire to standardize green speeds. "The Stimpmeter is your speedometer!" he declared at GCSAA's San Antonio conference. "With it, you can set your green speed at any level that your membership desires."

Clubs that subscribe to the USGA Turf Advisory Service will receive one Stimpmeter as part of compensation for the annual fee. Other USGA member and non-member clubs and members of the Regional Association Liaison Committee may purchase a Stimpmeter for \$15. To order, write to the United States Golf Association, Golf House, Far Hills, N.J. 07931.


## Poor Putters Get Excuse

Tests conducted by the U.S. Golf Association prove that golf shoe spikes with recessed flanges cause for less damage to greens than normal spikes.

The average golf shoe has 12 spikes, and the USGA has computed that a player averages 28 paces per green; 28 paces times 24 spikes means 672 impressions; 672 impressions times 18 greens equals 12,096 impressions per round per player.

Assuming the 200 rounds are played each day on a course, the greens receive 2,419,200 impressions daily—or more than 72 million holes each month.


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## Turf Management

Charles H. Darrah, Extension Turf Specialist

### Not Ready for Prime Time Seedings

The prime time for spring seeding of cool season turfgrasses has past. Normally February 15th through March 30th are considered the best dates in which to spring seed turfgrasses in Maryland. The environmental conditions during these dates are usually more favorable for seed germination and seedling establishment. Later in the spring, temperature and moisture extremes may create an unfavorable environment for the seedling grasses. Therefore the chances of a successful establishment are far greater when seeding before April 1st, but by no means does this mean that a later planting won't be successful.

Many situations arise where there is a need to establish a turf cover during the late spring and summer months. In some areas, like road cuts or strip mined land, permanent stabilization of the soil can be achieved by using species which establish themselves well during hot, dry periods. Weeping lovegrass and Korean lespedeza are two which are frequently used. In other areas, like around newly constructed homes or commercial buildings or on a new tee or fairway, the establishment of turf-type grass species is more desirable. Many counties require soil stabilization around newly constructed buildings before occupancy. Generally there are three options to consider in these cases, and they include sodding, establishing a warm season grass or seeding a cool season grass and living with the consequences.

Sodding is probably the best alternative to establishing a cool season turf during the late spring and early

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## Cup Placement Rules - How Important?

Rules on where to place a cup? There are none—official, that is. The USGA, Godfather of golf play and playing conditions, has wisely only offered suggestions and left good judgment to you. There is little question about the importance of proper cup placement and proficiency in chancing the location. Important it is because 54 shots in each 18-hole round are concerned with pin placement—18 to the green and 36 on the green—a mere 60 to 75% of all the strokes a golfer should need.

Here's what the USGA says:

1. If possible, have the cup at least five paces (15 feet or so) from the green's edge and further than this from any sand bunker.
  2. Place it in as near a level area as possible and level over a six foot diameter if possible. The ball, when putted should not gather speed or have excessive break. The player should be able to putt boldly for the hole.
  3. Always use good judgment to permit fairness for the golfer.
  4. Avoid tricky cup placement.
- Other things to consider:
5. Qualifications of the players.
  6. Size and condition of the green.
  7. When changing cups, avoid leaving a raised edge around the rim.
  8. Make sure the old hole surface is as low as the surrounding green surface.
  9. So you have built in problems that don't give you much choice. Just do the best you can and maybe the devil will forgive you anyway. Remember, there are plenty of others in the same boat.

## Did You Know?

The rules of golf say a golfer does have a few rights while playing a round. Some of these are as follows:

- The right to remove man-made objects from bunkers before playing a stroke.
- The right to replace a club broken in the normal course of play.

- The right to bend fixed or growing things in the act of fairly taking the stance.
- The requirement to re-drop if a dropped ball rolls into a hazard or out of bounds.
- The requirement to place a ball to be placed or replaced in a similar lie of the original lie is altered while the ball is lifted.

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## Dates to Remember

### JUNE 13

Indian Spring Country Club  
Superintendent Pro Tourney

### JULY 11

Loudon Golf and Country Club

### AUGUST

Family Picnic

### AUGUST 16th & 17th

Penn State Turfgrass Field Days

### SEPTEMBER

Philadelphia Tournament  
Wilmington Country Club, Delaware

### OCTOBER

Superintendent's Tournament  
Hunt Valley Golf Club

### OCTOBER 8th - 11th

Professional Grounds Maintenance Society Annual  
Conference  
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## Plan Ahead To Keep People Satisfied With Jobs

Even the most routine golf course maintenance job has peak work loads from time to time. That's when it will pay—even though you may be busiest then yourself—to plan what should be tackled next.

Many jobs require considerable preparatory lead-time before people can actually get down to work. If a gap is allowed to develop between the end of one job and the beginning of the next, it will be that much harder to get everyone back up to speed. The way to achieve a high level of enthusiasm is to have new challenges ready ahead of time for people to sink their teeth into. When one assignment ends, get people started on another one as promptly as you can. Pick a new goal and keep things moving.

The visitor paid his green fees, fixed up a match, and went out to the first tee. Taking his stance, he gave a wild swing, and missed completely.

"By Jove!" he said to his opponent, "it's a good thing I found out early in the game that this course is at least two inches lower than the one I usually play on."

It's strange that people brag about being average. After all, average is the worst of the good and best of the bad.

A fresh ball mark repaired by a player takes only five seconds.

A freshly repaired ball mark will completely heal in twenty-four hours.

A fresh ball mark left unrepaired for only one hour requires fifteen days.

Before the ugly scar has satisfactorily healed please repair all ball marks.

## Did You Know?

(continued from page 3)

- The right to clean a ball when obtaining relief without penalty from obstructions, casual water and ground under repair.
- Exemption from penalty for moving an opponent's ball if it was moved in the act of searching for it.
- The right to replace a ball if it is so damaged during play of a hole that it is unfit for play.

## A Golf Superintendent

### A purchasing agent, too?

A golf course superintendent gets called various names, especially after closing the course on Saturday afternoon; however, seldom is he referred to as a "purchasing agent." Nevertheless—along with titles such as agronomist, pathologist, plumber, and electrician—"purchasing agent" is apropos.

A young superintendent soon learns that the role of purchasing agent is another arduous task that college courses somehow never even mentioned. Consequently, he often tries to take buying decisions without proper criteria. Every course has different needs, but all superintendents face the same questions: When do I purchase? How much do I purchase? What is a fair price?

The answer to each question is bound to vary—the reasoning behind each answer is similar. How much to purchase is relevant to the size of your budget and the course. However, the proportion is similar for all courses. No office buys a yearly supply of stamps, envelopes, and stationary at the beginning of the year;

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## Mid-Atlantic Superintendent Pro Tournament

Tuesday, June 13, 1978

Indian Spring C.C.  
Silver Spring, Maryland

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PRO PURSE: \$350.00 for 8 places

SUPERINTENDENTS: Prizes of merchandise

GOLF & PRIZES: \$10.00 per man

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## Your Appearance is Impressive

Just inside the employee's entrance to most post offices is a full length mirror and a poster which reads "Check Your Appearance, Everyone Else Does!" Judging by the appearance of most postal employees, the approach has a good effect.

The poster slogan might well be placed in every superintendent maintenance building, just as a reminder of the examination of your golfers give each member of your operation.

Obviously, there will be times when it is totally impractical to expect everyone to pass an inspection, but more often that not, care should be taken to improve personal appearance when going to the clubhouse or other high traffic areas.

It takes very little time to wipe off your grass-covered boots, wash your hands and face or check your hair and clothes, but the impression it makes on "viewers" could be great. Personal appearance makes a lasting impression on most people, an impression that determines many other factors, such as how the individual is spoken to or what is asked of them and how that request is made.

Check your own appearance and encourage your crew to follow your example.

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## SERVICE IS OUR FIRST CONSIDERATION

## Turf Management

(continued from page 3)

summer. The advantages of using quality sod include: 1) immediate erosion control, 2) immediate green surface with no dust or mud problems, 3) quick use capability, 4) high probability of establishment success, 5) freedom from establishment weed problems and 6) the purchase of a product with tangible quality. As with seeding, sod is best established on thoroughly prepared (plowed, disced, firmed) soil which has been supplied with adequate fertility and lime. Another important consideration, especially in a late spring or summer planting, is adequate watering. Newly laid sod should be watered daily for a period of about two weeks to insure optimum survival. After this time, normal irrigation practices should be followed because of poor summer rooting of transplanted cool-season grasses.

The second alternative, establishing a warm season turfgrass is also a good choice. Tufcote bermudagrass and Meyer zoysiagrass are warm season grasses adapted to Maryland and best established from mid-May to August. If there is an immediate need to establish a turf and use considerations and/or personal preferences do not rule out a warm season turfgrass, then late spring to summer are the ideal times to establish these grasses.

The third alternative and the most risky is seeding a cool season turf. As seedings are attempted later in the spring the chances of success often diminish to zero. Late April or early May seedings may be moderately successful if properly mulched and careful attention is paid to irrigation practices. Using species which germinate faster than Kentucky bluegrass like tall fescue, red fescue or turf-type perennial ryegrass may also be advantageous. These seedings are usually severely thinned by summer heat and drought. They can however provide an adequate turf cover until fall, when they can be thickened by overseeding.

The use of annual ryegrass or an unimproved perennial ryegrass variety should be considered as a last resort and should be considered as a temporary measure for soil stabilization and *not* as a lawn turf. These two species produce undesirable turf under Maryland conditions. They are coarse, bunch-type grasses which continue to thin out year after year. Overseeding desirable grasses into a stand of annual or unimproved perennial ryegrass leads to a clumpy, non-uniform turf. Therefore, if these species are seeded in the summer as a "temporary" lawn they should be completely removed by using a non-selective herbicide. Two herbicides labelled for this purpose are glyphosate (Roundup) and dalapon (Dowpon M). Reseeding can begin 2 weeks after the application of glyphosate or 4 weeks after the application of dalapon. Therefore, time the application so that reseeding can begin in the August 15th to September 30th time period. Then re-establish or renovate the "temporary" lawn using recommended cool season turf varieties (Agronomy Mimeo 77 - Turfgrass Recommendations for Maryland and Virginia) at the best time of the year for cool season turf establishment—the FALL.



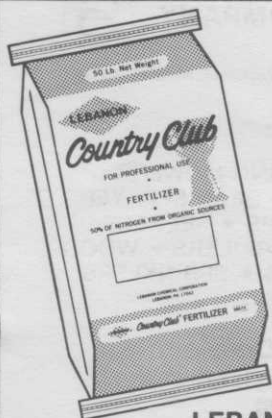
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## A Golf Superintendent

(continued from page 5)

and no factory purchases all the steel, tires, and raw goods it will need at the beginning of the year simply because needs change and cash flow will not allow it.

As manager of a golf course, your job is similar to a purchasing agent in a factory. You know you will need certain fungicides, herbicides, and fertilizer; however, you never know what the weather will bring. Keeping this in mind, it may be helpful to use a "benchmark" method. Pick a time in the season and purchase up to that time, for instance June 15. You know what new machinery you need to begin the year, your preemergent and spring fertilizer programs are underway, and fungicides are usually standard up to that time. Then when June rolls around, you can start purchasing on a monthly basis. This allows you to always have needed products on hand, but if the situation calls for pythium control, you won't have your budget wrapped up in Daconil. This method also has advantages for the club. They don't have to invest money in March for products that won't be used until August. (Sure, the question of early-order discounts plays a small part here, but if you look at it closely, it's a very small part.)

If you have chosen which products you feel will perform the best, then look up the rates and have it on your J.C. Penny calculator. But you may want to back up one step. I have noticed three mistakes being made when figuring how much. First of all, the areas to be treated

are not known exactly. Or perhaps you are using figures from Fred who used to be the super, and Fred got them from Bill before him, who got them from the "green chairman." Then there is the question of budgeting to treat the greens and tees for a given program, but forgetting that the collars and aprons are usually treated the same.

I'll close with one final thought: I have yet to observe any industry that has managed to extract more service from its suppliers than has the golf course superintendents. As purchasing agents, you have, as a whole, performed way above par. With knowledge gained through efforts such as this magazine, you have managed to keep well informed about products and gain full cooperation from suppliers. In no other business that I know of can you get free delivery across the state, and many times, the next day. You can't buy a car downtown and ever have the salesman stop by the house to see how it's running; but you can buy a \$2,000 mower and have the turf distributor salesman stop by and adjust it a year after you bought it, and at no charge!

Keep these things in mind. The next time a board member asks you to shop around or you hear discussions about having a general manager do all the purchasing, point out what a good job you are doing as purchasing agent.

*This column was written by Steve Derrick, President of Professional Turf Specialties in Normal, Ill. It originally appeared in the Central Illinois GCSA newsletter.*

## Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

WAYNE EVANS  
1804 Ironton Drive  
Oxon Hill, Maryland 20021  
301-567-9386

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Published monthly by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the advancement of the golf course superintendent through education and merit.

Subscription rate for non-members: \$5.00 per year.