

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

Winter 2021

President's Message



It seems that everyone enjoyed getting back to Charlottesville for our annual conference and meeting. The event offered great education and good times. Thank you to our education committee Eric Snelsire and Matt Drayton for putting together a great program. Thanks also to Mark Ross who was able to snag his good friend Marc Leishman as our special guest. Leishman provided unique insight into life on the PGA tour and shared some great stories as well.

We also recognized our very deserving 2021 award winners Vince Hankley (President's Award), Mark Cote (Distinguished Service Award), and Tim Doran (Environmental Stewardship Award) as well as our Buy Sod scholarship recipients Hayden Furlong and Gavin Furlong (both sons of Scott Furlong at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club). Congratulations to all!

An annual conference survey was just sent to all attendees. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts on the conference. Your

input will be used to improve and enhance next year's conference.

Sean Baskette, Eric Snelsire, and Jacob Odum will be retiring from the board this year. All of these gentlemen have made great contributions to the association, and we appreciate their service. Welcome Brian Kearns (Primland) as the new VTA External Vice President, Neil Jones (Buy Sod) as the new Associate Representative, and Damian Beasley (Boonsboro) as the new Assistant Representative.

The new board will meet in January to set plans for the new coming year. Our January board meeting will coincide with our annual visit to the General Assembly. Our board members will meet one-on-one with members of the general assembly.

None of these programs or services would be possible without the generous support of our vendor partners. They provide the majority of our revenue. Please support them whenever possible.



*Jeff Whitmire
CGCS
President*



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VGCSA BMPs Launched as Website

The final step in publishing the second edition of “Environmental Best Management Practices for Virginia’s Golf Courses” is now complete. A new web version will go live in tandem with the launch of a new association management software in January. The BMP site will link off www.vgcsa.org and also be accessible from its own URL.

Obvious benefits include “anytime anywhere” access to members, plus an easy format for updates. The site will include a link to help VGCSA members create their own customized facility BMPs.

The BMP Committee is chaired by Tim Doran of Elizabeth Manor CC. Other Committee members are Steven

Ball, Mike Goatley, Peter McDonough, Mike Augustin, Jay Wade, Cutler Robinson, Bill Keene and Jeff Whitmire.



Virginia Chapter
VGCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

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BMP

Environmental Best Management Practices for Virginia's Golf Courses




Overview

Virginia's golf course superintendents are dedicated to protecting the state's natural resources. As a demonstration of this commitment, superintendents have partnered with Virginia Tech scientists to develop and document best management practices (BMPs) for golf course management. BMPs help golf course superintendents protect our state's surface and groundwater resources, provide habitat for wildlife, reduce pesticide usage, and conserve energy.



Introduction




Planning, Design, and Construction



Irrigation



Water Management



Water Quality Monitoring

Virginia Tech Fundraiser Nets over \$50K

Fourth Year in a Row



Virginia Turfgrass
FOUNDATION



The VGCSA Board and their VTC partners are pleased to announce the results of the 2020 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, held on August 31st at Independence Golf Club. For the fourth consecutive year, the tournament raised over \$50,000! The final amount is \$55,263.03. During the year, \$10,000 went directly to supported current research, including Dr. McCall's project and the 2nd Edition of the BMP Manual.

A check for \$45,263.03 to the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation will support turfgrass research in Virginia.

This tremendous success took a huge effort by the Tournament Committee - a debt of thanks to all of them. Sponsors remained steadfast in their support, including Hokie Patrons Harrell's and Landscape Supply (\$5K each) and BASF and Virginia Green

(\$4K each). It is truly amazing to achieve this level of success in a pandemic and the committee thanks ALL sponsors!

Next year's event is planned for Monday, May 9, 2022 at Independence Golf Club. The Field Day will feature research trials on the club's Short Course. Details are being finalized for the event.

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Tim Doran Wins VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award



Tim Doran

Tim Doran of Elizabeth Manor Country Club is the winner of the 2021 VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award. Tim chaired the BMP Steering Committee for the second edition of the manual.

Tim grew up in Ohio just west of Pittsburgh, with two grandfathers who loved golf and got Tim into the game. He would get dropped off in the morning to play a 9-hole golf course and get picked up in the evening. As a kid he was offered a job involved in golf, and that is where it all started. His cousin Mark Ross went to college for turfgrass management to take care of golf courses. This is what turned Tim onto becoming a superintendent.

He went to the Ohio State University Ag. & Tech Institute. He got an internship at Valhalla Country Club, where he got to work the Ryder Cup in 2008. After school he worked for five years at Moraine Country Club. Then he left to work at a course in Colorado, designed by Tom Doak.

Tim applied for the superintendent position at Princess Anne Country Club, working under Matt Boyce. That was his first experience with Virginia grasses, and more importantly the BMP process. That got the ball rolling for what Tim has been doing for the past few years with environmental stewardship.

After leaving Princess Anne, Tim became superintendent at Kingsmill Resort. There he enhanced the bluebird population and began working on other environmental projects. He was able to focus on balancing the maintenance and environmental aspect around the James River on the River Course and in the natural setting of the Plantation Course. He worked on the Audubon Sanctuary Certification, which was renewed for 10 years.

Throughout his career Tim noted that Jason Mahl of Moraine Country Club was a mentor to Tim. Recently, Jeff Whitmire has also become a mentor. One of the best aspects of moving to his role at Elizabeth Manor, sister club to Williamsburg Golf Club, is having the ability to bounce ideas off Jeff daily.

Tim started his involvement with the association by joining TTA upon arriving to Princess Anne. He attended the first board meeting with his cousin Mark Ross, who was outgoing president. Tim enjoyed the camaraderie of the organization and joined the board as a director. Later Scott Mauldin gauged Tim's interest to become an external VP for the VGCSA. Tim took the opportunity. He says the networking there is second to none.

Tim notes that Virginia already had one of the best BMP manuals in the country, so working on the second edition was easier. "Adding new sections such as pollinators and being able to update the manual has given us a leg up when we go fight for the industry in Richmond. We have adapted with the times by getting an online version set up and making it easier for superintendents to complete the individual facility BMPs," he said.



Environmental stewardship is important in what Tim does. With Princess Anne being his first Virginia course, he had to care for all the water and bays in surrounding the area. It was an eye-opening experience to see what can be done. Then at Kingsmill, with such a vast enhancement of buffer zones near bodies of water, he was able to improve the health of the bodies of water. He also enhanced the bluebird trail, adding forty-five bird boxes throughout the three golf courses. Doing that was an effective way to get the members involved. They began to understand the passion behind the golf course staff for getting these things completed.

Then at Elizabeth Manor, which has been under construction since his arrival, using the BMPs has been instrumental to protecting natural areas and water features around the property. Using the BMP Manual helped him mitigate any effects on the land. With one lake and three ponds on the property, he was able to make them healthier by eradicating the algae, and they are vastly improved. He is proud of the fast turnaround of the health of the lakes.

Tim is honored to be recognized for the Environmental Stewardship Award. He notes that the award cites something bigger than just him, focusing on the whole ecosystem. It is more than just a personal award; it is a team effort for his colleagues on the BMP Steering Committee. Kudos to them for their demanding work, as it improves the association. He tips his cap for a job well done.

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Hankley Wins 2021 VGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Achievement



Vince Hankley

Vince Hankley of the Country Club of Petersburg has won the 2021 VGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Achievement, the association's highest award.

Vince Hankley grew up in Chesterfield and Henrico County in the Richmond area. When he was fifteen, he began working on the crew at Jefferson Lakeside Club, where his brother Til was the Superintendent. This was Vince's first introduction to golf and working on the maintenance crew. He decided he would pursue a career in turf management, so he enrolled into the Lake City Community College's two-year program in Turf Management.

Upon graduating, Vince got an Assistant Superintendent job at Ethelwood Golf Course, which is now known as The Crossings.

After a year at Ethelwood, he took the superintendent job at Jefferson Lakeside, where he worked for four years. He then landed the superintendent job at The Country Club of Petersburg. He worked at CCP for four years then moved on to work for the PGA Tour in a golf course construction role. During that time, he worked on TPC Potomac at Avenel Farms in Potomac, MD and TPC Piper Glen in Charlotte, NC.

In 1989 Vince moved closer to home and went back to The Country Club of Petersburg, where he has been ever since. He loves the people and staff at CCP, describing them as truly special. A couple of years ago, a group of guys and former club officers at CCP went to the board and suggested they name the golf course after Vince. The board approved and honored him by naming it the Vince Hankley Golf Course.

Mentors throughout his career include Dave Postlewait, a superintendent under Pete Dye, who did the original construction at TPC Sawgrass and was also the superintendent there. Vince worked under him at Avenel and learned more from him about setting up

golf courses than from anyone else in the industry. He is also proud to mention Til Hankley, his older brother. He says they have always been sounding boards for each other, and he would be the first person Vince would call if he had any turf questions, and otherwise.

Vince has been involved with the association for years. He was Secretary/Treasurer on the ODGCSA board for a couple of years and was on the VGCSA board during its formative years.

Vince notes that he is proud of the work he has done putting new golf courses together. He also enjoys working on tournaments. He is proud of the greens renovation done at CCP in 1997. Other projects include maintenance building construction and installation of irrigation. 2021 marked the 100-year anniversary for CCP. A formal dinner black tie event was followed by an exhibition by Vinny Giles, Tom McKnight, Bobby Wadkins and Kenny Clark on the Vince Hankley Golf Course.

Vince is honored to be recognized for this award, especially because he has been in the area for so long and had the chance to promote the game and the profession in Virginia. Being able to encourage the next generation of superintendents as they navigate their career is an honor.

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Mark Cote Wins VGCSA Distinguished Service Award



Mark Cote

Mark Cote grew up in Winchester, Massachusetts and when he was 12 years old, he began caddying at Winchester Country Club in Massachusetts, an old Donald Ross Course.

This was his introduction to working on the golf course. Upon graduating high school, Mark attended Colby College in Maine and received his degree in history. Afterwards he went back to the golf course and worked several roles including caddie, assistant caddie master and on the maintenance crew. He also worked at the curling rink.

Mark went into construction for a brief time before becoming a schoolteacher for three years. He would always go to work on the golf course in the summer. With several years of experience on the crew doing tasks like weeding, bunker raking and a little mowing, his boss decided to promote Mark to the irrigation tech. This was the time of the old impact heads, and Mark was responsible for replacing each one manually. This is when Mark realized that there was a career in turf maintenance, and it was more than just simply weeding and raking bunkers. Mark moved to Charlottesville and answered an ad for a position at Farmington Country Club. They put him on as the irrigation tech, and he was eventually promoted to oversee the East Course.

With a new career in mind, Mark went to Virginia Tech and completed the two-year turf program, landing an internship at the Homestead during this time. After graduation, he was hired at River Creek CC in Leesburg during the grow-in, which was followed by a 6-month stint at The Greenbrier. After the season at The Greenbrier, Mark returned to The Homestead, recruited by Fred Reese. For the first two years, he was on the Old

Course and oversaw replacing a 70-year-old gravity fed irrigation system. Mark would stay at The Homestead for eight years before moving on to the River Course at Virginia Tech.

Upon arriving at the River Course at VT, it had just been renovated by Pete Dye, and the grow-in was recently completed. The first two years were busy. Mark and his team strategically planted over two hundred trees that had been removed during the renovation and replaced the cart paths. A new clubhouse was built, and Mark had the vision to get involved with tournament golf. These events included hosting a mini-tour, high school tournaments and VSGA championships. This eventually led to an invitation to serve on the VSGA board as a superintendent representative.

From the association standpoint, Mark got involved the VTA in 2006, when he was at River Creek. He worked his way up from VP to President of the VTA. While he was the external VP for the VTA, Matt Boyce asked if he was interested in continuing as a VGCSA board member, leading to him his position as secretary/treasurer. His first official meeting was the long-term strategic planning session, and this is when his idea to form our own turf conference was born. Previously VGCSA had done a joint conference with the VTC. To this day, the VGCSA Conference continues to be a highly attended event with amazing support from sponsors.

Eventually Mark became VGCSA president and began cementing his legacy as a leader in the association. One major accomplishment was to find and fund VGCSA's own lobbyist to represent superintendents at the state legislature. After several interviews, Hunton Andrews Kurth was selected, with Robb Bohannon as our lobbyist. VGCSA needed to find the funding, and Mark took full control of finding the revenue source. He emphasized the annual Rounds 4 Research auction. He

took this upon himself to form an outreach committee to contact members for R4R donations. Each committee member made phone calls and emails to members in their local association, encouraging them to donate. This strengthened his relationship with the members, and it was a highly successful campaign. VGCSA was top five chapter in R4R fundraising in 2020, and it can substantially fund the lobbyist because of this effort.

Other major accomplishments include the combining of the Environmental Cup and VTC Fundraiser to a single event, the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic and Field Day. This has become the most popular fundraiser for the VTF, raising upwards of \$50K each year since its inception. He spearheaded the DCRs Nutrient Management Plan compliance with outreach efforts to superintendents across the state on time, with 100% compliance. He also formed the East/West Cup, an annual golf match between sitting VGCSA board members. The members from the eastern side of the state play those from the west. This is a fun tradition and builds great camaraderie.

Winning this award means a lot to Mark. Coming when it does it is the cap to his career. When he got the job at River Creek, he knew he wanted to be involved with the association but had no idea he would be as involved as he was and for so many years. Being able to do that was exciting and extremely rewarding. The experience has had so many positives on his life and career. He has forged lifelong relationships, been able to tell his golf course members what is going on from a science standpoint and what legislative issues are on the horizon. He has even run into old friends of his former bosses in Massachusetts, while attending the GCSAA chapter leaders symposium in Kansas, something that never would have happened had he not been involved.



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Annual Conference Well-Received

Member Networking a Hit



Award Winners Tim Doran, Mark Cote, Vince Hankley with President Jeff Whitmire and Awards Chair David Walter

Once again, the VGCSA Annual Conference was a “can’t miss” affair. Revels and Finch continued as our presenting sponsors with over 15 additional companies on board as supporting sponsors. A special thank you goes out to all of the vendors that supported the annual event, all of the members that were in attendance and our exceptional speakers.

The two-day conference began on the afternoon of December 6th. After introductions by President Jeff Whitmire, Steve McDonald of Turf Disease Solutions and Rutgers University gave an informative presentation highlighting “Solutions Based on Review of Golf Turf”.

Up next was Tyler Bloom of Workforce Leadership and Consulting. Tyler’s presentation focused on the recent trends of the diminishing workforce in the golf turf management field. He provided data and statistics pertaining to pay range, benefits, competing industries and other factors effecting the workforce. He highlighted the importance of growth from within the organization and investing in your employees for the long-term.

Bill Kreuser closed out the education session for Day 1 with an in-debt presentation on “PGR Programming to Maximize Performance”. Using a plethora of research and statistics, he showed how different temperatures, application rates, growing seasons, mowing patterns and other factors have a direct effect on growth rate and how you can consistently stay withing the optimal range.

The most exciting segment of the day was the special guest interview with PGA Tour Professional Marc Leishman, who joined us via Zoom from Naples, FL. Superintendent Mark Ross of Virginia Beach National and a close friend of Leishman moderated the session. Leishman shared stories of the PGA Tour, his love for turfgrass and how he deals with the demands of traveling for work and still making time for

family. Marc was gracious with his time as he fielded many questions from our members and provided some big laughs during the interview.

Day One wrapped up with the VGCSA Annual Meeting, emceed by President Jeff Whitmire. After recognizing special guests, Whitmire turned it over to Matt Drayton for the Treasurer’s report – the association is in sound financial status. Drayton thanked VGCSA Partners, who provide 35% of total revenue. Then Whitmire presented a “Year in Review” slide show. He then thanked outgoing board members Eric Snelsire of Bayer, VTA External VP Sean Baskette, and Assistant rep Jake Odum. He then welcomed new board members Neil Jones of Buy Sod as Affiliate rep, Brian Kearns as VTA External VP and Damian Beasley of Boonsboro as Assistants rep.

Then it was time for the Annual Awards, and David Walter stepped to the podium. Buy Sod Scholarship Winners were Gavin Furlong and Hayden Furlong, sons of Scott Furlong, CGCS of RTJ. Tim Doran of Elizabeth Manor won the Environmental Stewardship Award. Mark Cote, a former VGCSA President, won the Distinguished Service Award. The highest award, the President’s Award, was won by Vince Hankley of The Country Club Petersburg, presented by Whitmire. Whitmire made closing remarks, send a meeting was adjourned.

(Cont.)



PGA Tour player Marc Leishman interacted with the audience via Zoom from Florida.



Tyler Bloom's topic of staffing was very popular.



Bill Kreuser makes a point about Plant Growth Regulators.



Neil Jones of Buy Sod announces the Door Prize winner.



Steve McDonald addresses the audience.

Day Two of the conference kicked off with a complimentary continental breakfast followed by a second presentation by Steve McDonald. In this segment Steve covered "ABWs – Old and New Options for Control". As this pest have slowly migrated south to the Virginia courses, this information in this presentation was invaluable.

Following Steve McDonald was a presentation by our lobbyist, Adisa Muse of Hunton Andrews Kurth. Adisa covered the recent election results. He noted that with the new legislators in place, the assumption is that they are more "golf friendly" and we should not see an abundance of legislation targeting the industry.

Tyler Bloom gave another presentation focusing on recruitment and hiring, specifically touching on "Compensation for Assistants and Crew". Bloom shared how other industries are often more appealing to workers because of the higher entry level salaries, benefits, shorter work hours and flexibility. He stressed coming up with a plan to compensate, evaluate and grow your workforce, specifically from within.

Bill Kreuser returned to close the education portion of the conference with another fantastic presentation, "Driving Your Turf Growth". This piggybacked on the information shared during his presentation on Day One and was incredibly informative to the membership.

After education, industry partners Syngenta, Luck Ecosystems, Noble Turf, BASF, Bayer, and Buy Sod gave their own fast paced five minutes IGNITE presentations showing the membership different aspects of their businesses and what tools are available for their consumers.

The last portion of the conference was the door prize drawings. Several members were chosen to receive a Virlina Cup hat while one member was chosen for the grand prize- 4 tickets to a Washington Capitals game, graciously donated by Neil Jones and Buy Sod. The grand prize winner was Jason Pierce of Golden Horseshoe Golf Club.

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Furlong Brothers Win Buy Sod Scholarships

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 and current college students, 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 Gavin Furlong and his brother



Gavin Furlong

Hayden Furlong of Gainesville as the 2021 recipients of a \$1,000 scholarship each. Their father is Scott Furlong, CGCS, the superintendent at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club.

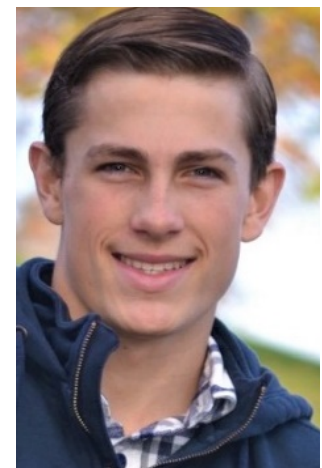
Gavin is the younger brother, a senior at Battlefield High School, who has his sights set on attending James Madison University. He holds a 3.7 GPA

Gavin remarked, "I plan on extending my academic skills from high school to college. By actively participating in school clubs, I'm able to advance my communication skills. I am an avid golfer who played on the high school golf team for three years. My father taught me to respect golf courses by fixing pitch marks, replacing divots, and raking bunkers. "I'm grateful to Buy Sod for supporting my education."

Hayden is currently a sophomore at Old Dominion University, working towards a bachelor's degree in education. For the last three summers he has worked for his dad at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club. The job requires him to wake up early and work in hot conditions. He appreciates the rewards of that hard work.

Hayden remarked, "I want to do everything

I can to help reduce my parents' stress as it relates to paying for college. This scholarship will greatly help! Throughout my life they have supported, encouraged, motivated, and helped me so much. They want me to be successful in school, so I can become whatever I choose to be in the future. Thank you Buy Sod for the scholarship!"



Hayden Furlong

VGCSA Implements New Member Service Software

Beginning in January, VGCSA is implementing a new integrated member service software system. MemberLeap is a powerful, cloud-based association management system that includes many modules to assist member-based organizations. Features include the following:

- Membership Management
- Website Content Management
- Web Hosting
- Communication
- Event Management

- Fundraising
- Education
- Mobile Applications

This new integrated system will allow VGCSA to provide a better member experience, and similar to GCSAA nationally, members will be able to control their own information and sign up for events and programs in a single location, the new VGCSA website (same address, www.vgcsa.org). The member directory will be updated and accessible by logging in. In addition, member communications



MemberLeap
Discover Membership Solutions

can be tailored to member groups, rather than universal blasts.

Implementation is targeted in January, so be on the lookout!

VGCSA Assistants Forum a Success at Hermitage Country Club



Golf Winners Tae Kim, Jake Odum, Wil Searcy, Jim Prucnal

The 2021 VGCSA Assistants Forum was hosted by Jake Odum, Assistant Superintendent at Hermitage Country Club and VGCSA Board of Directors Assistants Representative.

The morning started out with a light breakfast followed by a presentation by Dan Evers of Indigo Golf Partners. Dan is the Regional Director of Agronomy for the Mid-Atlantic and West regions, and he oversees 47 Superintendents. His segment focused on the transition to Superintendent and the important things to know before taking that step. Key topics included budgeting, managing workers, communicating with members and long-term planning.

At the conclusion of Dan's presentation, he joined Superintendents Mike Nowicki of Lakeside Park Club, Dan Sabina of The First Tee of Richmond/Belmont Golf Course for a panel discussion while Jake Odum moderated the session. Panelists discussed their transition from Assistant Superintendent to Superintendent. This included success, failures, things they are glad they knew and things they wish they knew before making the leap to superintendent. All the panelists encouraged networking, travel and getting to know more people to expand their contact list. They noted it was important to learn different strategies and perspectives. The VGCSA is a perfect avenue to do this. The panel then took questions, which created discussions between the panelists

and attendees. Memorable quotes from our panelists:

"It's okay to kill grass, but don't kill the same grass in the same way, twice."
-Mike Nowicki

"Always expect the unexpected. It is

amazing how many things come up that create issues. That is what I was most unprepared for." -Mike Nowicki

"The more readily available you are to give support to your staff, colleagues (Pro Staff, GM) the stronger your team will be and the more support you will receive from those departments." -Dan Sabina

"Forging relationships with local facilities/superintendents can be extremely beneficial, particularly when it comes to

equipment sharing." -Jake Odum

After education, everyone headed to the course to compete in the two-man captain's choice tournament on the Manakin Golf Course. The weather was perfect, and the course was in exceptional condition. Fast green and lush fairways were a perfect fit for the Low Gross winning team of Jim Prucnal and Will Searcy of Lake Monticello. Low Net winners were Jake Odum and Tae Kim of Hermitage.



Jake Odum welcomes guests to Hermitage.



Hermitage Country Club



Speakers Mike Nowicki, Dan Sabina, Dan Evers and Jake Odum

Government Relations Update



Robb Bohannon



Adisa Muse

On November 2nd, Republicans swept all three statewide offices for the first time since 2009. With each race decided by roughly the same margin (51%-49%), Glenn Youngkin won the governor's race, former Delegate Winsome Sears won the lieutenant governorship, and Delegate Jason Miyares (R-Virginia Beach) defeated two-term incumbent Attorney General Mark Herring (D). Governor-elect Youngkin announced "landing teams" in late November that are assisting in putting together his administration and cabinet secretariats. For Agriculture and Forestry, Delegate Margaret Ransone (R-Westmoreland) and Senators Emmett Hanger (R-Augusta) and Richard Stuart (R-King George) are leading these efforts.

Democrats control the Senate 21-19, and it is likely that Lieutenant Governor-elect Sears will sometimes be a tiebreaking vote, as Democrat Senators Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City) and Joe Morrissey (D-Richmond City) are known to break with their party on certain issues.

Additionally, Republicans took back control of the House of Delegates on Election Day, winning 52 seats, several of which were won by a few hundred votes. Republicans picked up a total of seven seats in the House of Delegates this election cycle, largely in rural and suburban districts that benefitted from exceptionally high turnout due to the statewide races. Two House of Delegates races in Hampton Roads were so close they went to recounts, with Republicans prevailing in both contests.

Republicans have chosen House Minority Leader Todd Gilbert (R-Shenandoah) as their Speaker-designee for 2022, and Delegate Terry Kilgore (R-Scott) as Majority Leader. Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) has been selected by her caucus as Minority Leader, and Delegate Charniele Herring (D-Alexandria) will serve as Minority Caucus Chair.

Speaker-designee Gilbert announced several committee chairs on December 13th, including House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources, which will be led by Delegate Lee Ware (R-Powhatan). Ware has served in the House of Delegates since 1998 and represents a largely rural district which includes Powhatan County and parts of

Chesterfield, Fluvanna, and Goochland Counties. He previously served as chair of the House Finance Committee. Subcommittee chairs for the House Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee have not been selected yet.

The 2022 session of the Virginia General Assembly begins on January 12th. An interesting backdrop to this year's legislative session is the redistricting process. With the Virginia Redistricting Commission unable to agree upon new maps for legislative districts, the Supreme Court of Virginia appointed two special masters who released their proposed maps on December 9th. These proposals differ drastically from current districts and did not consider where current legislators reside. As such, there are 24 districts where two (and in one case three) sitting delegates are drawn into the same district. Under the new Senate maps, there are seven districts that place two sitting senators in the same district, and two that include three sitting senators in the same district. Though these maps may change slightly before they are finalized, it is expected that many legislators will either have to primary a colleague or move into a new district if they want to run in the next election.

Legislation has gradually begun to trickle out for 2022, and on December 13th, the Division of Legislative Services (DLS) was hit by a ransomware attack, which has further slowed down the bill filing process.

Thank You 2021 Partner Program Participants!

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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

Hello everyone, I hope this finds you well. It's hard to believe that 2021 is nearly in the books, it has been a challenging year in many respects for all of us, I am certain.

I am pleased to announce the ODGCSA Scholarship award winners Todd Brown who works at The Dominion Club and Austin Kaval who works at Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech. Both recipients are being awarded \$1,000 and are both attending Virginia Tech. We look forward to seeing you at next year's scholarship fundraiser tournament. Keep an eye out for

more details in the weekly Through the Green eLetter.

The ODGCSA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11th and will be hosted by Dan Sabina at Belmont Golf Course in Richmond, VA. There will be an annual meeting follow by lunch and golf on the par three and putting courses. The meeting will be free for ODGCSA members and \$25 for non-members and guests. We hope you can make it and look forward to seeing you after the new year!



Chris Roberts
ODGCSA
External VP

SVTA News

The calendar says it's winter but here in the valley, the weather feels like early spring. With the lack of rainy days and mild weather, golfers are still enjoying an extended golf season. I'm sure snow will be on its way soon. I hope!

We had our end of the year meeting with guest Eric Snelsire from Bayer. He had some excellent information on a number of topics from ABW to fairy ring. There are some exciting new products coming out

that look to be good additions to chemical programs.

The SVTA is planning on offering two separate scholarships for students entering college next fall. I will have more details in the upcoming few months. We are also planning a joint meeting with GWGCSA on June 7 at Caverns Country Club. We will have more details as we get closer to the date. I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and New Year!



Eric Ferrell
GCS
Caverns
Country Club
SVTA
External VP

VTA External VP Report

Well, we have almost rapped up another busy golf season. 2021 remained consistent with 2020 for many reasons. Some good and some bad. The good was that golf rounds remained high. We did see the return of some normalcy such as having outings and meetings, rakes back in bunkers, and the removal of pool noodles in the cups. Courses this fall played firm and fast as southwest Virginia has been extremely dry.

The VTA had a successful year and we completed our season with our annual meeting at Goodyear Golf Club in Danville. Mark Vaughn and his team had the course in excellent condition. Our 2022-2023 board is President Mark

Madonna, Vice President Steven Ball, Treasurer Cam Shelton, Director Jeff Snyder, and new board members Greg Caldwell, David Callahan, and Quinn Elliott. We would like to thank Sean Baskette, Eric Spurlock, and Chip Bass for their years of service on the board. I would like to congratulate past VTA President Mark Cote for receiving the Distinguished Service award at the VGCSA conference.

The VTA awarded two scholarships this year. Julliane Kessler from Virginia Tech and Philip Teague from Goodyear Golf Club were the recipients. They both are very deserving and have high goals. The VTA also made a donation to the VTF. We are looking forward to a great 2022 and the board will meet in the next coming

months to plan next year's schedule. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our board members if you are interested in hosting a meeting or with any ideas for our meetings. I hope everyone can get some time off this holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!



Brian Kearns
VTA
External VP

News from Local Associations

TTA News

As we transition into Winter in the TTA, we are happy to look back at a strong year for our association. With fun events at great golf courses, participation was strong, and we hope to build on that in 2022. Allen Dobbs of James River Country Club will step into role of President of the Tidewater Turfgrass Association and on behalf of all board members, we would like to thank our association members for a great year.

The TTA received excellent vendor support for our events as well, and we would like to say thank you to all of our partners for making it possible to have great events at little or no cost to our members. We are looking forward to putting together a great calendar of events for 2022 and look forward to catching up with each other again soon.



Tim Doran
TTA External
VP

GWGCSA Report

I hope one of these days it gets cold, and all these golfers put the clubs in the basement for a few minutes! Our off-season keeps getting shorter and shorter. I hope that everyone is getting some time away from the course and enjoying some family time over this holiday season.

Your GWGCSA board is working on the calendar of events for 2022, be on the lookout for that in the coming months. Congratulations to the Scott Furlong, his sons Gavin and Hayden won the 2021 Buy Sod Scholarships.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



David Walter
GWGCSA
External VP

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2022 VGCSA Schedule

January 13 – VGCSA Lobby Day, State Legislature, Richmond, VA

January 13 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hunton Andrews Kurth, Richmond, VA

January 13 – Virginia Agribusiness Council Banquet, The Shed at Main Street Station, Richmond, VA

February 5-10 - GCSAA Conference and Trade Show, San Diego, CA

February 9 – VGCSA-MAAGCS-ESAGCS Social Event, Bay City Brewing, San Diego, CA

May 9 – Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence GC, Midlothian, VA

April 21 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC, Manakin-Sabot, VA

August 4 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Site TBA

August 4 – VGCSA Local Association Challenge, Site TBA

November 17 – VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC, Manakin-Sabot, VA

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 for a complete listing and details of available positions. Here is a sampling:

- Keswick Club in Keswick, VA seeks Superintendent
- Rattlewood Golf Course in Mt. Airy, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Needwood Golf Course in Derwood, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Musket Ridge Golf Club in Myersville, MD seeks Equipment Manager
- Queenfield Golf Club in Manquin, VA seeks Golf Course Superintendent
- Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club in Gainesville, VA seeks Assistant Superintendent (Salary Increase)
- Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville, VA seeks Horticulturist
- Argyle Country Club in Silver Spring, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent (posted)
- Blue Mash Golf Course in Laytonsville, MD seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Sparrows Point Country Club in Baltimore, MD seeks Golf Course Superintendent
- Cutalong Golf Club at Lake Anna seeks 1st Assistant Superintendent
- Greenbrier Country Club in Chesapeake, VA seeks Equipment Manager
- Wilmington CC in Wilmington, Delaware seeks Assistant Superintendent
- Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA seeks Turfgrass Research Center Manager
- The First Tee at Virginia Beach National Golf Club seeks Superintendent
- Mattaponi Springs Golf Club in Ruther Glen, VA Seeks Golf Course Superintendent

Hedgepeth & Robinson Are Match Play Champions



Champions: Cutler Robinson, Larry Feller (Sponsor), Trevor Hedgepeth

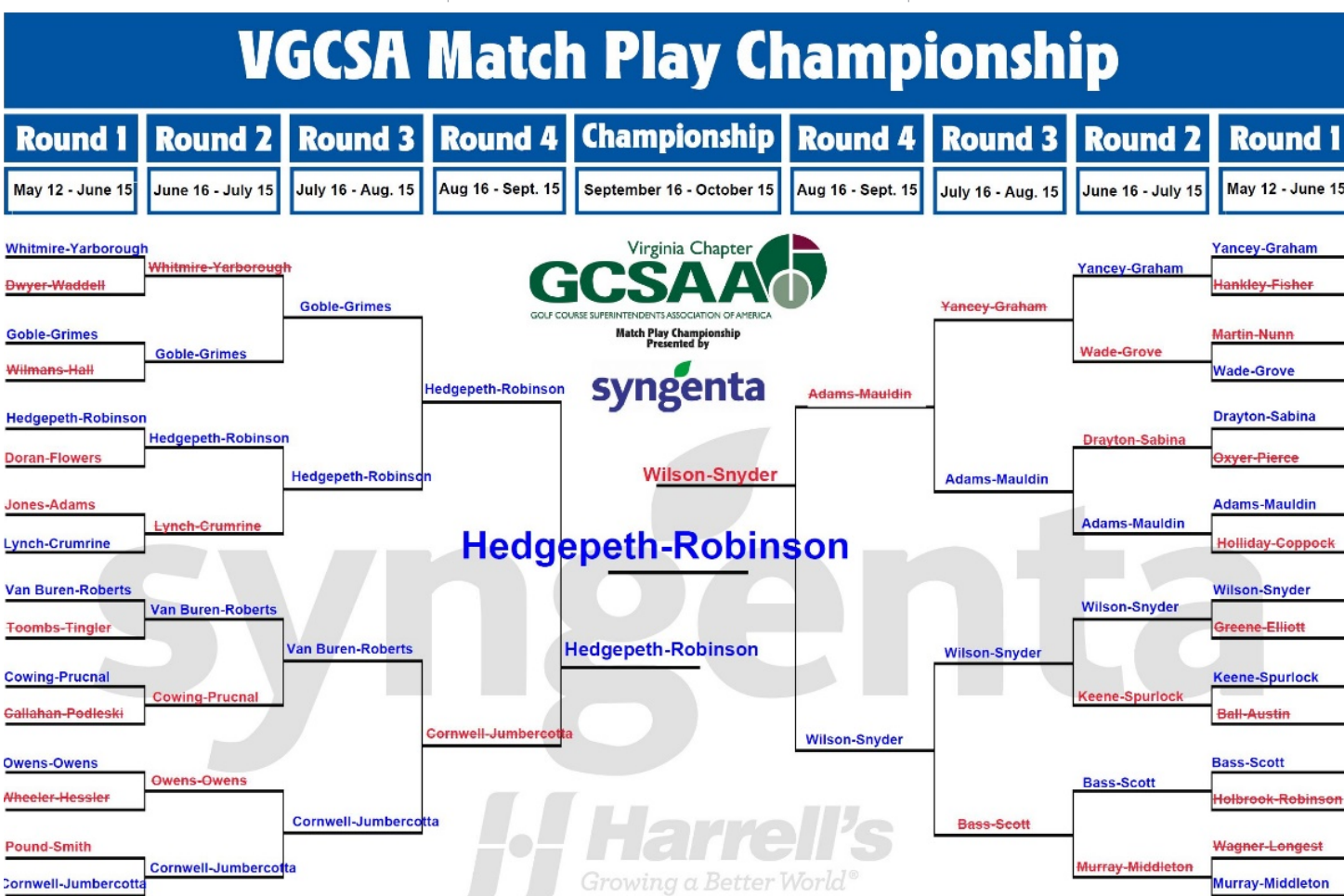


Finalists: Cutler Robinson, Trevor Hedgepeth, Larry Feller (Sponsor), Jim Wilson, Jeff Snyder

The finals of the 2021 VGCSA Match Play Championship presented by Syngenta took place on Thursday, November 11th on the Manakin Course at Hermitage Country Club. The experienced team of Jeff Snyder and Jim Wilson were Runners Up in the inaugural event, while Trevor Hedgepeth and Cutler Robinson made the finals for the first

time. Both teams came in hot after impressive victories in the semi-finals. It was a hard-fought match with Hedgepeth and Robinson ultimately emerging victorious by a 4&2 margin. They credited the "ding and dong" effect, taking turns playing well on holes, rarely tying their partner. It wore down their opponents, who fought hard.

A special thank you goes out to Larry Feller of Syngenta and Jim Wilson and Mark McCaughan of Harrell's for sponsoring the event and to all of the players who competed. Get your games ready for 2022 as Trevor and Cutler aim to defend their title!



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