



Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Spring 2021

President's Message



Welcome to our newest board members, Eric Ferrell and Chris Roberts. Eric Ferrell (Caverns CC) replaces long time board member Ed Eagle (retired) as the SVTA External VP. Chris Roberts (First Tee of Richmond) replaces Jay Wade (Magnolia Green GC) as ODGCSA External VP. Both Ed and Jay have been great board members and we thank them for their service. We look forward to working with Eric and Chris over the coming year.

Hopefully everyone had a chance to participate in the virtual GIS. Personally, I thought GCSAA did an outstanding job, especially considering everything that has happened over the past year. I enjoyed being able to access all of the education and archive the notes and slides. That being said, I do hope that we will be able to return to the in-person conference next year. There is just something about talking to peers from across the country (and the world) in person that cannot be replicated virtually.

The government relations committee, led by Chairman Jeff Holliday, has been busy working with our legislature and lobbyist, Robb Bohannon, on behalf of our interest. House Bill 2030 would have outright banned the use of neonicotine insecticides in its original draft. The committee and Robb worked with our allied association partners to convince the legislators to modify the bill,

continuing to allow applications of these insecticides by certified applicators. Thanks must also go out to the other members of the committee including Brent Graham, Rob Wilmans, Cutler Robinson, Jay Wade, and Peter McDonough. All of these gentlemen gave unselfishly of their time and experience to protect our interests.

Our BMP Committee, chaired by Tim Doran, published our 2nd edition of the BMP Manual in December and hosted the BMP workshop in February. A template is now in place to publish an individual BMP for your own golf course. Tim and his committee completed all of the sometimes tedious work without complaint. Thank you all for your hard work!

I hope everyone had a chance to fill out the VGCSA survey. The survey underwent a fairly massive overhaul this year by committee chairman Eric Snelsire and Tyler Eastman. They eliminated many of the redundant questions also found on the GCSAA Survey. The results from this survey will help guide our policy decisions in the future.

The Golf Committee, led by Matt Drayton, has lined up some great venues for our events this year. The

VGCSA Championship will be held at Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg. Brent Graham just completed the installation of a new irrigation system last year and Billy Bunkers this past winter at Two Rivers. I know Brent will have the course in its usual perfect condition. The Joe Saylor will be hosted at Lakeside Park Club in Richmond. Formerly known as Jefferson Lakeside, the golf course was renovated a few years ago by Kris Spence. I have heard nothing but rave reviews of the course under the direction of Mike Nowicki. It is sure to be a treat!

We would not be able to sponsor research, host education events and tournaments, or employ lobbyists without the generous support of our partners. They are vital to our success. I personally want to thank all of our sponsors who continue to support the association. I ask that all members please consider this when making your purchasing decisions and support our partners whenever possible!



Jeff Whitmire
CGCS
President



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Virginia's Rounds4Research Auction Runs April 26 to May 2



Presented in partnership
with The Toro Company.



The 2020 Rounds 4 Research fundraising program in Virginia was successful despite COVID. The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA.

Many clubs pledge support every year, so it's a great auction. Some top ones in Virginia include the Dormie Network (Ballyhack), Golden Horseshoe GC, Raspberry Falls, Salisbury CC, Spring Creek GC, The Federal Club and The Golf Club at Lansdowne.

Funds raised can be used to further efforts in the areas of research, advocacy, and education. Golfers and golf facilities are the ultimate beneficiaries of funds raised.

How can you help?

- Courses can simply fill out an online or paper donor form and send it to the EIFG. The courses determine the restrictions.

A promotional banner for the Rounds4Research auction. It features a man in a blue polo shirt and khaki pants crouching on a golf green, looking towards the camera. In the background, a golf hole is visible with a white golf ball resting on the grass. The banner has a green and white color scheme with a curved white line separating the image from the text below. The text includes the website 'ROUNDS4RESEARCH.COM', the dates 'APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2021', and the call to action 'DONATE a round BUILD a better game.' Logos for the Virginia Chapter GCSAA, EIFG, and TORO are also present, along with a message about supporting turfgrass research.

ROUNDS4RESEARCH.COM | APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2021

DONATE a round | **BUILD** a better game.

Virginia Chapter
GCSAA

Administered by
EIFG
Environmental Institute for Golf

Presented in partnership with
TORO

Donate a round and support turfgrass research that sustains the future of golf.

- Be sure to designate VGCSA as the chapter to receive the proceeds.
- GCSAA will take care of the rest and can even create the winner's certificate for you!
- Auction Website - a link will be provided when the website is live - please promote it to your members.

When is the auction?

- The auction will be held online from April 26 to May 2.

All packages donated, along with all relevant restrictions, will be available on the auction website for the public to view and place bids.

Boosting Dissolved Oxygen Boosts Pond Health

Keeping ponds clean and odor-free is essential to a golf course’s success. Essential for keeping ponds healthy and sustaining aquatic life is dissolved oxygen (DO). So how can you ensure the DO levels in your ponds are where they need to be? Subsurface aeration.



PondHawk, a subsurface aeration system from solar innovator LINNE Industries, brings about notable changes to DO levels. This is important because low DO levels are unable to support aquatic life and lead to anoxic conditions in the bottom sediment. Anoxic conditions cause internal nutrient-loading from the re-release into the water column of nutrients formerly bound in the sediments. Pond stratification can also lead to low DO when a barrier or thermocline prevents oxygen-rich surface water from circulating with the deeper water. Subsurface aeration circulates the water, moves oxygen through the water column, and eliminates temperature stratification.

Water Quality Study

To study PondHawk’s effectiveness, LINNE conducted an assessment of a Midwest municipality’s golf course pond. Various factors affecting water quality including temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and DO were studied. The focus here is on the compelling DO findings.



LINNE compared baseline DO levels collected in 2018, prior to PondHawk’s installation, with data collected after two years of PondHawk operation. In 2020, LINNE deployed an Aqua-Troll 500 multiparameter sonde to collect samples from 151 locations across the pond at 1, 2, 4 and 6’ depths to understand the improvements PondHawk delivered. The golf course pond is adjacent to areas of recent or active construction and collects run-off from an agricultural field.

Notable Improvement in Dissolved Oxygen

The U.S. Geological Survey considers DO levels below 2 mg/L to be hypoxic and a “dead zone” for organisms

unable to escape. The recommended level is a minimum of 5.0 mg/L. The 2018 baseline sampling of this pond measured the dissolved oxygen at 0.45 mg/L at 6 feet. The sample at 6 feet in 2020 was up to 6.27 mg/L at the same 6’-deep location.

Subsurface Aeration Improves Pond Health

This data is just one example of the positive effect of subsurface aeration on pond health. Solar-powered PondHawk is a proven, effective, low-cost tool that creates water movement, improves DO concentration, and maintains long-term pond health.

	Goal	Depth	Baseline 2018	2020
Dissolved Oxygen (DO) mg/L	5.0 mg/L	2	2.76	8.62
		6	0.45	6.27

Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic

Set for May 17th at Independence Golf Club



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2020 Team Sponsor Listing



VirginiaTech®
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Life Sciences



The VGCSA, VTC and VTF are proud to announce the return of their joint fundraiser, the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, set for Monday, May 17th, hosted by Independence Golf Club in Richmond. The event returns to its traditional date, having been postponed to late summer last year due to COVID-19. Amazing results last year, as the event raised over \$55,000 for turf research.

Now in the fourth year, the Virginia Tech researchers continue to conduct turfgrass testing on the Short Course at Independence. During the event (depending on COVID protocols), the research team will provide an update on their work. The Tech team established this research in central Virginia, as the climate and growing conditions are more “mainstream Virginia,” than that found in Blacksburg. Primary testing is for warm season grasses on putting greens. Independence has Champion bermuda grass on their greens.

After a challenging year, this year’s golf tournament promises to be a “can’t miss” affair! Plans are in place to make it totally

first class from the golf, to the food & beverage, to the prizes and more. The event has become the ultimate networking event in the industry. The tournament committee has opened sponsorship and

golf team sales now. A sellout is expected!

Please visit www.vgcsa.org and www.vaturfgrass.org for event details and plan to attend!



The Virginia Tech Turfgrass Team On-Site at Independence

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JORDAN ELECTED 85TH PRESIDENT OF GCSAA

Election took place as part of the virtual 2021 Golf Industry Show Club



Mark Jordan

Lawrence, Kan. – Mark F. Jordan, the certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) and natural resource leader at Westfield Country Club in Westfield Center, Ohio, was elected to a one-year term as president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at the association's annual meeting Feb. 4, held in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show. He is the 85th president in the association's history.

Jordan served as vice president of the association in 2020 and has been a member of the association's board of directors since 2014. A 34-year member of GCSAA, Jordan is also a member and past president of the Northern Ohio GCSA.

Jordan has served as the natural resource leader at Westfield CC since 2007, but has been with the club since 1988, previously serving as general manager, club manager, superintendent and assistant superintendent. Prior to Westfield CC, Jordan had stints as an assistant superintendent at Winding Hollow Golf Club in New Albany, Ohio, and Hyde Park Golf and Country Club in Cincinnati.

"As Col. John Morley was establishing GCSAA in 1926, he used the altruistic principles of justice, faithful brotherhood and generous benevolence as foundational elements. These timeless principles continue to guide the association today," Jordan said. "I am humbled and honored to lead this same organization that Col. Morley and every single president before me has led."

He graduated from the Ohio State

University – ATI in Wooster, Ohio, with an associate of science degree in turfgrass management; and the Ohio State University in Columbus with a Bachelor of Science degree in agronomy.

Other elected officers were Kevin P. Breen, CGCS and golf course superintendent at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos, Calif., as vice president, and Kevin P. Sunderman, CGCS, director of grounds at Isla Del Sol Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg, Fla., as secretary/treasurer.

Board members Jeff L. White, CGCS and superintendent at Indian Hills Country Club in Mission Hills, Kan.; T.A. Barker, CGCS and superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, Utah; and Paul L. Carter, CGCS and superintendent at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay in Harrison, Tenn., were elected to serve again, while Marc E. Weston, CGCS and superintendent at Indian Hill Country Club in Newington, Conn., was newly elected to the board.

Douglas D. Dykstra, CGCS, golf course superintendent at White Mountain Country Club in Pinetop, Ariz., continues his service on the board. John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo (Mich.) Country Club, will serve as immediate past president, while past president Rafael Barajas, CGCS and the director of golf course operations at Boca Grove Golf and Tennis Club in Boca Raton, Fla., retired from board service.

2021 Golf Industry Show highlights

The Golf Industry Show, the largest educational conference and trade show in the turfgrass management industry, transitioned to a virtual event in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While on a virtual platform, the 2021 event continued the GIS's long tradition of connecting attendees, exhibitors and industry experts through a progressive week of unparalleled education opportunities and access to golf facility solutions for those in the golf industry.

Attendance for the virtual GIS was strong with more than 9,300 attendees from around the world during the live event. The event also provides attendees with up to 30 days of on-demand access, so final attendance and education numbers will not be known until the conclusion of the on-demand portion on March 6. The education component of the event featured

88 sessions, with preliminary numbers for those presentations currently at 9,197 participants total. More than 200 exhibitors are part of the trade show, and so far, have recorded 213,299 in total booth visits. The 24-hour-a-day virtual trade show will be open through March 6 as well.

"Like so many organizations this year, a virtual show was uncharted territory for us, and frankly it was difficult to project how our traditional attendance would translate to the virtual world, so we are extremely pleased with the very enthusiastic response," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "I was particularly excited to see that many facilities that took advantage of our All-Access package for everyone on the team. It really shows the desire for education for every member of the facility, and we hope our curriculum helps enhance their careers and facilities."

The Golf Industry Show is produced by GCSAA along with its presenting partners the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) and American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA.)

The 2022 Golf Industry Show is currently scheduled to be an in-person event and will be in San Diego Feb. 5-10, 2022, at the San Diego Convention Center.

In other news from the Golf Industry Show:

- A team from [Purdue University](#) won the annual [GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition](#), which was presented in partnership with John Deere Golf. It was the Boilermakers' first win since 2009.
- Jim Nantz, three-time Emmy winner and lead anchor of CBS Sports' golf team, received GCSAA's 2021 Old Tom Morris award. He joined the GIS live from his home in California during the [Opening Session on Feb. 2](#), which was presented in partnership with Syngenta.
- [The General Session: Managing the Challenges of Disruptive Change](#) on Feb. 3, which was sponsored in partnership with Bayer, featured Evans, PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, LPGA Commissioner Michael Whan, USGA CEO Mike Davis and PGA of America CEO Seth Waugh in a live discussion of golf's reaction to the pandemic and how the golf industry is moving forward.



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Lynx® Smart Module



Sprinkler technology is getting smarter, and Toro's Lynx® Smart Module is a perfect example. New for 2018, this component is the latest 2-wire control system technology from Toro, designed for INFINITY® and FLEX800™ sprinkler systems. The Lynx Smart Module is the result of Toro's intimate understanding of the needs of golf course superintendents and decades of engineering expertise. Key features include precision control, high speed diagnostics and robust lightning protection — as well as the ability to make easy updates with the latest advancements. When combined with the ease of serviceability of the INFINITY® sprinkler system, NO DIGGING is needed. Labor savings you can take to the bank!

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Lakeside Park Club to Host the Joe Saylor Memorial

Save the Date – Monday, October 4th



The VGCSA is pleased to announce that Lakeside Park Club in Richmond will host this year's Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament on Monday, October 4th. Mike Nowicki is playing host to the most fun event of the season, which will continue its tradition of friendly competition with plenty of refreshments and a little golf!

Opened in 1921, the LPC course is one of the earliest works of famed Scottish golf course designer Donald Ross and a testament to the enduring viability of quality design. The easily walkable course winds through a beautiful park-like setting just minutes north of the city.

The superbly conditioned, fast-paced greens present quite a challenge.

As always, this event supports the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program so don't forget to bring a gift to donate!

This event is a tribute to Joe Saylor, the honoree of this annual memorial event. Joe was longtime superintendent at James River Country Club, and a leader in state and regional affairs for the superintendents. Joe passed away in 2005. Defending the title will be Bobby Friend, CGCS and Matt Pair of Brookwoods Golf Club.



US Marines collect toys for deserving children.




Matt Pair and Bobby Friend, CGCS defended the title last year at Hermitage CC



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Course Consulting Service



First started in 1953, the Course Consulting Service (CCS) permits individual

facilities to reap the benefits of on-site visits by highly skilled USGA agronomists located in Green Section offices throughout the country. Their experience helps golf course staff and officials produce the best possible golf turf for the dollars that can be spent. The CCS's purpose is not to tell anyone how to run a golf course or

what products to buy. Rather, it seeks to bring a wealth of information and an impartial yet concerned perspective regarding turfgrass growth requirements, how these requirements might best be managed for golf, and ideas that other golf courses have found to be beneficial.

Elliott Dowling, agronomist, Northeast Region
edowling@usga.org | 224-656-9773 | Based in Oxford, PA

Elliott is an agronomist in the USGA Green Section's Northeast Region based out of Oxford, Pa. He helps golf facilities maintain better playing conditions through USGA Course Consulting Service on-site visits, educational outreach and research throughout the region

6th Annual Old Dominion GCSA Scholarship Tournament Heads to Spring Creek Golf Club

June 15, 2021



Spring Creek Golf Club plays host to this year's Old Dominion Scholarship Tourney on Tuesday, June 15th – open to all VGCSA members and partners. Proceeds from the event will be used for scholarships that will be awarded to employees of a VGCSA member club, who are either actively enrolled students or non-actively enrolled students who wish to further their

education. Entry Fee includes Golf, Cart Rental, Range Balls, Bloody Mary Bar, Beverage Cart, and Dinner Buffet after the round, Prizes and Fun Competition!

Format for the event is two-man best ball (four ball). Rhett Martin and Josh Nunn of Salisbury CC took top honors last year with a gross score of 63 at The Country

Club of Petersburg. First place in the net division went to the team of Tom Adams of Helena and Matt Drayton with a net score of 55. Prizes are awarded to the top gross and net teams, as well as contest winners. ODGCSA would like to thank Genesis Turfgrass for their role as Presenting Sponsor.



The Bloody Mary Bar is always a good start, as Rhett Martin can attest.

Presented by



Additional Sponsors TBA



BMP Second Edition Published

Facility BMP's Now Available

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 – this is now available!

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.



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

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

Please visit www.vgcsa.org to download your copy! GCSAA members – start your personal online facility guide for your club now: go to www.gcsaa.org and login with your GCSAA credentials.

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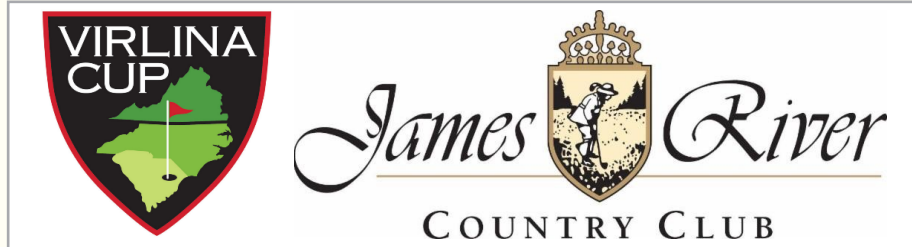


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VIRLINA CUP QUALIFYING SITES & DATES



James River Country Club in Newport News plays host to the 11th Virlina Cup on October 10-12. Last year's event was postponed due to COVID. The Carolinas hold the cup based on victory in 2019, and the VGCSA looks to upend them. Here are the qualifying dates for this year's Cup:

VGCSA Championship

May 10, 2021

Two Rivers Country Club

GWGCSA Local Qualifier

May 24, 2021

Bristow Manor Golf Club

TTA Local Qualifier

June 8, 2021

Elizabeth Manor Golf & Country Club

VTA/SVTA Local Qualifier

July 13, 2021

Pete Dye River Course at VA Tech

In addition to six available spots (5 superintendents, 1 assistant) at these events, there is a Captain's Pick and a Sponsor's Pick to round out the team.

This year's VGCSA Championship is the premier qualifying event, as three Virlina Cup berths are awarded (Superintendent Champion & Runner Up plus the Assistant Champion). There is also a Vendor Division, and net prizes are also awarded. Brent Graham, CGCSA hosts at Two Rivers Country Club on Monday, May 10th. The event is known for great camaraderie, fun competition and an outstanding social event after the tournament.



Defending Champions



Bobby Friend – Supts.



Jeff Snyder – Senior



Ben Longest – Assts.



Randy Rider - Affiliate

Government Relations Update



Robb Bohannon

The 2021 session of the Virginia General Assembly – both the regular session and the first of what is expected to be several special sessions – concluded on March 1st. Originally, it was believed the session would

only run 30 days, as Republican leadership had stated they would only agree to what was constitutionally mandated, due to the virtual environment and lengthy special session in 2020. Ultimately, the General Assembly agreed to a 30-day regular session, and a two and a half week special session. The result was very similar to the 45-day short session Virginia would normally have in an odd-numbered year.

Legislators in both chambers were limited in the number of bills they could file – delegates were allowed 12 bills and senators were allowed seven – due to the compressed and virtual nature of the legislative session. While the Senate met in person at the Science Museum of Virginia, the public was not allowed into the building. All testimony and meetings with legislators were conducted remotely.



Delegate Paul Krizek

VGCSA dealt with several problematic issues. Delegate Paul Krizek (D-Fairfax) filed legislation that would have placed onerous reporting requirements to the local community on applicators of neonicotinoid pesticides, and would have

allowed localities to regulate or prohibit their use. His concerns came from beekeepers in his district that claimed application of the pesticide was destroying bee colonies.

We worked with the bill patron, and



VGCSA Superintendents protect pollinators.

stakeholders from the agricultural industry and Virginia Tech, to draft a compromise bill that exempted out certified applicators and those under their direct supervision, such as golf course superintendents and their staff. The industry's BMP's were helpful in making the case that VGCSA members use neonicotinoids appropriately, and work to promote, and in many cases, cultivate pollinators.

In the Senate, Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City) was opposed to placing language regulating an approved product into the Code of Virginia. The bill was further amended to simply require the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to study the Beekeeper Pollinator Protection Plan and voluntary BMP's to propose improvements to communications between beekeepers and applicators. This study is due to be completed by December 1, 2021, and we have already requested that VGCSA be included in the discussion.

Legislation was also introduced by Delegate Mark Keam (D-Fairfax) that would have implemented a \$0.05 per gallon tax on dyed diesel fuel to help fund electric school buses in the Commonwealth. While golf courses were not a target, the bill would have increased maintenance costs for superintendents. We

relayed the industry's concerns to the bill patron, whose goal is to begin examining ways to replace diesel school buses with electric ones. The bill that eventually passed the General Assembly creates a work group to examine funding mechanisms for this process, but it does not refer to a tax on dyed diesel fuel.

With the legislative session completed, attention will now turn to elections. All 100 members of the House of Delegates are up for reelection in 2021, and all three statewide offices – governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general – will be on the ballot in November. Governor Ralph Northam (D) is ineligible to run for reelection, so Virginia will have a new governor in 2022. We also expect at least one more special session in 2021, as the General Assembly must address how to allocate funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 that was recently signed into law by President Biden.



Delegate Mark Keam

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:

- Copper Cove Country Club in Hardy, VA seeks Superintendent
- Manor Country Club in Rockville, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Virginia Beach National Golf Club Seeks 2nd Assistant Superintendent
- Washington Golf & Country Club in Arlington, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Firethorne Country Club in Charlotte, NC seeks 1st Assistant Superintendent
- Wilmington Country Club in Wilmington, DE seeks 2nd Assistant Superintendent
- Copper Cove GC (formerly Westlake) Seeks Equipment Manager
- Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville Seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Helena Agri-Enerprises LLC, seeks Sales Representative in DE, MD & Delmarva Peninsula
- Tuckahoe Landscaping in Rockville Seeks Project Manager
- Advanced Turf Solutions seeks Golf Sales Representative
- Raven Golf Club in Snowshoe, WV seeks Golf Course Superintendent
- Greenbrier Country Club in Chesapeake Seeks Equipment Manager

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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

Hello Everyone, I hope everyone is doing well. I would like to thank Jay Wade for past years of service and hope I can hold up in his shadow.

Well it's only a few months into 2021 and we have already dealt with managing the whims of Mother Nature, I know for my team and myself it was a bit of a challenge to treat our bermuda for the upcoming season as I am sure most of us were fighting saturated golf courses and irate players, who always obey the cart rules. Aerations are right around the corner, for some of us, and I'm sure it will be June before we know it, bringing the next round of expecting the unexpected and doing our best to keep the grass growing and the golfers happy.

So many rules are still affecting our ability to gather and socialize as we wish, which has unfortunately led to another year of the ODGCSA forgoing our March Madness event. It is our hope that Covid restrictions

will get to a point where we can plan more events later this year.

We continue to discuss social events outside of golf, so if you all have any suggestions, we would love to hear from you about what you all would like to see. Presently the focus for us is maintaining our Scholarship Tournament in hopes to help deserving recipients throughout these unprecedented times we face together.

Right now our Scholarship Tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15th at Spring Creek Golf Club, more details to follow on starting times etc. I anticipate it being a great opportunity for all and any of us that want to play a great golf course, see our friends, and support a great cause.

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to let me know, this is your association and we are here to help provide events and gatherings you all would like to attend, if there are any topics you

would like to see discussed at future educational events please let us know that as well.

I sincerely hope that we can get back to normal in the months to come, we deal with enough uncertainty already, so here's to the rest of 2021 and its promise to be better than 2020. So let's all continue to be each other's best resource and support system, the best part about our industry!



Chris Roberts
ODGCSA
External VP

TTA News

Longer days and fewer frost delays...Spring is in the air! The Tidewater, much like most of Virginia, deserves some good weather after being under water for much of the winter. Our first event of the year was held at Bayville Golf Club and to no one's surprise, the golf course was in excellent condition. We are continuing to fill out the schedule for 2021 and will be holding the

Dick Cake Memorial and Virlina Cup Qualifier at Elizabeth Manor Golf & Country Club on June 8th. Look for VGCSA's emails as we will add events to fill out the summer and fall, including our annual TopGolf event and the Bert Walton Memorial tournament. It's not too late in the game to say 2021 will be our year!



Tim Doran
TTA External
VP

News from the GWGCSA

I hope everyone had a productive off-season and projects are wrapping up as talk about pre-emerge applications and we all start gearing up as the season gets underway. There never seems to be enough time in the spring to get our to-do lists done and with the increased rounds it just seems that much more difficult this year. We've said it before but it's times like these that we as professionals get to shine and show our creative management styles and ability to adapt to any circumstance.

The GWGCSA will be hosting four events

this year. Be on the lookout for details on our first event, which will be at Bristow Manor Golf Club on Monday May 24th. This will be the Qualifier for the Local Association Challenge and Virlina Cup. Our Second event to look forward to will be the Super / Assistant Championship at Potomac Shores Golf Club on Tuesday June 29th.

Lastly, please ask your club to donate to Rounds 4 Research. The auction runs from April 26th - May 2nd. We have a lot of great clubs in the our area that can raise a significant amount of money. All money

raised is allocated directly by our association to research we believe is most important to us.



David Walter
GWGCSA
External VP

News from Local Associations

VTA External VP Report

I always like to take a minute to look back at previous newsletter articles to see what topics had been discussed, how much time I actually spend talking about the weather and just trying to get an overall idea of where each article needed to go. Going back and reading last year's Spring article was definitely surreal. All the unknowns that we were about to face, the anxiety of what was going to happen to the golf industry and scariest of all was how where we going to make it through. Well, the good news is there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel and golf seems to have gotten a much needed boost.

This year we hope to have some more activity within the VTA, starting with our

scholarship fundraiser in June at Ivy Hills. One event that we had to postpone last year was a "mini field days" at Virginia Tech. We are currently working with the team at Virginia Tech to see if we can re-establish this event in July with hopes of tying it into our Virlina Cup qualifier. To end the year we will be going down to Southside Virginia to have our annual meeting at Goodyear in Danville. As restrictions ease, we will look to add a few more informal events to the calendar, doing our best to reconnect with our fellow green industry members.

Once again the VTA will be opening up the Bob Ruff Scholarship to students at Virginia Tech, children of VTA member as well as staff members that may be wishing to pursue

a career in our industry.

Keep your eyes peeled for the event schedule and emails from Brian Kearns. Looking forward to getting a chance to see everyone this year...and not on Zoom. Stay safe.



Sean K.
Baskette
Hidden Valley
Country Club
VTA President

SVTA News

Spring is fast approaching here in the valley. The golfers have been coming out of hibernation and if the past few weeks are any indication of how the season is going to go, it's going to be a busy one. We have a newly elected board for the SVTA. David Lewallen is our new president, Peter Schmidt is taking on the Vice President role. Bobby Jenkins remains our treasurer. Chris Dieter and Joel Miller are teaming up

for the secretary position and I have accepted the role of External Vice President, replacing Ed Eagle. I would like to thank Ed for all of his work with the SVTA over the years. He has been an integral part in furthering the SVTA with membership participation and involvement at the state level. We have some exciting SVTA events planned this year so I hope to see everyone there!



Eric Ferrell
SVTA External
VP



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2021 VGCSA Schedule

April 20 – TTA Clambake & Oyster Roast Scramble, Bide a Wee GC

April 22 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

April 26 – May 2 – Rounds4Research Auction

May 10 – VGCSA Championship, Two Rivers CC

May 10-12 – National Golf Day (Virtual)

May 12 – SVTA Meeting, Rock Harbor GC, Winchester

May 17 – Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence GC

May 24 – GWGCSA Qualifying for Virlina Cup & Local Assn. Challenge, Bristow Manor GC

June TBA – SVTA Meeting, Bryce Resort, Basye

June 8 – TTA Dick Cake Memorial & Virlina Cup Qualifying, Elizabeth Manor GCC

June 15 – ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament, Spring Creek GC

June 15 – VTA BOB RUFF SR. FUNDRAISER, IVY HILLS GC

June 29 – GWGCSA Superintendent/Assistant Championship, Potomac Shores GC

July TBA - TTA Building the Game of Golf, Virginia Beach National / First Tee

July 13 – VTA MINI VT FIELD DAYS AND VIRLINA CUP QUALIFIER, PETE DYE RIVER COURSE

August 5 – VGCSA Board Meeting, CC of Petersburg

August 5 – VGCSA Local Association Challenge, CC of Petersburg

Sept TBA – SVTA Meeting, Lakeview GC, Harrisonburg

October TBA – TTA Meeting

October 4 - VGCSA Joe Saylor Memorial, Lakeside Park Club

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

October 14 - VTF Fundraiser, Blue Ridge Shadows GC, Front Royal

October 19 – VTA ANNUAL MEETING, GOODYEAR GC

October 25 – VGCSA Assistants Forum, Hermitage CC

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

November 18 - VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

December 6-7 – VGCSA Conference, Site TBA

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