



CHARTER

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TURFGRASS 79 Attracts Over 450 Turf Professionals

by Charles H. Darrah

On January 8-10, 1979 the largest educational conference ever held in Maryland for professional turfgrass managers took place in Baltimore. In addition to the education conferences, there were over 55 exhibitor booths filling the Baltimore Hilton Ballroom. Between 450 and 500 people with interests in turf management were on hand for this event which was sponsored by the Maryland Turfgrass Council.

President's Message

I would like to thank our membership for electing me President. I assure you I will do all I can in behalf of our Association.

January and February is conference time and I hope to see a lot of our group at the local conferences. The Mid-Atlantic usually has a good turnout at the national conference so I hope to have seen everyone in Atlanta. For any conference or meeting to be successful requires not only good speakers but good participation by all, so let's do our part.

My congratulations to Bob Orazi for his part in Turf Grass 79 — a fine choice of speakers and session chairmen. *Thanks Bob.* Also to Chuck Darrah and his committee for the overall organization of Turf Grass 79. *Thanks Chuck* for a job well done!

I am looking forward to seeing a lot of old faces at our first meeting in March and I hope to see a lot of new faces. If you know someone who has been lax in attendance, give them a call.

Sometimes a little personal interest is a big help. Remember good meetings require participation.

May your toughest problem this year be cool weather in August. Ha!

Sam Kessel

The educational conferences were led off on Monday by the 50th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. After a short welcoming address and the President's Message from Sam Kessel, Dr. Jack Harper, PSU Extension Turf Specialist, opened the educational conference. Dr. Harper's presentation was often humorous, but not for those who have ever experienced some of the unusual turf situations he described. Dr. Gerry Pepin, Research Director at International Seeds, Inc., flew in from Oregon to present some of his work with improved ryegrass varieties. He contrasted the breeding and production methods of the improved ryegrasses with the methods used in Kentucky bluegrasses. Promising new varieties of ryegrass will continue to find their way into the turf seed market according to Dr. Pepin. The morning session concluded with a presentation on golf turf cultivation management. Bill Buchanan, USGA Green Section Agronomist, covered the wide range of cultivation practices employed on golf turf and emphasized the need for greater attention to the aeration and other cultivation needs of non-putting green turf areas on the golf course.

After a break to visit the trade show and enjoy a New York-style sidewalk lunch, the afternoon session convened with topics on soil testing for turfgrasses and tank mixes and chemical compatibilities by Tom Turner and Dr. Sortoretto, respectively. Mr. Tom Turner, PSU graduate student, presented some interesting information on liming and the phosphorus and potassium requirements of turfgrasses. He also presented information on the proper procedure for taking soil samples of turfgrasses. Some of this work is published in the May/June 1978 issue of the *Greens Section Record*. As the temperature in the conference room warmed so did the topics. Dr. Dave Wehner, U of MD turf researcher, reported on some of the work which he started at Penn State and will continue here at Maryland. Dr. Wehner has developed a rapid method to determine the ability of turfgrass plants to withstand heat stress. This work holds great promise in screening new cool-season turfgrass varieties for their ability to persist in the transition zone. Jack Murray, USDA Research Agronomist, wrapped up the afternoon session with some pointers on managing warm season grasses in the transition zone. At the end of the sessions, confer-

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