

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Winter 2020

President's Message

Thank you for your trust and confidence in allowing me to serve as President of the VGCSA. There are many great people who have served in this capacity before me. I will do my very best to properly guide and represent our association during my tenure.

There will be several changes to the members of the board this year. Mike Mueller will take over as Vice-President and we welcome Matt Drayton at the Federal Club to serve as Secretary / Treasurer. Those of you who have played Matt's course know that it is a gem. I am confident that he will bring that same level of competence to our board. Bill Keene moves to Past President. Thank you Bill for your great leadership during the past two years. You have represented us well!

Mark Cote, who has served as Past President for the past two years is leaving the board after his many years of dedicated board service. We will miss his quick wit and dry humor, but most importantly his guidance, leadership, and friendship. Our Assistant Representative, Josh Peters, will also be leaving us. Josh has been a valuable contributor this year. In fact, he just finished hosting the Assistants Forum at his home club,



Springfield Golf & Country Club. We wish them both the best!

This is my second run on the VGCSA board. I was fortunate to serve on the initial board as the External VP for the TTA in 1998 - 2000. The organization was much different then. It all started when Peter McDonough drove around the state telling us we needed to form a state chapter. He attended every local association meeting that year. He was met with a lot of resistance, but he was persistent. Eventually, he convinced at least one representative from each chapter to meet at Keswick in the summer of 1998. More meetings were held at Keswick in the fall of 1998 and the VGCSA was finally off the ground in January 1999.

That was only 22 years ago. In that short time, our association has grown to be one of the most innovative and influential chapters in GCSAA. We enjoy warm relations with the VSGA, Middle Atlantic PGA, CMAA, and the Mid-Atlantic GCOA. I believe we (that means all of us) did what we set out to do in the summer of 1998 - to unify and elevate the

status of superintendents, provide education, and advocate for our profession. To those who have served before us...job well done! I can promise you that the current board will do everything we can to continue that progress.

What is in store for next year? Who knows? You can be sure that we will continue to remain flexible and adapt as needed to deliver value to our members and our vendor partners. The board will meet next month to determine our plans for the year.

None of our programs and services would be possible without the support of our partners. They provide the critical funding needed to keep the association going. Please keep that in mind when making your purchasing decisions. They have supported us, please support them as well!



Jeff Whitmire
CGCS
President



2021 VGCSA Board of Directors

VGCSA Officers

President

Jeff Whitmire, CGCS
Williamsburg Golf Club
1801 Merrimac Trail
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Cell: 757-291-2286
E-Mail: jeffwcc1@gmail.com

Vice President

Mike Mueller
Herndon Centennial Golf Course
1270 Old Heights Road
Herndon, VA 22070
Ph: 703-435-6864 / Cell: 571-221-0133
E-Mail: mueller68@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Matt Drayton
The Federal Club
10305 Sanbet Ct.
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Cell: 540-223-3403
E-mail: mrdrayton@gmail.com

Past President

Bill Keene
Blacksburg Country Club
1064 Clubhouse Rd.
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Ph: 540-552-2461 / Fax: 540-552-0461
Cell: 540-537-1096
E-Mail: bkeene@blacksburgcc.com

VGCSA External Vice-Presidents

Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association

Jay Wade
Magnolia Green Golf Club
7001 Creekshire Dr.
Moseley, VA 23120
Cell: 804-245-6666
E-Mail: jwade@magnoliagreengolfclub.com

Tidewater Turfgrass Association

Tim Doran
Elizabeth Manor G&CC
1 Ace Parker Drive
Portsmouth, VA 23701
Ph: 757-434-9712
E-Mail: timdoran@emgcc.com

Virginia Turfgrass Association

Sean Baskette
Hidden Valley Country Club
2500 Romar Rd.
Salem, VA 24153
Cell: 540-892-9299
E-Mail: hvccmaint@comcast.net

Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association

David Walter
Potomac Shores Golf Club
1750 Dunnington Place
Potomac Shores, VA 22026
Ph: 703-300-2594
Email: dwalter@troon.com

Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association

Ed Eagle, CGCS
2410 Bare St., Apt. 5
Staunton, VA 24401
Cell: 540-292-0019
E-mail: Eeagle522@gmail.com

Staff

Executive Director

David Norman
VGCSA
15 Quail Run Dr.
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103
Ph: 804-708-9760 / Cell: 804-399-7802
E-Mail: dnorman008@gmail.com

Chapter Executive

Tyler Eastham
VGCSA
15 Quail Run Dr.
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103
Ph: 804-708-9760 / Cell: 757-329-3577
E-mail: teastham@gmail.com

Lobbyist

Robb Bohannon
Hunton Andrews & Kurth
Riverfront Plaza, East Tower
951 East Byrd St.
Richmond, VA 23219
Ph: 804-788-8375 / Cell: 804-614-7542
Email: Rbohannon@huntonak.com

At-Large Board Members

Assistant Superintendent

Open

Associate

Eric Snelsire
Bayer
5 Candytuft Lane
Berlin, MD 21811
Ph: 412-977-3882
Email: eric.snelsire@bayer.com

General Counsel

M.E. "Dick" Gibson, Jr.
Tremblay & Smith, PLLC
105-109 East High Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Ph: 434-977-4455
E-mail: dick.gibson@tremblaysmith.com

Talina Hammonds
Administrative Assistant
Tremblay & Smith, PLLC
105-109 East High St.
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Email: talina.hammonds@tremblaysmith.com
Ph: 434-977-4455

Conference Comes to You Program

A Joint Virtual Event with CGCSA

Continuing Through December 18

SPECIAL DISCOUNT CODE: VA2020



VGCSA Presenting Sponsors



Virginia GCSA is proud to partner with the Carolinas GCSA in an online conference to satisfy members' ongoing education needs during the coronavirus pandemic. The Conference Comes to You program includes 30 distinct seminars scheduled – it continues through December 18th.

Using a tailored Zoom platform, the two-hour seminars are presented live each day at 1 pm EST by some of the leading researchers, scientists, and experts in their field. All seminars will carry GCSAA education points, and VGCSA has arranged for pesticide recertification credits thru VDACS for participants who complete at least two webinars.

As official partners with the Carolinas GCSA in this effort, Virginia GCSA members will receive designated member pricing for every seminar, discounted from \$70 to \$40 per program. The discount code for VGCSA members is [VA2020](#).

In addition to first-class education, our members are eligible to share in \$30,000

worth of cash giveaways. A total of 82 prizes – ranging from \$100 to \$2,500 - will be drawn, live on the Carolinas GCSA Facebook page at 1 pm EST on December 21. Each seminar you take qualifies you for one entry. The more seminars you take, the more chances you have to win. To validate your entry, you must watch a series of brief messages from our Industry Partners.

VGCSA benefits from your participation. A portion of each registration fee paid for by Virginia GCSA members comes back to the chapter. So, the more seminars you take, the more our chapter “wins.” Registration and complete conference information is available NOW through a purpose-built website, instructions and a link to register are available on our website and in our digital newsletter.

More than three dozen chapters like ours, plus BIGGA, the British International Golf Greenkeepers Association, have become official Conference Comes to You partners.

“This platform benefits everyone involved, and the more people who participate the more benefit there will be for everyone,” Carolinas GCSA president, Brian Stiehler, CGCS, MG from Highlands Country Club in Highlands, NC, says. “We see many visitors from across the country and overseas at our traditional Conference and Show each year. So, in these extraordinary times, when we can't be face to face, it made sense for our conference to go ‘see’ them.”

EVENT LINEUP (1-3 pm, all events; recorded viewing available)

Nov. 2 - The Benefits of Oxygen: How to Maintain Oxygen Levels in our Root Zone, Dave L. Doherty

Nov. 3 - Holy Grail – Warm-Season Turfgrass, S. Bruce Martin, Ph.D., Jim P. Kerns, Ph.D., J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.

Nov. 4 - Talent Acquisition and Recruitment Strategies, Tyler G. Bloom

Nov. 5 - Advanced Weed Management – Warm Season, Bert McCarty, Ph.D.

Nov. 6 - So You've Got Earthworms!, Paige E. Boyle, Ph.D.

Other VGCSA Sponsors



Conference Comes to You Program

A Joint Virtual Event with CGCSA

(Continued)

Nov. 9 - Putting the “Fun” in Fungicides: Fungicide Program Development and Dealing with Bugs and Crud in Cool-Season Turf, Jim P. Kerns, Ph.D., Lee Butler

Nov. 10 - Aquatic Plant Management – An Introduction to Keeping Your Ponds Free of Unsightly Plants and Algae, Rob J. Richardson, Ph.D

Nov. 11 - Mindful Greenkeeping in Stressful Times, Paul MacCormack

Nov. 12 - Advanced Weed Management – Cool-Season, Fred H. Yelverton, Ph.D.

Nov. 13 - POA Resistance – The Ins and Outs and Dos and Don’ts, Jim T. Brosnan, Ph.D.

Nov. 16 - Bunker Construction – How to Avoid Digging Yourself into a Hole, Adam Moeller

Nov. 17 - Advanced and Cost-Effective Management of Insect Pests of Warm Season Turf, Rick L. Brandenburg, Ph.D.

Nov. 18 - Fertilizers – Getting the Right Form and Function, Beth A. Guertal,

Ph.D., Grady L. Miller, Ph.D.

Nov. 19 - Annual Bluegrass Weevil Master Class: Proactive Management for Ever-Changing Environments, Ben A. McGraw, Ph.D

Nov. 20 - Understanding Pesticide Behavior to Optimize Applications and Minimize Collateral Damage, Travis W. Gannon, Ph.D

Nov. 30 - The Challenge of Managing Nematodes in Turf, Bruce Martin, Ph.D

Dec. 1 - Plant Growth Regulators for Fine Warm-Season Turf, Jim T. Brosnan, Ph.D.

Dec. 2 - Badass Leadership! The Power of Purpose, Compassion, and Authenticity, Gina D. Rizzi

Dec. 3 - Plant Growth Regulators for Fine Cool-Season Turf, Bill D. Kreuser, Ph.D., Doug J. Soldat, Ph.D.

Dec. 4 - Fundamentals of Wetting Agents, Doug J. Soldat, Ph.D.

Dec. 7 - Making Herbicides Work and Why They Sometimes Fail, Travis W. Gannon, Ph.D., Bert McCarty, Ph.D.

Dec. 8 - Getting to the Root of Managing Soilborne Diseases – Warm Season Turfgrass, Jim P. Kerns, Ph.D.

Dec. 9 - Bugs in a Jug: Understanding Natural Products for Turf, Joseph A. Roberts, Ph.D.

Dec. 10 - Getting to the Root of Managing Soilborne Diseases - Cool-Season Turfgrass, Gerald (Lee) Miller Jr., Ph.D

Dec. 11 - How Much Shade is Too Much Shade? Mike D. Richardson, Ph.D.

Dec. 14 - Bentgrass Selection Management, Dan Dinelli, CGCS, Derek Settle, Ph.D.

Dec. 15 - Management of Ultradwarf Bermudagrass, Jared R. Nemitz, Nelson J. Caron

Dec. 16 - BMP HERO! Scene 1: “Bees, Buffers and Bourbon”, Gina D. Rizzi

Dec. 17 - Holy Grail – Cool Season, Brandon J. Horvath, Ph.D, John E. Kaminiski, Ph.D., Frank S. Rossi, Ph.D.

Dec. 18 - The ‘Other’ Essential Elements, and Some that Might Be, Beth A. Guertal, Ph.D

Virginia Tech Fundraiser Nets over \$50K Fourth Year in a Row



Virginia Turfgrass
FOUNDATION



The VGCSA Board and their VTC partners are pleased to announce the results of the 2020 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, held on August 31st at Independence Golf Club. For the fourth consecutive year, the tournament raised over \$50,000! The final amount is \$55,263.03. During the year, \$10,000 went directly to supported current research, including Dr. McCall’s project and the 2nd Edition of the BMP Manual.

A check for \$45,263.03 to the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation will support turfgrass research in Virginia.

This tremendous success took a huge effort by the Tournament Committee - a debt of thanks to all of them. Sponsors remained steadfast in their support, including Hokie Patrons Harrell’s and Landscape Supply (\$5K each) and BASF and Virginia Green (\$4K

each). It is truly amazing to achieve this level of success in a pandemic and the committee thanks ALL sponsors!

Next year’s event is planned for Monday, May 17, 2021 at Independence Golf Club. The Field Day will feature research trials on the club’s Short Course. Details are being finalized for the event.

Mauldin Recognized for Environmental Stewardship



Scott Mauldin, CGCS of Powhatan and The Foundry Golf Club has been recognized by the VGCSA as winner of the 2020 VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award. The award is presented “in recognition of distinguished and meritorious service in the environmental stewardship of Virginia golf courses, and in grateful appreciation for unselfishly promoting the profession of golf course management, which led to the advancement of the association.”

Mauldin’s first introduction to golf came growing up in Charlotte, NC, when his grandfather would take him out to the golf course. Like many high school students, he had no idea what college he wanted to attend. Then he heard that NC State had started a turf program, and that was a way to work on a golf course. Prior to college, his first golf job was at a municipal course, Charles T. Myers in Charlotte – he earned tickets to play golf. This allowed him to see behind the scenes, before entering State.

His first job in turf was as a summer intern at Myers Park Country Club during their renovation around 1991. There he worked on spraying and irrigation, then it was back to school. After graduation, his first job was as a spray tech at Carmel Country Club. Then the City of Concord was building a course, Rocky River Golf Club. He learned a lot working with Peter DeJak followed by Bland Cooper (now a PGA Tour agronomist) – he was there 6-7 years.

His next opportunity was at Jacksonville Country Club on the NC coast. He continued to enhance the property for 7 years, then he was ready for a move. PGA member Jason Baile helped recruit him to The Foundry in 2007. The Foundry was doing a complete renovation, including irrigation. During construction, he thought of getting the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designation, which was difficult. It was 2010 when they started planning for Audubon and it took a year to get it. It involves a comprehensive course assessment in various disciplines. The process allowed reduced chemicals, reduced water and improving water management overall. They grew native areas and limited the footprint of mowers. They have been recertified three times since. His philosophy is to keep the course natural – very natural and flowing.

Wildlife abounds at The Foundry. You will see heron, bears, coyotes, and birds (bluebirds, finch, hawks, and bald eagles), deer, turkey and ducks. There are plenty of foxes, including a

family that tried to make a den in a putting green.

Mauldin manages buffer zones on Fine Creek and other streams and ponds on the property. They just got a new Rain Bird irrigation system, which allows them to manage each individual head. This saves water, it’s the wave of future, with more precise controls. It was designed by Paul Roche, with all controls on your cell phone. Mauldin also uses various moisture meters for managing water throughout the property. Another innovation is buried soil sensors by Spiio, Inc., which sends data to your phone.

When asked about environmental stewardship by superintendents, he said, “We do it every day, so it’s geared into our minds. For instance, draining water to a flat plain instead of diverting it to a creek or spot spraying to reduce the use of chemicals. It’s what we do!”

Mauldin feels lucky to work for a club president who is not a micro-manager, Billy Stinson. The club strives for “understated elegance” according to Mike Barr, one of the founders of the club with 310 members.

“To sum it up,” he said, “every year I strive to keep balance with family and work, stay educated, and to keep having fun and stay on top.”

His family includes wife Tina, his High School sweetheart, and daughters Madison (18) who is at East Carolina University, and Sam (16), who attends Monacan HS. And you can’t forget Cooper, the bulldog.

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Eagle Recognized for Distinguished Service



Ed Eagle, CGCS of Staunton, VA has been recognized by the VGCSA with its Distinguished Service Award for 2020. The award is “presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents.” By all accounts, Eagle earned the distinction through his professionalism and integrity, and his interaction with his fellow superintendents, as well as his leadership in numerous initiatives.

Ed’s first exposure to golf came when he was 12 - his family moved across town in Staunton and they were redoing Gypsy Hill Golf Course nearby. Ed met the golf pro, and when he got a little older he was helping on the course ~ raking bunkers, cleaning carts, acting as starter, a little bit of everything. The pro would let him play golf, and this grew into a part-time job working on the golf course when he was 17. He started

as a laborer and left as Department Manager after 17 years.

He did not follow the traditional education path - initially he was self-taught. A Gypsy Hill member suggested he buy turf books and study in the winter and do research. He could apply what he learned on the golf course the next summer. So that’s what he did, as well as learning from Harold Harlow, the superintendent. While at Gypsy Hill, Ed got his BA at Mary Baldwin University. Then he went to grad school at the University of Pittsburgh and received an MBA in 1993. He was working at Gypsy Hill GC during that time to get the degree. In 2001 Ed received his CGCS status.

After graduate school, Ed went back into golf and landed a job at Ingleside, where he spent 26 years there as superintendent. His primary mentor was golf pro NL Deaver. Anytime Ed had questions about anything, Deaver would take the time to help him with anything from a golf lesson, to golf course management, to questions about life. Ed became a good player but never pursued competition.

His volunteer leadership began when Dr. Jack McClenahan invited him to an SVTA meeting in the 1990s. He kept showing up, and they asked him to be on the board. Around 1998, Ed went in as Vice President and did two years, then became President for two years, then served two years as past president.

Ed was on the VGCSA board and SVTA board simultaneously in 2001-2002. It was a unique experience because VGCSA was new, having formed in 1999. The board was incredibly involved, and each person had to lead numerous working committees. It was a great opportunity to learn, meet new people and serve the industry. Ed came back to the board during 2008-2009 board and served until his father got sick. Later he returned and continues his service today.

While on the VGCSA Board, projects that stand out to Ed are the BMP Manual and Nutrient Management Planning. Another important initiative was in 2002, when the board went through the water management plan and had to work with the state agencies during a major drought.

Ed believes the VGCSA is in a much better position than in years past, having a management team which allows Ed and fellow board members to focus on the big picture, the members and their golf courses.

Upon hearing about his award, Ed remarked, “I was overwhelmed that my peers feel that highly of me to bestow this award. It means the world to me.”



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Annual Meeting Recap

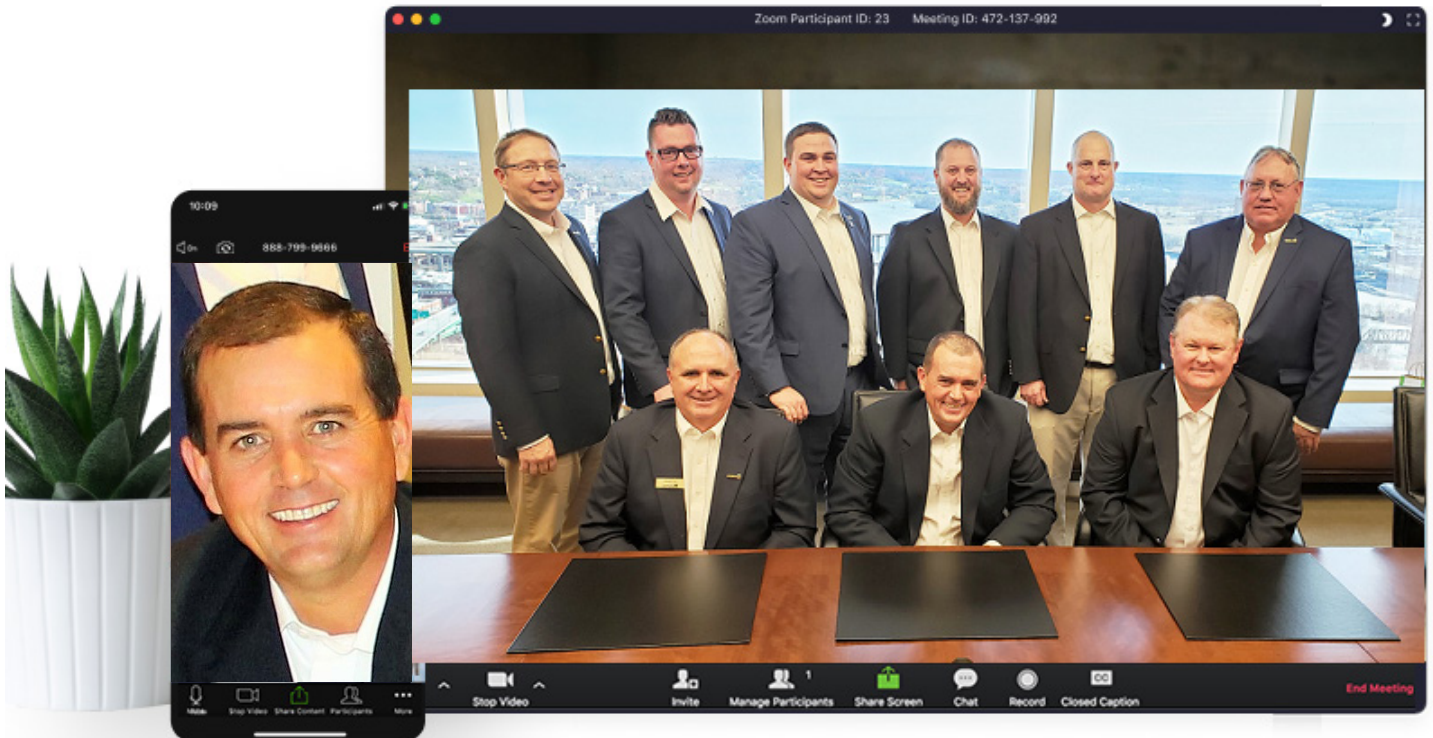
The VGCSA held its 2020 Annual Meeting on November 17th in Zoom format. President Bill Keene opened the meeting and introduced the board members. He then thanked the corporate partners who supported the association in a difficult year.

election results might affect VGCSA on the state and national levels.

Keene then presented a “Year in Review” presentation. Highlights included the trip to the General Assembly before COVID, the execution of ALL golf events, and the

Scholarship and Award Winners (see articles in this issue).

Keene then delivered his remarks as parting President, thanking many people who helped them the past two years. Then he recognized incoming President Jeff Whitmire, who made



Secretary/Treasurer Mike Mueller gave the Treasurer’s Report. The association remains in sound fiscal condition. Of the revenues, membership dues accounted for 18% of total revenue. This includes both state and local dues. The Partner Program, which was pretty flat in 2020, represented 35% of our total revenue, truly indicating the importance of industry support to our operation. Lane & Associates of Richmond is the association’s accounting firm and they independently review financial operations and prepare the tax statements.



Matt Drayton

Then Keene introduced Robb Bohannon of Hunton AK, the VGCSA lobbyist. Bohannon gave an overview of how

successful pivot to accommodate COVID protocols, such as the partnership with the Carolinas GCSA to offer member education and CEU’s. Also, the second edition of the BMP manual was completed. In addition, the Virginia Tech event was excellent, as was the Assistants Forum.

Keene then recognized and thanked departing board members, Past President Mark Cote and Assistants Rep Josh Peters. Then he called on David Walter to recognize the

remarks. The meeting was adjourned. Immediately afterwards, the Nominating Committee announced that Matt Drayton of The Federal Club has been named Secretary/Treasurer for 2021.





VGCSA Leadership – Bill Keene, Mark Cote, Jeff Whitmire



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VGCSA welcomes its newest Diamond Partner



Meet the Team

Scott Thomas

804-283-4410

stthomas@siteone.com

Chip Bass

434-906-9845

cbass@siteone.com

Ian Grove

(804) 396-8541

wgrove@siteone.com

Rob Larsen

443-622-0492

rlarsen@siteone.com

Eric Nelson

703-819-8077

enelson@siteone.com

Old Dominion Claims Local Association Challenge

Farmington CC Plays Host

When the Virginia Cup was cancelled, the VGCSA announced a new event, the Local Association Challenge, hosted by Farmington Country Club. Each local association fielded a four-man team to compete in a two best balls format. Here are the results:

1ST - Old Dominion (142) - Bob Friend (Brookwood GC), Brent Graham (Two Rivers CC), Chris Roberts (First Tee), Paul Van Buren (Kanawha Club)

2ND - Tidewater (147) - Jeff Whitmire (Williamsburg CC), Jeff Yarborough (Stonehouse GC), Matt Boyce (Princess Anne CC), Tim Doran (Elizabeth Manor G&CC)

3rd - Shenandoah Valley (151) - Tim Suess (The Highlands at Fisher Mountain), Eric Ferrell (Caverns CC), Mike Oates (Sly Fox GC), Billy Sayre (Orchard Creek GC)

4th - Greater Washington (152) - Scott Cornwell (River Creek CC), Matt Zarnstorff (Creighton Farms), Patrick McNamara (Dominion Valley CC), David Walter (Potomac Shores GC)

5th - Virginia TA (154) - Jeff Snyder (The Water's Edge), Brian Kearns (Primland), Steve Vessells (Boonsboro CC), Mark Vaughn (Goodyear GC)

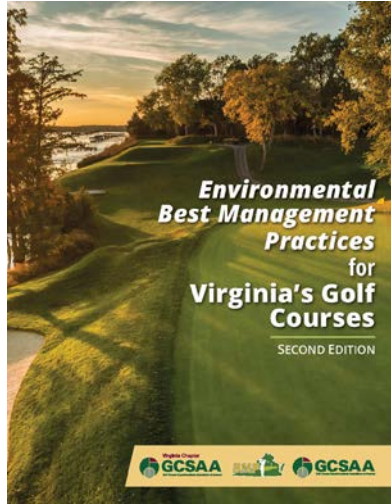


Winning Team, Old Dominion – Bobby Friend, Brent Graham, Paul Van Buren, Chris Roberts

BMP Second Edition Published

Facility BMP Workshop Slated for February 25th

The VGCSA's BMP Committee, headed by Tim Doran of Elizabeth Manor G&CC, is pleased to announce the publishing of a second edition of the Best Management Practices Manual. The final task is the creation of a user-friendly website, with capability for each course to create its own personalized facility BMP.



BMP Committee Members (L-R): Tim Doran, Stacey Kingsbury, Cutler Robinson, Peter McDonough, Mike Augustin, Dr. Mike Goatley, Steven Ball

The first edition was among the first ever published, only behind Florida, and an update was needed to fit the new online software co-designed by GCSAA and USGA.

The project is supported by a \$10K grant from GCSAA and EIFG.

Here is the chapter lineup:

- 1 PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION
- 2 IRRIGATION
- 3 WATER MANAGEMENT
- 4 WATER QUALITY MONITORING
- 5 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT
- 6 CULTURAL PRACTICES
- 7 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
- 8 PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT

- 9 POLLINATOR PROTECTION
- 10 MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS
- 11 LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT
- 12 ENERGY

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The Buy Sod VGCSA Scholarship program was established in 2012 by Buy Sod, Inc. as a means to support the children of qualified golf course superintendents, who plan to attend an institution of higher learning, following graduation from high school. High School seniors who are the children of Class A or B members in good standing of the VGCSA are eligible for the program. The program is based on sales to customers in Virginia. Neil Jones is the Golf & Athletic Field Sales manager for Buy Sod.

This year the Selection committee has named Theo Thompson-Guldseth and Todd Brown of Mechanicsville as the 2020



Todd Brown

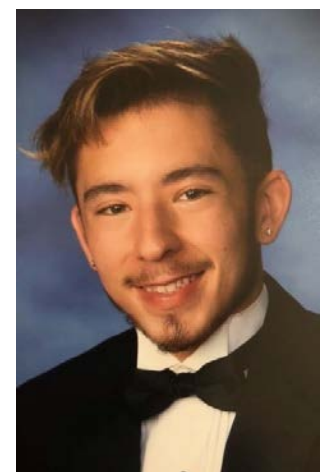
recipients of a \$2,000 scholarship each.

Theo Thompson-Guldseth is the son of Nathaniel Guldseth of International Country Club, and he is a senior at W.T. Woodson HS in Fairfax. He is considering a number of schools in the north such as the University of Michigan, and he has already been accepted by the University of Minnesota.

Theo remarked, "Higher education has surrounded me all my life, with my mom getting her doctorate and my dad having two bachelors degrees. I plan on following in their footsteps, more specifically my mom. Her being a psychologist, I was able to see how she changed people's lives all the time. I heard stories of how she helped people get married, get a job, overcome a fear, even just get them to leave their house. This scholarship will allow me to focus on helping people, rather than fearing for my financial stability in the future."

Todd Brown is the son of Scott Brown of the Dominion Club, and he is a senior at Hanover HS. He has been accepted at Virginia Tech for Fall, 2021 in the Agricultural Technology Program. He remarked, "This award will help reduce the financial burden for my family, as next year both my sister and I will be in college. I'm

excited to be accepted to Virginia Tech. I have been working at The Dominion Club since June. It is an honor to be recognized by the professionals in this field and for my father, who introduced me to this field. At some point in my career, I hope to be able to support a student with the same interests, either financially or as a mentor."



Theo Thompson-Guldseth

Old Dominion GCSA Awards Two Scholarships

The Old Dominion GCSA has announced the winners of two \$1,000 scholarships. The program was established in 2016 to support the employees of golf courses that are actively enrolled in an institution of higher learning. Any employee at a golf course with a current VGCSA member in good standing is eligible.

This year's winners are Mitchell Bumpus of Sandy Hook, VA and



Mitchell Bumpus



James Monk

James Monk of Williamsburg, VA. Bumpus is studying Sports Media & Analytics at Virginia Tech and is currently working on the maintenance team at Spring Creek Golf Club. Monk is studying at Rutgers University in the Professional Golf Turf Management School and is currently working at the Golden Horseshoe. This program is funded by the Old Dominion Scholarship Tournament.

VGCSA-MAAGCS Assistants Forum Recap

Springfield G&CC Hosts Great Event



Speakers included Andy Wilson, Josh Peters, Dean Graves and Chris Harriman

VGCSA partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course superintendents to host the Assistants Forum at Springfield Golf & CC in November. The event featured assistants from VA, MD and DC.

The forum provided assistants with an opportunity to receive first class education along with a fun and competitive day of golf, allowing them to build relationships. This is an important aspect of the association and the future of golf as a whole. The golf match was a Ryder Cup format, pitting VGCSA against MAAGCS.

VGCSA Assistant Superintendent Board Representative Josh Peters of Springfield

G&CC worked with Alejandro Baiocchi of Woodmont CC to put together a great event. The education segment focused on personal finance, featuring Andy Wilson, who is a Certified Financial Planner, and co-founder of Lighthouse Wealth

Management. Andy spoke on the topic of retirement planning including investment guidance, review of a typical financial plan and how it is structured, the value of educational savings accounts, and the importance of estate planning. Joining a panel discussion was Wilson, Dean Graves, retired from Chevy Chase Club and Chris Harriman of Hermitage Country Club.

In the golf match, MAAGCS prevailed.



The winning team from MAAGCS

Government Relations Update



Robb Bohannon

Like many things, the 2021 session of the Virginia General Assembly will look very different than it did in 2020. Similar to the special session that wrapped up in the fall, the House of Delegates will meet virtually, and the Senate will meet in person, but in a space larger than the Capitol provides. The

Pocahontas Building, where legislators' offices are located and where the public normally meets with lawmakers, will be closed to the public, and will only be open to legislators and staff.

House and Senate Republican leadership announced in November they would only agree to a 30-day legislative session in 2021, as the General Assembly spent much of 2020 in special session. In an odd-numbered year, the legislature would usually meet for 45 days. Republicans have the ability to insist on this change, as moving beyond the constitutionally mandated 30-day session requires a two-thirds vote in both chambers. The House and Senate have both voted to limit the number of bills each legislator can file in 2021, and the General Assembly will likely hold meetings on Saturdays and Sundays during the regular session. Democrats have also indicated that should they not complete the work they deem necessary during the regular session, Governor Ralph Northam (D) could call a special session to address unfinished business.

Committee chairs are expected to be judicious in determining which bills will be docketed for consideration, as there will be less time for debate and discussion. Both agricultural committee chairs – Delegate Ken Plum (D-Fairfax) and Senator Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City) – may have only a few meetings before the crossover deadline, whereby bills must pass their chamber of origin.

Prefiling of legislation has already begun, and VGCSA is actively monitoring these filings. A significant amount of time in December has been devoted to discussing priority issues with lawmakers, understanding that in-person access to legislators will be limited in 2021. We will continue to keep the membership apprised of any legislative concerns that arise, and work to address them as needed.

Snyder Wins President's Award



Jeff Snyder

Jeff Snyder of Penhook, VA and The Water's Edge Country Club has been recognized by the VGCSA with the 2020 President's Award. The award is "in recognition of a career of distinguished and meritorious service and commitment to advancing the profession of golf

course superintendent in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in the grateful appreciation for over twenty years of contributions that led to the advancement of association affairs since its inception." The award was presented by VGCSA President Bill Keene during the Annual Meeting.

Growing up, Snyder's dad John was the pro at Farmington Country Club, so a career in golf was in his blood. Basically he would take a bus to school and then a bus to Farmington, where he worked for his dad in many roles around the club. It was a family operation, and a great experience growing up.

As a HS Senior, he got a little frustrated with working in pro shop, so he went to work on the

golf course for Superintendent Dick Fisher. He would never forget riding around with "Fish". After high school, he headed off to college, and his buddy Steve Vessels convinced him to enter the turf program at NC State. He graduated in 1984 and went to work for Albemarle Farms, a 9-hole golf course in John Kluge's front yard. Right out of school he got that job to look after Mr. Kluge's varied forms of recreation, including a spectacular grass croquet court. It was a learning experience from the ground up, and he did everything.

He enjoyed the work at the Kluge estate, but he knew he needed a broader experience to advance his career. So in 1988 he left for southern Virginia to an 18-hole course, Skyland Lakes. He stayed there just a year and a half, then went to Louisa and got job at Shenandoah Crossing, a course he helped build. For five years he grew the club, then left there for The Water's Edge at Smith Mountain Lake in 1994, and last year celebrated 25 years. His dad had moved there from Farmington to open the course, and Jeff worked with him from 1994-98. His dad was the best advocate for superintendents.

Snyder describes TWE as among the most fun courses as you can play. "It touches the lake on three holes, and you're

feeling it on 10-11 others, it's there for you to enjoy. I enjoy coming to work every day," he said.

As a volunteer, Snyder got involved with the VTA while at TWE. At the time, the Old Dominion GCSA was only affiliated chapter when GCSAA required members to join a chapter. So in 1999, he was the rep of VTA when regional reps met in the basement of Keswick and brainstormed how to create an umbrella group to certify with GCSAA. Peter McDonough had a "road map" from a buddy in Florida, but they had no idea how long it would take to get there. Snyder went to GCSAA HQ in Kansas and the group got it done. He was among the first Presidents for VGCSA, serving 2003-05.

Afterwards he was always a resource to VTA, and this year he decided to jump back in and help VTA. He loves working with VTA President Brian Kearns of Primland, remarking, "You could hit him in the knee cap with a 9-iron and he would still smile!"

In receiving this recognition, he said, "Anytime you get something from peers, it's that much more special, no doubt! I wouldn't be here without them, Dick Fisher in particular. A lot of people could say the same thing. It's very humbling, and it couldn't be more special."

On a personal level, Jeff is proud of his daughter Cameron (20), who is working and getting ready to go to real estate school, as well as son Eric (27), who is a rescue swimmer for the US Navy.

News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

With snow falling as I put together this newsletter, I guess winter is here. I believe everyone will feel the same way in saying that I'm pretty excited that 2020 is coming to a close. Unfortunately, like most events in 2020, our annual meeting was cancelled this year. Hopefully, we can get back to our normal scheduling next year with golf, networking and camaraderie!

We do have some positive information to send though. With another successful Scholarship Tournament this year we have announced two winners of \$1000

scholarships. Congratulations to Mitchell Bumpass from Spring Creek and James Monk from the Golden Horseshoe! Good luck on your college career!

One last thing, we are still looking to fill a spot on the 2021 Old Dominion board. If anyone is interested, please reach out to Jeremy Waddell or any other board member and we'd be happy to give more information. Thanks again to everyone and have a great holiday!!!



Jay Wade
ODGCSA
External VP

TTA News

2020 is almost over and I think I can speak for most of us when I say - "what the heck was that!?" The new normal changed on a weekly basis but one aspect remained true - golf was the escape for a lot of folks. We saw an extended golfing season with a warm spring and fall and the industry as a whole saw the biggest boom in golf since 1997.

The Tidewater adapted our event schedule this year with everyone's safety in mind. We were able to have the Bert Walton at Sewell's Point and were happy to continue that event. To date our association has donated over

\$4,000 in Bert's name to the Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Jeremy Friscaro of Bayville will continue as President of the TTA in 2021. Allan Dobbs of Hampton Roads Golf will serve as Vice President and Allan Lumagui of Horizon will be Treasurer. Adam Nichols, Michael Schiller and Mark McCaughan will round of the director roles. We are looking forward to hosting a full slate of events in 2021 so stay tuned!



Tim Doran
TTA External
VP

News from the GWGCSA

We made it, 2020 is just about over. If we learned anything from this year, it is that Golf is resilient; we can be quick to adapt and overcome. Golf has been a great activity for people during this difficult time. We have all seen a record numbers of rounds this fall, between great weather and COVID the golf boom is still going strong. I hope this trend continues even after the worries of COVID, who would have thought a pandemic would be good for golf?

This year's annual meeting at Evergreen Country Club had to of been the best weather we have ever had for this event. It

was a great day for golf, camaraderie and reminiscing about the season. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

To stay up to date with all the Greater Washington events and news be sure to use the new GWGCSA App. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy holiday.



David Walter
GWGCSA
External VP

News from Local Associations

VTA External VP Report

Writing newsletter articles this year has been a bit of a challenge. There has been so much talk about COVID, that I try to stay away from the subject...but it is awfully hard to do.

Superintendents all have different years which they remember and refer back to frequently. "Remember back in ..." are common conversation starters during local, state or national meetings. Generally the years differ from one superintendent to another depending on the issues or heartaches they were met with. 2020 is the exception and will be the one year everyone remembers.

It may sound a bit crazy, but this year may be one of the best things that has happened for the golf industry since the Tiger Boom.

For the most part across the country golf was the one thing that everyone has been able to do safely. Being outside, easy to social distance, exercise and the most important thing is people started realizing they could still work while on the course. Most superintendents I have talked with throughout the state and in different parts of the country have all said they have had their best round totals in a several years. It is not uncommon to hear numbers of rounds up over 20 percent.

I don't think anyone knows what next year will bring, but would hope as an industry we can capitalize on the upturn in golf and keep the momentum moving in the right direction. Like everyone else, I am looking forward to seeing single cart riders going

away, bunkers raked and most importantly getting back to a normal meeting schedule on the local and state levels.

On behalf of the VTA, I would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful Holiday Season and most definitely a Happy 2021.



Sean K.
Baskette
Hidden Valley
Country Club
VTA President

SVTA News

The SVTA raised over \$2600 for the VTF at its October golf tournament. This was our last event of the year, and as we approach a new year, we are hopeful that everything is better in the coming months.

This year has been difficult on many levels. So, as we wrap up the year I hope everyone has a happy holiday season. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2021.



Ed Eagle
SVTA External
VP



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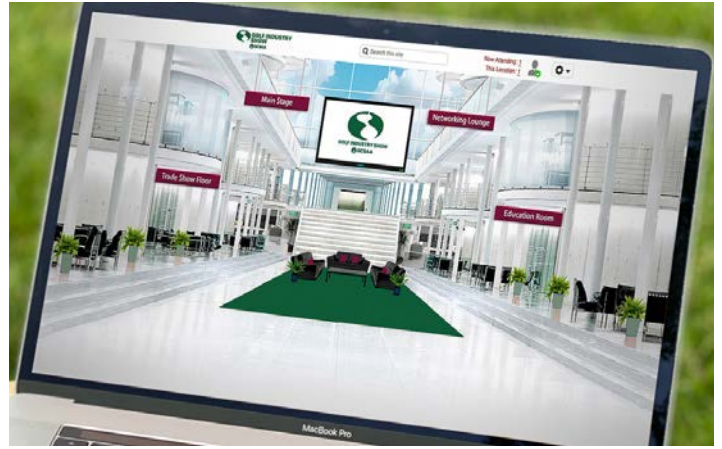
www.vgcsa.org

GIS2021 VIRTUAL

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 2

- Opening Session 11AM - 12PM
- Education Power Hour: Lightning Round Learning 12 - 1PM
- Education Sessions 12 - 4PM
- Trade Show Opens at 12PM with 24-hour access
- Education Power Hour: Turf Solutions: Everything but the Kitchen Sink 1 - 2PM
- Education Power Hour: Equipment Managers Session: Tips and Tricks for Your Maintenance Facility 2 - 3PM
- Education Power Hour: Government Affairs: State of Policy and Politics in 2021 3 - 4PM
- Equipment Managers Reception 4 - 5PM
- EIFG/GA Reception 4 - 5PM



Wednesday, Feb. 3

- General Session: Managing the Challenges of Disruptive Change 11AM - 12PM
- Celebrating Certification 12 - 1PM
- Chapter Management Session 12 - 1PM
- Education Power Hour: Labor Session: Strategies for Pushing Through Adversity 1 - 2PM
- Education Sessions 12 - 4PM
- Grassroots Ambassador Academy 1 3 - 4PM
- Education Power Hour: Stories of Success: Journeys to Leadership 3 - 4PM
- Ladies Leading Turf Reception 4 - 5PM
- EXCEL Leadership Reception 4 - 5PM
- Trade Show 24-hour access

Register at www.gcsaa.org

Thursday, Feb. 4

- General Session: Behind the Scenes at PGA Frisco 11AM - 12PM
- Annual Meeting 12 - 1PM
- Education Power Hour: Key Insights to Help You Make the Right Choice 12 - 1PM
- Education Sessions 12 - 4PM
- Education Power Hour: Taking Steps Towards Emotional Wellness – A Beginning 1 - 2PM
- Education Power Hour: Why Didn't I Think of That? Ideas that Make an Impact at Your Course 2 - 3PM
- Grassroots Ambassador Academy 2 3 - 4PM
- Education Power Hour: Turfgrass Talk Show 3 - 4PM
- Closing Celebration 4 - 5PM
- Trade Show 24-hour access

Employment Corner

As a service to members, the VGCSA provides complimentary posting of jobs to VGCSA members and Partners. Please visit www.vgcsa.org/-employment for a complete listing and details of available positions. Here is a sampling:

- Belmont Country Club in Ashburn, VA seeks Superintendent
- Greenbrier Club in Chesapeake, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- The CC of Virginia Seeks Maintenance Shop Manager
- Chatmoss Country Club Seeks Superintendent
- Glade Springs Village in Daniels, WV seeks 1st Assistant Superintendent
- Paint Branch Golf Complex in College Park, MD seeks Superintendent
- Links at Perry Cabin in St. Michaels, MD Seeks Golf Course Superintendent
- The CC of Virginia Seeks Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
- Meadowbrook CC in Richmond Seeks Golf Course Superintendent
- Richmond Country Club in Goochland, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Richmond Country Club in Goochland, VA seeks Mechanic
- Boonsboro CC in Lynchburg, VA seeks Assistant Supt.
- Bridgeport Country Club in Bridgeport, WV seeks Superintendent

2021 VGCSA Schedule

January 14 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

January 14 - Virginia Agribusiness Council Vision 2021 Virtual Celebration

February 1-4, 2021 – GCSAA Virtual Conference & Golf Industry Show

February 25 – VGCSA Facility BMP Online Workshop

April 22 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

April 26 – May 2 – Rounds4Research Auction

May 17 – Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence GC

August 5 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Site TBA

October 10-12 – The Virgina Cup, James River CC

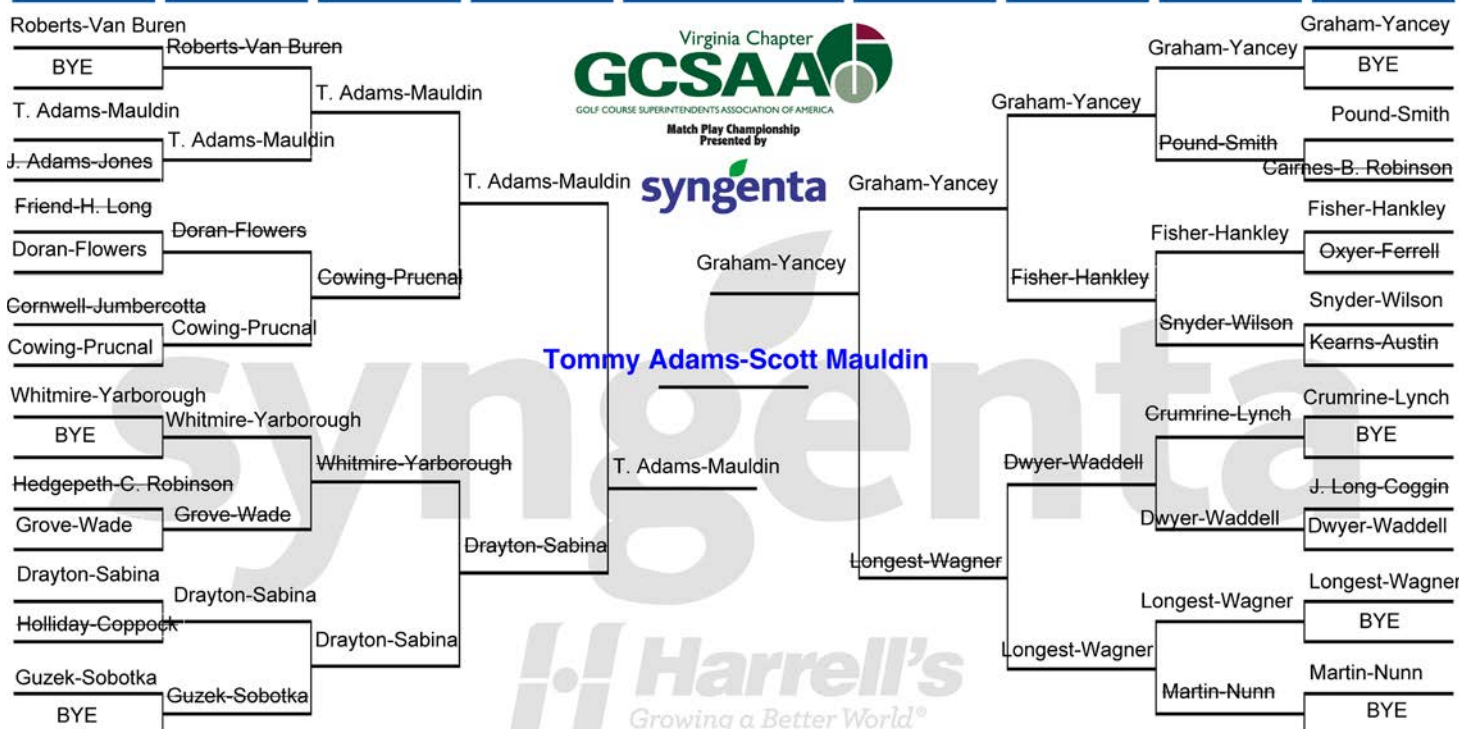
November 8-10 – GCSAA Chapter Leaders Symposium, Lawrence, KS

November 18 - VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

December 6-7 – VGCSA Conference, Site TBA

VGCSA Match Play Championship

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Championship	Round 4	Round 3	Round 2	Round 1
May 8 - June 15	June 16 - July 15	July 16 - Aug. 15	Aug 16 - Sept. 15	September 16 - October 15	Aug 16 - Sept. 15	July 16 - Aug. 15	June 16 - July 15	May 8 - June 15



BECAUSE YOU DON'T GET A MULLIGAN.

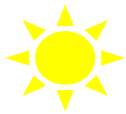
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