



Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



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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.

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

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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