

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

It's funny how at the end of the summer entering the fall season we all look back and reflect on the conditions we have had to deal with or how we can't remember when we have experienced such conditions. That is what is so unique about our profession is dealing with the environment, it always changes and challenges us in different ways every year. Well we have all made it through yet another summer in the transition zone and some had more rain than others, but I think we can all agree it was a very mild compared to what we are used to. I am now enjoying cooler weather and competitive football.

Our Fall Conference and Joe Saylor Golf Tournament was held on October 20th and 21st. We had a great line up of speakers including Rhett Evans, Pat Jones, Darin Bevard, Dr. Mike Goatley and Derik Cataldi. I would like to thank our sponsors for the event – Lebanon Turf, John Deere Revels and Finch and Newsom Seed. I would also like to thank Turfgrass, Inc. for picking up the sponsorship of the Monday Night Football event. Buy Sod's John Robertson provided four club level tickets, including a parking pass, to the Redskins-Rams game, which was drawn at the end of the Conference. Thanks to John and Buy Sod and thanks to Matt Drayton for hosting the Saylor at the Federal Club.

The Assistants Forum was held at Spring Creek Golf Club on October 27th and featured Bill Brown of Turf Republic who brought cutting edge communications to help your job as an Assistant Superintendent. Golf followed the presentation and everyone got to enjoy the new clubhouse at Spring Creek.

By the way, I wanted to announce Darin Bevard's new position with the USGA. Along with his duties as the Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, Darin has just been named Director of Championship Agronomy for the USGA. His assignments will include the US Open, US Women's



Open, US Senior Open, US Amateur and US Women's Amateur. Congratulations, Darin, and good luck!

We have a few additional events coming up. The Annual Meeting will once again be held at Fredericksburg Country Club on Tuesday January 27th – during the week of the VTC Conference and Trade Show which will be held from January 26th thru the 29th.

It's also that time of year when we will start taking nominations for the Annual VGCSA awards to include the Environmental Stewardship Award, VGCSA Distinguished Service Award, and the President's Award for Lifetime Service. Please send your nominations to Bill Keene, our Awards Committee Chairman by December 1st.

As you know, registration is now open for the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show to be held in San Antonio February 23rd through the 26th. Now is the time to get in on the room block at the Westin Riverwalk, spaces are limited so act fast. Our Joint social event with the MAGCSAA and the ESGCSA will also be at the Westin Riverwalk on Wednesday February 25th. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Back on August 25th, Kevin Fortune and I met with Agribusiness leaders in Harrisonburg, Va. for a round table discussion with Governor McAuliffe. Select individuals challenged the Governor with specific questions directed at his support of Agribusiness in Virginia and his foreign trade directives. The Governor assured everyone that one of his main goals while in office is to increase Virginia's export of goods and services and support Environmental Stewardship across the state.

I wanted to also update everyone on the

Nutrient Management Plan Grants. The grants that had originally been extended to this past August for everyone within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are now extended thru December 31st. The new NMP Grants to include all of Virginia will be available early in 2015. There will be \$100K available for support. As of January 2015 we will only have two more years to comply and then fines will be assessed.

We had a great experience at the Virlina Cup at Primland Resort, hosted by Brian Kearns, GCS. The matches provided spirited competition and good fellowship, and the match was still undecided with two holes to play. The Carolinas team eeked out the victory (see article inside). We dedicated the event to J.D. Dickinson, our reigning Assistants Champion, who tragically passed just prior to the event. Players used "J.D." ball markers to honor him.

In our next Board meeting, which is scheduled for November 13th, we will have Chase Rogan from the GCSAA Field Staff meet with us to discuss state and local meeting attendance. One of our goals from this past year was to find ways to improve meeting attendance on the state and local level and get more people involved. We also be discussing creative ways to improve Membership at the Assistants level and how to get them more involved in the Association.

Finally I would like to thank our Partners for their support. I would hope that everyone would continue to support those who support us.



Jeff Holliday, CGCSA
VGCSA President

GCSAA Government Relations Notes

GCSAA Government Relations continues to grow its Ambassadors Program. David Smith of Fawn Lake Country Club in the Fredericksburg area serves as our first Ambassador.

There will be Ambassador training on November 12th, which will cover national and state election results and what these results mean for the association and its members.

If you would like to become an Ambassador, please contact Kaelyn Seymour, Government Relations Specialist, at kseymour@gcsaa.org or 800.472.7878, ext. 3612.

The Golf Course Environmental Profile Water Use and Conservation



Survey is now available. GCSAA is seeking data from superintendents regarding water use and conservation practices to update much needed information and compare golf's current landscape to information collected in a survey conducted eight years ago.

Surveys must be completed by Nov. 17. Survey data is integral to GCSAA's government relations and advocacy

efforts. We must arm ourselves with data and stories of professional land management when we visit with policymakers.

Using survey data from the Golf Course Environmental Profile has been instrumental in securing many legislative and regulatory victories over the past few years.

The survey is being emailed to superintendents, or you can access it online: <http://www.gcsaa.org/Environment/Environmental-Profile/Golf-Course-Environmental-Profile-Overview>.



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VGCSA Annual Meeting Set for January 27th

Fredericksburg Country Club Hosts Again During VTC Conference

In 2013, the VGCSA Board introduced a new format for its annual meeting, which was held at Fredericksburg Country Club. The new event was a huge success, featuring over 200 attendees for a reception, dinner and awards celebration and it grew again for the second year in a row.

The 2015 Annual Meeting will return to Fredericksburg CC on Tuesday evening, January 27th. "We have enjoyed great success with this format," said Jeff Holliday, CGCS, VGCSA President. "We expect to have a great turnout of superintendents, assistants, Partner companies, honorary members and students in this fun affair." Fredericksburg Country Club is conveniently located about 15 minutes from the host hotels, and a free shuttle is offered.

The event offers excellent networking opportunities, and the 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.



2015 GCSAA Conference and Social Event

Again this year, we have joined with MAAGCS and ESAGCS to reserve a block of rooms at the GCSAA Conference in San Antonio on February 21-26, 2015. We have selected the Westin Riverwalk on behalf of all three associations. The room rate is \$189.00 per night plus tax. **DEADLINE TO BOOK IS JANUARY 16, 2015** —

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE.

The joint reception will be held Wednesday evening, February 25th, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the Westin Riverwalk, so **SAVE THE DATE!**

If you have any questions contact Robert Davila at Travel Planners, Inc., 212-532-1600 or RDavila@tphousing.com.



VGCSA-MAAGCS-ESAGCS Social Event - Wednesday, February 25, 2015 (7-10 pm) at Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio - FREE



Westin Riverwalk

House Passes Bill to Halt EPA Water Rule *By Cristina Marcos*

The United States House of Representatives passed legislation that would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from implementing a proposed rule to define its jurisdiction over bodies of water.

Passed 262-152, the bill would prohibit the EPA from using the proposal for any rulemaking regarding the Clean Water Act.

The rule, proposed in March, sought to clarify which bodies of water, such as wetlands and streams, are subject to agencies' authority under the act. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has said the rule does not significantly expand the agency's existing authority.

Republicans said the rule would go too far and subject trivial bodies of water to federal regulation.

"I have heard from many of my constituents that this rule would force them to prove that large mud puddles and ditches on their property are not federally regulated waters," Rep. Lou Barletta (R-Pa.) said. "I support this bill because sometimes, a mud puddle is just a mud puddle."

Democrats largely dismissed the concerns as hyperbole.

"We have departed from reality," said Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee.

DeFazio said that halting implementation of the proposed rule would prevent the EPA from simply clarifying which bodies of water are subject to federal regulation.

"Where do we end up if this cockamamie thing passes the House and becomes law, which it won't?" DeFazio said. "Well, where we end up is back in the earlier era of the 2003 and 2008 guidance."

But some Democrats, particularly those in tough re-election races, broke with their party and said the rule could result in federal overreach.

"The only certainty that these regulations provide is the sure knowledge that under them, anyone undertaking any activity so much as a ditch in the United States will have to deal with the bureaucracy known as the EPA," said Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.), the top

Democrat on the House Transportation Committee and one of the most vulnerable incumbents this cycle.

The legislation includes a provision requiring the EPA administrator and Army Corps of Engineers to develop recommendations for a proposed regulation in consultation with local officials. A final report would be due to Congress within two years.

Before final passage, the House rejected, 170-240, an amendment offered by Rep. Tim Bishop (D-N.Y.) that would prevent enactment of the bill if implementation would harm water quality.

The White House issued a veto threat (see story at <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/217009-white-house-threatens-to-veto-bill-to-kill-epa-water-rule>) against the legislation, saying it "would derail current efforts to clarify the scope of the CWA, hamstringing future regulatory efforts, and create significant ambiguity regarding existing regulations and guidance."

- Timothy Cama contributed.

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Regional Events on Tap This Fall

Carolinas Show and Eastern Shore Conference



The CGCSA Show is the biggest regional show in the country

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 17-19, 2014. The Eastern Shore GCSA Conference is in Ocean City, MD on November 5-7, 2014.

The Carolinas event is generally regarded as the largest and best regional conference in the country. There are many different educational seminars, great speakers, social events and networking, plus great recreational opportunities including the popular golf event.

The trade show features "everybody

who's anybody" in the golf turf industry, with over 200 exhibitors. It also offers more than 100 hours of education, in cooperation with Turfgrass programs at NC State, Clemson and other top schools. For registration information, visit www.carolinascga.org.

The Eastern Shore event offers a golf outing and a day-and-a-half educational conference, in a fun setting at Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City, MD. The program includes excellent education with CEU credits and networking opportunities. This year Steve McDonald from Turfgrass Disease Solutions will give a year in review for the Mid-Atlantic area. For registration information, visit www.esagcs.org.



Princess Royale Hotel in Ocean City



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Thank You, Helena!

Sales Promotion Generates BMP Contribution

The VGCSA announces the receipt of over \$2,800 from Helena to support the BMP Fund, which focuses on research related to environmental stewardship at Virginia golf courses. The contribution is based on sales to golf course superintendents in Virginia, and this is the third year of the promotion.

"We are delighted with the strong support Helena is showing through their sales promotion," said VGCSA President Jeff Holliday, CGCS. The 2014 sales promotion is currently underway.



Valent and Nufarm Join Forces

Valent has entered into an agreement that appoints Nufarm as the exclusive distributor of its branded products for professional turf, ornamental and aquatic uses in the United States.

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Use of Nemacur Stocks Extended Through Oct. 2017

GCSAA's request for the extension of the fenamiphos (Nemacur) end-use date has been granted until Oct. 6, 2017. We have been given a three-year extension of use of existing Nemacur stocks. Nemacur is used to control the major genera of nematodes attacking turfgrass. This includes root knot, root lesions, sting, lance and ring nematodes. The EPA plans to publish a notice in the Federal Register on the extension. We greatly appreciate the EPA's understanding of the needs of our industry.

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Bermudagrass “Recovery” Continues, Even Into Fall

And its definitely time to begin thinking about 2015!

Mike Goatley, Extension Turfgrass Specialist, and Erik Ervin, Turfgrass Physiology, CSES Department, Virginia Tech; Shawn Askew, Turfgrass Weed Specialist and David McCall, Turfgrass Pathologist, PPWS Dept, Virginia Tech

The past 16 months or so have presented a challenge to both bermudagrass golf turf managers because of the persistently cool weather of the past two summers (with the summer of 2013 distinguished by well above average rainfall and lots of clouds) and the winter of 2013-14 being one of the harshest in 25 years. The summer of 2014 has also been a very mild season with many days being more fall-like in temperatures both for daily highs and lows. All of these weather patterns present challenges to a warm-season grass such as bermudagrass and serve as reminders that we live in a transition zone state where growing just about any grass has its own problems.

However, does this mean one should abandon bermudagrass for these uses? When Mike Goatley was asked at a recent presentation “would you recommend Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue or bermudagrass for athletic fields?” the answer was “yes”! We can grow any of them in Virginia but we should anticipate their problems and limitations because of our climate AND our expectations for turfgrass use. The Virginia Tech Turfgrass Team is still a very strong proponent of bermudagrass for athletic fields and golf fairways because there simply is not another grass available to us that produces

as much canopy density and recuperative potential as bermudagrass for heavily trafficked turfs. However, let’s consider what we hopefully have learned/observed from the challenges of these past 16 months that can apply to trafficked bermudagrass turf for this fall and beyond:

1. There were no absolute guarantees of survival, but the genetics of the improved “cold tolerant” bermudagrasses came to the forefront in Virginia during the winter of 2013-14. Varieties such as Latitude 36, Northbridge, and Patriot (all vegetative) and Riviera, Yukon, and Sovereign (typically seeded) all demonstrated their cold tolerance this past year. Was there damage to these grasses? Yes. For the first time in memory, there was significant loss of heavily trafficked Patriot athletic fields in northern Virginia, but the level of turf loss was not consistent statewide and damage was not catastrophic in most locations (more on the possible contributing factors to turf losses in additional bullet point items below).
2. Extreme cold without the insulating effects of snowcover was definitely a major factor in the scope of winter damage this past year. However, there

are always other contributing factors at play. For the winter of 2013-14 there did not seem to be a consistent pattern where typical problem situations such as poorly drained soils, shade lines, or aspect led to increased winterkill; there were as many times as not where the grass survived on these typically problematic situations, and it performed poorly on drier, sunnier, western-facing slopes. One consistent contributor to dead or damaged bermudagrass turf does return year after year: intensive fall traffic. This was evidenced again on both athletic fields and golf courses. Anything that can be done to distribute traffic (e.g. alter entrance and exit points into/out of fairways and green complexes) will greatly improve survival. Similarly, any mechanical cultural practices (coring, solid-tining etc.) that can be done to reduce compaction in these areas are beneficial. Schedule cultivation in these trafficked areas as best you can around play. However, probably the most important thing that can be done is to distribute the traffic around the site if at all possible.

3. Continue mowing regularly as long as the grass needs to be clipped and keep



Spring dead spot on bermudagrass fairways must be addressed in the fall if control is desired

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Bermudagrass “Recovery” cont.

blades and bedknives sharp. Many have noticed that bermudagrass mowing quality declines from mid-summer forward and a reason for this is a change in the plant's morphology due to shorter day lengths. The grass starts to grow more 'upright' than 'lateral'. Plant growth regulators such as trinexapac ethyl and trinexapac ethyl+flurprimidol can enhance mowing quality and reduce cutting requirements, as well as improve late season wear tolerance and overseeding grass establishment later this fall if the PGRs are used as part of a regular program (aka, a single application of the PGR is of very little benefit). Another strategy successfully employed with bermudagrass is to use the PGRs up until a few weeks before anticipated frost and allow the bermudagrass to 'rebound' one last time after the PGR applications cease. Keep in mind that different varieties of bermudagrass demonstrate different tolerances to the PGRs so be sure to pay attention to label recommendations and/or talk to your peers about their experiences with various rates of PGRs on their bermudagrasses.

4. While it is important to keep mowing, don't get greedy with your cutting height. One of the strengths of bermudagrass is its ability to perform and play so well at relatively low cutting heights (< 1 inch). However, don't keep those heights where they CAN be kept going into dormancy, but instead, consider where they SHOULD be kept as the grass goes into winter dormancy in order for it to better withstand possible extreme weather conditions. Raising those heights 0.25 to 0.5 inches BEFORE the onset of dormancy can be the difference between living and dead turf.
5. Have you got current soil test results? If you have not conducted a soil test for the past 3 years, it is time to do so once again. Soil test in mid-late summer so that you can adjust pH, P, and K levels prior to dormancy. The bermudagrass still has several weeks left to respond to lime and nutrient adjustments before winter arrives.

6. Continue to feed the bermudagrass while it is actively growing. The updated Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation allows for up to 0.7 lb N per 1000 sq feet per growing month for water soluble N sources, and up to 1 lb N per 1000 sq feet per growing month for slowly available N sources (defined as any N source with $\geq 15\%$ WIN or SAN).
7. Overseeding with ryegrass, while a necessity for many situations because of the need for an actively growing, green playing surface for the spring season, definitely reduced bermudagrass recovery this spring. Many that enjoyed what was an outstanding overseeded playing surface in the spring of 2014 were dismayed to find that there was very little bermudagrass remaining underneath that ryegrass canopy when they finally got around to removing the cool-season grass with a chemical transition aid such as one of the sulfonylurea herbicides. We also are starting to see our first occurrences of resistance to sulfonylurea herbicides on area athletic fields (for example, annual bluegrass on sports fields in Culpeper, perennial ryegrass on Worsham Field at Virginia Tech), so be aware of this for the future if you have been on a regular SU-based ryegrass removal program.
8. Pre-emergent herbicides for this fall on bermudagrass fields and fairways: would you or wouldn't you? It makes sense that on your most heavily trafficked areas that almost all PRE herbicides we use in Virginia have concerns with turf recovery, and certainly with any potential need for reseeding or resprigging that might arise in 2015. The duration and completeness of weed control with one of the more recent PRE's to enter the bermudagrass market, indaziflam (Specticle), is phenomenal, but its use seems best suited for lower trafficked golf turf situations. If you are interested in using standard PRE control products (pendimethalin, dithiopyr, prodiamine, benefin, etc.) of the standard winter

annual weed complex of annual bluegrass, henbit, and chickweed, fall PRE's on non-overseeded bermuda fields typically must go out no later than the first week of September in the valley and ridge regions of Virginia, mid Sept. in central Virginia, and by Oct. 1 towards Tidewater. Given that this has been a cooler than average summer, those dates might be a little 'late' for treatments in 2014, so keep your eyes open to what is going on with fall weed germination in your thinner turf areas as these dates approach. Early POST treatments of the winter annual weed complex are always desirable as compared to combating the weeds next spring, and always keep in mind the possibility of using non-selective herbicides for POST control during winter dormancy periods on non-overseeded bermudagrass.

9. Spring dead spot (SDS) is problematic on most bermudagrass playing surfaces. While cold tolerant varieties are often less prone to the disease, they are still susceptible and damage may be severe. However, developing and continuing proper cultural management strategies can reduce severity over time. Core aeration to alleviate compaction and improve drainage as site use permits. Judicious use of nitrogen during growing months will aid in recovery, and can potentially reduce the likelihood of disease after multiple seasons. Nitrogen source recommendations are based on the pathogen causing disease at each specific location. We are currently working on a geography-based model as a nitrogen source decision tool. Several DMI and QoI fungicides are known to suppress SDS, though application over multiple growing seasons are required for complete control. Tebuconazole is a cost effective fungicide with above-average activity, but is only available for use on golf courses. Several combination products with multiple active ingredients are available to all turf managers.

Virginia Rally Quashed at 5th Annual Virlina Cup

The spectacular venue of Primland Resort in Meadows of Dan, VA played host to the fifth playing of the Virlina Cup, pitting the VGCSA team against CGCSA. The incredible Highland Course offered dramatic scenery and a superbly conditioned, challenging golf course for the best golfing superintendents of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The event was dedicated to J.D. Dickinson, the reigning VGCSA Assistant Champion and Cup qualifier, who tragically passed a week prior to the event.

Unfortunately for the home team, a furious late rally in singles matches fell just short, as the Carolinas escaped with a 9.5 to 6.5 victory, a score that belied the drama that preceded the eventual outcome. Trailing all day, the Virginia team stood in position with two holes to play to take the Cup. They needed wins in the final three matches on the course, and they led in

one, and two others were tied. One tie involved Ed Eagle of Ingleside GC versus Cup veteran Billy Lewis of the Dormie Club – Eagle was 3-down with 5 to play, but he stormed back to square the match after 16 holes! Paired with Eagle was Bobby Friend of Brookwoods CC, who was level with the Carolinas' Scott Wilder. Then there was the surprising Bill Keene, who grabbed a 1-up lead on the Carolinas' ace, Rob Daniel, with three holes to play.

Playing the par-5 17th, Friend was able to win the hole and take a 1-up lead going to 18. But the rally ended when Eagle lost the 17th, giving Lewis and the Carolinas a guarantee of the final half point needed to retain the Cup. With the match decided, all three players lost the last hole to make the final score deceptively wide.

The final outcome was a disappointment for Captain Matt Boyce and Assistant Captain Eric Spurlock. "We were in position, but we just couldn't pull it off," said Boyce. "We are setting our sights on next year."

For the first day, the four-ball played to a standoff, 2-2. In the opening match, Jeff Snyder and Jeff Friend took out the Pinehurst duo of Lewis and Kyle Brown by a 5&3 tally, and VGCSA led 2-0. But then Aaron Wells and Ed Eagle lost the third match, and Matt Boyce and Scott Cornwell fell on the 17th hole – the match was tied.

The afternoon foursomes matches proved to be a turning point for the CGCSA team. Whitmire and Snyder lost on the final hole 1-up to Daniel and Matthew Wharton. Then Friend and Keene halved with long hitters Darren Farrar and Brent Bagwell. Wells and Eagle continued to struggle, but then Boyce and Cornwell claimed the final match to keep it close after day one, 4.5 to 3.5 in favor of CGCSA.

The next day featured a see-saw battle at the top of the lineup. Brown defeated Boyce in the first match, but VGCSA took the next two with wins by Cornwell and Whitmire – the score was tied at 5.5 apiece. The fourth match went decisively to CGCSA, with Farrar ousting Snyder, and the lead returned to Carolina.

Up ahead, Wharton saved his best for last, and his victory over Wells pushed Virginia to the brink – their lead was 7.5 to 5.5. Virginia's only chance was to win the last three matches – a tie and Carolinas would keep the Cup.

As noted Eagle was 3-down, but he gave VGCSA a chance by winning three straight holes, 14 through 16. But he ran out of steam on the par-5 17th, and lost the hole, giving Lewis the deciding half point. The rest was irrelevant, and a relieved Carolinas team was exuberant to sneak out of the mountains still clinging to the Cup.

This premier event has grown into one of the finest in the industry. This comes from the commitment and support of the sponsor, Syngenta, and their representatives Steve Dorer, Sam Camuso, Larry Feller and Mark Brazinski – as well as the sponsoring organizations, VGCSA and CGCSA. Once again, the teams were treated to one of the best courses in the region, with Brian Kearns, GCS, serving as host at Primland.



Bill Keene tees off on 16



Jeff Snyder and Matthew Wharton discuss their match



Eric Spurlock and Doug Lowe exchange the Cup



VGCSA Team – L-R: Bill Keene, Aaron Wells, Jeff Whitmire, Jeff Snyder, Ed Eagle, Eric Spurlock, Matt Boyce, Bobby Friend, Scott Cornwell, Steve Dorer, Jeff Holliday, Sam Camuso, Chase Rogan



Teams gather around the fire pit



Players warm up on the Primland range



VGCSA Leadership - Eric Spurlock, Jeff Holliday and Matt Boyce



Syngenta's Larry Feller (L) and Mark Brazinski (R) discuss the matches with Primland's Brian Kearns (C)

Scoring Summary

Four-Ball Matches

Jeff Snyder / Jeff Whitmire (V) df Matthew Wharton / Darren Farrar (C) 3&2
 Bill Keene / Bobby Friend (V) df Billy Lewis / Kyle Brown (C) 5&3
 Rob Daniel / Dustin Nemenz (C) df Aaron Wells / Ed Eagle (V) 5&4
 Scott Wilder / Brent Bagwell (C) df Matt Boyce / Scott Cornwell (V) 2&1

Four-Ball Summary: Virginia 2 – Carolinas 2

Foursomes Matches

Matthew Wharton / Rob Daniel (C) df Jeff Snyder / Jeff Whitmire (V) 1 up
 Brent Bagwell / Darren Farrar (C) halved Bill Keene / Bobby Friend (V)
 Kyle Brown / Scott Wilder (C) df Aaron Wells / Ed Eagle (V) 4&3
 Matt Boyce / Scott Cornwell (V) df Billy Lewis / Dustin Nemenz (C) 2 and 1

Foursomes Summary: Carolinas 2.5 – Virginia 1.5

First Day Summary: Carolinas 4.5 – Virginia 3.5

Singles Matches

Kyle Brown (C) df Matt Boyce (V) 2&1
 Scott Cornwell (V) df Dustin Nemenz (C) 5&4
 Jeff Whitmire (V) df Brent Bagwell (C) 3&1
 Darren Farrar (C) df Jeff Snyder (V) 7&6
 Billy Lewis (C) df Ed Eagle (V) 1 up
 Bobby Friend (V) halved Scott Wilder (C)
 Matthew Wharton (C) df Aaron Wells (V) 6&5
 Bill Keene (V) halved Rob Daniel (C)

Singles Summary: Carolinas 5 – Virginia 3

Match Final Score: Carolinas 9.5 – Virginia 6.5

Inaugural Fall Conference Draws Top Speakers and a Big Crowd



For some time now, the VGCSA Board of Directors considered the idea of an education event in the fall, in similar fashion to its neighboring chapters. With due consideration, the board laid a plan to launch this event this year, and the outcome was nothing short of an outstanding success.

The all-star lineup included GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans, USGA Director of Championship Agronomy Darin Bevard, top turf professor and researcher Dr. Mike Goatley of Virginia Tech and noted author and speaker Pat Jones of *Golf Course Industry* magazine. And the participants numbered over 100, coming from all points of the Commonwealth to be a part of this historic event. Then Revels Tractor and Finch Services joined forces as the Presenting Sponsors, with additional sponsorship from Lebanon Turf and Newsom Seed.

The two-day event began with the Joe Saylor Memorial tournament at The Federal Club (see article on page 14). Following that, the participants enjoyed a Monday Night Football Party presented by Turfgrass, Inc. Then it was on to the conference the next day at Hermitage Country Club.

“Congratulations on a great event,” said former VGCSA President Jeff Berg, who remembers the early discussions of staging such an event.

“I was really pleased that we were able to attract an excellent lineup of speakers,” said current President Jeff Holliday. “Everyone accepted our invitation immediately – they all wanted to be a part of this event.” All participants earned GCSAA CEUs for the multi-faceted program.

Rhett Evans led off the conference with an update from headquarters. He discussed how adversity can help to challenge members to maintain focus and succeed. For GCSAA, member service is at the core of the organization, and he reviewed some of the services members value most, including advocacy from different perspectives – employers, government relations, the profession and the environmental community. A highly valued service is research conducted on behalf of the profession and industry.

Evans asked the group to think back on the day they filled out their membership application – what was their thought process? Fred Biggers, GCS of Wintergreen Resort remembered the day in college when he realized that he could turn his love for golf into his profession, and he changed his major and never looked back.

Evans then gave an update on the government relations agenda items, including the fight against WOTUS (“Waters of the U.S.” – the EPA’s move to expand their bureaucratic reach) – a recent vote went against the EPA. He discussed the leadership on WE ARE GOLF, the allied association initiative. He also promoted the 2015 GCSAA Conference in San Antonio, the EIFG’s efforts, as well as a series of important surveys that are coming up.

Dr. Mike Goatley followed with his intriguing presentation entitled “The Circle of Death,” namely the collar of the putting green – always a challenge for turf



VGCSA President Jeff Holliday, CGCS addresses the audience.



Jeff Berg visits with GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans



A full house enjoyed the proceedings



The USGA's Darin Bevard presents "The Year in Review"



Mike Stowers and Andrew McCormick share a laugh.



Dan McGrory, Patrick Connelly and Dan Taylor enjoy the networking opportunity.



Pat Jones shares his years of experience in communications with the audience.



The panel discusses "The Circle of Death" (L-R: Jeff Whitmire, Eric Frazier, Dick Fisher, Dr. Mike Goatley)

managers. To aid in the discussion, Goatley assembled three top superintendents for a panel discussion – Jeff Whitmire, CGCS of The Williamsburg Club, Dick Fisher, CGCS of Lake Chesdin Golf Club and Eric Frazier, CGCS of Willow Oaks Country Club.

The discussion started with the realization that bermudagrass collars are not bulletproof. Goatley challenged the group to ponder what factors have changed in the past 15 years. The responses included the use of rollers and growth regulators, topdressing measures, decreased use of nitrogen, more double cuts on greens, golfer expectations, heavier walk mowers, desiccation and climate change. The panel discussed their own experiences and what techniques worked and what did not.

After lunch, the program resumed with Darin Bevard delivering his popular "The Year in Review" presentation, which clearly was fresh in the minds of the audience. He took the group on a tour of conditions around the Mid-Atlantic and the challenges of operating in the "Transition Zone." This was an unusual year, with snow in April and summer that was much milder than normal. Bevard also announced his appointment as Director of Championship Agronomy for the USGA, and he will be in charge of preparations for the US Open, the US Women's Open, the US Senior Open plus both US Amateurs.

"Batting cleanup" was the popular Pat Jones of *Golf Industry Magazine*, who got his start in the business years ago as the communications manager for GCSAA. Jones "coached" the audience on how to sell yourself (or your initiative) by creating an easy way for the other party to say "yes," by understanding their perception. Empathy is a key to communication success. Jones also gave insight on new communication technology and social media.

The event concluded with Holliday's "thank you" to speakers and sponsors. Then he drew the winner of the Redskins ticket package donated by Buy Sod, won by Jared Struck. Plans are being drawn for an encore event in 2015.

The Federal Club a Big Hit for Joe Saylor Competitors

The 10th Anniversary of the Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament turned out to be one of the best, as a sold-out field tested their games on the challenging, well-groomed Federal Club on a glorious fall day. The event plays homage to the man who proved to be a leader with the Tidewater Turfgrass Association and in state affairs, who passed away in 2005.

As usual, the event started with the US Marines showing up for the Annual Toys for Tots promotion, as all attendees brought a new toys for needy youngsters. "This was one of our best events ever," said Sergeant Jasper Barkhimer, after he and his partner collected well over 100 toys.

Another special feature was a promotion by Genesis Turfgrass in memory of J.D. Dickinson, the affable Assistant Superintendent at the Kanawha Club, who tragically passed a month prior. Andrew McCormick came up with a "hit the green" challenge on a par-3 hole, with all the money going to support J.D.'s family, a wife and two daughters. A sizeable donation was presented to Paul Van Buren to give to the family.

In the tournament, host superintendent Matt Drayton had the course in superb shape, with smooth, fast greens and some challenging hole locations on a windy day. In fact it was so challenging that "local knowledge" became a factor, and Drayton and partner John Crain of Smith Turf & Irrigation came away with the tournament victory, shooting a gross 65 and winning the playoff with Scott Cornwell (Winchester CC) and Bo Jumbercotta (Landscape Supply), who won the Member-Member flight.

The Member-Pro flight went to Wes Allred and Irvin Hoyt of Staunton, while the Member-Guest title also went to another Staunton team, Ed Eagle and Billy Sayre. Bobby Fulcher won the putting contest on a diabolical putt set up by sponsor Peter Maybach of M&M Consulting. Matt Gregg won 2 closest-to-the-pin contests and Kevin Moore won the long drive. Taking home the cash in the 50-50 drawing was Shawn Gill.



US Marines with GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans at the Toys for Tots campaign.



The putting contest proved challenging for the players.



VGCSA President Jeff Holliday (R) congratulates Member-Member Champs Bo Jumbercotta (L) and Scott Cornwell (C)



Jordan Booth of Willow Oaks CC tees off on #17



VGCSA President Jeff Holliday (R) congratulates Champions John Crain (L) and Matt Drayton (C)

Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament Results

Low Gross Matt Drayton-John Crain 65

Member-Member Flight (net) Scott Cornwell-Bo Jumbercotta 64, Jeff Whitmire-Scott Ingram 66, Jeff Snyder-Jim Wilson 66, John Destino-Jeff McMackin 66, Steve Dorer-Paul Van Buren 68

Member-Guest Flight (net) Ed Eagle-Billy Sayer 63, Matt Sobotka-Dave Wanta 66, Dave Smith-Craig Filley 67

Member-Pro Wes Allred-Irvin Hoyt 64

Closest-to-the-Pin Tommy Adams (#2), Taylor Kaempf (#5), Paul Van Buren (#11), Matt Gregg (#14), Matt Gregg (#17)

Long Drive Kevin Moore

Putting Contest Bobby Fulcher

Bill Brown Connects with Assistants Forum Audience

Spring Creek a Perfect Host

When Chad Karr began thinking about the 2014 VGCSA Assistants Forum, he wanted to make it fresh, with a new focus, rather than the traditional “career advice” topic. As the representative of the assistant superintendents on the Board, Karr immediately began to look for a presenter on a topic he held dear – modern communications via social media. As somewhat a “techie” himself, Karr called on a mentor to speak, Bill Brown, CGCS of Turf Republic.

Hailing from the Philadelphia region, Brown had recently made his own bold move to form Turf Republic, after a successful stint as a superintendent. Turf Republic is the turfgrass industry’s FIRST social network. Turf Republic delivers a unique blend of original content by turfgrass professionals, peer-to-peer advice from the largest community of turfgrass managers, educators and businesses, podcasts, videos and applications.

Talking to a young, device-addicted audience, Brown stressed that you must build your own brand on social media, because you are already “out there.” He suggested consistency across all platforms in building a digital brand to advance your career – this includes Linked In, Facebook, personal websites, Twitter and other social media. Images and text must be clean, tasteful, accurate and consistent.

Brown particularly likes Twitter, but he cautions that you must first follow club policy for employees, noting that some clubs have limitations. Ranting or politically-inspired communication is not the way to go. He does like to use Twitter for project updates (e.g., course construction) or for announcements related to education or professional development. He did caution about “following” people who would not be respected by others, as it is a reflection on you.

A panel discussion followed, featuring Brown and four top superintendents: Brian Vincel, CGCS (GM of Spring Creek GC), David Callahan (Spring Creek GC), Jordan Booth, CGCS (Willow Oaks CC) and Paul Van Buren (Kanawha Club). Karr posed various questions to the panel – the first was “What was your biggest challenge in moving from assistant to superintendent?” Callahan answered that “it was knowing that the buck stops here.”

Vincel added, “It is creating your own team,” adding that it “is important to not be afraid to let the wrong person go,” since it affects the whole team. Van Buren added that is “realizing that the job is only 30% growing grass” and that the business aspects dominant the daily activities. Booth suggested the move from a “job” to a “profession.”

Karr asked “What important new technologies have come online since you got in the business?” Callahan noted social media and moisture meters. As a GM, Vincel noted the use of social media for marketing purposes. Van Buren noted the migration to a paperless filing system. Brown noted the new accounting capabilities to track expenses and make

budgeting more precise.

Karr followed with questions on various other topics, including the panel’s personal use of social media, the characteristics of their mentor, how they separate their work and professional lives, how to avoid feelings of stagnation in a career and key skills not taught in school.

Following the education program, the assistants competed in a two-man scramble event on the manicured Spring Creek course on a gorgeous fall day. Remarkably, there were two hole-in-ones during the event – by Sam Smith of Prince William Golf Club (Hole 8) and by Paul Van Buren of Kanawha Club (Hole 13), and the two were paired together!



Bill Brown, CGCS addresses the audience



Chad Karr of Westham Golf Club emceed the proceedings



Zac Vander Goot tees off on the par-3 5th hole.



Presenting sponsors
GWGCSA, ODGCSA, TTA, VTA



Paul Van Buren and Sam Smith, each made a hole-in-one

Two-Man Scramble Results

Low Gross Brady Hale (The CC of Virginia)- Jordan Booth (Willow Oaks CC) – 68

Low Net Rob Podleski-Aaron Evans (Farmington CC) – 57

2nd Net Rob Sheehan-Trevor Stacey (Hermitage CC) – 62

Closest-to-the-Pin Rob Sheehan (Hermitage CC) #5, Sam Smith (Prince William GC) #8, Paul Van Buren (Kanawha Club) #13, Charlie Clark (CC of Petersburg) #17

2014 Rounds4Research Auction Program Generates Over \$5,000 to Support Turf Research

Decades of applied turfgrass research have had a direct effect on making the game more enjoyable and establishing environmentally friendly practices on golf courses. Because research is so vital to the future of golf, Rounds 4 Research was established to help organizations fund research in their local areas. Whether Rounds 4 Research dollars are funding new programs or increasing the efforts of established ones, the benefits for the game and those who love to play it are many.

The Environmental Institute for Golf's not only serves as the administrator of R4R, but its long-established research program is just the type of venture that R4R was designed to help. It is in response to previous funding sources, both public and private, being eliminated. The program is being administered in partnership with GCSAA chapters, like VGCSA. This year over 50 courses donated rounds and over \$5,000 was raised to support programs in Virginia.

Honor Roll of Virginia Donor Courses

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 Bassett Country Club
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 Cedar Point Country Club
 Eastern Shore Yacht & Country Club
 Elizabeth Manor Golf and Country Club
 Fawn Lake Country Club
 Ford's Colony Country Club
 Forest Greens Golf Club
 Foundry Golf Club
 Fredericksburg Country Club
 General's Ridge Golf Course
 Goodyear Golf Club
 Goose Creek Golf Club
 Hell's Point Golf Club
 Heron Ridge Golf Club
 Independence Golf Club
 Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club
 Ingleside Resort
 Kiskiack Golf Club
 Lake Monticello Golf Club
 Laurel Hill Golf Club
 Loudoun Golf & Country Club
 Nansemond River Golf Club

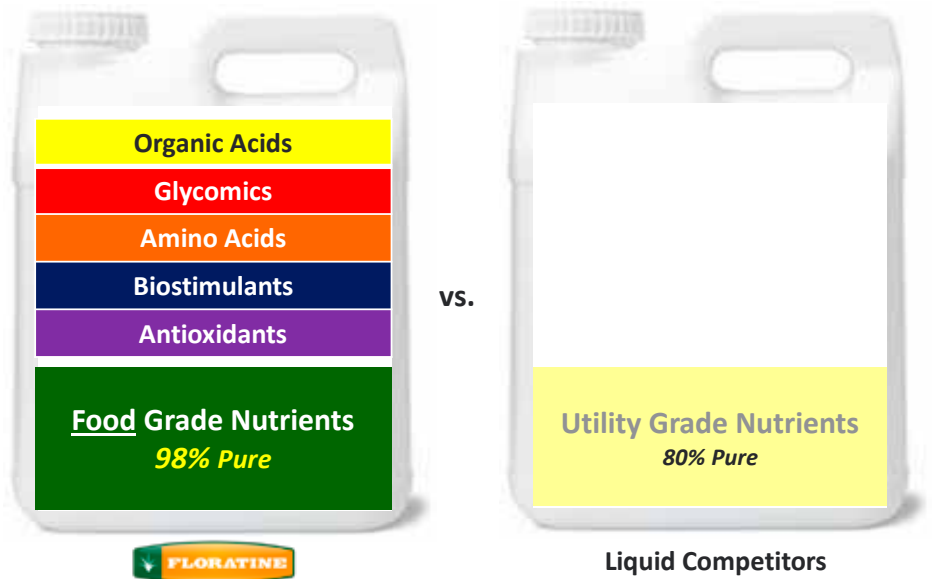
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 Redgate Golf Course
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 Springfield Golf and Country Club
 Tanglewood Shores Golf and Country Club
 The Country Club of Culpeper
 The Crossings Golf Club
 The Highlands at Fisher Mountain
 Traditional GP - Brickshire
 Traditional GP - Ford's Colony

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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

The Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents held our fall golf outing at Spring Creek Golf Club. Thanks to Brian Vincel and his entire staff for their hospitality.

We would also like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in our survey. It will help our Board to better serve its members in 2015.

Our organization once again helped sponsor the VGCSA's Assistant's Forum

on October 27th. This year it was held at Spring Creek GC with Bill Brown as the featured speaker.

Kevin Fortune attended the Chapter Delegates meeting in October. Our annual meeting and par 3 shoot-out is scheduled for November 4th at Independence Golf Club.



Dan Taylor
ODGCSA
External Vice President

TTA News

I think everyone would agree that we all deserve a summer like this one at least once in our golf maintenance careers. Weather conditions in Southeast Virginia this summer were ideal from a grass growing standpoint.

The bermuda did not blow out of the ground and the bentgrass thought it was spring all year. We had zero 90 degree days in August, yes zero!! Rainfall was timely with

the exception of 1 or 2 HEAVY rain events.

Bunker performance after rains is a hot topic down here, with courses weighing the costs of renovating to the new bunker systems vs. pumping out the old and having less than excited golfers.

Unfortunately from a cost perspective most courses are still unable to bite that bullet with revenues that remain below par.

Courses have, however, started to take advantage of the NMP grants available in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and courses in this area have begun to receive approved plans! It is not too late this year to utilize the grant money, so please utilize those funds while they are available.

The TTA ends the year with our annual Outer Banks golf meeting and then our business meeting in November at Cedar Point CC. Get out and interact with your peers, you just might pick up a piece of information that makes all the difference to your operation.



Rob Wilmans
Tidewater Turfgrass
Association
External Vice President

In Memory of J.D. Dickinson

Assistant Superintendent, The Kanawha Club

John Harvey (JD) Dickinson IV, 39, of Palmyra, VA, passed away suddenly on Monday, September 29, 2014. An amazing and loving father, husband, son, brother, and friend, JD leaves behind wife, Amanda; daughters, Audrey and Emmaline; parents, John Harvey "Skip" Dickinson III and Nancy; sister, Sarah Watts and husband, Shane; a host of nieces and nephews; and many more loved ones.

J.D. was a friend and inspiration to VGCSA members, and he was the reigning VGCSA Assistant Champion. He will be sorely missed.





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News from Local Associations

News from the GWGCSA

Well we've made it to the close of another season. Things are beginning to ratchet down with most of the aerification and fall seeding out of the way and cool weather upon us for at least the next 5 or 6 months.

All in all, I'd say that this has been a pretty easy year for most of us in the DC area (unless you are in the business of selling seed or sod), but we're still looking forward to some much needed down time and a chance to catch up with our families. It's also time to sit back, grab a beer and watch sports.

Word on the street in the meteorological circles is that we are in for a very cold and snowy upcoming winter. This is one time I'm hoping that their predictions are as accurate as they normally are and they get it

backwards.

The last couple months in the Greater Washington have been rather uneventful but the couple gatherings we had were fun none the less.

In August we all met at Grafton Street Irish Pub for our social gathering. I, for one, had a great time networking around the room while enjoying a few cold beverages and some great food.

I heard some pretty "interesting" conversations while circulating and partook in some nice rhetoric about proper booty size with Mark Merrick.

In September Patrick McNamara from Piedmont Golf Club came through on extremely short notice, hosting a "shamble" golf tourney after we lost our original venue.

I was unable to attend and did not get word yet on who the victors were so a big sorry to whomever the unsung heroes of the day were.

On upcoming events: we were all very much looking forward to seeing the much talked about Potomac Shores, but the event is being relocated to Stonewall Golf Club (thanks Ed Long for coming through).

This event cancellation leads to a big congratulations and good luck to David McGregor who has moved over to take the reigns at Westwood Country Club. Finally, we will be headed back to Evergreen C.C. in November for the Buttery Nipple Open and our Annual Meeting where there are sure to be some new stories created that we will tell for years to come.

Everyone enjoy the Fall because life is short and Summer is just around the corner.



Shawn Gill
GWGCSA
External Vice President

VTA News

The air is crisp, the mornings are cool, and the leaves are starting to fall. That can only mean one thing, we have made it through another season.

This summer in southwest Virginia was typically atypical. Some portions of our area were very wet during the mid-summer while others experienced drought conditions until August. All in all, temperatures were agreeable for most. In Blacksburg we had no highs in the 90s and even managed to get into the 40s a couple of nights in July, which is unheard of!

After not holding a meeting in July, the VTA had a night at the ballpark with

the Salem Red Sox in August. The weather was absolutely perfect as was the company. It was nice to get together with colleagues away from a golf course for a change. In September, we traveled to Tuscarora Country Club in Danville. David McCall, turf pathologist from Virginia Tech, was our speaker. He updated us on the latest from around the Commonwealth and then opened up the floor for questions and discussion.

Our final meeting for the year will be at the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech. This is always a great time and an excellent way to end the year for the

association. We wrap up the season a little different, with golf to start the day, followed by a happy hour social, then a finale of dinner and a presentation from Dr. Mike Goatley from Virginia Tech.

In the coming months we will be appointing some new board members to accommodate for some turnover. While we have some people lined up, it's always nice to have extra volunteers. If you are interested in helping or serving on the VTA board, please contact a board member so we can be in touch with you.

As things at your course start to slow down and another season is in the rearview mirror, I hope everyone finds the time to unwind a bit and recharge the batteries.



Bill Keene
Virginia Turfgrass
Association
External Vice President



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