



# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Summer 2020

## President's Message



The 4th of July is now in the rearview mirror, and we are in the midst of the dog days of summer. The three H's are dominating the daily weather forecast. If I had a dollar for every time I heard "hazy, hot, and humid" on the news, I would be able to retire at this point. That being said, I hope everyone was able to take some time over the holiday to be with family while grabbing the beverage of your choice and something to eat off the grill.

This is the time of year to focus on the Rounds 4 Research program sponsored by EIFG. Due to Covid-19, this year's event has been pushed back to July 20th-26th. By definition this money is used for Research, Education and Advocacy, all areas that we strive to enhance for our members. It is great that we have been growing this program annually, but there is still plenty of room for more. If you have not participated in the past I encourage you to do so this year. It is a simple, online form that takes just a few minutes, then the GCSAA handles the rest. Thanks to all that participated last year.

The past couple of months have not been as busy with local association meeting like in the years past, but things are starting to pick up. I was able to attend the VTA fundraiser a couple of weeks ago. While settling into the new normal, it was nice to be amongst peers

again and for a good cause.

Speaking of a good cause, on August 31st Independence Golf Club will host the 4th annual Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic. This year's event will look a little different without the field day aspect but there is still plenty to get excited about. I can speak directly on how hard the VT turf team is working in the field. I currently have two separate trials going on at my course and have the privilege to talk with several of them on a consistent basis. I can assure you the money raised at this event is being put to good use. Last year's sold out event raised over \$54,000 to support the Tech turf team, and we hope to reach that level again but we cannot do it without your help.

While the meeting schedule has not been as robust, there is still plenty of good golf being played around the state. The 3rd annual VGCSA match play event is in full swing. This is a fun event to find a partner and head over to someone else's course and tee it up. On June 29th we descended on The Club at Glenmore for the VGCSA Championship. Bobby Friend returned to the top spot, firing a 73. The runner up was Jeff Whitmire with a 75 and the assistant champion was Ben Longest with a 76. The Virlina Cup team for 2020 is starting to come together. Bobby Friend, Jeff Whitmire, Cameron Yancey, and Ben Longest, qualified

through the championship and local qualifiers. With two qualifiers remaining, and two captain's picks up for grabs, there is still time to make this year team. The VGCSA team will look to regain the cup this year at James River Country Club in Newport News, later in the fall. Good luck guys.

At this time, we are scheduled to hold the educational conference in Charlottesville on December 7th and 8th. We are still working on details and coming up with contingency plans. As with everything associated with Covid-19, things change on nearly a daily basis. Be assured, your health and safety is our top priority as we navigate through this process. Keep an eye out for further details in the coming months.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank our Partners, especially this year! With all the challenge this year has brought, I'm pleased to report that not one single partner has failed to honor their commitment to our association - amazing! Thanks SO much!

Be sure to hydrate and wear your sunscreen,



Bill Keene  
VGCSA President



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# Stop Reading This Update and Go Play Golf

*By Paul Jacobs, USGA Agronomist, Northeast Region*



Golf courses are in great condition and the weather has been ideal for golf.

The golf seasons of 2018 and 2019 were largely characterized by frequent rain events and the challenges that come with them – disease, weeds and soft playing conditions, to name a few. After the last two seasons, soft and saturated conditions started to seem like the norm. Who would have thought that most of the cart restrictions we would see up to this point in the year would have nothing to do with rain at all?

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a unique and challenging year. However, the last few weeks have offered some of the best golf conditions one could ask for. Most of the Northeast has seen very little rain, which puts maintenance teams in control of course conditioning as long as the irrigation system is reliable. Minimal rain doesn't always equate to great golf conditions, but it is certainly better than too much rain.

Are some courses dealing with excessive cart traffic due to single-rider cart mandates? Absolutely. However, most of

the impact from this traffic is in out-of-play areas and at least golfers are out playing. Furthermore, keep in mind that cart traffic is usually more damaging to wet or saturated turf than it is under dry conditions.

Are some courses seeing non-irrigated areas, such as primary rough, start to go dormant? Absolutely. But don't forget, dry rough and fairways offer the opportunity to hit long drives and different types of approach shots. These are all good things from a golfer's perspective. Additionally, the dry conditions that are causing the primary rough to go dormant are also creating great aesthetics and playability in high rough fine fescue areas.

Managing turf in the summer months will always be challenging for one reason or another and dry conditions are sure to highlight any inadequacies in the irrigation system. But, all things considered, the past few weeks have been great for golf and most courses are holding up very well.

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*The USGA Green Section develops and disseminates sustainable management practices that produce better playing conditions for better golf.*

# 2020 VGCSA Conference

Save the Dates - December 7-8  
Charlottesville, VA

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The conference includes the annual awards presentations

The VGCSA is making plans to host its seventh Annual Conference in Charlottesville on December 7-8 in Charlottesville. At press time, it was uncertain if the UVA Darden Inn will be available, since the revised Business School semester will now end early in tandem with the Thanksgiving holiday. The backup location is The Boar's Head Inn, a premier UVA sister property.

The VGCSA is planning for a good deal of education credit for VGCSA members. The Old Dominion GCSA is the presenter of the education segment 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. For Monday evening, a casual party is planned.

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.

"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 Bill Keene. An early speaker commitment is from turf expert Steve McDonald.



Steve McDonald

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. The VGCSA is committed to providing value and service to its members.

*Note: The VGCSA is monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19 protocols, which may affect conference plans.*

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# Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day New Date August 31 at Independence Golf Club

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The VGCSA, VTC and VTF are proud to announce the return of their joint fundraiser, the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, set for Monday, August 31st, hosted by Independence Golf Club in Richmond. This is a new date, having been postponed from the spring due to COVID-19. Last year's event raised \$54,000 for turf research.

Now in the year, the Virginia Tech researchers continue to conduct turfgrass testing on the Short Course at Independence. During the event, the research team will provide an update on their work. The Tech team established this research in central Virginia, as the climate and growing conditions are more "mainstream Virginia," than that found in

Blacksburg. Primary testing is for warm season grasses on putting greens. Independence has Champion bermudagrass on their greens.

After a challenging spring, this year's golf tournament promises to be a "can't miss" affair! Plans are in place to make it totally first class from the golf, to the food & beverage, to the prizes and more. The event has become the ultimate networking event in the industry. The tournament committee has opened sponsorship and golf team sales now.

Please visit [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org) and [www.vaturf.org](http://www.vaturf.org) for event details and plan to attend!



The Virginia Tech Turfgrass Team On-Site at Independence

## Thank you 2019 Sponsors!

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# VSGA-VIP SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES 2020 AWARDS *Four Turfgrass Students Recognized*



Thirty-four high-school seniors and four Ph.D. students in the turfgrass research program at Virginia Tech were among 38

scholars honored as the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation announced its 2020 award recipients.

The Foundation provides grants and gifts for scholarships, scientific and educational research, and other charitable purposes. This year's grants total \$83,000 and since being launched, the program has distributed nearly \$2.5 million to 1,023 students. Funding for scholarships is generated primarily from the sale of the VSGA VIP Golf Card.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation as



Michael Millen

Jordan Booth

well as the members of the 2020 selection committee, I would like to congratulate each of the 38 students who have been recognized as VSGA scholarship recipients," VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation President Michael Millen said. "This year's applicant pool featured more than 100 submissions, and we want to thank several of our allied associations for helping promote the program.

"As you are hopefully aware, scholarship funding is generated primarily through the sale of the VSGA VIP Golf Card. To our current card holders, I say, 'thank you.' And to the more than 150 VSGA member courses who support the VIP program, I offer a special thanks. The past couple of months have been challenging for many clubs and the VIP program would not exist without your participation.

"To our award winners, I hope your interest in golf remains strong and that your impressive accomplishments continue."

Virginia high school students with an interest in golf (ability not important) are eligible to apply. Students are evaluated based on academic achievement, character, community involvement and an essay on the impact of golf on the applicant's life.

## The VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation recognized the following students in the turfgrass program at Virginia Tech:

**Jordan Booth** — \$1,250: Is currently based in Richmond while pursuing a Ph.D. Booth joined Virginia Tech in 2018, following a career in golf course maintenance, which included six years as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. His research includes three projects under a grant from the USGA. These initiatives explore the use and impact of plant growth regulators, organic matter management, and turfgrass covering strategies focused on cold tolerance of ultradwarf bermudagrass putting greens in Virginia.

**Emeline Daly** — \$1,250: A master's student at Virginia Tech, Emeline's research focuses primarily on the well-known golf course pest, annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) which primarily affects cool season turfgrass and more specifically annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass. Although annual bluegrass is not a cultivated grass species and is considered a weed in most systems, it accounts for 11% of all maintained golf turf acreage. Things such as overwintering emergence, number of generations, and peaks in life stages are what Daly is focused on in her research. Such information will be helpful to golf course superintendents when making decisions on when and how to treat for ABW.

**Wendell Hutchens** — \$1,250: Is a PhD student at Virginia Tech in the turf pathology program. Wendell grew up operating a landscaping business with his brother and playing competitive golf in the Roanoke Valley Junior Golf Association. These experiences led him to a career in the turf industry. He is currently studying spring dead spot on warm-season turfgrasses. Spring dead spot is one of the most problematic diseases on bermudagrass in areas where winter dormancy occurs. Prevention of spring dead spot using aerial imagery and a variety of environmental data is the main crux of his research. He is also testing a variety of fungicides against the disease in order to prevent pathogen infection and symptom development.

**John Peppers** — \$1,250: Is currently a PhD student at Virginia Tech studying turfgrass weed science. He grew up in Alabama and worked at the local golf course after his freshman year in high school in exchange for free golf. It was there that he found his passion for turfgrass management which led him to Auburn University where he obtained a B.S in turfgrass management and an M.S in turfgrass weed science. After completing his M.S, Peppers began his PhD in turfgrass weed science at Virginia Tech. His research consists of evaluating the newly registered herbicide methiozolin, better known as PoaCure and will look at how methiozolin can potentially be used to control goosegrass and crabgrass within creeping bentgrass putting greens. Currently there are very few options to effectively and safely control warm season annual grasses such as goosegrass and crabgrass within creeping bentgrass putting greens. The goal of his research is to develop a programmatic approach to controlling annual grassy weeds in creeping bentgrass putting greens using methiozolin.

*The VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation has a program in place to accept gifts and memorials. Anyone interested in funding a named scholarship or contributing to the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation should contact the VSGA.*



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# Virlina Cup Team Taking Shape

*VGCSA Looking to Recapture the Cup at James River CC*

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Jeff Whitmire, CGCS



Bobby Friend, CGCS



Cameron Yancey



Ben Longest



The VGCSA will have strong team when the Virlina Cup Match heads to James River Country Club

in Newport News on October 11-13. Four spots have been claimed, with one more qualifier (Greater Washington) to go. Results of the VTA Qualifier were not available at press time.

First it was Jeff Whitmire earning his spot on the team by winning the TTA Dick Cake Memorial at Riverfront Golf Club. Then at the VGCSA Championship, Bobby Friend of Brookwoods Golf Club, Cameron Yancey of Nottoway River Country Club and Ben Longest of Hermitage Country Club punched their tickets after tremendous play at The Club at Glenmore. This is Longest's first time on the team. The team will be rounded

out by two spots reserved as picks for the Captain and Sponsor.

Syngenta returns as the sponsor, headed by Larry Feller, Sam Camuso and Mark Brazinski. The Virginia Team looks to win the cup for the third year out of the last five.

## Virginia's Rounds4Research Auction Runs July 20-26

The 2019 Rounds 4 Research fundraising program in Virginia was the best ever, with proceeds of over \$8,400. The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA.

This year, COVID-19 threw a monkey wrench into the proceedings, and GCSAA nearly cancelled it altogether. But many clubs had pledged support for multiple years, so there are plenty of items to auction. Some top ones in Virginia include Raspberry Falls, Salisbury CC, Spring Creek GC, The Federal Club and The Golf Club at Lansdowne.

With short notice, VGCSA also recruited other top clubs.

So now it's time to promote the auction to bidders, including members/players at your club. Send them to the following webpage for info and to register as a bidder: <https://www.eifg.org/research/rounds4-research>.

"We are very pleased to be able to feature the auction this year, in light of circumstances," said Bill Keene, VSGA President. "This is a wonderful program that allows golfers to help support the future of the game while playing the courses they love."






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# ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament Heads to CC of Petersburg

## Tuesday, September 29, 2020



The 5th Annual ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament will be held at Country Club of Petersburg on Tuesday, September 29th. Built by Ed Ault and completed in 1969, the course measures over 7000 yards from the back tees, it was one of the longest courses anywhere in the area at that time. The Country Club of Petersburg continues to boast some of the best greens in Central Virginia. Vince Hankley is host superintendent – recently the CCP Board named the course in his honor!

Proceeds from the event will go towards scholarships that will be awarded to students currently employed at a golf course with an active VGCSA member. This is a great way to give back to the student-employees that help maintain our operations.

Be on the lookout for registration to open soon!

#### Available Sponsorships

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- Scholarship Fellows: (\$1,000) – Includes Two 2-Man Teams
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# Government Relations Round-UP



Robb Bohannon

The 2020 session of the Virginia General Assembly ended on March 12th after seeing a record amount of legislation filed. Democrats gained majorities in both the House of Delegates

and Senate after the November 2019 elections, which resulted in a number of changes to committee membership and all new chairpersons for standing committees. The session began slowly with all of these alterations, but quickly picked up speed with committee meetings often lasting until late in the evening to guarantee legislative deadlines were met.

The Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association (VGCSA) was active at the Capitol. Association members participated in the industry's lobby day on

January 16th, visiting with legislators across the Commonwealth to highlight the positive economic and environmental impacts of golf in Virginia.

The association actively engaged on several key pieces of legislation. We were successful in working to defeat a bill for the second year in a row that would have banned the use of chlorpyrifos. The association also secured an amendment, working with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Senator Monty Mason (D-Williamsburg), to legislation regulating nonagricultural wells in groundwater management areas. The amendment gives golf courses an expedited review process when seeking a determination that either the quantity or quality of ground water in a surficial aquifer is not adequate to meet a proposed beneficial use. Our goal was to ensure that golf courses retained the ability to access sufficient water to maintain their grounds.

The end of the legislative session coincided with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the accompanying executive orders from Governor Ralph Northam (D) that required many

businesses to shut down or greater curtail their operations. Golf courses were mostly spared from these orders, and have been allowed to continue operations, largely unimpeded in Virginia. VCGSA worked with guidance from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and executive orders in the Commonwealth that applied to all businesses to ensure superintendents, staff, and golfers remain safe while continuing to participate in outdoor recreation.

Legislators will be reconvening in Richmond, likely in late August, for a special session to address matters related to COVID-19 and the Commonwealth's biennial budget, as well as police reform and racial justice issues. The parameters of the special session are still being determined, and it is unclear whether additional legislative issues will be addressed during this time.

# 2020 Event Previews

## Hankley Honored by CC of Petersburg Memorable Gesture is Remarkable



Vince Hankley

Who gets their name on a building or venue? Usually it's a politician, war hero, sports figure or somebody who gave somebody a WHOLE lot of money. That's why it's so remarkable when

something like this happens to an average guy, as a tribute by people who love him dearly.

Vince Hankley has been the superintendent of the Country Club of Petersburg (VA) continuously since 1989,

plus a stint of four years before that. It was a rainy Friday on May Day (May 1), and his crew was doing bunker work, when they summoned him to the clubhouse to help with a problem. So Hankley trudged up to see what was wrong.

When he got to the clubhouse, he was surprised to see his whole family greeting him, along with board members and club staff. They were there to honor him in a surprise party to name the golf course in his honor, "The Hankley Course." There on the first tee was a monument of recognition. "It looks like a tombstone," joked Hankley.

An ironic comment, no doubt. In January, Hankley lay in a hospital bed, laid up for heart surgery. "Those guys must have thought I wasn't going to make it," he mused, speaking of the group known as "The



1250 Flank Road  
Petersburg, VA 23805

Deacons", who concocted the idea and kept it a secret for months. The group is comprised of club leaders, Past Presidents and the sort.

"This says a lot more about them, than me," said Hankley, always humble.

"Remarkable is what it really is," said David Norman, Executive Director of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association. "I'd like to know if this has happened EVER before! It just shows how much the CCP members love Vince, and just how important his work is."

## VGCSA Assistants Forum Partners With MAAGCS Springfield G&CC Hosts November 10th



VGCSA is excited to host another first class event for the assistant superintendent members at Springfield G&CC in northern Virginia - SAVE THE DATE - Tuesday, November 10th. The event is partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course superintendents, featuring assistants from MD and DC.

The forum provides assistants with an opportunity to receive first class education along with a fun and competitive day of golf, allowing them to

build relationships. This is an important aspect of the association and the future of golf as a whole. The golf match will be a Ryder Cup format, pitting VGCSA against MAAGCS. VGCSA Assistant Superintendent Board Representative Josh Peters of Springfield G&CC is working with Alejandro Baiocchi of Woodmont CC to put together a great event. One education segment will be personal finance. Stay tuned for more information!



Josh Peters



Alejandro Baiocchi

# Hermitage Country Club to Host the Joe Saylor Memorial

## Save the Date – Monday, October 5th



Host Chris Harriman

The VGCSA is pleased to announce that Hermitage Country Club in Manakin-Sabot will host this year's Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament on Monday, October 5th. Chris Harriman is

playing host to the most fun event of the season, which will continue its tradition of friendly competition with plenty of refreshments and a little golf! The event will be contested on the club's Manakin Course, showcasing new Latitude 36 fairways and roughs, with A-1 / A-4 greens.

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

This event is a tribute to Joe Saylor, the honoree of this annual memorial event. Joe was longtime superintendent at James River Country Club, and a leader in state



US Marines collect toys for deserving children.



Matt Pair & Bobby Friend, CGCS won last year at Boonsboro.

and regional affairs for the superintendents. Joe passed away in 2005. Defending the title will be Bobby Friend,

CGCS and Matt Pair of Brookwoods Golf Club.

## VGCSA Championship

*Friend, Longest, Snyder and Rider Claim Titles*



Bobby Friend, CGCS – 2020 VGCSA Champion



Ben Longest – 2020 Assistants Champion

Congratulations go out to Bobby Friend of Brookwoods Golf Club for winning his fifth VGCSA Championship and his first one since 2008. Friend was the three-time Defending Senior Champ, but this time he beat EVERYONE to take home the big trophy with a 73 at Glenmore Country Club in Charlottesville.

Equally impressive was Ben Longest of Hermitage CC in winning the Assistants Division, Jeff Snyder of The Water's Edge taking home the Senior Division and Randy Rider of Performance Nutrition winning the Affiliate title. All three were first time winners.

It was a hot day at Glenmore Country Club, and thanks to our host Kevin Fortune and his staff, the golf course was in superb condition. Friend's round was enough to edge out eight-time champion Jeff Whitmire of The Williamsburg Club by two strokes. Cameron Yancey of



Jeff Snyder, 2020 Senior Champion



Randy Rider – 2020 Affiliate Champion

Nottoway River CC finished third with a 76 but he made the Virlina Cup Team, since Whitmire had already qualified by winning the Dick Cake TTA event. Competitors followed COVID-19 protocols during their round.

Ben Longest's 76 was enough for a four shot victory over Rhett Martin of Salisbury CC, and in the process, he earned a berth on the Virlina Cup team. In the Senior

Division, Jeff Snyder's 79 finished two ahead of Dick Fisher of Lake Chesdin GC. Randy Rider won the Affiliate Division with an 81, besting Helena's Tommy Adams by two.

Net winners were Dan Sabina (First Tee Richmond) in the Superintendents Division, Rob Podleski (Farmington CC) for the Assistants and Adams for the Affiliates.

## RESULTS

### Superintendent Division

Champion Bobby Friend,  
Brookwoods GC 73  
Runner-Up Jeff Whitmire  
Williamsburg Club 75  
Low Net Dan Sabina,  
First Tee Richmond 68

### Assistant Division

Champion Ben Longest,  
Hermitage CC 76  
Low Net Rob Podleski 63

### Affiliate Division

Champion Randy Rider,  
Performance Nutrition 81  
Low Net Tommy Adams,  
Helena 71

### Senior Division

Champion Jeff Snyder,  
Water's Edge CC 79

### Contest Prizes

CTP Trevor Hedgepeth,  
Dick Fisher, Paul Van  
Buren, Rhett Martin  
Long Drive Charlie Gregorski

## Thank You 2020 Partner Program Participants!

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Landscape Supply  
MeadowSpring Turf  
Revels Tractor  
SiteOne Landscape Supply  
Smith Turf & Irrigation  
Syngenta

### Gold

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Capitol Golf Cars  
Genesis Turfgrass, Inc.  
Harrell's  
Luck Ecosystems  
NuFarm  
Peebles Golf Cars  
Rain Bird  
Simplot  
Textron Golf/Tri-State Pump  
Triangle Turf & Ornamental  
Turf Equipment & Supply  
Virginia Sand & Stone

### Silver

Aspire Golf Consulting  
Cannon's Service  
Club Procure  
Commonwealth Sports Turf  
Earthworks  
Harmon Turf Services, Inc.  
Horizon  
Links Bridges  
Noble Turf  
Plant Food Company, Inc.  
PondHawk by Linne Industries  
Precision Laboratories  
Quali-Pro

SOLitude Lake Management  
Southern States  
Vereens  
Virginia State Golf Association  
Yamaha Golf Cars of VA

### Bronze

Aqua-Aid  
Aquatrols  
Better Billy Bunker  
Corteva Agriscience  
East Coast Sod  
Fairway IQ  
Farrar Sod  
Fisher & Son  
FMC  
GreenCor  
Growing Solutions  
Helena Chemical  
JRM, Inc.  
Links Bridges  
Modern Turf  
Newsom Seed  
R&R Products, Inc.  
Scott Turf Equipment

SePro  
SipCam Agro  
Sunbelt Rentals  
Synatek  
The Andersons

### Annual Conference

Geoponics  
The Drone Co. RVA

### Golf & Assistants

Hydro Solutions, Inc.  
Mitchel Products

### Golf

IGM  
M&M Consulting

### Nonprofit

ESAGCS  
Keep Virginia Beautiful  
MAAGCS  
USGA Green Section

# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

Well, summer is officially here, and it started with a bang! Hot, dry conditions have been the trend since the first day of summer. It doesn't look like that is going to change anytime soon either. Hopefully, everyone is as prepared as possible for the rest of the summer.

As we've moved further into this "pandemic" golf has not slowed down any. Most courses have seen rounds played at an all-time high and not slowing! Everyone that I've talked to seems to be very happy with where their course conditions are, despite the increase in

play. I hope those good conversations continue the rest of the year! Our next event will be the Scholarship Tournament at the Country Club of Petersburg on September 29th. Thanks to Vince Hankley for hosting our favorite event of the year! I'm positive it will be another success! We are also talking about having some sort of social event to make up for the loss of the March Madness social. If anyone has any particular thoughts on what we should do, please reach out to myself or one of the other board members. I'm looking

forward to seeing everyone soon. Stay positive and keep growing grass!



Jay Wade  
ODGCSA  
External VP

## TTA News

Welcome back to summer in the Tidewater, although this will surely be a summer (and a year) to remember. In a year where many industries shut down or scaled back, the demand for our product has been high since early spring. There's no doubt that folks in our industry are proving their worth in 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused our association to alter our schedule this year. We delayed the Dick Cake Memorial and Virlina Cup Qualifier until June 23rd at Riverfront Golf Club. Mike Hall had the

golf course in tremendous shape and a great time was had by all. Congrats to Jeff Whitmire for punching his ticket for the Cup! Everyone is playing more golf this year, except for folks in our line of work, so it was nice to have a good reason to break away.

The remaining schedule for TTA events has yet to be determined but we hope to pick back up with some functions this fall. For now – stay safe, stay cool, and keep the turf green!



Tim Doran  
TTA External  
VP

## News from the GWGCSA

The good news is that 2020 is half over, and days are already getting shorter. The bad news is COVID-19 is still with us and will be for the foreseeable future. This pandemic has gifted us with record rounds at courses everywhere. While we all have learned to adapt to the new regulations and increased challenges of staffing cutbacks or modified scheduling, we, as a golf industry have showed how innovative and resilient, we can be.

The Greater Washington is continuing to postpone events with the health and safety of

everyone in mind. We will be hosting our Virlina Cup qualifier at Stonewall Golf Club on Tuesday July 21st. This will be a superintendent only event. Only those interesting in qualifying for the Virlina Cup team should play. There will be a social event that evening at Two Silos brewing that will be open to all that wish to attend.

Be on the look out of the launch of our new app! This app will be a tool to help you keep up to date with Greater Washington association and state news, dues payments, and other resources for our members.



David Walter  
GWGCSA  
External VP

# News from Local Associations

## VTA External VP Report

I can remember late last summer, that myself and many other superintendents around the state were all wishing for 2019 to be over. "Come on 2020" was on the tip of everyone's tongue. Well, I guess we better be careful what we ask for. The good news through all of the things happening the year, golf for the most part in the Southwestern part of the state has fared pretty well. Many clubs are seeing drastic increase in play, most seeing an increase in numbers over 25 percent from previous years. Always the optimist, this may be what golf needed to get another surge in the amount of golfers and the

desire to play on a regular basis. Fingers crossed anyway. With all of the uncertainty this spring, the VTA decided to cancel our meetings in April and May. We were finally comfortable in having the Bob Ruff Sr. Scholarship tournament at Poplar Grove in late June. One of our best turnouts in a couple of years and a fabulous golf course all made for a perfect day. Team Trinity consisting of Chris Frank, Bill Singleton, Ricky Tucker and Cam Shelton took home the title this year. As far as the rest of the year goes, things are still up in the air a bit. We have decided to

postpone our August meeting with at Virginia Tech, but still have our sights set on having our Annual Meeting in October at Great Oaks. We will pass along any information as we get things lined up. Stay safe, stay cool and have a great rest of the summer.

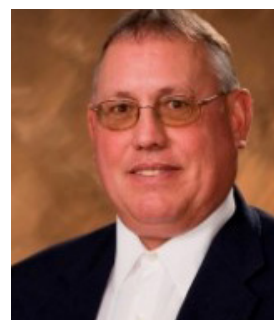


Sean K.  
Baskette  
Hidden Valley  
Country Club  
VTA President

## SVTA News

The Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association still hopes to meet on September 15 at Shenandoah Valley Club in Front Royal. Also, our fundraiser is

going to be held on October 8 at Blue Ridge Shadows Club. Please put these dates on your calendar. I hope everyone is well and we will see you soon.!



Ed Eagle  
SVTA External  
VP



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# GCSAA Tools and Resources for You

by Steve Randall, GCSAA



Steve Randall

2020 is unique. Golf Course Superintendents wear many hats. This year, with the unusual schedules and demands, we are seeing our members accomplish more than

ever!! Superintendents are balancing a staggered work schedule for staff, trying to minimize touch points throughout the facility. This includes the maintenance building and equipment. That doesn't include the modifications to the golf course itself.

## Mid-Atlantic Field Staff Representative Update

As many of you are aware, Chase Rogan stepped down from his position as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative. The recruitment to Chase's successor was moving full steam ahead. In-person interviews were scheduled for late March. With the pandemic, we were unable to hold those interviews and currently the hiring of the position is on hold.

We will continue to update members and chapter leaders as we move forward.

GCSAA is planning to staff the position

using current field staff representatives from surrounding regions.

## Chapter/Member Tools

Your chapter outreach staff has been hard at work to ensure your chapter has the resources needed to successfully serve our members. We have been hosting regular chapter executive calls on a regional basis throughout the country. In addition, many chapters are using GCSAA's Go-To Meeting tools to hold group meetings. In addition, we are also working with chapters on hosting their annual meetings (based on chapter By-laws and state requirements) this spring using Go-To Webinar. As a member, are you looking to have a group join in a "coffee break" or other virtual meeting? If so, please reach out to me or any staff member. You can access the virtual tools you need.

## New Resources

During the past several months, we been working to add tools, resources, and information for chapters.

Our team is datamining information from the chapter assessment survey, which chapters completed in the fall of 2019.

This information will be vital for the success of everyone moving forward.

Preliminary information indicates we are

seeing more chapters fall into the category of having 150 members or less. With that knowledge, we are also working with chapters at the ground level to gather information on the strengths and challenges chapters will have moving forward. From this information we are planning to publish and distribute a toolkit by August to aide in your success.

It is no secret we may see a shift in how chapters conduct meetings, engage members, and provide services. It is our mission to ensure chapters have the direction and resources needed to move ahead.

We see this toolkit and guide offering ideas and examples in the area of finances, communications, and essential operations. These are unseen times and we will be there to meet the challenge.

More to come!

We continue to take great pride in our efforts to serve the membership. As we move forward during the pandemic, it has been essential to find your "why."

For all GCSAA staff, our "why" is to serve YOU.

Steve Randall

Director, Chapter Outreach

(800) 472-7878

## Employment Corner

**As a service to members, the VGCSA provides complimentary posting of jobs to VGCSA members and Partners. Please visit [www.vgcsa.org/-employment](http://www.vgcsa.org/-employment) for a complete listing and details of available positions. Here is a sampling:**

- Lonesome Pine in Big Stone Gap, VA seeks Superintendent
- Richland Golf Club in Middletown, MD Seeks Golf Course Superintendent
- Cutalong at Lake Anna in Mineral, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Kiln Creek in Newport News Seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Stonewall GC in Manassas, VA Seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Spring Creek Golf Club in Gordonsville, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent
- The Federal Club in Glen Allen Seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Manor Country Club in Rockville, MD seeks Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

# 2020 VGCSA Schedule

August 13 – VGCSA Board Meeting, TBA  
 August 31 – Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence Golf Club  
 September TBA – TTA Ryder Cup, course TBA  
 September TBA - GWGCSA Two-Man Championship, Creighton Farms GC  
 September 15 – SVTA Meeting, Shenandoah Valley CC  
 September 29 – ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament, CC of Petersburg  
 October TBA – VGCSA Match Play Championship, Kinloch Golf Club  
 October TBA – TTA Bert Walton Memorial, Bay Creek GC  
 October 5 – Joe Saylor Memorial, Hermitage CC  
 October 6 – VTA Annual Meeting, Great Oaks Country Club  
 October 8 – SVTA Meeting, Blue Ridge Shadows GC  
 October 11-13 – Virlina Cup, James River CC  
 November 2 – GWGCSA Annual Meeting/Elections/EOY Classic, Evergreen CC  
 November 10 – VGCSA/MAAGCS Assistants Forum, Springfield G&CC  
 November 12 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC  
 December 7-8 – VGCSA Annual Conference, Site TBA

## 2021

January 30 – February 4, 2021 – GCSAA Conference and GIS, Las Vegas  
 February 3, 2021 – GCSAA Social Event, Las Vegas



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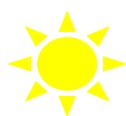


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