



CHARTER

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



Published by:

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

Volume XXXII

February/March 1979

Number 1

TURFGRASS 79 Attracts Over 450 Turf Professionals

by Charles H. Darrah

On January 8-10, 1979 the largest educational conference ever held in Maryland for professional turfgrass managers took place in Baltimore. In addition to the education conferences, there were over 55 exhibitor booths filling the Baltimore Hilton Ballroom. Between 450 and 500 people with interests in turf management were on hand for this event which was sponsored by the Maryland Turfgrass Council.

President's Message

I would like to thank our membership for electing me President. I assure you I will do all I can in behalf of our Association.

January and February is conference time and I hope to see a lot of our group at the local conferences. The Mid-Atlantic usually has a good turnout at the national conference so I hope to have seen everyone in Atlanta. For any conference or meeting to be successful requires not only good speakers but good participation by all, so let's do our part.

My congratulations to Bob Orazi for his part in Turf Grass 79 — a fine choice of speakers and session chairmen. *Thanks Bob.* Also to Chuck Darrah and his committee for the overall organization of Turf Grass 79. *Thanks Chuck* for a job well done!

I am looking forward to seeing a lot of old faces at our first meeting in March and I hope to see a lot of new faces. If you know someone who has been lax in attendance, give them a call.

Sometimes a little personal interest is a big help. Remember good meetings require participation.

May your toughest problem this year be cool weather in August. Ha!

Sam Kessel

The educational conferences were led off on Monday by the 50th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. After a short welcoming address and the President's Message from Sam Kessel, Dr. Jack Harper, PSU Extension Turf Specialist, opened the educational conference. Dr. Harper's presentation was often humorous, but not for those who have ever experienced some of the unusual turf situations he described. Dr. Gerry Pepin, Research Director at International Seeds, Inc., flew in from Oregon to present some of his work with improved ryegrass varieties. He contrasted the breeding and production methods of the improved ryegrasses with the methods used in Kentucky bluegrasses. Promising new varieties of ryegrass will continue to find their way into the turf seed market according to Dr. Pepin. The morning session concluded with a presentation on golf turf cultivation management. Bill Buchanan, USGA Green Section Agronomist, covered the wide range of cultivation practices employed on golf turf and emphasized the need for greater attention to the aeration and other cultivation needs of non-putting green turf areas on the golf course.

After a break to visit the trade show and enjoy a New York-style sidewalk lunch, the afternoon session convened with topics on soil testing for turfgrasses and tank mixes and chemical compatibilities by Tom Turner and Dr. Sortoretto, respectively. Mr. Tom Turner, PSU graduate student, presented some interesting information on liming and the phosphorus and potassium requirements of turfgrasses. He also presented information on the proper procedure for taking soil samples of turfgrasses. Some of this work is published in the May/June 1978 issue of the *Greens Section Record*. As the temperature in the conference room warmed so did the topics. Dr. Dave Wehner, U of MD turf researcher, reported on some of the work which he started at Penn State and will continue here at Maryland. Dr. Wehner has developed a rapid method to determine the ability of turfgrass plants to withstand heat stress. This work holds great promise in screening new cool-season turfgrass varieties for their ability to persist in the transition zone. Jack Murray, USDA Research Agronomist, wrapped up the afternoon session with some pointers on managing warm season grasses in the transition zone. At the end of the sessions, confer-

(continued on page 2)

TURFGRASS 79

(continued from page 1)

ence attendees were able to cool off as freely flowing beer was served in the exhibit hall.

On Tuesday morning the golf course superintendents were joined by over 200 other turf managers for the 14th Annual Maryland Sod Conference and the 2nd Annual P.G.M.S. Winter Turf Conference. The combined session on Tuesday morning brought together Dr. Joe Vargas, Michigan State Univ. Turfgrass Pathologist, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, Cornell University Turfgrass Entomologist and Ms. Pat Sanders, PSU Turfgrass Pathologist for an excellent session on disease and insect topics.

After another lunch-time visit with the commercial exhibitors, conference goers could select from three individual sessions to attend. The golf course management session was highlighted by presentations from golf course superintendents Guy Tedesco and Larry Bunn, both of whom traveled down from Massachusetts. Pat Sanders held a disease identification workshop late in the afternoon where superintendents got a chance to identify turf diseases using a microscope. This same workshop will be held in Atlanta at the GCSAA Convention, but for a \$20 extra registration fee!

At the same time as the golf course management session, sod growers were hearing the latest in sod production, harvesting and installation practices in their individual afternoon session. In another session commercial lawn care personnel were covering some of the business aspects of lawn care operation such as advertising, marketing and projecting a professional image to their customers.

Tuesday's events ended with the TURFGRASS 79 banquet and awards program. Dr. Darrah was presented an Outstanding Service Award by the Maryland Turfgrass Council for his work in organizing and coordinating TURFGRASS 78 and 79. The Mid-Atlantic presented Bill Emerson with the Past President's Award. Dave Fairbanks received the MAAGCS Superintendents of the Year Award and Angelo Cammarota received the Distinguished Director Award. In addition Bob Shields presented the Emmet Gary Scholarship Awards to four Univ. of MD agronomy students on behalf of the Mary-

land State Golf Association and Lambert Cissel presented the Parker Shirling Turfgrass Scholarships to another agronomy student on behalf of the Maryland Turfgrass Association.

On Wednesday morning, the last day of TURFGRASS 79, the educational session updated attendees on the latest information concerning grub control in turf, the control of ornamental insect pests, new turfgrass herbicides and the latest on pesticide regulations and certification. Also in this session was an excellent presentation by Mr. Jim Vaccaro of the Dow Chemical Company on the safe handling and use of turfgrass pesticides.

TURFGRASS 79 presented the opportunity for the professional turf manager to attend 12 hours of educational sessions. Over 27 speakers were on hand, 21 of which were out-of-state guests, superintendents, sod growers or lawn care businessmen. In addition there were over 10 hours when attendees could visit with commercial exhibitors to discuss the use of their products. The post-conference comments have been highly favorable and the MAAGCS Educational Committee deserves a great deal of praise for their efforts in helping to organize and coordinate the program for TURFGRASS 79.

Mid-Atlantic Golf News

Ken Braun

Match Play Tournament

Anybody interested in playing in this tournament, please attend the April meeting: this is the qualifying round. The low 16 golfers will then compete at the next meeting, eliminating 1/2 of the field. This will continue each month until a final round. Everyone will receive *full* handicaps at the qualifying round: the second round will be 85% of the difference in the handicaps between the two players of each match. If you qualify, the time and pairings will be made for the future match.

MID-ATLANTIC OFFICERS 1979

Sammuel L. Kessel, *President*
Country Club of Fairfax
Fairfax, VA
(703) 273-7094

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 Larsen, *Director*
Hillendale C.C.

Stan Lawson, *Director*
Ruggles Golf Course

Steve Nash, *Director*
Potomac Valley C.C.

Bob Orazi, *Director*
Hunt Valley Golf Club

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*
Marlton C.C.