

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

March 2020

President's Message



St. Patrick's Day has come and gone and we are finally starting to see some green grass out here in the western part of the commonwealth. Unfortunately, with the progression of Covid-19, that was most of the green we were able to see. With winter passing I hope everyone had the chance to recharge their batteries and attend some of the various educational conferences available and get ready to start a new season.

On January 16th the board of directors made our annual visit to the state legislature. On the day, we visited 20 delegates and senators in total. Hopefully these meetings will serve as building blocks for a greater relationship with members of the state legislature for future open discussions when potential bills are introduced. With all the changes this past election cycle it was important to get in front of all the new senators and delegates and introduce ourselves. I think it is important to note that with the current pandemic situation, the board and your executive staff has been in constant contact with

Robb Bohannon from Hutton, Andrews, and Kurth. We are staying abreast of the situation and working to protect our interests in this ever changing landscape.

The end of January we made a trek south to the Golf Industry Show in sunny Florida. It is always nice to leave the cold behind, and Orlando is a great venue for the show and golf tournament. This year's social event was hosted by the Doubletree at SeaWorld and were entertained by the contemporary sounds of Johnathan Moody. I would say the event was a great success by the number of drink tickets that were cashed in by the end of the night. Coming up at our April board meeting, we will be working on the educational conference in December. We will return to Charlottesville for another round of great education. As always, if you have a suggestion for a speaker, pass it along to a board member. We are always open to hearing from others.

This is the time of year we typically start ramping up with local events. As you all know by

now, the spread of Covid-19 has cancelled all events in March and April. We are monitoring the situation at both the state and local level. Once the situation is safe, we will resume meetings. The Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic has also been rescheduled. The new date is set for August 31st, so mark your calendars now so you are sure not to miss out on this fun and important event.

Finally I would like to thank our sponsors who have renewed and special welcome to those who are on board for the first time. Without you all, we would not be able to put on conferences and support a lobbyist who is looking out for golf's interests, and various other endeavors. While I know there are many options for your business in our industry, may I suggest you support those who support us when given the chance.



Bill Keene
VGCSA President



2020 VGCSA Board of Directors

VGCSA Officers

President

Bill Keene
Blacksburg Country Club
1064 Clubhouse Rd.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Ph: 540-552-2461 / Fax: 540-552-0461
Cell: 540-537-1096
E-Mail: bkeene@blacksburgcc.com

Vice President

Jeff Whitmire, CGCS
Williamsburg Golf Club
1801 Merrimac Trail
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Cell: 757-291-2286
E-Mail: jeffwcc1@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Mueller
Herndon Centennial Golf Course
1270 Old Heights Road
Herndon, VA 22070
Ph: 703-435-6864 / Cell: 571-221-0133
E-Mail: mueller68@hotmail.com

Past President

Mark Cote
Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech
8400 River Course Dr.
Radford, VA 24141
Ph: 540-633-0247 / Cell: 540-679-9002
E-Mail: mcote@vt.edu

VGCSA External Vice-Presidents

Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association

Jay Wade
Magnolia Green Golf Club
7001 Creekshire Dr.
Moseley, VA 23120
Cell: 804-245-6666
E-Mail: jwade@magnoliagreengolfclub.com

Tidewater Turfgrass Association

Tim Doran
Kingsmill Resort
1010 Kingsmill Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Ph: 757-903-4493 / Cell: 757-342-3175
E-Mail: timothy.doran@Kingsmill.com

Virginia Turfgrass Association

Sean Baskette
Hidden Valley Country Club
2500 Romar Rd.
Salem, VA 24153
Cell: 540-892-9299
E-Mail: hvccmaint@comcast.net

Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association

David Walter
Potomac Shores Golf Club
1750 Dunnington Place
Potomac Shores, VA 22026
Ph: 703-300-2594
Email: dwalter@troon.com

Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association

Ed Eagle, CGCS
Ingleside Resort
1410 Commerce Road
Staunton, VA 24401
Ph: 540-248-7888 / Cell: 540-292-0019
E-mail: Eeagle522@gmail.com

At-Large Board Members

Assistant Superintendent

Josh Peters
Springfield Country Club
8301 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22152
Ph: 703-451-6619 x353 / Cell: 703-965-0291
Email: jpeters@sgccva.org

Associate

Eric Snelsire
Bayer
5 Candytuft Lane
Berlin, MD 21811
Ph: 412-977-3882
Email: eric.snelsire@bayer.com

General Counsel

M.E. "Dick" Gibson, Jr.
Tremblay & Smith, PLLC
105-109 East High Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Ph: 434-977-4455
E-mail: dick.gibson@tremblaysmith.com

Talina Hammonds
Administrative Assistant
Tremblay & Smith, PLLC
105-109 East High St.
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Email: talina.hammonds@tremblaysmith.com
Ph: 434-977-4455

Staff

Executive Director

David Norman
VGCSA
1900 Manakin Road, Suite C
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103
Ph: 804-708-9760 / Cell: 804-399-7802
E-Mail: dnorman008@gmail.com

Chapter Executive

Tyler Eastham
VGCSA
1900 Manakin Road, Suite C
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103
Ph: 804-708-9760 / Cell: 757-329-3577
E-mail: teastham@gmail.com

Lobbyist

Robb Bohannon
Hunton Andrews & Kurth
Riverfront Plaza, East Tower
951 East Byrd St.
Richmond, VA 23219
Ph: 804-788-8375 / Cell: 804-614-7542
Email: Rbohannon@huntonak.com

VGCSA Announces Board Lineup for 2020



2020 VGCSA Board

L-R Front - Mark Cote, Jeff Whitmire, Mike Mueller; L-R Back – Eric Snelsire, Josh Peters, David Walter, Jay Wade, Sean Baskette, Ed Eagle (not pictured, Bill Keene)

The Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association has announced their 2020 Board roster, with many familiar face. Bill Keene of Blacksburg Country Club returns as President this year, with Jeff Whitmire, CGCS of The Williamsburg Club serving as VP. Mike Mueller of Herndon Centennial returns as Secretary/Treasurer. Mark Cote of the Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech is the Immediate Past

President. The Board includes five External Vice Presidents, representing their respective local associations: Jay Wade of Magnolia Green GC (Old Dominion GCSA), David Walter of Potomac Shores GC (Greater Washington GCSA), Tim Doran of Kingsmill Resort (Tidewater Turfgrass Association), Sean Baskette of Hidden CC (Virginia Turfgrass Association), and Ed Eagle, CGCS of Ingleside Resort

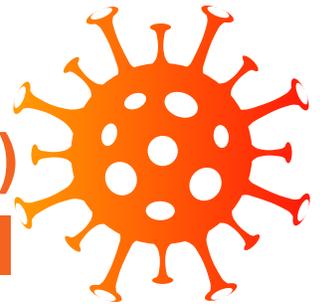
(Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association). Rounding out the Board are two new representatives: Josh Peters of Springfield CC (Assistants), and Eric Snelsire of Bayer. (Vendor). The purpose of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association is to serve its members through unified representation on a state and national level and by advancing their professional growth.

Key Events Postponed or Cancelled

Due to COVID-19, GCSAA and VGCSA have postponed or cancelled key events - here are a few to note:

- GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting - cancelled
- Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence GC - postponed to August 31
- ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament, CC of Petersburg - postponed to May TBA
- Rounds4Research - postponed TBA
- National Golf Day - postponed TBA.

GUIDELINES FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOUR GOLF FACILITY

The average golf course offers

150 acres

of open land space that can provide a vital recreational opportunity during this difficult time.



GCSAA COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR GOLF COURSES

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has affected health and daily lives around the world. Local, state and federal agencies have enacted numerous measures to stem the spread of the disease. While many golf courses have provided an outdoor recreational refuge for many, they are not immune from mandated closures or from having the virus spread among their staff or patrons.

GCSAA has compiled tactics and information to help your facility navigate best practices for dealing with the epidemic while keeping your course an outdoor option for your community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1

FIRST STEPS IN ANY CRISIS

Prepare – Know your operations, your systems and your processes. Formulate a plan of action that is clear and allows all your employees to abide by the standards. Having this plan in place lets you act quickly and address any questions from customers, media or lawmakers with accuracy.

Review – Gather your key team members together to make sure everyone is on the same page, including your golf professional and general manager. Work to establish to keep everyone updated and informed throughout the process.

Connect – Whether you are letting golfers know the status of your operation or answering media inquiries, now is a great time to make connections, even if they aren't in person. Introduce yourself via email, social media or other outlets to let them know you are here for them and can offer a bright spot in an otherwise stressful time. Distribute any updates in a timely and concise manner and identifying a spokesperson for your facility can make sure a consistent message is shared. GCSAA has many resources to help you with public and media relations. www.gcsaa.org/pandemic

Develop – Organize a reference file (physical or virtual) for dealing with the crisis. It can be clearing house for you and your staff in dealing with the issues you are facing in the "new normal." In addition, it's a good way to have easy access to basic information about your operation that you can share with others like the basic facts about course, the measures you are taking to comply with virus-related recommendations, and how you are using best management practices when normal operations resume. GCSAA has established templates to assist you. www.gcsaa.org/pandemic



2

MAKING RISK LESS RISKY

Identify any risks to your operation that may be a result of current events. Once you identify risks, you can work with your key-decision makers to develop a plan to identify the likelihood of each risk factor and apply possible solutions. Some of the issues you may face are:

- Loss of revenue due to mandated closures or reduction in golfers
- Increased expenses in order to comply with new restrictions and rules
- Damage to the golf course due to reduced maintenance
- Disruption with supply chains
- Staff not being paid
- Staff getting sick in the epidemic



While GCSAA has transitioned to remote operations during the pandemic, all GCSAA services are still available.

Call 800-472-7878 or email mbrhelp@gcsaa.org for general assistance, or visit www.gcsaa.org/ contact to reach out directly to a staff member.

3

TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES NOW

If you are still operating, you can take some of the following steps that golf courses around the country are implementing to halt the spread of the virus:

- Maintain 6 ft social distancing at all times
- Increase communication with your team. Utilize apps such as WhatsApp or GroupMe
- Adjusting break/lunch times to limit contact between employees
- Consider setting up seating areas outside for employees to take breaks and lunch
- Eliminating time clocks or assigning management/one individual the responsibility of punching employees in/out
- Hold team meetings outside or in the equipment maintenance area
- Supply gloves to your team
- Assigning staff pieces of equipment/carts to eliminate sharing between employees
- Place hand sanitizer throughout the maintenance area
- Sanitizing touchable surfaces/carts/equipment/bathrooms/breakrooms daily (or multiple times a day)
- Sanitize all hand tools
- Adjusting management practices (reducing mowing, cultural practices, etc.)
- Increasing the time between tee times
- Removing all touchable surfaces (flagsticks, bunker rakes, water coolers, ball washers, etc.)
- If you leave the flagstick in raise the cup 1", turn the cup upside down, use something to fill the cup to raise the bottom of the cup
- Enforcing one golfer per cart policy
- Providing golfers with sanitizing wipes/bottles if available
- Sanitizing golf carts after each round
- Altering range practices to comply with social distancing



4

GOLF IS IN THIS TOGETHER

With the current practice of social distancing, it can seem like you are all alone at your course. However your GCSAA family and the greater golf community are here for you.



Reach out to other superintendents –

Find out how they are facing challenges, share resources if supplies are running low and have a united front in the community. If one course closes, could you have a reciprocal relationship with them? Could their laid off employees fill in for yours who may be sick or home with family? Now is the time to show the strength and camaraderie of the golf industry,

Stay in touch with your chapter – While chapter meetings are on hold as large gatherings are banned, check in with your chapter. See how you can other members in need or how they can assist you.

GCSAA has myriad resources to help you – GCSAA is here and fully operational to help you through the crisis. Whether you are taking advantage of our catalogue of free online webinars, calling your local field staff representative to discuss issues in your region or keeping up to date on the state of industry. GCSAA is still here for you.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CDC:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

OSHA:
<https://www.osha.gov/>

World Health Organization:
<https://www.who.int/>

GCSAA COVID-19:
gcsaa.org/pandemic

10 WAYS

TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM INFECTION

Wash your hands regularly and carefully

Avoid touching your own face

Put on gloves if necessary

Do not touch mucous with your fingers

Avoid shaking hands and hugging people

Press elevator buttons with your knuckle

Avoid busy places and events

Keep distance from who infected

Sneeze and cough into tissues

Dispose of used tissues quickly



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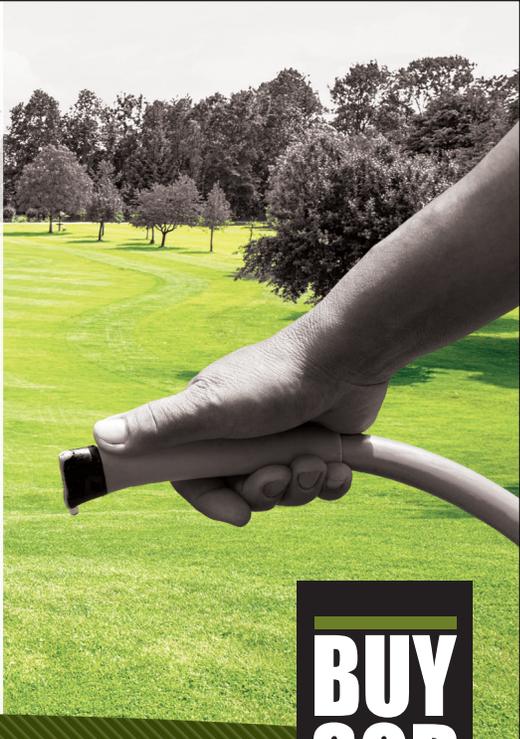
LANDSCAPE SUPPLY

GIVE WATER A BREAK

TifTuf bermudagrass is the new drought-tolerance superstar.

The newest edition in the "Tif" (Tifton) series of bermudagrasses to originate from the renowned University of Georgia turfgrass breeding program, TifTuf promises to be a true game-changer in stellar yet environmentally friendly performance. It uses 38% less water than Tifway 419, and it is significantly more drought resistant than all other bermudagrasses.

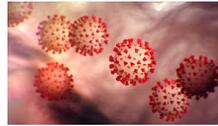
In addition to its incredible drought tolerance, TifTuf is more aggressive than Tifway and provides superior wear and traffic tolerance, excellent cold tolerance (equal to Latitude 36 at Kansas State University), fast spring green-up and excellent fall color retention. And across all 17 locations in the 2015 NTEP trials, TifTuf was the highest-ranked, commercially available cultivar in overall quality. Paying for itself in water savings alone, TifTuf is the ultimate must-have grass for sustainability in golf courses.



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HOW TO COMMUNICATE THE NECESSITY OF GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE WHEN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING COVID-19

Contingency Advisory

In an effort to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, many state and local governments have begun closing all “non-essential” businesses in their jurisdictions, often including golf courses. It is critical for GCSAA members to communicate to lawmakers that, although a golf course may be closed to the public, the grass does not stop growing and basic property maintenance must be conducted during this period of temporary closure. Below are points to consider when communicating with lawmakers.

Golf courses are partnering with state and local governments during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Governors, Mayors, and other leaders in government are currently under considerable pressure to protect the health and safety of the citizens in their states and cities.
- The golf industry understands the difficult position they are in and stands ready to do our part to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Golf course superintendents have provided leadership at their clubs and courses by establishing safety protocols in accordance with guidelines issued by the CDC and other regulatory bodies.

Like many other businesses temporarily closed, golf properties require maintenance to remain viable for future use

- Similar to other businesses that have been required to close to the public during COVID-19, golf courses have essential maintenance needs that must continue for the preservation of the property’s agronomic health.

- An average golf course encompasses 150 acres of property, most of which is a living ecosystem requiring continued maintenance.

- If a course cannot be maintained,

turfgrass and plant life will decline, and the community will lose a vital asset.

- Environmental health of the property can be achieved with appropriate changes to maintenance staff functions that put the greatest emphasis on safety.

Golf courses must remain environmental assets to their communities

- Spring is a critical time for turfgrass. If turfgrass is lost, many courses may face permanent closure. Turfgrass cannot be neglected for extended periods of time.

- Maintenance should be allowed to proceed while a golf course is closed.

- If minimal maintenance is not allowed, the landscape and property of a golf course could become compromised, damaged, or unsafe.

- o Crime and vandalism are much more likely on properties not consistently monitored.

- o Populations of disease carrying pests, such as mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas can quickly multiply threatening human and animal health.

- The potential for damage to critical golf course infrastructure, including pump stations and irrigation lines, will also be avoided by allowing routine operations, testing, and inspection.

The golf industry is proactively implementing all necessary precautions at golf facilities

- The golf industry is taking all necessary precautions to keep maintenance staff safe by taking into account all health advisories and recommendations by the CDC.

- To emphasize safety, Golf Course Superintendents have proactively adjusted maintenance practices in many ways, including but not limited to:

- o Increasing communication with owners, management, and staff regarding altered golf course management practices
- o Taking temperature of staff members as they arrive
- o Staggering of staff starting times to reduce employee contact points
- o Keeping 6 ft social distancing at all times throughout the day
- o Eliminating time clocks or assigning one individual the responsibility of punching employees in/out to reduce touch points
- o Increased sanitizing of all workspaces and bathrooms
- o Mandatory wearing of gloves at all times
- o No sharing of utility vehicles
- o Sanitizing all hand tools

How and when should I contact my elected officials?

- The golf industry has been actively engaged with numerous executive and legislative offices at the federal, state, and local level regarding government directives related to COVID-19.

- The We Are Golf coalition will be conveying these and similar points to many governor’s offices.

- To learn more about what outreach has already taken place in your state and what the next steps for outreach may be, please contact Michael Lee, GCSAA Manager of Government Affairs at 816-663-2154 or mlee@gcsaa.org.

- It is critical during this time that the golf industry maintain a unified message. Any outreach conducted should be in coordination with your chapter and allied golf associations in your state.

- Work closely with your chapter executives and contract lobbyists who may be able to help you deliver the right message, at the right time, to the right decision maker in government.

NEW DATE!

VT Research Classic & Field Day

Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day

Independence Golf Club, Midlothian, VA

Monday, August 31, 2020



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Virginia Chapter
GCSAA
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America



Virginia Turfgrass
FOUNDATION



In the interest of the health and wellbeing of our industry members, their families, and surrounding community during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day committee has determined that the 2020 event, originally scheduled for May 18 at Independence Golf Club, will be postponed until **August 31, 2020**. We are working closely with the staff at Independence to ensure another successful event during these uncertain times.

This event is a collaboration between the Virginia Tech Turf Team, the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Virginia Turfgrass Council, and the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation to benefit Virginia's turfgrass professionals. In three years, the VT TRC has raised over \$160,000 to support Virginia Tech's long-term research efforts.

In the meantime, we will remain in communication regarding any regulatory developments regarding large gatherings, such as our event. We will follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, federal, state, and local government on when it is deemed appropriate to resume normal activities. We thank you for your understanding and patience. Please be safe!

Sincerely,

David McCall, on behalf of the VT Turfgrass Research Classic Committee

Virlina Cup Qualifying Sites & Dates



James River Country Club in Newport News plays host to the 11th Virlina Cup on October 11-13. The Carolinas regained

the cup in 2019, and VGCSA looks to upend them. Here are the qualifying dates for this year's Cup:

VGWCSA Local Qualifier

May 8, 2020
Dominion Valley Country Club

TTA Local Qualifier

May 12, 2020
Riverfront Golf Club

VGCSA Championship

June 15, 2020
Salisbury Country Club

VTA/SVTA Local Qualifier

June TBA



In addition to six available spots at these events, there is a Captain's Pick and a Sponsor's Pick to round out the team.

This year's VGCSA Championship is the premier qualifying event, as three Virlina Cup berths are awarded (Superintendent Champion

& Runner Up plus the Assistant Champion). There is also a Vendor Division, and net prizes are also awarded. Jeff Holiday hosts at Salisbury Country Club. The event is known for great camaraderie, fun competition and an outstanding social event after the tournament.



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VGCSA welcomes its newest Diamond Partner



Meet the Team

Scott Thomas

804-283-4410

stthomas@siteone.com

Chip Bass

434-906-9845

cbass@siteone.com

Ian Grove

(804) 396-8541

wgrove@siteone.com

Rob Larsen

443-622-0492

rlarsen@siteone.com

Eric Nelson

703-819-8077

enelson@siteone.com

5th Annual Old Dominion GCSA Scholarship Tournament

CC of Petersburg – Date TBA



The Country Club of Petersburg plays host to this year's Old Dominion Scholarship Tourney on a date to be announced (hopefully in May) – open to all VGCSA members and partners. Proceeds from the event will be used for scholarships that will be awarded to employees of a VGCSA member club, who are either actively enrolled students or non-actively enrolled students who wish to

further their education. Last year two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded. Entry Fee of \$100 includes Golf, Cart Rental, Range Balls, Bloody Mary Bar, Beverage Cart, and Dinner Buffet after the round, Prizes and Fun Competition!

Format for the event is two-man best ball (four ball). Mark McCaughan of Harrell's and his partner Robbie Rasmussen of Cypress Point Country Club took top

honors last year with a gross score of 71 at Kiskiack GC. First place in the net division went to the team of Todd Cowing and Blaine Oxyer of Genesis Turfgrass, Inc. with a net score of 62. Prizes are awarded to the top gross and net teams, as well as contest winners. ODGCSA would like to thank Genesis Turfgrass for their role as Presenting Sponsor.

Presented by



Participants in the 2019 event enjoyed the social event.

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Government Relations Round-UP

VGCSA Completes Second Legislative Session with Lobbyist



Jay Wade, Jeff Whitmire, Senator Monty Mason, Robb Bohannon

VGCSA Lobbyist Robb Bohannon of Hunton Andrews Kurth recently completed his second Virginia legislative session representing superintendents and the golf industry here.

Bohannon represented our interests on many issues, including water, inputs, labor

and the environment. A bill to ban Chlorpyrifos proposed by Senator Kory never got through committee discussion. He also organized the VGCSA Lobby Day in January, leading board members to personal meetings with legislators. Bohannon and his team monitored

hundreds of bills on our behalf. In the current crisis Bohannon's teammates stated the case for the golf industry, keeping Virginia's golf courses open, with restrictions (as of press time).



Lobby Day L-R Eric Snelsire, Mike Mueller, David Walter, Josh Peters

USGA Announces \$1.9M in Golf Course Sustainability Research Grants for 2020

The USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program has invested more than \$41 million to advance the game since 1920

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (Feb. 25, 2020) – Continuing its 100-year commitment to providing scientific innovations for the golf industry, the USGA will fund 73 separate research grants totaling nearly \$2 million in 2020 as part of its annual investment in helping courses to improve the golfer experience while reducing the consumption of key resources.

Since the founding of the Green Section in 1920, the USGA has supported the largest private turfgrass and environmental research effort in the history of golf. The USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program (TERP), which is one of several continuous efforts led by the Green Section aimed at enhancing golf course sustainability, develops and supports research that produces a healthier environment and improved playing conditions.

Since the research program's inception, the USGA has invested more than \$41 million to advance golf by using science and innovation as the foundation to impact thousands of courses and millions of golfers.

"Research has been a core function of the Green Section since its founding," said Mike Davis, CEO of the USGA. "These findings have led to reduced operating costs, improved turf health and more enjoyable on-course experiences for golfers. In addition, our impact extends well beyond golf, providing direct

environmental benefits, fostering recreational opportunities and offering much needed green space for local communities."

The 2020 grant recipients – 16 of which involve new projects – will receive an average of \$25,000 this year. Notable grant support includes a focus on conserving water by better understanding new technologies and the social aspects of irrigation scheduling through the University of California, Riverside, in

adoption of precision irrigation technologies.

USGA research has contributed to the reduction of an estimated 86,000 tons of annual fertilizer use on golf courses since 2007 and has defined application strategies that limit the transport of nutrients to surface water and groundwater.

USGA-supported turfgrass breeding programs have developed more than 30 cultivars that use fewer resources and

produce better playing conditions. These cultivars have been used worldwide at major sports facilities, general grounds, and even home lawns. Research from the program also has contributed to the USGA recommendations for putting green construction, which produce



improved putting surfaces that are resistant to compaction, drain quickly and retain subsurface moisture.

Led by Cole Thompson, Ph.D., the research program is part of the USGA's mission to champion and advance the game through an annual \$10 million investment to support the health of courses. Universities or research companies submit grant applications that are reviewed by 17 scientists on the TERP committee. As part of its ongoing mission to advance the game, the USGA will complement current turfgrass and environmental research with projects that benefit other areas of course sustainability, including golfer experience.

addition to a continuing effort to define the value of golf courses from an ecosystem services perspective through the University of Minnesota. Through the program's emphasis on sustainable turfgrass management and environmental protection, the USGA has improved the efficiency of key areas of course management, including water conservation, pesticide and nutrient distribution, and turfgrass breeding. Most notably: Golf's use of water has decreased by 19 percent since 2005, in part due to research-based irrigation methods such as employing weather data in plant water-use estimates, replacing potable irrigation water with recycled wastewater, and the

Hermitage Country Club to Host the Joe Saylor Memorial Monday, October 5, 2020

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. The newly re-grassed Manakin Course will be used. 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!

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 and regional affairs for the superintendents. Joe passed away in 2005. Defending the title will be host Superintendent Bobby Friend and Matt Pair. A new element of the event is to feature an honoree superintendent to be announced later - Dick Fisher was the honoree last year.



US Marines collect toys for deserving children.



Matt Pair and Bobby Friend will defend their title.

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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

What a month it's been! I hope everyone is staying safe and sane during all of this madness! As far as golf is concerned, it has been a pretty good start to the year. Not sure where we will be going from here though.

So far the weather has been pretty good for all of us. It's been a great winter/early spring for growing cool season grasses and we're already starting to see some green up of our warm season grasses! This may have thrown a little monkey wrench in some of our winter weed programs, but if you were able to make it to our 3rd Annual Spring

Turf Symposium there was a lot of great information given by Bayer and Fred Yelverton.

Our 2020 March Madness was unfortunately canceled this year and all other events have been put on hold for the time being. The Scholarship Tournament will be hosted by Vince Hankley at the Country Club of Petersburg. As soon as we have a new date set for this event we will let everyone know. Again, stay safe and if you need anything please let one of your board members know. Good luck this year!



Jay Wade
ODGCSA
External VP

TTA News

Spring is in the air, turf is waking up, and just like that – the world around us seemingly needed to take a time-out. We are in unprecedented times as the need for fast greens and perfectly manicured golf courses has taken a back seat to the safety of our family, friends and neighbors. Therein lies the balance we have had to find – continue doing what we do best while handling the uncertainty around us. I bet we enjoy seeing that first tee crowded with golfers once we return to normal – at least we might enjoy it for that first day.

The TTA events for this spring have been postponed as we aim to emphasize safety. We are looking forward to events like the Dick Cake Memorial to get us back in the groove and enjoying the best part of our industry – the people. We will update through the VGCSA as events are rescheduled. Until then, keep your heads up and your hands clean!



Tim Doran
TTA External
VP

SVTA News

The SVTA has a current meeting schedule as follows:

April 28 - Packsaddle Ridge GC (joint meeting with VTA)

May 28 - Lakeview GC

June TBA - Caverns Country Club

Of course this depends on the severity of this virus

In addition, Waynesboro Country Club has been sold and the new owners changed the name to Orchard Creek Country Club.



Ed Eagle
SVTA External
VP

News from Local Associations

VTA News

I would be lying if I said this month's news letter was easy to write. Three weeks ago, would have been much easier, talking about the lack of winter, poa seed heads in March, crabgrass, ABW and the fact that our colleagues on the flat side of the state had more snow this winter than the folks up here in the mountains. We would be laying the ground work for the great meeting schedule we came up with and the fun we had this year in Orlando at the VGCSA social event.

But instead, we are left to talk about steps we are taking to keep the doors open, allow people to enjoy golf, and doing our part to help stop the spread of the C word. I will admit that through this ordeal, I have

heard of some ingenious things superintendents are doing throughout the country to make sure golfers and their employees are staying safe. It is rather ironic that the USGA made the rule change on leaving the flag in, so most golfers are used to that already. I have heard of many superintendents leaving the cups high so people do not have to retrieve the ball out the cup, ball washers, bunker rakes and divot boxes are no longer on the course, all things to minimize exposure. All that being said, I do hope that our golfers do not get to used to it and forget that it is common etiquette to do all these things once golf gets back to normal.

For now, like everyone else, our meeting

calendar is on hold. Our hopes is that we can put all of this behind us and hopefully still have our Bob Ruff Sr. Fundraiser in June, fingers crossed.

Keep your eyes peeled for any changes and please remain safe, this too shall pass.



Sean K. Baskette
Hidden Valley
Country Club
VTA President

News from the GWGCSA

2020 will be a year we all remember as we live through a future history lesson. On the turf side of things, we are a month ahead of the 'normal' growing season due to a very mild winter. Bermuda is already showing lots of green in mid-March. This winter has been a golfer's dream, and a superintendent's nightmare, the divots! Oh, so many divots!

We also find ourselves in very uncertain times with COVID-19, many of us are being asked to cut back and think hard about what we need to do to make sure we all can make it through this difficult time. Now more than

ever it's important we take care of family at home and work. Difficult decisions are being made and as leaders we need to make sure we are taking care of the ones that take care of us.

All Greater Washington events are postponed until further notice. We will update the calendar when the appropriate time comes.

I hope everyone stays healthy out there!



David Walter
GWGCSA
External VP

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2020 VGCSA Schedule

March Events Cancelled

April 23	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC
April 23	GWGCSA Two Man Scramble, Old Hickory GC
April 28	SVTA/VTA Joint Meeting, Packsaddle Ridge GC
May TBA	ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament, CC of Petersburg
May 5-6	National Golf Day Cancelled
May 8	GWGCSA Virlina Qualifier and Stableford Event, Dominion Valley CC
May 12	TTA Dick Cake Virlina Cup Qualifier, Riverfront GC
May 28	SVTA Meeting, Lakeview Golf Club
June TBA	SVTA Meeting, Caverns Country Club
June TBA	VTA Virlina Cup Qualifier, course TBA
June 3	GWGCSA Super/Asst Championship, CC of Fairfax
June 8	VTA Bob Ruff Sr. Fundraiser, Poplar Grove GC
June 15	VGCSA Championship, Salisbury Country Club
July 17	GWGCSA Maintenance Open, Forest Greens GC
August 13	VGCSA Board Meeting, site TBA
August 18	VTA Virginia Tech (Mini) Field Day, Virginia Tech Golf Course
August 31	Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, Independence Golf Club
September TBA	TTA Ryder Cup, course TBA
September 15	SVTA Meeting, Shenandoah Valley CC
September 19	GWGCSA Glow Ball Event, Stonewall GC
October TBA	VGCSA Match Play Championship, Kinloch GC
October TBA	TTA Bert Walton Memorial, Bay Creek GC
October TBA	GWGCSA Match Play Championship, Robert Trent Jones GC
October 5	Joe Saylor Memorial, Hermitage CC
October 6	VTA Annual Meeting, Great Oaks Edge Country Club
October 8	SVTA Meeting, Blue Ridge Shadows GC
October 11-13	Virlina Cup, James River CC
November 5	GWGCSA Annual Meeting/Elections/EOY Classic, Evergreen CC
November 12	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC
December 7-8	VGCSA Annual Conference, UVA Darden Conference Center

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