



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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OVER THE HUMP

The Almanac assures us that the days are getting shorter and our local meteorologist informs us that the average high temperature has dropped from 88 to 87. This means that our 140 days (Bill Smarts 100 days) are almost over, growing conditions are becoming more favorable. We can forget about the goosegrass and Pythium for another year. It is not a time of rest however, this is the time to aerate, cultivate and renovate. Try some of those new grass varieties that you have heard so much about, work a few in that problem hillside or shady tee. Aerate that compacted green 4 or 5 times and work in a lighter mix. What we do this fall has a direct bearing on course condition next summer. This is by far the season to make the most progress. In many respects it is the most important season of the year.

George B. Thompson Pres.

SEPTEMBER MEETING - 3rd Tuesday

The September meeting of the Mid-Atlantic will be held at the Cavalier Country Club, Stanton, Delaware, on September 19th. Our host will be Arthur Menard, and it will be a joint meeting with Delaware, Philadelphia, and the Mid-Atlantic. The speaker will be James Vitaliano, who is a district attorney in Philadelphia. Golf can be played anytime after noon, social hour is at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. Directions are as follows: Take I-95 north (Delaware Turnpike) to Stanton exit (just past Newark exit and toll booth). Turn right at Churchman's Road and cross cement bridge. Right again - go about 500 yards, to club on right. (Club is to the right of I-95). SEND BACK CARDS

CHOICE OF FIELD DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Sept. 12-13 Penn State field day, University Park, Pa.
Sept. 13-14 V.P.I. field day, Blacksburg, Va.

Watch your mail for more information on these two field days. Everybody should attend at least one day - let's keep up to date with the new developments in turf.

AUGUST MEETING

Our August meeting was held at the Country Club of Fairfax in Fairfax, Virginia. Sam Kessell was our host superintendent.

Thirty three members challenged the rolling hills and water hazards of Sam's course. Glen Swenson won first place with a net 67; Tom Comalli came in second with a net 68, followed by Steve Robinson and Gillie Shapiro.

George Cleaver was unanimously re-elected to run for a 1973 GCSAA National director position in Boston, George ran for office last year and lost by only forty votes. If we are to be represented properly in the National we all must support George by attending our annual National Conference at Boston in January. We are indeed fortunate to have a well qualified member willing to devote his time and effort for the advancement of our association. **SUPPORT GEORGE CLEAVER IN '73 - EVERYONE GO TO BOSTON!**

George Thompson, our Mid-Atlantic president, presided over an open membership meeting. The chosen topic for discussion was Tri-Calcium Arsenate. The widespread devastating loss of Poa Annuua during the heat and drought that followed Agnes brought to light the adverse effects of excess heat, humidity and water on greens under a tri-cal program.

Lee Dieter, vice president of our Mid-Atlantic, began the discussion by relating back to a talk called "Living with Poa Annuua", that he presented at the 1969 V.P.I. Turf Conference. Lee contends that you either rebuild the Poa infested greens or learn to live with them. He also stated that there are too many contributing factors involved with Poa infested greens, such as poor drainage, poor soil mixtures, poor air circulation, and compaction - all of which are conducive to Poa infestation and cannot be chemically eliminated.

Sam Kessel, of Fairfax Country Club, defied anybody to accurately estimate the percentage of Poa one has on any given green. Without this information an arsenical program of Poa eradication becomes very risky. Some of Sam's greens were thinned out to 15% - 20% bare ground, while other greens resembled a superintendent's dream of perfection.

Sam's hardest hit greens were his aged greens that no longer drained properly or lacked good air circulation. These conditions, coupled with over 30 inches of rain,