



CHARTER

Mid-Atlantic Newsletter



Published by:

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

Volume XXXIII

March 1980

Number 2



President's Message

Congratulations are in order to the Maryland Turfgrass Council officers, committee chairmen, and University of Maryland personnel for their outstanding efforts put forth in the success of Turfgrass 80.

Selection of educational speakers, topics and equipment show arrangements were enjoyed by more than 550 that attended.

Turfgrass 80 is only our third conference and show for the turfgrass industry of Maryland and like all new programs they are faced with problems. But with continued efforts by MTC officials and 100% cooperation and support from grounds maintenance, golf course superintendents, sod growers and suppliers, can only make it a more productive conference and show.

March is here again and that means its time for us to get out on the links and start preparing them for the golfing season. With the relatively mild winter, the majority of us were able to keep crews outside making improvements and repairs that can't be done during the busy growing season.

Hopefully we will all implement some of the tips and new ideas that were picked up during the conferences and shows attended over the winter.

Gerry Gerard was kind enough to invite us all out to Bretton Woods for a day to show off his fine facility. Let's make it a big turn out before the busy season starts.

Wishing you all a successful season —

Ron



Turfgrass 80 A Huge Success

To say that "Turfgrass 80" was a success would be an understatement. More than 550 turf-oriented individuals took part in some or all of the three days of educational seminars and trade show.

Maryland's secretary of agriculture, Mr. Wayne Cawley, started the conference on a positive note by acknowledging that turf has the greatest economic impact of any form of agriculture to the state of Maryland. It was good to hear this stated publicly. Maryland's Turf people have though as much for years, but have been treated by the powers in agriculture, in this state, worse than step children. Maybe now turf will get its fair share of state funds for the advancement of the Green industry.

The three day educational program for Golf Course Superintendents was well attended, nearly all sessions were at or close to capacity and one afternoon session had interested listeners standing in the hallways. Many thanks to speakers such as Bill Buchanan, who brought along his sidekick Pat O'Brien, from the U.S.G.A. Green Section, Dr. James Watson, Vice President of Toro Corporation, Mr. James Wyllie, Canadian Golf Course Superintendent and Director of G.C.S.A.A., Dr. Charles Darrah, Director of Research and Development for Chem-Lawn Corp., Drs. S. W. Bingham and Jack Hall from V.P.I. & S.U., and also Dr. Richard Smiley, Cornell University for taking time from their busy schedules to come to Maryland and to leave us with

Continued on page 2

Turfgrass 80 A Huge Success

Continued from page 1

some of their "Green Wisdom". Special thanks also to Roy Beziat, Kevin Mathias, Dr. Lee Hellman, Dr. Tom Turner and Dr. David Wehner all from our own University of Maryland and to Dr. Nicole O'Neill from the U.S.D.A. in Beltsville for their part in making "Turfgrass 80" a huge success.

To have a successful turf conference it takes many hours of planning and the participation of many individuals. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course superintendents was well represented at "Turfgrass 80" in this regard. Mike Larsen was co-chairman of arrangements, Bob Orazi filled a dual role as a member of the educational program committee and as a session chairman, Craig Spottswood, once again, put together the advertising program, Sam Kessel and George Thompson chaired sessions, Angelo Cammarota emceed the conference banquet, and Ken Braun, John Drew and our President Ron Hall participated as conference speakers, all did an outstanding job. When there's work to be done for the good of the "Green Industry", the Mid-Atlantic does its share.

The new Baltimore Convention Center was an excellent choice as a site for "Turfgrass 80". The building lends itself to conference growth and is accessible to either commuters or downtown hotel guests.

The single group that makes a turfgrass conference and trade show a worthwhile and profitable undertaking now-a-days is the exhibitors. "Turfgrass 80" drew fifty-six exhibitors who purchased eighty-four booths to show off their wares. To these companys let us first say "thank you" for investing in the turfgrass industry in Maryland, secondly, "please be patient", we know that at present, our conference and show doesn't draw the numbers that, say, Massachusetts, New Jersey, or Ohio do, but in time we will. Maryland's Turfgrass Conference is growing annually and if you'll give us a little time, you'll be glad you did.

Many hear "profit" as a dirty word when used in reference to turfgrass conferences, but it is a necessary dirty word. If the green industry is to advance, the many levels of national, state, and local beauracracy must be kept informed of industry needs. The turfgrass industry must continue to promote research and education from within. In short, it takes turfgrass conference profits to spread the gospel of "Green".

If you or your friends have any constructive criticism of "Turfgrass 80", contact Dr. Turner or Dr. Wehner at the University of Maryland, or John Strickland President of the Maryland Turfgrass Council, they'd like to hear from you.

For education and fun you better arrange your time so you won't miss "TURFGRASS 81".

1980 — Mid-Atlantic Best Year Ever!

The 1979 Mid-Atlantic year showed quite an increase in attendance, but the 1980 year should prove to be one of the best ever. There are many excuses for not attending the monthly Mid-Atlantic meetings, but there will be no excuses for not attending in 1980. This year we will be attending some of the top clubs in the Mid-Atlantic area. Bretton Woods, Maryland Golf & Country Club, Sparrows Point, Columbia, Chevy Chase, Hillendale, Naval Academy are just a few of the meeting places for the year. Golf chairman Ken Braun has put together an outstanding golf schedule starting in April with the Match Play tournament. Every member should make an effort to attend each meeting and help make 1980 the best year ever.

In the long run, the benefits of attending meetings are only realized by attending each month. Start out by playing golf or coming early and walking around the golf course and maintenance building. Just by looking at someone else's operation you are bound to pick up something that you could use at your own place.

Then take time during the social hour to meet and greet other superintendents and people in the profession. The only way to become friends with these people is to come, meet, and talk with them. The practical experience and knowledge this group has is never ending. Some of the best superintendents and educators in the country are right here in the Mid-Atlantic Association. The only way to tap this source of knowledge is to come.

Is it too much to ask of yourself to give up one day a month? That adds up to 12 days out of 365 to give to your self-betterment and education. It is especially important to the people just starting out. Whether you are an assistant or a superintendent, being well known among your fellow superintendents can be very important to your future.

Again, ask yourself, is it really too much to give up a day a month for your profession? Just look around you at the successful superintendents in this area. They all attend regularly and to be sure they will tell you that coming to the meetings has helped them.

We, the willing led by the unsure, are doing the improbable for the ungrateful. We have done so much for so long with so little that now we are qualified to do the impossible.
