

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

December 2018

## President's Message



Old man winter has shown up with a vengeance this year! On the 9th and 10th of December, courses in the southern two thirds of the state were blanketed with over a foot of snow in some locales. Hopefully this gave you a chance to catch your breath after a most unusual year.

We recently wrapped up our annual conference at The Darden Business School on the grounds of UVA. This year's event was another great success! From the speakers, to the venue, and the great camaraderie, we feel this event provides an excellent value for our members while supplying educational opportunities. I would like to thank all of the sponsors who support this event. Without you all, the conference would not be the success that it is. Even said, there are always areas to improve on this event. In your email is a survey, please fill that out and give us your feedback on what you would like to see next year.

The Sunday before the annual meeting, your board of directors met with Steve Randall and Chase Rogan of the GCSAA. The purpose of this meeting was to give us insight and ideas for the future of the association. During this time we were charged with creating a workable mission

statement. "The Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to leading the golf industry by serving its members and advancing the game of golf" was created. Going forward, we will use this to help guide the direction of the association. One particular area of focus was member outreach. A decline in attendance of local chapter meetings is a trend that all five of the external vice presidents noted as a major area of concern. Ideas to increase attendance will be discussed further at the next board meeting and will be rolled out during the upcoming meeting season. Another point of emphasis was community outreach and publication. Many superintendents across the state are doing great things on a daily basis and we need to let that be known to the masses. We also brainstormed ways to interact with the community through the First Green field trip, the First Tee, and other avenues.

There are some upcoming events I would like to have on everyone's radar. Rounds4Research is coming this spring. I encourage participation from all who are able to donate. This year, National Golf Day is April 30th and May 1st in Washington D.C. This is a chance to display our

profession as leaders on a national stage. I am excited to announce that the annual Virginia Tech fundraiser will return to Independence Golf Club this year on May 20th. This is a great opportunity to see the research the turf team is conducting and to get together with others in the turf industry.

This is the time of year where we say goodbye to board members and hello to those taking their places. I would like to thank departing members Garrison Fowler, Ian Grove, Scott Mauldin and past president Jeff Holliday for all their work in the past. Stepping up will be Mike Mueller, Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Doran, External VP for the TTA, Jay Wade, External VP for the ODGCSA, David Walter, External VP GWGCSA, and Josh Nunn, assistant representative. In addition, we would like to thank our partners for their great support this year!



*Bill Keene*  
VGCSA President

## Cote to Join VSGA Board

VGCSA Immediate Past President Mark Cote of the Pete Dye River Course has been nominated to the VSGA Board of Directors, with anticipated election at the VSGA Annual Meeting on January 12th at Willow Oaks Country Club.

Cote brings a wealth of experience to the VSGA Board, as they move to broaden

their reach by adding a superintendent to their Board. Cote recently led the VGCSA to completion of the Nutrient Management Plan initiative, in cooperation with state agencies. He also led the VGCSA to hire its first lobbyist to protect the interest of Virginia golf courses.



*Mark Cote*  
VGCSA Past President



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# Caudle Wins Presidents Award for Lifetime Service



Sterling Caudle

Sterling Caudle of Irvington, VA is the winner of the 2018 VGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service. The VGCSA's highest award is "to honor those

superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs, but who may no longer be actively involved in the VGCSA. Qualifications include twenty years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, at least ten of which were as a superintendent". On all accounts, Caudle has earned the distinction.

Caudle grew up in Richmond and began playing golf at age 12 – his parents were members at the "old" Hermitage Country Club (now Belmont GC). If you wanted to play golf back in the 1960's and 70's in Richmond, you had to be a member of a club – public golf was limited. His first job in high school was at nearby Jefferson Lakeside in 1974, working for Tilden Hankley raking bunkers doing grunt work. At Lakeside there was no automatic irrigation – Caudle was one of three guys who would water six greens in the morning, then hand-water the same greens in the afternoon.

When he graduated in 1975, his parents were pushing about his future plans - he told them he liked the work on golf courses. He heard about Lake City College in Florida, which had a turf program that required a full year of experience to apply. Caudle got an opportunity to earn that experience, when Hankley moved to Salisbury CC in 1975 and invited him to work there for a year.

Caudle enrolled in the program at Lake City, and over 1977-1979 he earned a two-year degree in golf course operations.

The first year was a mechanics program, which was required for graduation. Then during the first summer, he worked at the Jekyll Island golf facility in Georgia, a state-owned property, which gave him good experience at a 63-hole facility.

The summer of his second year at school, Caudle returned to Salisbury CC for his internship. When he graduated from Lake City in 1979, he decided to come back to Virginia, and he took his first job as assistant superintendent under Steve Vessells at Lake Monticello Golf Club. Working for Vessells (who was just a year older), Caudle became very good friends with Dick Fisher and Bob Ruff, who became mentors to him.

In March, 1982 Caudle was recruited and hired by The Tides Inn as superintendent at The Golden Eagle Golf Club. Owner Bob Lee Stephens was like a second father to him, since he was only 24 when he got the job. Stephens had been frustrated that prior superintendents had not helped him reach a goal of admiration for his course, but Caudle was able to deliver that. The Golden Eagle became his home the rest of his career (36 years and counting), and through the ups and downs of the resort, he always loved being there. During his time, he hosted three state amateurs and numerous other state events and even a visit by a sitting President.

When President Clinton came to visit in 1999 for a Democratic conference at the Tides Inn, Caudle was brought into the inner circle with secret service agents to ensure the President's safety. He recalls the Presidential motorcade, the snipers in the trees, the clearing of all play within nine holes, as well as the famous multitude of mulligans Clinton was known for. When the President arrived, he gave Clinton a Golden Eagle shirt and welcomed him. Clinton was weary, having

come there directly after the Columbine shooting – in fact he was so tired that wrote down the wrong date when he autographed some items for his kids. The secret service told him that Clinton loved the Golden Eagle course.

As a volunteer leader in turf, Caudle served on Board of the Old Dominion GCSA, before advancing to Vice President, then President in 1989. Later he was recruited into leadership with the Virginia Turfgrass Council as a Board member, then Vice President, then President in 1997-1998. He completed a "trifecta" by then serving the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation, serving as President 2008-2011. Caudle enjoyed his service in those organizations and got to meet a lot of people and build relationships. He remarked, "When you get involved, don't feel like you must reinvent the wheel, just give it effort, be there and participate."

Something Caudle enjoyed about the business was attending association meetings, which was the way to educate yourself before computers, cell phones, etc. He regularly attended ODGCSA, TTA and GCSAA meetings. Through his network, he always had colleagues to bounce ideas off of and they collaborated to solve problems. He added, "The golf course is a great place to be – seeing the turf, wildlife and the people in the industry. I feel fortunate to have had four guys (Hankley, Vessells, Fisher, and Ruff) as early mentors in my career."

He was asked what this award means to him, being honored by his peers. He answered, "Just being involved in the associations has been rewarding and fulfilling. I did not get involved to win an award, but receiving this validates all of the hard work throughout my career."

## VGCSA Social Media & Digital Outlets



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# Save the Date! 2019 GIS in San Diego

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VGCSA, MAAGCS & ESAGCS will return to the Horton Grand Hotel in the Gaslamp District for the 2019 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. This cool New Orleans style hotel will also host our annual Social Event from 7-10 p.m.

on Wednesday, February, 6th. Special entertainment will be provided by musical artist Lele Rose and you won't want to miss it, so SAVE THE DATE!



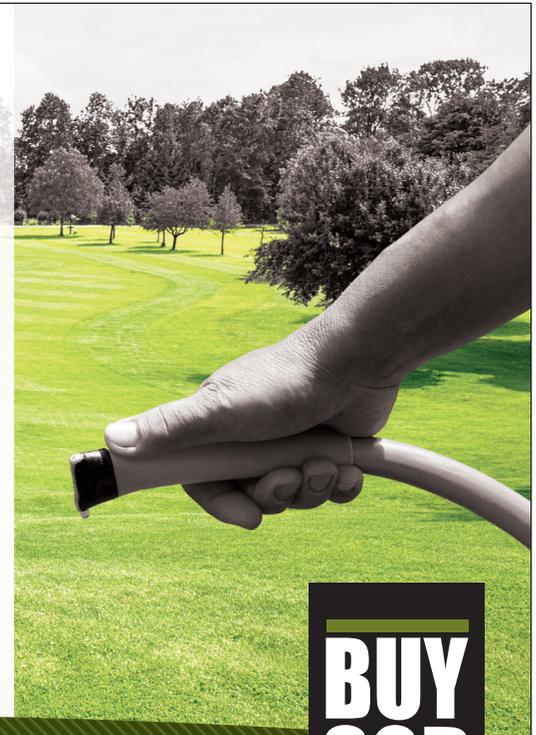
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# Berg Recognized for Distinguished Service



Jeff Berg

Jeff Berg of Leesburg, VA has been recognized by the VGCSA with its Distinguished Service Award for 2018. The award is “presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in

promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents.” By all accounts, Berg earned the distinction through his professionalism and integrity, and his interaction with his fellow superintendents, as well as his leadership in numerous state initiatives.

Berg fell in love with being on the golf course, tagging along with his Dad Leonard, who is now retired. Berg has Chicago roots, and he earned a turfgrass science degree from Penn State. Once graduated, he skipped the assistant superintendent job, being hired as superintendent at age 22 at Venango Trail Golf Club in Pittsburgh. He spent a few years there before moving to Goose Creek, a KemperSports property in Leesburg, where he honed his skills. After four years, they made him General Manager, a post he held for 10 years more.

When the owner of Goose Creek sold off part of the course to area developers, Kemper quickly moved him to Timbers of

Troy to oversee and complete a \$4.5 million renovation at the course in the southwest Baltimore suburbs. Of course Berg always considered Virginia home, and he has been very supportive of everything that has gone on in the industry. Thus when a great opportunity presented itself, he resigned recently at Timbers and took the General Manager position at Chantilly National G&CC, with a start date of December 5, 2018.

During his time at Goose Creek, Berg got involved with the Greater Washington GCSA and came onto the VGCSA board as their External VP in 2005. He quickly advanced and was named VGCSA Vice President in 2007. Berg served as VGCSA President 2010-11. In addition, he has been on three national committees for GCSAA ~ most recently the bylaws committee, in addition to serving on the public relations and government relations committees.

During his tenure as VGCSA President, Berg shepherded the Best Management Practices initiative in Virginia, the largest research project ever undertaken by the VGCSA. Berg remarked, “The past and then-current board set each other up and passed the baton to new leadership to run with. It was a monumental team effort.” It earned national recognition from GCSAA and other turf organizations. Key to its success was the partnership with state agencies, giving credibility to the

document. He recalls meeting with Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech, as well as Governor Bob McDonnell. Berg’s involvement in this major undertaking was fulfilling, and it all came together very nicely.

Also during Berg’s tenure, the Mid-Atlantic Golf Council was formed among all allied golf associations in Virginia, Maryland and DC. It strengthened the relationships between all of the organizations. The collaboration produced an Economic Impact Study for golf in the region.

Looking forward in the profession, Berg remarked, “The superintendent now has to be more engaged in the business side of the golf. The contraction and closing of courses makes it even more imperative for a superintendent to understand the business side of the industry. People’s time is being diced up and stretched out, as they look for entertainment options. We need to focus on how can we, as an industry, bring more people to our clubs and get them engaged.”

Berg was asked what the award means to him. He remarked, “The award is personal recognition from an organization that I spent a lot of time with and one that gave a lot back to me. I made a lot of close relationships and friendships. I’m honored to receive this award.”

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# Bohannon Retained as VGCSA Lobbyist



Robb Bohannon

VGCSA is pleased to announce the hiring of its first Lobbyist, Robb Bohannon of Hunton Andrew Kurth. Bohannon is part of a strong government relations team at the Richmond-based law firm, which

includes Brittany West, Kelli Gaudreau and former Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Todd Haymore.

“We are excited to have Robb and his team leading our government efforts,” said Mark Cote. “We learned last year that the best interests of the golf industry sometimes demand independent representation, and we are pleased to offer this new member service.”

Bohannon is Director of Government Affairs for the firm and is an active golfer. He has more than 10 years of experience representing companies and trade associations in the health care, entertainment, and high tech industries in

federal and state politics.

Bohannon supports clients on a variety of measures including drafting legislation, testifying before legislative committees and subcommittees, lobbying state and federal legislators, developing and implementing legislative strategies, developing and administering clients’ political action committees, and developing and implementing grassroots and grassroots strategies on local, state and national levels.

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# 2018 Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament a hit at Williamsburg Golf Club

## Over One Hundred toys donated to Toys for Tots

It was the fourteenth year of the VGCSA's staple event, the Joe Saylor Memorial, in honor of Joe Saylor, a superintendent in the Hampton Roads area for nearly 40 years, and founder of the ODGCSA and a charter member. Joe passed in 2005.

Williamsburg Golf Club played host and Jeff Whitmire, CGCS and his staff had the golf course in exceptional condition, particularly the quick greens, even after an inch and a half of rain that doused the golf course the evening prior. And as always this event was in partnership with the US

Marines and the Toys for Tots program. US Marines were on site to collect over 100 toys donated from attendees, all of which go to under-privileged children during the holiday season.

The two-man captain's choice produced some great scores with Ed Eagle and Billy Sayre coming in with a 63 to claim the overall Low Gross honors. In the Member-Member Division, a scorecard playoff determined Matt Drayton of The Federal Club and Jim Wilson of Harrell's as first place net with a 62.1 over Bobby Friend of



and Matt Pair of The Brookwoods Golf Club. In the Member Guest/Open Division, Jeff Fleishman and Tim Pemberton posted a 63.8 to win first place over the 65.4 posted by Vince Hankley and Kenny Clark, PGA of the Country Club of Petersburg.

A special thank you goes out to the presenting sponsor Bayer and all of the other supporting sponsors of the event!



Billy Sayre and Ed Eagle win Low Gross with a 63!



Host Jeff Whitmire, CGCS with US Marines



Josh Nunn & Jeff Holliday of Salisbury CC

# Over \$67K Raised for Turfgrass Research at Virginia Tech

The Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association and the VTC are pleased to announce the results of the 2018 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, held on September 18th at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian, VA. The event raised \$67,491, by far the largest amount ever!

The initiative was a collaboration of superintendents and other industry leaders, and it featured a fundraising golf tournament, a silent auction and a raffle to garner over \$90K in revenue, another record. Virginia Tech professors, graduate students and administrators gathered to showcase their current research on test areas of Independence Golf Club, primarily the putting greens of the nine-hole Short Course.



Billy Sayre and Ed Eagle win Low Gross with a 63!

Top donors included Harrell's, Landscape Supply, Virginia Green and BASF. Other significant donors were Bayer, A.H. Green Design (Green Golf), PBI Gordon, Trugreen, Buy Sod, Meadowspring Turf & Homefield

Fertilizer, Virginia Sand & Stone, Syngenta, Smith Turf & Irrigation, Turf Equipment & Supply, Toro and Innovative Turf Services. In all, over 60 companies contributed. Additional revenue was raised through a raffle and an auction managed by Bayer.

Revenues will go toward support of turfgrass research at Virginia Tech, through the

Virginia Turfgrass Foundation, the recipient of the proceeds. Next year's event has been set for Monday, May 20, 2019 back at Independence Golf Club.



# Virginia Reclaims the Virlina Cup

## Princess Anne CC Plays Host

Wielding their best golf in the history of the match, the VGCSA Team regained the Virlina Cup over the Carolinas GCSA, with a record margin of 10.5 to 5.5. Coach Jeff Holliday of Salisbury CC and Assistant Coach Jeff Whitmire of The Williamsburg Club saw every player scoring points, leading the way to victory.

In the four ball matches, the Virginia squads of Brent Graham and Garrison Fowler of Two Rivers CC, along with Matt Boyce of the host club and Cameron Yancey of Nottoway River CC staked out a 2-0 lead, which was never relinquished. When Bobby Friend of The Brookwoods and Bill Keene of

Blacksburg CC won the fourth match, the lead was 3-1.

Again in Foursomes, the Virginia GCSA won the first two matches, ballooning the lead to 5-1. Splits in the last two matches led to a comfortable 6-2 margin after Day One.

With their backs against the wall, the Carolinas' Charles Sheffield led off with a convincing win over Graham to draw the deficit down to 3 points. But that was as close as it got, as the Virginia's Fowler, Yancey, Boyce and Friend came home with victories, while Cornwell earned a halve. Boyce, Yancey, Friend and Fowler all had perfect records.

### RESULTS

#### Four-Ball Matches

Graham / Fowler (V) df Boyette / Yeary (C) 3&2  
Boyce / Yancey (V) df Pope / Neulip (C) 7&6  
Sheffield / Scott (V) df Roberts / Cornwell (C) 7&5  
Friend / Keene (V) df Hull / Lewis (C) 2&1.  
VA 3 CA 1

#### Foursomes Matches

Cornwell / Roberts (V) df Neulip / Yeary (C) 7&6  
Boyce / Yancey (V) df Pope / Sheffield (C) 3&2  
Lewis / Hull (C) df Graham / Fowler (V) 4&3  
Keene / Friend (V) df Scott / Boyette (C) 2&1  
VA leads 6-2

#### Singles Matches

Sheffield (C) df Graham (V) 6&5  
Fowler (V) df Pope (C) 5/4  
Cornwell (V) halved Scott (C)  
Yeary (C) df Roberts (V) 1-up  
Yancey (V) df Hull (C) 2&1  
Boyce (V) df Boyette (C) 1-up  
Neulip (C) df Keene (V) 6&4  
Friend (V) df Lewis (C) 4&3  
VA 4.5 CA 3.5

**Final: Virginia 10.5, Carolinas 5.5**



L-R: Bill Keene, Cameron Yancey, Chris Roberts, Jeff Holliday, Brent Graham, Matt Boyce, Jeff Whitmire, Garrison Fowler, Scott Cornwell (not pictured – Bobby Friend)



Syngenta executives (front row) gather with both teams at the Players Dinner at Princess Anne CC

# Augustin Recognized for Environmental Stewardship



Mike Augustin

Mike Augustin of Alexandria, VA has been recognized by the VGCSA as winner of the VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award. The award is presented “in

recognition of distinguished and meritorious service in the environmental stewardship of Virginia golf courses, and in grateful appreciation for unselfishly promoting the profession of golf course management, which led to the advancement of the association.” Augustin is the Golf Course Superintendent at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria, situated alongside the Potomac River.

Augustin cultivated his interest in the game and entered the University of Maryland’s turf program, graduating with a four-year degree in turf. His first internship on a golf course was as an assistant at Indian Spring Country Club working under Rhys Arthur. Then he became assistant at Bethesda Country Club under the legendary Dean Graves. Graves was a good mentor and Augustin also learned to treat the golf course as if it were his own. After three years at Bethesda, he was ready for the top job at Belle Haven Country Club – he has been there for 21 years.

When your club sits in a flood plain on the Potomac River, with an adjacent highway carrying thousands of eyeballs daily, that’s the definition of “pressure” for a Golf Course Superintendent. Augustin counters, “From day one, we had a mindset to be environmentally sensitive. You simply MUST do the right thing.”

Marrying a commitment to environmental stewardship with the demand for superior golf course conditioning is not an easy task. Programs such as buffering ponds, tree removal and tree addition all contribute to ensure aesthetics, playability and responsible golf course management.

“Our goal is for water to leave our property cleaner than it entered,” notes Augustin. He has a Storm Water

Management Plan to capture runoff in buffers before entering the flood plain of the Potomac. Combine that with the natural filtering characteristics of turfgrass which absorbs nutrients, and you can achieve this goal. And of course inputs are expensive, so applications are set conservatively.

In 2002, Belle Haven undertook a major golf course renovation. This included pond improvements which incorporated “Best Management Practices” standards. All water drains into the ponds first, where they can treat and allow sediment to settle and then the nutrients to be absorbed. Pond aerators keep fish healthy and deter surface algae. Quarterly water samples are a key tool in maintaining pond health. In fact, the Club agreed to keep extensive records as part of their water permit.

The Club added a new pond at the clubhouse entrance as another environmental area. The Club’s Horticulturist created floating wetlands, featuring irises and other wetland plants with roots extending into the pond’s base. These floating wetlands help remove nutrients from the water which in turn helps mitigate unwanted nutrient release into nearby streams.

Like many courses, Belle Haven is prone to problems with Canadian geese. The Club’s commitment to protecting wildlife often clashed with maintenance standards. Their humane solution was a combination of Border Collies and a laser light system that does not harm geese.

The Club is actually a haven for wildlife. American Bald Eagles and ospreys patrol the trees adjacent to the Potomac. On any given day, you might see blue herons, eastern bluebirds, mallards, wood ducks, Asian ducks, red tail hawks, turkeys, deer, red fox, coyotes and more. Fish species include bass, bluegill, eels, carp and sunfish. Members may fish “catch and release” during non-golf times.

Augustin noted that the club has a special tree masterplan. During the course renovation, the Course Architect collaborated with an Arborist and added 1,500 trees. Now as trees are maturing,

they are selectively removing weaker trees.

Green staff is trained to be responsible with defined areas of disposal of chemicals, being aware of buffer zones around water features. Staff is diligent to keep equipment clean and to eliminate unwanted discharge of leftover chemicals.

With Belle Haven’s location on the Potomac River, pumping water sometimes becomes necessary, and they have to ensure it is clean water. “No one wants to be on the wrong side of their neighbors and community,” said Augustin. “Our members expect our staff to be good stewards.” Pesticides are not applied when there is a risk of runoff.

One truly unique feature of sustainability is the set of six beehives on the property. A local company is hired to tend to the hives, which produce honey used by the Club Chef and offered for sale in the Golf Shop. They started with just one hive, and the program grew. He notes the Club’s commitment to pollinator protection.

The Club also has vegetable and herb gardens under Augustin’s responsibility. The herb garden is near the clubhouse, so the Chef can easily access it and offer an organic menu.

The past few years, there has been a push from the board on creating a sounder recycling program in the clubhouse and with trash going out of the property. This has created a trickle-down effect in the membership and employees about being more responsible stewards of the environment.

When asked what the award means to him, Augustin remarked, “It is an honor. I’m surprised to receive an award like this, because it recognizes things we should all be doing or already do. This would not be possible without a great staff and supportive membership!”

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## Morgan Furlong Wins Buy Sod Scholarship



Morgan Furlong

The Buy Sod VGCSA Scholarship program was established in 2012 by Buy Sod, Inc. as a means to support the children of qualified golf course superintendents, who plan to attend an

institution of higher learning, following graduation from high school. High School seniors who are the children of Class A or B members in good standing of the VGCSA are eligible for the program. The

program is based on sales to customers in Virginia. Neil Jones is the Golf & Athletic Field Sales manager for Buy Sod.

This year the Selection committee has named Morgan Furlong of Gainesville, VA as the 2018 recipient of a \$2,000 scholarship.

Morgan Furlong is the daughter of Scott Furlong, CGCS of Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, and earlier this year she graduated from Battlefield High School in Haymarket, VA. This fall she entered Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a freshman. Furlong works hard on her

grades, and is also a college athlete. She has the drive to give 100%, no matter how hard a task may be.

Remarking on the scholarship, she said, "Winning this scholarship will help me reach my dreams of finishing school as a college athlete and to have a good jump start towards my adulthood and professional career."



## Martin, Castillo Win Old Dominion GCSA Scholarships



Rhett Martin

For the third year in a row, Old Dominion GCSA has awarded scholarships to employees of golf clubs where there is a VGCSA member.

The annual scholarship tournament,

presented by STI, was held at Magnolia Green Golf Club in April, and money was generated to award two \$1,000 scholarships. The winners are Rhett Martin and Elcor Castillo.

Rhett Martin began playing golf at age 5, and golf is in his blood. During high school he worked in the pro shop at

Salisbury Country Club, hoping to be a teaching professional. But upon entering Bridgewater College, he moved over to the maintenance department, working with Jeff Holliday, CGCS. He graduated in 2017 and continued to work in the maintenance department. He determined this to be his career choice, and he is now enrolled in the online turf program at Penn State. His goal is to not only become a Superintendent; in addition, He wants to help the industry grow and change in a positive manner, to enhance the experience of employees and members.

Elcor Castillo is 21, residing in Newport News and working in the maintenance department at Kingsmill Resort. Growing up, he felt he had few options for ongoing



education, and in high school he started working on the golf course. He hated it at first, but over time he came to love it. Now he has a passion to make a career choice to become a golf course superintendent. While none of his family members have attended college, Castillo is now enrolled in the turf program at Rutgers University. He is most grateful for the scholarship from Old Dominion GCSA and Smith Turf & Irrigation.

## Cushman Program Nets Large Contribution Growing Greens Raises Over \$4,500

Growing Greens was established by Cushman to support regional GCSA chapters and their programs. For every new Cushman Hauler utility vehicle purchased, a donation will be made to the corresponding chapter. In 2018, the program has generated over \$4,500 in support in the Mid-Atlantic region, divided amongst VGCSA and MAAGCS.





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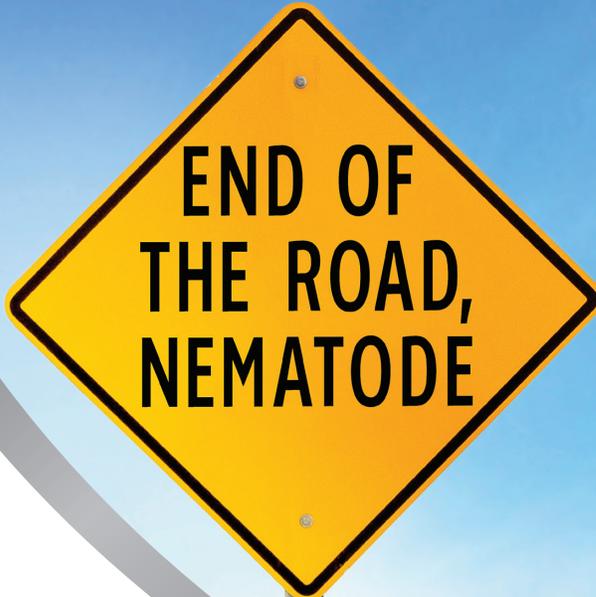
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# Annual Conference a Hit in Charlottesville

Great Speakers and a Great Location

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In just its fifth year, the VGCSA Annual Conference has matured into a “can’t miss” experience for Virginia’s golf course superintendents and associated industry colleagues. Revels and Finch continued to serve as the presenting sponsors.

The Inn at Darden on the UVA campus played host to a crowd of over 100 who came for education, networking, CEU credits, and of course, FUN!

The two-day conference began on the afternoon of December 3rd, featuring a USGA Green Section pre-con event on “Colorants” at Farmington Country Club. This was a follow up to last year’s session, both presented by Elliott Dowling of the USGA. Attendees learned about the popular off-season products for warm season grasses.

They saw a live demonstration of “painting” by Geoponics, the event sponsor.

Then the conference officially began at the Darden Conference Center in an ideal setting. After introductions by President Mark Cote, GCSAA Past President Mark Kuhns, CGCS of Baltusrol Golf Club presented “Building a Successful Career and Management Team”.

Kuhns is highly respected, having hosted two PGA Championships and a US Women’s Open and a US Senior Open.

The second presentation was a “Golf’s Use of Water” co-presented by USGA Agronomists Pat Gross from Los Angeles and Paul Jacobs from the Northeast office. Gross’s perspective is water conservation, highlighting the vast difference in rainfall east of the center meridian of the US. While Virginia usually has sufficient rainfall to cover needs, conservation and environmental stewardship are still essential.

Then the VGCSA Annual Meeting, presented by Landscape Supply, took place.

President Cote gave a fun and informative review of the 2018 activities of the association. Awards Chairman Aaron Wells had the pleasure of presenting the annual awards to Mike Augustin of Belle Haven CC (Environmental Stewardship)

Grove. And he thanked all the Partners for their tremendous support of the association. This included event sponsors Revels & Finch, BASF, Bayer, Landscape Supply, Syngenta, GE Turf Consultants, Geoponics, Harmon Turf Services,

Vereens, Trinity Turf, Genesis Turfgrass, Buy Sod, Drone Company RVA, Noble Turf, Precision Labs, Modern Turf, Sunbelt Rentals and Target Specialty Products.

After adjournment, the group enjoyed the Syngenta Reception in the beautiful South Lounge. That evening, Target Specialty Products hosted a networking party, with

Monday Night Football featured.

The second day of the conference opened with a networking breakfast. Then attendees moved into the conference hall for a dynamic lineup of speakers.

Mark Kuhns, CGCS returned to kick it off with “My 42 years as a Golf Course Superintendent.” The entertaining session included some “behind the scenes” stories during major



Award Winners congratulated by President Cote – L-R: Mike Augustin, Sterling Caudle, Mark Cote and Jeff Berg



Presidents Past and Future – Mark Cote, Bill Keene, Jeff Holliday



The USGA’s Paul Jacobs reviews “Virginia Issues”

and Jeff Berg of Chantilly National GCC (Distinguished Service). Wells then introduced Neil Jones of Buy Sod, who announced a Scholarship Award to Morgan Furlong. Cote presented the President’s Award for Lifetime Service to Sterling Caudle, who drew a standing ovation. (See detailed award articles in this newsletter)

Cote then recognized and thanked outgoing board members Jeff Holliday, Scott Mauldin, Garrison Fowler and Ian



Mark Kuhns and Jeff Berg

events, and some dangerous encounters with wildlife.

Next up was Pat Gross with his presentation, “Water Budgeting, Irrigation Planning and Operation.” He included a live demonstration of compiling rain data

*continued on page 15*

# Boyce & Yancey Claim Inaugural Match Play

The inaugural season-long VGCSA Match Play Championship was a big hit, with 58 players participating in two man teams, culminating in the championship match this fall at Kinloch Golf Club. Matt Boyce of Princess Anne CC and Cameron Yancey of Nottoway River CC claimed the title in the net four-ball event. The winners each received trophies and a \$400 gift card. Runners-Up were Jeff Snyder of The Water's Edge CC and Jim Wilson of Harrells. Syngenta sponsored the event.

There were 32 teams representing all regions, with players playing in a local bracket before advancing to the semifinals. Other semifinalists were Joe Burdess and Sam Williamson of Textron Golf along with Ryan Dwyer of Viniterra GC and Jeremy Waddell of The Golden Horseshoe. There was great feedback from the event, so it will return in 2019.



Matt Boyce (L) and Cameron Yancey (R) are congratulated by Larry Feller of Syngenta

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# Annual Conference continued from page 13

for specific regions into a table to establish a water budget. He took a complex task and made it look easy.

Then it was time for Paul Jacobs' talk on "Virginia Issues and Trends." 2018 showed the most dynamic weather patterns in over 20 years. Superintendents dealt with winterkill, heavy rains, a hurricane – you name it.

After lunch, Dr. Rob Golembiewski of Bayer Green Partners spoke on "Strategies to Reduce Turfgrass Stress." He mapped the growing periods of various grasses in Virginia across a timeline, including both cool- and warm-season grasses. He observed various factors affecting plant health. He examined syringing and the use of fans during heat periods. He also looked at the timing of fungicides and other inputs.

Then the GCSAA's Bob Helland relayed some encouraging news on WOTUS. He also mentioned the new GCSAA PAC (Political Action Committee). The Ambassadors program is doing well and Virginia just needs three superintendent volunteers. He encouraged participation in National Golf Day, set for May 1, 2019.

Following Helland, President Cote introduced the audience to VGCSA's new Lobbyist Robb Bohannon of Hunton Andrews Kurth in Richmond. Bohannon outlined the monitoring and legislative services he will provide during the session. VGCSA is looking into the possibility of a Governor's proclamation of "Virginia Golf Day."

Batting cleanup in the conference was Jordan Booth, representing the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Program. He gave an update on the field trials at Independence GC, as well as the current drone project. He thanked VGCSA for their leadership with the fundraiser tournament, netting over \$67K.

President Cote wrapped it up with thanks to all the speakers, then he conducted drawings

for four Redskins-Eagles tickets donated by Buy Sod. James Nick won the Skins tickets. The conference was adjourned.



The USGA's Pat Gross receives a gift from Mark Cote



Ryan Dwyer and Steven Ball share a laugh.

## Thank You 2018 Partner Program Participants!

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# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

The hits just keep coming in 2018. The Old Dominion region had its second snowfall of the season. The official measurement at Richmond Airport was 11.5". Hopefully this isn't a sign of things to come for this winter!

On December 12, Jeremy Waddell hosted our Annual Meeting at the Golden Horseshoe. Despite the weather, the meeting was well attended and a good way to finish the year. We were able to recognize this year's scholarship winners. Congratulations to Rhett Martin from Salisbury CC and Elcor Castillo from

Kingsmill Resort! Also, our new board was announced, with Doug Houser being voted on in the Director's position. We look forward to Doug coming onboard and working with him for the next few years! One of the topics brought up was the need to start working with the GCSAA on local association and site specific BMP's. We will have more information on this in the near future.

Best of luck to everyone this winter and I hope to catch up with many of you soon!



Jay Wade  
ODGCSA  
External VP

## TTA News

2018 can certainly be remembered by the storms we experienced towards the tail end of the year. Whether it was Florence, Michael, or early December's winter storm – the abilities of superintendents across the region to reclaim their golf courses quickly was on display. It's safe to say Mother Nature owes us a kinder year ahead!

We were pleased to introduce new events to our calendar this past year. Riverfront Golf Club hosted an interactive field day with Toro, John Deere and Jacobsen equipment on display. The Bert Walton Memorial was a great success and we will begin a scholarship program in Bert's name with the funds raised each year.

Our annual business meeting was held in November at Greenbrier Country Club.

Topics discussed involved increasing member participation and adding more social events to our calendar. The TTA welcomed new members to the board of directors for 2019 – adding Alan Lumagui and John Guest. Justin Helms of Broad Bay Country Club will serve as President. We are grateful for past President Mike Hall's leadership through 2018! We will meet in early January to finalize the upcoming year's events, so stay tuned.

This is a great time of year to reflect on time's past and recharge for what lies ahead. We look forward to building on TTA's great foundation and continue to support our members at the local and state levels.



Tim Doran  
TTA External VP

## SVTA News

The SVTA held it's fundraiser for the VTF in October at the Caverns Country Club. There was a smaller field than usual due to the weather. We congratulate the winning team from Bushwood. I would like to thank Eric Ferrell and his staff for hosting this

event. Also, I would like to thank the vendors that supported this event.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and a prosperous new year.



Ed Eagle  
SVTA External VP

# News from Local Associations

## VTA News

I had to chuckle a little when I was reading through some of the previous December newsletter articles. Generally, weather is the main topic of conversation and how it played havoc or saved us. This year I guess is no different. Everyone seems to be in agreement, 2018 can just go away.

Throughout the year, good ole Mother Nature has had an impact on the region. Course conditions suffered and most importantly around here, rounds have been way down. From September through November, many of us in the area have seen over 30 inches of rain. Flooding was one of the major factors during this time, with major waterways across the southwest Virginia reaching major flood stage, two or

three times.

With all of that being said, we did find one very pleasant day in October to have our year end meeting at Blacksburg Country Club. It was great to get everyone together to tell horror stories of the year and laugh a bit on what a crazy year 2018 turned out to be.

This year we awarded the Bob Ruff Scholarship to Cameron Snyder, daughter of Jeff Snyder of The Water's Edge. When Cameron was fifteen years old, she started going to work with Jeff, learning the importance of hard work and the positive impact golf course can have on the environment.

In January we will begin the planning stages for the 2019 calendar. If you have any suggestions on topics, locations or if you would like to host an event, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the winter and hope everyone has a great holiday season and looking for a great 2019.



Sean K. Baskette  
VTA President

## News from the GWGCSA

What a year! I don't know any one that enjoyed 2018. The challenges were never ending and tested us every step of the way. Weather extremes have become the new norm, a fact that we should all be worried about.

The GWGCSA finished out the season strong with our Annual Meeting at Evergreen Country Club on November 13th. Leadership at both local and state level was voted upon. Michael Owens from Country Club of Fairfax was elected to the GW board as Secretary/Treasurer. Mike Mueller from

Herndon Centennial Golf Course was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer on the VGCSA board. Aaron Wells from BASF has moved into the Associate VGCSA Board position and I, David Walter have taken over the role of External VP.

We have a great schedule of events for 2019 including our new match play event; keep an eye out for details about this and all our upcoming 2019 events.

Happy Holidays and I wish you all a relaxing yet productive off-season.



David Walter  
GWGCSA  
External VP

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# Site-specific Management of Spring Dead Spot

## VGCSA/EIFG Cooperative Research Project

By Jordan Booth



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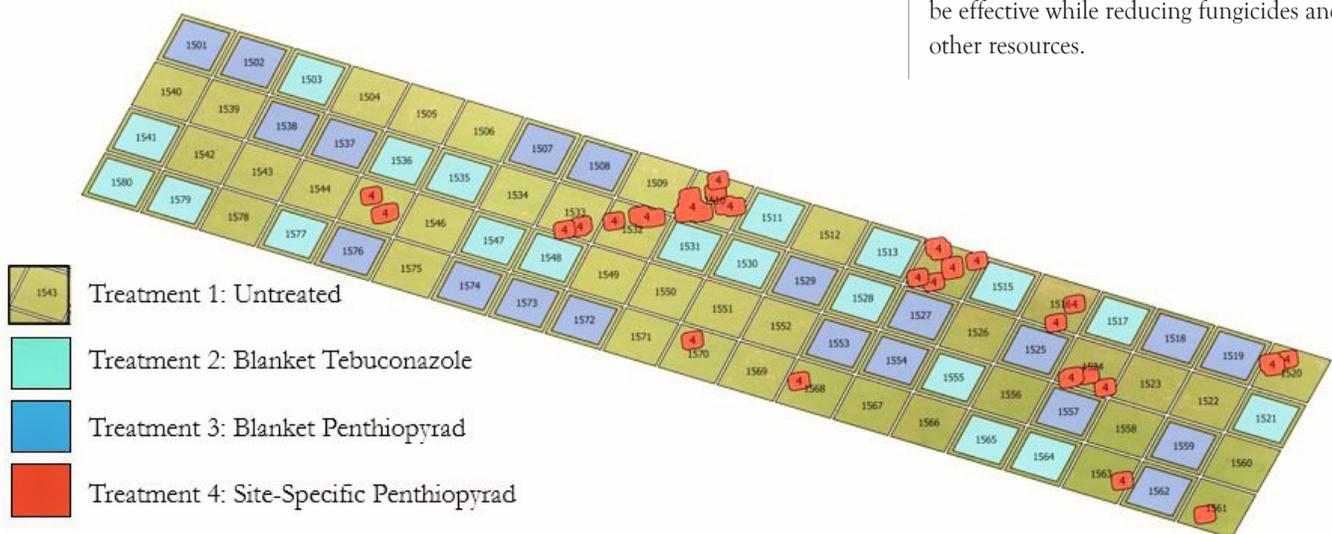
3. Blanket application of penthiopyrad at 0.7 oz/1000ft<sup>2</sup>
4. Site-Specific application of penthiopyrad at 0.7 oz/1000ft<sup>2</sup> based on disease maps

All fungicide applications were made using the Toro® Multipro® 5800 with GeoLink™. Using the SDS incidence maps, fungicide maps were created and installed directly into the Toro® sprayer. With improvements in mapping and GPS-accuracy, our maps and applications were accurate within 1.5 inches. Site-specific treatments used 51% less fungicide in 2016 and 65% less in 2017. After two years of data collection, both penthiopyrad treatments were superior to tebuconazole or the control across all metrics of SDS incidence and severity. Site-specific penthiopyrad applications provided equivalent suppression of area infected by SDS when compared to blanket penthiopyrad. However, blanket applications did provide fewer infection centers. This may be due to infection points that are not symptomatic, early in development. GPS-guided sprayers, improved mapping accuracy, and more affordable technology will allow site-specific management to become more readily available in the future. This research shows that site-specific SDS management can be effective while reducing fungicides and other resources.

Spring dead spot (SDS) is among the most frustrating and destructive diseases of bermudagrass in Virginia. Utilizing information that we know about SDS's life cycle, symptom expression, and infection timing, we may be able to manage this disease with a proactive, data-driven approach. Site-specific applications based on historical disease incidence may provide the option to use more effective fungicides. Simply put, site-specific management gives turfgrass managers the opportunity to use the most effective products in the right place to control SDS.

After developing methods for SDS mapping, our main objective was to evaluate site-specific fungicide applications, based on historical disease incidence, with blanket applications. Fairways infected with SDS were mapped in the spring of 2016, 2017, and 2018 to document SDS severity and location. Maps were analyzed for disease infection centers as well as area infected. Fungicide applications were made in the fall of 2016 and 2017. Treatments included;

1. Untreated Control
2. Blanket application of tebuconazole at 0.9 fl. oz/1000ft<sup>2</sup>



# Assistants Forum a Success at Stonehenge Golf & CC

On Monday, October 29, Stonehenge Golf & Country Club and Chad Karr, Golf Course Superintendent, hosted the 10th Annual VGCSA Assistants Forum.

Newly named Kingsmill River Course Superintendent Tim Doran was the keynote speaker, featuring a discussion on course preparations for a major championship, the LPGA Kingsmill Championship. He emphasized teamwork and working with the LPGA's Championship Agronomist. This included all the detail work on "advance" week. He also noted the key roles played by vendors and volunteers. He also reviewed contingency plans of inclement weather.

The panel segment was also a hit with representation from some of the top superintendents in the region. The panel included Doran, Mathieu LeCompte



Panelists Mathieu LeCompte, Tim Doran, Chad Karr and Ryan Dwyer

(Royal New Kent GC), Ryan Dwyer (Viniterra GC) and Chad Karr (Stonehenge G&CC), all fairly new superintendents. A Q&A session took place with audience members asking the panel a multitude of questions.

Then the group adjourned to the annual two-man captain's choice golf competition. Josh Nunn and Rhett Martin of Salisbury CC won Low Gross with a six-under-par 66. Jeremy Zeister and Tim Doran won Low Net.

## 2019 VGCSA Schedule

- January 10 Virginia Agribusiness Council Banquet, Richmond Raceway Complex
- January 17 VGCSA Legislature Visit & Board Meeting, State Capitol
- February 2-7 GCSAA Conference & Golf Industry Show, San Diego
- February 6 VGCSA-MAAGCS-ESAGCS Social Event, Horton Grand Hotel, San Diego
- March 21 GWGCSA NCAA SOCIAL & Match Play Blind Draw, Buffalo Wild Wings Manassas Park
- April 23 GWGCSA 2-Man Scramble Old Hickory Golf Club
- May 8 Virlina Cup Qualifier & Stableford Event, Dominion Valley Country Club
- May 20 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence Golf Club
- June 4 GWGCSA Super/Assistant Championship (Better Ball), Country Club of Fairfax
- July 17 GWGCSA Maintenance Open, Forest Greens Golf Club
- September 19 GWGCSA Glow Ball Event, Stonewall Golf Club
- October TBA GWGCSA Match Play Championship, Robert Trent Jones Golf Club
- November 5 GWGCSA Annual Meeting/Elections/End of Year Classic, Evergreen Country Club

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