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President's Message

Mike Gilmore

Finally, the rough mowing is starting to become under control and we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and hopefully, it is not a train! The wet weather in early May has made life exciting for those folks who hit out of the fairway and even more exciting for those of us who suffer their wrath. Anyway, I hope your spring has been a good one and the summer is shaping up to be good as well.

The MAAGCS has been lucky to visit two of the Association's top clubs, River Bend in April and Robert Trent Jones in May. Thanks go out to both David Kardos and Glenn Smickley for hosting the Association. River Bend was an excellent event and the golf course and club were excellent. The people at River Bend really went out of their way to make us feel welcome and we appreciate the chance to visit. RTJ was in "President's Cup" mode for the Superintendent/Pro Tourney and the day was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Once again, the Association was treated in an outstanding manner by the club and their excellent staff. I am still trying to reach the fairway from the tee, boy, I felt old out there that day! To both David and Glenn, thank you and best wishes and continued success.

We are privileged to be at the Country Club of Maryland in June, with Dave Nehila as our host. Dave promises a great day and it will be fun to visit Towson and enjoy the day. July will bring us to the beautiful town of Denton and the Caroline

C C. Jim McHenry will be sure to give us a great golf course and the people at Caroline always treat us well. It is a treat to visit Caroline. Thank you, Dave and Jim for hosting our meetings.



The topic of professionalism is a popular topic in our business today. GCSAA President George Renault, CGCS recently wrote of the efforts being made to help Golf Course Superintendents improve their image in the golf community and the community in which we live. I applaud the efforts being set forth to improve the image and stature of the Golf Course Superintendent. However, I feel strongly that the best way for a Golf Course Superintendent to be considered a professional, and treated as one, is to start at their own club and in their own community.

Your standing and image will be enhanced more by how you carry yourself and the results you produce than by any publication or television show touting professionalism and the image of the Golf Course Superintendent. If your golf course is in poor condition, then no one will care about what they read or what they watch on television, they will only care about what they see on their golf course! If you are unavailable when the golfers are on the course, not seen during peek times, then the assumption will be made that either you are not capable or not on the job. Then the club will be looking for a person who resembles the "image" that we are trying to project as a

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Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

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Doug Fleming * John Haley
Keith Williams * Mitch Williams
Brian Zickafoose

President

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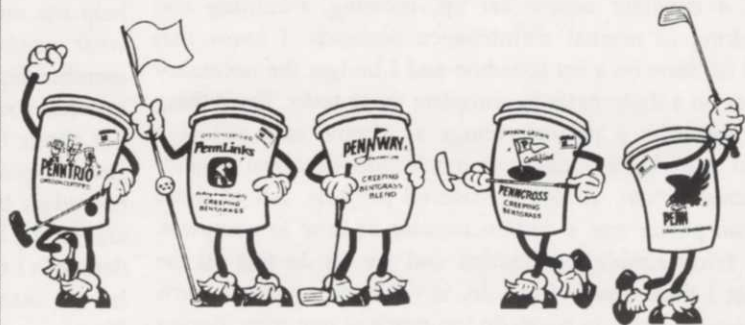
profession. Use the materials that are out there to help enhance your image and standing in the club, but it is more important that you use yourself as the main tool to improve.

The opportunity to exhibit professionalism and keep a good "image" is to act professionally when attending meetings with your peers and your vendors. When you make a reservation, honor it. When a vendor hosts a meeting and is providing a meal, they have to pay for the people that guarantee. Is it professional to make a reservation for these meetings and then not bother to show up or call? The answer to all of these should be obvious. How we conduct ourselves when we are representing our club and our profession will determine how we are perceived and treated in the business and in the community. It all starts with you!

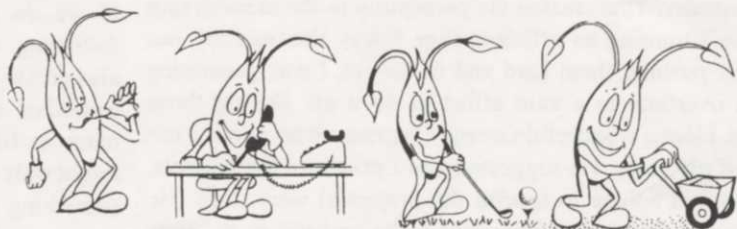
Keep an eye out for an update on the new legislation that will impact your nutrient management program, if you are in Maryland. We will be attending a meeting in Annapolis on June 4 to be briefed on what will be required to comply with this new law. There will be space in the next newsletter dedicated to trying to explain what you need to know. Once again, I want to acknowledge the efforts of Mark Schlossberg, Lou Rudinski, and Steve Potter in keeping us informed and working, under the MAGI banner, to keep us out of the line of fire as best as possible. If you all had any clue how much time was spent by this group, especially Mark, you would be grateful to them and be willing to help out when called upon.

I hope that your season will continue to be a good one. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to call.

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July 15, 1998

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