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(410) 744-8833

President's Message

Mike Gilmore

As the summer winds down, rain seems to be a thing of the past and grey leaf spot is back in town! Ah - to be a golf course superintendent in the Mid-Atlantic!

The Annual Picnic held at Mayo Beach was another smashing success. Thanks to Dave Rudinski and his capable Social & Benevolence Committee. After last year's discovery of Mayo Beach and the great responses from those who attended, it was no surprise to see a great turnout at this year's picnic. As I left Mayo Beach, with my two sons, I looked back at the beach and was amazed to see how many of our members, and their families, had set up their chairs at the water's edge as their children enjoyed a twilight swim. The picture re-enforced what the picnic is all about -- spending a day with our family and friends. Thanks to the volunteers and supporters who made it the best picnic to date.

September's Membership Meeting at Greystone was a success for everyone who had a chance to attend. Superintendent Drew Scully and the staff Greystone gave us a wonderful day. Greystone lived up to its reputation as a tough test for any golfer and the scores showed that to be true. This meeting was the Superintendent/Club Official Tournament and featured an excellent presentation by MAAGCS members and supporters, Brian Ault and Tom Clark, from Ault, Clark & Associates. Their topic was "Renovating Your Golf Course" which offered strategies and tips for formulating renovations on the golf course. While the turnout could have been better, the Superintendent/Club Official Tournament will continue to grow and give us a chance to help enlighten our employers.

Be sure to make the October meeting at Mount Vernon Country Club. This will be the site of the Annual Championship and our host Jeff Michel, CGCS and his staff will have the

course ready for action.

On a down note, we were forced to cancel Ladies' Night due to a poor response. The decision to cancel was not an easy one, but with 6 responses a week out, we did not feel comfortable taking such a risk and losing a few thousand dollars. It seems to me that Ladies' Night might be an event whose time has come and gone, at least on a yearly basis. Maybe more support can be directed toward the picnic or the scholarship and educational programs. I can remember only a couple of Ladies' Nights that were successful. For whatever reason(s) this has been a problem event to make successful. We are open to suggestions.

On a final topic, Turf Valley is again the only golf course in the world going through aeration! Less than three weeks ago, my staff and I received standing ovations at the Member/Guest closing dinner. People could not say enough good things about the course. Now after aerating all three golf courses, I need a bulletproof skin just to go by the Pro Shop. Every year the response to aeration is the same, utter disdain for the course and the Superintendent. Am I alone in seeing this? Even after thirteen years as a Golf Course Superintendent, my skin has not gotten thick enough (at least figuratively!) to ward off these annual slams. How do you handle it? I'd like to know how MAAGCS members handle this added stress. Drop me a line and maybe we can publish some of the cures for everyone's benefit. Thanks in advance and in the meantime I'll keep my head low until the holes heal over!

See you at Mount Vernon!



Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

P. O. Box 2212, Fairfax, VA 22031

(888) 643-8873 or Fax (703) 383-6245

maagcs@maagcs.com

Turfgrass Matters Committee

Tim R. Norris, CGCS - Editor

Doug Fleming * John Haley

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