Thinking of a New or Improved Irrigation System?

by Paul McMahon, Hydro Designs Inc.

As golf course irrigation systems have evolved in recent years to provide more extensive turf coverage with greater control, the role of the irrigation designer in irrigation system planning and installation has changed. Many architects, owners, and superintendents that in the past relied on manufacturers, distributors or contractors for plans have chosen professional irrigation consultants to provide design services and other technical assistance through the irrigation system budgeting, planning, selection and installation process.

Most professional irrigation consultants provide a wide range of services associated with the irrigation system design and installation including: (1) evaluation of the existing irrigation system; (2) water source testing/evaluation; (3) budget development; (4) preparation of design and specifications; (5) bid support and contract administration; (6) field staking of system components; (7) inspection and punch list; (8) preparation of record drawings, and (9) irrigation system operation training and programming. While some of these services have been provided by manufacturers or distributors in the past, the advent of the more sophisticated system has made it difficult for the distributor to provide design and consulting services effectively at little or no charge as the more traditional distributor support functions such as prompt delivery, field service and operator training have become more critical. Some of the services were unnecessary since many of the systems dating back ten years or more were quite simple.

Professional irrigation consultants offer a number of advantages to their clients, the first being their ability to provide a professionally designed plan and specifications accompanied by bid and contract documents. It is the consultant's responsibility to reduce short term costs by eliminating questions or misinterpretations that may lead to contingency bidding and unexpected additional costs. Proper design techniques and product selection by a professional irrigation consultant can reduce long term operating and maintenance costs and extend the life of the irrigation system.

Many systems designed by consultants are based on more than one manufacturer's products. When employing an independent irrigation design consultant, many clubs realize significant savings by soliciting proposals from more than one material source. Often, the savings is significant enough to pay for additional coverage, more control flexibility, or an upgrade in fitting materials. Accepting proposals based on one design eliminates the need to compare multiple designs for differences in the number of sprinklers and valves, pipe sizing, pump station capacity, and a number of other factors which may influence the selection of an irrigation product. Designs by professional irrigation consultants typically depict identical coverage and piping for all manufacturers, and sep-

(Continued on page 4)
President's Message
Dean Graves

Just a couple of points of interest. Dealing with our newly appointed Executive Secretary Mrs. Charlotte Norris. She has been involved with golf course management some ten plus years during her marriage to Tim. Her orientation to the Executive Secretary's position was essentially starting and running a 450-member state wide chapter, the Lone Star GCSAA in Texas. Her experiences are wide spread and sometimes over whelming. We, the Board of Directors, are looking forward to her better serving our association needs.

It is time to give compliments to several deserving individuals. As you well know, Mr. Lou Rudinski has been spending too much time at home and in the hospital. He has recently undergone numerous procedures to patch a few circulatory concerns. Lou is finally on the mend and able to get out of the house. We should be honored that he came to the Kenwood meeting as his first social outing. I wish we had more dedicated members like Lou.

I want to thank Ed Brown of Rehoboth Beach Country Club and President of the ESAGCS for hosting the June meeting. The course was beautiful and greatly improved from the old. Ed thought the course played especially easy that day by shooting 65 with two double bogeys, way to go partner.

My second and heartfelt thanks goes to Andy Sheehan of Kenwood Golf and Country Club. The course was in its normal wonderful condition. It was nice to see a course without stressed turf and superintendent. I want to thank Kenwood for making us feel so welcome.

Everybody should receive a bulletin showing the necessary information for upcoming MAAGCS events. I look forward to seeing more people at our monthly chapter meetings. The annual picnic was a grand success! Again, I want to thank Lou for making arrangements for having the entire park at Mayo Beach. It was great fun for the entire family to enjoy and relax. Hopefully, this will be our annual stop for the picnic. Mr. John Newcomb provided an excellent day for golf on August 12th. Our compliments to him and his staff for providing such a good course.

On a side note:
Many times I feel our staffers are not recognized by the golfer for a job well done. If I may share what Bethesda Country Club does to show its support for the golf course maintenance staff. Every year the club hosts a “Greenskeepers” tournament. It has a member/member best-ball format. The proceeds from the event are then given to each staff member dependent on their years of service and responsibilities. The income from the event amounts to several thousand dollars. We prepare the golf course with extra fast greens and “unusual” pin placements. It is a great and fun tournament we look forward to preparing. Maybe it is something you could introduce to your club, it really helps morale.

I hope this is your best season ever, Good Luck!

Dean M. Graves
President
From the Editor
by Chris Ayers, Director of Communication

he August/September edition of "Turfgrass Matters" is full of useful and timely information. The front page article advises you on a possible course of action if you are contemplating a new or improved irrigation system. If your course was as dry as mine, then you were really able to see how good/bad your system was. Andrea Bakalyar, President of the Maryland Student Chapter of the GCSAA, informs MAAGCS members of the group's history and plans. I am sure that you will be impressed with their agenda. Nick Vance through his column, Bullets from the Board Room, keeps the entire membership up to date with the goings on of your Board. Doug Fleming, assistant superintendent at Hillendale C. C., has rounded up a number of quotes from your peers as to how they have weathered the season, in his Superintendent Speaks Out column. There are also two GCSAA News articles that tell us how two of our very own MAAGCS members are involved with GCSAA. Additionally, there are recaps of both the annual picnic and ladies night, Golf Notes and the News & Notes section.

As you can see, there is a lot to read about in this issue. Remember to take a look at the ads and supporter listing and realize that without their support we would not be able to provide you with this newsletter. You are encouraged to do business with those companies that support our association. Thank you.

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Irrigation
Continued from page 1

arate control system plans based on each manufacturer specified.

Researching products from sprinklers to control systems to pump stations can be confusing, especially when golf courses purchase a system only once in twenty years. Compounding the decisions regarding product are the necessary evaluations of suppliers and qualified contractors. With the ever changing number of options available for golf course irrigation systems, the professional irrigation consultant's familiarity with the market can help protect their clients from selecting substandard products, contractors, or suppliers. Even options with regard to design must be considered (e.g. part circles for green surrounds, herring bone versus looped fairway laterals, main lines in the rough or fairway, single versus multiple heads per control station). Because an independent consultant's income is generated solely from fees, recommendations or decisions regarding design or selection of product, supplier, or contractor are made only with the best interests of the client in mind.

Using irrigation consultants to perform field staking of system components and inspection of work in progress has also become commonplace. Having performed the system design, the consultant is best qualified to make the interpretation of the design from paper to the field, better yet with assistance from the contractor and/or golf course superintendent. Combining field staking visits with inspection of the work in progress is an efficient use of the consultant's time and helps to make sure that the contractor's work complies with the intent of the drawings and specifications. The irrigation consultant's involvement allows the client to rely on a third party to: (1) inspect materials on-site for compliance with the specification; (2) ensure sprinklers, valves and controllers are installed at stake; (3) evaluate installation practices with regard to trench depth and compaction, wiring and splicing, and thrust blocking; (4) oversee or inspect pump station installation procedures especially construction of wet wells, intake pipes, and concrete slabs; (5) develop punch list items to be resolved by the contractor prior to completion; and (6) sign off on progress or final payment requests.

Although all parties benefit from the use of a professional irrigation consultant, the superintendent benefits most of all. Most superintendents do not have the time to fully investigate design techniques, products, and contractors in the planning stages of the project. They rarely have the time or expertise to properly evaluate proposals based on different designs provided by distributors and are often forced to turn to someone with a vested interest in the project decision for help on these evaluations. In relying on the professional irrigation consultant in the planning and design

(Continued on next page)
The stages of the irrigation project, the superintendent often is able to more effectively lobby for the additional funds to provide more coverage, more flexible control, a VFD pump station, or other useful features such as weather stations or sensors and hand-held remote controls. Although most superintendents will take some part in the field staking and project supervision aspect of the project, a professional irrigation consultant has the experience from many projects to recognize problems or contractor mistakes and make proper decisions to resolve difficult issues.

In summary, hiring a professional irrigation consultant seems to benefit all parties involved. Clients that hire professional irrigation consultants do so to protect what is typically the largest single maintenance expense in the life of a golf course. Although these services must be paid for, the benefits usually outweigh the cost of the services. Professional irrigation consultants help their clients obtain the best value for the system with an eye towards minimizing long term maintenance costs and maximizing the expected life of the system. Superintendents benefit from having an impartial design source to help with recommendations and in project staking and oversight. By placing design responsibility in the hands of an irrigation consultant, the distributor loses a portion of its cost associated with the sale and can place more resources into providing the customer better product awareness, training, field service, and often better pricing. The contractor benefits from plans and specifications that completely project scope and detail. In short, projects designed by professional irrigation consultants lead to higher satisfaction for all involved parties, especially the Owner and Superintendent.

The 1997 spring semester Golf Course Management students at the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture, formed their own chapter of the GCSAA. The chapter was formed by the combined efforts of approximately thirty students, Justin K. Mathias, Golf Course Management advisor and Rhys Arthur, CGCS a member of GCSAA.

The officer elections took place in February and the following students were elected to office: President - Andrea Bakalyar, Vice President - William Stowers, Secretary - Ryan Howard, Treasurer - Thomas Zimmerman, Chapter Liaison - Bryan Bupp, Special Relations Chairman - Erin Stevens and Chapter Representative at the Institute of Applied Agriculture - Kurt Long.

The first semester was spent organizing and developing the chapter that would officially be called The Maryland Student Chapter of the GCSAA. We held three official meetings. Glenn Smickley, CGCS of Robert Trent Jones spoke to the chapter about hosting a major golf tournament, featuring a slide presentation of the 1996 President' Cup.

The officers met on August 5th and planned the chapter’s fall activities. The chapter’s largest concern is fundraising. We are making arrangements to have University of Maryland – Turf shirts made for alumni and students. The shirts and hats will be available for sale later in the fall and winter. Look for information in the next Turfgrass Matters.

Other activities this fall will include a Welcome Back picnic for turf students, a Fall Harvest Dinner and Hayride in October, and the chapter members will be attending the MAAGCS meeting on November 11th at Hillendale Country Club. The officer elections will be held at the end of September. Anyone interested in participating in the Maryland Student Chapter activities may feel free to do so, please contact the Institute at (301) 405-4692.

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Ladies Night Revisited

On the evening of Saturday, September 6th, Clipper City a wonderfully restored sailing vessel from a romantic period of long ago, departed Baltimore's Inner Harbor with forty-five members and their wives or significant other on board. So began another Ladies Night sponsored by Mid Atlantic and organized by Social and Benevolence Director, Gordon Caldwell, CGCS. After the sometimes difficult summer season of 1997, many on board were in need of some serious relaxation away from the "job". A three hour cruise through the harbor, a scrumptious buffet, open bar, and the accompanying music from a reggae band provided participants with their "monies worth". Of no monetary value, but of greater importance were the good company, delightful weather, memorable sights and sounds of the harbor and the absolutely gorgeous sunset over the city's skyline that we all enjoyed and will probably remember for some time. Upon our return to port, a lot of people were overheard remarking how they were sorry the night had to end, a sure sign of another successful Ladies Night.

Thanks are due to Gordy for his effort and hard work in organizing an enjoyable evening, but we can not forget the companies who provided financial support to help make Ladies Night possible. Terra International, Turf Diagnostics, McDonald & Sons, Turf Equipment & Supply, and Carroll Tree Service all contributed to the success of our cruise on Clipper City. Please remember those companies who support your association the next time you need something.

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Class C
Class A
Class F
Class B

Congratulations
Long overdue kudos to Paul Latshaw, his crew, and all the volunteers who helped make Congressional C. C. shine during this year’s U. S. Open. A job well done!

Reroutings
Corey Haney is now at Westfields Golf Club
R. Tucker Mostrom is now at Fairfax National G. C.

Condolences
To Glenn Smickley, CGCS and family, on the passing away of his father in August.

Get Well Wishes
To Bernie Heilig, retired former superintendent at Glen Dale C. C., recently underwent an angioplasty procedure.

Retirement
I want to announce the retirement of Ronnie Strickland from Egypt Farms, Inc. and Aqua Aid, Inc. Ronnie left Egypt Farms in 1991 when she and John sold their interest, but continued managing the office for Aqua Aid, which John started in 1985. Effective June 19, 1997 she has turned these books over to someone else. Ronnie (my mother) has been more help that you can imagine behind the scenes of the Maryland Turfgrass Council. There were envelopes to be stuffed and newsletters to get out, especially around conference time. Mom, I thank you very much for working this into your schedule that John always keeps so busy. You worked very hard over the past thirty years, and now you deserve to sit back and relax. Enjoy your travels, your home in Florida, and your grandchildren. I also thank you for your support in my personal life, and for what you have taught me in my business career. I love you!
Cheryl Gaultney
The golf season is moving right along and so far the weather has been sensational. Our June 9th meeting at Rehoboth Beach Country Club featured our Two Man Championship. Host superintendent Ed Brown, assistant Tony Lorenz, and their staff had the golf course in great shape. Thanks to head golf professional Ron Barrows and his staff for all their help.

In case you didn’t hear about it, special congratulations to Ed Brown for shooting a mind-boggling six under par 65—that’s for 18 holes. Ed’s round, which surely must be the best in MAAGCS history, included and eagle, eight birdies, and two double bogeys, including one on the last hole. Despite Ed’s great round, partner Dean Graves was able to help three shots, giving the team a gross score of 62! A copy of Ed’s scorecard is shown below; I trust the original scorecard is suitably framed and hanging on Ed’s office wall.

The day’s winners were:

**Low Gross:**
1st - Ed Brown/Dean Graves (62)
1st - Nick Vance/George Renault (60)
2nd - Scott Wagner/Jim McHenry (64)
2nd - Fred Heinlen/Tony Lorenz (61)
3rd - Bill Shirk/Tim Sage (74)
3rd - Walter Montross/Sam Kessel (62)

**Low Net:**
1st - Ed Brown/Dean Graves (62)
1st - Nick Vance/George Renault (60)
2nd - Scott Wagner/Jim McHenry (64)
2nd - Fred Heinlen/Tony Lorenz (61)
3rd - Bill Shirk/Tim Sage (74)
3rd - Walter Montross/Sam Kessel (62)

Match Card Playoff over Jeff Facto/Todd Cowing

Closest to the Hole:
# 3 - Nick Vance
# 5 - Tim “Radar” Sage
# 12 - Scott Wagner
# 13 - George Renault
# 19 - John Brader
Long Drive:
# 17 - Walter Montross

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to our sponsors for the day: O. M. Scotts, Davisson Golf, G. L. Cornell, Egypt Farms, Ace Tree, Kimberthy Turf, and Turf Diagnostics. Please take a moment to thank these companies for their continued support of the MAAGCS.

The golf event for the July 15th meeting at Kenwood Country Club was the Superintendent/Club Official Tournament. We had 52 players for golf, however, only nine superintendents brought club officials. The disappointing showing can be traced to a lack of pre-tournament publicity, and to a lesser degree, the time of year. The addition of Charlotte Norris will be a big help in drumming up participation for the tournament next year. I will look seriously at moving the event to a different time of the year.

Kudos to Andy Sheehan, CGCS and his staff for the great condition of the golf course during a very stressful stretch of weather. Thanks also, to head golf professional Rod Thompson and his staff for all of their help.

The day’s winners were:

**1st Gross** - Dave Rudinski/Gene Fields (70)
**1st Net** - Kirk Intermill/Steve Caruthers (64)
**2nd Net** - Walter Montross/Gary Mackintosh (66)
**3rd Net** - Andy Sheehan/Roy Camp (66)

**Long Drive** - Gary Mackintosh

Closest to the Hole:
# 3 - Dick Scanlon
# 6 - Dean Graves
# 13 - Gary Mackintosh
# 15 - Dean Graves

As always, thanks to our sponsors for the day: Turf Diagnostics, Kimberthy Turf, O. M. Scotts, Davisson Golf, Egypt Farms, and Ace Tree.

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On a fine summer’s day in August, a throng of Mid Atlantic members and their families ventured over to the Anne Arundel County to sample John Newcomb’s South River Golf Links and the county picnic facility Mayo Beach. Why you ask? Well it was to enjoy a day of golf, food and picnic festivities. Those that played golf at South River G. L. enjoyed playing a “new” course and certainly appreciated the efforts of John Newcomb and his crew. Lou Rudinski and Gordon Caldwell planned and arranged for the picnic portion of the day’s events at Mayo Beach. Our first, of hopefully many, visits to this multi-use county facility was very well received by all those who attended. Mayo Beach offered a large sandy beach area with sea nettle net protected swimming area, beach volleyball, horseshoe pit, baseball field, and jungle gyms and swings for the little ones. Besides all these amenities, there was a clown to entertain the kids and FOOD. Did I mention the food? Yes, there were hamburgers and hot dogs, pit beef, crabs, corn on the cob, salads, desserts, and beer and sodas.

The success of our first picnic at Mayo Beach could not be achieved without the hard work of various individuals and the sponsorship and support of some fine companies that do business in our area. Thanks to John Newcomb and the owners of South River Golf Links for allowing us to play golf without green or golf fees. Thanks must also go to Gordy and Lou for all the leg work that goes into organizing an event such as this. A special thanks must go to Ben Stagg, who once again procured some tasty crabs and Rick Hood and Ray Riggins who cooked up an ample amount of tantalizing pit beef. A successful MAAGCS event invariably includes strong support from our associate members. This year the picnic is no different. The following companies provided sponsorship for this year’s MAAGCS picnic: Carroll Tree Service - Entertainment, Lesco - Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Turf Diagnostics - Soft Drinks, Egypt Farms - Corn, G. L. Cornell - Pit Beef, Kimberthy Turf - Crabs. Please take a moment and thank the individuals from these companies the next time you run into one of them and support the companies who support Mid Atlantic.
USGA, GCSAA, NTEP Join Forces

The United States Golf Association (USGA), the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) are combining resources to manage a new national research project that will evaluate grass varieties (also known as cultivars) on actual golf course settings.

"On-site testing of turfgrass cultivars is not a new concept," said Robert C. Shearman, PhD, NTEP executive director. "However, the joint sponsorship of on-site putting green trials is new. Golf course superintendents have been asking for some time to have information that bridged the gap between small-plot university trials and their end-use needs."

Practice putting greens built to USGA specifications at 16 different golf courses across the nation, featuring bermudagrass and/or bentgrass varieties, will be monitored to provide data for golf course personnel in the building and maintenance of facilities. The northern locations will integrate bentgrass cultivars, and far-south venues will employ bermudagrass varieties. Both will be used in transition zone climates.

The USGA originally funded variety testing research on golf courses in the 1930s and 40s. Testing then moved to university research settings in the late 1940s. While this research has been the backbone of the turfgrass industry, there was a void of actual on-site testing for those in the golf industry. The USGA/GCSAA/NTEP project will use the combined efforts of superintendents, university researchers and USGA Green Section staff for monitoring and evaluation. Annual reports will be filed over a five-year period, with and evaluation of the program for possible continuation with the same or different grass varieties.

"The greatest gains in turfgrass research have and will continue to come from universities," said GCSAA Director of Research Jeff Nus, Ph.D. "But this project allows us to do 'real world' testing and replicate actual conditions in order to provide the best data to
Join Forces
(Continued from page 10)

those in the golf course maintenance profession. Golfer expectations and golf course conditions have changed so much in the last three decades that we need to study cultivar performance based on the conditions demanded by today’s golfers.”

Because traffic is an important factor in cultivar performance, all of the putting greens constructed for the project will be used as actual practice greens at the respective facilities. Preliminary work has begun on the construction greens at some locations, while sponsors/companies have entered the various bentgrass and bermudagrass cultivars to be considered by researchers for use in the trials study. The list of cultivars to be included in the test will be determined later this fall.

Westwood Country Club in Vienna, Virginia has been selected as a research trial location. Walter Montross, CGCS along with researcher David Chalmers, Ph.D. of Virginia Tech University will monitor this bentgrass putting green.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 14
MAAGCS Annual Golf Championship - Chartwell Country Club

November 11
MAAGCS Chapter Meeting - Hillendale Country Club

December 3
MAAGCS Annual Meeting - Turf Valley Resort & Conf. Center

December 3 & 4
GCSAA Seminar “Managing People for Peak Performance & Job Satisfaction” - Turf Valley Resort & Conference Center

January 5-8
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Superintendents Speak Out
by Doug Fleming

How Have You Weathered This Season's Heat and Drought?

-Doug Bader, Towson Golf & C. C.
* "We have plenty of water, but everything outside of the irrigation is gone."
* "Starting August 19th the course will be closed 4-6 weeks while we convert to bentgrass fairways."

-Dave Rudinski, Rolling Road C. C.
* "This is the best year I ever had, the city water supply has held up well!"

-Bernie Beaven, CGCS, Breton Bay G. & C. C.
* "It was the perfect season for bermuda grass fairways, but I'll be glad when it's over."

-Jeff Vance, Laytownville G C
* "Very windy season, even during periods of high humidity. I still did not get very much disease."

-Paul Krout, CGCS, Bonnie View, C. C.
* "It was a good year for bentgrass fairways, I had the ability to manage water properly."

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GCSAA Nominating Committee Approves 1998 Slate of Candidates

The Nominating Committee of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) met at association headquarters in July to examine eligibility and qualifications of those nominated to serve on GCSAA's 1998 board of directors.

GCSAA members will have the opportunity to decide three officer posts and elect two directors from a field of four candidates for the 1998 board of directors during the annual meeting, February 7th, during the GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show, February 2nd-8th, in Anaheim, California. The following slate of candidates was unanimously approved by the nominating committee:

President: George Renault III, CGCS, Burning Tree Club - Bethesda, Maryland
Vice President: David W. Fearis, CGCS, Blue Hills C C - Kansas City, Missouri
Secretary/Treasurer: Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, Wynstone G C - North Barrington, Illinois

R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS, Valley View G C - Bozeman, Montana
Directors: Joseph H. Emanuel, Jr. CGCS, Hurstbourne C C - Louisville, Kentucky
Jon D. Maddrin, CGCS, Elk Ridge Golf Course - Atlanta, Michigan

Samuel R. Snyder, VII, CGCS and Michael Wallace, CGCS, each have one year remaining on their two-year director terms. Paul S. McGinnis, CGCS, 1997 President, will serve as 1998 immediate past president, and Bruce R. Williams, CGCS 1997 immediate past president, will retire from the board.

"With my understanding of the demands and hectic schedule placed on the superintendent, I am pleased to see there are some willing to give up personal time in order to give back to their profession," says Gary T. Grigg, CGCS, nominating committee chairman. Also serving on the nominating committee are Jack D. Birdwell; Robert W. Graunke, CGCS; James B. Hodge; and Ross James O'Fee, CGCS.

Candidates for the 1998 Board of Directors were introduced at the Chapter Delegates meeting, September 5th-7th, at GCSAA headquarters. Candidates offered a brief presentation and participated one-on-one, question and answer sessions. In-depth profiles of the candidates will be included in the official notice of the annual meeting to be mailed to all members in December.

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Consider yourself a candidate.
Applications for the 1998 Environmental Steward Awards are available from the August issue of Golf Course Management, GCSAA Online (www.gcsaa.org), affiliate chapter presidents, program sponsors and the GCSAA service center (800/472-7878).

We'll look forward to receiving your application by October 31, 1997.
Bullets from the Boardroom
MAAGCS Secretary, Nick Vance, CGCS

President Dean Graves mailed a Memo to all our members listing the meeting dates for the remainder of the year. PLEASE note that some of the dates are not our "regular" meeting dates.

On July 15th the GCSAA announced the 1997 Legacy Award Winners. One of the students listed was Robin C. List, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. List of Ocean City Yacht and Country Club. Robin is majoring in English at Goucher College. Congratulations to the List family from all your friends in the Mid-Atlantic.

Education Director Ryland Chapman has been working diligently to get articles written by Superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area for the "Washington Golf Report". There are still some open months to be filled and if any of you would like to volunteer please contact "Chappy".

One June 26th the Board of Directors agreed to hire Mrs. Charlotte Norris for the position of Executive Secretary for the MAAGCS. Mrs. Norris will be working out of her home in Fairfax, VA. Our new mailing address is MAAGCS, P. O. Box 2212, Fairfax, VA 22031, Phone 1-888-MID-TURF and our fax number is 703-383-6245.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Mrs. Jody Gilmore for all her help with our office duties over the last few years. She has been handling all of our reservations for our monthly meetings, most of our mailings, updated our computer and much more. "Thanks Jody".

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