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President's Message

Mike Gilmore

The summer keeps grinding on and as I write this there are about eight weeks of summer left to go. So far so good, let's hope we can all keep going forward to continue with successful seasons.

The year has seen us lose several members of the MAAGCS and the last month saw the untimely deaths of Carroll Davis and Mike Graebner. Mr. Davis was a long time rep and "goodwill ambassador" for Egypt Farms. While attending the viewing for Mr. Davis, I was struck by the photos that captured many of his 80 plus years. They all were of a man who seemed to be surrounded by his wife and family in every picture. It was obvious what was important to Carroll Davis - his family. Mike Graebner passed away much too early, but it seems the impact that he had on people was as much as someone who lived 80 years. Mike, who had been with Finch Turf for the past year, was a young man that was very successful in his athletic career in lacrosse, but more importantly, he was very involved with his community. The article about him in the Baltimore Sun told of someone who was dedicated to his community, his friends, and most of all, his family. It was obvious that he had a big impact on those he came in contact with. We are fortunate to have had these two people travel through our professional lives and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Over the last few years I have written about how we tend to overemphasize our jobs and how we should all take a look at

how our profession takes its' toll on many people who are in it. The passing of these two men, and the love and commitment they showed their families, has given me reason to take a look, again, at my priorities. Over the past few months I have lost focus on what is important and now I feel myself needing to get them back in order. What's important is the following - our family, our health and our faith. My job is important but it should not rule my life or my families' life. But, I am finding that it has in the last few months.

I am curious as to how many Superintendents take summer vacations with their family. In the past, I have joked that I like staying home while the wife and kids go to the beach. I can enjoy the quiet in the house and I can play as much golf as I want without hearing about it when I get home. Inevitably, I will stay at work longer than usual and not relax or go home early or visit the golf courses of friends who invite me to play some golf. When I would talk to the kids on the phone, they always are upset and ask, "Why can't you come with us, Daddy?" No more. This year I will be at the beach during the last week of July with my family. I have great Assistants and a staff that will keep working while I am gone. It's time to let them do what they are hired to do, run the operation in my absence. They will be prepared and they will know how to reach me in an emergency, but they know that if

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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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Turfgrass Matters Committee

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President's Message

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they call, it better be good. How many of you vacation in the summer? I really would like to know, so e-mail me or give me a call.

I know of two very successful Superintendents who are just coming off 10 to 14 day vacations with their families. They did not become successful by cutting corners. They have the confidence in their staffs but more importantly, they realize what is important in their lives - their families. Without taking the time, they like us all, would miss out on what is important in the lives of their family. We can never get back lost time. While it is necessary to be dedicated to your job, it is important to take care of yourself and those you love.

A good way to spend some time with your family was to attend the Annual Picnic at Mayo Beach, in Anne Arundel County. Those who attended the picnic can tell you that co-host Lou Rudinski hit a homer when he turned us onto Mayo Beach. The swimming, games, entertainment and the food and drink made for a great day. The day started with golf at the course of Lou's co-host, John Newcomb, CGCS. South River and the Birney family welcomed the MAAGCS back for another attempt at the challenging course. The day was a great way to get away with the family and mingle with your peers in a relaxing atmosphere. Thanks to Lou, John and Social & Benevolence Director Dave Rudinski for their hard work.

September will find the MAAGCS headed for yet another new site for the membership meeting. Drew Scully and his staff at the Greystone Golf Course will host the Superintendent/Club Official Tournament. Come out and see why everyone is talking about one of the best new courses in the Mid-Atlantic. It will surely be a good test and a chance to spend a day with someone from your course. Brian Ault will speak about Renovation and Reconstruction, a great topic to hear with your club official.

In closing, I would like to thank the sponsors of the picnic who year in and year out make the day a great one. Davisson Golf, Egypt Farms, G. L. Cornell, Newsom Seed, Phoenix Irrigation and Turf Equipment & Supply are the companies that helped supply the food and drink for our families to enjoy. Thank you to all and here is hoping for everyone having a successful season!

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