Anyone who attended the Superintendent-Pro outing at Hog Neck Golf Course certainly received royal treatment. Ben Stagg and John Medved teamed up to really put on a well run tournament and showed us city boys real Eastern Shore hospitality. It was a pleasure to see how two professionals can work together smoothly to establish an end result like they have at Hog Neck. That end result is a golf facility second to none. The entire facility has an air of professionalism that many of us could take lesson from.

Never let it be said that the Mid-Atlantic Section isn’t a merry-go-round. This year is becoming the biggest game of musical chairs in the past few years. This year Superintendents are making moves quicker than I can keep track of. I’ll endeavor to get everyone in here so that everyone gets their share of congratulations. Harry Allen has left Redgate and taken the Superintendent’s position at Manor Country Club. Ford Staurser of Woodholme has retired, and Jack Monticalvo of New Jersey has succeeded him there. Fred Scheying of Chevy Chase is going back to New York to the Mt. Kisco Country Club. Bill Emerson will be succeeding Fred at Chevy Chase and Paul O’Leary ex-assistant at Hunt Valley, will be taking over at Eagles’ nest when Bill leaves. John Scott of Montclair Country Club in Dumfries, Virginia will be moving to the Superintendent’s position at Andrews AFB Golf Course, which was vacated by Virgil Robinson last winter. Virgil is now at the Burning Tree Club. John Scott’s assistant at Montclair, will be moving up the Superintendents position. Whew, I think that’s got it. Congratulations to you all, and best wishes to you all in your new endeavors.

Recently, while attending a Mid-Atlantic meeting, I overheard a young assistant superintendent speaking about his boss, a golf course superintendent, in a derogatory fashion. He was busy telling two superintendents how his boss was doing things wrong and that he had all the answers. The superintendents, of course, chastised the young assistant for his remarks and he was soon shut up. An attitude, such as this assistant had, is probably one of the reasons that schooled assistants are becoming an endangered species. Young men, if you have suggestions, tell your superintendent. Work with him, not against him. It will be a good learning situation for both of you. Wise man once say, “animal that bites the hand that feeds him, soon become very hungry.” Nuff Said.

Monthly Overseeding of Greens
Woodmont Country Club
by BOB SHIELDS

All of us have various amounts of Poa Annu grass in our putting greens. All of us would like to eliminate the Poa and replace it with Bentgrass for a better putting surface and a grass that is more reliable and easier to maintain.

I’m not going to tell anyone that I can get rid of all Poa but I can list some of the approved methods of keeping it

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Monthly Overseeding
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within acceptable limits. Poa likes water, so let's start with drainage. If you have wet greens, then get rid of the excess water any way you can. When necessary to add water in dry weather, apply just enough to keep the grass alive. Keep the surface on the dry side.

Put on your Poa inhibitor chemical to prevent as much germination as possible. We used Tri Calcium Arsenate for several years and I hope it is back on the market soon before my present supply is exhausted. If you use it, be careful, because you can easily get an over-kill.

Use very little phosphorous in fertilizer applications. Too much will neutralize the chemical in the Poa preventer.

Aerate early in the season, before Poa produces seed, mow the green, then topdress with weedfree topdressing. We use John Strickland’s material which has been sterilized. Drag or brush the surface in two or more directions to work the material down into the aerifier holes.

As soon as the dragging is finished, overseed with Penncross Bentgrass seed at the rate of one pound of seed per green and water in.

A month later verticut and spike in two directions, then mow the green and seed again at one pound per green. Repeat this operation at monthly intervals for the rest of the season and you will have a better green that you had at the start.

This program may not give you a perfect Bentgrass green but punching many little holes and placing a seed in each hole certainly improves your chances. Then by doing it at monthly intervals, you have a chance of having new growth coming on all the time.

We know we can grow Bentgrass in this area a lot easier than we can grow Poa Annu, so I’m going to keep on spiking and seeding.

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example.