



MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Board of Directors of your association, at their monthly meetings acted, they felt, in your best interests in the following actions. I feel that this board has accomplished a great deal in the past year.

The Association's records and procedures were reviewed by a C.P.A. In accordance with his recommendations, statements for receipts and disbursements for the years 1971 and 1972 were prepared and a journal of receipts and disbursements is being kept for the current year by the treasurer. Tax returns were filed for the years 1971 and 1972 with the I.R.S. and accepted by them.

A balanced working budget was prepared for the present year and a budget for fiscal 1974 will be submitted by year end. A decision to increase our dues from \$15.00 to \$25.00 was made upon reviewing the deficit of \$1,400.00 that the Association operated under the past two years. We believe that additional membership services can also be provided under the up coming budget.

The decision to move the Conference site from downtown Baltimore to the Washington Beltway for the "74" Conference was made and some thought was given to having an equipment show in conjunction with the Conference. No action was taken on the equipment show for this year. However, action could be taken on this project in a future year.

Thanks largely to an influx of new members at Mid-year from the Tidewater area, that made the Mid-Atlantic Association again truly *Mid-Atlantic*. Our membership increased by 41. We now have 196 voting members as compared to 166 in 72. Holman Griffin of the USGA Greens Section was made a complimentary member of our Association. We published an up-dated membership directory and distributed it to the membership.

A donation was made to the University of Maryland to be used by Dr. Hall for fine turf research. We felt this was a small token to this man who works so closely with us and our Turf Conference.

I'd like to take this time to express my thanks to the Board of Directors for their excellent efforts in making the progress we did in the past year. These actions taken by them made 1973 a significant year in the history of our association. We tend to take things like Ladie's Nite, the Family Picnic, our regular monthly meetings and our Newsletter for granted. But it is the members of our Board who make these activities work.

NATIONAL ENERGY CRISIS —HARD YEAR AHEAD

Our freedom of this past spring's fuel cut back is apparently coming to an abrupt end. President Nixon states we are approaching an energy crisis similar to what the United States experienced during World War II when all our gas and natural resources were severely rationed. The outcome is anyone's guess. How are we to second guess this dilemma and accurately project and avoid, if possible, the long range effects of a national energy crisis.

Some few of us can look back upon World War II and recall what problems golf courses and country clubs suffered during shortages at that time — shortages of everything including manpower. We were not as mechanized at that time, and many other differences make this comparison unpractical, except that we can envision no other similar circumstances such as the U.S. lived through during the war.

What then are the far reaching effects of national shortages of oil, gas and electricity? The energy rationing program will single out all operations not essential to our economy.

When a country club is cut back on gasoline deliveries the golf course is directly affected. When a country club is cut back on electric power, we are only indirectly affected, even if the clubhouse must close down completely.

Country Clubs . . . are they essential to our national economy? Consider if you will the electrical savings gained when golf cars are no longer recharged daily. Obviously we won't be seeing many of these cars in use in the near future — gas or electric.

How can the cities and states justify curbing the residential home use of electricity if the neighborhood's golf courses still allow the use of golf cars? The game of golf will return to the times of the enthusiastic golfer seeking exercise, especially if daylight savings time is to be extended through out the year. But what will he play on if the superintendent can no longer receive his 1000 or more gallons of gas each month of the year?

Now we are into the real crux of our future problems — gasoline rationing. No fuel allocation system can add fuel to the supply; it can only redistribute what is now available. A mandatory allocation system in our Mid-Atlantic states will essentially hurt us and benefit other states.

Dr. Jarvis L. Cain, Extension Agricultural Economist at the University of Maryland and member of the statewide

Extention Energy Management Task Force, states "Maryland is served gas basically by the major oil companies who have the oil and refinery products; while areas like the Mid-West are served largely by independents who do not have adequate oil and refinery products."

"Of course, this is a gross over-simplification of the problem, but a mandatory allocation system would, in principle, take from the 'haves' and give to the 'have nots'. There is a very small chance that this could be done without hurting the 'haves' and with current fuel reserves at such a low announced level; there is a very high probability that Maryland could lose some of its relatively favorable position."

In any event we are to soon experience a second and more severe fuel shortage. When, how sever, and for how long are questions we all must be concerned with now. We will also experience a sharp increase in the cost of gasoline when supplies begin to seriously diminish. Products that deal heavily in energy will show a sharp price increase thru the winter and into 1974. Budget accordingly.

The progressive superintendent of today must look ahead to regressing. Over the past few decades golf course maintenance has been highly intensified and improved. For example, roughs grew naturally with only mature, and not a mower, to determine it's appearance. Sand traps were not raked and were lined with shaggy uncut grass lips that provided a real challenge to golf, not seen now except in Scotland.

If we are to conserve fuel we must also reduce to a minimum all of our management practices. Fairways which were cut four and five times a week will have to be cut maybe only once a week.

Greens which are often cut daily will have to be cut only twice a week. Sand traps will have to be hand raked once again and so on until each conceivable measure has been taken to conserve every gallon of gas.

There remains no question of how the superintendent will comply with our present day energy crisis — he will cut back on all gasoline performed operations. Not many present day golfers will delight in your new management practices, but at least your gates won't be locked like the doors of the clubhouse and golf car building.

Gas will not be our only shortage to face. These fuel shortages we are facing are indirectly causing other complications — natural gas is a major raw material in the manufacture of anhydrous ammonia, from which nitrogen fertilizers are produced. Potash depends on fuel for the ships, trucks and railroad trains which haul it from Canada. Phosphate materials are already in short supply because of greater usage than anticipated both on the domestic scene and in the foreign export market. Electrical power shortages at several of the Florida open pit mines during July and August also aggravated the phosphate shortage.

The fertilizer situation was further complicated by Phase IV price controls imposed by the Federal Cost of Living Council. These price restrictions provided little benefit to golf courses since the price restrictions merely served as an incentive for manufacturers to sell at more lucrative profit margins in the world market. The fertilizer shortage is already here, and it can be expected to continue well into next year. Best order your spring needs of fertilizer early to assure delivery.

Some grass seed prices are expected to more than double in 1974. The combination of two consecutive bad

growing seasons coupled with bans on burning off end-of-season fields will certainly increase the price on certain seeds as well as making some varieties unavailable. The year 1974 will probably be a hard year — budget accordingly.

Craig Spottswood

CODE OF ETHICS

Our code of Ethics is reprinted here for the benefit of those who might be "looking" this winter — and for the few of us who need to be reminded of our professional GCSAA standards of conduct. The purpose of this guideline for conduct is to permit our group of professional superintendents to live in harmony with one-another and to aspire professionally for mutually sought after goals. This code reflects upon each of us a desire to become a competent and responsible member of a profession with high standards of conduct.

As a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, I pledge myself to:

1. Recognize and discharge all my responsibilities to my employers at all times.
2. Practice and insist on sound business principles in exercising the responsibilities of my position.
3. Utilize every opportunity to extend my professional knowledge in order to increase my value to my employers, my industry and my profession.

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