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Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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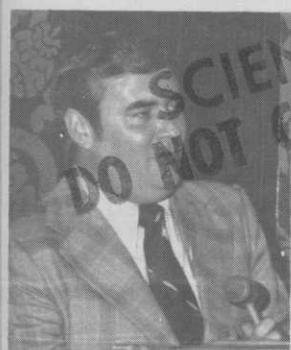
Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

Volume XXXI

September 1978

Number 9

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow Members:

"Thanks" are in order to Ben Stagg, our social and benevolent Director, and a host of volunteers for another successful family picnic. "Bens Boys" put on a feast fit for Royalty at a price you couldn't beat.

Thanks also to Carol

Hall and her "Girls" for organizing and running the kiddies program. All the kids had a great time participating in the various events and showing off their victory ribbons. A special thanks to our host Bob Milligan. Bob has hosted our last four picnics and for some very good reasons Gunpowder Country Club and the M.A.A. of C.C.S. annual picnic seem made for each other. Thanks again Bob.

Dave Kroll is hosting our September 12th meeting at Wilmington Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware. Our September meeting, as in the past, is our joint meeting with our Philadelphia Brethren, featuring the annual 2-man team challenge match. Come see Golf as it should *not* be played, and enjoy some Give and Take with a great group of guys.

We're all looking forward to seeing you in September. Don't let us down. We feel neglected when you're not around.

Yours for finer turf for better golf.

Bill Emerson

September

Meeting

The September meeting will be held at the Wilmington Country Club in Greenville Delaware. Our Host will be David Kroll.

David has been at Wilmington since 1973. From 1973 until 1976 David was the assistant under Harry McSloy. Dave took over the duties of superintendent in 1976. Dave is a 1969 Graduate of Penn State. Upon graduation he worked as assistant under Warren Bichwell at the Philadelphia Country Club. Dave then did a hitch with Uncle Sam, between 1969 and 1971. David is married to Charlene and they have two children Stacy, 3 years and Scott 5 weeks.

When we say that David took over the duties of superintendent, we weren't kidding about *duties*. Wilmington C. C. has 36 holes. The South Course, which we are playing has C-1 and C-19 greens that average 9,000 sq. ft. The tees are bent and the fairways are also bentgrass maintained at $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. David maintains 8 acres of greens and 4 acres of tees. As if this isn't enough maintenance for you, David also has a pool and twenty-one tennis courts, 4 grass, 10 Hartru, 4 all weather and 3 indoor. Also under Dave's care are 2 platform tennis courts and 6 squash courts. The large clubhouse is very beautifully landscaped with a *bentgrass* lawn.

Just the description makes me want to attend the meeting. If you are curious, as I am, please find a partner and come out September 12th for our team match against the Philadelphia section. If you are interested call Ken Braun at Bonnieview, 301-486-2054, for a tee time. Remember September 12th. *Be there.*

Directions to the club: Take Interstate 95 North from the Baltimore Beltway Rt. 695. Then take Exit 7 off at 95, to Wilmington and Rt. 52 North. The Club is $\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the right.

WAYNE'S PLACE



For those of you who don't know already, I will be changing jobs as of September 5th. I will be moving all of five miles up the road from Marlton Country Club to the Marlboro Club. The Marlboro Club (formerly the Duke of Marlboro) is a relatively new club being only 4 years old. I'm really looking forward to the new job. It's almost like starting from scratch at my first job, really refreshing.



I would like to take this time to thank everyone involved in the running of the Superintendent's Picnic. Ben Stagg, Paul Barefoot and their committee did a fantastic job on the food. Carol Hall really made an enjoyable day for the kids in their games. Those kids with the ribbons were really a picture. Bob Milligan, what can I say, four years in a row he has hosted our picnic at his own Gunpowder Country Club. Bob you're the Greatest.



As you all know our Superintendent's Team match with the Philadelphia section will be held September 12 at David Kroll's Wilmington Country Club. We've been lucky in the past and we've skinned "Philly" every year. I know they're going to be out gunning for us this year so let's get out there and enjoy the competition with our Northern brothers. If you're not signed up yet, please call Ken Braun at Bonnieview Country Club ASAP.

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Establishing and Maintaining Turfgrasses Under Shade

K. J. Karnok
Department of Agronomy

Approximately 20 to 25% of existing turf must be maintained under some degree of shade. Often this poses a significant challenge to the turf manager. Although the obvious reduction of light is a critical factor, shaded turf areas are also characterized by restricted wind movement and high relative humidity. The reduced light results in a weakened turfgrass plant while high humidity favors the incidence of disease. The result of these two conditions is a severe thinning of the turfgrass stand.

The selection of a proper shade-tolerant species and cultivar is the first step toward the successful management of turf under shade. In recent years, several shade-tolerant Kentucky bluegrass cultivars have been developed. Some of the common ones are Nugget, Glade, A-34, Birka, and Bristol. To obtain maximum benefits, two or more of these cultivars should be blended together. The Kentucky bluegrass blend should then be combined in a mixture with one or more fine leaf fescues such as Pennlawn, C-26, or Ruby. Under wet shaded conditions, Polis rough bluegrass may be incorporated into the mixture. For proper mixtures and seeding rates, see Table I.

Following establishment of the proper turfgrass cultivars, several modified cultural practices are necessary. A cutting height of 2 to 2.5 in. will allow the sward to absorb a greater amount of light. Excessive nitrogen fertilization results in succulent tissue which is more susceptible to disease and wear injury. Therefore, nitrogen should be maintained at a level just high enough to avoid nitrogen chlorosis. Late morning irrigation should be deep and infrequent, wetting the soil to a depth of at least 6 in. Strict traffic control is essential since the recuperative rate of turf growing under shade is severely reduced.

Some benefits have been realized by modifying the shade environment. For example, pruning the lower limbs of isolated trees 8 to 10 ft. above the ground will allow more morning and evening sunlight to reach the turf area. Dense plantings of trees and shrubs should be avoided since maximum wind movement above the shaded turf area is important in avoiding temperature and humidity stratifications which are favorable for disease. Under extreme shade, shade-adapted ground covers such as English ivy, goutweed, myrtle, and pachysandra are recommended.

Wastewater Conference Scheduled

On November 13 and 14, 1978, a conference sponsored by the American Society of Golf Course Architects Foundation, the National Golf Foundation and the Green Section of the United States Golf Association will be held at the Arlington Park Hilton, Euclid Avenue & Rohlwing Road, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60006. The theme of the 2-day conference is "Wastewater Irrigation of Recreational Turf Areas." The conference's objectives are: (1) to produce "State of the Art" information and to document what is now known as it applies to recreational turf; (2) to generate additional information on wastewater uses; (3) to produce "Guide Line" information for publication.

Everyone interested in land disposal of wastewater (effluent and other) is cordially invited. A monumental bit of work has been done in this area. Interest in wastewater has quietly mushroomed due to concern for possible future limits on fresh, potable water for recreational purposes. Representatives of all recreation turf installations — golf, park and recreation, industrial, military, government, irrigation, landscape and water works are invited.

Mark these dates on your calendar now — plan to attend!

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Landscaping for Mowing Safety

Next time you think of planting a tree or decorative bush give some thought to how your landscaping plans affect the mowing safety of your lawn. More than 80 per cent of the nearly 50 million power lawn mowers in use today are gasoline-powered walk-behind models with rotary blades—sharp knives traveling up to about 200 miles per hour. They can cut your lawn quickly and easily. They can also cause serious injury if used carelessly. So it's a good idea to plan for safer, more enjoyable mowing when landscaping your property. Chances are you can avoid creating unnecessary obstacles or hidden hazards.

For example, try to avoid mowing backward by locating your trees and shrubs strategically for a forward-only mowing pattern. Whether you have a walk-behind mower or a lawn and garden tractor, mowing forward is safer than mowing backward. When pulling a mower backward, you run risk of pulling too far, losing your balance, and perhaps running over your own toes. Backing up a lawn and garden tractor is an awkward maneuver that requires a lot of neck twisting and attention to what's behind you.

A rapidly moving blade can catch objects and hurl them at great velocity. That's why mowers manufactured and sold in recent years have been equipped with shields and deflectors. A downward-curving metal shield

(continued on page 8)

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Guest Editorial

I read with great interest George Cleaver's President Message entitled, "Skilled Employees Need Financial Incentive" in the April, 1978 issue of THE GOLF SUPT. Mr. Cleaver rightfully contended that because of the low wage scale paid by golf courses, skilled employees are hard to find and keep. In other words you get what you pay for. Mr. Cleaver was referring to the employees other than the superintendent in his article. However, I believe that this message should be carried a step further and should relate to the superintendent's position also.

It really irritates me to read the want ads in our trade publications and see something that reads, "Wanted—Golf Course Superintendent for prominent Midwestern 18-hole course; B.S. degree in Agronomy or similar field required; must have at least three years experience as a golf course superintendent; salary range—\$15,000-\$17,500." Do you realize how much \$15,000 equates to in an hourly wage scale? \$7.21, and that's figuring 40 hours a week times 52 weeks a year (I'd love to see the day when a superintendent averages 40 hours a week). Any dumb-dumb can today start at any major factory for at least \$6.50 an hour and can be making more than \$7.00 an hour in a year's time. Plus he gets a full major-medical hospitalization plan, a pension plan, a dental and eye care plan, and who knows how many paid sick days and vacation. Then there is the "skilled tradesmen" such as plumbers, electricians, bricklayers, etc. Let's just say that they average \$10.00 an hour (which is really a low estimate); this equates out to \$20,800 a year.

Then there is the golf superintendent. He is in charge

of 120 acres of land valued in the area of between $\frac{3}{4}$ and 1 million dollars. He is responsible for an inventory of machinery worth anywhere from \$50,000 to \$150,000 and chemicals and fertilizer worth \$15,000-\$25,000. He has the capacity to be an agronomist, plumber, electrician, horticulturist, PR man, just to name a few. He delegates authority to a crew of at least ten persons, and his salary is \$15,000. Plus the benefits are definitely not the best. To me that is a crime; actually a salary of only \$20,000 is too low.

The point that I want to make is that I believe we as golf course superintendents are underpaid. Yes, most of us like our jobs because it is a challenge; there is no routine, and it's enjoyable being outdoors, etc. However, as Mr. Cleaver said in his message, "But that doesn't pay the bills."

I hope that a lot of green chairmen in Central Illinois see this editorial. Perhaps they can relate it to their club's situation. Let them ask the questions, "Out of the three positions at their club (club manager, pro, and superintendent), who receives the highest yearly income?" I bet that the majority of answers isn't the golf superintendent. Then ask the question, "Of those three positions, who has been at your club the longest?" The majority of answers to this is probably "the golf superintendent."

Today's golf course superintendent is highly skilled, dedicated professional. Then pay him like one!!!

Dave Fearis CGCS
6525 Cedarbrook Lane
Peoria, Illinois 61614

*Credit "Central Illinois Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter"
Vol. 4, No. 2*

The Great?

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Annual Team Match

September 12th, 1978

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Dates to Remember

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Wilmington Country Club

OCTOBER 10th

Superintendent Championship Tourney
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VIRGINIA TURFGRASS CONFERENCE WILLIAMSBURG, VA.

Don't forget to mark your calendar to attend the 1979 Virginia Turfgrass Conference, January 23 - 24. There will be a special ladies program sponsored by the Old Dominion G.C.S.A. We want this to be the best and the largest conference yet.

V.P.I. FALL FIELD DAYS

Another important event to mark on your calendar is the annual V.P.I. Fall Field Days and Trade Show. This year's dates are September 13 - 14 with golf tournament held on the 12th. There is much to be learned at such a meeting and the cost to attend is nominal. Without the hard work and dedication of the turf specialists from this great institution, many of us might not have our jobs today. Let's all make a sincere effort to attend this our own state meeting.

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AUGUST 1978

Being an Effective Public Speaker

Most of us view an invitation to speak to a group with less than overwhelming enthusiasm—the first thing that usually comes to our minds is a thousand and one reasons why we can't possibly accept the invitation. Strange as it may seem, however, public speaking can actually be enjoyable if you remember that *knowledge* and *simplicity* are what make a good speaker.

Golf course superintendents are actually in an enviable situation—you know a great deal about a number of topics that interest many people. Almost any group you might be asked to address will have an interest in something you know a lot about, including landscaping, turf care and golf. When you can talk with enthusiasm about a topic you know well, you have taken a giant step toward being an accomplished speaker.

Most audiences are sympathetic—they are listening to you, presumably to get information, not to hear a polished or humorous speaker talk about nothing. They will remain sympathetic, too, as long as you don't talk down to them. Try to put yourself in their place—if you present your material in a simple, sincere way, using non-technical terms, you're sure to be a hit.

You may find it useful to take along visual aids, such as slides or maps, to illustrate your talk. Not only do pictures make your explanations clearer, but they provide interest and variety to your listeners.

By projecting an image of yourself as an expert, you are contributing greatly to the public's understanding of golf course superintendents and the profession. Consider offering your services as a speaker to other organizations that you are associated with. You'll be surprised at the number of groups who would be delighted to have you as a speaker. For starters, think about garden clubs, your own golf club's membership, service organizations, special interest groups organized by your county agent or extension service and church and school groups.

Once you have established yourself as a willing and able speaker, you will probably have more invitations than you have time for. Sandwich in as many as you can, for you are doing both yourself and your profession a great service.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION BEGINS SOON

Registration materials will be mailed in October to all GCSAA members for the 50th International Turfgrass Conference and Show, to be held in Atlanta, Feb. 4-9, 1979. A descriptive brochure, with information about all conference activities will be included, along with registration and housing forms.

Non-members who would like to receive this information may do so by writing to GCSAA Headquarters, 1617 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, Kan. 66044.

Mowing Safety

(Continued from page 4)

over the discharge-chute opening deflects most thrown objects to the ground a short distance away. A rubber or metal "drag" shield at the rear of the mower deck also prevents the launching of stones and sticks. These shields provide important protection, and yet some people remove them because they consider these guards a nuisance.

Sometimes people are annoyed by shields when trying to mow too close to trees or trying to mow in tight areas. When you put in new plantings, give yourself room to mow easily and safely with shields in place. And plan ahead for future growth.

Remove a small circle of grass around trees in your mowing area. This will help keep the deflector on the chute from bumping into trunks or scraping bark. This will also allow rain and nutrients to penetrate to tree roots and will let you trim right to the edge of the grass, without using hand clippers. If you prefer to cover the circle with decorative stones or chipped bark, be sure to provide a plastic or hard rubber edge strip that will keep stones and bark from spilling over into your lawn. Young children are easily tempted to throw stones or kick them around, so it may be a good idea to forego decorative stones until your children are older.

Perhaps a fence line, building foundation, or air conditioning unit presents a mowing problem. Turn your mower so the discharge chute opening faces the opposite direction and mow as close as possible with the

smooth side of the mower. Use a nylon-line trimmer to clip the remaining high grass quickly and easily. Or plant flowers or shrubs along these areas so you don't have to mow right up to them.

If you have a dangerously steep slope in your yard, it is safer to plant ground cover on it instead of trying to mow down the steep grade. When using a walk-behind mower, always mow across the face of a slope in swaths parallel to the base of the slope. Then, if you trip or lose balance, there's less chance of falling onto or slipping under the mower. With a riding model, mow up and down the slope. Riding up and down provides greater stability.

Fill in ditches and holes. You don't want a bumpy ride or, if you push a mower, you don't want to turn an ankle and fall. If a ditch can't be filled in, ground cover on the banks may be safer than maintaining grass.

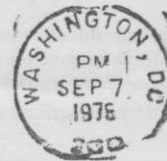
Low-hanging branches can also cause you to lose balance. In addition, they can knock you completely off a tractor seat, flick an eye, or conceal children and pets. Children under 15 are involved in about 20 per cent of the nearly 57,000 mowing mishaps that occur each year. It is always wise to make sure your youngsters are safely away from the area you are mowing.

Trees that drop nuts or hard little fruit provide another unnecessary hazard. If you already have such a tree, clean up the debris before you mow. And pick up any bones, toys, sticks, or stones. Put them in a box or bag, and cart them off before they become mower missiles.

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter

WAYNE EVANS
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