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President's Message

Michael Evans

We all know that managing golf course turf during a Mid-Atlantic summer can be a nerve-racking proposition. I am discovering, however, that it pales in comparison to the time consuming and daunting task of buying and selling a home during this time of year. With that in mind, blame for the tardiness of this newsletter falls squarely in the lap of yours truly, and for that, I sincerely apologize. With the demands of our profession these days, occasionally a Board member temporarily falls behind in their MAAGCS responsibilities. At times, our Executive Secretary Charlotte Norris bears the wrath of the membership for things that are beyond her control. It's easy to be critical when things are not as you believe they should be, but please keep in mind that the Board of Directors are volunteers trying their best to balance priorities between job, family, faith, self, and Association business. In the grand scheme of things, I believe the Board and our Executive Secretary have done a good job of fulfilling the membership's needs for quite some time. With that said, there is always room for improvement. I am sure that the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Chris Ayers, CGCS would be happy to have some strong candidates to run for office this December. If you have the time to commit and the desire to serve your Association, please call Chris. His office telephone number is (301)762-0570.

For those who did not participate in the Superintendent/Professional tournament at



Heritage Hunt in May, you missed an excellent event. Host superintendent Steve Cohoon, CGCS and his staff had the Arthur Hills layout in fabulous condition. Kudos Steve, to you and your staff and to the winners of the Presidents Cup, Crofton's Bo Jumbercotta and Steve Cramer. Sadly, participation in this event has dwindled sharply in the past two years, a fact that has caused more than a little consternation on the Board. The tournament affords all superintendents a great opportunity to strengthen our relationship with our golf professional, away from the grind of our daily duties. If you have any thoughts on how we can resurrect the Superintendent/Professional to its former stature on our annual golf calendar, please share your thoughts and ideas with any member of the Board.

Speaking of wonderfully conditioned golf courses, how about the job Bill Augustin and his staff have done at the Country Club of Maryland. Wow! If you missed our June meeting, you missed a real treat. It is a pleasure to see what money, a talented architect, and a quality contractor can create. Any superintendent whose facility has their sights set on golf course remodeling, owes it to themselves to pay Bill a visit.

In closing, a reminder about several upcoming events, the University of Maryland

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IPM for the Body

by Richard Matteson, CGCS

As turfgrass professionals, we have developed keen observation skills. We can detect minute irregularities on our golf course such as the initiation of snow mold, localized dry spots, weeds, etc. We then respond to correct the problems before they become disastrous. How often do we employ that same ability to detect abnormalities on our own bodies? Dr. Eileen Smith, a dermatologist from the Walla Walla Clinic, has spoken of the dangers of ignoring ourselves.

We are exposed to the sun's radiation in everyday activities. However, for those of us working on golf courses, our rate of exposure is higher than most. Even during the winter months, or periods of overcast skies, we are in danger of contracting skin cancer. Without detection these problems can become disastrous, even leading to death.

The skin is the largest organ of the body. It covers the internal organs and protects them from injury, protects them from infection, and controls the loss of too much water. The skin regulates body temperature, helps rid the body of excess water and salts, and provides for temperature and touch sensations.

Skin tumors can either be benign or malignant. Benign tumors are not cancerous. They do not spread in the body and can be removed by surgery, and they

are not likely to return. Malignant tumors are cancerous and it is this type that we should be on the lookout for, according to Dr. Smith. There are several types of skin cancer: basal cell, squamous cell and melanoma. Basal cell carcinoma accounts for more than ninety percent of all skin cancers in the United States. It is slow growing and seldom spreads to other parts of the body. Early detection usually results in minor surgery with insignificant scarring. However, if no action is taken, surgery can be major. Melanoma skin cancer is less common, but far more dangerous. Found in the melanocytes, melanoma is a malignant form of skin cancer and can spread to other parts of the body. If left untreated, malignant melanoma can kill a patient.

Dr. Smith recommends an annual examination by a trained dermatologist. However, the best prevention is to employ the same observation skills on ourselves that we use on our golf courses. Examine your entire body in a full length mirror monthly. Look for small, smooth, shiny, pale or waxy lumps. Get to know the pattern of moles, blemishes, freckles and other marks on your skin. Be particularly observant of spots that are changing in size, shape or color. Spots that are asymmetrical, have irregular borders, color variations or are larger than 6mm in diameter (the size of an eraser) should be examined by a physician. Look everywhere,

even where the sun does not shine; between the toes, the genitals, buttocks, etc. Melanoma can even occur in the eyes.

It is nearly impossible for us to avoid the sun. Dr. Smith highly recommends using sunscreens that are designed to block both UV-A and UV-B wave lengths with a minimum SPF factor of at least 15, or higher if you skin is fair. Wear large brimmed hats, sunglasses, long sleeved shirts and pants. Consider it IPM for the body.

Richard Matteson is the Superintendent at the Pendleton Country Club in Pendleton, Oregon
Credit: *Grass Clippings*, Idaho GCSA

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Turfgrass Field Day will be held July 24; the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Field Day will be held July 30-31. Your attendance means a great deal to the professors who work so hard to provide pertinent, scientific information to the turfgrass community. Please show your gratitude and support by attending the field convention for you. Lastly, our third annual Stewards of the Chesapeake tournament to raise funds for MAAGCS education and research will be held August 12, at Chevy Chase Club. Tournament Chairman Tim Norris, CGCS and host superintendent Dean Graves have planned a wonderful day for us. Assemble a foursome from your facility and come on out and enjoy a day of camaraderie and golf at one of the finest venues anywhere. I look forward to seeing you at Chevy Chase Club.



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