

## MAAGCS Board of Directors

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## President's Message

### Chris Ayers, CGCS

I want to thank all of you who took time to attend one of the four focus group meetings in January. I know how hard it can be sometimes to leave your course or business for a good portion of the day to deal with association business, but the turnout numbers indicate your interest and desire to assist the Board is strong. We, the Board appreciated the opportunity to hear your thoughts and suggestions regarding improving or changing the direction of our Association. I know my fellow Board members and I will rely heavily on the valuable opinions, constructive criticisms and words of encouragement to develop both short and long-term goals for the Association. It is my hope that we can begin reporting back to the membership some of the findings at our April 10th meeting at Beechtree GC. Our host for the April meeting is Russ Davis, a good friend of mine, who will have his course in good shape for our visit. Please mark your calendars for what I am sure will be a wonderful day north of Baltimore. I would certainly be remiss if I did not thank our focus group hosts Tom Tokarski, Rich Sweeney, Steve Nash, CGCS and Lakewood CC for providing us with meeting facilities and lunch in order to conduct our business. Thank you gentlemen for your help and support.

The Maryland Turfgrass 2001 and GCSAA hospitality suites in Timonium and Dallas respectively were extremely successful events. Both were well attended and provided an excellent opportunity to network, meet new faces and renew old acquaintances. The MTC suite was fully supported by MAAGCS. The larger, and obviously more expensive, hospitality

room at the national convention was only possible with the assistance of the Eastern Shore AGCS and Nutramax Laboratories.



For the second year in a row, MAAGCS, ESAGCS and our friends at Nutramax joined together to provide you with a hospitality room at the GCSAA Conference and Show. My thanks to Tom List, CGCS, ESAGCS President and George Barger at Nutramax for helping to make the Dallas suite possible.

You can probably tell already that I am going to make it a habit to acknowledge the assistance and support we receive as an Association. Some of you may even be wondering why we need the support of neighboring Associations or companies who do business in golf course management. I can tell you from experience; the industry we are involved in is BIG and it is growing. There are constant changes in procedures, products, technologies and regulations that cause us to adapt the way we go about conducting our business. Coalition building among groups with common goals or agendas is not a bad thing when you consider "strength is in numbers." Education, communication, research, government relations and scholarship can all benefit greatly from joining together and building working relationships. I truly do appreciate the support we receive and would encourage everyone to get involved, make a difference and support those who support you.



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