

MAAGCS Board of Directors

Officers

President

Chris Ayers, CGCS
Lakewood Country Club
(301) 762-0570

Vice President

Michael Evans
The C C of Woodmore
(301) 246-6116

Secretary

James Halley
Glenn Dale Country Club
(301) 464-7440

Treasurer

Tim R. Norris, CGCS
Army Navy Country Club
(703) 246-9834

Past President

Nick Vance, CGCS
Hope Valley Golf Club
(301) 831-0498

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Dave Burkhart
Hog Neck Golf Course
(410) 770-8095

Dean Graves
Chevy Chase Club
(301) 656-6323

Ken Ingram, CGCS
Bretton Woods Recreation Center
(301) 948-5405

Paul Masimore, CGCS
Marlton Golf Club
(301) 856-7800

John Newcomb, CGCS
South River Golf Links
(410) 798-6173

Drew Scully, CGCS
Greystone Golf Course
(410) 887-1926

President's Message

Chris Ayers, CGCS



At the recent MAAGCS Annual Meeting held at the Sheraton in Columbia, MD. on December 12th, I was elected to the office of President for your Association. I am honored to serve you and determined to have our Association meet the expectations of its members. The strength of MAAGCS is the membership and we, the Board of Directors, must work diligently on your behalf. I know how important it is in the coming year to determine our course of action for the future, but I am confident that if the Board and the membership work together, we will be able to lay the groundwork for many successful years to come.

My goals as President are quite simple. First, identify our strengths and weaknesses through the use of focus group meetings held in January. If you were unable to attend I urge you to offer your opinions to any Board of Director or call the MAAGCS office. We need to build on our strengths and improve on our weaknesses if we are to meet my goal of meeting your expectations.

Second, develop new or improved usage of communications tools. Too often I hear the comment; "I didn't know that." I want every member to know what the Board is doing on their behalf. It is imperative, therefore, we devise alternative means of communicating with the membership. There is nothing more dangerous than an ill-informed membership.

Third, go back to a strong March education seminar for the Golf Course Superintendent. It is my belief we can provide you with better education in one solid day than we can in numerous shorter segments at monthly meetings. Mark your calendars now for March

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Past President's Message

Nick Vance, CGCS

As I am sitting here thinking of what "message" I would like to relay to you, I realize that the first thing I must do is thank you for the opportunity to serve this association for so many years. I can remember an evening at one of our monthly meetings many years ago when our good friend Mr. Ben Stagg came up to me and asked me if I would be interested in serving on the BOD. My first response was to give Ben all the reasons why I did not think I could. I told him I was to busy at work, I did not think I knew enough about the association to be any help, the commitment was too long, there were a lot of other people that were better qualified, etc. etc. etc.

Ben told me anyone that gets involved can help, we are all busy and it is amazing how easy it is to find the time when you want to. I told Ben that I would let him know in a couple of days. After thinking of all the things he told me I called him up and told him that I would run for office. Ben, for that I will always be thankful to you.

I have enjoyed all my years on the board. I have worked with many wonderful people and made many friends over the years. Some of them I would probably not have gotten to know if I had not taken that step. Some of my closest golfing buddies and travel companions would only be acquaintances if we had not spent all those hours at board meetings. That would have been a great loss to me.

I have seen a lot of changes over these years, but the one thing that remains constant is the quality of people that will volunteer their time to help their association. I don't think anyone gets involved for personal reasons, but I know that I gain so much out of the time I spend with these people that it is more than enough to repay me for my time.

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Bullets from the Boardroom

Mike Evans, Secretary



The Board of Directors, by a majority vote, endorsed GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative (PDI). If you would like to cast your vote against PDI, you must make Chapter Delegate Nick Vance, COCS, aware of your desire to vote "no", before he leaves for the GCSAA Conference and Show, in February. If you do not contact Mr. Vance, he will register an affirmative vote on your behalf. Nick's office telephone number is (301) 865-0026, or you may leave a message with Executive Secretary Charlotte Norris at (888) 643-8873.



In an attempt to gather feedback from the membership on the direction of the Association and how it may better serve its members, the Board of Directors has scheduled three regional Focus Group meetings for mid-January. The meeting dates and sites are:

January 15- Queenstown Harbor Golf Links

January 16- Lakewood Country Club

January 17- Bonnie View Country Club

The Focus Group meetings will run from 10:00 a.m. to noon each day, and lunch will be available after the meetings for those who are interested. The Board of Directors will be present at each meeting. We strongly encourage you to express your thoughts and opinions concerning the Association.



The MAAGCS is now sending job referrals, via the Internet, to those members with E-mail addresses.

Editor's Letter

Ken Ingram, CGCS

In this month's issue we have included committee reports from each officer and director. GCSAA has done this for years and it's a great way to keep members informed. If you came to all the meetings and feel that you've heard this already look on the bright side. It spares you another article written by yours truly!

My tenure as Newsletter Editor is over. Paul Masimore, CGCS will succeed me so *Turfgrass Matters* is in good hands. Please consider writing an article or contributing in some way to the newsletter in 2001. There is so much experience and talent out there in this chapter I really regret not getting more of it published. My deepest regret however, despite trying myself, is not getting even one big Rockfish picture submitted for publication. On both of these issues if there is anyone that can get the job done, it's Paul.

President's Message

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29th. We will host an intense day of education at the University of Maryland Adult Learning Center. I hope to see many of you there.

Lastly, It is my sincere hope that when we can accomplish my first three goals for the year, then my fourth of decreasing the level of apathy throughout the Association will take care of itself. I would like to think if we can meet your expectations for the Association, then you will want to be involved and attend the various functions scheduled throughout 2001. There are many ways you can get involved, but attending meetings and supporting the social activities will go a long way towards strengthening your Association.

I want to close by thanking the membership for entrusting the Association's leadership to me and promising you I will work extremely hard alongside my fellow Board members to accomplish the goals I have set for 2001. I am excited to be working with such a fine group of dedicated individuals who volunteer their time and efforts to serve you. May 2001 be our best year yet!

Past President's Message

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Our association is moving forward at a good pace. Our new president, Mr. Chris Ayers, CGCS has a good BOD to work with, and I know he will get a lot accomplished next year. I am looking forward to working my last year with them.

Having said all that, I guess my "message" for this newsletter is "get involved and don't be bashful about speaking out to help your association and the industry".

See you at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

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standing when meetings and schedules are changed. Most of all I would like to thank Charlotte Norris who literally does 95% of the Newsletter Editors job.

Our current format is not without problems and changes have been discussed. Members have a vast array of magazines and trade publications at their disposal together with increasing electronic communication puts *Turfgrass Matters* in a precarious situation. Members do not expect technical information and any news worthy of publication is outdated on our bimonthly schedule. The bulk of contents for *Turfgrass Matters* are reports from monthly Membership and Board meetings and when they are cancelled we lose valuable material. Filling a sixteen page format frequently requires reprint articles from other publications or articles from our membership which inevitably come to us as editorial comments. If change is warranted I am sure we can satisfy our Members and Newsletter Supporters.