

June 2016

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

I know everyone has asked the question, "If April showers bring May Flowers then what do May showers bring"? It brings weeds, lack of production and super saturated conditions. We have received over 8 inches of rain in the month of May and it looks like there is more in the forecast. Hopefully the rest of the summer will be mild with normal rainfall. We have had an eventful spring so far with events around the state and also looking forward to a few more scheduled for the month of June.

The joint meeting with the CMAA and the NGCOA at Salisbury Country Club Monday March 14th was well attended and the presentations provided by the CMAA were very informative and engaging. Derik Cataldi from DCR gave an update on the Nutrient Management Plan and Chase Rogan provided an update from the GCSAA.

The Virlina Cup qualifiers are complete. The VGCSA Championship was held at Boonsboro Country Club and Steve Vessels had the course in championship shape. Cameron Yancey took the crown again with a smooth 70, followed by fellow Superintendent and 7-time champion Jeff Whitmire. The Assistants division came down to a five hole playoff where Terry English outlasted Garrison Fowler to take the crown. Terry will join Cameron and Jeff on this year Virlina cup team. This year new format include a Vendor division which was won by Jim Wilson from Harrell's who carded a 77. Thanks to Syngenta for sponsoring the event and also a big thanks to Steve Vessels and the team at Boonsboro for hosting.

There also three other qualifiers held in May to include the GWGCSA which was held at Potomac Shore Golf Club and was won by Scott Cornwell who shot a 76 to best the field. The TTA held their annual Dick Cake Memorial at Cedar Point Country Club, which served as their qualifier for the Virlina Cup. Jeff Whitmire won the rain



shortened event but since he had already qualified the next runner up was Jeff Yarborough who will earn a spot on the Virlina Cup team. Finally at another rain soaked event, the ODGCSA held their qualifier at Vinterra Golf Club where Bobby Friend paced the field with a 77 to earn a spot on the team. Congratulations to all of you and many thanks to all the facilities for hosting the qualifiers.

Just a couple of save the dates for this year's remaining events. June 13th will be the Environmental Cup sponsored by Helena and held at Keswick Golf Club hosted by Peter McDonough. This will be a sell out event so make sure to sign up soon. October 20th will be the Annual Joe Saylor Memorial held at Fawn Lake Country Club hosted by Dave Smith. The Virlina Cup will be held October 23-25 at Belle Haven Country Club hosted by Mike Augusten. The Assistants Forum will be November 9th at Independence Golf Club, hosted by Dan Taylor and Assistants representative Brad McCurry. And finally this year's Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at Colonial Williamsburg December 5th and 6th hosted by the VGCSA and the ODGCSA. Our title sponsor for this event will be John Deere Revels and Finch. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events.

The GCSAA just approved our request for a Chapter Outreach Grant. This grant will be used to fund the production of a video that will promote our great profession and help our Land Grant University VA Tech encourage students to consider the turf program and possibly a career in the golf industry. Once completed, we will be able to distribute it to local high school career days

and be introduced to local vocational tech programs as well. Production will begin soon, with the hopes of completion by the end of the summer.

National Golf Day was held on May 18th at Capitol Hill in Washington, DC and was well attended by VGCSA and MAAGCS. Superintendents met with legislative officials to successfully increase awareness of the golf industry on Capitol Hill. As We Are Golf looks to its ninth year of taking their message to our nation's lawmakers and regulators through this event, we are seeking to enhance our visibility and influence. Our goal is to engage the most Members of Congress during the visit, and to further increase the recognition of Golf Day nationally. Thanks to everyone who participated.

The 2016 VGCSA Member Survey and results are now available. All information and data collected is strictly confidential for member use only and no names are attached to the results. If you participated in the survey, the results for your local association were emailed to you directly. All superintendents may request a copy of the results by emailing David Norman or Tyler Eastham.

As always thanks to all of our partners for their support, you help make this Association grow and become stronger. I ask all members to support those who support us. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer and will find time to spend with family and friends, life is too short not to take time to enjoy it. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Please feel free to call me or any board

member if there is anything we can do for you.



Jeff Holliday, CGCS
VGCSA President

2016 VGCSA Member Survey Results

The 2016 VGCSA Member Survey and results are now available. The information received is extremely important and is used by superintendents, greens committees and general managers throughout the state. The survey was distributed separately to each of the five VGCSA chapters and you can use this information to compare your operations with those of your peers. Topics of the survey include budgets, course traffic, employee benefits, assets, irrigation systems, fertilizer application and other maintenance and golf course practices.

All information and data collected is strictly confidential for member use only and no names are attached to the results. If you participated in the survey, the results for your local association have been emailed to you directly. All superintendents may request a copy of the results by emailing David Norman (dnorman008@gmail.com) or Tyler Eastham (teastham@gmail.com).

Buy Sod Program Nets Support for VGCSA Scholarships

John Robertson of Buy Sod has announced that the company will make a \$650 contribution to the VGCSA Scholarship Fund this year. This brings the total to \$7,150 since inception in 2013. The program supports scholarships for children of VGCSA superintendents pursuing a degree beyond high school. Prior recipients include Rachel Van Fleet, Jordan Cochran, Jacob Whitfield, Layne Zirkle and Jake Thompson. The company makes an annual contribution based on its annual sales in Virginia.



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VGCSA Conference in Williamsburg December 5-6

Event Continues to Grow

Presented by



The VGCSA Conference continues to grow in its third year, and the event moves to Colonial Williamsburg on December 5-6, 2016 – ***Save the Dates!***

Under a new format, more education credit will be available to VGCSA members, as the Old Dominion's Education Segment will now be held on the first day, running 1-4 pm, then followed by the Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a FREE Partner Appreciation Reception, featuring your favorite beverages and hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of networking time with your friends. The evening will be open, but a Monday Night Football party may break out ...

Then on Tuesday, a Networking Breakfast will run 7:30-8:30 a.m., followed by more education, featuring outstanding speakers from the fields of turf and business, all designed to make your jobs just a little easier and a little better. The Education



Committee is working on the current lineup as we speak! GCSAA Vice President Bill Maynard, CGCS has committed to participate.

Missing from this year's event will be the Joe Saylor Golf Tournament, which will retain a date in the fall, when the weather is nice. The move allows VGCSA to serve its members better with additional quality education.

"We got a lot of feedback from our members last year," said VGCSA President Jeff Holliday, CGCS. "The sentiment was that a golf tournament and an annual meeting on the same day was a little much," he continued. "And we also heard that the event would be better placed in the off-season, so the first Monday-Tuesday in December became a viable option. We are really excited about this year's event."

The event is clearly moving to a 5-star conference location, but the VGCSA Board is sensitive to the price to members. Thanks to the excellent support of sponsors like Revels Tractor and Finch Services (the John Deere distributors) and other excellent companies, the conference will be at a reasonable price, and a single guest room will be less than \$125 plus tax. Colonial Williamsburg's Woodlands Conference Center will be the headquarters of the event. The VGCSA is committed to providing value and service to its members.

Fawn Lake to Host the Joe Saylor Memorial

Save the Date for Monday, October 20

The VGCSA is pleased to announce that Fawn Lake Country Club in the Fredericksburg area will host this year's Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament on Monday, October 20th. Former ODGCSA President Dave Smith is playing host to the most fun event of the fall, which will continue its tradition of friendly competition with plenty of refreshments and a little golf!

Defending the title will be Jeff Whitmire of The Williamsburg Club and Jeff Yarborough of King Carter Golf Club. The event pays homage to one of the all-time greats of our association, Joe Saylor, who served golf for over 40 years – he passed away in 2007.



Former ODGCSA President Dave Smith will host.



Old Dominion GCSA Scholarship Tournament Recap

This year marked the first playing of the ODGCSA Scholarship tournament. Transitioning from the Tollie Quinn event, Smith Turf and Irrigation stepped up once again as the presenting sponsor of this new event. Other sponsors included Jacobsen, Growth Enhancer Turf Consultants, Revels Turf & Tractor, Vereen's Turf Products, Landscape Supply, Helena Chemical and Bayer. Proceeds from the tournament will be used for scholarships that will be awarded to students or crew employed at a golf club with a VGCSA member. A special thanks goes out to all of the sponsors that made this event possible.

The event was played on a beautiful Monday at Spring Creek, #55 on the list of Top 100 Public Courses in America, as ranked by *Golf Digest*. The staff at Spring Creek had the course in great condition and did an excellent job coordinating the event from start to finish. A slight breeze made for a perfect temperature and the smell of the burgers grilling at the turn was mouthwatering.

Players were excited to get a look at the spectacular golf course and test their games in the always exciting stableford format.

Chase Rogan, GCSAA field staff and Cameron Yancey of Nottoway River Country Club took top honors with a gross stableford score of 38. Larry Eastep and Jimmy Rodgers of Luckstone Corp. finished with a score of 44 for first place in the net division. Closest to the pin prizes were also awarded for three of the Par 3s. Chris Roberts took home two of the prizes with a shot on hole #5 to 11' 4" and on hole #13 to 6' 5". Toby Towler through a dart to 4' 6" on hole #8.

To apply for the scholarship, you can send an email to Tyler Eastham (teastham@gmail.com) with a short bio and summary of why you would be a good candidate. The scholarship will be presented at the ODGCSA Annual Meeting at The Kanawha Club in Manakin-Sabot on October 15, 2016.



Left: Chris Roberts won two closest-to-the-pin prizes.



Below: Jeff Holliday, Doug Houser, Jeff Briggs and Porter Groves.

STABLEFORD RESULTS

1st Gross - Cameron Yancey & Chase Rogan - 38

1st Net - Larry Eastep & Jimmy Rodgers - 44

2nd Net - John Crain & Rob Wilmans - 42

3rd Net - Harry Bryant - Toby Towler - 41

4th - David Callahan & Chris Appel - 41

5th Net - Matt Pound & Chip Bass - 39

CTP #5 - Chris Roberts 11' 4"

CTP #8 - Toby Towler - 4' 6"

CTP #13 - Chris Roberts 6' 5"

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Yancey and English Defend Titles at VGCSA Championship

Wilson Claims Inaugural Vendor Title

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For Cameron Yancey, defense of his VGCSA Superintendent Championship turned out to be a walk in the park, as he navigated the hills of Boonsboro Country Club with a solid two-under-par 70. But that was hardly the case for Assistant Champion Terry English, who had to go five extra holes to claim the title over Garrison Fowler, after both carded 75's. Then in new Affiliate (Vendor) Championship, Jim Wilson of Harrell's shot 77 to win by one.

Yancey has now won twice in just two tries as a relatively new superintendent, hailing from Nottoway River Country Club in Blackstone, VA, the course he grew up on. A former state junior champion and scholarship player at UVA, Yancey was very familiar with the Boonsboro course, generally regarded among Virginia's best. He bested seven-time champion Jeff Whitmire of The Williamsburg Club by eight.

English, of The Olde Farm in Bristol, had his sights set on a repeat performance of his 2015 victory at Glenmore Country Club – but standing in his way was Garrison Fowler of Two Rivers Country Club in Williamsburg. Fowler played steady, but English covered some mistakes by playing the par-5's an amazing 5-under-par, with an eagle and three birdies. When the dust settled, the two found themselves in a tie. A playoff ensued and the pair tied four holes until English finally prevailed with a par on the tricky par-3 fifth hole.

The Affiliate Division featured a shootout between Wilson and Andrew McCormick of Genesis Turfgrass. Some erratic play by both players swung the battle back and forth, with Wilson hanging on for the victory.

Yancey, English and Whitmire became the first qualifiers for the Virlina Cup Team, which pits Virginia superintendents against their counterparts in the Carolinas, in a Ryder Cup style match.

Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria hosts this year's match on October 23-25, 2016.

RESULTS

Superintendent Division

Champion – Cameron Yancey, Nottoway River CC 70
 Runner-Up – Jeff Whitmire, The Williamsburg Club 78
 Low Net – Jeff Yarborough, King Carter Golf Club 73

Assistant Division

Champion – Terry English, The Olde Farm 75 (won playoff on fifth extra hole)
 Low Net – Garrison Fowler, Two Rivers Country Club 73

Affiliate Division

Champion – Jim Wilson, Harrell's 77
 Low Net – Andrew McCormick, Genesis Turfgrass 71



Top: Jeff Yarborough, Jeff Whitmire and Cameron Yancey.

Second row: Jeff Yarborough receiving the Superintendent Low Net award from Jeff Holliday. Jim Wilson receiving the Affiliate Champion award.

Third row: Andrew McCormick with his Affiliate Low Net award. Garrison Fowler receiving the Assistant Low Net award.

Right: Terry English receiving his Assistant Champion award.

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The Keswick Club hosts Environmental Cup June 13

Helena is New Presenting Sponsor



The Keswick Club near Charlottesville will host the 8th rendition of the VGCSA Environmental Cup on Monday, June 13th. Keswick recently underwent a \$12 million renovation by Pete Dye, and the results are simply spectacular. The event is expected to sell out quickly.

Peter McDonough is host superintendent, having returned from San Diego where he won the coveted President's Award, a national award recognizing environmental stewardship.

Thus it is so fitting that Peter will host this event, which generates funds to support environmental turf research.

For the first seven years, the event was presented by Landscape Supply, who did a nice job of attracting the support of its suppliers. The 2015 event raised nearly \$18,000 at Salisbury CC.

Helena is taking the lead role for 2016, and we are looking forward to continued success.

The event began as a means to help fund the VGCSA Best Management Practices manual, which was formally published in 2012. Subsequent to that, the tournament continued to support a second research



project covering "Water Quality Management," which was published in 2015.

The VGCSA is currently working with the turf management team at Virginia Tech and the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) to evaluate the next research project. EIFG has been a great partner, offering matching funding grants for our projects. The proceeds also support VGCSA's government relations activities on behalf of the industry. The VGCSA has been lauded nationally for its leadership in

this arena, and we thank our sponsors and other partners for a proud statement to the industry.

The event is open to all VGCSA members and vendors, their friends and colleagues (club professionals, GMs, board members) and associates at clubs in and around Virginia. We encourage legislators to participate, which gives promise to Virginia's environmental stewardship. Clubs are encouraged to bring a team.

2015 Environmental Cup Honor Roll of Sponsors

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Peter McDonough, GCSAA President's Award winner and Environmental Cup host.

Joint Meeting a Success at Salisbury CC

VGCSA, CMAA and NGCOA Combined Education



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In March, VGCSA, NGCOA MA and CMAA VA joined forces to offer a special networking and education event featuring Kirk Reese of DENEHY Club Thinking Partners, and former GM of Los Angeles Country Club.

Reese's presentation leaned on his 27 years of experience with private clubs and their management and governance, managing three of the nation's Top 100 clubs. Most recently he served as GM and Chief Operating Officer of Los Angeles Country Club, 2003-2015. While at LACC, Reese was instrumental in formulating and implementing strategic plans to restore the club's North Course to its stature as one of America's greatest golf courses. Kirk's prior experience included stints at the Chevy Chase Club and The Country Club, Brookline, MA, when the club hosted the US Open and the Ryder Cup.

The second segment of the program featured a panel discussion, comprised of three of the top GMs in the Mid-Atlantic - Luke O'Boyle (Chevy Chase Club), Mike Stott (Baltimore CC) and Phil Iannelli (Wilmington CC). This presentation featured "Hot Topics" and career planning. The panel answered questions ranging from all facets of the industry.

Closing out the education segment was a special update on water issues. VGCSA President Jeff Holliday, CGCS of the host club gave an update on the environmental stewardship efforts of Virginia's golf course superintendents, including water reporting, water quality monitoring and water conservation. Derik Cataldi gave an update from the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation.

Following the meeting, the group enjoyed golf on the Salisbury Country Club course, which features 27 holes of championship golf and an excellent practice facility.



Top row: Kirk Reese, DENEHY Club Thinking Partners - Keynote Speaker & Panelist Moderator, Luke O'Boyle and Mike Stott.

Bottom row: Phil Iannelli, Jeff Holliday, CGCS and Derik Cataldi.

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VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation Announces it's 2016 Awards Recipients at VSGA Day at Richmond CC

Thirty-four high-school seniors and two turfgrass students at Virginia Tech were among the 36 scholars honored as the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation announced its 2016 scholarship award recipients on May 1st at VSGA Day at Richmond Country Club.

The VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation provides scholarships to Virginia high school students with an interest in golf (ability not important). Other criteria for the awards are academic achievement, character and community involvement.

This year's grants total \$100,000, including \$4,000 that went to a pair of students studying turfgrass science in Blacksburg. Since being launched in 1984, the program has now distributed more than \$2.1 million to 912 students. A portion of each VSGA VIP Golf Card sale helps fund the VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation.

"This year's award recipients are standouts



Michael Milen, Lee Coppock, Cam Shelton & Sarah Robertson

not only in the classroom but also in their local communities," VSGA-VIP Scholarship Foundation president Michael Millen said. "Collectively their academic accomplishments and community service have raised the bar for future classes of award recipients. It is with great pride that we recognize some of the best and brightest students from throughout the Commonwealth."

Turfgrass Research Awards

Camden Shelton (Christiansburg) — \$2,500: Pursuing a Masters of Science degree in Plant Pathology Physiology and Weed Science ... Received B.S. in Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences in May 2015 ... Member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America ... Virginia Tech Turf Club Member and Turf Bowl participant in 2015 ... Has operated his own lawn care business since April, 2009 ... Interned at The Water's Edge in Penhook in 2012.

Lee Coppock (Blacksburg) — \$1,500: Member of Virginia Tech Turf Club (2014-present) ... Current member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America ... Working experience includes stints at The Country Club of Virginia, Blacksburg Country Club, Birdwood Golf Course and Farmington Country Club ... Academic pursuits involve Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences – Turfgrass Management.



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WE ARE GOLF Hosts 9th Annual National Golf Day on Capitol Hill

Nearly \$70 Billion Annual Economic Impact, One in 75 U.S. Jobs Impacted by Golf Highlight Key Messages Echoed Throughout D.C.

WE ARE GOLF – a coalition of the game’s leading associations and industry partners – visited Capitol Hill for the ninth annual National Golf Day to discuss the game’s nearly \$70 billion economic impact, \$4 billion annual charitable impact, environmental value to local communities and fitness benefits.

Industry leaders met with Members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies to highlight the two million jobs impacted by golf and the nearly \$4 billion charitable impact through 143,000 philanthropic events per year. Throughout the day, participants shared stories about the game’s 15,000-plus diverse businesses, the one in 75 U.S. jobs impacted by the industry, tax revenue creation, accessibility, tourism and ecological value.

“Capitol Hill’s annual Golf Day spells out that golf is much more than a game,” says Congressman Ander Crenshaw (R-FL). “Along with the sportsmanship and opportunity to forge new and lasting relationships, and mentor youth through such organizations as The First Tee, come billions of dollars worth of economic growth, job creation, and charitable giving. That’s something we all can get behind, today and for decades to come.”

This year’s event also included 2016 U.S. Ryder Cup Captain Davis Love III, Vice Captain Steve Stricker and LPGA legend Nancy Lopez.

“Golf plays a significant role in stimulating our economy and is very accessible, with nine of 10 golfers playing public facilities,” says Congressman James E. Clyburn, Assistant Democratic Leader (D-SC). “Today was a unique opportunity for the industry to share golf’s many benefits with Congressional leaders in D.C.”

Organizations participating were the Club Managers Association of America, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), Ladies Professional Golf Association, National Golf Course Owners Association, PGA of America (PGA), PGA TOUR, United States Golf Association, United States Golf Manufacturers Council, World Golf Foundation and others.



PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem with Steve Stricker, Davis Love and Nancy Lopez.

“Each year, National Golf Day grows momentum on Capitol Hill and reminds our country’s decision-makers of the benefits golf provides our society and how it supports countless charitable causes, including many related to our nation’s military,” says Steve Mona, CEO of World Golf Foundation and administrator of WE ARE GOLF. “With the game making its return to the Olympics in less than 100 days, our industry is positioned to reach new global audiences and it’s important we communicate in America the positive role golf plays in local communities.”

National Golf Day featured a day-long exhibit in the Rayburn Foyer with live lessons for Congressional Members and staff from 2012 PGA Teacher of the Year Michael Breed, host of “The Golf Fix” on Golf Channel and LPGA Teaching Professional Karen Palacios-Jansen. Special exhibits and activities included a “Closest to the Pin” contest on an aboutGolf simulator; state-of-the-art swing analysis from GolfTEC; National Arboretum’s “Grassroots Initiative” overview; a Republican vs. Democrat “Putting Challenge;” a turfgrass exhibit from the



Peter McDonough, Scott Kinnan and Congressman Robert Hurt.

GCSAA; and interviews with attendees on SiriusXM PGA TOUR Radio.

Across America, Topgolf partnered with WE ARE GOLF to offer free five-minute lessons at each of its 21 U.S. locations with slow-motion video swing analysis through its Topgolf U instructional program.

The Virginia delegation consisted of Peter McDonough of the Keswick Club, Scott Kinnan of Farmington Country Club and David Norman, VGCSA Executive Director. They visited the offices of Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, along with Congressman Robert Hurt of the 5th District.



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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

The Old Dominion has had their second event featuring the inaugural "Scholarship Tournament". The event was held at Spring Creek Golf Club which was in great shape and offered us with great hospitality.

Thanks to Brian Vincel, CGCS and his staff for allowing us to use their club. The tournament was a success thanks to our members for coming out and for our sponsors who allowed the ODGCSA to defer some of the cost so the money raised could assist with the "scholarship".

ANY employee of a VGCSA club or business is eligible for the \$1000 scholarship. It can be any field of study, any school, they just have to be actively enrolled in some type of higher education. They must submit a written essay about something of interest to our profession. The best essay will be

awarded a \$1000 scholarship at our Annual Meeting at Kanawha Club in Richmond.

The essays should be emailed to Brent Graham, President of the ODGCSA at the follow email: Bgraham@tworiversclub.com or mailed to 1950 Two Rivers Rd. Williamsburg, VA 23185 Attn: Brent Graham

Throughout the ODGCSA region we have had some extreme weather this spring. We started out the spring with dry and warmer than normal weather patterns. Then came the end of April when the weather turned cooler along with two weeks of rain. We have seen anywhere from 3.5 to 7 inches of rain from Richmond to Williamsburg. In the long run it will serve us well but the short run we are trying to control the spring time weed growth and

mowing with-out damaging the turf. Thanks to our mechanics for their help with the continual adjustments to the mowers.

The next meeting for the ODGCSA will be the fall meeting. We will provide this meeting free of charge for our members. Be on the lookout for more information shortly. We look forward to your participation and we look forward to any new faces to attend the meeting. This is a great time to meet and learn from your peers. Embrace the opportunity and come join us.



Scott Mauldin, CGCS
ODGCSA
External Vice President

TTA News

Wow! Mother Nature is a roguery beast. We had great weather in March. The bermudagrass in certain areas of the Tidewater area broke dormancy at the beginning of the month with night time temps in the upper 50s and 60s while the day time temperatures in the 70s and some areas in the mid 80s. Then came April with the average low's in the 30s and lower 40s even some 20 degree nights and the average day time temp in the 40s and 50s, no rain for the month and the daily winds sustaining at 15-30 mph, setting the bermudagrass behind 3-4 weeks in some areas of the Tidewater. And May started off cold and cloudy with over 5 inches of rain the first week and an additional 2 inches the next week with temperatures still well below normal. On May16 it was 38 degrees riding in my truck on the way to work imagining a frost delay in the 2nd week of May?

The first TTA educational meeting was in March at Elizabeth Manor Country Club with Fred Yelverton as the key note speaker. The topic was turfgrass weeds and control. What a great event. Many thanks to Elizabeth Manor, Mike Hall for hosting, and

Cardinal Chemical for sponsoring the event, enabling The TTA to offer this free for members, also many thanks to Fred for his time, he was gracious enough to stay later than what was scheduled for open discussions with us.

The TTA sponsored the April event held at Virginia Beach National GC, with Mark Ross hosting Joel Simmons from Earthworks to speak on soils, fertilizers and soil sampling, yet another great event filled with great information, great questions, and superintendent networking followed by great golf, Thank you so much Mark, VB National and especially Joel for taking time to speak with us on these important topics.

Despite the rain, the annual Dick Cake Memorial Golf Tournament and the Virlina Qualifier was held at Cedar Point Country Club many thanks to Turf and Garden for sponsoring this event and especially Chris Keen for hosting, the course was in great shape! Congratulations to Jeff Yarborough for winning his ticket to the Belle Haven Country Club next October for the Virlina Cup tournament.

Our next event will be in October at

Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club, where we will be hosting Sean Askew, who will be speaking on PGR's with golf to follow. The TTA Annual Meeting will be held in November this year at James River Country Club. So mark your calendars for these two events!

On behalf of the TTA Board, we hope everyone has a great season and remember if you ever have any issues or problems on the course then call a fellow superintendent, chances are we have been there. Also, please remember to become more active within your association. Come to the TTA meetings, network and socialize with your fellow Superintendents, **It's Free**. This is good for both our professional careers and the Green industry. Spending time with your peers is productive and very beneficial for both you and your club.



Pete Stephens, CGCS
Tidewater Turfgrass
Association
External Vice President

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Rounds 4 Research April Auction Raises Over \$3,200 for Turfgrass Studies in Virginia



The 2016 Rounds 4 Research fundraising program to support turfgrass studies, managed by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), raised over \$3,200 in Virginia. The EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The VGCSA would like to thank bidders and the following courses for donation of rounds to auction:

- 1757 Golf Club
- Ballyhack Golf Club
- Blacksburg Country Club
- Captains Cove Golf Club
- Fawn Lake Country Club
- Ford's Colony Country Club
- Forest Greens Golf Club
- General's Ridge Golf Course
- Golden Eagle Golf Club
- Goodyear Golf Club
- Heritage Hunt Golf & CC
- Hidden Valley Country Club
- Ingleside Golf Resort
- Lake Monticello Golf Club
- Lake Ridge Golf Course



Primland Resort was the #1 auction item again this year.

- Laurel Hill Golf Club
- Magnolia Green Golf Club
- Pete Dye River Course of VT
- Primland - The Highland Course
- Prince William Golf Course
- Reston National
- Salisbury Country Club
- Spring Creek Golf Club
- Springfield Golf & CC
- Tanglewood Shores Golf & CC

- The Crossings Golf Club
- Virginia Oaks
- Westfields Golf Club
- Willow Oaks Country Club
- Winchester Country Club

The national campaign is supported by a \$50,000 donation from The Toro Co. The program has raised more than \$565,000 since launching in 2012.

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- *VA Environmental Cup (formerly VA BMP) Founder/Creator*
- *Mid-Atlantic GCSA: Platinum Partner*
- *VGCSA Local Chapter: 15 Memberships*

STAFF:

- *Patrick Connelly: VA Agribusiness Council; VGCSA Board Member; VTC Board Member, VTC Presidents Award*
- *Bruce Adwell: VSTMA Board Member*
- *Eric Spurlock: VGCSA Past President and Board Member, VGCSA Distinguished Service Award*
- *Kyle Bickling: Mid-Atlantic IECA Board Member*
- *Kip Connelly: VTC Board Member and VTCA Board Member, Founder PrimeraTurf, VTC Lifetime Achievement Award*
- *Bo Jumbertotta: President: Greater Washington GCSAA*
- *Steve Burnette: Past President: Old Dominion GCSA; VGCSA Distinguished Service Award*
- *Dave Lawson: Board Member TTA, VA Horticulture Foundation*
- *Kevin Connelly: Chairman PrimeraTurf and ITODA Board Member*

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News from Local Associations

VTA News

Well, time to switch gears. Spring will quickly be behind us and now our focus will turn to keeping grass alive, wondering what Mother Nature curveballs will be thrown at us, and setting our sights on fall aeration and putting one more year behind us.

As most of us in the state, this spring was...well, strange. March was perfect, even a little on the warm side. Throw in some hard frosty mornings in April, followed by windy and extremely dry conditions and we learned once again that 2016 was going to be another bassackwards kind of year.

May was wet, at least the first part anyway, so your guess is as good as mine what the rest of the summer will bring.

The VTA held their first meeting of the year at Cinebowl in Blacksburg. We had a great turn out and some really bad bowling. As a bonus we had some of the Virginia Tech turf students and professors join us. It was great to catch up the up and coming generation of superintends and meet with the faculty in a very relaxed atmosphere.

May and June are a very busy couple of months for the VTA, with our annual Bob Ruff Sr. Fundraiser at Hidden Valley Country Club, and a trip to Appomattox where we will meet at Falling River. Big topics of conversation will be the quickly approaching Nutrient Management date. In July we will once again be rooting on the

Salem Red Sox and at our family fun night. We will finish out our summer meeting schedule with a trip to Primland Resort in August, where we will have the opportunity to play the Highlands course.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our great line up of events this year and are wishing everyone a great summer.



*Sean K. Baskette
Hidden Valley Country Club
VTA President*

SVTA News

Fifteen straight days of rain for most of us in the Shenandoah Valley, what else can you say? Most of everyone I have talked to, their needle tines and spikers are in full force. Hopefully we get a little sun soon, never seen a May this gnarly. Should be an interesting year going forward, looking to see what Mother Nature will throw at us next.

Thanks to everyone who came down to our April meeting at Heritage Oaks for our roundtable discussion and golf afterwards. Also, thanks to Stuart Scott for hosting.

Our next meeting will have already happened by the time you read this and we will continue with emails about upcoming SVTA events. Don't forget about the annual SVTA Fundraiser in October at

Winchester Country Club, should be a great event. Good luck to everyone this summer, see you at the next meeting.



*Scott Cornwell
Shenandoah Valley
Turfgrass Association
External Vice President*

News from the GWGCSA

Here we go again! Just when I think I've gotten everything figured out with plans in place for spring activities and applications, the Mid-Atlantic version of Mother Nature has a good laugh and screws it all up. I really mean it this time when I say I'm getting the heck away from this area and out of this crazy business. From handwatering in April to building an ark in May, I've had about all I can take.

But seriously, it has actually been a pretty good spring for growing grass up here in the Greater Washington area. A nice long period of cool weather and adequate moisture has extended the root growing season and should have everybody nice and strong going into summer. If your course doesn't look really nice right now, you might want to consider a career change.

We did see a pretty substantial ABW population early on with some warm dry weather, so hopefully everyone has been scouting and whacking those evil B%#@&*%!s.

We had an amazing first event of the year at Mount Vernon C.C. where Mike King and crew hosted the first annual Sandbagger Open. Everyone had a great time playing this immaculately prepared course.

Kudos to "Kinger" and his gang! Conditions were better than I've seen just about anywhere this season, now it's time to "smoke" the fairways and replant with Bermuda. Good luck with the transition Mike.

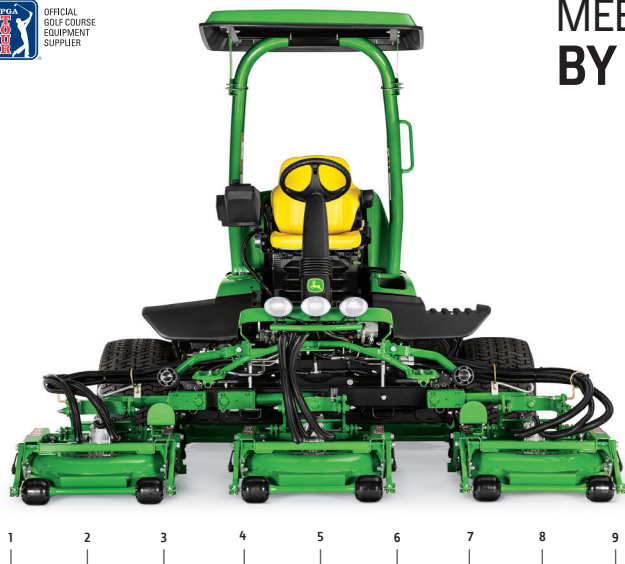
The one thing this event definitely proved is the incredible level of dishonesty that exists in the GWGCSA. The first event of the year and everybody claims they have not played since Evergreen, but they somehow manage to shoot 8 strokes under their handicap. I guess they were all just taking the event name very seriously. Or, possibly, the complex mathematics of the stableford scoring system alluded their brilliant minds. Great day, great beer and excellent company, so all is good.

On May 24 we played our Virlina Cup qualifier at Potomac Shores Golf Club. Everyone had a great time (with the possible exception of Mike Owens, who had to find a way to get that crazy piece of property ready after another monsoon weekend.) Scott Cornwell won to represent us. We hope he can lead Virginia to a much needed thumping of the Carolinas this fall at Belle Haven C.C.

Everybody enjoy the cool weather for a little while longer, because sooner or later, hopefully much later, we are going to get smacked down by summer heat and humidity which will again make me wonder why I keep doing this.



*Shawn Gill
GWGCSA
External Vice President*



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