President’s Message

I would like to say “well, we made it through another one!” But since this is being written in early August that would be a bit premature. And, I am a firm believer in Murphy’s corollary that just when you think you’re home safe something will crop up to bit you in the “*"! So, I will continue to watch the weather channel and jump for joy when those night time temps drop to a sweltering 70 degrees.

I trust Ken Ingram has recuperated from slavery over the hot coals at the MAAGCS picnic. Nice job Ken, not just on the cooking but also on arranging all the food and drink. The clown was terrific — not just for the little ones but also for those older ones who were occupied trying to figure out how she managed the tricks. Our thanks also to Bill Neus, our host, for all his efforts. For a hot day we had a lot of cooperative effort and a good time.

Our best to Paul Barefoot who is recovering from heart surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery. Your famous sparerib recipe was missed but we hope to have it back next year.

Congrats to Tom Reagan and Merrill Frank for their efforts on successful LPGA events. All were impressed with the conditions at Bethesda and Baltimore C.C.

Remember to reserve your seat for the upcoming meeting.

George Renault, President

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

by Steven A. Nash, CGCS

Insects, disease, fertilizers, shortages of employees, low wages, chemical effectiveness, greens construction — these are problems that we all discuss at the monthly Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents meetings. These are some of the very same problems that the greenskeepers of the Mid-Atlantic area had back in 1928.


The information needed to write this article came from the first volume of minutes for the Mid-Atlantic Association of Greenskeepers.

While reading through them I came across some interesting things that I thought I’d pass along. One of the early effective fertilizers was chicken manure. An early cure for Pythium was 1/3 bucket of hardwood ashes, 1/2-bucket of sulphate of ammonia mixed in 2 buckets of topsoil in order to be able to spread it evenly.

The first Greenskeepers/Pro tournament was held June 1938 at the Suburban Golf Club. It was held to benefit R. Cultrider, Superintendent at Suburban, who was injured in an automobile accident.

At the August 1938 meeting, the Superintendents adopted the policy of staying for dinner if you play golf.

Members at that time would play golf to see the golf course and then at the meeting that evening, everyone would offer their suggestions for improvements to the golf course.

The University of Maryland held its first Short Course for the Superintendents on January 25-26-27, 1939. At the February 1939 meeting, a policy was adopted that a guest speaker talk at each meeting.

The first joint Mid-Atlantic/Philadelphia meeting was at the Baltimore Country Club on June 11, 1934. The second was on October 8, 1934 at the Pine Valley Golf Club.

Since these early years, the ranks of the Mid-Atlantic have grown from 14 to over 300. There have been many highlights in those 60 years. Some of them being home to the first USGA green section; hosts to 4 GCSAA conferences - 1937, 1958, 1967, and 1985; 3 GCSAA Presidents - James E. Thomas, L.R. “Bob” Shields, and George Cleaver; the last association to have back to back National Golf Champions - Bob Martino 1973 and 1974 and Angie Cammarota, recipient of the GCSAA 50th Anniversary Outstanding Service Award.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments by members of the Mid-Atlantic. We have had a great 60 years and I am sure the MAAGCS will continue to be progressive leaders in the turf management industry.

President

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

President ............... George Renault
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