

***Past President's Report***  
***Tom Ritter, CGCS***

As I look back on my year as President in 2006, MAAGCS experienced some changes, some highs & lows and other situations that remained status quo. Here is a look back from my perspective on some items of note from last year.

Changes included a Board of Directors that shrunk from 11 to 9 members. We seemed to operate well with 9 serving on the Board but once again, the difficulty remains that these men shoulder the majority of the load of their committee chair assignment. If we could gather a little more support from the membership in 2007, I'm sure it would be very much appreciated. A time commitment as minor as offering to sell 50/50 tickets at meetings or offering to pick up hole sponsorship signs for the golf chairman would be helpful.

The meeting schedule was restructured in an attempt to accommodate the membership by eliminating the historically poorly attended June & early September golf meetings with satisfactory results. Chapter meeting attendance was 12% higher in 2006 than it was in 2005. It appears that by avoiding meeting dates during the hectic period from mid-May to mid-September, it was possible for more members to attend chapter meetings. Hopefully, this trend will continue in 2007. The March education seminar continued it's strong appeal to the membership with over 100 attendees again in 2006. The summer picnic, which had experienced declining attendance for several years was combined with the UMD Turfgrass Field Day and was a tremendous success with over 100 in attendance at that event as well. On the flip side, the net income from the Stewards of the Chesapeake tournament fell far short of projections.

Discounted corporate memberships were offered for the first time last year. The larger member companies were able to get more of their employees involved in MAAGCS without any negative financial impact on the association.

I was proud to be able to present a check for \$7000.00 to Dr. Dernoeden to use in his research efforts at the University of Maryland. I believe this to be a small price to pay for the research driven technical support that Dr. Dernoeden so willingly provides to Superintendents in the mid-Atlantic year after year.

It was an honor having served as President in 2006. I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire Board of Directors and Executive Secretary Theresa Baria for their support, encouragement, guidance, commitment, and flow of ideas throughout my term on the Board, and in particular, this past year as President.

Thank you also to all you members who participated or assisted in any way last year to make this a better association. Forms of support can range from meeting attendance to committee service to advertising to writing an article for the newsletter and the list goes on. Some of these seem like small matters, but collectively they all make a positive difference. As I officially finish my term in 2007 as Immediate Past President, I want to congratulate and look forward to serving my last year on the Board with the newly elected Officers and Directors. They are a talented group of individuals that you have elected. Consider lending them your ideas and support to make us a better association this year.

Finally, I want to wish all MAAGCS members a very successful and happy 2007!