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President's Message

Mike Gilmore

The March MAAGCS Membership meeting was a good example of providing the members of our Association a day of education from their peers. The event, held at Turf Valley on March 13th, was well received by all in attendance. The topics discussed offered tips from some of the areas most successful superintendents, and other people involved in the golf course operations. Thanks go out to Ryland Chapman for doing a great job in putting together a program that was very informative. Thanks also go out to the members who sponsored the day, along with MAAGCS. Thank you to Turf Equipment & Supply, Green Meadows Turf Supply, Rhone Poulenc, Newsom Seed, G. L. Cornell Co., Finch Turf Supply, and Lesco for their support. This format will be pursued again in 1999 and we will welcome the participation of all MAAGCS members. We are only as good as the effort that is made.

The availability of clubs on Tuesdays has become increasingly difficult, so 1998 will find a couple of meetings that do not fall on the normal second Tuesday of the month. We have been lucky to be at some of the top clubs and there are times that we must be flexible with our dates. We hope that this will not affect your ability to attend. Watch the flyers for details and be sure to call early, because there are some meetings that golf will be limited. If you and your club are interested in hosting the MAAGCS in 1999, contact Walter Montross, CGCS to get on the list. It would be nice to visit some new courses next year.

We continue to try and respond to the suggestions and ideas in our focus group meetings. The ideas keep coming in and for that we are glad, but we would be even happier if the meeting attendance would reflect the enthusiasm that accompanied the idea. We will continue to put forward worthwhile events and by doing so, we hope that will motivate you to attend and maybe even "get involved."

As those that follow the Maryland Legislature know, the state capital has been buzzing once again with the proposal of bills designed to limit not only farmers, but the golf courses as well. The ideas of limiting the amount of nutrients applied and submitting your nutrient management programs for review and approval by the State have been put forward by the Governor. While they may be well intentioned, the idea of lumping the turfgrass industry in with the farm industry, is one that is not practical. We all know the value that turfgrass provides as a filter, yet the image of the Golf Course Superintendent, and the golf course as being a big polluter of the environment is still out there. Mark Schlossberg, from Pro Lawn Plus, and the head of the Maryland Alliance of Green Industries (MAGI), has been leading the way in keeping a level head in the legislature. Mark and his associates, MAAGCS members Lou Rudinski and Steve Potter, have been meeting with legislators, staff members, attending committee meetings on pertinent bills, trying to protect

continued on page 9

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Turfgrass Matters Committee

Bruce Zickafoose - Editor
Doug Fleming * John Haley
Keith Williams * Mitch Williams
Brian Zickafoose



1st Annual MAAGCS Education Seminar



On March 10th the MAAGCS, with the support of our sponsors - Green Meadow Turf Supply, Turf Equipment & Supply Company, Finch Turf Equipment, Inc., G. L. Cornell Company, Rhone Poulenc, Lesco, and Newsom Seed, held a small educational seminar in conjunction with our chapter meeting. The seminar was geared towards being a better professional and manager.

The seminar was held at Turf Valley Resort and Conference Center from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The day began with registration and ended with a social hour following the seminars. The morning seminar was titled Promoting the Golf Course Superintendent with guest speakers Doug Petersan from Baltimore CC and Glenn Smickley, CGCS from Robert Trent Jones giving their words of wisdom from their experiences. Mr. Petersen suggested setting goals, make a mission statement for your club and stay in close touch with your membership. Mr. Smickley, CGCS mentioned the importance in surrounding yourself with good people and have a good communication with members and other managers and club officials. Both spoke of the importance of family and to remember to take time out for them.

The chapter meeting was held before and during the lunch break. The afternoon seminars started with Mr. Clyde Vadner speaking on How to Be a Better Manager. Mr. Vadner is a management consultant for Kraft Associates/ODA, Inc. He is a native of St. Louis and a graduate of DePaul University. Mr. Vadner was very inspirational with his wit and crowd participation tactics. He talked

about how to be a better communicator with employees and other individuals. To be a better communicator you have to be a better listener and a better translator. Mr. Vadner is currently working for Herr Foods and Ruppert Landscaping.

The final seminar was an open panel discussion on Building a Better Line of Communication between the superintendent / club official / golf pro / owner. We tried to cover all the bases with different types of golf courses, semi-private, private, owner, and municipality. On the panel were Bill Neus, CGCS and Bob Bellamy (Director of Operations for the Columbia Association) from Hobbits Glen GC (semi-private), Stephen Potter, CGCS and Herbie Banks (Greens Chairman) from Woodholme CC (private), James Halley and John Shields (owner) from Glen Dale CC and Dan Skarwecki and Kim Hands (Golf Pro) from Baltimore Municipal GC. The panel discussion began with each individual introducing themselves. They highlighted how they communicate between each other and how their style has helped them to become better communicators and managers. The second half of the seminar was opened with plenty of questions for the panel from fellow superintendents. This part of the day was very successful!!

I want to thank Doug Petersan and Glenn Smickley, CGCS for their words of wisdom, Mr. Clyde Vadner for improving our methods for being a better manager and Bill Neus, CGCS, Bob Bellamy, Steve Potter, CGCS, Herbie Banks, James Halley, John Shields, Dan Skarwecki, and Kim Hand for their personal experiences and methods of com-

munication. We couldn't have done this without their participation. I want to thank our sponsors Green Meadow Turf Supply, Turf Equipment & Supply Co., Finch Turf Equipment, Inc., G. L. Cornell Company, Rhone Poulenc, Lesco, and Newsom Seed. Thanks also to Turf Valley for allowing us to hold this event at the conference center. I'd also like to thank Mike Gilmore, Charlotte Norris, Dean Graves, Harry Fridley, and Lynn Matson for all their help in putting the event together. Thank you to Sharon Verchick and Terra International, Inc. for their donation of \$2,000 to the MAAGCS towards education. This was money raised by Terra International, Inc. from the sale of Thaloniil to MAAGCS members.

President

continued from page 2

interests of those who are stewards of the environment and not the enemy of the environment. Please let Charlotte Norris, at the MAAGCS office have your fax number for our records. When an important bill is about to be given hearings, we want to let our members know how they can assist Mark and his group. If the call for contributions goes out to help offset the cost of MAGI's efforts, I hope that you and your club will agree that it is a worthy cause and will do what you can to support MAGI. Contact Steve Potter or Lou Rudinski for further information about MAGI and the positions they take on the issues affecting our industry. If you know Mark Schlossberg, give him a call, or drop him a line to let him know that we appreciate his tireless efforts on behalf of us all. Thanks, Mark.

I hope your year is starting out well and that 1998 will be nothing but successful. As usual, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. I may be reached at (410) 203-2765, or my email is MikeGilmor@aol.