

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

At the beginning of the year, the Board of Directors was asked by the membership to do a feasibility study on hiring an Executive Director. The committee appointed to conduct the study spent many hours looking into what would be accomplished by such an employee, what it would cost, and how the necessary funds could be raised. After discussing their report in a number of meetings, the Board unanimously agreed in November that something must be done to provide our members with the professional services we need.



On the practical side, during the past month the executive committee met with an organization that would be able to provide us with a central office and other amenities. We would have to arrange for funding, but personally speaking, I believe we have to start someplace and, like an infant, crawl before we try to run. The arrangement we are considering would represent the infancy stage, but it would be a start.

The membership also asked for a salary survey last year, and this has been completed. We also reviewed the by-laws, and the proposed changes will be voted on at our upcoming annual meeting in December, along with the election of officers and new directors.

This past year has been a very inter-

The Bad Days of Summer '83 . . . Our November Panel

A feature of the November meeting at Leisure World was a four-man panel that discussed how the summer of 1983 had affected their respective golf courses—sort of a “How I spent my summer fighting the elements” for superintendents. The four were Jim Christy of Shannon Green, Ken Braun of Bonnie View, Walter Montross of Springfield, and Pat O'Brien of the USGA Section in Richmond.

Jim Christy led off, saying that his initial problems involved getting the equipment at the course he had taken over back into shape. Then, when the drought of mid-summer came along, it brought problems of insects attacking the irrigated areas. The water shortage meant he couldn't water tees or fairways and was reduced to hand-watering the greens to keep them going. A spell of cool weather at the end of August enabled him to fertilize and water the greens, which brought them back. Then, the irrigation system wasn't working properly because of controller problems, and a large turtle getting stuck in the intake pipe more or less topped the summer off.

Walter Montross stressed the personal problems that developed as summer grew hotter and drier. One thing that showed up was his own loss of patience and irritation with his crew. Because of the lack of rain, there were no breaks for either superintendent or crew, and he found that the situation had a bad effect on attitude and morale, the causes of which he did not immediately recognize at the time.

Ken Braun kept track of what the weather was like in Baltimore, and he recorded 57 days above 90° and 11 days above 100°. The USGA had told him that shutting the water off would get rid of the poa annua, and it did. Because Bonnie View is on city water, he watered fairways only 11 times, but when he did water, he used a lot of it—one hour per set. This past summer demonstrated the ineffectiveness of the greens watering system—where the sprinklers didn't overlap, there was poor coverage, and it showed.

Lee Dieter talked about his fight against goose grass. He put on two applications of Betasan, which kept it down, but he thinks that cutting the greens lower, using more topdressing can contribute to the spread of goose grass. Farmington tested Betasan and Ronstar together; 50 pounds per acre of Ronstar on year-old Penncross and some older, mismatched varieties, cut to 5/32", gave 95% control of goose grass. Bob Lambert commented that he had used 65 pounds per acre on greens with a history of goose grass infestation and got 90-95% good results. Various members commented on the causes of goose grass moving in, in addition to Lee's view that cutting too close is the major factor, but Pat O'Brien thought the Ph of the green had a lot to do with it, while Mike McKenzie felt heavy play resulting in more compaction was a factor.

Pat O'Brien spoke in general terms of the courses he had visited in Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia over the summer, all of which had weather just as hot as Baltimore. The effects of dry weather showed up in diseases of fairway grasses, and a lot of money was spent on fungicides to combat diseases that came in the water that had to be applied. Problems with night watering pointed up the inadequacies of manual watering systems. Many annual weeds multiplied more than usual, and tree root problems were more evident this summer. He also found a lot of equipment trouble, as many clubs had apparently not replaced old equipment over the last four years.

esting one for me as president. I have appreciated this opportunity to serve the membership that elected me, and I would like to thank each member of the Board for the help and support they have given me this year; I have enjoyed working with them.

Ken Braun, *President*

Voter on Officers, By-Laws Are Slated

Key items of business at the December 13 meeting are election of new officers for 1984 and approval or disapproval of the by-laws changes that were

carried in the September newsletter, plus a discussion of the issue of an executive director or executive secretary for the association.

The following slate was proposed by the nominating committee composed of Ben Stagg, Mike McKenzie, and Ron Hall:

President — Mike Larsen
Vice President — Gerry Gerard
Secretary — Wayne Evans
Treasurer — Lee Dieter

In addition, two directors will be elected to three-year terms from these four candidates: Bill Neus, Tom List, Ken Ingraham, and Nick Vance.