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President's Message

Tom Ritter, CGCS

I don't think any Superintendent, no matter how much experience, knowledge or financial resources available to them could have been fully prepared to deal with the foot or so of rain that drenched the region during the last week of June this year. I know that many of you suffered damage to the golf courses you manage that will take months or possibly years to repair. The mid-Atlantic went from a rainfall deficit for the year of 7" to a surplus of 5" in a 3 day span. Amazing! Once again, Mother Nature showed us she is the boss.

The MAAGCS did manage to squeeze in its 1st annual clay shoot tournament between downpours that same week in June. I want to thank Randall Pinckney (Manor CC) and Rhys Arthur, CGCS (Indian Spring CC) for organizing this event. Rhys is not only a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, but he is also a Certified Shooting Instructor. Do we have any Certified fishing or racecar driving instructors in the organization that would like to step forward and organize our next non-golf event? Thanks also to Mark Merrick, CGCS of Syngenta for sponsoring the catered lunch from Red, Hot, & Blue.

Due to low attendance the last few years, the summer picnic this year was held in conjunction with the University of Maryland Turfgrass Field Day at the research facility in College Park on July 19th. Over 100 attendees enjoyed the picnic that was organized/catered by certified? grill chef Steve Potter, CGCS (Woodholme CC). Thanks to Steve, membership services chairman Mike Augustin, the U of MD staff and to all of the other contributors that will be mentioned in a separate article in this newsletter.

After struggling for months to secure meeting sites for the Stewards of the Chesapeake and the Annual Championship, I received commitments for both literally within 10 minutes of each other one morning about a month ago. It is amazing how things come together sometimes. Richard Maranto will host the Stewards at South River on September 21st and Mike Legere, CGCS will host the Championship at Holly Hills CC on October 24th. These events, in addition to Chris Ayers, CGCS and Lakewood CC hosting on November 14th will round out our golf meeting sites for this year.

I wish everyone well as we all endure another mid Atlantic summer and hope to see you at our fall meetings.



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