

49th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents will lead off "Turfgrass 78"

After many years of discussing the merits of a trade show in conjunction with an educational conference, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents' board has decided to support the Maryland Turfgrass Council, the Professional Grounds Management Society, and the Maryland Turfgrass Association in a joint venture called "Turfgrass 78".

We who serve the Mid-Atlantic superintendents on the board of directors have been a little skeptical about embarking on something as yet untried. We could, however, see a tremendous opportunity to provide a service to *all* people with a professional interest in turf and at the same time generate some revenue for a much needed turf survey and additional research in Maryland.

Before we agreed to support "Turfgrass 78", we had three specifications:

- 1) We maintain our own autonomy
- 2) We have 10 hours for golf course education
- 3) We have separate registration for Mid-Atlantic Superintendents' conference

The Maryland Turfgrass Council was very amenable to all of our requests or specifications, even to the point of agreeing to our dates of January 9th and 10th, 1978. We would like to have stayed in Baltimore, but there was no place on 695 that could give us the facilities that the Sheraton Lanham has to offer. We could have continued with a small, intimate conference which was fine. It was

a conference run by superintendents, for superintendents, and it was always a fine meeting. The meeting gave many of us the opportunity to become speakers and improve ourselves professionally. It also gave us some insight in the mechanics of running a conference. We had a *class* affair. But, we were not picking up any more attendance. Last year's conference was a tribute to the 140 who braved the heaviest snowfall of the year. Realistically, we could not expect to pick up more than 200 people at the most, and that is not enough to generate revenue. We can increase our attendance significantly with a trade show. Hopefully we can attract some of our southern neighbors from Virginia and the Carolinas.

The preliminary setup is to have our conference on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Our banquet will be on Monday night as usual, with the trade show opening about 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday. A general turf conference and P.G.M.S. sessions will follow on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. I will be most grateful to have your suggestions for speakers and topics for the Golf Turf session.

I think we, as superintendents, have an obligation to support our respected state's turf program as much as possible, and I can think of no better way than to get behind "Turfgrass 78" and promote it as much as possible.

Sincerely,

George B. Thompson, Educational Chairman
Mid-Atlantic Asso. of Golf Course Supts.

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