

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of fall and came through, or survived, the summer for the most part in one piece. To me we simply have become used to the common theme with regards to weather extremes as we saw record temperatures, hurricanes, **an earthquake**, and record rainfall throughout the Commonwealth this summer. No question that the challenges we faced this year again brought on lots of stress and long days. But, thankfully there are always brighter days ahead and our families to go home to. Looking back in 2011 and forward into 2012, I will say I have never been more proud of our industry and association, the VGCSA. For whatever reason, I've found that no matter how difficult my days were I could always count on a colleague to discuss the challenges of my day, if not just to vent. Thanks to those that listened to me ... you know who you are!

The VGCSA Board of Directors recently met in August to begin the 2012 budget process. Along with the Board, invitations were extended to the Presidents of the five local chapters to get feedback on services currently in place and what services could be implemented in 2012 and beyond. Thanks to those that were in attendance and contributed to our planning process. With the current economic environment we are once again in conservative mode. With that mentality I am also here to say that we will not cut member services. We truly appreciate the feedback and support of our members during this important planning process.

Best of luck to our Virlina Cup qualifiers: Jeff Whitmire, Matt Sobotka, Jeff Snyder, Dick Fisher, Chester Guzek, Matt Boyce, Andrew McCormick, Mark Vaughan, and Captain Eric Spurlock! Retention of the



Cup is the goal gentleman! All the best, boys, and have some fun beating those folks from the Carolinas!

The VGCSA continues its' partnership with Virginia Tech and Kingsbury Consulting. We are coming down to the finish line with regards to our Best Management Practices guide for golf courses in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Thanks to Peter McDonough, our Committee Chairman, and the rest of the BMP Committee for working so hard on this important project. With many hours of work and many meetings to discuss content and our progress, we can finally see the light. Look for more details later this fall on how it will be distributed to clubs around the Commonwealth.

In August, the VGCSA was on hand to watch as Governor Bob McDonnell signed into law important legislation that will support the Commonwealth's agriculture and golf industry while enhancing the water quality in the nearby Chesapeake Bay and other state waterways. The VGCSA's government relations committee played a major part in drawing up the legislation. Congratulations to all involved and thank you to our partner, the Virginia Agribusiness Council, for all that you do!

The **7th Annual Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament** will be held at The Club at Creighton Farms in Aldie, VA on October 31. We are pleased to be able to show off the work of host Mr. Matt Zarnstorff at this Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course. As usual, there will be three

divisions: Member-Member, Member-Pro, and Member-Guest/Open divisions. It is also our community relations event where we collect toys for the Marine Corps annual toy drive "Toys for Tots." Please sign up early as this event is popular and will be made available to the first 54 two-man teams. Don't miss this great event!

David Callahan, of Hidden Valley Country Club, and the VGCSA Board have worked hard to develop another outstanding **3rd Annual Assistants Forum** this year. The Dominion Valley Country Club of Haymarket, VA and Mr. Ray Nash will host the event this year. This year's event is shaping up to be another awesome event featuring **Rhett Evans, CEO of GCSAA**, as the keynote speaker. The Assistants Roundtable panel will also be an informative and lively presentation with audience participation. The date is Monday, November 7th at The Dominion Valley Country Club of Haymarket, VA. So mark it on your calendars and see you there!

On the GCSAA front; we have set our host hotel for the 2012 GIS, February 27th-March 2nd, in Las Vegas, NV to be at the **Treasure Island Hotel and Casino**. Theresa Baria, Executive Director for the MAAGCS, is the point person this year for the GIS 2012 in Las Vegas. She has been working closely with David Norman and Treasure Island management staff to ensure our annual social event is as nice and as cost effective as it has been in the past. The room rate information is follows: Monday through Thursday \$109.00++/ Friday \$139.00++ booked by October 31st, 2011. The GCSAA National Championship will be held February 24th-26th in Palm Springs, CA. The Annual GCSAA

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Upcoming Events

October 17, 2011

NGCOA VA Annual Meeting
Hermitage Country Club
Manakin-Sabot, VA

October 31, 2011

Joe Saylor Memorial
Creighton Farms Golf Club
Aldie, VA

November 7, 2011

VGCSA Assistants Forum
Dominion Valley Country Club
Haymarket, VA

GIS Heads to Vegas in 2012

VGCSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS Plan Social Event

The GCSAA Conference & Golf Industry Show is set for Las Vegas, February 27 to March 2, 2012, a little later than usual. The popular destination is expected to draw a nice crowd for the annual excursion of education, networking, and some fun.

VGCSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS are again cooperating on a host hotel (Treasure Island) and a joint social event there, set for Wednesday, February 29, 2012. GCSAA has broadly discontinued designating hotels for particular chapters, but they made an exception for us this year – with the privilege comes a

requirement to register early. Details will be forthcoming via email and the web.



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Governor Signs New Environmental Legislation

Measures Backed by VGCSA and VAC

In early August, Governor Bob McDonnell ceremonially signed eight pieces of environmental stewardship legislation that will help Virginia's agriculture and golf industries grow and thrive while also enhancing water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and other Virginia watersheds. The bill signing took place during an afternoon event at Brookmeade Sod Farm in Hanover County. Legislation signed includes measures to regulate the use of certain fertilizers, allow agricultural land to be deemed in full compliance with its total maximum daily load allocation (TMDL) upon implementation and maintenance of a resource management plan, and authorize the Secretary of Natural Resources to study the expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Credit Exchange Program. Governor McDonnell was joined by members of the General Assembly, as well as stakeholders from the agricultural and environmental communities.

Speaking about the legislation, Governor McDonnell remarked, "Agriculture is the largest industry in Virginia, generating an annual economic impact of \$55 billion and providing more than 357,000 jobs across the Commonwealth. It is essential that we continue to implement environmentally sound measures that ensure this industry will grow and thrive, while simultaneously working towards enhancing water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's other watersheds. The eight pieces of legislation signed today are a positive step in that direction."

McDonnell continued, "Through legislation to regulate the use of certain fertilizers, we can ensure that less phosphorous drains into our rivers and streams, and that our growers and producers, golf course owners, and citizens throughout the Commonwealth are using the most environmentally friendly fertilizers available. Other legislation will allow owners of agricultural land with an approved resource management plan to be deemed in full compliance with their

allocation of the TMDL and Virginia's Watershed Implementation Plan. This legislation will effectively recognize our agriculture land owners that are in compliance with efforts to enhance the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's other watersheds. When developing Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, we worked closely with our agricultural industry, environmental groups, and local government representatives to make sure

that the goals in the plan were realistic and achievable. The eight pieces of legislation signed today will bring us much closer to effectively enhancing the water quality of the Bay and Virginia's other watersheds and ensuring that our agriculture industry continues to use environmentally sound practices."

The VGCSA has been a part of the coalition formed by the Virginia Agribusiness Council to advance measures that protect Virginia's golf industry.



Governor Bob McDonnell (seated) signs one of eight pieces of environmental stewardship legislation into law at Brookmeade Sod Farm.



Governor Bob McDonnell and VGCSA President Jeff Berg

BMP Project Continues to Move Forward

State Agencies to Review and Provide Input

The VGCSA's "Best Management Practices" document continues to move forward toward its goal of completion and publishing in the coming months. The document is now in final draft form, and it will be submitted to Doug Domenech, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources for review and comments. The document will also be submitted to state agencies DCR, DEQ and VDACS.

"We are excited to be moving into the home stretch on the BMP project," said VGCSA President Jeff Berg, "and project chair Peter McDonough's BMP team is doing a fantastic job assembling the input from all the sub-committees."

This summer the committee met at Hermitage Country Club and honed in on the key elements of each chapter of the project. Here are the key elements of the project:

- Environmental Concepts
- Environmental Monitoring
- Design and Construction
- Irrigation
- Nutrition and Fertilization
- Cultural Practices
- Lake and Aquatic Plant Management
- Turfgrass Pest Management
- Pesticide Management
- Maintenance Operations

Once completed the document will be published in hard copy and electronic formats, as well as in a handy "Executive Summary" format, which will be more concise. Distribution will include all golf courses, government agencies, members, vendors and legislators. In addition, the proactive stewardship measures of the association will be marketed to several audiences:

- Club Management – Superintendents, Club Managers, PGA professionals, Owners
- End-users (golfers)
- Public at-large
- Government agencies (e.g., websites)
- Media – all channels (broad media and industry specific)

In addition, the program will be a "living document," with on-going tracking and updates:

- Chesapeake Bay Executive Order – Water quality monitoring on 40 Bay watersheds
- Updates based on new legislation
- Periodic scientific revisions

Bottom line, the BMP project will be a proactive measure to protect Virginia's golf industry, with a goal to convey the dedication to environmental stewardship



Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech with VGCSA President Jeff Berg

displayed by Virginia's golf course superintendents and their golf clubs. The report will be one voice for all of the golf industry leadership, thanks to the support and endorsement of our allied associations on the Virginia Golf Council – the MAPGA, CMAA VAs, VSGA, NGCOA VA and VTC. And the project would not be possible without the support of our Partner companies, members and the government agencies who are stakeholders in this effort.



BMP Chair Peter McDonough



Part of the BMP Committee assembled at Hermitage CC: Mike Goatley, Dan Taylor, Jeff Holliday, Jeff Berg, Matt Boyce, Lloyd Hipkins, Pat Hipkins, Glenn Muckley, Dr. Erik Ervin, Christian Sain, Stacey Kingsbury, Dick Fisher

VGCSA Announces Annual Meeting & Dinner

Fredericksburg Country Club to Host During VTC Conference

The VGCSA Board has announced a new format for its annual meeting, which Fredericksburg Country Club will host on Tuesday, **January 17, 2012**. The new event will be an evening function, with a reception, dinner and awards celebration. The event will take place in conjunction with the Virginia Turfgrass Council Conference & Show.

"We are very excited about the new format, which will give our members a chance to network and socialize while also celebrating our annual awards and hearing an update on association activities," said Jeff Berg, VGCSA President. "We hope to have a great turnout, and all of our Partner companies, honorary members and students will be invited to join our superintendents and assistants in this fun affair."

Fredericksburg Country Club is conveniently located about 15 minutes from the conference hotels, and the



The VGCSA annual meeting will be held on January 17, 2012 at the Fredericksburg Country Club.

historic clubhouse provides ample space to accommodate everyone. The main house was originally built in 1819 as part

of the Smithfield Plantation, and the history room contains many civil war artifacts.

Regional Events on Tap This Fall

Carolinas Show and Eastern Shore Conference

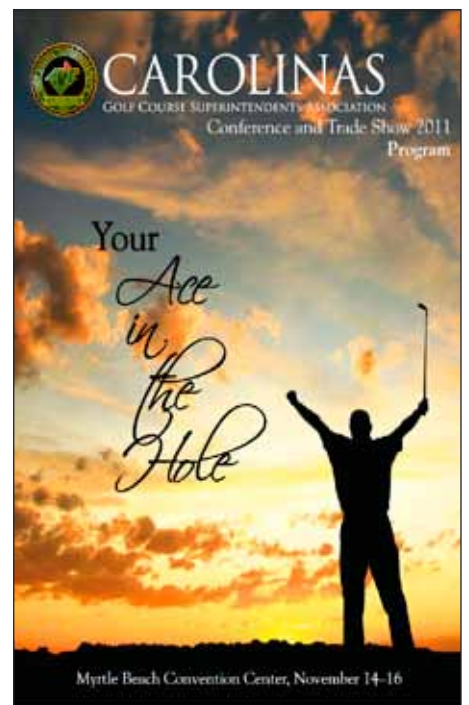
VGCSA's neighboring GCSAA chapters are staging some excellent events this fall, and our members are invited. The Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show is set for Myrtle Beach, SC on November 14-16, 2011. The Eastern Shore GCSA Conference is in Ocean City, MD on November 9-11, 2011.

The Carolinas event is generally regarded as the largest and best regional conference in the country. There are 25 different educational seminars, great speakers, social events and networking, plus great recreational opportunities including a sport clays event and a golf event using three different golf courses. The trade show features "everybody who's anybody" in the golf turf industry.

For registration information, visit www.cgcsa.org.

The Eastern Shore event offers a golf outing and a day-and-a-half educational conference, in a fun setting in Ocean City. Billed as "The Planet Earth – Soil, Air and Water," the program includes excellent education with CEU credits and networking opportunities.

For registration information, visit www.esagcs.org.



VGCSA Fall Events Head to Great Sites

Joe Saylor Memorial at Highly Acclaimed Creighton Farms – Mon., Oct. 31

This year's **Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament** heads to the new and highly acclaimed The Club at Creighton Farms in Aldie, VA on October 31st. Opened in 2007, the Jack Nicklaus design is recognized as one of the premier golf courses on the Eastern Seaboard and has been hailed "Best New Private Course" by the likes of *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine*, *Golfweek* and *Travel+Leisure Golf*.

Creighton Farms is located in the rolling horse country of northern Virginia. Picturesque horse farms, lush vineyards and celebrated civil war landmarks sprinkle the Virginia landscape.

Once again, the tournament charity is "Toys for Tots," the official charity of the US Marine Corps. The format for the Saylor is two-man captain's choice. The event is a perennial sellout, and an entry form is enclosed with the Fall

Commonwealth Crier mailing. The tournament entry fee includes green fees, cart rental, range balls, lunch and beverages, tee gift, prizes, awards reception and tee gift. This year's event features an earlier starting time, to allow for travel time back home.



Assistants Forum Features GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans at Dominion Valley CC on Monday, November 7

GCSAA's CEO Rhett Evans heads to the Commonwealth as the keynote speaker of this year's VGCSA Assistants Forum at Dominion Valley Country Club in Haymarket, VA on November 7th.



GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans

In just its third year, the Assistants Forum has grown to draw large crowds of assistant superintendents, equipment technicians, crew members and many others. This year's event will feature the "teamwork" aspect of all staff, and superintendents are encouraged to attend with their assistants.

Evans officially took the helm of GCSAA in January of this year, previously serving

as the association's COO. Prior to joining GCSAA, Evans was the director of the parks, recreation and commercial facilities division for the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, AZ. In his first trip to Virginia, Evans will speak to assistants about key elements to advance their career, as well as the important teamwork dynamic that is essential between the superintendent and his assistant and crew members. He will also give an update from a national perspective.

Event Chairman Dave Callahan of Hidden Valley Country Club has also organized an outstanding panel of top superintendents to interface with attendees and answer their questions. Previous events at Farmington Country Club and The Country Club of Virginia have been well-attended. Dominion

Valley superintendent Ray Nash is hosting the event at one of the top clubs in the region. Following the morning education session, there will be a golf outing and reception. Check the Fall *Commonwealth Crier* newsletter for a registration form, and don't miss it!



Previous Assistants Forums have been well attended.

Bayville's Commitment to Excellence

By Hunki Yun, USGA

Reprinted from www.usga.org; published September 18, 2011

Oysters aren't cute or cuddly. They aren't particularly valuable—aside from pearl oysters. There are as many people who find oysters unpalatable as those who consider them a delicacy.

Neither photogenic nor in danger of extinction, oysters are not particularly appealing symbols for environmental conservation. But that's just what these mollusks represent for the Lynnhaven River, a tidal estuary with a 64-square-mile watershed that feeds into the Chesapeake Bay.

Since colonial times, Lynnhaven oysters were among the most sought-after varieties in the world. But pollution of the water had effectively shut down shellfish harvesting by the 1980s.

In 2003, local citizens formed Lynnhaven River Now, which seeks to restore and protect the river. Their efforts have helped to reduce the level of bacteria in the river, allowing parts of the river to re-open. Lynnhaven oysters are now back on local menus.

"They've planted beds of oysters all over the place," said Cutler Robinson, director of golf operations at Bayville Golf Club, site of the 2011 U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship. "Five percent of the Lynnhaven was available to be fished when we started. It's at 40 percent now."

Robinson has been working with Lynnhaven River Now for years as the co-chair of the group's landscape practices committee. His role is to educate local residents about the negative effects of their behavior on the river.

Their positive actions could be as straightforward as picking up after their dogs—the waste adds bacteria to the watershed. Robinson also teaches the community about how to use fertilizer judiciously and properly to avoid runoff into the sewer system and eventually into the Lynnhaven.

"The biggest thing is education," he



said. "People want to do the right thing, and often the right thing isn't any more difficult than the wrong thing."

Robinson also sets an example for the Virginia Beach residents through his work at Bayville. The club, which has a Tom Fazio-designed course that opened in 1995, sits along a mile-long stretch of the shoreline of the Lynnhaven River. Due to the club's location, environmental stewardship always has been a cornerstone of Bayville's mission.

"Members of Bayville Golf Club have a mutual respect for the property's immediate surroundings as much as the maintenance of the grounds itself," said Bert Crawford, a founding member and the inaugural chairman of the green committee. "Since its inception, the club has taken an active role to improve and enhance local watersheds."

Possessing an affable manner, unflappable patience and an extensive store of knowledge, Robinson is the perfect spokesperson to explain the club's practices and benefits, even to those holding intractably negative views of golf's impact on the environment.

"We have meetings here," said Robinson. "I do tours with them. I've had people who don't like golf and think it's

harmful get to know the course and get to know me.

"And the same person who used to think the golf course was bad will tell someone else how beneficial the golf course is for the environment."

Since the course opened, Robinson has added naturalized, minimally maintained grasses and reduced the acreage of what he calls "high-input areas" – tees, fairways, rough, greens – by 20 percent. The club has engaged Fazio to put together a master plan that will reduce maintained turf by another 10 percent.

"I'm happy to be part of a club that doesn't want things manicured down to the inch," said Robinson. "I would say the vast majority of the membership loves the natural look. The contrast of the tall grasses creates visual interest."

For many, Robinson appears to be the exception: a course superintendent with an interest in the protecting environment. But he argues that reducing inputs is now the norm for all courses, for several reasons.

"Even if you don't believe the golf course down the street doesn't care about the runoff of their water," he said, "they care about not wasting fertilizer. When their irrigation pump is using water he

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Member Profile: Mark T. Cote, Director of Golf Maintenance

Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech • Radford, VA



Mark Cote (right) with architect Pete Dye during construction of The River Course.

Golf holes at your facility: 18

Years at your current golf club: 6

Years as a golf course superintendent: 15

Favorite hobbies: Hiking, reading, traveling

Favorite professional golfer: None

Favorite sports team(s): Boston Red Sox

Biggest role model as a professional:
All the superintendents I worked for.

How did you get your start in the golf maintenance profession? Started off caddying at age 12 and worked my way up to maintenance. Came back to it as a career after working at Farmington CC.

What has been, to date, the most rewarding part of being a golf course superintendent?

Taking a course from one level to the next.

What would be one thing, if you could, change about the golf course superintendent profession?

Summer hours away from home.

In the next five to ten years, what are the biggest challenges we face as golf course superintendents?

The most obvious are the ones having to do with the environment and legislative issues connected with it. But we will always face employee issues and getting and keeping good labor.

Thank You 2011 Partner Program Participants!

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Industry Icons Retire

Careers of Montross and Evans Celebrated

Two industry icons are stepping down from their posts, and association colleagues are helping them celebrate their great careers. **Walter Montross**, MG, CGCS of Westwood has retired from his post as superintendent of Westwood Country Club. Montross was the winner of the VGCSA's President's Award for Lifetime Service in 2006. He was also very active with the MAAGCS

for many years, including service as President 1988-89. MAAGCS has organized a retirement party for Walter at his club, 1-3 p.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2011. Come out and help Walter celebrate!

Also stepping down from a great career in the golf industry is **Wayne Evans**, a member of the Finch Services John Deere Team. Evans supported

superintendents in northern Virginia and Maryland for many years, dating back to 1971. Evans signature event was the MAAGCS Sporting Clays meeting, and appropriately he was honored on September 30th this year at another such event. He will continue on in a new capacity with Finch in inside sales. Congratulations Wayne!

2012 GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic Set for Palm Springs

The 62nd Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) National Championship and Golf Classic presented in partnership with The Toro Co., will be conducted Feb. 24-26, 2012, in Palm Springs, Calif.

It will take place at five courses among PGA West, LaQuinta Resort, and Desert Willow Golf Resort. An expected 400 GCSAA members will gather to network and enjoy various levels of competition on the golf course.

"We are looking forward to bringing our tournament to these five high quality golf courses in Palm Springs next year," said GCSAA President Robert M. Randquist, CGCS. "That, coupled with excellent accommodations at LaQuinta Resort and the great support of Toro, we expect a wonderful experience for every participant."

The GCSAA National Championship will be conducted Feb. 25-26 at PGA West's Nicklaus Tournament Course, the same course that serves as the biennial host of the PGA Tour's final round of Q-School. The National Championship is limited to 100 GCSAA members with a 5.0 handicap index or lower. It is a two-day, 36-hole, stroke-play event. The winner, along with champions from the last five years, will receive an invitation



to participate in the renowned Trans-Mississippi Golf Championship, where the likes of PGA Tour professionals such as Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, Dean Beman and Bob Tway, among others, have carried home the championship trophy.

The GCSAA Golf Classic welcomes an expected 300 participants of all abilities Feb. 25-26 to compete in both

gross and net competition within their respective flights using the point quota scoring system. Flights in the Golf Classic will rotate between LaQuinta Resort's Dunes and Mountain courses, and Desert Willow Golf Resort's Firecliff and Mountain View courses. A four-ball mixer open to all competitors will be held Feb. 24.

The 2012 GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic is held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference (Feb. 27-March 2) and Golf Industry Show (Feb. 29-March 1), in Las Vegas. See page 2 for more on the Las Vegas Conference and Show.



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News from Local Associations

News from the GWGCSA

As Golf Course Superintendents, we are all used to the heat during the summer, but let's see if I got all this right. We had an earthquake, a hurricane and a monsoon (we got 9.5" of rain in 4 days and were one of the lower totals locally), all within a 17 day stretch. What could be next? If you can answer this question than it is a pretty good bet that you have worked in the transition zone too long.

On the golf side, once again, the Maintenance Open was held in July on my home turf at Forest Greens Golf Club. Once again, my team did not play very well. And finally, once again, for the third year in a row, the team from Mount Vernon Country Club (not RTJ) won the trophy with a score of 59. We had a total of 24 teams. I would like to recognize Scott Jaquays, Sara Van Hook (F&B), Tom Coffman (GM), Brad Booth (Pro) and my entire staff for their efforts to make this a successful event.

In the month of August, the Greater Washington sponsored a "social hour" at the Wing's Factory in Chantilly. It was nice to hear that I was not the only one who

lost grass this year. This event amounted to a good break at the tail end of a long season.

The month of September featured a joint event with the MAAGCS at 1757 Golf Club. Kudos goes out to Eric Nelson, Matt Urban, Steve Keating (GM) and the entire staff at 1757 for excellent conditions and a great event. Additionally, thanks go out to Theresa Baria for all her help in organizing this event. Low gross was won by the team of Bo Jumbercotta and Dave Horton. Low net was won by Scott Furlong and Stephen Britton.

Please mark your calendar for the following future events:

October 27, Superintendent/Assistant Championship, Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club

November, Annual Meeting, Evergreen Country Club



Jeff Van Fleet
GWGCSA
External Vice President

News from the ODGCSA

The Old Dominion GCSA members had some tough summer weather to deal with (like everyone else), so the attention turned to caring for our courses on a nonstop basis. Now that that is behind us, we are resuming our event calendar with some important activities.

For October the ODGCSA will continue to strongly support the VGCSA Joe Saylor Memorial, which moves to the highly acclaimed Club at Creighton Farms in Aldie, VA, rated by Golf Digest among the best new private courses in the country. The event is on October 31st, with a new earlier starting time to give everyone a

better chance to miss traffic on the return trip. We hope you can enjoy this great new course and support the "Toys for Tots" charity of the U.S Marine Corps.

Then in early November, the ODGCSA Annual Meeting will take place at my club, Independence Golf Club in Midlothian. Officers will give an update on the year's activities and what's planned for 2012. Elections will take place, and there will be a fun competition on the Championship Par-3 course, complete with a reception and awards presentation afterwards.

And finally, I would like to congratulate Pete Wendt and his staff at Kinloch on a

VTA News

The weather has finally broken so let's talk about something else. Throughout this year the VGCSA and the local associations have been hosting meetings to answer questions about the BMP project as well as legislative issues affecting all courses in the state. These meetings have been informative and helpful for those that have attended.

The VTA and SVTA co-hosted a meeting with Peter McDonough to speak on this subject at Wintergreen on September 29th. Our final year-end meeting will be at the River Course on October 18th. We will have a drawing at that time, based on attendance of prior meetings for prizes, including some GCSAA certificates for national show attendance.

I can't stress enough the need for all superintendents to become familiar with the BMP project as well as other legislative issues coming from Richmond. If you can't attend one of these informational meetings the information is available on the VSGA website. It will also be a subject of discussion at the winter meeting in Fredericksburg.



Mark Cote
VTA President

successful USGA Senior Amateur Championship in September.



Dan Taylor, CGCS
External President
ODGCSA

News from Local Associations

SVTA Update

Fall is a beautiful time in the Shenandoah Valley. Cool mornings and seasonable days have put an end to the summer of 2011. Looking back, July was above average in heat and below average in rainfall. We did catch a break in August this year with cooler temps and rain. This helped us recover sooner from summer stress. However, September has presented us with nice temps and an abundance of rain.

High rainfall amounts have made it difficult to aerify, mow, and get the courses ready for golf tournaments and outings. Rounds seem flat in the Valley and we are hoping for a strong end to the golf season.

The SVTA staged its first annual North/South tournament with VTA at Wintergreen Resort on September 29. Our final meeting for the SVTA will be at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club. There was an equipment demo and seminars.

I hope everyone is able to put the stress of the growing season behind them and enjoy time with family and friends this fall.



David Lewallen
SVTA
External Vice President

TTA News

Well another tough summer is in the books and fall is finally here. The Tidewater area had the usual heat and humidity, but overall most of the area courses survived okay. Hurricane Irene wasn't as destructive as predicted, but did cause a lot of debris and tree damage. It took us about 10 days to fully clean up here at Cedar Point, but at least the power was only out for a couple days.

The TTA summer schedule is usually light, but it picked up in September with our annual OBX tourney. This year the event was held at Duckwoods Country Club on September 22nd.

We are also trying to restart our 9 hole socials throughout the fall and winter. Be on the lookout for email announcements for dates and times. The TTA annual meeting is in the planning stage presently, so we will have an announcement as soon as everything is finalized.

Congratulations to Cutler Robinson, superintendent at Bayville CC for a successful hosting of the USGA Women's Amateur. As always, the course was in fantastic shape and was a stern test for the competitors.



Chris Petrelli
TTA External VP
Cedar Point Country Club

In Sympathy ...



Michael Henry Costa, 42, of Camden, N.C. and Cahoon Plantation Golf Club, passed away Monday, Aug. 1, 2011. Born in Providence, R.I., he was the son of the late Carol and Henry Costa. Michael started his golf career at age 15 at Metacomet Country Club in East Providence. He soon became the superintendent at Chemawa Golf Club, North Attleborough, Mass., until he moved to Cahoon Plantation Golf Club in Chesapeake. When he was not at the golf course, Michael could be found at the Avalon Fishing Pier on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He will be remembered as a loving husband and father who lived a personal motto of "commitment to excellence." Survivors include his wife, Tracey Ann Costa; two children, Michael Forrest Costa and Brooke Evelyn Costa; three sisters, Laurie Cook, Karen Holtzclaw and husband Alan and Michelle Cartwright and husband Todd Mosher; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family. Memorial contributions may be made for the future benefit of Michael's children to Cahoon Plantation, Michael Costa Fund, 1501 Cahoon Parkway, Chesapeake, VA 23322. Friends are invited to send condolences and sign the online guestbook at www.omanfh.com.



VGCSA Is Now On Facebook

Facebook is a modern-day phenomenon, offering communication opportunities never seen before. And now the medium is available for members to network and share ideas. VGCSA President is one of the administrators of the VGCSA presence, known as the "Virginia Golf Course Superintendents" Facebook group. Visit the site and get in on the conversation!

President's Message cont.

Chapter Delegates Meeting is being held in Kansas City on October 28th-30th. Items to be discussed include: field staff update, public policy update, a town hall meeting, a CEO update by Rhett Evans, candidate presentations, our affiliation agreement, and GCSAA projects and services update.

As customary, I would also like to take a moment and offer a sincere THANK YOU to all our 2011 Partners. Partners, as these challenging economic times persist, we as an Association would not be in the financial position we are in now without your help over the past year. We as a board continue to

ask those end-users of products and services to support our Partners as they have supported us through the Partner Program.

In closing, please make sure you spend some much needed time with family and friends. Make sure your assistant superintendent is signed up for the 2011 3rd Annual Assistant's Forum and that you are signed up for the 7th Annual Joe Saylor Memorial. Make sure you take advantage of our room block in Las Vegas for the 2012 GIS.

Congratulations to Cutler Robinson and Peter Wendt for hosting national

championships respectively! Well done gentleman!

If we as your board can help in any way do not hesitate to get in touch with us at the VGCSA. Enjoy the fall, football, and of course the much needed down time.

Fairways and Greens-



Jeffrey L. Berg
VGCSA President

Bayville cont.

doesn't need, the superintendent isn't happy. He doesn't want to overwater and spend more money than he needs. He's a business person."

A guardian of oysters and a high-profile community advocate, Robinson represents the best of what course superintendents can contribute to golf's ongoing efforts to coexist with the environment. And he believes that others can do the same if given an opportunity.

"The shame is that it's a slow process getting the word out," said Robinson. "I wish other superintendents could go out and spend the time to communicate what he does, the way my ownership wants me to do.

"A golf course is a good place to be. It's good for your health. It's a carbon sink. It's wildlife habitat. It's a water filter. I think golf has a good future when people understand these things."



Bayville Golf Club in Virginia Beach

More on Bayville and the Environment

Local environmentalists were concerned when plans were announced to transform one of the few remaining dairy farms in Virginia Beach into a high-end golf course. But fears were unfounded, and since day one, Bayville has been a stellar environmental partner to the area's ecology. "Most people don't think of golf courses as being an environmental showcase," says Billy Mills of Bayscapes, project director for the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay. The organization is a watchdog group with offices in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, committed to protecting and educating residents about the Chesapeake watershed. "From the beginning, concerns with run-off were addressed, including the planting of warm-season grasses and native grasses to reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides."

Bird watching enthusiasts had feared for the health of Pleasure House Creek, one of the last untouched tributaries of the Lynnhaven River, and a favorite bird-watching environment. The Club contracted with Mary Heinrich—a local environmental planner—who engineered clearing of the river banks by hand rather than machine; moving threatened turtles to a new home when their favorite pond was altered; and an extensive underground network of pipes, drains and catch basins to recycle water back into the existing ponds. "It's very extensive," says Heinrich. "You look at this and you'd never believe what's underneath the ground."

Architect Tom Fazio added several ponds to the interior of the property and those have only enhanced the environmental diversity by attracting migrating waterfowl, and offered food in the form of new aquatic grasses. There is also a state-of-the-art fertigation system that can pinpoint fertilization needs and address them individually rather than through wide reaching broadcast methods. "It is so much more effective than a groundkeeper walking around with a fertilizer spreader," notes Heinrich.

Director of Golf Course Operations, Cutler Robinson, CGCS, echoes Heinrich's pleasure with the system and adds the fact that it has also saved him 50 percent on his fertilizer budget. "That's not only good for the environment, but cost effective, too."

"What we are really proving is it's cheaper this way," says Heinrich. "And easier," adds Robinson. A win-win situation, and confirmation that Bayville is not only a terrific golf setting, but a good environmental neighbor as well.

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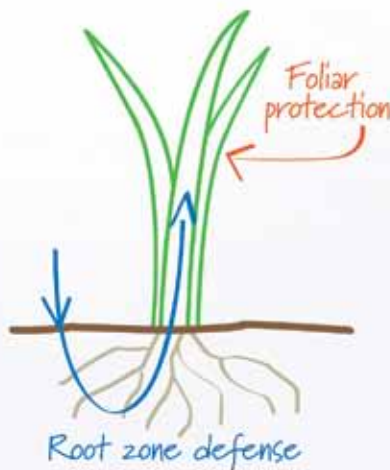
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