TURFGRASS Tournament Planned
For Mid-Atlantic Area

by Fred V. Grau, president, Musser Foundation

Twelve Turfgrass Tournaments have been sponsored by the Musser Foundation over the last five years; five in Ohio, four in Oregon, three in Delaware. Co-sponsors include the Cleveland District Golf Ass’n, N. Ohio GCSA, Penncross Bentgrass Ass’n, Tee-2-Green Corp., Oregon GCSA, and the Delaware Turfgrass Ass’n. Encouraged by these successes a similar “FUN” outing is planned for Aug. 21, 1979 at Indian Spring C.C. With the joint sponsorship of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA and the Maryland Turfgrass Council this tournament is bound to be a great success.

First, what is the Musser Foundation, who runs it and who benefits? Good question! The corporate name is “The H.B. Musser Turfgrass Fellowship, Inc.” It was established in 1969, incorporated on a non-profit tax-exempt, educational and research basis. It honors the memory of Professor H.B. Musser, a pioneer in turf research and education who worked at Penn State U. until his death in 1968. The Musser Foundation (popular name) was created to develop a FUND to be used to give financial aid to exceptional graduate students who are working toward advanced degrees in turfgrass management at turf-oriented universities. The principal FUND is invested in high-grade high-yield securities and only the income can be used for grants. Thus there will be a perpetual source of money to help develop our future scientists and leaders.

The Musser Foundation is run by 24 directors backed by an Honorary Board which includes such names as Arnold Palmer, Herb Graffis, Dr. Glenn Burton, Robert Trent Jones and others. The officers are: Fred V. Grau, president; Warren Bidwell, first V.P., Dr. James Watson, second V.P., Dr. Joe Duich, secretary, and Ben O. Warren, treasurer. One director is associated with turf in South Africa, another in Tokyo, truly an international affair. The annual director’s meeting is held each year in connection with the GCSAA Conference and Show.

Note that MITF develops Fellowships, not scholarships. A Fellowship leads to the Ph.D. Degree, needed research data, a thesis and the development of a leader. A scholarship is a one-time gift to a student who is associated with turf and who may or may not remain in the turfgrass field.

The first Fellowship project to be supported by MITF was the control of the black Ataenius beetle co-supported by GCSAA and Ohio golf clubs. It has been successfully concluded at Ohio State University by Gerald Wegner under Dr. Harry Niemczyk’s supervision. Mr. Wegner is now writing his thesis and soon will be Dr. Wegner. Now our directors are seeking the next major project which we will support. It may be in Texas, Indiana, New York, California or some other state to be determined by our Search Committee.

Anyone who used Penncross bent owes a debt of gratitude to the late Professor Musser. Sod growers who use Pennlawn fescue in certified blends can thank Burt Musser. There are (continued on page 2)
golf course superintendents all over the U.S. who received their start in Burt's classes. His book "Turf Management" sponsored by the U.S. Golf Ass'n. has been the "bible" for turf students for years. His early weed-control work has had far-reaching effects to say nothing of his breeding work with bluegrasses. The benefits to turf users were not confined to Pennsylvania but have been spread out over the world. Now we are trying to make sure that his kind of dedication will be perpetuated.

The Musser Foundation is building its Turfgrass Research Fellowship Fund in several ways:

1. Free-will contributions, all tax-deductible, IRS approved. Among those who have helped are: Penncross Bentgrass Growers, Tee-2-Green Corp., Golf Course Architects, Golf-Associations, Rudy-Patrick Seeds, Midwest Sod Producers, and many individuals.

2. Turfgrass Benefit Tournaments. There have been five in Ohio, four in Oregon and three in Delaware, all annual affairs. Now we look forward to an annual event in this area, co-sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Ass'n of G.C. Superintendents and The Maryland Turfgrass Council. It is planned to divide the proceeds so that half goes to support turf work in the Mid-Atlantic area and half to the MITF Fellowship Fund.

3. Memorial Gifts. When a loved one dies their memory can be kept alive with a gift to a fund that will be perpetual. Flowers fade quickly but a Memorial Fund goes on forever. Five such funds now exist in the Musser Foundation.

Frances Holyoke Grau, Fred's wife,
Irene Grau Boettger, Fred's sister,
George E. Osburn, MITF director,
Inez Dunning, wife of Director Bob Dunning,
Gerald Ross, husband of Virgie Ross, golf course manager.

4. Trusts. We have an expert who can help arrange a TRUST that will provide a life-time income with provision for the remainder to build the Fellowship Fund.

5. Turfgrass Research Fellowships. Two have been established to date.
   - The Penncross Bentgrass Association,
   - Fred V. Grau,

Yes, I have put my own money into this INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE because I believe in higher education as the pathway to success. Everyone is invited also to assert his or her belief in the turfgrass industry in the same way.

Leaflets describing the various ways in which we are trying to support research and education are available upon request. As the Turfgrass Research Fellowship Fund grows, and we expand our aid to promising graduate students, we will honor not only the memory of Professor Musser but also the work of other "pioneers" in the turfgrass world.

Write to:  Fred V. Grau
P.O. Box AA (4604 Amherst Rd.)
College Park, MD 20740
301/864-0090

V.P.'s Report
Ron Hall

As of this writing, 3/1/79, we still have open dates in our meeting schedule; hopefully, by the time you are reading this, those open dates will have been filled. The reason I am mentioning this is because, occasionally "whispers" can be heard about meeting sites and dates. No association is perfect, and in many cases some dissent inspires worthwhile change; this meeting selection problem is a prime example of minor items that cause unrest amongst fellow members. It should be a task of turning down interested superintendents that have pride in hosting a meeting, instead of having to seek out volunteers. It's well understood the impossibility some courses have in hosting a meeting, but there are plenty of courses that are possibilities, only lacking the initiative of the superintendent. Come on fellow members, participation is the key to success of any association.

MID-ATLANTIC OFFICERS 1979

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Fairfax, VA
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Ronald E. Hall, Vice-Pres.
Maryland Golf & C.C.
Bel-Air, MD
(301) 879-2025

James (Ben) Stagg, Secretary
Hogs Neck Golf Club
Easton, MD
(301) 822-7467

Mike McKenzie, Treas.
U.S. Naval Academy G.C.
Annapolis, MD
(301) 757-4406

Bill Emerson, Past Pres.
Chevy Chase Club

Ken Braun, Director
Bonnie View C.C.

Wayne Evans, Director
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Mike Larsen, Director
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Stan Lawson, Director
Ruggles Golf Course

Steve Nash, Director
Potomac Valley C.C.

Bob Orazi, Director
Hunt Valley Golf Club
April
Mid Atlantic Meeting Greg Bayor

Green Spring Valley Hunt Club
April 17, 1979, Third Tuesday

Joint meeting with the Central Penn Association
Host: Grant Pensinger
Golf: Anytime Cocktails: 6:00 p.m., cash bar
Carts: Fee will be charged Dinner: 7:00 p.m., $12.00
Lunch: Available after 12:00

Course Notes
Length: 6089 yards Traps: 72
Water holes: 4 pond, 9 stream
Irrigation: Quick couplers/fairways, manual pop-up/
greens & tees
Fairways: 100% rye overseed for the past 2 years
Greens: 60% bent, 40% poa

Grant Pensinger, Superintendent at Green Spring Valley since 1973, came here from Chambersburg Golf Course, Scotland, Pennsylvania. He is a 2nd generation golf course man, and his son Phillip continues the tradition as a recent graduate of the University of Maryland School of Turf. Grant and his wife Marlene have 3 other children: Gary, Mike and Karen. Grant's mechanic, Bob Gualtney, is also a recent graduate: he had just finished the Jacobson Mechanics School in Wisconsin, courtesy of Green Spring Valley.

The Green Spring Valley Hunt Club was organized in 1892 to promote the then very popular sport of fox-hunting. Today there is still a dedication to this sport, but now it takes place further away in Worthington Valley, where it's known as the "Upper Club."

The "Lower Club's" primary function is Golf/Tennis/Dinner. In 1912 nine holes were designed by the club members. In 1930 two more holes were added, with one par 3 deleted; these 10 holes remained unchanged until 1957. Club member, Jess W. Sweetser, former U.S. and British Amateur Champion, had his personal friend Robert Trent Jones, design an additional 8 holes, completing the present 18 holes. The courses' length is deceptive, compared to today's championship lengths; and all players had better come prepared to "hit-it-straight" or else bring along a few extra balls.

This meeting has a special aspect, in that it is a joint meeting with the Central Penn Association. The golf will be a match play tournament with our Northern friends. The Mid Atlantic has a long tradition of very fine joint meetings; so let's all be there to promote our fellowship.

POST CARDS MUST BE RETURNED TO HELP COORDINATE THIS LARGE AFFAIR

Directions: Bait, beltway 695, to exit 20, Reisterstown Rd. Go NORTH 1.7 miles to Green Spring Valley Rd. Rt. 130, turn right the club is 1 blk. down on the left. If you have any problems, call 363-0433.

Board Meeting Briefs Ben Stagg

A few notes of interest from the February Board Meeting held at the Naval Academy:

• The Board approved for Class A membership of the Mid-Atlantic Association:
  Merrill J. Frank—Baltimore C.C.
  Gerald F. Luttrell—Prince Georges C.C.

• Bob Orazi will be the Mid-Atlantic coordinator for the Musser Turfgrass Foundation Tournament, (see this months' feature article), Indian Springs C.C., August 21, 1979.

• Social Chairman, Mike Larsen, would like to change the format of Ladies Night. Anyone with ideas/suggestions, please contact Mike ASAP.

• Stan Lawson, Membership Chairman, is starting to assemble our new directory. If you're not listed correctly in the present directory, call Stan: work—301-278-2825, or home—301-272-0590.

I Want To Be Your Friend

I see you at the meetings; but you never say hello,
You're busy all the you're there,
  with those you already know.
I sit amongst the members and yet
  I'm a lonesome guy;
The new ones are as strange as I, but
  you old members pass me by.
But darn it, you folks asked us in,
  and talked of fellowship,
You could just step across the room,
  but you've never made the trip.
Why can't you nod and say hello, or stop and shake my hand; then go and sit among your friends, now that I'd understand.

I'll be at your next meeting, perhaps a nice time to spend;
Do you think you could introduce yourself? I want to be your FRIEND.

Ontario Golf Superintendents Assoc.

Benevolance Mike Larsen

Just as soon as word comes that Chuck Darrah is out of the hospital, we learn that Russ Bull has gone into a hospital: I know we all share in the desire for Russ's speedy recovery.

Our sincerest regrets to Mike Hanna on the recent death of his father.
Golf News

Ken Braun

Remember the April Meeting at Green Spring Valley will start the qualifying for our Association Match Play Tournament. Also, this is going to be a joint meeting with the Central Penn Association. After speaking with John McCormick, Golf Chairman Central Penn, we plan on trying to put two Mid-Atlantic members and two Central Penn members in each foursome — instead of finding a foursome this month, find a partner and participate.

This year’s G.C.S.A.A. Golf Tournament was held at Sea Island Golf Club, Sea Island GA. Those Mid-Atlantic members attending were Dave Kroll, Jack Montecalvo, Paul Oleary, Ken Braun and Bob Orazi. Speaking for those attending, we would personally like to thank the staff of the Sea Island Golf Club, the Cloisters Hotel, and especially Tom Burton and his crew. It was a beautiful golf course and we can’t wait to return.

The results of the tournament were:

- Championship flight “Green” gross: Dan Myers, 147, Florida
- Championship flight “Green” net: Louis Clark, 142, N. Carolina
- Championship flight “Black” gross: Dave Kroll, 161, Delaware
- Championship flight “Black” net: Jack Montecalvo, 147, Baltimore.
- Championship flight “Blue” gross: Ken Braun, 8th place, MD

The Mid-Atlantic team “finished” fortunately. Of special note was John Haines, Hunt Valley, who finished first in Pro category.

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Long, Long, Ago

Greg Bayor

• 15 yrs. April 1964

A very interesting concept (that has since disappeared) was written in the President’s Message of Thomas Doerer, Jr.: “...the executive committee of the P.G.A. has appointed Mr. Dick Sleichter, golf professional at the Chartwell Country Club, as their liaison man to promote more and closer relationships with our association...In turn, we have appointed Mr. Robert Martino, superintendent at Island View C.C. as our representative to attend a few P.G.A. meetings in order that we may learn more of the problems of the pros.”

Bob Shields reports on the national newsfront that their upcoming April Board Meeting will discuss: “How far do we want to go as superintendents? Shall the job move ahead as a profession or should it revert back to the farmer-greenskeeper type of job it used to be?” This topic seems to be prevalent even today, but under the disguise of newer, fashionable titles.

Waynesboro C.C. (Pa.) was looking for a pro-superintendent to fill the job vacated by Paul McKenzie: Salary $5,100.

• 10 yrs. April 1969

The monthly meeting was held at the Springfield C.C. as a joint meeting with the Central Virginia Turfgrass Association; Denny McCammon was the host. Joint meetings with the Mid-Atlantic were then, as now, a very popular means of fellowship among superintendents who aren’t seen very often. Let’s all make every effort for our upcoming joint meetings in 1979.

The superintendent pictured here (?) wrote a very extensive article on “Living with Poa Annua.” D.McCammon copied an article out of Leonard Bar- rons’ 1906 book entitled Lawn Making, which is worthy of reprinting: Chapter VIII...“Solving the weed problem...rolling with a three thousand pound roller has killed crabgrass in Philadelphia.” Denny’s comment: “Rolling with a three thousand pound roller will kill most anything.”

• 5 yrs. April 1974

The monthly meeting was another joint meeting: this time with the Virginia Tidewater group at the Golden Horse shoe Golf Course; Dave Harmon was the host.

An interesting comment: “During the coming years we will be facing a continuing shortage of raw materials for the formation of all fertilizers.” Seems like this cry is still echoing with no end in sight, just continued escalating prices.
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Golf Supplies
Industry News

TORO reports a new solid-state control system in their irrigation line, designated: VT3. Call John Maley for further details. Mike Hanna reports that superintendents planning to purchase new equipment, regardless of brand, had better think of early purchase orders, or at least order now for a later delivery, because it seems that supply companies of contracted parts are falling behind in production, causing delays in the final product.

CORNELL CHEMICAL & EQUIPMENT CO., INC. has moved into a new and larger warehouse. Their new address is: 712 Evelyn Ave., Linthicum Heights MD, 21090. Please make note of their new phone number: 301-636-2400.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

An article in the BALTIMORE SUN, 3/2/79, is of related interest to us all: Effective March 1, 1979 the Environmental Protection Agency has put emergency bans on two widely used herbicides that contain dioxin (2, 4, 5, T). Additionally, the ban effects “Silvex” a chemical related to 2, 4, 5, T. Silvex is marketed under a variety of names like Weed-B-Gone, Ded’weed, Silvi-Rhap, and Fruitone. This ban is not permanent: DOW Chemical, the primary producers of 2, 4, 5, T, questions the validity of the Oregon study cited by the EPA. Presently it is not known if this ban will become permanent or lifted in the future.