

A Glimpse of the Past...

by Lee C. Dieter, CGCS

In my September/October article I talked about the founding members of the association. In this issue I'd like to address the reasons behind their need to organize.

All over the country groups of greenkeepers were organizing. The first to organize in April 1923 was the Cleveland Association of Greenkeepers (now the Northern Ohio GCSA). Others followed suit including the Greenkeepers of New England (1924), The Ontario Greenkeepers Association (1924), The Michigan and Border Cities (1924), The Greenkeepers Association of Westchester County New York (1925) and the Greenkeepers Association of the Philadelphia Green Section (1925).

As the newly founded Green Section began to share information and the results of their research, the greenkeepers obviously realized that they were already beginning to take a back seat to the green chairman. Greenkeepers around the country knew that they must organize and share their knowledge and expertise. They had to be better informed on the changes in the industry. Treatments for disease problems, such as, large and small brown patch (brown patch and dollar spot) and snow mold, control of earthworms and Japanese Beetles, and new vegetative strains of Bentgrass were being developed. Advances in equipment for mowing and maintaining golf courses were being introduced.

The U.S.G.A. was encouraging its members (green chairman and club officials) to take a leadership roll in this development. As some of these members became educated they began to fill positions as consultants and club secretaries (club managers). In England this practice continues today.

Our founders accepted the challenge. They followed the lead of other associations and the newly formed National Association of Greenkeepers of America (formed in Toledo, Ohio on September 13, 1926). Green Chairmen were welcome to join the Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenkeepers of America but it was clear from the start that we would be the leaders in this newly formed association and the industry. Early meetings were held at local hotels, but soon we were meeting at the golf clubs and playing golf at the meetings.

Future articles will include the early meetings and what followed as well as profiles on some of the early members.

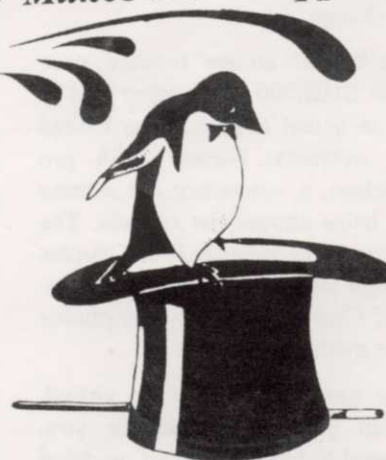


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