



CHARTER

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TURFGRASS Tournament Planned For Mid-Atlantic Area

by Fred V. Grau, president, Musser Foundation

Twelve Turfgrass Tournaments have been sponsored by the Musser Foundation over the last five years; five in Ohio, four in Oregon, three in Delaware. Co-sponsors include the Cleveland District Golf Ass'n, N. Ohio GCSA, Penncross Bentgrass Ass'n; Tee-2-Green Corp., Oregon GCSA, and the Delaware Turfgrass Ass'n. Encouraged by these successes a similar "FUN" outing is planned for Aug. 21, 1979 at Indian Spring C.C. With the joint sponsorship of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA and the Maryland Turfgrass Council this tournament is bound to be a great success.

First, what is the Musser Foundation, who runs it and who benefits? Good question! The corporate name is "The H.B. Musser Turfgrass Fellowship, Inc." It was established in 1969, incorporated on a non-profit tax-exempt, educational and research basis. It honors the memory of Professor H.B. Musser, a pioneer in turf research and education who worked at Penn State U. until his death in 1968. The Musser Foundation (popular name) was created to develop a FUND to be used to give financial aid to exceptional graduate students who are working toward advanced degrees in turfgrass management at turf-oriented universities. The principal FUND is invested in high-grade high-yield securities and only the income can be used for grants. Thus there will be a perpetual source of money to help develop our future scientists and leaders.

The Musser Foundation is run by 24 directors backed by an Honorary Board which includes such names as Arnold Palmer, Herb Graffis, Dr. Glenn Burton, Robert Trent Jones and others. The officers are: Fred V. Grau, president; Warren Bidwell, first V.P., Dr. James Watson, second V.P., Dr. Joe Duich, secretary, and Ben O. Warren, treasurer. One director is associated with turf in South Africa, another in Tokyo, truly an international affair. The annual director's meeting is held each year in connection with the GCSAA Conference and Show.

Note that MITF develops Fellowships, *not* scholarships. A Fellowship leads to the Ph.D. Degree, needed research data, a thesis and the development of a leader. A scholarship is a one-time gift to a student who is associated with turf and who may or may not remain in the turfgrass field.

The first Fellowship project to be supported by MITF was the control of the black *Ataenius* beetle co-supported by GCSAA and Ohio golf clubs. It has been successfully concluded at Ohio State University by Gerald Wegner under Dr. Harry Niemczyk's supervision. Mr. Wegner is now writing his thesis and soon will be Dr. Wegner. Now our directors are seeking the next major project which we will support. It may be in Texas, Indiana, New York, California or some other state to be determined by our Search Committee.

Anyone who used Penncross bent owes a debt of gratitude to the late Professor Musser. Sod growers who use Pennlawn fescue in certified blends can thank Burt Musser. There are

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President's Message

To those who ventured to the "Sunny South", congratulations! To those who didn't...? The Mid-Atlantic's attendance at our national conference was very good. I hope this shows an upswing in our own attendance and participation.

Congratulations and thanks to George Cleaver for a job well done and for the excellent address at the opening session. I know everyone in the Mid-Atlantic is proud of George and appreciates the time and effort he puts into his office.

"Back to basics" is a comment heard throughout our industry in recent years. If the *so called* gas shortage, which in my opinion is just a rip off related to price and not the supply, does hit us, we could wind up closer to basics than we have been in a long time.

Remember when we moved greens two or three times a week; cut fairways once a week etc.? Maybe golfers have had it too good lately. Well, time will tell; "no gas, no cutting."

As "The Blizzard of '79" leaves us, Spring will surely come and with it another season, with all its' thrills and agonies. I wish you all a very successful season.

May the beauty of Spring be yours to enjoy.

Sam Kessel

TURFGRASS

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golf course superintendents all over the U.S. who received their start in Burt's classes. His book "Turf Management" sponsored by the U.S. Golf Ass'n. has been the "bible" for turf students for years. His early weed-control work has had far-reaching effects to say nothing of his breeding work with bluegrasses. The benefits to turf users were not confined to Pennsylvania but have been spread out over the world. Now we are trying to make sure that his kind of dedication will be perpetuated.

The Musser Foundation is building its Turfgrass Research Fellowship Fund in several ways:

1. Free-will contributions, all tax-deductible, IRS approved. Among those who have helped are: Penncross Bentgrass Growers, Tee-2-Green Corp., Golf Course Architects, Golf Associations, Rudy-Patrick Seeds, Midwest Sod Producers, and many individuals.

2. Turfgrass Benefit Tournaments. There have been five in Ohio, four in Oregon and three in Delaware, all annual affairs. Now we look forward to an annual event in this area, co-sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Ass'n of G.C. Superintendents and The Maryland Turfgrass Council. It is planned to divide the proceeds so that half goes to support turf work in the Mid-Atlantic area and half to the MITF Fellowship Fund.

3. Memorial Gifts. When a loved one dies their memory can be kept alive with a gift to a fund that will be perpetual. Flowers fade quickly but a Memorial Fund goes on forever. Five such funds now exist in the Musser Foundation.

Frances Holyoke Grau, Fred's wife,
Irene Grau Boettger, Fred's sister,
George E. Osburn, MITF director,
Inez Dunning, wife of Director Bob Dunning,
Gerald Ross, husband of Virgie Ross, golf course manager.

4. Trusts. We have an expert who can help arrange a TRUST that will provide a life-time income with provision

for the remainder to build the Fellowship Fund.

5. Turfgrass Research Fellowships. Two have been established to date.

- a. The Penncross Bentgrass Association,
- b. Fred V. Grau,

Yes, I have put my own money into this INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE because I believe in higher education as the pathway to success. Everyone is invited also to assert his or her belief in the turfgrass industry in the same way.

Leaflets describing the various ways in which we are trying to support research and education are available upon request. As the Turfgrass Research Fellowship Fund grows, and we expand our aid to promising graduate students, we will honor not only the memory of Professor Musser but also the work of other "pioneers" in the turfgrass world.

Write to: Fred V. Grau
P.O. Box AA (4604 Amherst Rd.)
College Park, MD 20740
301/864-0090

V.P.'s Report

Ron Hall

As of this writing, 3/1/79, we still have open dates in our meeting schedule; hopefully, by the time you are reading this, those open dates will have been filled. The reason I am mentioning this is because, occasionally "whispers" can be heard about meeting sites and dates. No association is perfect, and in many cases some dissent inspires worthwhile change; this meeting selection problem is a prime example of minor items that cause unrest amongst fellow members. It should be a task of turning down interested superintendents that have pride in hosting a meeting, instead of having to seek out volunteers. It's well understood the impossibility some courses have in hosting a meeting, but there are plenty of courses that are possibilities, only lacking the initiative of the superintendent. Come on fellow members, participation is the key to success of any association.

MID-ATLANTIC OFFICERS 1979

Sammuel L. Kessel, *President*
Country Club of Fairfax
Fairfax, VA
(703) 273-7094

Ronald E. Hall, *Vice-Pres.*
Maryland Golf & C.C.
Bel-Air, MD
(301) 879-2025

James (Ben) Stagg, *Secretary*
Hogs Neck Golf Club
Easton, MD
(301) 822-7467

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