



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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

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The 29th National Turfgrass Conference and Show has come and gone, and is now a memory of an accomplishment well done. The meeting was outstanding in all respects. Past records were broken for attendance, membership and the sale of exhibit space. Each was at a new high. All of which indicates the golf course superintendent is fast reaching the pinnacle of recognition he so rightfully deserves in the golf world.

The Educational Program, the Exhibit Show and the Ladies' Activities were all successfully conducted and handled. Everyone seemed to be well pleased and satisfied with the reception given them in Washington. We of the Mid-Atlantic can be very proud of our part as hosts to the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America during their recent visit to the District of Columbia.

The Conference sessions were well balanced and afforded those attending the opportunity of hearing a diversified list of topics covering golf course maintenance. Each subject was covered by qualified speakers well versed in their themes. Our own Dr. Fred V. Grau gave the final summation of the Conference and was warmly applauded for his work. The Doctor's summary will be in the mail within the next few days- you will want to watch out for it, read and study it well, then file it away for future reference. Fred's fine synopsis of what the different speakers had to say is a masterpiece. He says much in a very few words.

The Exhibit Show enjoyed a record sell-out of floor space. There were close to one hundred exhibitors on hand for the Show. On display were the many tried and true products, equipment and machinery we all use in our everyday chores, plus a lot of the newer innovations. Each succeeding year brings us new materials and tools which enable us to do a better job of course upkeep. As the old saying goes, "Time and progress march on hand in hand."

Much of the credit for the overall success of the Conference can be attributed to Tom Dawson's Ladies' Entertainment Committee. This group spent considerable time in arranging a suitable program for the entertainment of the visiting ladies. The Committee's untiring efforts kept the wives and families of the out of town delegates busily occupied in sight-seeing and other activities. Tom and his co-workers received many favorable expressions of appreciation for their labors. They did much towards proving the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to be perfect co-hosts to a National Conference.

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The final credit and commendation for a job well done goes to our prexy, Bob Shields. Bob was General Chairman for the Mid-Atlantic group and did commendable work in organizing things on the local front. He selected capable members for the various committees and they rewarded him and the Association with their full support and cooperation. We are all proud of our part and assistance in helping make the 29th National Turfgrass Conference and Show one of the best ever held. We are especially proud that we could present the Vice-President of the United States to our fellow superintendents and have him say a few words to them.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I couldn't write at this time without a word of praise for those who helped make the National Meeting a success.

The 1958 National Meeting is now history. Thanks to the people who worked on committees and many other factors, a good record has been established by our local association. The Mid-Atlantic will be remembered as the association that set this record and will be expected to take the initiative in future important matters concerning the superintendents. We have made a place for ourselves and now must be ready to accept more and more leadership in National affairs in order to hold our place and then go on to even greater things.

Before we can advance ourselves we must have more education. This is basic and we refer back to it again and again. This year an effort will be made to have a speaker or some form of educational instruction at each meeting. A Program Committee consisting of Ernie Stanley, Chairman, Ernest Parsley and John Leavell has been appointed and is now at work lining up speakers and subjects. This committee is assisted by Bob Elder who took the bull by the tail and lined up the program and place for the next regular monthly meeting. Thanks-Bob - I'm sure that if any of you have a subject you would like to hear discussed the committee would appreciate hearing from you.

Time will be allotted each meeting for speakers and questions and answers. The charge made by a member last fall that - "I have attended Mid-Atlantic meetings for four years and haven't learned anything yet" didn't go too well with the Executive Committee. Its Chairman, Jim Reid, has instructed me to find time for an educational feature during each meeting and his instructions will be carried out.

Very few of the statistics of the Washington Conference are available yet, but we do know that there were 1457 registrations which included approximately 300 wives and children. We are reasonable certain that this number and more were on hand in the Hotel lobby when the Vice-President of the United States paid us a visit. I am most grateful to the Mid-Atlantic for the privilege and honor of being permitted to introduce Mr. Nixon to the assembly.

My personal thanks go to the committee heads and those who worked with them on the National Meeting. Special thanks to Ladies' Chairman, Tom Dawson who had a easy job because of Ruth Thomas, Helen Cornell and Bernice

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Shields and Mrs. Wlaler Densmore. On hand at every ladies' activity and always willing to help was Gaye Jerome. Thanks to these girls the visiting ladies had few complaints - and that's unusual.

Thanks also to Jimmy Thomas for all kinds of help and to Paul Weisee, Jr. for doing a first class job in the Educational Conference room. Perhaps the good attendance at these sessions was due in part to the good job Paul did in keeping the doorway clear by finding seats for late comers. The Tidewater boys, headed by Fred Sappenfield, assisted in the ushering.

See you at Maryland University on March 4.

L.R. Shields,
President.

IN THE MAIL

January 21, 1957

Dear Mr. Shields:

An article in the August 1957 issue of "MID-ATLANTIC TURF LETTER" published by the USGA was brought to my attention. It suggested the use of flour or cheap syrup instead of kerosene as the vehicle for lapping in mowers.

For the past two years I have suggested to the golf course superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area that they try adding the liquid ball cleaner they use in their golf ball washers as the carrier for their lapping compound. Those who have tried it are very enthusiastic about this method. The liquid cleaner has several advantages. It holds the emery compound in suspension and can be easily rinsed off and thoroughly cleaned by a simple hosing. It is non-toxic, non-inflammable, non-corrosive and is readily available since most golf courses have it in stock for their ball washers.

If you could bring this to the attention of the Directors of the "EASTERN TURF LETTER", possibly the golf course superintendent outside the Mid-Atlantic area might like the idea. It really works.

Jack Milan
J.L. Milan Co., Baltimore Md.

Dear Bob,

Bob Smith called me last Wednesday, February 12, and wanted to know about joining the National and paying his dues in the local. Frank Dunlap and I went out Friday and signed his application for the National.

They are making great improvements to the club house so I asked him about a meeting in July. He would like to have it the 8th, the second Tuesday in July, if that can be arranged. You are to let him know one way or the other because he wants to make it definite with the manager.

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How is the weather in your area? We have been snowed in and everything has been at a standstill. It doesn't seem possible that we will be cutting grass in another five or six weeks. I certainly will be glad for spring.

Sincerely,
Jim Reid.

MEETING PLACES FOR 1958

January 14 - Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.
Feb. 2-7 - National Meeting, Washington, D.C.
March 4 - University of Maryland, College Park, Md.
April 8 - Fort Belvoir, Fort Belvoir, Virginia
May 6 - Cedar Point, Patuxent River, Maryland
June 3 - Jefferson Lakeside, Richmond, Virginia
July 1 or 8 - OPEN
August 5 - Pinecrest, Annandale, Virginia
Sept. 2 or 9 - Shenandoah Retreat, Bluemont, Virginia
October 7 - Andrew's Air Force Base, Andrews Field
Nov. 4 - Woodholme(?) Baltimore, Maryland
Dec. 2 - Cornell's, Bethesda, Maryland

NEXT MEETING

DATE : March 4th, 1958 TIME : 12:30 p.m.

PLACE : University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
Cole Building (Activities Building)
University Lane (Top of the hill)

SCHEDULE:

12:30 - 2:30 :: Inspection Tour of new 18 hole University
Of Maryland Golf Course.

2:30 :: Guest Speaker - Dr. John H. Axlèy
Department of Agronomy, Univ. of Maryland
Subject: Minor Elements and Their Relation to
Plant Growth.

Following the lecture we will have the Constructive Suggestion Report. The golf course staff of the University is most anxious to receive this report.

Let's have a good attendance and give this new course our full support .
