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Well it's hard to believe that we are already looking towards the fall. It seemed like just the other day that the summer was starting. Just when we think the weather is starting to get the better of us and our golf courses begin to show signs of stress, we're over the hump. It just goes to show that no matter how stressful things become for us, we're only a few 85 degree days and 68 degree nights from turning the corner. I hope everyone managed to get through yet another record breaking summer in the Mid Atlantic this year. It seems only suitable that we break some sort of record on an annual basis in this region these days.

The Association also set a record a few weeks ago at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Stewards of the Chesapeake Golf Tournament at Sparrow's Point Country Club. Thanks to John Denholm and his staff for providing a great venue this year! Also thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions. Then, finally, thanks to Theresa Baria and everyone else who worked hard to make this a successful outing. This year we were able to raise more money than ever before. We had 84 total attendees, which included 78 golfers. With that turnout and the help of our sponsors we were able to raise \$14,000!

This money will be used to help fund various turfgrass and environmental research projects in the future. There are other studies that these funds can be devoted to also, like a current golf economic impact study that is being conducted right now. Mr. Jon Lobenstine, our Secretary Treasurer has teamed up with representatives of the Maryland State Golf Association and local chapters of the PGA and NGCOA to help develop the first ever golf economic impact study in the State of Maryland. These types of studies are important because they can help protect the future of the great game of golf. In order to help fund studies like this we need to devote money, and that's why golf outings like the Stewards of the Chesapeake are so important to our industry. Each one of you that sponsors, or attends, helps make this all possible.

The Mid Atlantic Association is in a very healthy position. We are continuing to see our membership base flourish with new members. Each of our Board members have been voting new members in with regularity throughout the year, and that trend continued even this past week. Welcome to all of our new members! We are proud to have you be a part of this great Association and look forward to meeting you at upcoming events.

In closing I want to wish everyone a safe and happy fall season. Let's hope we get some rain to help germinate some seed. We're certainly going to need it after the summer we have endured.

Sincerely,

Bryan McFerren, President, MAAGCS



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