

## 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.

Lee Dieter, C.G.C.S.  
Editor

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## Turfgrass '88 Tremendous Success

by Bill Neus

The Maryland Turfgrass Council Turf Conference, held on January 4-6 at Baltimore's Festival Hall broke all previous attendance records and was hailed by all as one of the most successful ever. This year's attendance was 1,474, up from 846 the previous year. 76 exhibitors used over 20,000 sq. ft. of booth space which were increases of 61% and 68% respectively.

The educational sessions featured a number of our favorite speakers. Among them were: Dr. Jack Hall, Dr. A.J. Powell, Dr. Joe Duich, Dr. Tom Turner, and Dr. Pete Dernoeden. The session that was much anticipated was the one hosted by our past presidents. Bill Emerson, George Thompson, Angelo Cammarota, George Gumm and others brought back many fond memories and gave everyone a lot to think about in the future.

The Maryland Turfgrass Council would like to thank everyone who participated this year and hope that it was a worthwhile experience. Plans are already underway for next year's Turfgrass '89. Some of our plans are to increase distributors to at least 100 and to further increase traffic flow in the exhibit hall. Educationally, we are anticipating to further improve the list of dynamic speakers and relevant topics. It's important to get feedback from the superintendents to improve all aspects of the conference.

We expect next year's Turfgrass '89 to be bigger and better than ever so plan on attending and be part of a great event.

## President's Message

Greetings. It's hard to believe that winter is almost over — even if Punxetawney Phil didn't see his shadow. But then maybe he's as confused as some of the poor flowers around here.

Hopefully with spring right around the corner, all your repair and maintenance work is nearing completion. A lot of outside projects appear to be behind schedule what with all the precipitation and warmer temperatures we've experienced.

While it's premature to point out any plans that the Board may be pursuing this coming year, I would like to address that ever present problem — RSVP's for meetings. Whether we should or shouldn't RSVP is a moot point. Why so many of us can and do not is another matter.

It is an embarrassment to any Host Superintendent when his club plans for an attendance of 60 and 95 show up! Yes, it's great to get 95 — but it's only great for the MAAGCS. The host club is left scrambling to provide for those unanticipated guests. If you think this engenders any good will toward us, put yourself in that chef's shoes. You'd most likely tell us to get our act together before we even suggest trying to book there again.

Such complaints get passed up to the club's management and the impression left is not very pleasant. If we can't manage a simple headcount for a meeting, what can we manage?

As a result of trying to avoid this problem, the Host Superintendent may be forced to "guess" how many will actually show up. If his guess is over, he has the sublime pleasure of paying out of his pocket for any overbookings. As they say, a great way to run a railroad!

The RSVP number is (301) 381-0030. Use it! Call as early as you can but if all you can give is 24 hours, do it! Since you can even call collect, there are very few reasons short of sheer laziness for not providing an RSVP.

One other point I'd like to touch upon is one of etiquette and indeed ethics. As a guest speaker to a group of turf students, I was recently asked if our local and national membership card gained admittance to golfing at any club. This question immediately called to mind the importance of the responsibilities that went along with such a benefit. It is essential that you contact the superintendent and notify him of your plans to visit well before showing up on his doorstep — preferably several weeks. This is no more than proper etiquette and good ethics. Let's see that we abide by them.

All in all, we are looking forward to a good year. Your Board is here and ready to serve. Following is a listing of those individuals and their functions. Should you have a question or problem, direct it to the appropriate board member and he'll do his best to provide you prompt action. It goes without saying that your suggestions, comments and feedback will be appreciated. "You" are the association, participate!

**Lee Dieter — Newsletter Editor and Employment Chairman.** Responsible for all aspects of the MAAGCS Newsletter and its distribution. Handles all job referrals and will act as Chairman of the Nominating Committee for next year's Board.

**Walter Montross — Vice President.** Will arrange next year's meetings, coordinate this year's meetings, serve on all committees, provide a "Host" checklist, and perform all duties in the President's absence.

**Bill Neus — Secretary.** Handle all correspondence for the Association, to include monthly meetings and board meetings.

**Nick Vance — Treasurer.** Bill, collect and bank all Association funds. Prepare financial statements and file with the IRS. Is bonded.

**Steve Cohoon — Education Chairman.** Obtain speakers/topics for all monthly meetings. Will provide feedback to the Maryland Turfgrass Council and will promote seminars. He will also be working for CEU's in connection with attendance at the above.

**Tom Regan — Golf Chairman.** Plans and supervises all golf activities including association tournaments.

**Steve Potter — Finance Chairman.** Will monitor all association funds. Responsible for collection and payment of all fees at monthly meetings, providing receipts as necessary.

**Ken Ingram — Social and Benevolence Chairman.** Plans and promotes all social events. Responsible for all condolences, cards and/or flowers for members and immediate families. Baby bonds will be presented at monthly meetings. Ken will also help collect dinner fees.

**Steve Nash — Membership Chairman.** Verifies all applicants for membership and classification change. Upon meeting requirements will nominate such change and notify individual of all changes. Will maintain a complete membership roster at all times and provide members with certificate and name tag. Maintains membership application forms.

**Lester Tanner — Editorial and Publicity.** Pursues various avenues of promoting recognition and publicity for the association and its members. Bills and collects fees from advertisers. Conducts 50/50 at meetings.

George Renault, President