



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.