

TurfgrassMatters

Summer 2017

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President's Report – Michael Bostian

Another unpredictable Mid-Atlantic summer is upon us, but will soon be coming to an end. At the time of writing this letter it is 58 days to the first NFL game of the year. There were only two days in the entire month of May with less than 30% cloud cover (courtesy Tom Tasselmyer). On those two days, we set record highs for the Baltimore area. June quickly followed and was dry as could be expected. Late in the first week of July, most all received some much-needed rainfall and allowed us to hit the reset button before the final push begins.

Hopefully, there were not many dings and dents to your facilities during June and July so your members have their properties healthy heading into the final stretch of summer. July has certainly placed a premium on water management. Some facilities went weeks without rain, while others took on more than they could handle. If it gets funky at your course I want to share some old words of advice. Sometimes the hardest thing for a superintendent to do is to do nothing. Last year, I followed this old adage with one of my greens, while only mowing it four times over a 2-week period. Backing off of mowing, rolling programs and herbicide applications will not be the end of the world. There will be a time and place in the near future to add those programs back into the rotation safely.

Hopefully, you have found some time to review the initial draft of our new state BMPs, and will offer input to improve the content. Our goal as an association will be to adopt these BMPs at the facility level down the road, so it is important that everyone understands what is currently in the document.

In June, we celebrated the careers of a few individuals. Dr. J. Kevin Mathias was joined by many peers as we celebrated the career of “The Good Doctor” at his retirement celebration on the University of Maryland campus. The turnout was awesome, and it was so cool to see all four of his students from his first class. They traveled from great distances to honor their friend, colleague and mentor.

Later in the month, we celebrated the career of Rick Fritz at Bretton Woods. Many MAAGCS members were on hand to celebrate the life of Rick Fritz at his scholarship fundraiser that will directly support programs at Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland. Over \$40,000 was raised and I thank all those who contributed in organizing this great event and for all who helped donate such a tremendous gift that will live on.

Sadly, we lost a dear friend of the association recently too. Tom Mynaugh will be missed by many and I am sorry that I never got to know him. I learned a lot about him from some of his close friends, and felt we could have been good friends if we had spent more time around each other. That's why I would like to continue to encourage our members to get out to events and keep meeting your colleagues around the region. I've grown so much professionally from the conversations at these meetings and gained many lifelong friends as well. We all share so many things in common just being in this industry, but it's the things you learn about people outside of the workplace that truly lead to special relationships.

Best wishes to all of you for a great summer season and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Michael Bostian



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UMD Field Day Recap – Chase Rogan

Over 100 Gather for Education, Networking, Crabs, BBQ, and Cornhole

Research is a huge driver in our business, and it's always neat to learn about the such initiatives at turf schools around the region and country. On July 12, over 100 individuals from various sectors of our industry — superintendents, professors, vendors, National Parks Service, lawn care, and more — gathered at the Paint Branch Turfgrass Research Facility in College Park to hear about the latest and greatest coming out of the University of Maryland.

It was a *cool day* for mid-July in the Mid-Atlantic region, as it only reached about 94 degrees with high humidity that could make an arm pit stink. But that didn't take away from a great event filled with education, networking, crabs, BBQ, and cornhole.

With regard to the research, we learned about an array of projects including:

- Evaluation of new fungicides to control dollar spot disease and reduce summer stress in creeping bentgrass fairways
- Examining fungicide programs for limiting common diseases on putting green turf in the Mid-Atlantic
- Evaluation of warm season turfgrasses and Best Management Practices to maximize warm season turf performance
- Fertility, mowing, weed, and disease management in tall fescue turfgrass
- Evaluations of cool-season turfgrass cultivars for drought tolerance and low maintenance applications
- Long-term evaluation of strategies to reduce fertilizer use and runoff from lawn turf

Some of these projects (organic inputs) are a response to ongoing pesticide and fertilizer restrictions within Montgomery County and the state of Maryland. I commend the program for keeping up with this work and going above and beyond to create BMPs for managing lawn turf and gather loads of relevant data that is used to educate policymakers. And it's all pretty interesting work.

If you are interested in learning more about these projects, I'm sure Drs. Carroll, Roberts, and Turner would be happy to talk about their research. Also in the news for the day, the program announced the hiring of Geoff Rinehart, turfgrass lecturer, who was most recently the coordinator of the National Arboretum's 'Grass Roots' initiative, which includes a 1.3-acre interactive turfgrass exhibit.

Lastly, a big shout out to the boys of "The Smoke's on U." This is a group of industry guys who do competitive BBQ competitions, and provided the mouth-watering aromas and meats for the day. Some of the best brisket I've ever had!

Their team consists of Michael Bostian (MAAGCS president; superintendent at Waverly Woods Golf Club), Chris Fernandes (superintendent at Northwest Golf Course), Jeff Snyder (Helena), and Dave Haber (Turf Equipment Supply Co.).

Great job gentlemen!



Bo Jumbercotta, Jeff Berg and Jeff Marvin





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Chesapeake Challenge Recap

MAAGCS Captures the Chesapeake Challenge in a Playoff

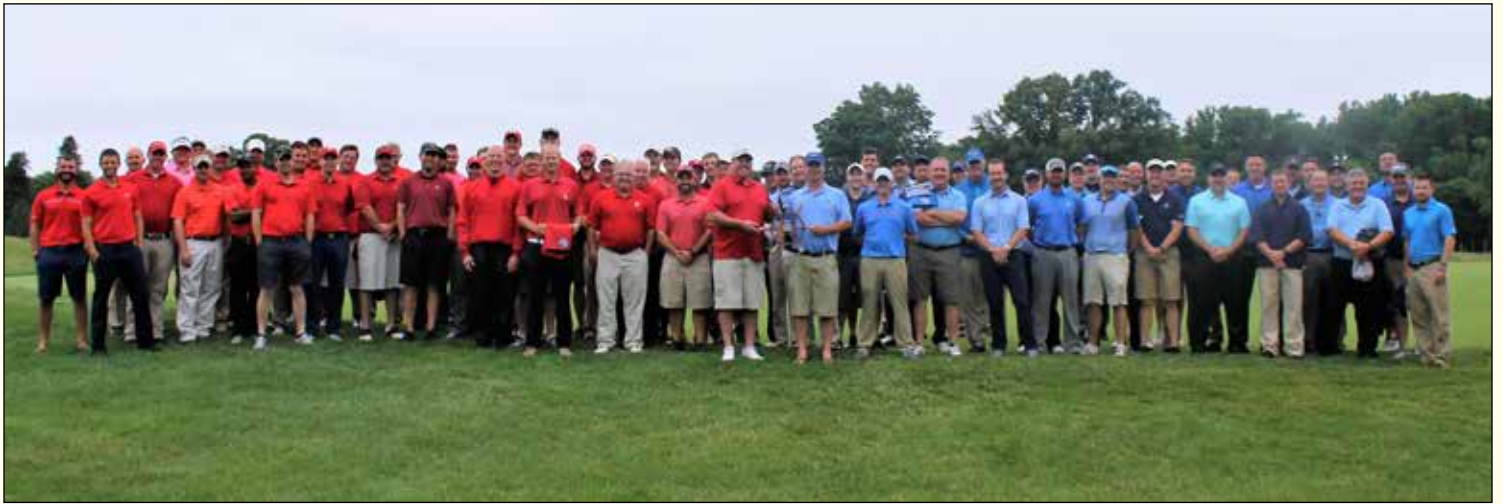
The Chesapeake Challenge is an annual event, pitting VGCSA vs ESAGCS at Queenstown Harbor. The event kicked off with an educational program — Stacey Kingsbury and Shelia Finney provided us with a BMP update and a GCSAA update. Following a BBQ lunch, it was time for the match play event.

It was one for the ages, as MAAGCS looked to win for the first time in the event's history. After all scores were turned in, and not one match was

halved, the two teams stood dead even at 10 points apiece. It would be a playoff between the associations' presidents, with Mike Bostian representing MAAGCS and Tom Tipton representing ESAGCS.

At the ultimate risk-reward, driveable par-4 fourth hole, Tipton attempted to drive the green, but hit it right and found the water. Bostian opted to lay up and his ball ran just

through the fairway into a safe position to pitch onto the green. Both players found the green with their next shot, with Bostian lying two and Tipton three, after taking a drop from the hazard, it all came down to the flat-stick. Tipton narrowly missed his bid for par and Bostian cozied his birdie attempt close to the cup. With that stroke, Tipton conceded Bostian's par, and MAAGCS claimed their first win at the Chesapeake Challenge!



The Mid-Atlantic donned the red, while Eastern Shore donned the blue.

ESAGCS		MAAGCS	
Cowing	2 UP	Harrison	Doye
Edson	2 UP	Cross	Fumaco
Osann	2 UP	Down	Hickman
Seal	2 UP	Cox	Phillips
Brandt	2 UP	Evans	Thomas
Andres	2 UP	Finch	Mitchell
Howard	2 UP	Wallace	Wunder
Lawson	2 UP	Miles	Hall
Nehls	2 UP	Kilgus	Rice
Swender	2 UP	Downell	Bostian
Swaney	2 UP	Hickman	Gammie
Smith	2 UP	Muller	Leaming
Vasquez	2 UP	Chapin	Janney
Nauman	2 UP	Hard	Knecht
Pinard	2 UP	Franc	Wagner
Ch	2 UP	Ernesto	Reister
Kanski	2 UP	Bennett	Wingard
McKercher	2 UP	Jones	Langum
Holley	2 UP	Smith	Polley
Wideman	2 UP	Larson	Tracy
ESAGCS TOTAL		MAAGCS TOTAL	
10		10	

The matches were tied after "regulation."



Mike Bostian (L) finally wrestled the Captain's Wheel away from Tom Tipton.



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USGA Green Section Report - Addison Barden

Improving Your Maintenance Operation Using New Technologies

Earlier this season I had the opportunity to attend the Assistant's Meeting hosted by the busy team at Trump National Golf Club, Washington DC, which focused on annual bluegrass weevils. It was a terrific event led by Sam Camuso, Territory Manager with Syngenta, who demonstrated the latest sampling techniques and control options. Sam made the meeting interesting and provided great information on one of the most problematic pests in our region. It was great to see the interaction and dialog between all of the assistants in attendance.

It's no secret that the industry is struggling to recruit and retain assistant superintendents, and it's easy to look at the future and feel uneasy about the challenges this issue presents. However, through events like this one at Trump National Golf Club it is clear that the MAAGCS is committed to helping their assistant superintendent members succeed. The association's numerous meetings and networking/social events geared solely to assistants shows that the association recognizes the importance of these members to the day-to-day success of their employers, and also the future of the golf industry in the Mid-Atlantic region.

All assistants in our region should make it a priority to attend as many MAAGCS events and university field days as possible, especially those events hosted specifically for assistants. Attending these meetings is a great way to discuss what programs are (or aren't) working at your course, grow your network, and to also just get away from the course for a while and relax with friends. Superintendents should also encourage your assistants to attend these meetings. Despite how busy you are, it's important to give your assistant a few much needed hours away from the golf course.

The importance of continued education and networking cannot be overstated. Events like this are perfect for professional development. Furthermore, these type of meetings are what can make the difference in keeping assistants fresh and in the business. In this tight-knit industry it's important to build relationships with peers early in our career so we can enjoy the good times together while also helping each other through the hard times on and off the course. I'd like to thank the Trump National maintenance team who hosted us just several weeks prior to the 2017 Senior PGA Championship; no doubt a very busy time for them.



Addison Barden

USGA Green Section Agronomist
abarden@USGA.org



Save this Date – Thursday, September 21, 2017

MAAGCS Social Hour

The Green Turtle Sports Bar & Grille • Mt. Airy, MD

The MAAGCS will be hosting a Social Hour at The Green Turtle Sports Bar & Grille in Mt. Airy, MD on Thursday, September 21, from 3-6 pm. This is also the first round of the Tour Championship, the culminating event of the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup.



All MAAGCS members are encouraged attend for drinks, appetizers and camaraderie. As always, it should be a great time and plenty of fellowship with your colleges.



There is no official registration for this **FREE** event so please bring your assistants, mechanics and any staff members.



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GCSAA Report – Chase Rogan

GCSAA Happenings

Summer is a busy time for our members for obvious reasons. During this busy time, gcsaa.org is a great website to keep up to date with current news and initiatives around the industry. For example, we have our Advocacy Hub, that keeps you current on issues affecting our industry, and issues that we need you to engage in. Our “Take Action” tool is great for raising your voice, and takes you through necessary steps to send a note to your Congressman or Congresswoman, and all you need to do is click a couple buttons and fill in some pertinent information.

Our refurbished mobile app is littered with resources, all at the tip of your fingers. Included in the app is current news, job postings, twitter and Facebook feeds, the GCSAA directory, GCM Magazine, and the GCSAA Calculator. With the calculator, members can perform cost calculations such as cost of mowing, cost per nutrient, cost of topdressing, and more. It also has other great features that help determine and calculate seeding and sprigging rates, compare products on a cost per active ingredient or cost per nutrient basis, and much more. The app can be downloaded from the app store by searching “GCSAA+.”

The Can Am Cup is coming to Baltusrol and Canoe Brook Country Club on October 23 and 24. Registration is limited, and will include great education and networking opportunities, as well as competitive golf at world-class venues. Sign up to help U.S. superintendents take the crown against our Canadian friends at this inaugural event.

If you are a Class A or B GCSAA member and have not been to GIS in 5 years or more, consider applying for the Melrose Leadership Academy this fall. This a great program that supports the professional development of GCSAA members by providing individuals the opportunity to attend the Golf Industry Show. The program is set up to provide up to 20 scholarships every year. While at the education conference, class members will attend sessions hosted by golf’s industry leaders. Attendees will also have extensive networking opportunities at various receptions and events. I’ve heard nothing but positive remarks from those who have attended, so look for the application process to open later this year.



Chase Rogan
GCSAA Field Staff
Mid-Atlantic Representative
chaser@gcsaa.org
800-472-7878, ext. 3609

Save this Date – Monday, October 16, 2017

The Stewards of the Chesapeake presented by



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Host Superintendent

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Visit www.maagcs.org for tournament information and to register.

Supporting Turfgrass Research, Scholarships & Government Relations

In past years, money from this event has been allocated to supporting the BMP project. As this project in the final stages, funds from this year's tournament will be used to support local turfgrass research, turfgrass student scholarships as well as our Mid-Atlantic turfgrass lobbyist. In 2017 alone, MAAGCS will be contributing \$15,000 to the University of Maryland's research initiatives which include examining turfgrass microbiomes and alternative fungicide products.



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Government Relations Update – Eric David

BMP Final Draft Released

The Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents recently released the final draft of the best management practices (BMP) for the region. The document covers general turf management and how a golf facility can create environmental sustainability. The project has taken years to complete and covers environmental areas such as water quality, water conservation, energy conservation, and pollution prevention. The text clearly outlines goals to become a successful BMP facility. With the help of the GCSAA BMP template, as well as University of Maryland recommendations, a superintendent has a guideline for improving a golf course facility.

The BMPs can be used to create consistency amongst management of golf courses resources and become more environmentally conscious. Today, many facilities already use the ideas and tactics outlined in the document. As government regulators continue to create laws that affect our industry, the BMPs become an important tool to show that golf is proactive in its approach to the environment. Nothing beats sound documentation when questions arise about how golf is impacting the environment. Since the BMPs thoroughly cover such a wide range of topics, golf course superintendents now essentially have a manual to fall back on when questions arise about maintenance practices.

In today's ever changing environment, the golf industry will only see an increase in rules and regulation over the next several years. As the Mid-Atlantic GCS, we have to create ways to protect our industry and livelihood by getting ahead of the lawmakers in Annapolis. The BMP document will show these officials how responsible we are as an industry and can be used as a resource to educate them in the future.



Eric David
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Rick Fritz Tournament Recap

Rick Fritz Memorial Event Raises Over \$40K for Turf Research!

On Friday, June 23rd, Bretton Woods hosted a special event in honor of our friend Rick Fritz of Bayer, who passed away in September last year. The purpose of the event was to raise money to be donated to the University of Maryland and Virginia Tech research programs, in the name of Rick and his family.

Kicking off the event was a cookout style lunch and a chance to bid on silent auction items donated by many of the event sponsors. A putting contest followed, and then everyone got together for a special group photo that would be presented to the Fritz family at the evening's reception dinner that would follow the golf tournament.

The reception dinner was a special event in

itself. Not only was it a time for many of Rick's family and friends to share their personal stories about Rick, it was also Rick's daughter, Lindsey's birthday. Emotions ran high with lots of laughter and tears. A special thank you goes out to everyone that helped make this

event so special. With the help of the event committee, all of the generous sponsors and over 100 attendees, the event was a complete success. The final amount raised for the turf research programs was over \$40,000!

More photos on Page 17



Family and friends gather for the Rick Fritz Memorial Event

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Getting to Know Ted Huhn



Ted Huhn
theodore.huhn@basf.com

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How did you get into the pesticide business?

I got into the pesticide business for two reasons. First, my father's best friend worked the Ag chemical market as I was growing up. Mr. Maxwell had me look at his entomology books when we visited. Mostly, to keep me quiet. I liked the bugs. I followed his lead and got a degree in entomology from the University of Delaware. This degree landed me my first "real" job. Although I worked on the railroad as brakeman, US air forces, and in high school and college I worked in a tool and die shop.

My first job out of college was Imperial Chemical Industries. I was the sixth man employed for their new sales force in the US. I traveled all over the US working the corn and cotton markets. Then I took a job with Zoecon. Zoecon was the first to develop insect growth regulators. Killing bugs without toxicity was very interesting to me. I wanted to learn more. Zoecon was bought by Sandoz. Sandoz developed Barricade, Sentinel and Paclobutrazol. Sandoz sold out to Syngenta (turf and ornamental products) and BASF (Ag products).

I went to work for Fisher and Son as a distributor sales representative. This move was mostly to reduce travel to be with my young family. BASF came looking for someone that could work crops and sell their new turf products. Here I am 20 years later.

What excites you most about the MAAGCS in 2017?

"Best Management Practices" is the most important goal for golf to date. There have been many advancements throughout the turf industry. Water usage, learning to control new insects pests like ABWs, advanced equipment, better turf varieties, and controlled release fertilizers. BMPs are proactive ways for golf to show the public they're doing more than their best to be good neighbors and protect the environment.

What are your goals in your role with the MAAGCS?

My current goal as a board member of the Mid-Atlantic is to help increase funding for scholarships. I hope to do this with a silent auction during the educational seminar. Education is the key to advancing in any industry. Our current scholarship funding is modest. Hopefully a larger funding will attract more interest in using these scholarships for personal advancement



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GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Program

GCSAA Seeks Volunteers for the Grassroots Ambassador Program

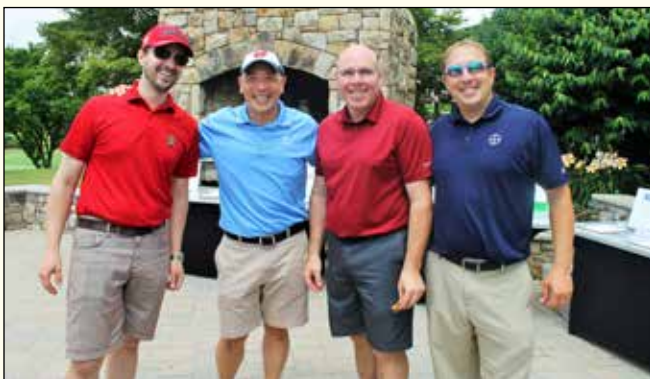
GCSAA would like to invite you to help shape the future of the golf course management profession as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. GCSAA is seeking enthusiastic, motivated members to build a proactive relationship with a Member of Congress and ensure our voice is being heard in Capitol Hill. The link between the Member of Congress and the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador is based on golf facility location, and there are four districts (2, 4, 5 & 7) in Maryland that have not been filled.

The map shows the location of each district and below you will find the representative for each district currently without an ambassador. If you are an MAAGCS member in one of these districts and are interested in becoming a Grassroots Ambassador you can contact **Chase Rogan** at chaser@gcsaa.org or visit www.gcsaa.org/advocacy/get-involved/ambassadors for more information.

- MD-02 – Dutch Ruppersberger
- MD-04 – Anthony Brown
- MD-05 – Steny Hoyer
- MD-07 – Elijah Cummings



Rick Fritz Tournament Highlights



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End of season roots tells all



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Assistants Corner – Mark Jones

Hot Summer Days

Summer is finally here! During these hot stressful months, we spend so much time taking care of the turf that sometimes we need to take a step back and care for ourselves and our staff members. There are various ways to keep staff safe, hydrated and healthy during the long work days.

Summer Treat Suggestions

There are many different creative ways you can help your staff to endure even the hottest of days. We at Baltimore Country Club have the 90-degree rule. Once the temperature of the day reaches 90 degrees, we provide a 10-gallon cooler of Gatorade that is accessible to staff for them to use as necessary. Around the 4th of July we treat our staff to a snowball machine for a week as a cooler option. I have also heard of other courses providing certain foods for lunch, such as watermelon and other hydrating fruits. If your facility provides the staff with lunch, please keep in mind what foods are acceptable during a hot day. Encourage smart choices from your staff if they choose to bring their own lunch. Foods such as soups or dairy are not good ideas, as food should be light but filling to provide long lasting energy.

Planning Ahead

If you know that it will be hot outside and jobs are going to demand physical labor, such as push mowing or string trimming, it is best to do those in the morning before the heat of the day. If your staff has to work during peak sun hours, encourage them to wear proper apparel, such as large hats to protect themselves from the rays of the sun. They can also wear light clothing that breathes to reduce body heat. Sunscreen should also be used and reapplied as the day continues.

Staff Safety

When working out in the heat and humidity, the health of the staff is important to monitor. Two key things to watch and look out for are heat exhaustion and dehydration. Heat exhaustion is caused by physical activity in hot temperatures and high humidity. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, dizziness, feeling faint, or fatigue. Dehydration symptoms include a dry mouth, increased thirst, dry skin and dizziness. To combat these from occurring, encourage breaks and try to accommodate working during cooler times or in the shade, if possible. It is also good to drink cool water or sports drinks to replace electrolytes.

At the end of the day, we can't do this job alone. Always remember to take the time to say thanks to the staff for working in harsh conditions. It is vital we take care of them so they can continue to do a fantastic job taking care of our high maintenance facilities.



Mark Jones
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2018 Golf Industry Show Give Away



2018 Golf Industry Show Give Away

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the GCSAA is giving away a chance for a MAAGCS Superintendent Member to attend the 2018 GIS in San Antonio, TX, February 3-8, 2018.

* All Superintendent members that have paid their 2017 MAAGCS dues will be eligible to win. Each superintendent member will automatically have one (1) ticket in the "pot" for just being a member in 2017.

Participation Reward

Superintendent members can earn up to a total of 5 tickets in the "pot" by attending any of the eligible events. The eligible 2017 events to increase your odds of winning are listed below:

- 2017 Annual Education Seminar
- MAAGCS Social Events – 4 free opportunities
- Superintendent and Assistant Challenge
- Participating in the Match Play Championship
- The Chesapeake Challenge
- UMD Turfgrass Research Field Day
- Stewards of the Chesapeake
- The MAAGCS Annual Championship

The Winner will receive \$2,000.00 to go towards attending the Golf Industry Show

- \$500.00 for Airfare
- \$500.00 for Registration
- \$500.00 for Hotel
- \$500.00 for Education and Per Diem

The Fine Print

- The drawing for the Superintendent winner will be held on Nov. 15th 2017.
- The winner will be notified that day and will be asked to attend the Annual Meeting at Argyle Country Club to accept their award. The winner should be present at the joint reception in San Antonio as well.
- Winner will not receive any fees until MAAGCS has confirmation that registration for GIS 2018 has been completed.
- Stipend for GIS is transferrable to any MAAGCS Superintendent member of the winner's choice.

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Letter from the Editor – Tyler Bloom

As the sun sets on a beautiful 85 degree evening in Baltimore, I can't help but wonder what I was thinking 8 years ago? The hidden chapters of turfgrass management. All kidding aside, it has been a very busy and good season for many. The dog days of summer are giving us all a good reason to look forward to upcoming MAAGCS events. David Norman and Tyler Eastham have kept things moving smoothly on the Board's end, and their continued communication has kept everyone in the loop on upcoming events. Thanks to our vendors who have stopped by and provided a therapy session or two.

If you're looking for motivation, I think it is easy to remind yourself of the role of mentor and leader. Staff members feed off your energy during these tough stretches, and setting an example to overcome these adverse conditions will translate to a more upbeat staff. We put a high level of intrinsic pressure on ourselves to outperform the past and raise the bar. However, don't beat yourselves up too much. Your attitude will go a long way in determining the morale of your staff.

Recently, one of my staff members asked me what he needed to do to earn an assistant type role. I quickly realized despite the challenges and hardships of the golf season, we have an opportunity every day to make an impact. Find time to periodically thank your staff and give them feedback. This is the support system we are all relying on most, and they need to be coached up to maintain their own interest.

The best communicators and those who can remain calm always seem to come out looking good regardless of how ugly your turf may look. It is really neat to see the social media action throughout the industry as we all deal with a variety of challenges regardless if it is irrigation, staffing, disease, etc.

Don't lose focus on the bigger picture either - your family. Grinding through these days is not easy, but it is easy to lose sight of who sacrifices a lot for us to be able to perform our jobs. There's only so much you can control and without the help of Mother Nature, we're exposed to challenging times. Your family shouldn't take on this burden either, so find ways to connect with them and provide the attention they need.

On a positive note, football season is right around the corner. Most of us are chomping at the bit for aeration and cooler night time temperatures. The Stewards of the Chesapeake event at Baltimore Country Club will be quite the experience for many and a perfect end of season disconnect.

Warm Regards,
Tyler Bloom



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Upcoming Schedule of Events

Thurs., September 21: MAAGCS Tour Championship Social Event, The Green Turtle, Mt. Airy, MD

Wed., September 27: MTC/UMD Golf Tournament for Turfgrass Research competing for the Cammorata Cup, Queenstown Harbor Golf Course, Queenstown Harbor, MD

Wed., October 11: First Green Event, Westminster National, Westminster, MD - Volunteers Needed!

Mon., October 16: MAAGCS Stewards of the Chesapeake Presented by Landscape Supply, Baltimore Country Club, Luthersville-Timonium, MD

Mon., October 30: MAAGCS / VGCSA Assistants Forum, Belmont Country Club, Ashburn, VA

Mon., November 6: MAAGCS Annual Championship, Woodmont Country Club, Rockville, MD

Tues., December 12: MAAGCS Annual Meeting, Argyle Country Club, Silver Spring, MD

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