

## From the Editor

**Bruce Zickafoose, Director of Communications**

Bruce Cadenelli said a lot more in one sentence (May/June 1996 issue of Turfgrass Matters) than could easily be described any other way. "The newsletter is probably our best image-building tool, so we all benefit when it's a first class publication." When I was elected to this position, I was elated and a bit shocked but nevertheless overwhelmed at the ensuing responsibilities. I reminded myself of what Bruce C. said. He's RIGHT! Aside from us doing the right things as an association, our image is plastered all over by our newsletter. WE will have

to strive to make the great publication we have now, an even greater one! Many thanks to Charlotte Norris, and my entire Communications Committee. These people are the backbone of Turfgrass Matters.

This issue of Turfgrass Matters will mark a new era of timeliness and local control. We, as a committee, will strive to supply you with the best information and take stock in all provisions necessary to provide you with a publication that is worthy of national recognition. Best wishes in 1998!

## Maryland Legislature Update

**by Ryland Chapman, Director of Education**

This winter the Maryland House and Senate Environmental Committees were preparing Pfiesteria Bills that would effect the farmers, the poultry, the green and tree industries. House Bill 599 introduced by Delegate Ron Gun does not affect area golf courses. However, Senate Bill 178 proposed by Governor Glending does effect the golf courses in the state of Maryland. The Governor's bill required soil samples before every fertilizer application and a mandatory nutrient plan that would be submitted to the state. Before changes could be made to a filed plan it would have to be approved by the state.

I was asked by Lou Rudinski, on his behalf, to attend a MAGI meeting and the House and Senate sessions to speak

against Bill 178. MAGI's tactics were to oppose Bill 178 and support House Bill 599 and Senate Bill 658 (senate version HB 599). With the representatives of MAGI, we attended the senate hearing on the governor's bill and the house bill. We were present for two days until 9:00 p.m. each evening. Opponents of the Pfiesteria bills were representatives of the farmers, poultry industry, the green industry, the tree industry and a few individuals on their own. Many environmentalist groups supported the bills.

The House Environmental Matters Committee passed Bill 599 (12-9). The Senate Environmental Committee did pass Bill 178 (7-4). At that time they went into a conference committee. On April 13th, the conference committee

finally came out with a bill for the Pfiesteria problem. The Governor's Bill did pass, but with an amendment for the golf industry. This affects us in that we would follow the University of Maryland's Agricultural Departments recommendations for nutrients instead of soil samples before every application. When we receive the recommendations by the Department of Agriculture, we will forward this information to the golf courses in Maryland.

I want to thank Mark Schlossberg and the other representatives of MAGI for their support in our defense of these bills. Thanks to Lou Rudinski for his commitment to these bills while trying to avoid doctor visits.

## Certification Attestors Needed

If you are a Certified Golf Course Superintendent and are interested in volunteering to attest fellow superintendents in their bid for certification please contact Mr. Walter Montross, CGCS at (703) 281-1939.