



CHARTER

MID-ATLANTIC

# News Letter



Published by

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

Volume XXIX

January 1977

Number 13

## Winter Survival From Fanny Fatigue

Many educational opportunities parade in front of us throughout the winter months. A week doesn't go by when we must decide if this week's event is worth attending. In years past, this was not the case. For decades the golf turf industry was not affected noticeably with rapid changes in quality mechanization, chemicals, fertilizer compounds, seed varieties, and sophisticated irrigation systems. Nor were there extensive university turf research programs, seminars, one to three day short courses, product familiarity luncheons, OSHA and EPA educational assemblies, annual equipment field days, winter equipment maintenance demonstrations from local dealers, and last but not least, pesticide certification, professional certification, and constant re-certification. Prior to this we only had monthly local association meetings and annual conferences.

All of these changes introduce new complexity to our profession making continuing education our only means of survival.

Throughout the 1960's our association grew to progressively greater numbers, as everyone looked forward to learning the newest developments within our rapidly changing industry of growing grass. Our social hour and educational programs provided education by osmosis — all we had to do was listen and absorb new management ideas and knowledge of new materials. Soon to follow were all of the above additional educational opportunities. If we attended every educational opportunity provided for us we would be lucky to see our golf course once a week until spring.

With this thought in mind we evaluate each upcoming event on its individual merits.

Our upcoming annual three conferences, Mid Atlantic, Virginia Turfgrass Council and National GCSAA should top everyone's list for importance. One look at our local and national programs will prove this out. Within a few days we meet more superintendents and university agronomy specialists than we do in all the rest of our year's educational activities combined.

If we expect to gain valuable information from these conferences we should plan in advance what information we are looking for. Read your program for the conference carefully, take note of who is speaking, and relate these speakers to your needs. By making notes before the conference you will be assured of obtaining answers of value to your operation. During the presen-

tation of a speaker, take only short notes, and don't attempt to write complete sentences. You can always complete your notes the same day you take them — your memory is fresher and you still have an opportunity to possibly clear up any questions with the speaker.

If you go into these conferences unprepared to ask questions and take notes, you will not listen very carefully and will go home with only "fanny fatigue".

Hope to see every Mid Atlantic member at our upcoming January 10-11, Mid Atlantic Conference.

Craig Spottswood

## Maryland Turfgrass Council

The annual meeting of the Maryland Turfgrass Council will be held on January 18, 1977 at the Holiday Inn of Laurel, Route 198 and Oak Lane, east of Laurel.

Cocktails will be at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00p.m. and the program will begin at 8:00 p.m. Reservations for the dinner must be made by January 10, 1976. Contact Angelo Cammarota for details.

## President's Message

It's amazing how fast a year can fly by after you've looked forward to it for so long. When I was elected to our Board of Directors seven years ago, I wanted to work for the betterment of the Association and to some day become its President. Last year I reached the apex and here it is, time to step down already. I've enjoyed my tenure as President of our Association and I'll cherish my association with the fellow members of the Board. Through their hard work and long hours, we've made progress in many areas. The respect and cooperation I've received from you members will always be uppermost in my memory.

Now, with the holidays in the air, let us be ever mindful of our Maker and be thankful for our blessings. Happy Holidays!

David Fairbank