

March 2017

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

It has been an interesting few months since our Annual meeting in December. On everyone's mind right now are the offbeat weather patterns that have increasingly become the norm. Daily temperature swings of 30-40 degrees have not been uncommon. It is mid-February in Blacksburg and I've seen some scattered Poa seedheads as well as Northbridge beginning the green-up process. In some areas in this region it looks to be the warmest February on record. And yet the business of the Association goes on. The past few months have seen educational and research news as well as planning for this year's events.

Education wise, those that attended the GIS were yet again presented with a wide variety of educational and networking opportunities. Our joint social event at Doubletree SeaWorld was a huge success with over 250 attending from various associations. This was a perfect example of the balance between formal classroom education and networking opportunities that are available at events like this.

The GCSAA chapter meeting provided an insight into the direction of the national association. The creation of an online BMP template was rolled out which will enable us to put our BMP online and facilitates the process of upgrading and fine tuning. It will also enable individual courses to create their own site-specific BMP in the future.

In January the Mid-Atlantic Golf Council met to discuss issues related to golf in the Mid-Atlantic region from the perspective of the different golf-related associations. Representatives were in attendance from the associations representing Superintendents, Professionals, Club Managers, Course Owners as well as the regional Golf Associations. One of the items in development is the possibility of an alternating regional conference with attention to issues important to all associations - something similar to the old



USGA regional meetings, which were discontinued. This effort has been spearheaded by Jeff Holliday, CGCS and is in the developmental stages.

Along the same lines, we are participating in a Virginia Golf 2.0 Conference to discuss issues dealing with golf in Virginia. The first of these meetings was held on March 2nd at Independence. The desire is to continue these meetings on a monthly basis. Thus we continue to firm up our participation and leadership in both our state as well as our region in the golf industry.

The big news and excitement developing this year is the joining of the VGCSA and VTC fundraising tournaments into one. This has come about specifically at the request of the VA Tech Turf Team, and funds raised at the tournament will go directly to Tech for research as they see fit. We are extremely grateful to Christian Sain and the staff at CCV who have graciously offered the James River Course as well as The Tuckahoe Creek Course on Monday, May 22. This Tournament will be preceded in the morning by a golf-centric field day at CCV to showcase the research being conducted there. Many thanks go to the joint VGCSA, VA Tech and VTC tournament committee, which has been working to make this an awesome event. This is one of those win-win situations you look for, and we are excited to be a part of it.

Recently the VGCSA had our annual trip to the State Legislature on February 19. Attending this event were myself, Pete Stephens, Scott Mauldin, Tyler Eastham and David Norman. This was an important event in the sense that we must as an

association continue to blow our own horn with the Legislature so they stay aware of our role in the economy as well as the environment. We were able to speak directly with some delegates and, as well as many Legislative aides. Part of the gift bag we dropped at each legislator's office was a thumbdrive with our BMP project and the Water Quality project. All in all it was an eye-opening experience and I encourage more participation next year.

Future associations are being developed as we speak. The VGCSA Championship is set for May 9th at CC of Petersburg. Big thanks go to Superintendent Vince Hankley for agreeing to host. The Joe Saylor Tournament is going home this year to James River CC in Newport News on October 9th - Joe was superintendent at this course for 20 years, so it will be a special event. Thanks go to Rob Wilmans for agreeing to host this year.

I'd like to remind everyone of the Recruitment Video rolled out at our annual Meeting. If you haven't seen it please go to the website. It's well done and features assistant superintendents from the state. This issue isn't going to solve itself, so getting the word out to people that this is a strong and respectable profession helps in developing future superintendents. Employing high school students is another way of getting the word out - this has worked out good for me and I am continuing to look to local high schools for summer workers. The solution to this problem will be multi-faceted and won't be a one-and-done type solution.

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VGCSA President



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VGCSA Announces Board Lineup for 2017

The Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association announced its Board of Directors for 2017. Mark Cote of the Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech will lead the organization in his first year as President. Bill Keene of Blacksburg Country Club is Vice President, and Jeff Whitmire, CGCS of The Williamsburg Club is the new Secretary/Treasurer. Jeff Holliday, CGCS of Salisbury Country Club is Past President.

The Board includes five External Vice Presidents, representing their respective local associations: Scott Mauldin, CGCS of The Foundry Golf Club (Old Dominion GCSA), Aaron Wells of Belmont Country Club (Greater Washington GCSA), Pete Stephens, CGCS of Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club (Tidewater Turfgrass Association) and Sean Baskette of Hidden Valley CC (Virginia Turfgrass Association). The position for the Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association is currently open.

Rounding out the Board are representatives: Steven Ball of Kinloch Golf



2017 VGCSA Board of Directors (L-R) – Pete Stephens, CGCS, Steven Ball, Aaron Wells, Jeff Whitmire, CGCS, Bill Keene, Mark Cote, Jeff Holliday, CGCS, Sean Baskette, Eric Spurlock, Scott Mauldin, CGCS

Club (Assistants), Eric Spurlock of Landscape Supply (Vendor) and David McCall of Virginia Tech (Turf Educator).

The purpose of the Virginia Golf Course

Superintendents Association is to serve its members through unified representation on a state and national level and by advancing their professional growth.

Help Wanted – Cultivating Young Professionals

by Chase Rogan

GCSAA is often asked what we are doing to recruit new talent in to the field, as well as what value are we providing to Student members. Did you know that a Student member can maintain a Student Membership for up to 24 months after graduation, so long as the student is not in a golf course management role? It's true.

Furthermore, students have access to live and on-demand webinars. They have access to the job board, valuable scholarship opportunities, and an important resume critiquing service which can prove vital in landing the right job.

With regard to GIS, students are entitled to a free full registration, student hotel room block (special rates), 50% discount off member pricing for seminars, access to student booth area, free professional headshots, and a student reception event.

In 2017, GCSAA is taking the following steps to enhance student engagement:

Student Recruitment before college: GCSAA staff will participate at high school, FFA National Conference and Tradeshow, Vocational Tech School career day events to inform students of golf industry careers. We will provide superintendents tools (Marketing packets

and Powerpoint presentations) to engage with students at their local career events. GCSAA staff will participate in First Green and First Tee events across the country.

Mentorship Program: By engaging students with Assistant Superintendents and Superintendents this program will facilitate career growth and upward mobility. This will be a software platform that will allow them to engage in a private arena to facilitate open communication.

Internship Program: GCSAA will provide Superintendents the tools to create active learning environments for students. Students will be provided with checklists for a productive internship experience. GCSAA will provide the means for them to communicate and reach each other.

Student Listserve: Students will be supplied with a Listserve communication tool. This will enable them to directly receive information that is pertinent to them. Student events, student internships, and networking opportunities will be communicated through the Listserve. They will also be able to network and engage with students across the globe.

Student Chapter Engagement: GCSAA will be making visits to Universities and



Colleges that have GCSAA Student Chapters. We will offer speakers and educational content that they can choose from for their Turf Club meetings. We will be working with the GCSAA Affiliated Superintendent Chapter to engage them with their Student Chapter.

As we look forward, GCSAA will continue to enhance these programs as to guarantee the success of our field heading to the future.

In addition to the GCSAA's efforts, VGCSA is taking dead aim at recruiting more prospects into our profession. Thanks to a GCSAA Chapter Research grant last year, we now have a stimulating video promoting our profession, featuring the top young superintendents in the region. Also featured are representatives of the Virginia Tech Turfgrass department. Access the video at www.vgcsa.org.

Scenes from the GIS Social Event in Orlando



Dr. David McCall, Dr. Joe Roberts and Jordan Booth, CGCS discuss nematodes at the party



Presidential Gathering: Mark Cote (VGCSA), Tom Tipton (EASGCS), Mik Bostian (MAAGCS)



CCV's Adam Kerr and Christian Sain visit with RJT's Scott Furlong

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GCSAA & EIFG Partner with The Golf Channel for Rounds 4 Research

Send your donations now!

The Rounds 4 Research program was designed to address a critical shortage in turfgrass research funding by auctioning donated rounds of golf online. The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA. Although there is a wide scope of research going on, some key areas include disease management, insect management, turfgrass management and water quality.

Funds from this program are also used to support the EIFG's Chapter Cooperative Research Program which works with GCSAA-affiliated chapters by providing matching funds for applied agronomic or environmentally related research. This is a powerful program and VGCSA has benefited greatly from these matching funds. So, please use this opportunity to donate a foursome and help raise money for future research projects.

New this year is the media partnership with The Golf Channel. There will be early promotion starting on March 15th so having your donations in early is important.

Donating is quick and easy! You can simply fill out an on-line form or use the form included in this mailing and send to the EIFG. EIFG can create the winner's certificate for you.



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Empower Your Roots to Dive Deeper

Fall is when your turf's roots need to grow their deepest to recover from summer, survive winter and green-up faster in the spring. EarthWorks Replenish Granular Fertilizers are the best way to help you accomplish that.

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Provided by **LANDSCAPE SUPPLY**

The advertisement features a background image of a golf course at sunset. In the foreground, five bags of EarthWorks Replenish Granular Fertilizers are displayed in a row, each with a different color and nutrient ratio: 3-3-3 (orange), 5-5-5 (green), 10-2-5 (blue), 8-2-2 (red), and 16-0-5 (purple). The text 'LANDSCAPE SUPPLY' is in the top left corner. The main headline reads 'Empower Your Roots to Dive Deeper'. Below the bags, a paragraph explains the benefits of the fertilizers for fall turf care. At the bottom, the EarthWorks logo and 'CARBON BASED FERTILITY' are on the left, and 'Provided by LANDSCAPE SUPPLY' is on the right.

Lee Dieter Donates Valuable Collection to Turfgrass Information Center

The Turfgrass Information Center of the Michigan State University Libraries is happy to announce the generous donation of materials from Mr. Lee C. Dieter. This donation included over 200 monographs, including works like the 1930 Lawrence Dickinson title *The Lawn* accompanied by its rare book jacket and other important monographs such as Cunningham's 1914 *Lawns, Golf Courses, Polo Fields, and How to Treat Them* and Sutton's 1886 *Permanent and Temporary Pastures*. This donation also contained a significant collection of serial materials, including *Lawn Care*, *TurfNet Monthly*, *Virginia Turfgrass Journal*, bound editions of *Outing* and many copies of turfgrass field day and conference proceedings. This donation also included a noteworthy collection of nearly 300 scorecards from facilities all over the United States.



Also noteworthy was the vast collection

of invaluable serial materials produced by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAAGCS), including: *Turf News*, *Turf News Letter*, *Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter*, *Turf Talk*, and *Turfgrass Matters*. The MAAGCS materials alone totaled over 400 individual items, adding a third to the amount of material available through the MAAGCS full-text archive: <http://archive.lib.msu.edu/tic/matnl/browse.html>, including significant amounts of unheld issues from the 1950s-1970s.

Lee C. Dieter, CGCS Retired, was superintendent at Washington Golf and Country Club for 36 years. He was an active member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, serving as the president twice. Lee also served on the United States Golf Association Green Section Committee, and was a member throughout the 1970s. He was among the first to stand for the testing process to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent, and



Lee Dieter, CGCS

was part of the movement to tie continued education requirements into certification eligibility. Lee has long been a collector of golf memorabilia, including a large book collection totaling over 3,000 titles – the base of which came from Richard Watson and John Connelly, both early superintendents in the Mid-Atlantic area.

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Government Relations Round-Up

VGCSA Representatives Trek to the State Capitol

Recently, VGCSA representatives Mark Cote, Scott Mauldin, Pete Stephens, David Norman and Tyler Eastham visited with state senators and delegates at the General Assembly. They visited each representative's office, offering a gift bag with important information about our association and the industry. A thumb drive with the BMP, our mission statement and a postcard highlighting our stewardship were all included.

After the visit to the General Assembly, the VGCSA representatives headed to the House of Delegates and Senate Chambers. They were introduced to the floor by Senator David Marsden who noted the \$2.5 billion economic impact to the state and the 30,000 Virginians that are employed by the industry. The annual trip is important to building and strengthening the relationships with our elected officials. It is definitely a team effort.



Scott Mauldin, CGCS, Mark Cote and Pete Stephens at the Rotunda



Lt. Governor Ralph Northam (center) greets Steven Ball, Scott Mauldin, CGCS, Jeff Holliday, CGCS and Mark Cote

Virginia Agribusiness Council a Sellout

On Thursday, January 12, the Virginia Agribusiness Council welcomed a sold out crowd at the 46th Annual Legislative Appreciation Banquet held at the Old Dominion Building at the Richmond Raceway Complex. This marks the second year in a row that the Banquet has sold out! Industry partners and elected officials gathered together for an evening of delicious food and fellowship in celebration of Virginia's top private industries, Agriculture and Forestry. While the Governor and First Lady were unable to attend, we were pleased to welcome Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, as well as other statewide gubernatorial candidates.

Representing VGCSA were President Mark Cote, Past President Jeff Holliday, CGCS, Assistants Chair Steven Ball, ODGCSA rep Scott Mauldin, CGCS and Executive Director David Norman.

The Trump Administration Indicates a "Review" of WOTUS

President Donald Trump issued an executive order on February 28th, directing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers to (1) "review" the Clean Water Rule, and (2) "publish for notice and comment" a rule that either revises the pending Clean Water Rule (WOTUS) or replaces it entirely. Placed on hold nationwide since October 2015 by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, the Clean Water Rule expanded the Clean Water Act's federal jurisdiction to include waters previously under state or local control, such as isolated ponds, wetlands, ditches and ephemeral drainages (i.e. those with only an intermittent flow).

The GCSAA has fought WOTUS and the EPA's overreach of governance on water issues. The Trump administration is viewed as sympathetic to the cause of the GCSAA.

GOLF 20/20 Announces the Game's 2016 Charitable Impact

Record Number of Golf Facilities Hosted Event Last Year



GOLF 20/20 – a collaboration of leading organizations representing all segments of the U.S. golf industry – today announces details about the game's \$3.9 billion annual charitable impact with more golf facilities than ever (12,700) hosting an event in 2016.

According to a study conducted by the National Golf Foundation (NGF), golf as a fundraising vehicle includes an estimated:

- 12,700 golf facilities (84 percent of U.S. total, 8 percent increase from 2011)
- 143,000 events
- 12 million participants
- \$26,400 average per function
- 1 percent of all U.S. charitable giving (totaled \$373 billion in 2015)

“Charity is at the heart of the U.S. golf industry,” says Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation, administrator of GOLF 20/20. “Golf is a key driver for charitable giving and takes pride in hosting charitable events to improve millions of lives through causes that are mostly unrelated to golf.”

Most common charitable golf event beneficiaries include health, youth, education and cultural groups nationally, regionally and locally.

More than 85 percent of organizations conducting golf events find them important because, in addition to raising significant funds, they provide exposure and networking opportunities among supporters.

Additionally, golf's charitable impact is

greater than Major League Baseball, National Football League, National Basketball League and National Hockey League combined.

The findings are based on qualitative calls and data collection from a coast-to-coast sampling of public and private golf facilities, and non-profit organizations producing golf events, conducted on behalf of GOLF 20/20 by the NGF.

For more information:
www.golf2020.com.



Steve Mona, CEO,
World Golf Foundation

Norman Honored by VSGA

At the Annual Meeting of the Virginia State Golf Association, VGCSA Executive Director David Norman was the recipient of the 2017 VSGA Service to Golf Award. “The VSGA Service to Golf Award is presented annually to an individual who has selflessly contributed to bettering golf in the commonwealth as an administrator, volunteer, VSGA staff member, PGA professional or otherwise.”

A former VSGA Executive Director, Norman continues to serve golf through his role as Executive Director of the VGCSA. Norman also serves on the board of the Middle Atlantic Golf Association. After working with the Carolinas Golf Association and RJR Nabisco, Norman came to Virginia to become the VSGA's Executive Director. During his tenure, the Association saw many of its most important

initiatives, such as the VIP Golf Card and its scholarship program, come to fruition.



David Norman, VGCSA
Executive Director

President's Message *cont.*

And another reminder on Nutrient Management Planning. If you do not have a completed plan for your course by July 1 of this year – you will be BREAKING THE LAW and will be subject to a \$250 civil penalty. Gentlemen, if you have not completed your plan, please make it a priority this spring. Grants are available,

and a list of planners is on the Virginia DCR website – let's get this done now!

Last but definitely not least I'd like to welcome new Board members to the VGCSA. The Assistant representative is Steven Ball from Kinloch, Industry Rep is Eric Spurlock from Landscape Supply, Our new Secretary/Treasurer is Jeff Whitmire

and the new external VP from the Greater Washington is Aaron Wells. I look forward to working with all the board and Members this year. And to our many corporate Partners, thanks so much for your continued support.

2017 Event Previews

Old Dominion Scholarship Tournament at Richmond CC on April 17

The inaugural Old Dominion GCSA Scholarship Tournament was a big hit last year at Spring Creek Golf Club. And plans are to make it even better this year at Richmond Country Club on Monday, April 17th. So get your taxes done, and celebrate with the Old Dominion!

The tournament grew out of the old Tollie Quinn event, which Smith Turf & Irrigation sponsored for years. STI remains a top sponsor, and other top companies are joining to support this important new event which funds scholarships for employees of Virginia golf clubs – it doesn't even have



Paul Van Buren
ODGCSA President



to be at an ODGCSA club. Last year two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded.

“We want to continue to grow our event, and we welcome participation statewide, no matter what local association you belong to,” said ODGCSA President Paul Van Buren, MBA, of Kanawha Club. Check the website for registration information, coming soon.

CMAA-VGCSA-NGCOA Joint Meeting at Two Rivers on June 12

Save the date for the annual joint meeting of CMAA, VGCSA and NGCOA Mid-Atlantic – Monday, June 12th at Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg. GM Ken Underwood and Superintendent Brent Graham, CGCS are your hosts. The education topic will be “H2-B Staffing Strategies” presented by Keith Pabian.

The event features a networking breakfast, education, lunch and optional golf on one of Virginia's best courses. Yamaha Golf Cars of the Virginias will be sponsoring lunch.



Homecoming for 2017 Joe Saylor Memorial James River CC in Newport News Hosts on October 9th



The 18th hole of James River CC with the river in the background

This year's Joe Saylor Memorial promises to be a fun homecoming at James River Country Club in Newport News, where the event's namesake worked for many years. Current JRCC superintendent Rob Wilmans plays host on Monday, October 9th – he is the current President of the

Tidewater Turfgrass Association.

Ed Eagle and Billy Sayre of Staunton outlasted a strong field to take the title last year at Fawn Lake CC in Fredericksburg. But the event is much more about the fellowship of getting through the long summer and enjoying a fun day with your

colleagues. Plus it is VGCSA's top charity event – each year the association members donate more than 100 toys to the US Marine Corps' Toys for Tots charity. Don't miss it!



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2017 Event Previews *continued*

VGCSA Championship to CC of Petersburg on May 9



Last year the VGCSA Championship added a new twist – net prizes and a new vendor division – it was a big hit, and there was a nice turnout. So when this year’s event travels to the Country Club of Petersburg on Tuesday, May 9th, we are expecting a lot of fun, fellowship and spirited competition!

The event serves as one of the qualifiers for the Virlina Cup, and that always provides spice. And while Syngenta returns as presenting sponsor, each of three divisions (Superintendent, Assistant and Vendor) will crown both a gross and net champion. Qualification for the Virlina Cup will still be a gross competition, with two spots going to the Superintendent Division and one to the Assistants Champion.

With the new format, another perk is the move to one of the prettiest and most scenic courses in the Commonwealth, the Country Club of Petersburg. Host



superintendent Vince Hankley plans to have the course in excellent condition (as he always does), and the test will be both stern yet fun. If you haven’t played CCP, DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY – truly among the BEST in Virginia –

especially in the heart of spring.

Defending Champions are Cameron Yancey of Nottoway River CC for Superintendents, Terry English of The Olde Farm for Assistants and Jim Wilson of Harrell’s for Vendors.

VGCSA Conference Moves to Charlottesville in December *Event Continues to Grow*

Presented by



The VGCSA Conference continues to grow in its fourth year, and the event moves to Charlottesville in December, 2017 – specific dates and the site are being finalized.

The event will feature a similar format to the 2016 event. A good deal of education credit will be available to VGCSA members, as the Old Dominion’s Education Segment will again be held on the first day, running 1-4 pm, then followed by the Association’s Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a FREE Partner Appreciation Reception, featuring your favorite beverages and hors d’oeuvres, and

plenty of networking time with your friends. The evening will feature a Monday Night Football Party presented by Ian Grove of Target Specialty Products (formerly Turfgrass, Inc.)

Then on Tuesday, a Networking Breakfast will run 7:30-8:30 a.m., followed by more education, featuring outstanding speakers from the fields of turf and business, all designed to make your jobs just a little easier and a little better. The Education Committee is working on the current lineup as we speak!

“We polled our members after last year’s event, and we got some good ideas. We are

committed to continual improvement of the program,” said VGCSA President Mark Cote.

Thanks to the excellent support of sponsors like Revels Tractor and Finch Services (the John Deere distributors) and other excellent companies, the conference will be at a reasonable price.



2017 Event Previews *continued*

Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day Set for May 22 at The Country Club of Virginia



The VGCSA and VTC are proud to announce the merger of two popular research fundraiser tournaments into one mega event, the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, set for Monday, May 22nd, hosted by The Country Club of Virginia. Both the famed James River Course and the popular Tuckahoe Creek Course will be used for this benefit tournament, aimed at providing support for Turfgrass research.

As part of this move, Virginia Tech researchers have established turfgrass plots near the Tuckahoe Creek Course Farmhouse, and guests are invited to attend a free 90-minute field day that morning. The Tech team wanted to establish research in central Virginia, as the climate and growing conditions are more “mainstream Virginia,” than that found in Blacksburg. Richmond also provides a more convenient location statewide.

The new golf tournament promises to be



a “can’t miss” affair! Plans are in place to make it totally first class from the golf, to the food & beverage, to the prizes and more. In addition, the event will feature a new auction component to add excitement to the day. It will soon become the ultimate networking event in the industry. The

tournament committee is announcing the event and opening sponsorship and golf team sales now.

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

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Biotic Pests a Major Hindrance in 2016

By Addison Barden, USGA Green Section Agronomist

Despite 2016 starting with a relatively mild winter and an early transition into summer, the year ended with numerous biotic and abiotic stresses wreaking havoc on turfgrass. In many cases, attempts to diagnose a single plant stressor as the cause for the overall decline was challenging. This was difficult because plant stressors often produce detrimental plant responses collectively rather than individually.

Biotic pests affecting turf health are strongly correlated to turfgrass stress (abiotic). Moreover, turfgrass can experience abiotic stress, such as from drought or heat, without experiencing disease; but, disease problems rarely occur without abiotic stress. Additionally, very few if any fungicides by themselves will significantly reduce abiotic stress. The 2016 season was a great example of this; much of the turf decline resulted from a combination of biotic and abiotic stresses during a prolonged period of poor weather. Even populations of pests that typically would not cause turf decline did because of the intense abiotic stress.

During the search for answers, nematodes garnered a lot of attention as a possible cause for putting green decline. On greens with decline, nematode assays indicated there was no strong correlation between turf health and nematode populations. Some greens contained high nematode counts and were in good health, while greens with decline contained low counts. In fact, damaging nematodes can show up at very high numbers on healthy putting greens or even greens that were just treated with a nematicide. This left some scratching their head or searching for another lab to confirm that diagnosis.

With all of this said, nematodes are still important to monitor but there are few pests we deal with that are more complex to monitor and manage than nematodes. When looking at nematodes, it is important to remember that their populations rise and fall with weather and growth of turfgrass, and nematode counts are not always indicative of nematode problems.

Nematode populations can reach damaging populations due to a number of factors such as weather, soil structure, soil moisture, plant health, turfgrass species, soil microbial populations, other plant-parasitic nematodes, and so on. These variables can

affect both nematode populations and turf health, making the conclusions around nematode thresholds very dynamic and challenging.

Before committing to an expensive preventative nematicide program, consider implementing a nematode sampling program. Keep good notes with regards to weather conditions, existing disease issues, and any stresses of concern. Season-long nematode sampling will allow you to correlate how environmental conditions at your facility affect nematode populations over time. This site-specific testing will help you better gauge damage thresholds for your facility.

So what is the ideal method for conducting season-long nematode sampling (Mitkowski, 2008)?

1. Select three putting greens (but the more the better) for sampling. Ideally, select your best, average, and poorest performing greens.
2. Each green should have approximately 20, half to one-inch diameter, three-inch deep soil plugs removed in a systematic grid pattern, ideally on five foot centers, across the entire green and placed into a single bag. Do not use a random sampling pattern because consistency in sampling is critical.
3. Conduct this sampling technique in the spring after soil temperatures are conducive for active turf growth. The early-season nematode population numbers will indicate whether there is a likelihood of nematode related issues later in the season.
4. If numbers are high during the early-season assay, additional sampling will be needed at the mid-point of the season. While monthly sampling is not a necessity, it can allow you to monitor population changes so they can be correlated to changes in turf health and other variables.
5. Always submit samples to the same lab so that sampling techniques and tools remain consistent. Extraction methods and tools can vary greatly from lab to lab so consistency is important.

If you suspect nematodes have caused visible damage on your greens, a localized, precision sampling technique may be needed to determine if nematodes are the cause, or contributor, of turf decline.



Addison Barden

1. Use a cup cutter to remove a soil core, approximately three-inches deep, from the edge of the area of turf decline. Removing a sample from the edge offers the opportunity for collecting nematodes.
2. On the same green, remove another soil core, approximately three-inches deep, in an area with no visible turf decline to act as a control comparison.

Plant-parasitic nematodes rarely show above-ground damage to healthy turfgrass because turfgrass plants are able to outgrow most nematode feeding. However, prolonged heat and humidity, such as that experienced last summer, can weaken putting green turf to the point where even low populations of nematodes, potentially coupled with non-symptomatic stressors, can begin to create visible turf decline. Most problems are a combination of factors. Therefore, avoid letting one year of poor weather and turf decline convince you that a preventative nematicide program is needed. Instead, regularly submit nematode samples to the same lab so you can gain a better understanding of the complex nature of nematode populations.

Mitkowski, Nathaniel. "Nematode Sampling." Golf Course Superintendent Factsheet Series. vol. 4, no. 1, 2008. University of Rhode Island. <http://www.uriturf.org/publications/urifactsheetvol4no1.pdf>



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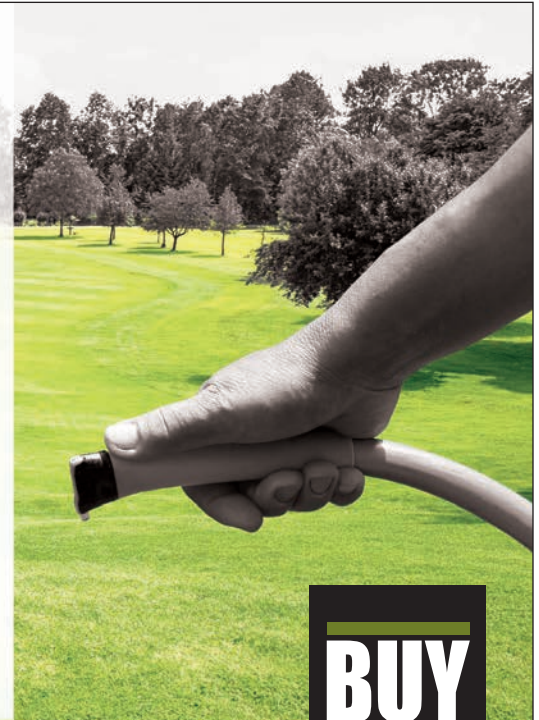
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2017 GIS Chapter Sessions

Chapter Management Session Focused on Sharing Success, Networking

More than 50 chapter executives, board members and editors gathered together for the debut of the new Chapter Management Session held during the 2017 Golf Industry Show. The session combined two long-standing events, the Chapter Executive and Editor Sessions, into a one-day educational program for all things chapter. The attendees received updates on key GCSAA programs and services, heard best practices from their colleagues and networked. Mark Cote, David Norman and Tyler Eastham represented VGCSA.

The day began GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans, who briefed the attendees on the latest GCSAA Member Needs Survey. GCSAA and chapter approval continue to increase and reinforced Evans' overall message that GCSAA and chapter success are connected to each other. GCSAA's key priority areas of field staff, advocacy and outreach, research and environmental

programs continues to receive the bulk of GCSAA spending and directly tie back to the mission and vision of GCSAA.

GCSAA has undertaken a membership growth initiative of 20,000 members by the year 2020, which focus on three areas:

- Strong Brand Consistency – A brand needs to be consistent to gain traction in the marketplace. This consistency will lead to brand identity, brand recognition and finally connection.
- Member Experience – Create experiences for members to engage with and participate in GCSAA. When people feel wanted and needed they renew their memberships and promote the experience to their friends.
- There is no substitute for hard work – Getting to 20,000 members by 2020 will take hard work on everyone's part. GCSAA board, staff and chapters.

BMP Planning Guide and Template

GCSAA unveiled the goal for all 50 states to have a golf course best management program (BMP) in place by the year 2020. To help states, and the chapters within them, GCSAA created an online BMP Planning Guide and Template.

The attendees heard about the initiative and were shown the template by Shelia Finney, senior director, member programs. Chapters were encouraged to check out the new tool and get started.

Chapter Success Stories

A highlight of the session each year is chapter leaders and executives sharing success stories. In 2017, Kentuckiana GCSA, Heart of America GCSA and Florida GCSA had different ideas to share and stories to tell, but the common denominator in each presentation were individuals dedicated to the betterment of their chapters and members.

Chapter Roundtable Discussion

Chapter executives were surveyed for topics to discuss during the roundtable portion of the session. Each table discussed the following topics – membership recruitment, board member engagement, newsletter publications and time management.

Get Your Nutrient Management Plan Complete

It's Easy and Grants are Available! – Must Be Completed By July 1, 2017

As you may know, July 1, 2017, is the deadline for all golf courses in Virginia to have a certified Nutrient Management Plan for their Course. The state has approved a grant program to assist courses with complying with this regulation which is allotted on a \$10/acre schedule but, each contractor sets their own fee.

The process to complete your NMP is easy and not as costly as you would think. Having a plan shows the community that golf courses are conscious

of the environment and actively taking steps towards protecting it. Additionally, those courses without plans submitted for approval within 90 days of the deadline are subject to a monetary civil penalty by the DCR. So, please get your plans submitted ASAP.

Many of you have already completed your plan, thank you. Please communicate with your fellow members on how the process was handled at your facility.

Visit <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov> for a current list of contractors. If you have any questions about the grant or your course's eligibility, or the NMP process, contact Chantel Wilson, DCR's Urban Nutrient Management Specialist. chantel.wilson@dcrvirginia.com / 804-887-8917



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2017 VGCSA Schedule

January 12	Virginia Agribusiness Council Meeting, Richmond	May 23	GWGCSA/MAAGCS Joint Meeting, TBA
February 6-9	GCSAA Conference, Orlando, FL	May 24	TTA Dick Cake Memorial & Virlina Cup Qualifying, Elizabeth Manor G&CC, Portsmouth
February 8	GIS Social Event, Orlando, FL	June TBA	SVTA Meeting, TBA
February 16	VGCSA Visit to State Legislature, Richmond	June 12	CMAA-VGCSA-NGCOA Joint Meeting, Two Rivers CC, Williamsburg
February 24	TTA Meeting, TopGolf, Virginia Beach	June 20	GWGCSA Shamble, TBA
February 26	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC, Manakin-Sabot	July 1	Deadline to Have Your Nutrient Management Plan Completed
March 2	"Virginia Golf 2.0", Independence GC, Midlothian	July 19	GWGCSA Maintenance Open, Forest Greens GC, Triangle
March 14-15	GCSAA Chapter Leaders Meeting, Lawrence, KS	August TBA	VGCSA Board Retreat, TBA
March 16	ODGCSA March Madness, Williamsburg, Richmond, Charlottesville	October TBA	SVTA Annual Meeting, TBA
March 16	GWGCSA March Madness, Buffalo Wild Wings, Manassas	October 9	VGCSA Joe Saylor Memorial, James River CC, Newport News
April TBA	SVTA Meeting, TBA	October 16	GWGCSA Superintendent/Assistant, TBA
April 3	TTA/ODGCSA Joint Meeting, Two Rivers CC, Williamsburg	November TBA	VGCSA Assistants Forum, TBA
April 13	"Virginia Golf 2.0", Independence GC, Midlothian	November 8	GWGCSA Annual Meeting, Evergreen CC
April 17	ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament, Richmond CC	November 16	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC, Manakin-Sabot
April 18	GWGCSA Virlina Cup Qualifying, TBA	December TBA	VGCSA Annual Conference, TBA, Charlottesville
April 20	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC, Manakin-Sabot		
April 26	TTA Meeting, Virginia Beach National, Virginia Beach		
April 26	National Golf Day, Washington, DC		
May 9	VGCSA Championship, CC of Petersburg		
May 22	Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day, The CC of Virginia, Richmond		

Additional Events Coming Soon

News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

With warmer than expected temperatures for February, most of us are a little behind on the project list since more of the normal maintenance has been persistent this winter. I wanted to make sure our members are up to date on the events that are on the horizon. We will continue to host the popular March Madness social event at three locations on March 16. We would like to thank Jacobsen for sponsoring this event. This is a great networking and casual event. Starting times will be 3:00 pm at three locations. The locations will be as followed, Fox and the Hound (formally Bailey's) in Midlothian, Wild Wings Café

in Charlottesville and the Brick house in Williamsburg.

There will be two events during April! The first event will be sponsored by Revels Turf and Tractor/John Deere. This will be a joint meeting with the TTA it will be hosted at Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg. Steve McDonald founder of Turfgrass Disease solutions will be the presenter. Steve brings a wealth of knowledge and is very engaging. We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity. Lunch and Golf will follow.

On April 17th, the 2nd Annual Scholarship Tournament will be hosted at

Richmond Country Club. The tournament helps to raise money to provide two local scholarships for any student employed at a golf club of a VGCSA member.

We look forward to seeing each of you at these events and hope you have a great spring!



*Scott Mauldin, CGCS
ODGCSA
External Vice President*

TTA News

The unusually mild late winter season has everyone gearing up a few weeks ahead of schedule with chemical applications and programming changes, as the bermudagrass is coming out of dormancy a full one to two months earlier than normal for most of us.

The TTA has been very busy the last couple of months working on meeting dates and locations for this upcoming season. We have a new modernized TTA logo coming out soon, new social media tools to help with communication. We are now on Twitter and Facebook, so make sure to connect with us and find the latest updates, schedules, meetings, alerts etc. (@tidewaterturf).

The TTA Board is also making sure that everyone has completed or is working on the Nutrient Management Plan for their club to be in place by July 1st, 2017.

February 24 - the TTA had a social event at TopGolf with 42 in attendance. There was a lot of networking and socializing with our peers with some golf. It was a great time and it was nice to see so many superintendents participate in this event.

April 3 - The TTA will hold a joint meeting with the Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association at Two Rivers Country Club.

April 26 - Virginia Beach National and Mark Ross will be hosting Professional Development expert, Wray Powell, who will be talking about making the most of what you have. This a workshop will focus on people skills, leadership, communications, and motivating your team.

May 24 - Elizabeth Manor G & CC will hold the annual Dick Cake tournament

which will include breakfast and bar prior to golf. Note: The Dick Cake tournament is also the TTA Virlina Qualifier.

If you know of a fellow superintendent who is not currently a member, please encourage them to join the TTA or your local association and start enjoying the benefits associated with them.

Likewise, this is a great time to get your assistant superintendent involved as well!



*Pete Stephens, CGCS
Tidewater Turfgrass
Association
External VP*

SVTA News

It feels like we have gone from fall to spring in the Shenandoah Valley! We had a few dustings of snow this winter, but nothing to slow the golfers down. It's been a great winter to get projects done, but we are moving quickly into spring which is making it hard to get everything completed. It is nice to see the courses in the area busy with golfers. It's been hard to be patient with spring maintenance

practices this year knowing we hit 80 degrees in February, but winter isn't over yet as we've seen in the past with some of the biggest snow storms arriving in March. The SVTA is changing their meeting schedule to April, June, and October. We are hoping with less meetings we can get a better turnout. Also, the SVTA is looking for an External Vice President. If anyone is interested, please let me know. Good luck

to everyone judging soil temperatures and making applications!



*David Lewallen,
SVTA President*

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News from Local Associations

VTA News

“The weather is outside is frightful, the snow is so delightful”. Well, guess this song was referring to somewhere besides the southwest corner of Virginia, because like everyone else in the state we had no winter this year. It is the end of February and courses are mowing greens on a somewhat regular basis, irrigation systems are primed and ready to go and have even started seeing localized dryspots, poa annua germinating and cherry trees in full bloom. The life of the golf course superintendent is never boring, even when it is supposed to be.

2017 once again promises to be another great year for our VTA chapter. We are in the final stages of putting together a great schedule of events and should have things finalized within the next week or so. We found some success in the last couple of years by holding meetings with non-golf related activities and hope to continue that this again this year.

Well, “last minute” has officially arrived for those who have put off finishing their Nutrient Management Plans. June 30 of this year is the date, no ifs ands or buts about it. If anyone has not started and needs some

help with finding planners, collecting samples etc., please let us know so we can make sure you are in compliance.

We look forward to another great year and are looking forward to seeing everyone throughout the season.



Sean K. Baskette,
VTA President &
External VP

News from the GWGCSA

I hope everyone is settled back in from their travels to the GIS in Orlando and had the opportunity to obtain something useful for this year.

It looks as though our project season is coming to an end rather early due to the Spring-like temperatures we've having. So far, most of us in the Northern Virginia/ Greater Washington area have received less than one inch of snow this winter which should set a new record. This has been a great opportunity for courses in our area to generate some extra revenue and provide a great start to the 2017 golf season. The weather is about 3 weeks ahead of schedule, but I can't think of a more qualified group of professionals who can adjust and adapt to change the way a Superintendent can. Superintendents possess the ability to

prioritize and plan ahead to handle whatever Mother Nature throws our way no matter what the calendar says.

The next several weeks can be some of the busiest on the course as we start making applications, mowing, and training new staff...but please take the time to attend a couple events that the GWGCSA has scheduled in the upcoming weeks. The first is the GWGCSA Social on Thursday, March 16th at Buffalo Wild Wings just off Liberia Ave in Manassas. This is a great way to catch the first round of the NCAA tournament while socializing with other Superintendents in the area. Next, save the date for April 18th for our Virlina Cup qualifying event. The location of this event will be announced in the next several weeks. Even if you aren't interested in

qualifying for the Virlina Cup you can still come out and enjoy a day of golf. Lastly, don't forget that the GWGCSA has a Facebook page. This can be a great tool for posting job openings, getting information about product use, or if you're trying to buy or sell a piece of used equipment.

Good Luck to everyone in the 2017 season and I hope to see you at one of the upcoming events soon.



Aaron Wells,
GWGCSA External VP

Green Industry Survey *Your Responses are Important!*

The idea of a Green Industry Survey started in late 2013. Our industry, fighting some legislative battles in the State of Virginia, was utilizing 2005 data when discussing the economic value, the number of industry employees, and other important

facts and figures. Our voices were not being heard, and therefore our industry was being ignored.

After two years of working on a plan and a strategy, the cost of the survey has been funded and an outside party has been hired

to manage the development and administration. Survey development is complete so, Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents can visit the VGCSA website for a link to take the survey. Do your part to help our industry!





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