

MAAGCS Board of Directors

Officers

President

Tom Ritter, CGCS
Hampshire Greens Golf Course
(301) 421-0165

Vice-President

Randall Pinckney
Manor Country Club
(301) 929-1707

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Kingora
Bethesda Country Club
(301) 365-0100

Past President

Drew Scully, CGCS
(410) 902-9654

Directors

Bill Augustin, Golf
Country Club of Maryland
(410) 823-6725

Mike Augustin,
Membership Services
Belle Haven Country Club
(703) 329-1336

Quent Baria, CGCS
Newsletter, Med./PR
Towson Golf & Country Club
(410) 252-6026

Bryan McFerren - Education
University of Maryland GC
(301) 403-4258

Rich Sweeney, CGCS,
Government Relations
Mt. Vernon CC
(703) 780-9346

President's Message

Tom Ritter, CGCS

I am here writing this message on March 15th and I couldn't help wondering if in recent years the weather in this month of transition from winter to spring fluctuates more than in years past. Or do I just not remember the March's of a decade or two ago as clearly as I think I do? Temperatures are predicted to fall into the mid-20's tonight following high temperatures in the mid-eighties just 2 days ago. I have always tracked the weather closely. I majored in meteorology in college for 2 years before changing majors to agronomy and the perception in my mind is that weather patterns have indeed changed in the last 20-30 years.

We all know that change is inevitable and this was one of the topics I recently discussed with the Golf II class taught by Dr. Kevin Mathias at the University of Maryland. Dr. Mathias invites the President of MAAGCS each year to speak to the class about career, professionalism, and professional associations. The world, including golf course management is evolving and changing at a remarkable rate and I suggested to them that the people that advance and are successful in their careers are the people that can most effectively adapt to new ideas, strategies, and technology. Those that rely on the "old way" of doing things will be left behind in this highly competitive golf industry. I told the class that one of the most effective tools available in assisting Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and students in their careers is membership in the GCSAA and the MAAGCS. I took them on a brief tour of the GCSAA web site and showed them the multitude of resources available to them as members of these professional associations. I would encourage all members of MAAGCS and GCSAA to consider better utilizing the associations that are designed specifically to aid you in your career. If you have not visited the GCSAA web site recently, I think you will be amazed at what it now has to offer members. The MAAGCS web site provides an excellent way to stay informed at the local level. It is no longer "good enough" to only read Golf Course Management magazine every month. Active involvement in professional associations is a major key to success in your career.

I was very pleased with the attendance at the 6th annual MAAGCS Education Seminar yesterday. We had approximately 110 attendees and received positive feedback from several people. I want to especially thank Bryan McFerren (Education chairman) and Steve Evans for all the effort they put into making this a quality event. The seminar is designed to "break even" financially and I would like to thank the sponsors for increasing their support this year so that we could reduce the registration cost by \$15 compared to last year.

I also want to thank Theresa Baria and Randall Pinckney for their efforts in preparing for and facilitating the MAAGCS hospitality room at the Golf Industry Show in Atlanta. It too was very well attended.

Indian Spring CC and Rhys Arthur will be our host for the next chapter meeting on April 11th. The format will be a Superintendent/Assistant Supt. tournament. For those of you who are not aware; Indian Spring will be closing at the end of this year. The property has been sold and will become a residential development. The April meeting will probably be the last opportunity for most of us to enjoy a round of golf at this fine 36 hole facility located in Silver Spring, MD. I encourage everyone to make an effort to attend. Rhys promises me that everyone who attends will have a good time.

As we embark on another new golf season, I want to reiterate to all of our members that the Board and I are always accessible. Please feel free to contact any of us through any means available to express any concerns, ideas, or questions you may have for the betterment of YOUR Association.



*Published five times annually by the
Mid-Atlantic Association of
Golf Course Superintendents*

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents

P. O. Box 1398, Abingdon, MD 21009-6398
Theresa Baria, Executive Secretary
(888) 643-8873
maagcs@earthlink.net

Turfgrass Matters Quent Baria, CGCS - Editor

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents. Products advertised in this publication are not endorsed by this Association