



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