



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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HIGHLIGHT OF THE PENN STATE CONFERENCE

The highlight of the Penn State Turfgrass Conference, held February 10-13, was the talk "Just Back From Viet Nam", given by Dr. Fred V. Grau at the Annual Dinner. Because of Dr. Grau's popularity and thorough knowledge of turfgrasses and agronomy, he was called upon by the Dept. of the Air Force to help solve the increasing problem of wind blown sand at the Cameron Bay Air Base in South Viet Nam. Dr. Grau stated that one of the main reasons he accepted the challenge, was because, "I have a twenty-two year old son in jungle training in Louisiana, preparing to go to Viet Nam." The sand at Cameron Bay is near one hundred feet deep, there is no water available for irrigation, and with a constant wind, the sand gets into the jet engines, bomb mechanisms, and finely tuned equipment. During his temporary duty, he was given a GS-15 rating. To Dr. Grau, this meant getting into the VIP lounges, a staff car, and most important, maid service! A construction plan was drawn up, using deep bulldozed furrows, to slow down the wind velocity, sprigged with native vegetative plants, seed mulch, spinifex, and thimberstylys. This would be sprayed with Coharex, a resin material, which binds the sand particles together. These furrows would be backed up with snow fencing and the planting of Casheirina Trees (Australian Pine) before the monsoon in October of this year. The total cost, using local labor and planting materials was kept in the neighborhood of \$50,000. I'm sure we all wish this project the best of luck and that the monsoon does arrive in October, as hoped.

After his talk, Dr. Grau was presented the United States Golf Association Green Section Award, given annually for distinguished service to golf through work with turfgrass. The award was presented by Alexander M. Radko, Director, Eastern Region and National Research Director. Dr. Grau had been previously named the recipient of the award at the USGA Green Section Annual Conference in New York, January 24-25 but because of his absence, the plaque was held until the Penn State Conference. All we can say is, "Congratulations, Dr. Grau, you are certainly well deserving of the award." His name joins the growing list of previous winners.



Shown above is Al Radko, Director of the Eastern Region of the USGA Green Section as he presented Dr. Fred Grau with the USGA Award.

- 1961 - Dr. John Monteith, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 1962 - Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, Amherst, Mass.
- 1963 - O. J. Noer, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 1964 - Joseph Valentine, Ardmore, Pennsylvania
- 1965 - Dr. Glenn W. Burton, Tifton, Georgia
- 1966 - Professor H. Burton Musser, State College, Pa.
- 1967 - Elmer J. Michael, Pittsford, New York
- 1968 - James L. Haines, Denver, Colorado
- 1969 - Dr. Fred V. Grau, College Park, Maryland

MAY MEETING - SPRINGFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

The next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association will be held at Springfield Country Club in Springfield, Virginia on April 8, 1969. This will be a joint meeting with the Central Virginia Turfgrass Association and a large turn-out is expected. The golf course will be open for play after noon and lunch may be purchased in the grille room.

OUR HOST

Denny McCammon, our host and member of the Mid-Atlantic, has been the superintendent at Springfield since February of 1966. Denny came to Virginia from Muncie, Indiana, where he was the superintendent at a