



Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Winter 2020

President's Message



What a year! Mother Nature sure has been unpredictable. Cool and wet in the spring to hot and dry in the summer, a couple of nice weeks of actual fall, now I sit here writing this article, while wearing shorts, a few days after Christmas.

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.

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 May 6th 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 18th. This is a great opportunity to see the research the turf team is conducting and to get together with others in the turf industry. Over the last couple of years we have collectively raised over \$125,000!

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 Josh Nunn, assistant representative, and Aaron Wells, associate representative. Coming on board will be Eric Snelsire, Regional Sales Representative for Bayer as our associate representative, and Josh Peters, assistant superintendent at Springfield Country Club in Northern Virginia. In addition, SVTA External VP Ed Eagle announced his retirement - congratulations Ed! Ed will represent SVTA until their Board makes any change.

While your local chapters will be working on their meeting schedules in the coming months, I want to encourage everyone to take time to attend at least one chapter meeting this year. These events give you a great chance to get together with peers. Most are accompanied by educational opportunities at little or no cost to you. I cannot tell you how many

new ideas and tricks of the trade I have picked up from these meetings by simply being present. I know everyone's time is valuable, but I know there is tremendous value in attending these meetings.

Every year VGCSA goes to the Hill in Richmond to meet with legislators and share the perspectives of our members on key issues. This year the date is Thursday, January 16th, and our full board is participating. Let us know if you would like to help out!

For those traveling down for GIS in Orlando, be sure to come by our party at the DoubleTree Seaworld, 7-10 pm on Wednesday, January 29th, featuring live entertainment and great networking!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our corporate partners, who fund over 30% of our operation. It is renewal time, and I hope you can continue to support our association - it is critical to our success!



*Bill Keene
VGCSA President*



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Annual Conference a Hit in Charlottesville

Great Speakers and a Great Location

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In just its sixth 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 2nd, at the Darden Conference Center in an ideal setting. After introductions by President Bill Keene, Dr. Paul Giordano of Bayer gave a “Perception vs Reality” presentation, highlighting the ongoing fight put up by environmentalists against the golf industry. What they perceive, versus the truth of science are very different things, and we must be constantly mindful to educate the public on science and the stewardship of golf course superintendents.

The second presentation was the Superintendent Panel presented by GE Turf Consultants. Bill Keene moderated the discussion featuring panelists Scott Kinnan of Farmington, Chris Harriman of Hermitage and Jeff Yarborough of Stonehouse. The group discussed turf issues such as goose grass, labor issues and more, while fielding numerous questions from the audience.

Then it was time to talk “Skin Cancer Prevention,” with dermatologist Nicole Harriman. Her presentation showed some dramatic photographs of the effects of the condition, while offering excellent tips superintendents should employ regularly to stay healthy.

The next presentation featured Jenny Zenner in conversation with Damon DeVito to explore what a *growth* versus *fixed* mindset is and what it means for a superintendent’s own career and how they manage their team. Zenner is a Career Consultant for the UVA Darden School, while moderator DeVito owns Affinity Management, which operates golf courses in Virginia and Maryland.

Then the VGCSA Annual Meeting,



Award Winners (L-R): David Walter (Committee Chair), Jay Wade, President Bill Keene, Jeff Holliday, CGCS, Mark Vaughn, CGCS

presented by Landscape Supply, took place. President Keene gave a fun and informative review of the 2019 activities of the association. Awards Chairman David Walter had the pleasure of presenting the annual awards to Jay Wade of Magnolia Green GC (Environmental Stewardship) and Jeff Holliday, CGCS of Salisbury CC (Distinguished Service). Then Neil Jones of Buy Sod announced a Scholarship Award to Madison Mauldin. Keene presented the President’s Award for Lifetime Service to Mark Vaughn, CGCS, who drew a standing ovation. (See detailed award articles in this newsletter)

Cote then recognized and thanked outgoing board members Aaron Wells and Josh Nunn. 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, Club Procure, Luck Ecosystems, Harrell’s, The Drone Company RVA, Precision Labs, Modern Turf, Sunbelt Rentals and Target Specialty Products.

After adjournment, the group enjoyed the Syngenta Reception hosted by Larry Feller in the beautiful South Lounge. That evening, Ian Grove of 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.

Dr. Rob Golembiewski of Bayer was back by popular demand from last year. His provocative title for his presentation was “Let’s Smoke Some Weeds.” His broad ranging address was both educational and entertaining.

Next up was VGCSA Lobbyist Robb Bohannon with the “Legislative Update.” He made note of the Democrats’ new “super majority” in Virginia, holding the majority in both the Senate and the House of Delegates, along with the offices of Governor and Lt. Governor. This could be challenging times for superintendents, with anticipated pressure from environmentalists and from a labor sector seeking significant increases in minimum wage.

Then it was time for the USGA’s Elliott Dowling, speaking on “Assessing Playability on Your Course.” He displayed new tee systems designed to make the game more fun – they are based on how far you hit your driver. He sees a need to focus more on fun, rather than challenge, in order for the game to prosper. Geoponics sponsored the

continued on page 4

Annual Conference *continued*

presentation.

Josh Coates, Tournament Director for the VSGA, was then called upon to speak on “New Rules & Course Markings.” A lot changed in 2019, such as putting with the flagstick in, tossing stones out of bunkers for no penalty and the introduction of “penalty areas.” There is a new local rule for a lost ball, which clubs can use to speed play. He also discussed how the new rules affect how the course is marked.

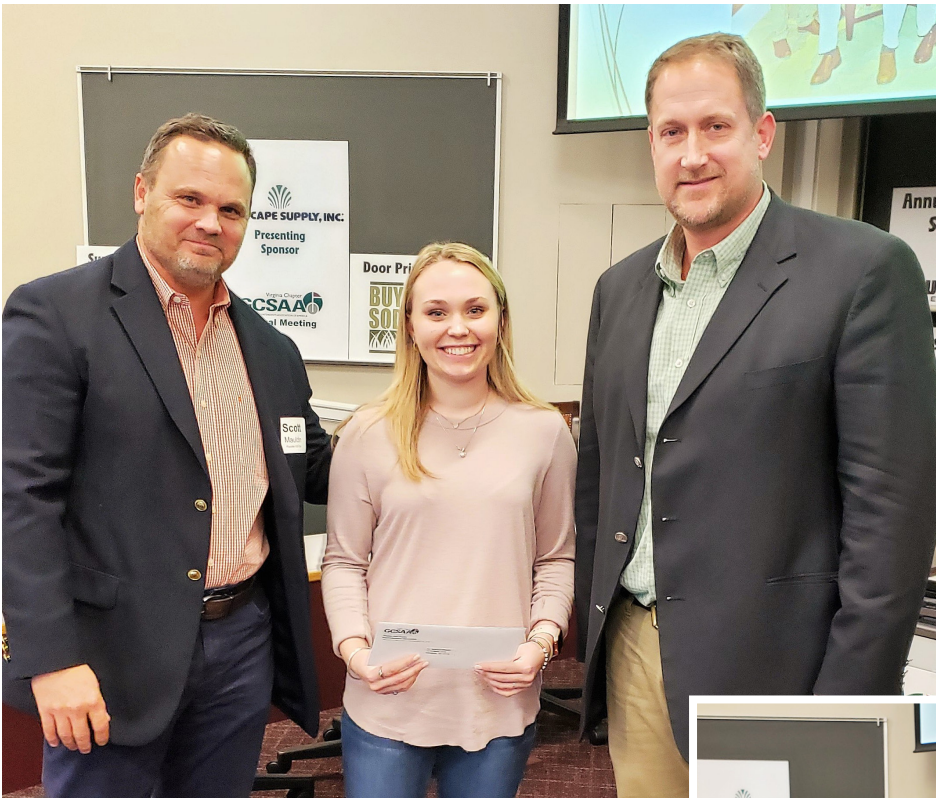
After lunch, which was sponsored by Precision Labs, it was time for a new

segment, the “IGNITE Sessions,” featuring short presentations by vendors with new products. The speakers were Sandra Burton of PondHawk, Cutler Robinson of GE Turf Consultants, David Hunsucker of The Drone Company RVA, Jeff Briggs of SePro and Jerry Lemons of Better Billy Bunker.

Batting cleanup in the conference was the Virginia Tech Team, represented by Dr. Mike Evans, Dr. Mike Goatley, Dr. David McCall, Dr. Clebson Goncalves, Jordan Booth and new team member Dr. Daniel Sandor. They discussed the direction of the program, with

enhanced student recruiting. McCall and Booth gave updates on the research at Independence Golf Club. Goncalves spoke on his Poa annua research and invited VGCSA members to submit samples. Then Dr. Sandor was introduced to the group – he was in the process of moving from the University of Minnesota to Blacksburg.

President Keene wrapped it up with thanks to all the speakers, then he conducted drawings for prizes donated by Buy Sod and Vereens. The conference was adjourned.



Scholarship Presentation (L-R): Scott Mauldin, Madison Mauldin, Neil Jones of Buy Sod



Jerry Lemons, GCA of Better Billy Bunker



Damon DeVito interviews Jenny Zenner



Superintendent Panel (L-R): Scott Kinnan, Chris Harriman and Jeff Yarbrough



Virginia Tech Team (L-R): Jordan Booth, Daniel Sandor, Mike Evans, Mike Goatley, Clebson Goncalves, David McCall



Sandra Burton of PondHawk



Elliott Dowling of the USGA



David Walter and Daniel Sabina battle at shuffleboard during the Target Specialty party.



President Bill Keene (R) thanks departing Board members Josh Nunn and Aaron Wells



Dr. Paul Giordano of Bayer

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Holliday Recognized for Distinguished Service



Jeff Holliday

Jeff Holliday, CGCS of Midlothian, VA has been recognized by the VGCSA with its Distinguished Service Award for 2019.

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, Holliday earned the distinction through his professionalism and integrity, and his interaction with his fellow superintendents, as well as his leadership in numerous state initiatives.

Growing up in York, PA, Holliday did not grow up with golf as a primary sport, like many other superintendents. In fact, when it was time to head off to college, he planned to be a school teacher as he enrolled at NC State. Along the way, he had a friend who was enrolled in the Turfgrass program, who was bragging how great it was to have a job where you were outside most of the time. That got to sounding better and better to Holliday, and one day he asked the Dean about changing his major.

The Dean wanted to make sure he was serious. He told him to work a summer at a golf course, then make the call. So Holliday found summer work at Prestonwood Country Club in nearby Cary, NC, and things went well. He switch his major and got his turf degree in 1992.

But his first job wasn't exactly Augusta National. He found himself back in PA, Littlestown to be specific, helping a guy build a golf course on a pig farm! But he made the most of his time at Quail Valley, learning how to grow in greens, fairways and tees. He was there a year and a half.

Then an opportunity popped up at Hershey Country Club, a really nice club in PA. He was there for a year and longed to go back to the Carolinas. So in 1995, he got an opportunity to go south, but it wasn't the Carolinas, instead it was The Country Club of Virginia, working for Mark Silva. His first job was Assistant on the James River

Course. Then when another guy left, Silva made him Assistant over both the River Course and the Tuckahoe Creek Course. Silva got promoted to Director in 1998, so he passed along the favor to Holliday, making him Superintendent over both the River and Creek. While there, he learned a lot and participated in a bunker renovation.

It was 2000 when Salisbury Country Club recruited him as Superintendent – a “marriage” that will hit 20 years in February. In 2003, he worked with Lester George on the construction of a new nine. In 2006 they did a re-grassing program on the original front nine. Another big project was the installation of a new irrigation system on the original 18 in 2015, coupled with a bunker renovation to the Better Billy Bunker system.

Throughout his career, Holliday has become known for “giving back” to his fellow superintendents through his involvement in industry organizations. He actually started before VGCSA even existed. Silva encouraged him to get involved with the Old Dominion GCSA, and he went through the chairs to become President.

His next work was with the Virginia Turfgrass Council, where he served on the Education Committee and chaired the Research Tournament. He was there four years and he won their President's Award.

In 2010, he joined the VGCSA Board as Secretary/Treasurer. He was very active with the BMP project, the Environmental Cup (research fundraiser) and in government relations, with multiple trips to the state legislature speaking on behalf of the golf industry. At the Virginia Agribusiness Council banquets, he met multiple Governors.

He rose to President, serving an extended term of 2014-2016. He first captained the Virlina Cup team in 2014 and was involved for the next few years,

including wins at Belle Haven and Princess Anne. He helped spearhead the Mid-Atlantic Golf Council, along with a major regional conference in 2018, attracting national golf leaders to speak. He also served on GCSAA national committees and was VGCSA's voting delegate.

A top goal of his is to raise the image of the profession. He would like to see better compensation and benefits for all Turfgrass professionals. He also focuses on



Jeff Holliday meets with Governor Northam

the perception of the superintendent from an environmental perspective – he knows what stewards they are, but they still fight false perceptions.

“This award means a lot to me,” Holliday remarked. “It lets me know my volunteer efforts are appreciated and my service is not unnoticed. I hope it encourages others to serve!”

Holliday's hobbies are hunting and fishing, but what he loves best is time with his family, wife Brenda, son Bryce and stepson Brad. Plus he is a diehard Wolfpack fan.

Vaughn Wins President's Award



Mark Vaughn

Mark Vaughn of Danville, VA and Goodyear Golf Club has been recognized by the VGCSA with the 2019 President's Award.

The award is "in recognition of a career of distinguished and meritorious service and commitment to advancing the profession of golf course superintendent in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and in the grateful appreciation for over twenty years of contributions that led to the advancement of association affairs since its inception." The award was presented by VGCSA President Bill Keene during the Annual Meeting in Charlottesville.

Vaughn grew up in Madison, NC and enjoyed playing high school golf. He went to NC State University with plans to become a CPA, until one day he bumped into an old high school golf rival, who made a comment that changed his life - his friend told him that he was a student in the Turfgrass department, something Vaughn was unaware of - and after his freshman year, he changed his major. He was in the same class as Steve Vessels, longtime superintendent at Boonsboro Country Club.

Following graduation, Vaughn got his start with Gary Stafford at The Cardinal Golf Club in Greensboro, NC. He then took a brief assistant's job with Oak Hollow GC in High Point, before moving over to Meadow Greens CC in Eden, NC. Then in 1980 he had the opportunity to go to the new Goodyear GC in Danville, which was under construction - the first nine holes opened later that year. He has been there ever since! In 1984, he was made GM in addition to his superintendent duties, certainly a pioneer in that regard.

He loved Goodyear GC, which was corporate golf and golf only - and he was quickly immersed in all facets of the golf operation, including the pro shop and finance matters. Because of that, he often employed multiple perspectives in decision-making, balancing course conditioning

concerns with revenue decisions. Only recently has he acquired other duties, such as taking care of ball fields, playgrounds and a shooting range.

Vaughn's association involvement began with the Piedmont Turfgrass Association (NC), and he served as President in 1986. He has been a member of the Virginia Turfgrass Association (VTA) for over 35 years, with service on its Board, as well as the VGCSA since its inception in 1999. Vaughn has also served the Virginia Turfgrass Council on the Board and a number of committees, including a stint as Treasurer and chairman of the Research Golf Tournament. Currently he is the editor of the VTC Journal. A proficient player, Vaughn was a member of the VGCSA Virginia Cup Team in 2011.

Vaughn's involvement in the profession grew out of his love of the game as a player, and he always enjoyed being outdoors. Once in the business, he always reveled in what was accomplished after a long, hard day of work. It was always a good fit for him.

"The people in this business are second to none," Vaughn proclaimed, when asked about what he likes most about the profession. "I also enjoyed construction and the opportunity to play some really great courses." Vaughn also enjoyed working major championships, including US Opens at Pinehurst #2.

Vaughn was asked about advice for the young people entering the profession. "They need to get involved!" he counsels. Early on, Virginia Tech professor Dave Chalmers got him involved writing articles on turf in south central Virginia. He did not want to do it at first, but he now looks back and sees how that led him to involvement locally, regionally then nationally. "I got a lot out of that. You always get more back than what you put it

in," he added. He recommends networking to the new generation of golf course managers, but not just by Instagram or Twitter. "There is no replacement for spending a few hours with your peers at a local, state, or national meeting; OR just playing 18 holes."

In closing, Vaughn suggests, "you must find a balance between work and the rest of your life. It goes by fast!" He does think the younger generation is a little better at this than his own. "In the old days, a lot of us probably spent too many hours at the course, but that's just how our generation is wired."



Mark Vaughn Competing at the Virlina Cup

Regarding this special award, he notes, "The highest honor comes from your brothers in arms! They know what you're going through - I'm extremely grateful!"

Vaughn and his wife Rena have two married daughters, Amy and Autumn, plus two granddaughters.

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Wade Recognized for Environmental Stewardship



Jay Wade

Jay Wade of Williamsburg, VA has been recognized by the VGCSA as winner of the 2019 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.” Wade is the Golf Course Superintendent at Magnolia Green Golf Club in Moseley, VA.

Wade grew up in Springfield, VA and got into golf late at age 20, when he moved to Richmond to work for Steve Snare, CGCS at The Crossings GC, the top public course in the area at the time. He really loved it and entered J. Sergeant Reynolds pursuing a turf degree, while still working his job. He earned a degree in Horticulture, with a specialization in Turf Management.

His next move was to a new course in Southside, Birkdale Golf Club, working under Ken Anderson as Assistant. After a year, he got an opportunity at another new course, Mattaponi Springs, as Assistant in 2005. During his tenure there, he worked for Andy Lutz, Jeff McMackin and Sean Owens. In 2008, he joined the Billy Casper Golf team to become Superintendent at Ocean View GC in Norfolk. He moved to Williamsburg, as his wife was a school teacher there.

In 2011, Billy Casper Golf was hired to manage Magnolia Green in the Richmond outskirts, and Jay took the opportunity to become Superintendent and oversee a major project there. The Magnolia Green

project actually began years prior as a Nicklaus design; however, only 10 holes were completed before the bad economy hit. Wade’s opportunity was to complete the course, which including converting all tees, approaches and bailouts from bentgrass to bermudagrass. This conversion saved water, chemicals, and fertilizer.

The pristine, wooded and hilly land was teeming with wildlife, and in 2012 Wade sought to get certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program, a very challenging goal indeed. You had to qualify in six different sections: (1) Environmental Planning, (2) Wildlife Habitat Management, (3) Chemical Use Reduction & Safety, (4) Water Conservation, (5) Water Quality Management and (6) Outreach & Education. He was embarking on this project even before his maintenance facility was completed, making it even more difficult, but he persisted and earned the distinction.

Some of the measures he implemented included developing a written environmental plan, protecting native wildlife areas, shoring up creek banks, and water testing. He promoted the certification in a blog, on Facebook and in member correspondence.

The VGCSA’s Best Management Practices manual was published around the same time, and he integrated BMP’s into his daily management practices. He established water source filters, limited fertilizer and pesticide use and sought to protect pollinators. He also adopted a “firm and fast” philosophy for play, which saved water.

More recently, he contributed to the effort to get all Virginia courses to have a written Nutrient Management Plan, which was accomplished with a 99% participation rate in 2017. Not only is this a good



Magnolia Green Jay Wade with Bee Hives

practice, Wade noted its PR value as well, remarking “it raises the image of our profession as environmental stewards.”

More recently, Wade has embarked in a beehive project, starting this past May, expecting to harvest honey next year. In addition to the hives, he supports pollinators with new plantings of wildflowers and milkweed to attract pollinators, such as Monarch butterflies.

There are tons of wildlife on his course, including all types of birds, deer, turkey, bald eagles, Bufflehead ducks, black bear, coyote, and fox. The bird list also includes bluebirds, purple martins, osprey, heron, loons, egret, Red Tail hawk, hummingbird, mallard, jay, robin, sparrow.

“This award is a great honor,” said Wade. “I’m passionate about environmental stewardship, as are my industry colleagues.”

Wade is a family man, enjoying his time with wife Kelly and sons Josh (12) and Zachary (9), who are into all sorts of sports activities. The family enjoys living in Williamsburg, where his wife works. His commute is 65 miles each way, but family comes first - he uses time on Route 5 to prep for the day on the way in and to decompress on the way back.

Old Dominion Awards Two Scholarships

The Old Dominion GCSA has announced the winners of two \$1,000 scholarships. The program was established in 2016 as a means to support the employees of golf courses that are actively enrolled in an institution of

higher learning. Any employee at a golf course with a current VGCSA member in good standing.

This year’s winners are Nick Scheible of Hermitage Country Club and Denise Theileman of Stonehenge G&CC.

Scheible is working on his Masters at Penn State. Theileman is going to the VCU School of Dentistry. The program is funded by the Old Dominion Scholarship Tournament, where Smith Turf & Irrigation is a primary sponsor.



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Lynx® Smart Module



Sprinkler technology is getting smarter, and Toro's Lynx® Smart Module is a perfect example. New for 2018, this component is the latest 2-wire control system technology from Toro, designed for INFINITY® and FLEX800™ sprinkler systems. The Lynx Smart Module is the result of Toro's intimate understanding of the needs of golf course superintendents and decades of engineering expertise. Key features include precision control, high speed diagnostics and robust lightning protection — as well as the ability to make easy updates with the latest advancements. When combined with the ease of serviceability of the INFINITY® sprinkler system, NO DIGGING is needed. Labor savings you can take to the bank!

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Virginia Relinquishes the Virlina Cup

The Dormie Club in Pinehurst Plays Host



Just a year after wielding their best golf in the history of the matched, the VGCSA Team succumbed to a spirited Carolinas Team, out for revenge. The result was a decisive opening day rout, making a close match the second day essentially meaningless. When the dust cleared, the Carolinas held the Virlina Cup for the sixth time in ten matches.

The first four ball match featured a matchup of two Virginia Assistant Champs, Garrison Fowler and Terry English, who now represents the Carolinas. English and his partner Downs staked an early lead by winning the first match over longtime teammates Fowler and Brent Graham. Then the second match went to the Carolinas, before Boyce and Yancey stopped the slide by halving the third match. In losing the fourth match, clearly the Virginians had their backs against the wall early, 3.5 to 0.5.

Again in Foursomes, the Carolinas GCSA won the first two matches, ballooning the lead to 5.5-0.5. Then Jeff Whitmire and Jeff Snyder got a halve, but the day ended with another foursomes loss



L-R: Matt Boyce, Scott Cornwell, Garrison Fowler, Jeff Snyder, Jeff Holliday (Acting Captain), Jeff Whitmire, Cameron Yancey, Brent Graham, Matt Zarnstorff

- VGCSA trailed by a record 7-1 margin.

Thus Day Two was anticlimactic, with the Carolinas just needing 1.5 points of 8 in singles to secure the Cup. They actually got that done quickly by winning the first two matches. Then Virginians Fowler, Yancey and Graham won their matches, while Cornwell halved. The singles matches went to Carolina by a close 4.5 to 3.5 margin, but the final margin of 11.5 to 4.5 was a record.

As usual, Syngenta executives made the event memorable, including the chef talents of Larry Feller, the Virginia rep. Next year's event moves back to Virginia at a site to be announced.

Results

Four-Ball Matches

Downs / English (C) df Graham / Fowler (V),
Graham / Hull (C) df Cornwell / Zarnstorff (V),
Boyce / Yancey (V) halved Nemenz / Jordan (C),
Pope / Sheffield (C) df Snyder / Whitmire (V).
CA 3.5, VA 0.5.

Foursomes Matches

Nemenz / Jordan (C) df Cornwell / Zarnstorff (V),
Downs / English (C) df Boyce / Yancey (V),
Snyder / Whitmire (V) halved Pope / Sheffield (C),
Graham / Hull (C) df Graham / Fowler (V).
CA 3.5, VA 0.5. CA leads 7-1.

Singles Matches

English (C) df Whitmire (V), Downs (C) df
Snyder (V), Jordan (C) df Boyce (V),
Fowler (V) df Nemenz (C), Yancey (V) df Pope (C),
Cornwell (V) halved Sheffield (C),
Hull (C) df Zarnstorff (V),
Graham (V) df Graham (C), CA 4.5, VA 3.5.

Final:

Carolinas 11.5, Virginia 4.5



This year's event marked the 10th Anniversary of the Cup.



Former Virginia Player Terry English turned "traitor" and won a point off Jeff Whitmire.

Assistants Forum a Success at Spring Creek GC

On Wednesday, October 30, Spring Creek Golf Club and Ryan Holbrook, Golf Course Superintendent, hosted the 11th Annual VGCSA Assistants Forum.

Christopher R. Jones' keynote presentation highlighted where superintendents and assistants can unknowingly erode their effectiveness as a leader. The seven disciplines that superintendents practice to lead their teams more authentically include rich examples and real life stories from his experience as a leader as well as the leader clients he works with.

Jones coaches and advises people to become the leaders that others want to follow. In short: He coaches and advises Authentic Leaders. Authentic Leaders express their unique and authentic approach to leadership. The result? Inner confidence and effectiveness and outward results like increased productivity, team engagement and business results.

The panel segment was also a hit with representation from some of the top superintendents in the region. The panel included Scott Kinnan (Farmington CC), Ryan Holbrook (Spring Creek) and Kevin

Fortune (Glenmore CC). Chris Jones moderated a Q&A session, which included audience members asking the panel a multitude of questions.

Then the group adjourned to the annual two-man captain's choice golf competition. Camden Shelton and Eric Squire of Tuscarora CC won Low Gross with a five-under-par 67. Travis Roberson and Hunter Tucker of Willow Oaks CC won Low Net.



Emcee Josh Nunn with Keynote Speaker Christopher R. Jones



Tournament Winners – Camden Shelton and Eric Squire of Tuscarora CC won Low Gross, while Travis Roberson and Hunter Tucker of Willow Oaks CC won Low Net



Panelists Ryan Holbrook, Kevin Fortune and Scott Kinnan



Josh Nunn emcees the event.

Celebrating the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day

Over \$50,000 Raised at Independence GC

For the third straight year, Virginia Tech teamed up with VGCSA and VTC for the annual Turfgrass Research Classic Golf Tournament and Field Day on May 20th at Independence Golf Club in Richmond. It was an amazing event, which raised over \$50,000 for turf research.

The day kicked off with the Virginia Tech Field Day and a tour of the research plots on the greens of the nine-hole short course at Independence GC. Dr. David McCall, Research Associate Jordan Booth, CGCS and the Virginia Tech team led over 60 attendees on a tour of the short course, presenting the research conducted over the past year. Having these plots in established central Virginia will prove beneficial to the VT research team, as the climate is warmer than Blacksburg and closer to most of the rest of Virginia.

Following the field day, there was an exciting putting contest sponsored by Syngenta. Over 50 golfers lined the putting green and putted simultaneously to the

same hole. The closest one belonged to Mark Vaughan of Goodyear GC, who took home the prize.

The golf tournament was a full field with 120 golfers competing in the 4-man captain's choice. Coming in with the low gross score was the host team comprised of Giff Breed, Dan Taylor, Will Sexton and Randy Fisher. The Low Net score was posted by the VGM/John Deere team- Jeff Whitmire, Jeff McMackin, Jay Wade and Jeff Holliday.

With the help of top industry vendors, net proceeds were \$53,840, bringing the three year total to \$169,242 going towards turfgrass research! Landscape Supply and Harrell's renewed the top sponsor level, Hokie Patron - \$5,000, with Virginia Green and BASF at the Dr. John Shoulders Patron - \$4,000. There were



Dr. David McCall closely examines the turf.

twelve \$3,000 sponsors, eight \$2,000 sponsors, two \$1,000 sponsors and twenty-five \$500 hole-sponsors. A special thank you goes out to everyone that helped make this event so successful to include sponsors, the event committee, club staff and everyone that participated in the event.

A large advertisement for Hydramart. The background is a close-up of a soldier's face, wearing a helmet and having green and black camouflage paint applied to his forehead and cheek. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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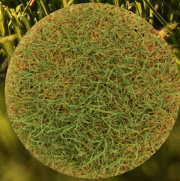
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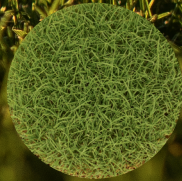
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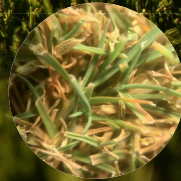


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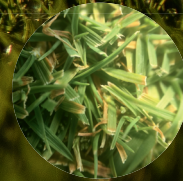


Drought Stress Tolerance

Greens Height Cut Turf 14-day spray interval, July 2015



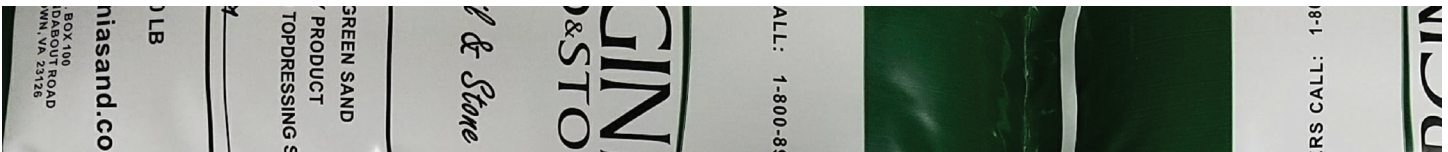
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Government Relations Round-Up

VGCSA Lobby Day Comes Early – Set for January 16th

DEMOCRATS WIN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE



VGCSA Lobbyist
Robb Bohannon

On the strength of an incredibly robust turnout for an off-off year election, Democrats have won control of both the House and the Senate. The road to the Democratic majority rolled directly through the urban crescent.

Republicans lost eight seats (two in the Senate and six in the House) in November. No House or Senate Democrat incumbent was defeated for reelection in 2019. For the first time since 1993, Democrats will control both chambers of the General Assembly as well as the Governor's office. The Senate will move to a 21-19 Democratic majority (which is the exact same margin the Republicans previously had when they controlled the chamber). Republican incumbent Senator Glen Sturtevant (R-Richmond City) and the Northern Virginia seat formally held by Senator Dick Black (R-Loudoun) moved to the Democratic column, giving them

control of the chamber.

In the House of Delegates, Democrats now hold a commanding 55-seat majority, which ends two decades of GOP control over the chamber. Some of the prominent members of the House Republican caucus that were defeated for reelection include House Appropriations Committee Chairman Chris Jones (R-Suffolk), House Republican Caucus Chairman Tim Hugo (R-Fairfax), and House Transportation Committee Chairman David Yancey (R-Newport News).

The legislative session begins January 8th; however, pre-filing of bills is ongoing. Already there have been a number of bills addressing minimum wage, which will almost certainly be heading upward. Several bills have been filed that would phase in an increase to \$15/hour over the next three to five years. VGCSA lobbyist Robb Bohannon is also expecting some pressure from environmentalists to push back against chemical use which is currently EPA-approved.

With changes in party control come changes in committee leadership. In December, Speaker of the House-Elect

Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) named long-serving Delegate Ken Plum (D-Fairfax) chair of the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee, and newly chosen Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax) named Senator Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City) chair of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. Full committee membership for 2020 will not be known until the beginning of the legislative session.

In an effort to promote the golf industry, VGCSA is planning its annual Lobby Day for Thursday, January 16th. VGCSA Board members, along with Government Relations Committee and other interested parties plan to visit the offices of all 100 delegates and all 40 senators with a message of environmental stewardship, along with the importance of golf as a group of small businesses which employ 30,000 Virginians in an industry with a \$2.5 billion economic impact. Please contact the VGCSA if you are interested in participating in the event.

Madison Mauldin Wins Buy Sod Scholarship



Madison Mauldin

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 Madison Mauldin of Powhatan, VA as the 2019 recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship.

Madison is the daughter of Scott Mauldin of The Foundry Golf Club, and she is a senior at Monacan High school in Chesterfield with a 3.6 GPA. Freshman year, she was a part of a strategy team for Monacan reflecting on the student body. She has been on the dance team all four

years, with the leadership role of captain. She also participated in lacrosse her sophomore and junior year.

She is very active as a participant in school sports, while holding two part-time jobs, one at a local restaurant and one at The Foundry, where she helps with events. She also has volunteered for several charities in Richmond. She plans to study psychology with a double minor in sociology and social work.



SAVE THE DATE! GIS Orlando Social Event

The DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld will be our host hotel and venue for our annual social event at the Golf Industry Show.

Our social event joint with MAAGCS and ESAGCS will be on Wednesday, January 29th from 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm, so DON'T MISS IT! Featuring live entertainment!



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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

As long as 2019 felt, I think that it was a pretty successful year for most of us. The ODGCSA had a busy and eventful year. We were able to host plenty of events, had many opportunities for networking and some education. We were also able to give back to two scholarship winners. This year's winners were Nick Scheible from Hermitage CC and Denise Theileman from Stonehenge CC.

On December 13 Ryan Dwyer and Viniterra hosted our 2019 Annual Meeting. During the meeting scholarships were

awarded and new board positions were announced. Ryan Dwyer is filling the vacant Secretary/Treasurer position and James Nick, from CCV, was voted on as the new Director.

Some of you may already know, but on December 18 Vince Hankley went in for heart surgery. The surgery was a success and Vince was able to go home about 10 days later. Please keep Vince and his family in your thoughts and prayers over the holiday season.

Here's to a great 2020! See you on the course!!



Jay Wade
ODGCSA
External VP

TTA News

It's the most wonderful time of the year in the Tidewater. As we look back on 2019, many of us will first think of the challenges faced and lessons learned. Hopefully you will have a moment to reflect on the positive outcomes and interactions as well. The many great functions hosted by TTA and VSGCA

brought us together for great education and camaraderie. The TTA board raises a glass to you, let's recharge and get ready for 2020!



Tim Doran
TTA External VP

GWGCSA News

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a great holiday season and is enjoying a little down time.

Back in November, we hosted our annual meeting at Evergreen Country Club. While the weather was not the best we have had, it certainly was not the worst we have ever had. It is always such a fun event and a great way to cap off the season. From the annual meeting we now have a new board, Patrick McNamara is now our President, Mike

Owens is our Vice President and David McGregor has joined the board as Secretary / Treasurer. I think I can speak for everyone when I say Thank You to Bo Jumbercotta for his years of service to the Greater Washington Chapter.

We are working on the 2020 calendar of events, so be on the lookout for that and if you are interested in hosting an event this year, please reach out to Patrick, Mike or David. Also, mark your calendar for National

Golf Day on Capitol Hill, May 6th. This is a great event and I strongly encourage everyone to get involved. Please go to wearegolf.org for details and registration.



David Walter
GWGCSA
External VP

SVTA News

I would like to thank all of you for attending the state conference at the Darden Business School at UVA. I hope that you learned as much as I did. Please put this event on your calendar for next year.

As many of you know, I announced my

retirement at the end of December. I would like to thank all of the people that I had the privilege of working with on the SVTA and VGCSA board. It has been a pleasure serving with you.



Ed Eagle
SVTA External VP

News from Local Associations

VTA News

It finally dawned on me the other day that we are closing the door on another decade and setting our sights on the new "Roaring 20's". Part of me had to chuckle, as it seems like yesterday we were trying to figure out how to cope with all the Y2K issues that were going to bring around all sorts of chaos. It is funny to think that cell phones were not all that mainstream yet and no social media to waste our time.

The VTA board is pleased to announce that this year's winner of the Bob Ruff Sr. Scholarship went to Alex Kaval from Unionville Virginia. Alex is currently in his second year at Virginia Tech and was the

unanimous decision to receive the award. Alex was very grateful and is excited to continue his development in the turf industry.

We also want to announce the new VTA board. Brian Kearns from Primland Resort will assume the role of President, while Mark Madonna will move up to VP and Chip Bass moves into the Secretary / Treasurer role. Also joining the board is Jeff Synder who will be joining Eric Spurlock as a Director.

We will be looking to get a calendar out sometime by mid February, so please keep your eyes peeled for that. And as always, if

you would like to host a meeting or have ideas of topics or other fun ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I wish everyone a safe New Year and look forward to a new decade.



Sean K. Baskette
Hidden Valley
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2020 VGCSA Schedule

January 9	Virginia Agribusiness Council Legislative Banquet, Virginia Raceway Complex, Richmond
January 16	VGCSA Lobby Day on the Hill, Richmond
January 16	VGCSA Board Meeting, Richmond
January 27-31	GCSAA Conference and Golf Industry Show, Orlando
January 29	GIS Social Event, Orlando
February 7	BMP Committee Meeting, Hermitage CC
February 17-21	LSI Recertification Seminars, various sites
April 23	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC
May 5-6	National Golf Day Activities, Washington, DC
May 18, 2020	Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence Golf Club
August 6	VGCSA Board Meeting, site TBA
October 5	Joe Saylor Memorial, Hermitage CC
November 12	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC

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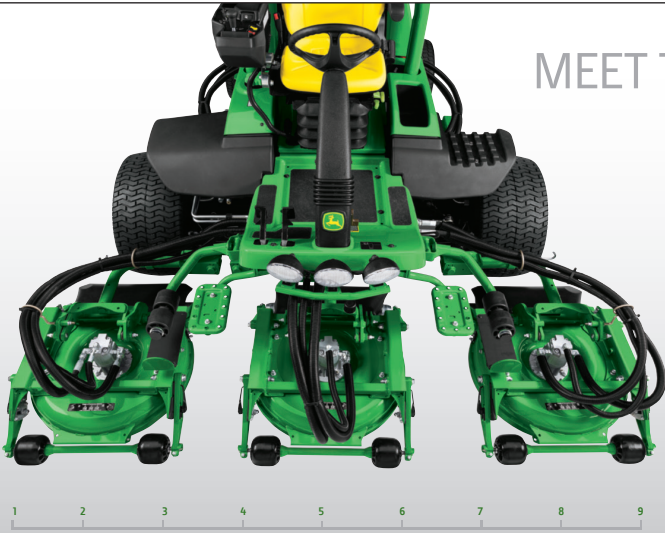
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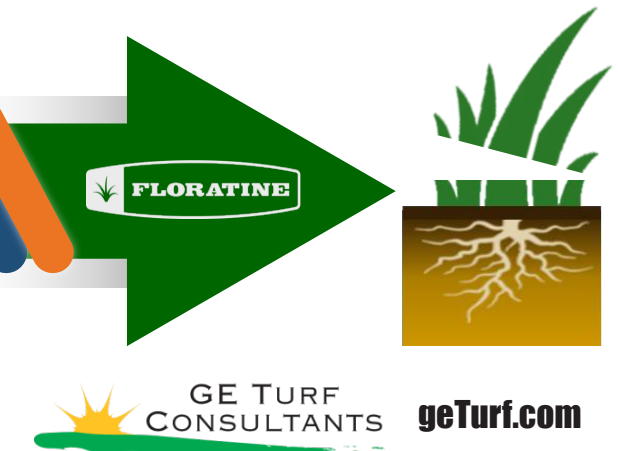
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