Mid Atlantic Conference
—Big Success

The 47th Annual Conference of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents held at the Belmont Holiday Inn in Baltimore on the 5th and 6th of January was the best conference this superintendent has ever attended. Chairman Bob Orazi and his conference committee deserve a hearty “well done.” A vote of thanks also goes to our Dr. “Jack” Hall and the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Maryland. Their help in lining up speakers and topics was invaluable.

The first speaker Monday morning was Dr. Alfred Turgeon of the University of Illinois. His talk of the impact of pesticides and the thatch inducing problems created by certain herbicides and insecticides made us all take a long look at our chemical programs.

Next on the program was Dr. Roy Blair of V.P.I. As we all know, Dr. Blair is the kind of speaker who always produces a great question and answer discussion period. The use of nitrogen in terms of too much or too little in these days and times is not only of agronomic, but economic importance.

John Gallagher of Amchem Products gave a very informative talk on the uses of pesticides in aquatic weed control and pond maintenance. As with most of our speakers he informed us of problems that we will have with the use of different pesticides.

Dr. Frank Gouin’s talk on “Do you know your trees?” proved to be one of the more entertaining. His “tell it like it is” style was very refreshing. His slides and descriptions of trees gave many of us some fine ideas for next season.

Anyone who keeps up with the Ryegrass vs. Bluegrass question knows that it can, at times, take on the dimensions of a mountain feud. This topic made for one of the better discussions of the two days. A panel discussion on Bluegrasses and Ryegrasses strength and weaknesses ended the first day’s sessions. Dr. Hall of Maryland University spoke on Bluegrass testing at Maryland and Dr. Henry Indyk of Rutgers spoke on Ryegrasses and his tests on the new fine blade varieties.

Representing the practical experiences were superintendents Angelo Cammarota, Lee Dieter, and Ed Wilson. Both sides of the discussion were done very well, and this topic will be hashed over for a long time to come.

The first day of our conference was topped off by the fine buffet dinner with Sportscaster Vince Bagli of WBAL in Baltimore as our Toastmaster. The highlight of the evening came when the special awards were given. Superintendent Ed Blizzard was presented a special award for his many years of service to our association. Ed is loved by everyone in our association and there is no finer gentlemen that could receive this award. The “Superintendent of the Year” award for 1975 went to Paul Barefoot of the U.S. Soldiers Home. To be elected
Superintendent of the Year by your peers is by far the greatest compliment that can be paid to an individual. Congratulations Paul, you have earned it.

To kick off our second day of the conference was Dr. Lee Hellman, survey entomologist from the University of Maryland. Dr. Hellman spoke on the problems with sod webworms, and other grubs before going into the new insect on the scene, the Atacninius Spretulus. Atacninius or the Dung Beetle or Poa Beetle as it is more commonly known has been quite a little terror. The Poa Beetle has become a real problem in the past year and control of this insect is not easy. Diazinon has now shown good control in Dr. Hellman's tests. Proxol, Mocap and CG-12223 have shown good control but Ficam WP has shown the best.

Next was Dr. Henry Indyk of Rutgers University. Dr. Indyk spoke on "Increasing the Efficiency of Nitrogen Fertilization". During these times all of our fertilization programs are governed by economics. Dr. Indyk tried to show us more economical uses of nitrogen by using different sources of nitrogen and by using only the nitrogen that is necessary for good healthy turf. The subject shows us that what might be considered agronomically correct nowadays may not be economically feasible.

Rounding out the morning was a panel made up of Dr.'s Hall, Indyk, and Turgeon of Maryland, Rutgers, and Illinois. The discussion focused on Turfgrass Research being carried on at their respective universities.

Capping off the second day of our conference was a panel discussion entitled "The Diversified Superintendent", with George Thompson as the panel moderator. Four different superintendents spoke on four different topics all within the realm of today's superintendent. Alex Watson spoke on "Irrigation Renovation". Alex's talk, complete with slides, told us of the complete renovation and rebuilding of his irrigation system at Sparrows Point. Bob Orazi spoke on "Golf Course Construction" by relating his experiences in building the new nine holes at Hunt Valley. Bob Miller of the Suburban Club in Baltimore spoke on the "Construction and Maintenance of Fast Dry Tennis Courts" and Paul Barefoot lectured on "Horticultural Plantings on the Golf Course." All of these men did an excellent job. They showed us that as long as we are superintendents our learning processes will continue. Above all they showed us that today's superintendent is not only an agronomist, but a very diversified administrator. Congratulations on the best conference ever.

Wayne Evans