



# MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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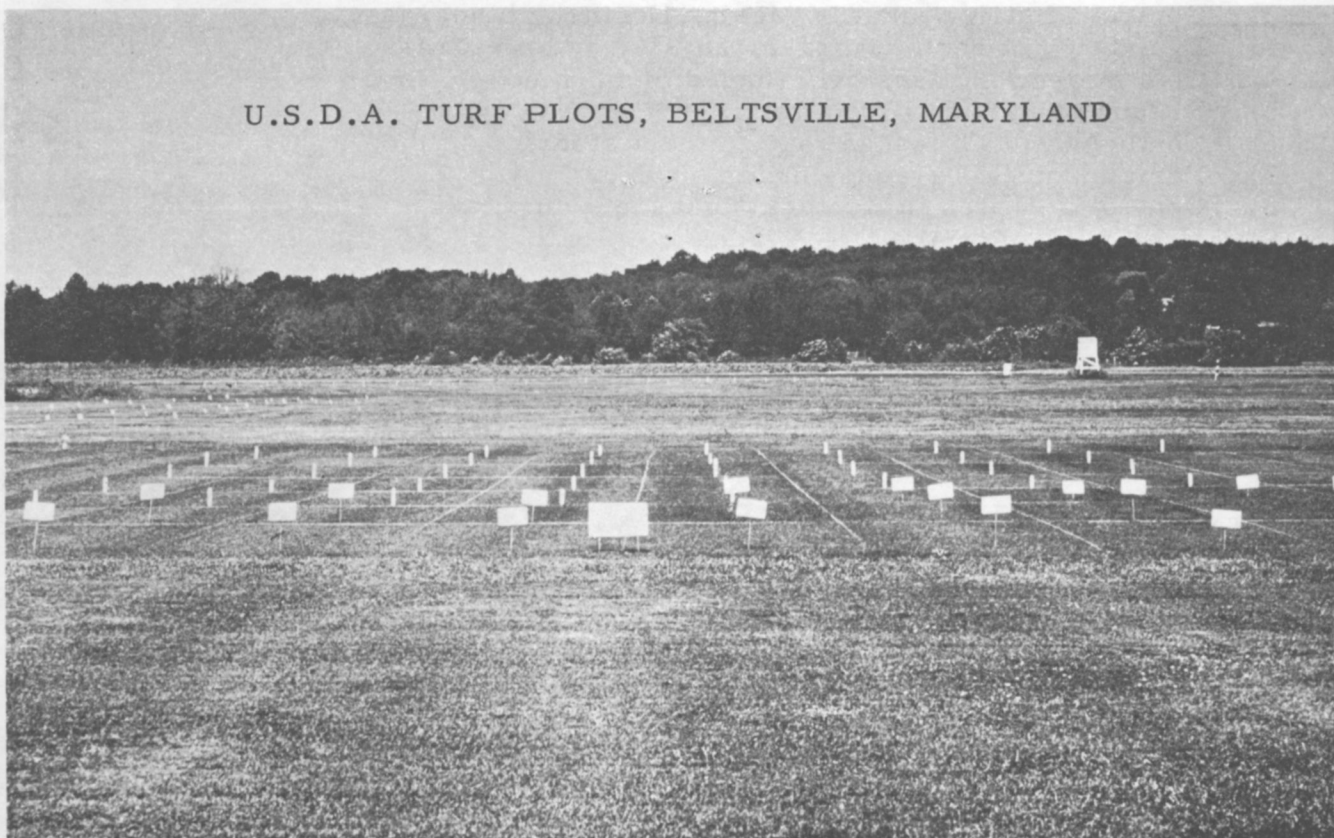
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## U.S.D.A. TURF PLOTS, BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND



### NEXT MEETING

The August meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Superintendents Association will be held at the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland, on Thursday, August 3rd. You are asked to assemble on the turf plots located west of the Plant Industry Station buildings to register between 9:00 and 10:00 a. m. There is no charge for registration. Programs will be distributed during registration. Luncheon may be purchased at the Station cafeteria and at restaurants located nearby. If you plan to remain overnight, please make your own reservations.

A short after-luncheon program in the air-conditioned Auditorium has been planned. Discussion will include growth regulators, ground covers and golf course problems in 1967.



F. V. JUSKA

### OUR HOST

Dr. Felix V. Juska has been turf research agronomist at Beltsville for the last twelve years. He did his graduate and undergraduate work at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

## RESEARCH

The turf research at Beltsville includes turfgrass breeding, management, and weed and disease control. The research program is conducted by the Grass and Turf Investigation Unit. Some other work is carried on in cooperation with other branches.

## PROGRAM

Among some of the research studies to be viewed and discussed are:

- 1) Use of preemergence herbicides for Poa annua control and their injury to several bentgrasses;
- 2) Control of stripe smut of Merion Kentucky bluegrass;
- 3) Evaluation of bermudagrass, zoysia, and bluegrasses;
- 4) Cool-season grasses overseeded on bermudagrasses;
- 5) Billbug control in zoysia turf;
- 6) Kentucky 31 tall fescue management study;
- 7) Performance of grasses under shade;
- 8) Control of thatch in Kentucky bluegrass turf; and
- 9) Weed control trials.

The Field Day Program will be held - Rain or Shine. Everyone interested in Turfgrasses is welcome.

## DIRECTIONS

The Plant Industry Station is located on U. S. No. 1 between Beltsville and College Park, Maryland. The turf plots are located west of the Plant Industry Buildings.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Angelo Cammarota

Our monthly meetings are growing in attendance. Our last meeting at the Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland, attracted 90 members. Our next meeting on September 12th will be a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Association of Golf Course Superintendents. It has been many years since we met with our friends from the Philadelphia Area. I hope most of you plan to attend this meeting. I urge you to mail your Reservation Cards in early. It is extremely important that we inform our Host of the number of members to expect for Golf and Dinner.

Through the cooperation of our Educational Director and David O. Miller, Chairman of the Host Association, plus the efforts of our friend Jack Hurley, we will be meeting at the Wilmington Country Club. Our Host Superintendent is Harry McSloy, whom we all know so well from his previous position at the Country Club of Virginia. I hope you all plan to come and make this meeting a real success. More information will be in our next Newsletter. Don't miss this one.

# Joseph Valentine Memorial Fund \*

Post Office Box 324, State College, Pennsylvania 16801

In Memory of Joseph Valentine  
Merion Golf Club 1907-1962

On October 7, 1966, the Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University, with due deliberation, saw fit to honor the deeds and the memory of Joseph Valentine by proclaiming that, henceforth, the Turfgrass Research Center at Penn State shall be known as:

**THE JOSEPH VALENTINE TURFGRASS RESEARCH CENTER.**

In 1905 Joseph Valentine left his Mother Italy and embraced these United

States as his own. Laborer, foreman, greenkeeper — soon he became the head greenkeeper at Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, Pennsylvania. During the ensuing 50 years he earned the right to be known as "The Dean of Golf Course Superintendents." His success inspired many others to join the turfgrass fraternity. Joe had little formal education, yet he commanded respect among men in high places.

In 1928 he led a group of discouraged greenkeepers directly to the door of Penn State's President Hetzel pleading for help on golf and lawn turf problems. From this there developed the first Greenkeeper's Short Course. The first Turf Conference was held at the College in 1929. In 1929-30 Joe was responsible for raising \$690.00 from Pennsylvania golf clubs which was turned over to the College for starting turf research. In 1931 the Pennsylvania legislature considered Bill No. 1267 sponsored by Peters and Boyd under the prodding of Joe Valentine, calling for \$10,000 for turfgrass studies at Penn State. The governor vetoed the bill but the effect was to insure the allocation of funds by President Hetzel for turfgrass work which, today, stands second to none.

Joseph Valentine was a moving figure in the local and the national associations of superintendents. He pioneered many of the management techniques which now are standard operational procedures.

His keen eye observed the patch of bluegrass at Merion which, through many hands over a quarter century, became the best-known and the most widely-used bluegrass in the world — Merion Kentucky bluegrass.

When the United States Golf Association inaugurated the Green Section Awards it is significant that Joe Valentine was the first golf course superintendent ever to receive that signal honor.

If Mr. Valentine were to be given a middle name it would be "Perfection." Nothing was too burdensome for him to make sure that "his" golf course would suit the most exacting and temperamental player in any National tournament. Joe groomed Merion Golf Club for eleven USGA competitions. One of these was the 1930 Amateur when Bobby Jones won the tournament to complete the Grand Slam of Golf.

As perennial chairman of the Turf Research Advisory Committee at Penn State Joe never missed an opportunity to carry the needs of the program to the Dean or, if necessary, right to the top. Literally, he carried the program on his capable shoulders.

His memory shall be perpetuated in the Living Memorial which will be located at the Joseph Valentine Turfgrass Research Center and a fund devoted to research and scholarship. Thus his work and his traditions shall become a living symbol for greenkeepers and golf course superintendents everywhere.

The Living Memorial will be created in the image of Beauty and Usefulness, tastefully landscaped and marked with a simple plaque on rugged stone. His many friends everywhere may contribute to this "FIRST" in Turfgrass work so that others to come may be inspired to follow the tradition established by this great and simple man. His foresight and dogged determination has resulted in achievements of which all can be inordinately proud.

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\*The Mid-Atlantic Chapter contributed as a group to the Joseph Valentine Memorial. Any of our members or readers who would like to contribute individually to this Fund should send their contributions to Box 324, State College, Pennsylvania 16801.

#### LADIES NIGHT

As we go to press, Frank Haske tell us that "Ladies Night" is a complete sell-out. I hope "you all" got your reservations in by July 22nd.

#### FORT BELVOIR HONORS TOM DOERER, JR.

Dennis McCammon

Tom was presented with a civilian certificate of achievement citing him for his service at Belvoir's Golf Courses from July of 1963 to March of this year.

When I went to see Tom on Monday, the 19th, it was my first trip to Belvoir and it is

no wonder they gave him the award for excellence. The golf course was in tremendous condition, and I feel that Tom is a more than deserving recipient.



Tom is shown in the picture receiving the certificate from M. G. Robert Seedlock as Mrs. Doerer looks on.

The citation reads as follows:

WELL DONE!!

### TRIBUTES

Last month we paid Tribute to Frank Dunlop. Let us not forget a few other old timers who have passed on in the last few years -

Bill Glover, Tom Ryan, John Anderson, Reg Giddings, Rudy Will, Dick Scott, Ruben Hines, Cliff Eisele, and Jay Seacrist.

Let us also remember and honor the men who first started the Mid-Atlantic in 1928, O. B. Fitts and Bob Scott, Sr., who are still very much alive. Their names and addresses are in your Membership Directory, and I'm sure they would like to hear from you.

by Bob Shields

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NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA AREA GOLF CLUBS

by Dennis McCammon

Washington Golf and Country Club - Lee Dieter, Superintendent

Pythium in the fairways - with the Poa leaving them. Bermuda is being sprigged in them. The tees are also being sprigged under his program. The Dieters will be moving to a new house, bigger than their old one, on August 15. Address will be in next month's newsletter.

Westwood Country Club - Jack McClenahan, Superintendent

Jack discovered what Frit Fly looked like last week and what it will do to grass. Diazinon went on the greens and the damage stopped. The big pump for the fairway system is now wired and other than a few leaks, the system works well. All the ditches will be sodded in the fairways.

Twin Lakes - Charles Croley, Superintendent

Charles also saw damage from the Frit Fly this month. Damage was quite severe to two greens but topdressing and overseeding will help them. The course has a lot of grass now and opening is still slated for sometime this fall. The water supply there will be supplemented by a new 215-ft. deep well which puts out about 100 gallons per minute.

Country Club of Fairfax - Sam Kessel, Superintendent

Sam had some pretty bad Pythium on four greens but it is under control now using Zineb. The Men's District Amateur will be held there the end of this month so things should be healed up by then.

Springfield Golf and Country Club - Denny McCammon, Superintendent

Worst problem of Golf Clubs and Country Clubs is the help situation. If any one runs across some type of capable people looking for full-time work, send them to Springfield.

Question of the Week - Can Betasan be used on Bermuda with no ill effects to the turf?

All you Virginia superintendents be thinking of changes, improvements or ideas on your golf courses, or anything personal at home that you would like everyone else in the Mid-Atlantic to know about. Keep them in mind or written down so you can give them to me when I call for news near the middle of each month from now on through the year.

**MID-ATLANTIC News Letter**

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