



CHARTER

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



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President's Message

A Pause for Reflection

It is with a feeling of honor and sincere humility that I have been selected to do service for our Mid-Atlantic GCSA in 1975. As individuals we have our own views and opinions on daily happenings as well as on our own field of endeavor, and if we communicate more frequently with one another and share those thoughts, our whole outlook changes for the better. The officers of your association have expressed on many occasions for more input from you, our membership. This we do request again for the year 1975, for it will make us stronger and more efficient, functional association.

We are well into the winter season, or so we can surmise by the many published weather reports and news media articles. To many of us winter means an entirely new phase of maintenance and reprogramming for the new season just ahead. This is the time of the year to renew and refurbish. Irrespective of seasonable problems at hand during the winter months, now is the time to pause, evaluate, and reflect. In the final analysis have our programs and schedules or maintenance practices met the full needs of our facilities? Have they been adequate and have we also met the needs and demands of our golfing members?

The winter season as well as being a period of study, evaluation, and reflection also presents opportunities to become closer and better acquainted with other professional people in our field of golf turf and grounds management, and with many individuals with whom we come in contact in allied fields. These opportunities present themselves in a host of excellent seminars and conferences during this time of the year. So...in the spirit of the new year ahead, why not make it a point to meet with and converse with your fellow professionals; Guys whom you see all too infrequently. Develop and enhance these acquaintances. Be in on the know and exchange of ideas. The benefits of such get togethers are mutual and we all gain from such fellowship. We can all share each others company and mutual problems or happenings by attending one or more of the upcoming seminars or conferences in our field. Make plans now. Attend a few of these meetings and by all means, if possible, the National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in February.

Alex (al) Watson

George Thompson, CGCS Superintendent of the Year 1974

George Thompson, superintendent of Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland, won the Mid-Atlantic award for Superintendent of the Year, the greatest tribute the association can bestow upon a member superintendent. George has served as Past President of the Mid-Atlantic (1972) and served on the Board in every other capacity over the past decade. His quality as a leader is frequently demonstrated through his constant demand as a speaker for conference programs throughout the Eastern United States and at our annual National GCSAA Conference. George is also famous for his student training program; many of which have become assistants and superintendents of golf courses in the Mid-Atlantic and surrounding states. He has authored many articles for professional publications

and has been the subject of interest for other articles; one of which was a story about a typical golf course superintendent within the Mid-Atlantic and his problems of growing grass in this infamous transitional climatic zone. This article was for the *Washington Post*, Sunday edition (1972), and received wide acclaim as the biggest boost of recognition we have had in our profession within many years.

George is a graduate of the Univ. of Mass. Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He came to Columbia in 1963, and a year later took over as superintendent. Columbia Country Club is a nationally famous course where the 1920 National Open was played, and is today one of the most scenic golf courses in the Washington area.

The Toilet Tissue Issue

A year or so back we were all becoming newly acquainted with daily problems of constant price changes and shortages of any item in demand. We were all forewarned to "heed the signs" and plan well in advance for the needed materials with which we could not do without; i.e., chemicals, fertilizer, and seed. A year has since gone by and now most everyone is purchasing well in advance of their needs to keep everything green for the following year. As a matter of fact, some of us are purchasing materials for future use thru the year 2000, as many people did last year with toilet paper in the Washington area and across the country.

History tells us that someone "foresaw" the crisis and promptly proceeded to buy out all of one store's stock of toilet paper. That store being empty of this daily necessity, prompted all shoppers of this item to run elsewhere and do similarly — buy out the whole store's supply of toilet paper. Needless to say we had a shortage of this item in every store not long after the initial "foresight of one individual." It is now a known fact that several Washingtonians will not be in need of toilet paper for years to come. Unlike other shortages

we have experienced, this oddity was created through the buying public and was not a result of shortages of raw materials.

We could easily experience similar shortages through similar circumstances if we consider purchases for more than we need, depleting our suppliers stock of any given item.

One superintendent has purchased over 85% of a commonly used chemical that was made available for the whole calendar year to a particular company.

The first time I heard of such a happening I passed the story off with a laugh, wondering who would do that. The second time this happened, I thought immediately of what I needed and began to follow suit, and plotted to get my hands on everything I could, regardless of what I had in stock. That seemed quite foolish after thinking about the problem for a while, but unfortunately not everyone can see this is a way of creating false shortage.

After several conversations with some of our suppliers of seed, chemicals, and fertilizers, I find that while shortages still exist, and supply and demand



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changes daily, we can still expect to get most of our basic needs if we can pay the unknown price upon delivery and order early in advance of our needs.

Some of us interpret the need of buying well in advance of our needs to mean that the supply will dry up and be no longer available — which is wrong, with the exception of banned chemicals.

Shortages of our chemicals and fertilizer have resulted from shortages of natural resources and raw materials. All of our suppliers are consequently short of supplies and are being rationed to amounts comparable to their 1973-1974 sales. To further complicate the problem, with chemicals in particular, we find that many items are coming to our suppliers in part shipments spaced throughout the year. At least this spacing of shipments will help alleviate the depletion of a given material within a short period of time.

This situation will get worse before we see any let up in meeting supply and demand. We don't know if we are living through a depression, recession, or period of inflation, or all three at once.

Last October President Ford declared war on inflation and for everyone to postpone unnecessary borrowing. Wait for the interest rates to come down. Save as much as you can.

Thirty days later the President's economic advisers began to panic over the economic slump, and they got him to issue a new alarm advocating exactly the opposite.

At one time the consumer was requested to curtail spending and revitalize the economy. A tax hike was talked about to help cut purchasing power. Now a tax refund is the latest word as a means for increasing purchasing power, to help the nation pull through the slump.

This uncertainty of our future welfare, which is reflected through the uncertainty of our government actions, will continue through 1976 and ultimately continue to complicate our purchasing decisions, both at home and for the golf course.

With these facts in mind we cannot accurately pre-judge what tomorrow will bring — and should not compound our problems by creating shortages through hoarding the total market of supplies.

Fortunately most budgets won't permit this type of buying, and because of this fact alone we might all be protected against such a catastrophe.

Keep in mind the toilet paper shortage and nobody will be without in the year ahead.

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Monday, January 6th — 1st day of conference

Summarizing the 1975 Mid-Atlantic Conference

The theme for the annual Mid-Atlantic conference dealt with ways to save money and operate on reduced budgets in 1975.

Dr. Herbert Cole gave suggestions on management techniques we could use for disease control instead of spraying fungicides. I am sure some of us will have to use different management practices in 1975, as fungicide costs will increase as much as 25%.

Dr. Douglas Hawes reported on his warm season-cool season combination grass plots. It is gratifying to see that some research is being conducted into suitable grass combinations for the transition zone.

Dr. Richard Schmidt from VPI discussed growth regulators, and the problems related to them. It is possible that we will be using more and more growth regulators each year in order to reduce labor costs.

nitrogen leaching. This information could certainly be of benefit to us in the construction of greens.

Dr. Joseph Troll, who is doing nematode research at the University of Massachusetts, gave some interesting facts about the different types of nematodes and nematode control. Nematodes can affect different varieties of grasses in various ways.

A report by Dr. Ralph Engel on efficiency and safety in controlling weeds on the golf course showed the results his research has produced in pre-emergence crabgrass control, and what routes we have left open for poa annua control.

The final speaker of the day was Dr. William Mitchell, who has built three experimental golf greens at the University of Delaware, using eight different soil mixes and employing surface and sub-surface irrigation. With

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President Paul Barefoot delivers President's Message and Welcome with Program Chairman Bill Emerson

individual drainage pipes for each soil type, Dr. Mitchell could gather information on infiltration rates and Tuesday morning a panel was set up with Al Radko, Richard Valentine, Angelo Cammarota, and Dr. John Hall. "Ways to Survive in '75" was the topic for the day. Suggested survival techniques were keeping our equipment in top operating condition, and getting the most efficiency possible out of each piece of equipment in the barn. Also, we must use our labor force efficiently, and recognize and incorporate all of the abilities each of our men and women possess. In addition, we will have to buy our chemicals wisely, and use other management means to fight disease, and last, but not least, stay informed through conferences, publications, and communicating with one another in order to survive in 1975.

Submitted by Gerald Gerard
Bretton Woods Recreation Center



Our new 1975 Mid-Atlantic President Alex Watson

From one pro to another



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Check List for Host Superintendents



If you are to be a host for one of the Mid-Atlantic meetings here are some tips that may help you in planning for the meeting.

With your Golf Professional —

- Date of meeting.
- Time of golfers arrival.
- How many players expected?
- Will caddys be available?
- How many golf carts will be needed?
- Arrange with pro shop:
 - Register players
 - Collect Money
 - Figure and chart scorecards
 - Negotiate prizes

With Clubhouse Manager —

- Date of meeting.
- Will lunch be available.
- Will signing privileges be allowed, if not, cash, script, or whatever.
- Price of dinner, including tax and gratuities.
- Number expected for dinner.
- What percent allowance on number estimated for dinner.
- Plan menu early in advance of meeting.
- Anyone playing golf will be expected to stay for dinner.
- Head table facing membership to provide enough seats for Mid-Atlantic officers (3) speaker (1) and for guests of host.
- Provide for small table next to head table for use by the tournament chairman.
- Projector, screen, and PA system for speaker, if needed.

With Locker Room Attendant —

- Date of meeting.
- Will lockers be available?
- Towels, showers, shoe shine, etc.

With Newsletter Editor —

- Provide background information on yourself and points of interest about your golf course.
 - Provide directions to club (if not easy to follow, draw map to accompany directions).
 - Indicate — When golf course open.
 - Caddies and cars available.
 - Lunch available and where, signing privileges allowed?
 - Time of cocktail hour and dinner.
 - Name of speaker and his topic.
- **The newsletter information is needed a full month in advance of your meeting.



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Is Our Weather Changing?

The high and low temperature records of the National Weather Service used by the World Almanac tend to support the theory that the U.S. climate is cooling off. Through 1972, the last time a new state record for heat was established was in the summer of 1954. But new cold weather records have been set in 8 states in 5 different years since 1957.

This cooling trend reverses a previous trend towards warmer weather through the early 1940's. Since the late 1940's the average temperature of the northern hemisphere has dropped one half of a degree. Some scientists believe this small change is enough to cause important changes in the world's weather and in agriculture. A recent study by the International Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study concluded that the weather change will continue for several decades and will lead to major crop failures during the next ten years.

Weather experts and governments are watching these changes carefully because of their probable effect on the world food supplies. Present populations and agricultural methods are highly dependent on the favorable weather trends of 30 years ago. A slight change in weather can lead to devastating famines around the world.

Anybody who thinks there is any such thing as free advice probably never took any.

Most arguments are sound . . . all sound.



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2. Seeding: Some superintendents prefer to use hulled seed that is pre-germinated. Because this method will be the longest to restore life to a damaged area, it makes it undesirable to the golfer.

3. Sodding: This method is the fastest of the three sources mentioned. It is advisable to prepare the damaged area, first, as you would for seeding, and, second, using sod that has been grown in soil that is adaptable to your own soil mixture.


Demnicki—President Carolinas GCSA

Ed Dembnicki, former superintendent of Indian Springs Country Club was recently elected President of the Carolinas Chapter GCSA.

Doesn't take long for Ed to climb through the ranks, does it?



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Your 1975 dues were sent out at the beginning of the year. Prompt attention to payment will be greatly appreciated. For those members who did not receive a bill please sent \$25 with your name, address, and affiliation to:

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