



MID-ATLANTIC

News Letter



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Mid Atlantic Conference

Success! Despite severe adverse weather our annual Mid Atlantic Conference was claimed the best in years. George Thompson, program committee chairman, spent most of Sunday evening peering out of the hotel window looking at our dismal new snow fall, with a 4 to 6 inch prediction; he had justification for worry. Monday morning's registration started out poorly but flourished to 80 by mid morning. Total attendance exceeded 150 people registered for the conference and 100 for the banquet.

Highlights of our conference were many: Warren Bidwell started off our Monday morning educational assembly with an informative discussion about his long preparation for the PGA championship he had at Congressional this past August. Of particular interest were his professional quality slides he used to illustrate his points, especially the slides showing his \$400 dollar dogwood tree! (Warren collected \$400 for the defacing of one dogwood to enhance the TV camera viewing of one green.)

Dr. A.J. Powell of the University of Kentucky followed Warren with a presentation concerning managing bent greens; basically a review of benefits from different management practices. Dr. Powell pointed out the success we are having from winter fertilizing our cool season grasses and completely omitting any early spring nitrogen for bluegrass. Applications of fertilizer from late fall throughout the winter dormancy period have proven very successful for maximum root development of our cool season grasses.

Dr. John Hall, V.P.I., ended our morning session with an alarming talk, "Are we preparing for 1984?" Dr. Hall pointed out the severe drop off of new golf courses in the mid 70's and prophesized we all should take note of what the slack in building golf courses means. Monies for golf courses are going to continue to dwindle until we witness a major change in our present economy. This applies now to all of us already in the industry as annual budgets are not increasing as rapidly as the rate of inflation. If the building trend stays on a downward swing, we will see fewer golf courses in 1984 than we have today.

Dr. Hall advocates our best means of survival is to help cut cost — all costs — of managing a golf course. Paul Voykin, our banquet speaker, advocated a prac-

tical means of cutting costs is to gradually revert back to less intense management practices on your golf course, especially in areas of rough, etc. As each day passes we seem to advance the intensity of our management operations which results in higher maintenance budgets.

Do you have to cut your greens daily?

Do you have to rake traps every other day?

Do you have to cut your rough twice a week?

Do you have to cut your fairways every other day?

Do you design your golf course for mechanized or hand maintenance?

President's Message

Fellow Members:

It is said that recognition by one's peers is the supreme compliment. I have had a few nice things happen to me as a golf course superintendent, but being elected President of the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents has to rank number one. For this honor, I pledge to you, the membership, my efforts to guide our association on the course of progress during the coming year. I ask that you exercise your rights, responsibilities, and privileges as a Mid Atlantic member for the good of the association in 1977.

Our 1977 turf conference is now history. A big thank you to George Thompson, our educational director and conference chairman, and his committee for a job well done. Congratulations to Lee Dieter on being chosen by his peers as MAA of GCS "Superintendent of the Year." Lee has always been a willing, dedicated worker both for his club and the association.

In closing, a remark made by Dr. John Hall, of VPI, in his talk "Future Shock — Are you Preparing for 1984?" at our recent turf conference bothered me. Dr. Hall stated that there were three percent fewer golfers in 1976 than there were in 1973. Fellow members, that type of statistic is bad for our profession. Let us all do what it takes to reverse this apparent trend. Golf is our game, it must continue to grow.

Yours for finer turf and better golf.

Bill Emerson

How many hours do you now spend on hand maintenance? Consider the hours saved if you cut each of the above jobs in half. Multiply those hours by your average wage per hour and come up with a substantial savings.

Our afternoon session featured Paul Boizelle, President of the New Jersey GCSA, and Jim Gilligan, also of the New Jersey GCSA. They spoke about their reorganization of their state association to improve attendance and interest within their organization. New Jersey subdivided their organization into eight sub organizations (districts) each having their own executive director, secretary — treasurer, and educational chairman. These districts have meetings within their own districts and eight meetings a year, with all 8 districts meeting together as the New Jersey organization. These 8 joint meetings may go down in number next year.

To date this has proven very successful and more people are active because of the district level management, and their state meetings are successful because each of the eight district executive directors are also



Title: Bill Emerson (right) Our new president, gives David Fairbank (left) past presidents plaque at our conference banquet.



Lee Dieter, Superintendent at Washington Golf and Country Club, receives plaque from Sam Kessel at conference banquet. Congratulations Lee for an award well earned.

board directors within their mother organization. This whole operation may sound complex to those of you who did not attend the conference, but the above is a condensed summary of their organization.

Other educational speakers for the afternoon included Lee Redman's presentation of managing zoysia fairways in Missouri which helped bring in focus our increasing area use of zoysia as a turf grass for golf courses.

We ended our first day's educational proceedings with a discussion of new pesticides that will be released in the future. Our speakers included representatives from Monsanto, Rhodia, Ciba-Geigy, and Eli Lilly.

Tuesday's assembly featured fusarium blight. Dr. Smiley, turf pathologist from Cornell University, began the morning with a report to us of all the chemicals in use to control fusarium. As was expected, none of them worked consistently. Hopefully some of the newer fungicides coming on the market will prove more successful in actual use than what we've got now.

Following Dr. Smiley was a panel discussion on fusarium headed up by Ed Wilson. The panelists were Corky Knoll, and John Segui from Pennsylvania, and Bob Orazi from Hunt Valley. All three showed slides of devastating destruction from fusarium in their fairways and the multitude of management practices and chemicals used to try to keep this disease under control. Corky showed us slides of his burning off of the diseased fairways and related the use of this valuable tool of turf management if used when all conditions were perfect for burning and reseeding. In our area we have resorted to ryegrass as a means of evading this disease. Pennsylvania superintendents are still working with bluegrass and chemicals but are also considering rye overseeding if all else fails.

As you can see we had a wide variety of educational topics and because of this successful program we had a large turnout. George Thompson wanted me to thank all his committee, David Fairbank, Ken Braun, Ange Cammarota, Bill Emerson, Jack Murray, and Ed Wilson for a job well done.

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