At most clubs in our area the Superintendent is known as the guy who takes care of the golf course, and tries to keep the course green. Everyone knows us, but do they really know us? At most clubs there is a monthly newsletter, and some of us are asked to contribute a column about the goings on around the golf course. We explain aerification, when we plan on aerifying, course condition, all of the related subjects we are paid to perform. From a PR standpoint this is good, the members who read this information know first hand what it is we are doing, and it eliminates many rumors which have a tendency to circulate around the club or in the Mens’ Grille. A good example of this happened to me this past fall. We have a considerable amount of Poa Annua on certain greens here at Bethesda Country Club, and I was determined to tackle this problem in order to improve the turf we present to our members, but do we do it effectively? Do the members really know us? I think maybe I made a mistake, the greens were rather unsightly, fortunately for the little PR work done prior to the application with an explanation to the end result, there were no unfavorable comments. Complaints? Yes we had some, that’s the nature of the Beast. But as we all know, communication is probably 70% of our job. We all communicate with our members, but do we do it effectively? Do the members really know us? I think more respect is given to us professionally, if we write our column and add such things as homeowner lawn tips, give an explanation of why the leaves turn color in the fall, what grasses grow better for the homeowner, tips on Christmas tree care, why there are frost delays on the course in the mornings, other than it kills the grass. Little things like this, which we take for granted, are sometimes very beneficial to the layman. It also gives the membership a better understanding of our profession, which is more than that of a grass grower. Food for thought.

GET WELL QUICK

We have heard that our good friend Dr. Fred Grau has been in the hospital and was recovering in the Carriage Hill Nursing Home. By the time you receive this letter he will be back home in College Park. For those of you that would like to get in touch the address is: Dr. Fred Grau, 4604 Amherst Road, Box AA, College Park, Maryland 20740-1014. We all wish him the best for a speedy recovery. We received word of his problem at a late date. Sorry for the late notice.

Vince Triplett Fund

The Mid-Atlantic Association was notified by John Segui, GCSAA President at the October meeting that our request to the National had been acted upon. The National Board had voted on our request for special attention for the family of Vince Triplett and had approved it. John presented us with a check for the family at the meeting. Donations are still being accepted for the memorial fund, a check will be presented before Christmas to his family. Thanks.

Dues Increase

The Board of Directors at its last meeting approved a dues increase for the upcoming year. Plans are in the works for more member services and publicity. The dues for all members, accept assistants and non resident, will be $70, assistants will pay $55, and non-residents $35.

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Tom and Karen Walsh on the birth of a daughter, Sarah Christine, born the 14th of September. The picture is of the proud couple at our 60th anniversary - Ladies Night.

RESERVATIONS
(301) 381-0030

MAAGCS Scholarship Winner

by Walter Montross, CGCS

Robert Wrenn is the Mid-Atlantic scholarship winner for 1988. Robert is originally from Cleveland, Ohio, he moved to the Baltimore area in 1985. His first golf course experience was at the Pine Ridge Golf Course working for Kevin Pryseski. He stayed at Pine Ridge for 2 1/2 years. During this time he entered the Institute of Applied Agriculture at the University of Maryland. Subsequently he has gone to work for Mike Larsen at Woodmont C.C. Robert intends to graduate from Maryland in May. Congratulations Bob on your award.