YOU’RE INVITED

To Our

1983

MID-ATLANTIC AGCS ANNUAL PICNIC

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1983
BRETTON WOODS RECREATION CENTER
GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND

Gerald G. Gerard — Host

Golf • Tennis • Swimming • Games • Playground
Putting Contest • Tournaments of All Kinds

BEER
SODAS
HAMBURGERS

SWEET CORN
RIBS
HOT DOGS

CRABS

1:30 P.M. — UNTIL
FREE!
NEW MEMBERS

Lenn Weidenhammer, Class D
Assistant Superintendent
Woodmont Country Club

Brian T. Ault, Class G
Golf Course Architect
Edmund B. Ault, Ltd.

William Love, Class G
Golf Course Architect
Edmund B. Ault, Ltd.

Don't Miss Our Aug. 9 Picnic at Bretton Woods

Lots of food and drink, swimming, games, and even golf, if you don't mind the heat, will be the features of the Mid-Atlantic's annual picnic to be held Tuesday, August 9, at Bretton Woods Recreation Center, which is out River Road. Take the River Road exit from the Beltway (495) and go 11/2 miles toward Potomac, to the northwest; the club is on the left side of River Road.

The golf course, says Superintendent Gerry Gerard, has benefited greatly from its new automatic watering system. He can now water in about 3 hours, a job that took 8-10 hours when the system was manual. He is sprinkling P16 Bermuda on No. 15, 16, and 17 fairways, and you're invited to take a look. He also is still using Rubigan on 10 of his greens.

MAAGCS member and golf course architect Eddie Ault designed Bretton Woods, which opened in 1968. Greens are Penncross bent, mowed 4 to 5 times a week, and fairways which originally were a mixture of Highland and Astoria bent have been overseeded with perennial rye and bluegrasses. Tees are either Penncross bent or bluegrass.

The picnic itself starts at 1:30 p.m., although the course is available for golf anytime and the pool will open at 11 a.m. The Association is providing hamburgers, hot dogs, crabs, ribs, sweet corn, beer, and sodas, and families are asked to bring a covered dish such as salad (green, potato, or macaroni) or a dessert. TESCO is buying a keg of beer, and Tom Harris is bringing the watermelons. Check with Paul Barefoot (722-3262 or 291-2095) for further information.

Pythium and Sand Topdressing

Increasing Evidence for Pythium-Induced Root Dysfunction of Creeping Bentgrass Grown in High Sand Content Mixes

by CLINTON F. HODGES, Department of Horticulture
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

The presentation made by me at the 1981 M.G.C.S.A. annual conference implicated Pythium in a root dysfunction of creeping bentgrass grown on reconstructed high sand content greens. The disease in question killed grass very rapidly and in a manner typical of Pythium "cottony blight." Examination of diseased plants, however, failed to yield Pythium or any other pathogen from above-ground portions of the plant. Pythium was found throughout the root system of diseased plants. It is believed that when a green on an old golf course is renovated to sand, Pythium may infest the sand from the collar and apron soil of the old green. The sand probably offers little microbiological competition for the Pythium, and increased levels of irrigation and fertilization of sand greens may further promote the Pythium. There also is some evidence that more root mechanical damage may occur in sand than in soil; this could contribute to Pythium infection. This problem has not been observed in the roots of plants grown in traditional soil mixes.

To date, we have isolated four species of Pythium from the roots of creeping bentgrass associated with rapid death of infected plants. We are currently in the process of identifying the isolates to the species level and testing them for pathogenicity. It

(Continued on page 3)
U. Md. Offers Turf Course at Night

Turf Management (AGRO-405, 3 credits) is an introductory course designed for new and experienced professional turfgrass managers as well as for college students. The course primarily contains applied information but also stresses academic principles. Initially, terminology, morphology, and growth and development of turfgrass are discussed. A great deal of emphasis will be placed upon the description, and discussion of the strengths and weaknesses, and mixing and blending of turfgrass species and cultivars. The influence of soil physical and chemical properties and the soil environment upon turfgrasses will be reviewed. Cultural practices such as mowing, fertilization and liming, fertilizer sources, irrigation, drainage, thatch and traffic management, shade culture, establishment and renovation, etc., will be discussed extensively. Identification and control of weeds, diseases and insects will also be reviewed.

Special emphasis is placed upon pesticide selection and cultural practices that help minimize pest injury to turfgrasses. This course is offered through University College, and tuition, fees, and parking will cost $240.

Information regarding scheduling and preregistration can be obtained from University College at (301) 454-5802. The deadline for preregistration is August 5, but there will be a walk-in registration on August 29, 30, and 31. For information about the course call Peter Dernoeden at (301) 454-3717. This course will be given Tuesday nights from 7-9:40 p.m. from September 6 through December 23, 1983.

The Challenge of Serving on the Board

by Michael J. Larsen, CGCS

Five years ago, when I was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, I was unaware of the personal and professional impact it would have on my life. To be given a vote of confidence by one's fellow superintendents is certainly an honor, but the sense of elation was quickly put into perspective.

After my first Board meeting, I began to realize and appreciate the full extent of the obligation Board members have to the 230 members of the Association. Monthly meetings, educational programs, golf tournaments, directories, and the annual Turfgrass Conference are only a few of the important areas to be addressed. I was personally embarrassed at having previously taken all of this for granted. Difficult decisions sometimes have to be made, and personal preferences often must take a back seat when considering what is best for the entire organization.

The more involved I became, the more demands were made upon my free time. As with most endeavors, however, you get out of something what you put in, and in this case, the merits far outweigh the negative aspects. It afforded me the satisfaction of seeing many worthwhile projects through to completion. The opportunity for personal contact with local and national members and for developing lasting friendships continues to be a rewarding experience for me.

Serving on the Board is a challenge, always stimulating and sometimes difficult. I will always take pride in having served on the governing body of my professional association, an association that has survived good times and bad since 1928. I strongly encourage all members to take an active interest in the health and well being of our organization. The challenge is there for all of us.

PYTHIUM AND SAND TOPDRESSING (Continued from page 2)

PYTHIUM AND SAND TOPDRESSING

The rapid death of infected plants appears to be due to a foliar pathogen. However, examination of dying leaves usually fails to yield any pathogens and often times even saprophytic organisms are not present. When the root systems are examined they usually appear normal in size and color. Because of this it is assumed that root pathogens are not present. These normal appearing roots can, however, be severely infected by Pythium. The Pythiums associated with this problem do not cause a rot, and the degree of discoloration may not be detectible with the naked eye. We have found that when we properly incubate what appears to be a healthy root from these diseased plants, Pythium will grow from the root within six hours. We are suspicious that these Pythiums damage plants by interfering with water relations, not by rotting.

Control of this problem in the field remains elusive. Intense aerification followed by application of Pythium specific fungicides into the aerifier holes may slow the disease. There is some indication that wetting agents used in conjunction with the fungicides may be beneficial. It also appears that following renovation of a green, the first time the disease strikes it is most severe; each subsequent year it becomes less severe.

Our primary research objectives for the next 2-3 years will be as follows: (1) Continue to collect and identify Pythium species associated with roots; 2) Determine pathogenicity of the Pythium species and the conditions necessary for injury or death to occur; 3) Determine the nature of the pathogenicity; i.e., in that the roots are not rotted, how are the plants ultimately killed; and 4) Examine approaches to control.
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