

## Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

Published by this Association to aid the advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through education and merit.

Claud Corrigan, *Editor*  
Joe Gambatese, *Photographer*

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## From the Editor . . .

According to reports from several Directors, a number of members of the Association expressed some dismay that last month's issue contained a brief mention of the Daconil suit against a member club and a major chemical manufacturer. I, in turn, found this a bit surprising. In what other publication would this news item be more appropriate? To whom would it be of more concern, especially if out-of-D.C. papers had not carried the item? For all I have been able to gather, nearly every superintendent in this area uses that particular fungicide and hence could find himself facing the same sort of problem that one club in the Mid-Atlantic now faces. If they hadn't heard the news before this (and a number of them hadn't), superintendents should welcome the opportunity.

## NEW MEMBERS

Lenn Weidenhammer, Class D  
Assistant Superintendent  
Woodmont Country Club

Brian T. Ault, Class G  
Golf Course Architect  
Edmund B. Ault, Ltd.

William Love, Class G  
Golf Course Architect  
Edmund B. Ault, Ltd.

## Don't Miss Our Aug. 9 Picnic at Bretton Woods

Lots of food and drink, swimming, games, and even golf, if you don't mind the heat, will be the features of the Mid-Atlantic's annual picnic to be held Tuesday, August 9, at Bretton Woods Recreation Center, which is out River Road. Take the River Road exit from the Beltway (495) and go 11½ miles toward Potomac, to the northwest; the club is on the left side of River Road.

The golf course, says Superintendent Gerry Gerard, has benefited greatly from its new automatic watering system. He can now water in about 3 hours, a job that took 8-10 hours when the system was manual. He is sprigging P16 Bermuda on No. 15, 16, and 17 fairways, and you're invited to take a look. He also is still using Rubigan on 10 of his greens.

MAAGCS member and golf course architect Eddie Ault designed Bretton Woods, which opened in 1968. Greens are Penncross bent, mowed 4 to 5 times a week, and fairways which originally were a mixture of Highland and Astoria bent have been overseeded with perennial rye and bluegrasses. Tees are either Penncross bent or bluegrass.

The picnic itself starts at 1:30 p.m., although the course is available for golf anytime and the pool will open at 11 a.m. The Association is providing hamburgers, hot dogs, crabs, ribs, sweet corn, beer, and sodas, and families are asked to bring a covered dish such as

## President's Message

Well, August has finally arrived, and it looks like there is little or no relief in sight. The month of July has set many records in the Baltimore-Washington area — most days in the 90's, most consecutive days above 95° — and it has been the driest July I can remember.

Next week we will be having our family picnic at Bretton Woods, with Gerry Gerard as our gracious host, and we, the members of the MAAGCS, would like to thank the companies and individuals that are donating some of the food and beverages for the picnic.

The September meeting, which is usually a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Superintendents Association, has been cancelled; they explained that the reason was lack of attendance and the need to provide better service to their members by meeting closer to home. Our meeting will still be at Bonnie View Country Club on September 13.

Ken Braun, *President*



salad (green, potato, or macaroni) or a dessert. TESCO is buying a keg of beer, and Tom Harris is bringing the watermelons. Check with Paul Barefoot (722-3262 or 291-2095) for further information.

## Pythium and Sand Topdressing

### Increasing Evidence for *Pythium*-Induced Root Dysfunction of Creeping Bentgrass Grown in High Sand Content Mixes

by CLINTON F. HODGES, *Department of Horticulture*  
*Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa*

The presentation made by me at the 1981 M.G.C.S.A. annual conference implicated *Pythium* in a root dysfunction of creeping bentgrass grown on reconstructed high sand content greens. The disease in question killed grass very rapidly and in a manner typical of *Pythium* "cottony blight." Examination of diseased plants, however, failed to yield *Pythium* or any other pathogen from above-ground portions of the plant. *Pythium* was found throughout the root system of diseased plants. It is believed that when a green on an old golf course is renovated to sand, *Pythium* may infest the sand from the collar and apron soil of the old green. The sand probably offers little microbiological competition for the *Pythium*, and increased levels of irrigation and fertilization of sand greens may further promote the *Pythium*. There also is some evidence that more root mechanical damage may occur in sand than in soil; this could contribute to *Pythium* infection. This problem has not been observed in the roots of plants grown in traditional soil mixes.

To date, we have isolated four species of *Pythium* from the roots of creeping bentgrass associated with rapid death of infected plants. We are currently in the process of identifying the isolates to the species level and testing them for pathogenicity. It

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