

Bullets from the Boardroom

MAAGCS Secretary - Nick Vance, CGCS

When I sat down to try to put this message on paper, I realized this would be the last time I would write the bullets. That meant the end of another year. Somehow everything that is going on around us doesn't seem to fit.

It is the first of December and we are still watering turf. We are still mowing, raking bunkers, supplying drinking water to our players and all the other things that we do in August. What happened to those slow winter months we used to have when we could catch up on paper work, projects and even get some time for ourselves?

Even though we have many activities going on in the Association, I do not have a lot to report in this issue. I will just give all of you a couple of "heads up" issues to be looking for.

We will once again have a hospitality room at Turfgrass '99 in Timonium on January 4th, the first night of the event.



We will also be hosting a hospitality room during the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando in February. More details will be available soon.



The Special Olympics golf program got off to a pretty good start this year. There were several tournaments held around the area and a very nice championship held in October at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. Next year the Association would like to get more courses and volunteers for the events. You can not appreciate how much you receive from giving to something like this until you get involved. Let's ALL try to help.



Dr. Seibel Bids Farewell to Institute of Applied Agriculture

Dr. Ronald J. Seibel, who has been at the helm of the Institute of Applied Agriculture (I.A.A.) since 1972, announced his retirement from the University of Maryland effective January 1, 1999. Dr. Seibel was involved with agricultural education in Maryland and nationally for the past 40 years. He first came to the University of Maryland by way of Illinois in 1967 as an Instructor teaching for several departments while completing his doctoral requirements within the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education.

In 1972 he became Acting Director of the I.A.A. and was appointed as Director in 1977. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Seibel enhanced the educational experiences of thousands of students interested in pursuing a career in both the Green Industry and in general agriculture. He worked diligently to improve curriculum, by securing adequate funding through additional state and industry initiatives, by developing outreach programs to industry utilizing online technology, and by providing faculty an opportunity to excel within their respective discipline areas.

Dr. Seibel has also been involved in numerous agriculture organizations including Alpha Zeta Fraternity, Future Farmers of America, Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society, and the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation. Throughout his career he has always championed agriculture education and has challenged his students to become involved in leadership positions. Dr. Seibel will be missed by all and we wish him an enjoyable, relaxing, and well deserved retirement.

President' Message

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In closing, I would like to thank the person who is most important in my life. My wife Jody stepped in to help the MAAGCS in a time that we needed someone to offset an earlier setback with an executive secretary and helped things stay under control until we were lucky enough to get Charlotte. Much more important than that though, she has been my absolute best friend. Without her support, I could not have given as much time to my work, or the MAAGCS. Raising 5 children and trying to help keep a Golf Course Superintendent in the Mid Atlantic from an occasional meltdown are jobs that are often difficult and thankless. She has always been there for me and I hope I can come close to returning the support. Thank you and I love you with all of my heart.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and good luck in 1999.

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