



Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Spring 2022

President's Message



It was great to see that at least a few of our members were able to make it out to San Diego for the GIS. Overall, I felt the conference experience was great. Everyone's initial concerns about vaccine testing and masking were not as much of an issue as initially thought. It seems that even California is ready to get back to "normal". The education was as good as ever.

Unfortunately, many exhibitors were noticeably absent and/or drastically scaled down from previous years. It will be interesting to see if this trend continues next year in Orlando or if it reverses itself. Only time will tell.

We held our GIS social on Wednesday night along with the Mid-Atlantic AGCS and the Eastern Shore GCSA. The venue was terrific, with great views of downtown San Diego, great drinks, and good food. It was great to see everyone back together again.

The board held our annual lobby day and board meeting in January. This was the first time we have met with our legislators in-person since 2020. It was great being able to get back into the offices and meet one-on-one with our elected officials. I believe

most were thankful to be able to host constituents again. Thank you to Delegate Amanda Batten and Senator Monty Mason for their gracious introduction of our association on the House and Senate floors. It was quite an honor for our collective work to be recognized by our elected officials.

One of the VGCSA's most important missions is to represent our members and our industry on the state level. In fact, we are the only golf association in Virginia that employs a full-time lobbyist so you could logically infer that the VGCSA is the de-facto representative of the golf industry in the eyes of our state lawmakers. Just this year, laws regulating the application of paraquat, neonicotinoid insecticides, gas leaf blowers, and new water restrictions were proposed in the session. Fortunately, most of these proposals were not successful, but these and other issues will certainly continue in the future. We must continue to educate our elected officials and the general public about the benefits of our wonderful game, our facilities, and our industry.

You will soon notice an updated website. This is a result of an investment in our database software. Both David Norman and Tyler Eastman have been working hard behind the scenes getting this program up and running. This software greatly enhances our back-office operations. It will also allow us to offer a more streamlined way to integrate payment options into our website, activate an online member directory, and many more updated features that our current software does not allow.

I hope to see everyone at our events this summer. Please consider our partners when making purchasing decisions. They are responsible for over 35% of our annual revenues. Their support is vital to support our mission. None of this would be possible without their support.



Jeff Whitmire
CGCS
President



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Virginia's Rounds4Research Auction Runs April 25 to May 1 • Please Promote to Bidders



Rounds 4 Research
GCSAA

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The 2021 Rounds 4 Research fundraising program in Virginia was very 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.

- 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!

When is the auction?

- The auction will be held online from April 25 to May 1.
- Auction Website - a link will be provided when the website is live - please promote it to your members.

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

Please feel free to advertise the auction to the players at your club.

GCSAA Funds \$149,957 for TURFGRASS Research Beginning in 2022

Grants support five new turfgrass research projects through 2024

By Kelsey Underwood



Dr. David McCall

Research grants from the GCSAA are supporting five new research projects at universities across the country beginning in 2022, including one in Virginia. The projects will be funded through the GCSAA Foundation research endowments and its Chapter Cooperative Grant Program.

The projects, which were selected by a committee that included two members of the GCSAA board of directors, superintendents, university researchers and other professional scientists, will receive a total of \$149,957 from a GCSAA Foundation block grant with an additional \$62,500 in matching funds from participating GCSAA chapters. GCSAA has an additional 14 research projects on-going through its program.

The following five research projects are funded for a period of two years:

- Enhanced Breeding Strategies for Gray Leaf Spot Disease Resistance

in Cool-Season Turfgrasses; by Phillip L. Vines, Ph.D., Rutgers University. Funded through the GCSAA Foundation's O.J. Noer Research Endowment.

- Selection and Evaluation of Shade Tolerance in Creeping Bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*); by Stacy A. Bonos, Ph.D., Rutgers University. Funded by a Chapter Cooperative Research Grant and matching funds from GCSA of New Jersey Foundation.
- Developing Seedhead Suppression Programs for Bermudagrass Fairways using Plant Growth Regulators and Herbicides; by Jim Baird, Ph. D., University of California, Riverside. Funded by a Chapter Cooperative Research Grant with matching funds from Sierra Nevada GCSA, GCSA of Northern California, GCSA of Southern California, Hi-Lo Desert GCSA, GCSA of Central California and San Diego GCSA in collaboration with the California Turfgrass & Landscape Foundation.



Lance (*Hoplolaimus galeatus*) Nematodes

- Evaluating Alternative Effective Action Thresholds for Lance (*Hoplolaimus galeatus*) Nematodes

in Creeping Bentgrass Putting Greens; by David McCall, Ph.D., Virginia Tech University. Funded by a Chapter Cooperative Research Grant through the GCSAA Foundation's Dr. Michael Hurdzan Research Endowment with matching funds from the Virginia GCSA.



Fall Armyworm in larvae stage



Fall Armyworm Adult

- Improving Our Understanding of U.S. Fall Armyworm Populations that Originate in Florida to Aid in Improving Golf Course IPM Recommendations; by Silvana Vieira de Paula Moraes, Ph.D., University of Florida. Funded in part through the GCSAA Foundation's Robert A. Moore Endowment.

Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic

Set for May 9th at Independence Golf Club



Hokje Patron \$5,000 COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES SCHOOL OF PLANT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES VIRGINIA TECH	Shoulders Patron \$4,000 LANDSCAPE SUPPLY VirginiaGreen LAWN CARE	Educator Patron \$3,000 Bayer Syngenta Green Golf Design Buy Sod Revels/Finch/ ClubProcure SiteOne Landscape Supply	Orange & Maroon Patron \$2,000 Advanced Turf Solutions GE Turf Genesis Turfgrass Helena JRM, Inc. Noble Turf Old Dominion GCSCA PBI Gordon Performance Nutrition Simplex Smith Turf & Irrigation Tidewater Turfgrass Assn. Trinity Turf Virginia Turfgrass Assn. Virginia Turfgrass Council
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2021 Team Sponsor Listing



VirginiaTech®
College of Agriculture and
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 9th, hosted by Independence Golf Club in Richmond. Amazing results last year, as the event raised over \$55,000 for turf research.

Now in the fifth year, the Virginia Tech researchers continue to conduct turfgrass testing on the Short Course at Independence. 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 bermudagrass on their greens. Returning to the event this year is the Virginia Tech Field Day. The Tech team will be showing off their research plots on the Short Course. You will not want to miss these updates!

After another 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. This event has become the ultimate networking event in the industry. This year we will go back to the shotgun start format after the field day with a prize

reception following golf. 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

VGCSA Social Media & Digital Outlets



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BREEN ELECTED 86TH PRESIDENT OF GCSAA

Election took place as part of the 2022 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in San Diego

by Angela Hartmann



Mark Jordan

Kevin P. Breen, the certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) at La Rinconada Country Club in Los Gatos, CA, was elected to a one-year term as president of the GCSAA at the annual meeting Feb. 10, held in conjunction with the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. He is the 86th president in the association's history.

Breen served as vice president of the association in 2021 and has been a member of the association's board of directors since 2015. A 31-year member of GCSAA, Breen is also a past president of both the Sierra Nevada GCSA and the California GCSA.

Breen has served as the superintendent at La Rinconada CC since 2011. Prior to that, he served as the director of maintenance at Lahontan Golf Club in Truckee, Calif., and as the superintendent at Los Alamos (N.M.) Golf Course.

"I thank you for the opportunity I have before me this coming year in leading our organization, GCSAA," Breen said. "I have a full year of endeavors and work ahead of me that I am really looking forward to." He has bachelor's degrees in horticulture/turf from Colorado State University in Fort

Collins and in meteorology from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Other elected officers were Kevin P. Sunderman, CGCS, director of grounds at Isla Del Sol Yacht and CC in St. Petersburg, FL, as vice president, and Jeff L. White, CGCS and superintendent at Indian Hills CC in Mission Hills, KS; as secretary/treasurer.

Board members Douglas D. Dykstra, CGCS, golf course superintendent at White Mountain CC in Pinetop, AZ, and Marc E. Weston, CGCS and superintendent at Indian Hill CC in Newington, CT, were elected to serve again, while Steven J. Hammon, superintendent at Traverse City (MI) CC, was newly elected to the board.

T.A. Barker, CGCS and superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, UT; and Paul L. Carter, CGCS and superintendent at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay in Harrison, TN, continue their service on the board. Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, natural resources leader at Westfield CC in Westfield Center, OH, will serve as immediate past president, while John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo (MI) CC, retired from board service.

2022 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show highlights

The GCSAA Conference and Trade Show is the largest annual event in the turfgrass management industry. After a virtual event in 2021 due to the pandemic, the GCSAA Conference returned to an in-person event in San Diego. A total of 3,700 seminar seats were filled. In addition to education for superintendents, the event also included specialized education for assistant superintendents, equipment managers, students and more. The GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in-person total attendance was 6,500.

"The first tenant of GCSAA's mission is serving members, and in surveying our members, it was abundantly clear that they desired a return to an in-person event," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "We knew,

based on data from other conventions this year, that our numbers would not be typical because the world isn't typical right now. But, as a member service, we were dedicated to doing what we could to move things forward for the industry and provide the best experience possible. We are very pleased with the high level of engagement from those who joined us.

The trade show covered nearly 114,000 square feet of exhibit space at the San Diego Convention Center and hosted more than 300 exhibitors.

"It was so refreshing to be back amongst the most influential folks in our industry," exhibitor Todd Jenkins, vice president of Better Billy Bunker, said. "Every colleague and attendee I spoke with echoed the same. I appreciate the efforts of GCSAA in planning a great week during uncertain times, and thanks to every GCSAA member who made the trek to San Diego."

The 2023 GCSAA Conference and Trade Show will head to Orlando, Fla., Feb. 4-9, at the Orange County Convention Center.

In other news from the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show:

- A team from Purdue won the annual GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl Competition Virginia Tech sent a team to compete this year.
- Bob Farren, CGCS, and director of golf course and grounds management at Pinehurst (N.C.) Resort, received GCSAA's inaugural Col. John Morley Award during the Opening Session, while country music star, philanthropist, and avid golfer Vince Gill accepted GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award during the Closing Celebration.
- Seth Strickland, GCSAA Class A superintendent at Miami Shores (Fla.) Country Club, is the winner of the 2022 GCSAA National Championship.
- GCSAA membership continues to grow and during the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show membership reached 19,122.

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2022 VGCSA Match Play Preview

Hedgepeth and Robinson to Defend Title



Cutler Robinson & Trevor Hedgepeth



Matt Boyce



Paul Jett

Springtime means it's time for the popular VGCSA Match Play event to commence. Last fall, Trevor Hedgepeth and Cutler Robinson made it through the draw to oust Jeff Snyder and Jim Wilson in the finals at Hermitage CC. It was the first title for Hedgepeth-Robinson, but a disappointing second time as "bridesmaids" for Snyder-Wilson.

These two teams will be among the favorites again this year in the 32-team field. Other past champion teams include

Scott Mauldin & Tommy Adams (2020), Paul Van Buren & Chris Roberts (2019) and Matt Boyce & Cameron Yancey (2018).

One newcomer team may wreak havoc in the competition, Garrison Fowler (Riverside Turf) and Mike Stowers (Advanced Turf Solutions) – Fowler and Stowers are longtime friends when they worked together at Two Rivers CC, and Fowler has competed on Virlina Cup teams. Another new combo features

Boyce (Greensward Solutions) with a new partner, Paul Jett (Triangle Turf & Ornamental). Boyce is a Virlina Cup player and Jett advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2019 US Senior Amateur.

Teams must win five consecutive matches to claim the title. Kinloch Golf Club, #1 in VA (Golf Digest) will again host the championship match in the fall.



Kinloch GC will host the championship match

Host a First Green Program at Your Course

Turning Golf Courses into Classrooms



Founded in 1997, First Green is the only STEM education and environmental outreach program in the United States and Canada that uses golf courses as learning labs.

First Green, a Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) program, pairs golf courses with local schools for unique Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities.

First Green curriculum benefits young students by helping them apply their classroom knowledge in an outdoor setting. By understanding how STEM concepts connect, students find new inspiration in their schoolwork and in the possibility of a career in golf or a STEM-related field.

HOW TO HOST A FIELD TRIP REGISTER TO HOST

Interested in hosting a field trip at your course? Register to become part of the

program. Staff will then reach out with additional details.

CONNECT WITH A SCHOOL

Reach out to local middle schools or high schools to identify the best time for a field trip at your golf course.

REGISTER YOUR FIELD TRIP

Once details are confirmed with the school and teacher, register your field trip through the link below. Read more: <https://www.thefirstgreen.org/get-involved/superintendents/>

Golf superintendents, course staff and/or local industry representatives host students on field trips to test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, preserve wildlife habitats, assist in stream-bed restoration and learn about the



ecology, conservation and environmental aspects of golf courses.

Here are some of the resources the program provides: Host Field Trip Supplies List. Field Trip Report. Club Newsletter Template, Sample Field Trip Agenda, STEM Lesson Plan Examples. Tips to Connect with Local Schools and First Green Media Step by Step.

Time to Establish Your Own Facility BMP

Special Webinar Slated for May 19th

Now that the final step in publishing the second edition of “Environmental Best Management Practices for Virginia’s Golf Courses” is complete (a website), it is now time for each club in Virginia to customize its own Facility BMP. And lucky for us, GCSAA has built a special web-based tool to make it easy!

The BMP site is linked off www.vgcsa.org and is also accessible from its own URL, <https://vgcsabmp.org/>. There you will find the architecture for the different “chapters” to be used in customizing each club’s “personal BMP.” GCSAA staff Emily Fuger and Mark Johnson will lead the discussion in a special webinar set for 10 AM on Thursday, May 19th, **SAVE THE DATE**. Participants will log on “live” and use the online tool to select the elements that apply to their particular club.

“Facility BMPs demonstrate our association’s commitment to environmental stewardship, which we can point to when challenged by outside parties not familiar with the practices of our

profession,” said BMP Chair Tim Doran of Elizabeth Manor G&CC. “Earlier we were able to have nutrient management plans for all courses in Virginia, so adding facility BMP’s adds to this effort.”

Besides Doran, other BMP Committee members are Steven Ball, Mike Goatley, Peter McDonough, Mike Augustin, Jay Wade, Cutler Robinson, Bill Keene and Jeff Whitmire.



Q Education **Environment and BMPs** Advocacy Career Resources Join/Renew

David's Profile ▾



ENVIRONMENT AND BMPs

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ENVIRONMENT AND BMPs

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BMP PLANNING GUIDE AND TEMPLATE

BMP Best Management Practices



Get started on Facility BMP Manuals

Once your state BMP manual is available through GCSAA's BMP Planning Guide and Template you can easily create a facility BMP manual for your facility. Access is easy with your GCSAA website member log-in using the link immediately below, then select the facility BMP icon and go. Webinars are available below to assist you with this easy to use tool.

7th Annual Old Dominion GCSA Scholarship Tournament Heads to Magnolia Green Golf Club

Monday, April 25, 2022

Magnolia Green Golf Club plays host to this year's Old Dominion Scholarship Tourney on Monday, April 25th – 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). Paul Van Buren of Kanawha Golf Club and Chris Roberts of Landscape Supply took top honors last year with a gross score of 71 at Spring Creek Golf Club. First place in the net division went to the team of Tom Adams of Helena and Jerome Dodson of Fredericksburg Country Club with a net score of 65. 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.



Sponsorship Opportunities

Presenting - \$2,500 | Includes Two 2-person teams + signage
Fellows - \$1,000 | Includes Two, 2-person teams + signage
Bloody Mary/Screwdriver Bar - \$500 | Includes One, 2-person team + signage
Lunch - \$500 | Includes One, 2-person team + signage
Reception - \$500 | Includes One, 2-person team + signage
Driving Range - \$500 | Includes One, 2-person team + signage
Longest Putt Sponsor - \$500 | Includes One, 2-person team + signage
Contest (CTP, Drive) - \$500 | Includes One, 2-person team + signage
Hole Sponsor - \$200 | Includes signage on hole



Defending Gross Champions: Chris Roberts & Paul Van Buren



Defending Net Champions: Tommy Adams & Jerome Dodson

Make Smarter Decisions with USGA Deacon

By Elliott Dowling, USGA Senior Agronomist

For more than 100 years, the USGA has been helping golf courses through research, education and the Course Consulting Service. With the introduction of Deacon, superintendents now have a tool for collecting and visualizing data to help them make smarter decisions for improved turf health, better surface performance, and enhanced communication. Deacon has several useful features:

Surface Management: Deacon makes it easy to record and analyze data. By tracking daily putting green characteristics such as green speed, clipping volume, surface firmness, and soil moisture, users can understand the influence of individual cultural practices and weather. The more information you enter, the more confidence you can have in your data-driven decisions.

Hole Location: Plan and track hole locations on a customizable map interface that allows you to see every green so you can set hole locations and generate best-in-class sheets in just minutes. This is the same platform that we have used at our

GREEN SPEED



national championships.

GPS Service: Maintenance costs represent one of golf's biggest challenges. With small GPS loggers that accurately track individual golfer movement, Deacon can show golfer traffic through heat maps so users can see exactly where your golfers are going—and more importantly—where

they are not going. This visualization allows you to better allocate your resources to the most important areas of your property.

For more information, you can contact me at edowling@usga.org or go to <https://gsshop.usga.org/pages/deacon>

GCSAA Career Services

Did you know about GCSAA's support of your career? Erin Wolfram is GCSAA's career consultant, available via email (Erin@careeradvantageresumes.com) or by phone at 785-393-5886.

RESUME CRITIQUES - At no charge to GCSAA members, our resume professionals will look through your current resume (and cover letter drafts) and make suggestions.

LINKEDIN PROFILE - Have a presence on the world's largest professional network with a \$100 member rate.

PROFESSIONAL RESUME AND LINKEDIN PROFILE - For a reduced

member rate of \$260, this service includes full content recommendations and formatting, a phone consultation, and MS Word file ready to transfer to LinkedIn.

COVER LETTER/THANK YOU LETTER - Have your cover letter and follow-up thank you letter written and formatted for a member rate of \$55.

REFERENCES - Members receive free writing and formatting of their references.

CAREER PORTFOLIO/ WEBSITE CRITIQUES AND EDITING - Our career experts will provide guidance, critiquing, and editing of digital supplementary career materials such as

career websites, portfolios, CDs, and PowerPoint slide shows.

MOCK PHONE INTERVIEWS - Conduct a mock phone interview with one of our career experts. Learn strategies to improve your approach. This service is \$110.

INDIVIDUALIZED CAREER CONSULTATIONS - Schedule a phone consultation to discuss your individual career situation. Hourly consultation fees may apply.

VIRLINA CUP QUALIFYING SITES & DATES



The 12th Annual Virlina Cup will be hosted by the Carolinas this year, with exact date and location coming soon. Last year, James River Country Club in Newport News hosted the 11th Virlina Cup on October 10-12, 2021. In a most incredible comeback effort, the VGCSA Team regained the Virlina Cup over the Carolinas GCSA, by the narrow margin of 8.5 to 7.5. Can the Carolinas take the title back this year? Here are the qualifying dates for this year's Cup:

GWGCSA Local Qualifier
May 2, 2022
International Country Club

TTA Local Qualifier
June 14, 2022
Elizabeth Manor Golf & Country Club

VGCSA Championship
June 21, 2022
Williamsburg Country Club

VTA Local Qualifier
June 28, 2022
Draper Valley Country Club

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. VGCSA President Jeff Whitmire, CGCS hosts at Williamsburg Golf Club on Tuesday, June 21st. The event is known for great camaraderie, fun competition, and an outstanding social event after the tournament.

Defending Champions



Rhett Martin – Assts.



Tommy Adams-Affiliate



Jeff Holliday – Senior



Cameron Yancey-Supts.



Government Relations Update



Robb Bohannon

The 60-day session of the 2022 Virginia General Assembly concluded, as scheduled, on March 12th, although legislators left Richmond without a budget. At this point, it is unclear when House and Senate conferees may reach an agreement on the state's spending plan for the next two years.

Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) transitioned from the gubernatorial campaign into the governor's mansion with an ambitious legislative agenda, which included 59 pieces of legislation and more than 25 budget amendments, focused largely on the goals of increasing public safety, increasing educational achievement, fostering economic competitiveness, and lowering the cost of everyday living for Virginians. Senate Democrats vowed to be a brick wall against what they viewed as efforts to roll back progress made in the previous two legislative sessions. They defeated several of the governor's legislative priorities related to charter schools and prohibiting the teaching of divisive concepts, and also did not confirm his selection for Secretary of Natural Resources,

Andrew Wheeler, who led the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under President Donald Trump (R). Governor Youngkin was successful in signing legislation repealing Virginia's school mask mandate, and there was agreement between the legislative and executive branch on elimination of the Commonwealth's grocery tax.

Several pieces of legislation were filed by House Republicans to roll back or freeze minimum wage requirements, all of which were defeated in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.

Legislation filed by Delegate Kathy Tran (D-Fairfax) that would have required the Department of Health to develop an information sheet regarding the public health risks of paraquat, and make the sheet available to download from its website, and would have required employers with employees licensed to apply paraquat to provide a copy of the information sheet to each licensee, keep records concerning licensees, and update and annually report data regarding the use of paraquat to the Department of Health, was defeated in the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee Agriculture Subcommittee.

Additionally, Delegate Kaye Kory (D-Fairfax) sponsored legislation that would have allowed any locality to regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. VGCSA testified in opposition to this bill, which was defeated in the House Counties, Cities and Towns Committee

Subcommittee #1.

Outside of the General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released proposed regulations for creating a general permit for use of the surficial aquifer in a groundwater management area. These regulations are the result of legislation from 2020 by Senator Monty Mason (D-Williamsburg) related to nonagricultural wells, that provided an expedited review process for golf courses seeking to drill beyond the surficial aquifer. The goal is to create a more streamlined – and less expensive – general permit to encourage use of the surficial aquifer.

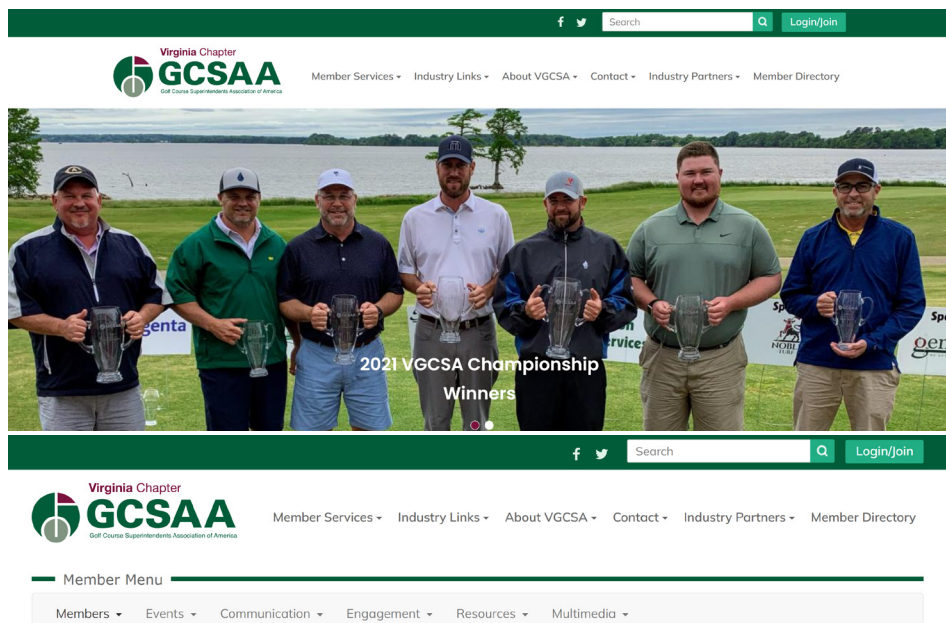
VGCSA representatives met with DEQ officials in March to discuss these proposed regulations and their impact on golf course superintendents. DEQ relayed that the proposed regulations include criteria on the determination of water quality provided by VGCSA through their regulatory advisory panel, and that these regulations would only apply to new wells in a groundwater management area. VGCSA will be providing comments through Virginia Town Hall on this proposal.

The General Assembly is set to return to Richmond on April 27th for a reconvene session where they will act upon gubernatorial amendments and vetoes to legislation passed during the regular session.

MemberLeap Association Management Software & New Website Coming Soon!



VGCSA is excited to report the conversion from the old website to the new website is on track to be completed during the second quarter. The new platform will allow for members to login and have instant access to their online profile in addition to the online membership directory, news articles, event registrations, partner listings and much more. VGCSA will be able streamline its operations while providing a modernized experience for the membership. As we get closer to going live with the new platform it will be important for members to login and ensure their profiles are up to date with current contact information. Be on the lookout for instructions and more information in our Through the Green eLetter as we get closer to launch.



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:

- Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club in Gainesville, VA seeks Golf Course Mechanic
- Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club in Gainesville, VA seeks 1st Assistant Superintendent
- The First Tee of Greater Richmond seeks Senior Director of Agronomy
- Fauquier Springs Country Club near Warrenton, VA seeks Equipment Manager
- Hermitage Country Club in Manakin-Sabot, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- The Country Club of Virginia seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Gauntlet GC, Meadows Farm GC, Somerset Farms GC in Fredericksburg, VA seeks Superintendent
- Kiskiack Golf Club in Williamsburg, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Fauquier Springs Country Club near Warrenton, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- The Golf Club at Lansdowne in Lansdowne, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Hunt Valley Country Club in Phoenix, Maryland seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Queenfield Golf Club in Mechanicsville, VA seeks Superintendent

Thank You 2022 Partner Program Participants!

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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

Greetings everyone, I'll just forego the old lip-service about this year being better than last, it isn't starting out any better. We are all feeling the pinch on personal and professional levels, I am certain.

What I would hope, is that we can all take these times to build better relationships with our peers, for personal and professional reasons. Tough times create strong character, so I hope we can all come out of these uncertain times better people on all levels, we need to remember those we deal with are also dealing with tough times.

Enough of that, I am pleased to announce that we will be continuing our Scholarship Tournament this year on **Monday April 25th at Magnolia Green, it will be a 1:00 shotgun** start with all the things you have come to expect at the event. Bloody Mary bars and lunch to start us off, followed by

food and awards after. So please, save the date and help us continue what has become a great event supporting a great cause. Please communicate with your respective clubs and have all eligible applicants take the time to apply for our scholarship.

We are still currently planning out the rest of our year so there are no solid dates to announce, but some of our plans include a sporting clay day, joint meetings with TTA for social and educational opportunities. We realize, not all of our members like to unwind playing golf and want to offer some options outside of the usual lunch and golf, although we like those too. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any Board member with suggestions about education topics or events you would enjoy.

I would like to welcome Ryan Holbrook from Spring Creek to the ODGCSA Board

this year, and also wish Dan Sabina the best of luck with his acceptance of a new position in Michigan. That does leave a spot open on the Board so if you would like to step up and become a board member, please let us know as well.

Thank you!



Chris Roberts
ODGCSA
External VP

TTA News

We are officially in Spring and the TTA looks forward to springing into another great year of events. The annual TopGolf event returned in February thanks to Smith Turf & Irrigation, Ventrac, DLL Finance and 1st Products. Harrell's, Ewing, and Buy Sod helped us catch up on education with Dr. Lane Treadway at James River Country Club.

The next official event on the calendar is the Dick Cake Memorial Tournament and Virlina Cup Qualifier at Elizabeth Manor on June 14th, though you might keep an eye out for a pop-up event before then. The continued support from our vendor partners is greatly appreciated and we are excited to keep the good times rolling in the Tidewater.



Tim Doran
TTA External
VP

News from the GWGCSA

Happy spring everyone, I hope you had a productive, yet restful off season. Mother nature was good to us giving us some weather in January that scared off even the most diehard golfers giving all our courses a well-deserved break. Before we know it, we will be complaining that it's too hot and too humid! Enjoy spring while it lasts, all ten days of it.

The Greater Washington has a great lineup of events this year. Starting out at International Country Club on May 2nd with the Virlina Cup Qualifier. Followed by a

GWGCSA/SVTA joint event at Caverns Country Club on June 9th. In July we will be back at Forest Greens Golf Club for the Maintenance Open. Springfield Country Club will host us in October, and as always, we will end the year at Evergreen Country Club in November.

I wish everyone the best as the season gets underway!



David Walter
GWGCSA
External VP

News from Local Associations

VTA External VP Report

Spring has finally arrived! It is always an exciting time, but there is so much to do. Pre-emerge applications, aerifications, and recruiting/hiring (always) are the main focus for most. Greens aerification recovery in the spring can never come fast enough. Golf rounds in 2022 are on track to be as good as the previous two years.

The VTA has a great schedule for 2022. We will be meeting at some places we have not seen in quite a while. Our Bob Ruff Sr. fundraiser will be May 24th at Chatmoss Country Club in Martinsville with golf course superintendent John Hart as our host. The VTA will be offering scholarships to turfgrass students, our member's children, and our member's staff.

Please feel free to contact any of our board members for more information. Our Virgina Cup qualifier will be June 28th at Draper Valley Golf Club with Tony Montgomery as our host superintendent. We plan to have a family night at a Salem Red Sox baseball game this summer, and our annual meeting will be go-karting at VIR in Danville October 4th which is always a blast. VTA President Mark Madonna will be sending out more information closer to the date of each event.

Last, but not least is the Rounds 4 Research auction. The auction is April 25-May 1. It is super simple and something that is very beneficial for our industry.
www.gcsaa.org/foundation/rounds-4-research

I hope everyone has a great season.



Brian Kearns
VTA External
VP

SVTA News

Spring has almost spring here in the valley. We have had some excellent early March weather for golf! The turf is slowly waking up and everyone is gearing up for the season. We had an informative SVTA meeting at Shenandoah Valley Country Club. Among the guest speakers was Chris Harriman who spoke on social media and the benefits of blogs as communication tools. For those of you who haven't checked

out his blog you should!

We are moving the SVTA/Greater Washington joint event from June 7 to June 9 at Caverns Country Club. Format and details will be posted soon. Good luck to everyone out there on the upcoming season! It looks to be a busy one.



Eric Ferrell
SVTA External
VP



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2022 VGCSA Schedule

April 21 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

April 25 – May 1 – Rounds4Research Auction

April 25 – Old Dominion GCSA Scholarship Tournament, Magnolia Green GC

May 2 – GWGCSA Qualifying for Virlina Cup, International GC

May 9 – Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence GC

May 10-11 – National Golf Day, Washington, D.C.

May 19 – GCSAA Facility BMP Webinar

May 24 – VTA Bob Ruff Sr. Fundraiser, Chatmoss CC

June 9 – GWGCSA/SVTA Joint Meeting, Caverns CC

June 14 – TTA Dick Cake Memorial & Virlina Cup Qualifier, Elizabeth Manor Country Club

June 21 – VGCSA Championship, Williamsburg GC

June 28 – VTA Golf and Virlina Cup Qualifing, Draper Valley Golf Club

July TBA – GWGCSA Maintenance Open, Forest Greens GC

August TBA – VTA Baseball, Salem Red Sox Game

August 11 – VGCSA Board Meeting & Local Association Challenge, Birdwood GC

October TBA – Joe Saylor Memorial

October 4 – VTA Annual Meeting (Go Carts, Speakers), Virginia International Raceway

October 11 – GWGCSA Meeting, Springfield G&CC

October 24 – VGCSA Assistants Forum, Boonsboro CC

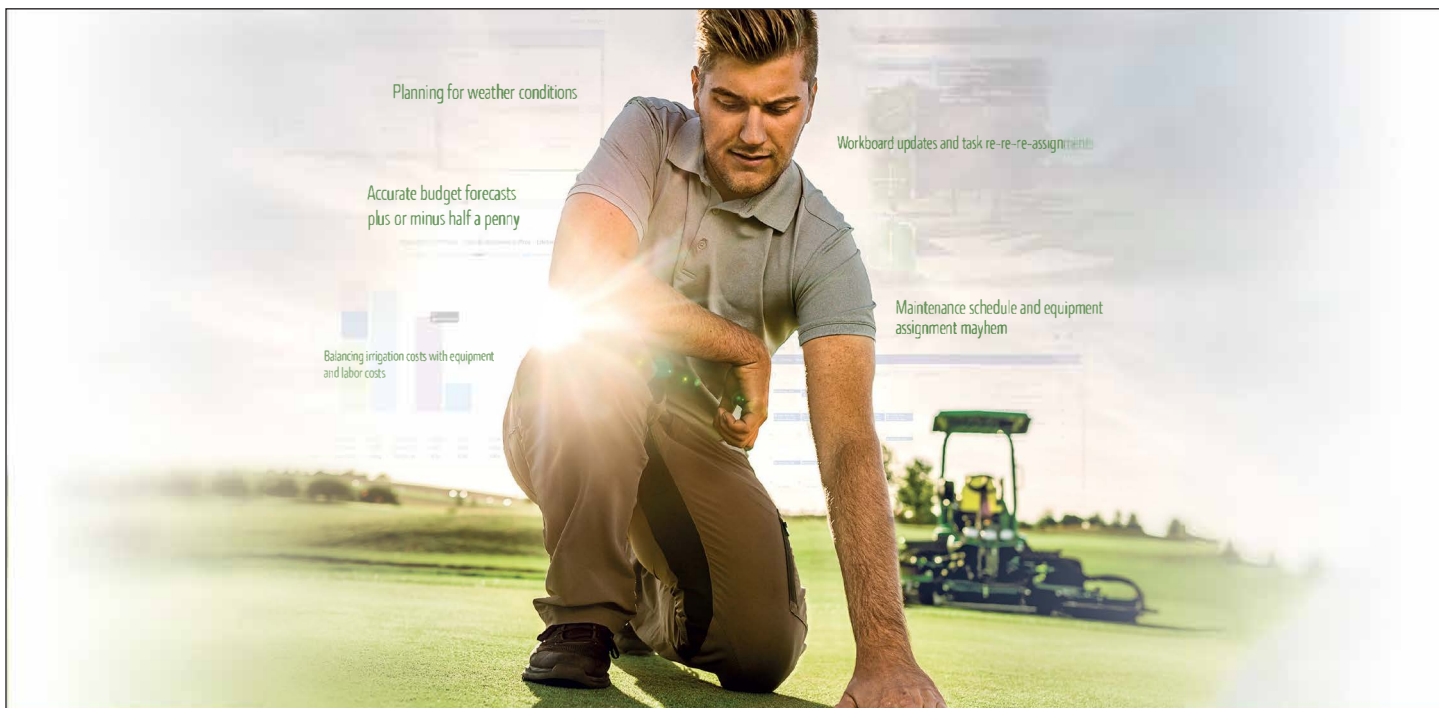
November 1 – GWGCSA Annual Meeting/Elections/EOY Classic, Evergreen CC

November TBA – TTA Bert Walton, Site TBA

November 17 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

December 5-6 – VGCSA Annual Conference, UVA Darden Conference Center

More event postings coming soon



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