

A Glimpse of the Past...

by Lee C. Dieter, CGCS

I've had some thoughts since my retirement last year about our association. Founded in 1928, the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents is seventy (70) years old this year. Another milestone to mark this year is the 50th Anniversary of our newsletter. A few of you may even know the names of our founders, past presidents, board members or newsletter editors from these earlier years.

We've had National Presidents and committee members that worked for our profession and GCSAA on the national level. Golf champions, speakers, educators, commercial representatives and others also served our group of greenskeepers in the early years. Most of the problems in growing grass today are the same today, although the tools we have now are more formidable.

The articles I'll be writing will address these thoughts, problems and personalities. Perhaps we will all learn more from the past and will gain a sense of history and appreciation for those who have gone before us. These Greenskeepers from the past are those who have raised our profession to a level it has attained today. Hopefully today's superintendents will realize that they must not sit back and rest on the efforts of the past if we are to have a great future; a future as true professionals.

Lee Dieter will be writing columns about the past in future issues. He currently is working with a committee dedicated to the history of our Association and the GCSAA as well.

Collecting Samples

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In the laboratory, most samples are incubated overnight in a humidity chamber, particularly if a foliar pathogen is suspected. For most diseases a diagnosis is generally made within 48 hours of receiving a fresh, properly collected and shipped sample. If the pathologist must first attempt to isolate a possible, pathogen on a sterile media, the process may require a waiting period of one or more weeks. Other techniques may involve months of waiting. All techniques that begin with an attempt to isolate a pathogen are tedious and time consuming to perform. During this interim, however, a turf pathologist is likely to suggest cultural and chemical approaches to alleviate the disease stress and further turf damage.



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