



MID-ATLANTIC

# News Letter



CHARTER

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

VOLUME XXVI

APRIL 1975

NO. 4

## President's Message

By now those of you who were in attendance at the National have gotten back into the routine and are, along with many of us in our profession, taking a hindsight just to see how far we have progressed in turf management in the last 20-plus years. It's really astounding and somewhat startling to see what really has been accomplished by so many dedicated and interested individuals and groups. We do indeed have a profession of which we all can be unduly proud. Charley Baskins, our National Past President, and the Board of Directors, along with the headquarters staff, are due another round of applause for the progress made this year on the National level.

Well, it's that time of year again when we are all making landscape plans or designing plant beds, etc. Whether you plan some complete renovation or making some first time plantings, go over your areas and check for the effects you want to accomplish with trees, evergreens, flowering shrubs, or flowers. Get your ideas and designs on paper to make sure nothing has been left out or overlooked. Always have a plan ready at this time of year so that when planting season arrives you are ready.

Always incorporate new ideas and innovations, get a fresh approach with your flower beds, try to achieve continuous bloom throughout the growing season. Plan your beds, if possible, in sunny spots so that the colors are more fully observed and situate them in areas that are free from encroaching roots of trees and shrubbery. Make sure the soil is well prepared and fortified with humus. Use one of the many fine plant foods that are available to sustain the type of plant material you are planting.

If you order your planting materials, don't wait until time to plant. Order in plenty of time so that you will be ready when warm weather arrives.

Alex Watson

## A Member Speaks Up

I've been a member of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA and the GCSAA for a comparatively short time in relation to many of our other superintendents. However, I feel compelled to write this letter because I think that both the National and the Mid-Atlantic are falling far short in one respect. The area in which the associations are falling short is in the endorsement of each and every superintendent. This is to

(Continued on page 2)

## The Thinking Superintendent— A Maintenance Tip

Years ago, while listening to old timers like Reg Giddingo, Ruben Hines and Bob Scott, I heard them talk of using hydrated lime for control of turfgrass diseases on greens back in the days when they did not have the fancy (and expensive) disease control chemicals we have today. They said when disease appeared they just went out and sprinkled a mixture of sand and lime they kept mixed in the shop ready to go.

O. J. Noer mentioned lime as a control for scald on greens in a bulletin titled "The Role of Lime in Turf Management," published by the Milwaukee Sewage Commission in 1958. He suggested hydrated lime at about 10 pounds per green mixed with sand and broadcast or applied with a power sprayer at weekly intervals during hot weather for control of algae. The idea is to keep the lime on the surface to counteract toxic organic compounds formed by soil organism in wet soil.

Dr. Fred Grau, writing in *Golfdom*, September, 1961, suggested we take another look at lime as a control for disease on putting greens. He said many superintendents keep hydrated lime on hand and use it weekly during the summer. Very light applications of 1 to 2 pounds per thousand square feet dusted on in late afternoon and allowed to stay on until watered in next morning would check disease and algae and renew turf vigor.

Since lime can be applied at any time, and since pH changes take place in the soil very slowly and there are benefits to be obtained by using lime against disease and algae, it seems like good management to me to make lime applications during the summer, instead of during the winter. I have followed this practice for years and will do so again this year.

A word of caution: apply lime a week or 10 days before or after fertilizer applications. If applied together, the nitrogen in the fertilizer is released into the air and lost. If a green is loaded up with nitrogen and a heavy application of hydrated lime is made during very hot weather, serious trouble could result from the immediate release of nitrogen. I know, it happened to me in 1968.

Bob Shields  
Woodmont Country Club  
Rockville, Maryland

## A Member Speaks Up (Continued)

say that the associations should back each and every superintendent from the time he applies for the job right through until he accepts the position, and continue to represent the superintendent for however long he keeps the job.

The crux of the situation lies in the fact that there is no real job assurance for the superintendent in that he has no real contract. Up until now there has never been a standard contract for superintendents on a national or sectional level. Many superintendents have them and many of them are similar but none are truly endorsed by the associations. Of the three major executives of the club — the pro, the club manager, and the superintendent — all have contracts except the superintendent. This to me is highly unjustified.

The superintendent has more wide ranging responsibilities than the others. He is responsible for the planning and maintenance of millions of dollars worth of land, turf, ornamental plantings and equipment. These reasons, along with the fact that the pro or manager can be an uneducated individual and still be at the top of his profession when for the most part superintendents are educated through at least 2 years of specialized college training. It is interesting to note that a club professional must be seated by the local association. He must have an approved contract in which

salary and benefits are set. If a pro comes in from another section and undercuts a job, both he and the club are black balled by the PGA. This means that the club can host only club events, and that the pro can be dropped from the association nationally. Gentlemen, we are the low men on the totem poles. We here in the Mid-Atlantic have had competition from gardeners, landscapers, consultants, out of town superintendents and overbearing golf professionals for years. All of the people trying to undermine the position of the professional superintendent with no real help from the clubs, or most of all from the superintendents associations.

One thing that really burns me is to have an older more established superintendent tell a young superintendent that he has taken his first job without a contract at a low salary. He continues to tell him that he in turn has undercut local standards, thus screwing his fellow superintendents. As far as I'm concerned, when that young superintendent applied for that job, it was a step up for him. He has taken that job at a low salary, but at least he is a superintendent and on his way to better things. When he applied he was on his own. The association wasn't there. Until the association can really back the superintendent in his demands, they have no right to tell that individual what he can or can't do.

By the same token, the superintendent has no backing after he has accepted the position. The years of '72 and '73 were shining examples of this. With the bad environmental conditions, good superintendents had problems with turf. For the most part, the golf courses the superintendents were caring for were not constructed well, thus enhancing the problems. When these good superintendents went before their respective boards, made up of doctors, lawyers, etc., he was on his own again, no help from the association. If the superintendent was then let go by his club, he was out in the cold with no more than a "Gee, that's a shame," from the association. Face it fellas, even coal miners have better contracts and associations than we do.



**Buckner**  
Johns-Manville **JM**

**BERKELEY**

**GSR**

**CLA-VAL CO.**

**HILLS**

P. O. BOX 191, STATE ROAD 613  
FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA 22630

**IRRIGATION CORP**

Distributor for  
West Virginia • Virginia  
Maryland • Delaware

Buckner Sprinkler Equipment  
John-Manville Irrigation Pipe Fittings  
For design, modification or  
specialty assistance contact

Richard C. Hill, Sr.  
(703) 635-3630 or 635-7155

Phone (717) 427-4256

**HUMIX®**  
Blue Ridge Industries  
P.O. Box 128  
White Haven, Pa. 18661

**TOP DRESSING**

**SEED BED MIX**

**PEAT HUMUS**




*All Mixes Heat Treated. Pasteurized  
and Mixed to Specification*

# SEEDS

## GOLF COURSE SUPPLIES

DOUGLAS TOOLS  
BEAUTY BLANKET ROOT MULCH

AGRICO FERTILIZERS  
DU PONT FUNGICIDES

PHONE (AREA CODE 301) — 752-3415

## WM. G. SCARLETT & CO.

608-632 PRESIDENT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202



As I am not one to criticize without adding some constructive ideas, here are mine.

First of all, certification is a must. It gives the superintendent tremendous leverage in his club. He has shown his club officials that he has proven himself at the top of his profession.

Secondly, the superintendent must have a standard contract approved by the sectional and national associations. We are professionals, if we are worth our salt we should be able to uphold our part of the contract as well as the club upholding theirs. With standard sectional contracts there would be no bickering among the association about salaries and benefits. All superintendents young or old would get desired salaries with backing of the association.

Third, the clubs should be encouraged to hire only the endorsed superintendent. This would encourage the good superintendent to constantly improve himself and keep out the riff-raff. This would insure the clubs good superintendents. We should also offer the clubs a consultation service. We can't automatically go in and say we are now under contract, so if you don't like it lump it. Give the club something extra so that they may benefit also.

Fourth, and this may hurt a little, a change in the officers of the associations. If the officers cannot think along progressive lines they are no longer viable officials to represent us. It has probably been a long while since many of the sectional and national association officers have fought for jobs. These people may not know or may not remember how it was when they were getting their start. As a result they are not protecting the young superintendent. You administrators may unknowingly have become complacent. We, the younger superintendents, look to you for advice, counseling and direction. If you can't give us these, it is time to step down.

I don't claim to have all the answers. I welcome your comments. Constructive criticism only, please.

Wayne Evans  
Brandywine Country Club

# Cleary Products for Better Turf

**Herbicides**  
MCPP  
MCPP Plus 2,4-D  
Methar 80  
Methar 30  
AMA Plus 2,4-D  
AMA (Super Methar)

**Specialties**  
All Wet  
Clear Spray  
Tru-Green  
Grass-Greenzit

**Fungicides**  
**3336 Turf Fungicide**  
A broad spectrum systemic fungicide that prevents and controls all six major turf diseases.  
**Bromosan Turf Fungicide**  
The newest broad spectrum systemic fungicide for those persistent trouble areas.  
**Caddy**  
**PMAS (10%)**  
**Spotrete**  
**Granular Turf Fungicide**  
**Cad-Trete**

**W-A-CLEARY**  
CORPORATION  
P.O. Box 10, Somerset, N.J. 08873

## Board Meeting Highlights

Our Mid-Atlantic Board Meeting was held on the 4th of February at Laurel Pines Country Club. Our goals for 1975 were discussed and are briefly outlined as follows:

1. Update and publish new directory.
2. Complete by-laws revision.
3. Improve and enforce our code of ethics and print annually in the newsletter.
4. Compile a standard job contract for our membership.

Also discussed were ways of improving our relationship with our National GCSAA and neighboring associations; increasing our A & B membership; improving attendance at organizational functions and meetings; and ways of involving more members to assist our board of directors on various committee projects.

A tentative schedule of 1975 meeting places was presented by Paul Barefoot and will be finalized by our March meeting.

# BARRICK

## Ground Burned Lime

Take The Guesswork Out Of Your  
Liming Program  
Buy  
**BARRICK'S GROUND BURNED LIME**

### S.W. BARRICK & SONS, Inc.

woodsboro maryland  
**301 — 845-6341**  
Claude H. Barrick — Res. 301 — 845-8648

## Rhodes Turf Equipment Co.

### Hahn - Westpoint

1085 Industrial Boulevard  
Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966

### Wally Stedding

5508 Windsor Mill Road (301) 944-2202  
Baltimore, Maryland 21207 (301) 298-3054

Buckner • Case Machinery • Lewis Line  
Locke Mowers • Wood Mowers • Goodall  
Weedeaters • Ransome 5/7's • Cushman Vehicles

### GOLF COURSE SPECIALISTS, INC.

Richard Browne, Representative  
Chantilly, Virginia  
703-471-1695