

Summer 2013

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## President's Message

The grind of summer is upon us and every day brings new challenges with team members, conditioning expectations and the ever-swinging pendulum of Virginia weather. Fortunately we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and the cool breezes of fall, along with college football, will be here before we know it!

The efforts of the VGCSA are in full swing as we prepare for another fall season. August and September bring local chapter meetings and a plethora of opportunities to network and compare stories from challenges you have encountered this summer. October will be the fourth installment of the Virginia Cup match play competition to be held in the Carolinas. Through our VGCSA Championship, local qualifiers, and two captain's picks we hope to avenge two recent losses and bring the Cup back to Virginia. Captain and past president Jeff Berg will be leading the charge this year and Syngenta will once again sponsor this prestigious event. Best of luck to all of our competitors.

Another event slated for this fall is the **Joe Saylor Tournament** on **October 21st**. It will be held at the LPGA Tour stop, **Kingsmill Resort and Spa (River Course)**, and hosted by Ted Smith.

We also arranged for Bruce Williams, of Bruce Williams Golf Consulting, to speak at our **Assistants Forum** held at **Independence Golf Club** on **October 28th**, hosted by Dan Taylor. Please encourage your assistant to participate in this networking opportunity.



The 2017 deadline for each Virginia golf facility to acquire a Nutrient Management Plan is vastly approaching. We realize each facility will decide its own path and timeframe, but this goal is not a "if we can," it's a **"must"** for our industry. The proactive BMP Manual was set up with **your** best interests to create parameters that showed we were leading the charge for our industry. Under these parameters we agreed that each golf facility would provide a plan to maximize the product for our golfers and minimize the impact on the environment.

The Water Monitoring Program headed by Dr. Ervin in conjunction with the VGCSA, is the proof that we as an industry are making sound environmental decisions. With positive Water Monitoring Program results and all golf facilities holding a Nutrient Management Plan in 2017, we will show all governing agencies that we are serious about our industry and the impact on the environment.

I would agree that any program in its infancy will have some questions and can appear confusing, but in its simplest form, each golf facility will need a Nutrient Management Plan by July 2017. You can attain this by either a hired Certified Nutrient Management Planner or retain

the certification yourself through education and testing. Please start now so we can achieve our goals in 2017.

Your VGCSA Board as also been working with Katie Frazier and the Virginia Agri-Business Council to secure future cost share funding for the Nutrient Management Plan. As advertised on our website, the first round of cost share distributed by DCR and DEQ is now available through the approved Certified Nutrient Planners with space available. The Board is currently working on the next round for 2014 and we appreciate Katie and the VAC for helping us navigate this road.

As I start my "Thank You" section of this message, I would like to start with the vendors who support us financially through sponsorships, but who also supply our industry with local support through meetings and service. I would also like to thank our Board as well as our Executive Director, David Norman, for their service to our Association.

Finally I'd like to thank each of you, each VGCSA member, who support us through membership, participation on all levels and continues to grow with us through this ever-changing profession.



Respectfully submitted,

Matt Boyce  
VGCSA President

# Guzek, Sheets Claim VCGSA Championship Titles

## Syngenta Sponsors Inaugural Event

Congratulations go out to 2013 VGCSA Superintendent Champion Chester Guzek of Meadows Farms and Assistants Champion Eric Sheets of The Olde Farm GC in Bristol, VA. Guzek returned an even par 72 at The Foundry Golf Club and led qualifiers for the 2013 Virlina Cup. Chip Bass of Falling River CC shot 76 to claim the second spot on the Virlina Cup Team. Sheets fired 75 and won the Assistants title by 4, also qualifying for the team.

This was the first time the championship was contested as a "stand alone" event, and 31 players from around the Commonwealth competed, including Sheets, whose drive

was 4.5 hours! Six-time Champion Jeff Whitmire of The Williamsburg Club finished fourth, while former Assistant Champion J.D. Dickinson of the

Kanawha Club was second to Sheets. Thanks go out to our sponsors from Syngenta and to host superintendent Scott Mauldin, CGCS.



L-R: Steve Dorer (Syngenta), Eric Sheets, Chester Guzek, Chip Bass, Sam Camuso (Syngenta)



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# Virlina Cup Set for Pinehurst This Fall

The prestigious Virlina Cup pits teams from the VGCSA and the Carolinas GCSA in a Ryder Cup format on October 6-8 in Pinehurst. Now in its fourth year, the event has quickly become the premier golf event for both GCSAA Chapters, with the Carolinas holding a 2-1 lead in the series. Forest Creek Golf Club will play host to the event this year.

The VGCSA squad is currently being

assembled. At the VGCSA Championship, three players qualified – Chester Guzek of Meadows Farm GC, Chip Bass of Falling River CC and Eric Sheets of The Olde Farm GC, who is the assistant superintendent on the team. Jeff Whitmire of The Williamsburg Club qualified at the TTA qualifier. Scott Cornwell of Winchester CC qualified at the SVTA/VTA site. After a couple of rainouts, GWGCSA is expected

to complete its qualifying soon. The team will be completed with a pick by Captain Jeff Berg and another by sponsor Syngenta.



Presented by

## Virlina Cup History

Year	Winner	Score	Site
2010	VGCSA	10-6	Salisbury CC, The Foundry GC, Kinloch GC
2011	CGCSA	9.5-6.5	Chechessee Creek GC, Seccession GC
2012	CGCSA	9.5-6.5	Robert Trent Jones GC, Goose Creek GC, Trump National GC

# Nutrient Management Planning Grants Now Available from These Planners

July 15, 2017 is the deadline for all golf courses in Virginia to have a certified Nutrient Management Plan for their course. For courses in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the state has approved a grant program totaling \$115,000 to assist golf courses with complying with this regulation. Essentially the grant is allotted on a \$10/acre schedule (e.g., 150 acres = \$1,500 grant). Grants are available on a **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE** basis.

The way the program is set up, Nutrient Management Planners were

invited to apply for grants, to be paid to the planners, with the planners then crediting the grant to their clients (i.e., golf courses). There were eight planners that were awarded grants in varying amounts, and seven still have grants available. **So if you would like to save money and get your course certified, now is the time!**

The VGCSA is working closely with the Virginia Agribusiness Council and DCR to seek additional funding for courses outside the Bay watershed. We will keep you posted on our progress.

Please consider getting ahead of the curve and getting your course certified NOW!

If you have any questions about the grants, nutrient management plans in general, or are interested in becoming a certified planner yourself, please contact our colleague at DCR:

J. Derik Cataldi  
 Urban Nutrient Management Specialist  
 Virginia Department of Conservation  
 and Recreation  
 (804) 371-7489  
 Derik.Cataldi@dcr.virginia.gov

## Planners who had grant money available at press time

**Robert Habel**, Five Oaks Consulting  
 rfhabel@comcast.net

**Gary Maul / Matt Austin**, Essential Elements NMP  
 essentiellelementsnp@gmail.com

**Peter Maybach / Jeff Michel**, M&M Consulting  
 mmcons@verizon.net, mmwetest3@verizon.net

**Paul Hartzell**, Growth Enhancers Turf Consultants  
 turfdawg@verizon.net

**Scott Thomas**, John Deere Landscapes  
 sthomas@johndeerelandscapes.com

**Kurt Fellenstein**, Trinity Turf Inc.  
 kurt@trinityturf.net

**Charles Thornton**, Tellus Consulting  
 ch Thornton@gmail.com

## Is Your Course in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed?

- Virginia's Chesapeake Bay watershed
- Land not draining into the Chesapeake Bay





# Landscape Supply BMP Tournament a Huge Success

The Landscape Supply BMP Tournament held on May 13 at the renowned Country Club of Virginia's James River Course was a spectacular success. A sellout crowd of 30 teams enjoyed an outstanding course in immaculate condition on a glorious spring day, all in support of the vital Best Management Practices initiative. The event netted over \$15,000 in support of the VGCSA research efforts, including the Water Quality Monitoring program

Our sincere thanks to everyone who came out to participate in the tournament, our generous sponsors, and to Landscape Supply for its ardent, steadfast support of this event. The VGCSA would also like to extend a special thank you to Christian Sain, Director of Golf Course Maintenance; Troy Fink, CGCS and James River Golf Course Superintendent; Richard Cromwell, Director of Golf; Warren West, Head Golf Professional at James River; and Phil Keister, General Manager, who along with all the CCV staff did a marvelous job in hosting the tournament.

As illustrated by the photos shown here and on page 10 and the favorable comments received from so many of the attendees, this is truly a special event. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's tournament!



Mike King, Bo Jumbercotta, Pete Wendt, Patrick Connelly, and Scott Furlong



Low Gross: The Williamsburg Club Team of Paul Schubring, Jeff Whitmire, Patrick Connelly (Landscape Supply), and Dan Capozzi, PGA

**See More Tournament Photos on Page 10**

## Results from Landscape Supply BMP Tournament

**Low Gross** – The Williamsburg Club (Jeff Whitmire, Dan Capozzi, Jim Gallagher, Paul Schubring)

**Low Net 1st Flight** – Two Rivers CC (Brent Graham, Ryan Dwyer, Augie Young, George Farrar)

**2nd Net 1st Flight** – Agrium AT/Glenmore CC/Aqua-Aid/McDonald & Sons  
(Jim Wilson, Kevin Fortune, Sam Green, Andrew Green)

**Low Net 2nd Flight** – GWGCSA (Bo Jumbercotta, Scott Furlong, Pete Wendt, Mike King)

**2nd Net 2nd Flight** – Billy Casper Golf (Dan Evers, Mark Pfeiler, Eric Nelson, Mark Murphy)

**Hole-in-One** – Paul Schubring #4



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# New Job Duties on the Horizon for Dr. Erik Ervin

After 13 years as Professor of Turfgrass Culture and Physiology at Virginia Tech, Dr. Erik Ervin has been promoted to Assistant Dean of Academic Programs (50% time) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs). What does that mean? Below, Erik will tell you by giving you some of his Virginia Tech work background.

Upon arriving in 2001, I was an Assistant Professor whose job duties were split at 70% research and 30% teaching. This meant that I taught one turf class each semester, advised the turf undergraduates, mentored three or four graduate students in their research, ran the Turfgrass Research Center, conducted \$200,000+ a year in research trials, published research articles, and gave talks around the state and country.

By the time of my first promotion to Associate Professor (2005), my “split” had been adjusted to 60% research and 40% teaching as I had expanded turf-specific class offerings from 1.5 to 4.5 classes per year. By 2010, I was promoted to Full Professor. While my teaching and research loads remained the same, I took on “administrative” duties serving as Undergraduate Programs Director for all students in the Crop and Soil Sciences major (Turf is just 1 of 4 concentrations), and Chair of department committees on Curriculum (what classes we should teach) and Scholarships.

Such “administrative” practice built my

resume and allowed me to consider applying for the open Assistant Dean position in April. My job interview was successful and I begin my new duties August 1. As you see above, these new duties are to only take up 50% of my time, so I will continue teaching about three turf classes each year, advising all turf students, and moderating my research and graduate student advising efforts. So what are some of my Assistant Dean duties? First, some background on whom the “bosses” are in CALs.

There are eight College units at Virginia Tech (\$1.2 billion budget; 30,000 students), with each College consisting of 4-20 subject-specific departments that confer degrees: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (\$200 million budget), Architecture and Urban Studies, Pamplin College of Business, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Natural Resources, Science, and Veterinary Medicine.

Each Department has a Head with Professors underneath. Each College has a Dean with Associate Deans for the three Missions: Academic Programs (Teaching), Research, and Extension. Each Associate Dean has an Assistant Dean under them.

My new Assistant Dean duties involve oversight for curriculum issues: what and how we teach the 3,000 CALs students across the 13 departments offering undergraduate and graduate degrees.



Dr. Erik Ervin

Student advising duties include: summer orientation for incoming students (and parents), acting as main contact for students on academic probation and suspension, academic advising for Life Science undecided majors, recruiting and training of student ambassadors, and oversight of student internship programs.

I will continue to conduct applied research on water quality, biostimulants, plant health products, fertilizers, new cultivars, and PGRs, but with 5-10 trials a year rather than 25. I also plan on continuing to give research talks in Virginia, nationally, and internationally as my schedule allows.

See you “in the field” or at a winter conference soon.

# Rachel Van Fleet is First Winner of New Buy Sod Scholarship Award

The 2013 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 SM members in good standing of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association are eligible for the program.



At the VGCSA Annual Meeting, Buy Sod’s John Robertson funded the program with an initial contribution, based on sales to customers in Virginia.

The Selection Committee has named Rachel Van Fleet of Stafford, VA as its inaugural recipient. Ms. Van Fleet recently graduated from Mountain View High School, where her high academic standing earned acceptance into Duke University this fall. Ms. Van Fleet is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Van Fleet. Jeff is the superintendent at Forest Greens Golf Club in Triangle, VA.

Ms. Van Fleet remarked, “I grew up

watching my parents work relentlessly for their paychecks to provide me vast opportunities, and I’ve realized that raising children takes a copious amount of sacrifice. It was their sacrifice that sculpted me into an independent, intelligent and ambitious adult, who is crossing over into a new chapter of life.”



Rachel Van Fleet



# Thank You 2013 Partner Program Participants!

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Chantilly Turf Farms  
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## Nonprofit

Keep Virginia Beautiful  
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 Virginia Turfgrass Council

## EVEN A CHAMPION NEEDS WORK EVERY NOW AND THEN.

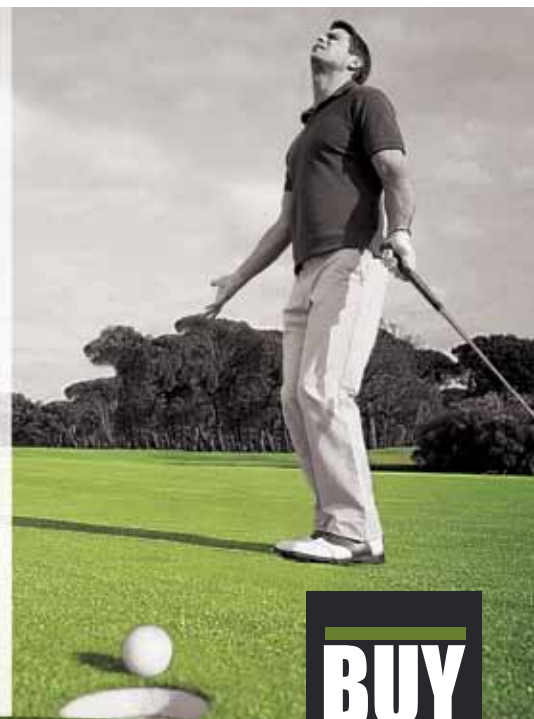
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# Virginia Beach National Hosts New Program “Live Green”

## Program Developed in Partnership with The Toro Company and Audubon International

Select chapters of The First Tee are participating in a new environmental education and course improvement program called “Live Green,” developed in partnership with The Toro Company and Audubon International.

From February to September of this year, nine chapters will participate in the program, providing around 900 young people the chance to work with Audubon International and Toro to enhance their chapter’s golf course. One of the initial programs was hosted by Mark Ross at Virginia Beach National in April.

“Toro has been a longtime supporter of The First Tee and this latest program is an example of their desire to help our organization positively impact young people through educational programs,” said Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., chief executive of The First Tee. “We are grateful for their leadership and Audubon International’s participation, and trust the young people involved in the program will benefit, as will the environment.”

“Live Green” brings attention to the environmental platform within The First Tee’s Nine Healthy Habits program. The Nine Healthy Habits is a framework for curriculum for nine health and wellness topics that participants are taught to follow both in the game of golf as well as in their personal lives. One of the wellness topics is community. The First Tee encourages young people to explore the health of their community and discover how they can give back and care for the environment.

In addition to funding the program, Toro will inform participating young people



TFTHR Live Green 5 - Chris Brnich, Mark McCaughan, Mark Ross, Matt Boyce, Dave Melton, Tucker Melton, and Rob Wilmans

on engineering and science as it applies to golf course care. VGCSA golf course superintendents participated in the Virginia Beach event, which included plantings and an introduction to landscaping and golf course maintenance. The VGCSA volunteers were Chris Brnich, Mark McCaughan, Mark Ross, Matt Boyce, Dave Melton and son Tucker, and Rob Wilmans.

“Engaging participants of The First Tee in an environmental education project such as this extends Toro’s purpose of enriching the beauty, productivity and sustainability of the land,” said Mike

Hoffman, Toro’s chairman and chief executive officer. “We are proud to partner with these two great organizations to provide students with a greater understanding of how courses today work to create a great player experience while protecting the environment.”

Audubon International will work closely with each chapter throughout the program, assisting the chapters in identifying and recommending improvements at each chapter’s course and providing environmental education to the young people involved.

*The First Tee ([www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org)), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit youth development organization whose mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.*

## Free Online Training Program for Fertilizer Application Certification

Dr. Mike Goatley has announced the availability of a free online training and testing program (Fertilizer Applicator Certification Training, FACT) that upon successful completion of the tests for each of 10 subject areas, meets the requirements of becoming a Virginia Certified Fertilizer Applicator as administered through the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

The link to the FACT website is <http://www.ext.vt.edu/fact> and complete instructions on how to access the system, enroll in the training, complete the training and testing, and contact information for any questions are provided (any additional suggestions to improve the site etc. are always welcome).





# VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation Announces Scholarship Award Recipients at 2013 VSGA Day

Thirty-one high school seniors and two graduate school students were among the 33 scholars honored as the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation announced its 2013 scholarship award recipients in May at VSGA Day at Richmond Country Club.

The VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships to Virginia high school students who are interested in golf and who attend colleges and universities within the Commonwealth. Criteria for the awards include an active interest in golf (ability not important), academic achievement and character. The Scholarship Foundation gives four-year awards which are conditional on students' continued progress in academics as well as one-time merit awards.

This year's grants totaled \$97,000, with \$66,000 going to 13 four-year award recipients, \$26,000 going to 18 merit award winners and \$5,000 going to two students pursuing degrees in turfgrass management at Virginia Tech.

Since being launched in 1985 with three awards for \$4,000, the program has now distributed more than \$1.85 million (\$1,852,100) in its 29 years. With this year's 33 scholarships, the total number of recipients has reached 806 students. A portion of each VSGA VIP Card sale helps fund the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation.

A pair of \$2,500 turfgrass grants have been awarded to Katelyn Venner (Blacksburg) and Trevor Wilkinson (Critz). Both recipients are graduate students at Virginia Tech.

Anyone interested in naming a scholarship or contributing to the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation should contact the VSGA.

## Students Working Toward Turfgrass Degrees at Virginia Tech Received Assistance

**Katelyn A. Venner** of Blacksburg, Va. (\$3,000) – Owns a bachelor of science degree in plant protection and a masters of science in plant biology and pathology from Rutgers University ... Currently a Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech in the Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science, where she is involved in research trials on golf courses ... Recently took over as the coordinator for the Virginia Weed Clinic, which serves as an identification and control recommendation resource for weed problems across the Commonwealth of Virginia. In 2012, the clinic handled more than 220 weed specimens from across the Commonwealth ... Gives extensive presentations throughout Virginia on the subject of weed control ... Elected vice president of the graduate student organization in the Weed Science Society of America ... Took first place as a graduate student poster at the Northeastern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting in 2013.



Katelyn Venner

**Trevor Wilkinson** of Critz, Va. (\$2,000) – Majoring in crop and soil sciences under the turfgrass management option, with an emphasis on golf courses at Virginia Tech ... Worked on the golf course maintenance staff at Primland Resort where he walk-mowed greens, approaches and teeing grounds; aerified tees and greens; mowed rough and triplex areas; performed sprinkler replacement and maintenance and had some spraying and top-dressing experience ... A student worker for the Turfgrass Weed Science Program at Virginia Tech ... Has maintained a 3.3 grade-point average in the turfgrass option within the crop and soil sciences major.

## Etiquette a Key Element in Visiting Other Courses

One of the nice things about working in the golf industry is the “professional courtesy” which may be offered when a VGCSA member visits the course of another member. But a key element is that it is not a “right,” but rather, a “privilege” based on availability.

Common etiquette dictates that the first thing that should be done is to call (or at least email) the host superintendent to inquire about availability.

You should always avoid the busy times when the club is trying to create revenue or serve members.

In addition, you should not expect the courtesy to be extended to persons outside the industry—they should expect to pay the going rate.

In addition, while some hosts may be able to provide a “comp” for all charges, you should always expect and offer to pay a cart fee.

In follow up, it is appropriate to send a “thank you” note, either in the mail or at least via email.

Industry courtesy is a nice perk which may be bestowed in visiting other courses, but in no way should it be treated like a “right.”

Like your mama said, “do unto others as you would have them do to you,” and always say “please” and “thank you.” This is pretty simple!



# Buffer Management Benefits and Recommended Vegetation Species

Maintaining dense beneficial vegetation around your lake or pond is extremely beneficial for improving water quality, preventing erosion and controlling nuisance geese. This area is commonly referred to as a buffer zone and it is recommended that your landscape company leave a 3-5 foot section above the water level unmowed so that it can grow and benefit the pond.

When rain water drains through parking lots and streets and then grassy areas, the water will have accumulated a significant amount of nutrients that will lead to lake and pond algae blooms. Although a short manicured buffer may look aesthetically appealing, the cultural practice that is the healthiest for lakes and ponds is to allow the native grasses and other beneficial flowering species to grow to maturity, while selectively controlling the non-beneficial and unsightly species that may also grow in these areas if left completely unmaintained.

In addition to acting as a natural filter for runoff, a buffer zone can also help prevent shoreline erosion. The plants along the shoreline help stabilize the soil and prevent large amounts of sediment from flowing into the pond. Over time, the excessive inflow of sediment can greatly reduce the depth of your lake or pond and produce significant problems as they become shallower. Sediment is typically nutrient rich, which also means additional phosphorus contamination of the pond if erosion is not prevented. The cost to correct these problems through dredging and other similar measures can be quite costly.

Geese can also be a nuisance problem around ponds, often establishing nests and becoming full time residents for many years. Geese that are born at a particular site are also genetically likely to want to return to that site, even if they do leave for a time. One of the most effective practices to reduce or eliminate geese problems on your site is to maintain a healthy buffer around your water, allowing it to grow at least thigh to waist high, if not slightly taller. Geese prefer to inhabit or congregate in areas where there is a direct line of sight to the body of water, and no barrier to their easy access in and out of the water. When you maintain a thick, tall buffer, geese are encouraged to move to another body of water, rather than deal with the difficulty of accessing a pond



or lake that has an established buffer. There are also times of the year where the geese molt and lose their feathers, cannot fly for a period of time, and will not want to be anywhere that they cannot easily walk in and out of the water without obstruction or fear of predators lurking in wait.

Finally, buffers will provide habitat for numerous non-threatening species, which further leads to a more balanced and healthy aquatic ecosystem. If managed properly, buffers are very attractive to dragonflies and other natural mosquito predators. The plants that grow in the edge of the water, or hang over the edge of the water, will also provide good habitat and cover for smaller fish, which will feed on the larvae of mosquitoes. Once you have a good buffer established, the balance that you bring to the aquatic ecosystem will not only help your water quality, but will also help with mosquito control.

There are several different types of natural buffers that SOLitude recommends for your lakes and ponds. Aquatic plants such as pickerelweed, sedges, and rushes often add beauty as well as provide nutrient absorption to a shallow area within a body of water that is partially wet. Pickerelweed is a low growing plant and is ideal when low borders or water views are the goal. For areas where taller plants are desired, sedges and rushes are a more likely fit as they will reach at least three feet high.

Grasses are also a preferred type of vegetation to have in the buffer, but the type of grasses can also make a huge difference. Turf grasses, or lawn grasses, are not a great selection for growing a buffer. These species are better to have than leaving bare soil, but are not as effective in stabilizing the bank, slowing nutrient runoff into the pond, or increasing the biodiversity of the environment. Additionally, these grasses are usually mowed

regularly and the grass clippings end up in the pond and can cause algae problems almost immediately.

A better solution to turf grasses would be a number of warm season perennial grasses, as well as some other beneficial wildflower species. These perennials will establish their roots and come back year after year, providing the best option for bank stabilization and preventing soil erosion, as well as absorbing algae-causing nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers, plant decay and other sources. They also provide diversity to your landscape, and offer interesting color and texture year round, even in the winter after everything has gone dormant. There are many plants that are beneficial in a buffer. Contact your lake and pond management professional for the best plant species for your area.

Buffer management can go a long way in helping to prevent problems for your lake or pond. Establishing buffer zones around the edge of your pond takes very little effort, requires little maintenance, and will likely reduce the costs associated with mowing and trimming along the edge of the pond on a weekly basis. In the long run, it will also reduce the likelihood of excessive algae and other water quality issues that come from nutrient loading, thereby reducing the need for constant treatments, and lowering your long-term costs associated with managing your water.

You will also benefit from proper buffer management with an increase in the aesthetic value of your lake or pond. With beneficial wetland plants, grasses and other beneficial species throughout the buffer, it can be a very pleasing sight that will undoubtedly increase the value of your property.

**Contact SOLitude Lake Management to speak with an expert biologist, ecologist or scientist for all of your lake, pond and fisheries management needs. 888-480-LAKE (5253) or [info@solitudelake.com](mailto:info@solitudelake.com).**

# Rogan Hired as GCSAA Mid-Atlantic Field Staff Rep

Chase Rogan has been named GCSAA's Mid-Atlantic field staff representative. Rogan will serve as a liaison to GCSAA members in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.



Chase Rogan

Rogan is a familiar face to GCSAA members in the Mid-Atlantic region through his varied experience in the area. He comes to the association after owning his own turf consulting company in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Prior to that he worked as an assistant superintendent at Butler Country Club and Edgewood Country Club. He has been an active member in GCSAA and the Greater Pittsburgh GCSA, and has served on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council.

He has been an invited speaker at the Western Pennsylvania Turfgrass and Trade

Show and the Penn State Golf Turfgrass Conference.

While pursuing graduate studies, he served as an assistant instructor in a turfgrass nutrition course. He has a firm understanding of the economic, social and environmental dynamics in the industry, as well as thorough scientific knowledge of sound agronomic principles.

He also has an established network of relationships with superintendents and others in the industry in the Mid-Atlantic region.

He is twice a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, holding a bachelor's degree in turfgrass science and master's degree in agronomy.

Contact Rogan by email at [crogan@gcsaa.org](mailto:crogan@gcsaa.org) or by phone at 814-241-3037.

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# NTEP Warm Season Putting Green Trial Planted at CCV

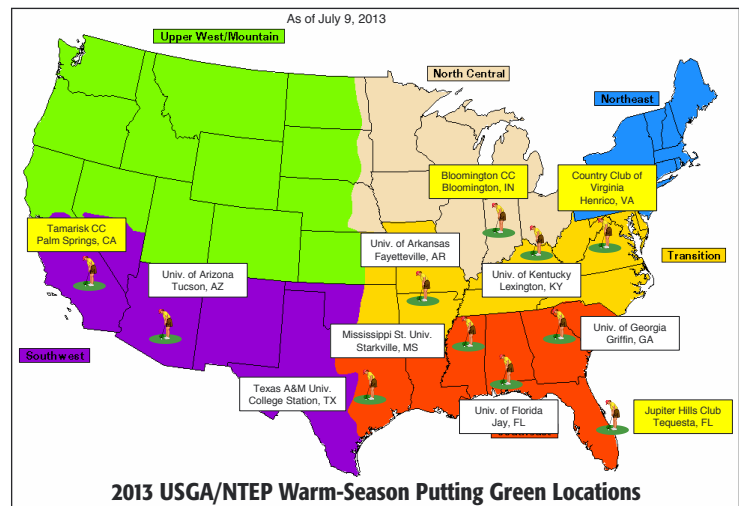
In the summer of 2013, the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) in cooperation with the USGA, initiated a new national trial for 5-year evaluations of warm-season turfgrasses under putting green conditions. The same trial will be established at 11 sites across the transition zone and southern states (*see map*). Four of the sites will be on golf courses, with the remaining seven trials at university locations. There are 28 entries consisting of 15 hybrid bermudagrasses, 11 Zoysia matrella, and 2 seashore paspalums (*see list*). USGA sand rootzones will be required at each trial site.

The intent of the trial is to address the needs of golf clubs that cannot financially afford to maintain ultradwarf bermuda to achieve good putting green quality during the summer and winter playing seasons. Therefore, the goals for this trial are to identify cultivars that can maintain a healthy turf, survive winters in the transition zone (with covers), and provide green speeds of at least 10 feet, all under a reduced maintenance regime as compared to current ultradwarf bermuda requirements.

Andrew Green and his team at McDonald & Sons designed and built the green at the Country Club of Virginia in May and June. The gravel was donated by Luck Stone, while the 90% sand/10% peat rootzone was donated by Egypt Farms. All entries were hand-sprigged (bermudas and paspalums) or hand-plugged (zoysias) on June 27, 2013, and covered with germination fabric. The new green is located next to the Tuckahoe Creek Golf Course maintenance facility. Troy Fink and his crew removed the fabric on July 8, rolled, and began grow-in fertilizer applications (*see image*). Mowing to 0.75 inch began on July 15.

Sustained hot weather through July and August should result in excellent grow-in. We are fairly certain the bermuda and paspalum entries will achieve almost complete cover by early September, but predict many of the zoysias to be considerably slower. We have placed a time-lapse camera at the site so as to closely capture establishment rate differences between the entries. Percent establishment data will also be estimated visually every two weeks into the fall. The entries will be left uncovered into December to allow for natural cold acclimation and dormancy to occur, but covered as sustained freezing temperatures are predicted. The CCV trial is 1 of 4 transition zone sites where we predict substantial winter-kill may occur.

Troy and his crew will implement grooming, verticutting, topdressing, and mowing programs needed to achieve green speeds of 10 feet during the 2014 growing season. The VT Team will collect monthly data on turfgrass quality, density, disease incidence, and green speed. Our plan will be to hold a field day each summer, so stay tuned as we see whether any of these warm-season entries are reasonable alternatives to creeping bentgrass in central Virginia.



## 2013 National Warm-Season Putting Green Test Entries and Sponsors

Entry	Name	Species	Sponsor
1	Tifdwarf	Bermudagrass	Standard Entry
2	Tifeagle	Bermudagrass	Standard Entry
3	Mini-Verde	Bermudagrass	Standard Entry
4	Sunday	Bermudagrass	Sod Solutions
5	08-T-18	Bermudagrass	Georgia Seed Development Commission
6	11-T-861	Bermudagrass	Georgia Seed Development Commission
7	FAES 1302	Bermudagrass	University of Florida
8	OKC 13-78-5	Bermudagrass	Oklahoma State University
9	OKC 1-75-2	Bermudagrass	Oklahoma State University
10	OKC 16-13-8	Bermudagrass	Oklahoma State University
11	MSB-264	Bermudagrass	Mississippi State University
12	MSB-285	Bermudagrass	Mississippi State University
13	CTF-E3	Bermudagrass	Champion Turf Farms
14	CTF-B10	Bermudagrass	Champion Turf Farms
15	JK 110521	Bermudagrass	D. Kopec – University of Arizona
16	FAES 1301	Zoysiagrass	University of Florida
17	10-TZ-74	Zoysiagrass	Georgia Seed Development Commission
18	L1F	Zoysiagrass	Bladerunner Farms
19	DALZ 1306	Zoysiagrass	Bladerunner Farms
20	DALZ 1307	Zoysiagrass	Bladerunner Farms
21	DALZ 1308	Zoysiagrass	Bladerunner Farms
22	DALZ 1309	Zoysiagrass	Bladerunner Farms
23	Diamond	Zoysiagrass	Standard Entry
24	DALZ 1304	Zoysiagrass	Bladerunner Farms
25	DALZ 1305	Zoysiagrass	Bladerunner Farms
26	ZOYSIU	Zoysiagrass	K. Diesburg – Southern Illinois University
27	SeaDwarf	Seashore Paspalum	Standard Entry
28	UGA 1743	Seashore Paspalum	UGA Research Foundation



The new green at the Country Club of Virginia on July 15 – one week after removal of the germination fabric cover.

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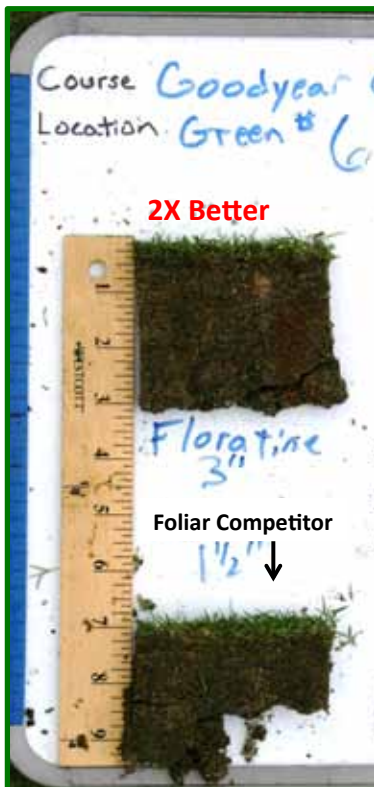


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# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

The weather has been better for the ducks than for us maintaining golf courses! Now that the heat has finally come on, mowing will be an ongoing task for the Bermuda grass. Most of us will continue to stress over the performance or lack of performance of our greens as we move through these next few weeks. Look at the bright side, September is about a month away

During the month of May, Scott Mauldin, Kevin Fortune, Brent Graham and David Smith played in a foursome to represent the ODGCSA in the Agri-Business council tournament held

at Viniterra Golf Club. This was a great tournament and that featured a great golf course. Networking with some of the state representatives and putting a name with a face is sure to help us all in the future. On September 4th the ODGSA will be meeting at Glenmore Country Club hosted by Kevin Fortune. This is sure to be a great event and we can all use some time away from our course to play some golf and socialize.

I would also like to mention that on November 5th, Independence Golf Club will host the Annual Meeting and Par 3 contest. This event has grown over the

last few years and has shown to be a real treat with prize packs to be won on each hole. I wish all of you a great summer and look forward to more fellowship opportunities in the fall of the year. Please feel free to contact one of the ODGCSA Board Members if we can assist in any way or if you have some

ideas that you would like to see the association explore.



*Scott Mauldin  
ODGCSA President*

## TTA News

It has been a typical early summer in southeast Virginia. Cooler spring temperatures have been followed by a big dose of heat and humidity coupled with the ever present scattered thunderstorms. I am always amazed at the weather difference on either side of the James River. Those of us on the southside have been getting spotty rain while our friends on the Peninsula are getting hit almost daily. No problem growing the bermuda in July. All of the spring dead spot areas

are filling in, and the biggest problem now is getting the mowers out and having enough Primo in the shop to slow down those fairways.

Summer is slow for the TTA. Our last event was the Dick Cake Memorial Golf Tournament here at Elizabeth Manor. It was a rain shortened event but Jeff Whitmire qualified for the Virlina Cup team by virtue of a nine-hole score. Turf and Garden sponsored the event. In June we had TTA night at the Norfolk Tides

baseball game. Thanks to Syngenta for helping out with tickets and Tides Bucks! The annual Outer Banks meeting will be on Thursday September 12th.



*Rob Wilmans  
Elizabeth Manor Golf and  
Country Club  
External VP-Tidewater  
Turfgrass Association*

## VTA News

What a crazy weather year we have had here in the southwestern part of the state! From accumulating snow fall in April, to a relatively cool spring, and now record rainfall in July. Parts of the area received three months worth of rain in just the first ten days of the month alone. Needless to say, growing (and mowing) grass has been difficult at times. On the other hand, with the wet conditions, we've had no problem growing fungus. Hopefully more favorable weather is in our future and we can get people back out on the golf course.

We've had a great meeting season so far this year with exceptional turnout. We kicked off the year with meteorologist Robin Reed from our local CBS affiliate

at Ballyhack Golf Club. The group had a great time ribbing Robin about having to be accurate 50% of the time.

We followed that up with our annual fundraiser at Hidden Valley Country Club where we had 17 teams entered. We were able to raise about \$3,000 for scholarships to be awarded to students from Virginia Tech in the turf field.

In June we meet at Boonsboro Country Club and hosted dermatologist Dr. Stephen Coutour. After Dr. Coutour's presentation I scheduled an appointment to have myself checked. I recommend everyone in our business to do the same. It is a simple 30 minute appointment that could save your life. The group has enjoyed having some non turf related

talks so far this year.

We take a break from meeting in the month of August but start back up in September at Blacksburg Country Club before wrapping up our season in October at the Water's Edge. It's hard to believe that we are only about six weeks from the start of football season and firing up the aerification equipment.

Best of luck to everyone for the rest of the summer.



*Bill Keene  
Blacksburg Country Club  
VTA External  
Vice President*



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# News from Local Associations

## News from the GWGCSA

Greetings from the Greater Washington everyone. Well, what started as a fairly kind and easy spring and early summer has turned into a typical Mid-Atlantic sippy, hot, humid, *poa*-killing summer. On the upside, it's a great way to effectively get bentgrass seeded into greens without the use of chemicals.

Aside from the weather, however, there were some good happenings up here. I had the extreme pleasure of presenting the first annual Buy Sod Scholarship to Rachel Van Fleet, daughter of our immediate past External VP, Jeff Van Fleet. Rachel's family was in attendance for her high school's awards night and she received quite the applause when announced as a recipient. She is a very impressive student, receiving more than one award and was very appreciative and humble during her acceptance.

On the events end of things, it has been a little sparse. In May we decided to have a social gathering instead of golf due to the heavy schedule of tournaments during that time. Superintendents and vendors gathered at The Wing Factory in Chantilly and enjoyed a night of socializing over a few beverages and some good food.

In June we attempted to get together at Montclair CC for our Virlina Cup qualifier, but mother nature had other plans. Thanks go to Superintendent Michael Owens and his entire staff for doing a tremendous job preparing the course under LESS than ideal conditions, as well as PGA Pro Vince Natale and GM Tom Muratore for their hospitality and help. Unfortunately, we were rained out after only a few holes and when we tried to schedule a make up day, again the course was turned into a swamp by the

never ending rains.

On a final note, congratulations to Jeff Van Fleet! Not only did he, his Assistant Scott Jaquays and the maintenance staff provide flawless conditions once again for our annual Maintenance Open, but they also went out and won the thing (albeit without having to go up against his rivals from RTJ or two-time defenders Mount Vernon CC.) Also, a shout out to Jeff's GM and Pro, Tom Coffman and Ryan Carney for hosting a great event.

Finally, Good Luck to everyone trying to weather the next month of summer.



Shawn Gill  
GWGCSA  
External Vice President

## SVTA Update

The summer of 2013 has been dramatically different from the summer of 2012! While June temps felt more like normal, we had an above average amount of rain that presented more problems with weeds, rough that never stopped growing, and disease. July began very wet in the Valley followed by increasing temperatures throughout the month. This could make for a great summer for the pathologists!

The SVTA had their fundraising tournament at Loundon Golf and Country Club. It was a great success! The golf

course was in excellent shape! Thanks to everyone who put in a team and THANK YOU to all of the sponsors who supported the SVTA!

Our next meeting will be at Appleland Sports Center in Stephens City, VA on August 22nd. This event is designed for families with the availability of mini golf, a par 3 golf course, batting cages, and go-carts.

Our September 26th meeting will be at Spotswood Country Club in Harrisonburg, VA. The highlight of the September

meeting will be the *Poa* trials being conducted by Dr. Askew from VA Tech. We hope everyone can find time to come out and participate in the SVTA events!



David Lewallen  
SVTA  
External Vice President

## Save the Dates

**Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament – Monday, October 21, 2013 – Kingsmill Resort (The River Course)**

**Assistants Forum presented by Grigg Brothers – Monday, October 28, 2013 – Independence Golf Club**  
*special guest speaker Bruce Williams*

**Wee One Foundation Tournament – Monday, November 11, 2013 – Cypress Creek Golfers Club**

**VGCSA Annual Meeting – Tuesday, January 28, 2014 – Fredericksburg CC**

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