

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

Claud Corrigan, *Editor*
Joe Gambatese, *Photographer*

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Schedule of 1983 Meetings

May 10 — Washington Golf & Country Club
June 14 — Andrews AFB Golf Club
July 12 — Mount Pleasant
August 9 — Annual Picnic
September 13 — Bonnie View Country Club
October 11 — Ocean City Yacht & Country Club
November 8 — Leisure World
December 13 — Belle Haven Country Club

All 1983 monthly meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month with the exception of the July meeting, which will be on the first Tuesday.

NEW MEMBERS

Rhys Arthur, Class B
Woodlawn Country Club
Superintendent

Gary Crone, Class D
Indian Springs Country Club
Assistant Superintendent

Change from Class D to Class B
William Conslor
Lakewood Country Club
Assistant Superintendent

Gypsy Moths - They're Coming, For Sure

The voracious gypsy moth is heading our way in force, slowly but surely, said Dr. John Davidson of the Entomology Department of the University of Maryland at our April 12 meeting at Evergreen Country Club. In fact, he predicted that if 50% of your trees are oaks or sweet gums, you definitely will have gypsy moths.

Using colored slides, Dr. Davidson described the life cycle of the moth, whose larvae or caterpillars are attracted to light and repelled by gravity. As a result, they climb high in trees, spin silky threads, and "balloon" to other trees in large "fronts." Larvae also travel by hitching rides on campers, but whatever the method, the moth has continued to move south at the rate of 15-20 miles per year since it started in New England in the 1960's.

The current procedure of spraying after ballooning has occurred is why the moth isn't being stopped. Each of the larval stages is larger than the last, shedding its skin and showing a different pattern. Spraying is most successful when done in the second or third larval stages, during the first three weeks of May. The final stage is the familiar 2½" caterpillar with three double rows of blue dots and six rows of red ones on its back. This caterpillar is the one that does most of the defoliation before turning into a pupa from which the adult moth emerges.

Male moths emerge first, Dr. Davidson said, and fly only during the day, looking for the larger, non-flying females who can lay up to 1,000 eggs in the fuzzy, yellow egg masses from which the larvae hatch in late April. Although moth traps using a sex chemical as a lure are sold, they don't control the moths but are evidence of their presence. Dr. Davidson described two controlling chemicals: demilion, an insect hormone that keeps the young caterpillars from shedding their skins and developing further, and BT, a bacteria that attacks the caterpillars. Both involve helicopter spraying, which can disturb environmentalists and restrict spraying to largely uninhabited areas — a problem for suburban golf courses. Maryland has been using demilion since 1971, but much defoliation still takes place. Spraying at the proper time is the best way to protect the trees on your golf course.



Dr. John Davidson

Musser Tournament At Woodmont, Oct. 14

The fifth annual Musser Invitational Tournament is scheduled for October 14 at Woodmont Country Club and will be dedicated to the memory of the late Bob Shields, according to Musser Foundation President Fred V. Grau. Dr. Grau will serve with Mike Larsen, Bill Emerson, and Bill Black as the tournament committee, which will announce full details on the event later in the summer.

In the meantime, superintendents are being asked to consider a fund-raising plan for the Foundation through which they will ask their club boards to permit non-members to play their courses one day for a fee, which would go to the Musser Foundation in order to carry out its turf grass research. Each superintendent, in cooperation with his club's golf pro, would handle publicizing the day, collecting the fee, etc., as part of a fairly painless way of raising money without asking for donations or selling advertising — and all for an excellent cause.

Osterman is New GCSAA President

Elected president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at the annual meeting in Atlanta on Feb. 24 was Robert W. Osterman, superintendent of the Connecticut Golf Club. James W. Timmerman, superintendent at Orchard Lake Country Club, Michigan, was named vice president, and two members of the Board of Directors were elected—Richard V. Slivinski, superintendent of golf courses for Phoenix, and Donald E. Hearn, superintendent of Weston Golf Club in Massachusetts. Eugene D. Baston of The Country Club of Birmingham, Ala., was appointed secretary-treasurer.