Walter C. Montross, CGCS

I want to thank the membership forentrusting me with the presidency of yourassociation for a second time. It is hard tobelieve that ten years has passed since mylast time tenure on the Board, but as withmost things in life time passes much toquickly. As I take the reins it would befoolish not to acknowledge those whocame before me, as well as, the Board thatyou have elected for 1999. The people youlearn from and ultimately imitate make uswhat we are, thanks go to Mike, Lee, Sam&Dave for the early years and Scott, Bill,Dean & Mike for their stewardship the lastfew years. You know who you are andyour leadership was and is greatly appreci-ated. In addition, I believe the membershiphas elected a fine, hard working group tothe Board this year and I look forward toworking with them.

Every President comes into office withan agenda to complete. However, as ourassociation has continued its dramaticgrowth and the demands placed upon uscontinue to escalate, we can no longerthink or act in the short term. Long termstrategic thinking and goals must beadopted to ensure future successes. Ano-ther factor of our rapid growth is a senseof isolation by our new members and someof the older ones as well. The perceptionof not feeling welcome must be elimi-nated. For any organization to succeed, ittakes all of its members working towards acommon goal. We also need to reach outto new prospective members, tell themwhat we have to offer and encourage them
to take advantage of our services. A little over ayear ago our Past President, Mike Gilmore,suggested meeting with all of our members tosolicit feedback on the direction of the association. Many positive ideas emanatedfrom these discussions and the Board beganthe task of trying to implement these sugges-tions. As part of this year’s agenda, theBoard hopes to expedite many of theseissues. First, we have formed a “WelcomingCommittee” which is chaired by Vice Presi-dent, Nick Vance. The idea is to havepersonal contact with all new and prospec-tive members. Second, we have created an“Industrial Advisory Group” that will bechaired by Past President, Mike Gilmore. Theidea is to create a better rapport with ourcommercial vendors. These individuals andcompanies are an integral part of any successour association has or hopes to achieve. Astrong educational program is another sug-gestion we heard loud and clear. We areworking hard on, not only this year’s pro-gram but next year’s program as well. Oursecond annual educational conference inconjunction with the Audubon SanctuaryProgram just concluded and we will sponsortwo GCSAA seminars in December. In addi-tion, we are working actively with theUniversity of Maryland and the MarylandTurfgrass Council to help formulate andimplement an outstanding 2000 MarylandTurfgrass Conference. I also wish to begin

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The 1999 GCSAA Golf Championship was recently played February 8th & 9th in Tampa. The Mid-Atlantic fielded thirty-two players and five chapter teams for the event. “Thumbs Up” to Scott Wagner for winning his division a fifth consecutive year! One of the smoothest swings in golf, will be looking forward to Alabama. GCSAA past president George Renault, III took First Net in the Senior I Division. Florida must be agreeing with his game!

Congratulations To This Years Winners!!

Golf Championship Results:
Scott Wagner - 1st Gross, Second Flight (5th consecutive year!!)
Jim McHenry - 3rd Gross, Third Flight
Sean Remington - 3rd Net, Third Flight
Gordon Caldwell - 2nd Gross, Fourth Flight
Nick Vance - 7th Gross, Fourth Flight
Steve Sweiderk - 2nd Gross, Fifth Flight
Steve Cohoon - 7th Net, Fifth Flight
George Renault, III - 1st Net, Senior I Division

Chapter Team Results:
Sean Remington/George Renault/Nick Vance/Bob Wren - 3rd Net

Two Man Team Results:
Steve Glossinger/Carey Mitchelson - 8th, Gross Division
Tim Norris/Douglas Browne - 10th, Gross Division
Jim McHenry/Nick Vance - 6th tie, Net II Division
Walter Montross/Joe Di Stefano - 9th tie, Net II Division
Jim Weaver/Bob Wren - 9th tie, Net II Division
Ed Gasper/Jefre Tschudi - 5th tie, Net III Division
Matt Richter/Steve Sweiderk - 5th tie, Net III Division
Sean Remington/George Renault, III - 11th tie, Net III Division
Mike Evans/Paul Masimore - 12th tie, Net IV Division
Tim McMahon/Mike Sullivan - 12th tie, Net IV Division

Four Man Team Results:
Tim Norris, Doug Browne, David Gourlay, Doug Westbrook - 4th tie, Gross
Steve Glossinger, Jim Broughton, Carey Mitchelson, Michael Wilson - 5th, Gross
Jim McHenry, Nick Vance, David Fears, Jim Moriarty - 2nd tie, Net II
Sean Remington, George Renault, Stephan Crain, David Kleymann - 4th tie, Net III
Matt Richter, Steve Sweiderk, Brad Johnson, Jim Knulty - 4th tie, Net III
Mike Evans, Paul Masimore, Joseph Alonzi, Robert Alonzi, 4th tie, Net IV

Golf and Reservation Policy
The following policies have been adopted by the MAAGCS Board of Directors. Please read each one carefully. Beginning with the first monthly meeting in March these policies will be strictly enforced.

* Reservations and cancellations must be made through the MAAGCS office. Do not call the hosting club, pro shop, or superintendent. These reservations or cancellations are not valid!

* Reservations for golf, dinner, or lunch must be received by the deadline set or you may not attend, no excuses!!!

* Reservations not honored will be billed through the Association for reimbursement of no show. The Association must fund no shows for counts given to hosting clubs. Unpaid reservations are considered a special assessment and will be dealt with according to the by-laws.

* Members on the permanent RSVP list will be removed after two no shows or not canceling by the reservation deadline, and not allowed back on until the following year.

* Members signing up for golf will be automatically put on the dinner or lunch reservation list and pay for the whole day at sign-in. Members who play golf and do not attend the meeting for any reason will be reprimanded: 1st Offense - letter from the President; 2nd Offense - suspension from golf for a period of one year

* As a courtesy, reservations for golf that can not be kept should be canceled ASAP.

* Members will be allowed to sponsor guests at regular meetings provided they are in attendance. A member may sponsor one (1) guest for golf per meeting. Members may sponsor more than one guest for lunch or dinner.

* MAAGCS members at a hosting club will be comped for lunch or dinner reservations. The hosting club will be responsible for their guests as determined prior to reservation deadlines.

* Shorts are proper attire for the golf course only! Stated attire must be worn during the educational and social portions of each meeting.

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the process of hiring a part time media consultant. The idea is to work with an experienced media individual who can assist us in getting our story and ultimately our image in front of the general public. There are many other issues we are addressing but, suffice it to say many of these issues will have to be adopted by future Boards. Yes, this is an ambitious plan but I believe it can be done. It is my hope that you will notice our efforts and I encourage you to contact me or any board member with your thoughts, suggestions or even criticisms if we don’t follow through on our goals.

I believe we have an exciting 1999 meeting schedule planned with a dynamic educational program. I hope to see everyone at the meetings this year and let’s try to get our Assistants involved.