



CHARTER

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Topdressing By Michael Larsen

A sound topdressing program is an important and integral part in producing a quality putting surface. As turfgrass managers, we are all conscious of the benefits of topdressing: leveling the putting surface, controlling thatch, adding a more desirable soil for turf growth and development, and alleviating grain by promoting the upright growth of the grass plant. In this article, I will outline the successful topdressing program I have employed at Hillendale Country Club over the years.

The greens, which average 5000 square feet, are closed the latter part of December and temporary greens are played until favorable conditions warrant reopening them in the spring. Just after the greens are closed for the winter we apply our heaviest application of topdressing of approximately 2 cubic yards of material per green. This application serves several purposes. First, it protects the crown of the plant from winter dessication. Yet another



April President's Message

As always, the Mid-Atlantic Association was well represented at the GCSAA Conference held in St. Louis, Mo. Everyone will agree that the Equipment Show and Convention Center was second to none.

Educational sessions were not as good as in previous years. Fertility, Pythium Control and "Think Superintendent" were probably the highlights of the educational session.

However, more and more superintendents are taking advantage of the pre-conference seminars such as Plant Nutrition, Landscaping, Irrigation, Pesticides and Management, for certification renewal or for a personal achievement.

Hopefully, GCSAA will continue to offer these seminars and more, to strengthen and broaden superintendents' education and ability to make us better turf managers.

George Thompson is our GCSAA Chapter Relations Representative. If you have any ideas that you would like to see implemented in the National, please contact George.

A big thank you is in order to Gerry Gerard and co-workers at Bretton Woods for the hospitality extended to us for our March meeting. I'm sure the more than seventy that attended fully enjoyed themselves. **THANK YOU, GERRY!**

As scheduled, our April meeting will be held at Green Hill Yacht and Country Club, Salisbury, Maryland. Eastern Shore's hospitality is always great. Looking forward to seeing all of you on April 8 with Lou White as our host.

Ron

advantage to this heavy topdressing is the early spring green up it gives due to the dark particles attracting sunlight and heating up the soil surface. Presently, I am conducting an experiment on a bentgrass nursery to illustrate this striking effect. Hopefully, I will be able to share some of the resulting information with you at one of our monthly meetings through a slide presentation.

Starting in April, we routinely topdress greens every 3 weeks throughout the season. For these applications a smaller amount of material is applied, usually about 1/3 cubic yard per green. This amount of topdressing suits our needs and was decided upon through experimentation and recommendation suggested by the U.S.G.A.

The topdressing we use in the Egypt Farms 7:2:1 mix and is applied with a Cushman topdresser. The spreader setting for the heavy winter application is 1, the lighter application setting is below 1/4.

During the spreading operation the Cushman is operated in 1st gear low range at approximately 2500 RPM.

As with all operations on the golf course, there is a certain procedure we follow in our topdressing program. The greens are first verticut lightly in two directions, mowed, then topdressed. Although, verticutting is an integral part of the topdressing program, we sometimes verticut between topdressing applications. The topdressing is worked in by using a Har Tru tennis court brush, an idea passed on to me by Jack Montecalvo at Woodholme Country Club. The light applications of topdressing virtually disappear after brushing.

Topdressing greens is performed on Mondays because of minimal player interruption. The entire operation of vertical mowing and brushing 19 greens takes 4 men about 6 hours to complete.

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Topdressing by Michael Larsen

Continued from page 1

Due to the abrasive nature of the topdressing, we do not mow the day after topdressing but resume our regular mowing schedule the second day. If you have an old set of reels for your greensmowers, I would suggest you use these for your first mowing after topdressing.

With topdressing every 3 weeks, the greens receive about 10 applications a year. The cost of such a program is minimal. I budget \$3,000 a year for topdressing which represents less than 2% of my budget. This is sufficient to complete my topdressing program with enough on hand to repair divots and ball marks.

I do not think of my verticutting and topdressing programs as an extra operation to perform, but consider it as part of my regular maintenance program. I realize that uncontrollable circumstances, such as rain, sometimes interrupt schedules, but as turfgrass managers we learn very early in our careers to be flexible and always find some way to "Get the job done".

Unfortunately budgetary limitations may prevent some of you from topdressing with the frequency that I do, but I feel many of us could budget our time and money to topdress more frequently. Topdressing, usually represents a small percentage of a budget. When comparing dollars to benefits, a consistent topdressing program is a bargain in providing golfers with quality putting greens.

BWRC — March Meeting

The 1980 Mid-Atlantic year started off with a bang. Over seventy members and guests enjoyed an outstanding buffet and open bar at Bretton Woods. Host Gerry Gerard and General Manager, Tom Yann received a big round of applause for giving us an enjoyable evening.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Ron Seilel, Director, Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland. He told us about the Institute of Applied Agriculture and stressed the point that they are lacking students for the coming year.

Dr. Dave Wehner explained to us the reasons that he is leaving the University of Maryland. He said that his main reason was the lack of research facilities and the present uncertainties of the future turf program. He will be going to the University of Illinois. He said that we all should write letters to the State government protesting the sale of the turf research farm.

Six golfers braved the cool weather to play 9 holes. No golf prizes were given.

Ben Stagg won the 50-50.

APRIL 8 MEETING MID-ATLANTIC A.G.C.S.

WELCOME to Green Hill Yacht and Country Club. Green Hill is an 18 hole private country club organized in 1925 and opened for play in 1927. The original club house was built in 1928. In its early years it was a flat course, tees, greens and fairways. In 1931 the club acquired the services of Dr. Werner from Philadelphia, Pa. to design new greens and traps for the nine holes. In 1949 Mr. Alfred Tull designed the new nine and Russell Kerns, the Superintendent at that time, built the new nine. The course was opened for play in 1951. It was seeded to bluegrass and fescue.

In 1965 I came to Green Hill and in 1967 began planting Bermuda grass fairways and tees. Needless to say, we have since gone to a mixture of Manhattan, Citation and Pennfine ryegrass. We still have about seventy percent Bermuda.

Our fertilizer program is conservative. Four to five pounds "N" per thousand on fairways; six pounds "N" on tees; and five to six on greens.

We use Balan on our fairways and Ronstar in the approaches and tees. Two applications, April and August 1st. Tri-calcium Ars nate will be applied for the last time this spring unless I can find some from any place. We spray on a preventive program.

We do have drainage problems and will probably be working on these when you arrive.

I was raised on the golf course and worked under my father who was the first "Greens Keeper". I came back to Green Hill from the Elks Club in Salisbury in 1965.

Golf: Anytime after 11:30 — Carts-\$12.00

Lunch: Available any time — Cash Bar

Dinner: 6:30 — \$12.50

Program: There will be no guest speaker. Lou White has asked for an open meeting for discussion about his golf course.

Directions: Rt. 50 East to Salisbury, Md; cross single railroad track; turn right on Rt. 349; follow to sign on left 8 miles out; turn left on 352 to club. **YOU ALL COME!!**

Lou White

Check List for Host Superintendents



If you are chosen to be a host for a Mid-Atlantic meeting here is a list of what is required of you.

Host

Be available to your guests from one hour prior to the first tee time until the meeting is adjourned.

You are responsible for all funds due your club, such as monies for golf, lunch, cocktails, dinner etc.

Retain all pre-registration cards for records.

Host with your Golf Professional —

Date of meeting.

Time of golfers arrival.

How many golfers expected.

How many carts or caddys needed.

Arrangement with pro shop to: Register players, Collect for golf, Collect for dinner, Arrange prices with Asso. Golf Chairman.

Host with your Clubhouse Manager—

Date of meeting.

Price of dinner not to exceed \$12.00 for sit down or \$10.00 buffet tip and tax included. Availability of lunch and its method of payment. Number expected for dinner.

Provide head table facing membership with enough seats for Mid-Atlantic officers (5) speaker (1) and for guests of Host.

Provide table next to head table for use by golf chairman.

Arrange to provide the speaker with his audio-visual needs with the educational chairman.

Host with your Locker Room Attendant—

Date of meeting.

Availability of lockers.

Availability of shower supplies.

Association

Will provide and mail advance registration cards.

Will reimburse club for *only* those meals committed to by card return that exceed the total number of meals served.

It is the wish of all concerned to have a enjoyable, rewarding time at your club. Your pre-planning will go a long way in assuring this.

Yours for better golf with finer turf.

Meeting chairman
M.A.A. of G.C.S.

Meet Michael B. McKenzie

Vice President 1980

Treasurer 1978-1979

Mike was born in Waynesboro, Pa. He became associated with the game of golf at the age of 10 by working for his father Paul McKenzie, then the Pro-Greens-keeper at Waynesboro C.C.

Mike has spent time working at Waynesboro C.C. and Aronimink G.C. In 1966 he became the Assistant Superintendent at Crofton Golf Club. After a call from Uncle Sam from 1967 to 1969, Mike became Assistant at River Bend C.C. After 2½ years at River Bend, Mike moved up to Superintendent at Goose Creek C.C. In 1973 he went on to his present position as Superintendent at the United States Naval Academy Golf Course Annapolis, Md.



Mike is a 1967 graduate of the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland. He has been a member of the Mid-Atlantic A. of G.C.S. since 1969. In 1976, Mike received a G.C.S.A.A. Special Citation in appreciation for dedication and effort in building a stronger G.C.S.A.A. through continual development and advancement of membership growth. Mike and his wife Norma have 5 children, Julie, Donna, Michael, Craig and Daneilli. In his spare time Mike enjoys fishing, crabbing and gardening.

Long Long Ago

15 years ago at this time, Dr. Fred Grau wrote an article for the Newsletter that still holds true today.

Turf in the Middle Atlantic Section of the United States usually has a handicap of about 10 Strokes when it comes onto the first tee. In addition, it has to suffer along on borrowed clubs, shoes that are too tight, and a 40-mile wind in the face. the first nine is played in zero weather — suddenly, with no change of clothes, it changes to 90 degrees F with high humidity as the tenth tee. How the eighteen is even finished is a miracle. The saving grace is the Golf Course Superintendent who is sympathetic to its difficulties, understands them and gives a lift when it is needed.

A better understanding of the existing circumstances and conditions is necessary so that the golf professional, the golf course superintendent, the club manager and club officials can work together more effectively as a team to provide the best in playing conditions for the members.

CLIMATE, heat and humidity does things to people, so try to imagine what it does to grass plants that can't move around and take a cool swim or plop down in an easy chair in an air-conditioned bar. The superintendent cools the grass by syringing when needed but, meanwhile, the grass get a million steel spikes pushed into it with tons of weight above them.

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Long Long Ago — Continued from page 3

Suddenly, hard, hot showers followed by the hot sun encourages brownpatch disease. No wonder so much diseases control work was concentrated right here in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Spring in this area is rare. We jump from winter right into blazing summer. Turfgrasses come out of dormancy only to find hordes of golfers trampling them flat before they have had a chance to adjust to the new season. In milder climates turf has a longer period to strike roots deeply into the soil so the rigors of summer can be borne with reasonable success.

Then comes the drought. In variable soils that hold water with difficulty a few weeks of no rain causes havoc. Then the superintendent turns on the water. Before the turf can benefit much, up comes crabgrass and goosegrass.

SOILS in the Middle Atlantic Section are more suited to trees than to turfgrasses. The greatest advances have been made in modifying our poor soils with sand, peat and other amendments for putting greens and for tees. Fairways have to struggle on with soils that have become poorer with the years. Builders have stripped topsoil from fairways and approaches to build the greens and tees. The next result is that today we can build and manage greens and tees in a state of near perfection. The real problem areas exist in the fairways, the approaches and the collars where turf frequently is lost.

GRASSES In this area, the cool-season grasses, bluegrass and fescue, grow well in early summer and in the fall but languish during the hot summer months. As often as not they are smothered with crabgrass and goosegrass. Bentgrasses on putting greens survive better but only with TLC and pampering. Warm season grasses sometimes fail after a very severe winter. An exception is Meyer zoysia, common zoysia and some of the native and introduced Bermuda grasses.

Some of the leading putting green grasses in successful use in the Mid-Atlantic area are: C-1, C-19 combination bents, vegetated. C-1 is Arlington found at Atlantic City. C-19 is Congressional found at Congressional Country Club. Cohansey bent (C-7), vegetated, a product of Pine Valley Club is very heat tolerant; Penncross bent; old orchard (C-52), vegetated. Seaside, the old Virginia and Metropolitan, Pennly and even Washington bents are virtually out of the picture. Newer ones have been proven superior and thus the old give way to the new, Ugandagrass, vegetated, is a superfine Bermuda from Africa; Tifton 328 or Tifgreen, vegetated, is in limited use discouraged by severe winter kill two years ago.

Grasses that are satisfactory for tees are very limited. U-3 Bermuda is in use but it was hurt by winter kill two years ago. Meyer zoysia is in limited use and probably will increase in popularity as it is better understood as to management. Merion Kentucky bluegrass is perfection during the cool months but it can't take continuous use and short clip all summer. Some superintendents maintain tees, split down the middle, Bermuda or zoysia for hot weather; Merion for fall.

winter and spring. Only grasses that can thrive under close mowing can be considered for tees. At new courses farther north tees of Penncross bent are cut at 3/15" and are better than greens were 34 years ago. In Arizona tees of Ugandagrass are mowed regularly at 3/16" and the golfers love them.

Around The Mid-Atlantic

Harry Allen at Manor C.C. has been doing some grading work around his maintenance building. In the past run off water had a tendency to run into the building and collect there. He has graded around the building so that now the water will run away from the building on all sides.

Wayne Evans reports that all is going well with his new job at Indian Spring C.C. He is spending some time cleaning and straightening up his maintenance building and surrounding area.

Membership chairman Gerald Gerard reports that member Stanley Zontek, George Campbell and Marcus Pleasants are now retired.

The Mid-Atlantic A.G.C.S. would like to welcome a new member:

George L. Cornell, Jr., 7656 Westlake Terrace
Bethesda, Md. 20034 — Class F

Congratulations are due Jack Montecalvo for taking 2nd place low gross with a score of 171 and Ken Braun for taking 2nd place low net with a score of 154 at the GCSAA tournament in Mexico.

Position Available:

Swan Creek C.C. in Havre De Grace, Md. is looking for a Superintendent.

Assistant golf course superintendent is wanted for a new golf course under construction. Will be responsible to the superintendent. Education — turf school graduate or equivalent. Salary \$10,500.00 to \$12,000.00. Please contact Gerald Luttrell, Superintendent, Prince George Country Club, Pinebrook Ave., Landover, Md. 20785

Assistant Superintendent trainee position is available at Springfield Golf & C.C., will be responsible to the Superintendent, salary \$12,500.00 to \$13,500.00 depending on experience, must be a 2 or a 4 year turf graduate with 2 years experience. Send resumes to Walter Montross, Springfield G & C.C., 8301 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield, Va. 22152, Phone 703-451-6619.

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Code of Ethics

Observance of this code can only elevate the entire profession. Disregarding it will bring discredit not only to the individual but to all superintendents. Because it is a voluntary code, it can be enforced only by the desire to win and hold the respect and regard of fellow superintendents. Therefore, its enforcement is up to individual members.

As a member of the Mid-Atlantic and Golf Course Superintendents Associations of America, I pledge myself to:

1. Recognize and discharge all my responsibilities to my employers at all times.
2. Practice and insist on sound business principles in exercising the responsibilities of my position.
3. Utilize every opportunity to extend my professional knowledge in order to increase my value to my employers, my industry and my profession.
4. Truly assume the responsibility for the physical well-being of my golf course by insisting on and exercising the prerogative of my professional judgment in declaring my golf course playable or unplayable, according to prevailing conditions.
5. Maintain the highest standards of personal conduct to reflect credit and add to the stature of the profession of Golf Course Superintendency.

6. Neither engage in nor support any exploitation of my Association, industry or profession.

7. Avoid dissemination of any malicious information concerning other golf courses and/or other Golf Course Superintendents.

8. Lend my support to, and actively participate in, the efforts of my local Chapter and National Association to improve public understanding and recognition of the profession of Golf Course Superintendency.

9. Extend technical help to any golf course when called upon by the Superintendent.

10. Recognize, observe and expect in return the highest standards of integrity in my relationship with other Golf Course Superintendents as follows:

A. *When seeking employment*

- (1) I will seek counsel of local GCSAA Chapters when applying for a position in any district.
- (2) I will make certain the position is open before making application to any prospective employer.
- (3) I will ascertain and uphold the salary level of the district in which I negotiate for a position.
- (4) I will, when possible, speak to the man who is leaving or has left the position for which I am considered.

B. *When visiting other golf courses*

- (1) I will call on the Superintendent of the golf course.
- (2) I will present my GCSAA membership card.

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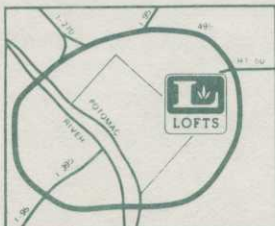
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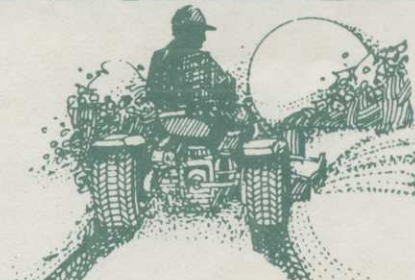
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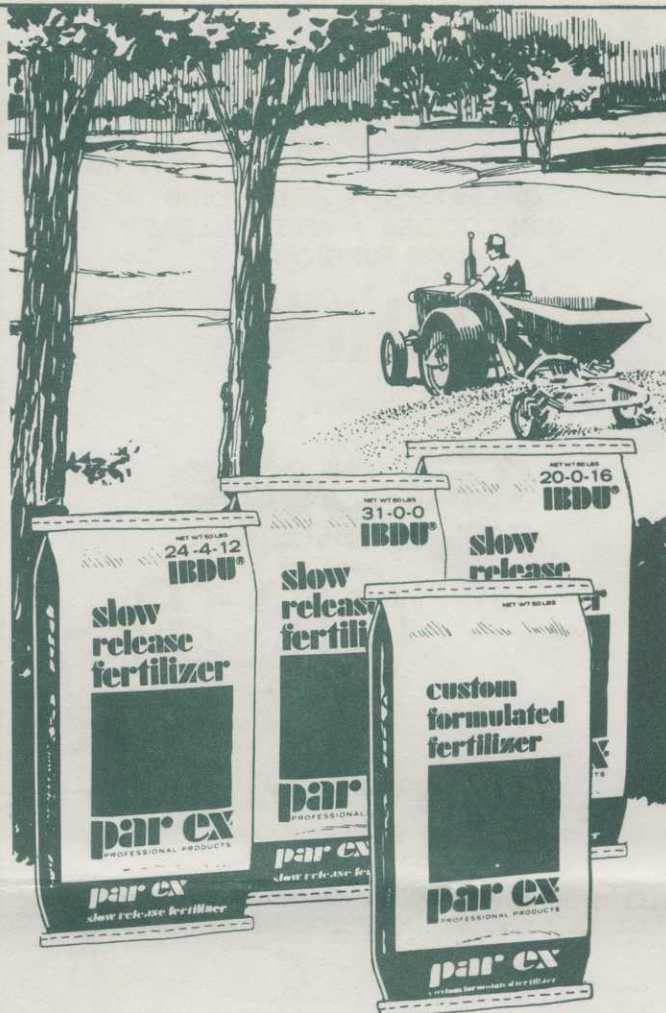
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1980 Meetings and Dates to Remember

- March 6 USGA Green Section Regional Conference
James River Country Club
Newport News, Virginia
- March 11 Bretton Woods Recreation Center
Germantown, Maryland
Gerald G. Gerard, Jr. CGCS — Host
- March 20 USGA Greens Section Regional Conference
Oakmont Country Club
Oakmont, Pennsylvania
- April 8 Green Hill Yacht & C. C., Lou White, Host
- May 13 Maryland Golf and Country Club
Bel Air, Maryland
Ronald Hall — Host
Annual Superintendent/Pro Tournament
Sparrows Point Country Club
Baltimore, Maryland
- June 17 Alex D. Watson, CGCS — Host
Columbia Country Club — Tentative
Chevy Chase, Maryland
- July 8 George B. Thompson, CGCS — Host
Annual Mid-Atlantic Picnic
- August 12 Philadelphia Association host for the Annual
Joint Meeting. Site not determined as yet.
- September 9 Hillendale Country Club
Phoenix, Maryland
Michael Larsen — Host
Annual Superintendents Tournament
- October 14 Chevy Chase Club — Tentative
Chevy Chase, Maryland
- Nov. 11 William J. Emerson — Host
- Dec. 9 U. S. Naval Academy Golf Club — Tentative
Annapolis, Maryland
Election Meeting
Michael B. McKenzie — Host

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