

March 2016

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

What a wet winter we have been having not to mention winter storm Jonas dropping 18-24 inches across the Commonwealth. At least the extreme cold days were limited to just a few unlike last year. I'm sure all of us had some time to prepare all of our course amenities and put a fresh coat of paint on offices and break rooms during the last couple of months and are ready to get back out to the normal day to day routine. I know a few of us have just gotten back from sunny San Diego which was a week full of education and networking and great weather. The VGCSA, together with your local association, have planned a year full of great events at great venues with a little education involved.

The weather could not have been any better in San Diego for the GIS this year with daytime highs averaging in the mid 80s and not a cloud in the sky. The attendance at this year's event seemed to be a lot higher than last year, and the traffic on the trade show floor was very busy. Peter McDonough received the well-deserved GCSAA's Presidents Award for Environmental Stewardship. Good job Peter, you make us all proud as your work continues to keep the VGCSA as a model industry organization. The Joint Social which included the VGCSA, MAAGCS and the ESGCSA was held at the haunted Horton Hotel on Wednesday evening with a crowd of over 200. Thanks to all of our sponsors who help support this event.

The VGCSA once again visited the General Assembly at the State Capital to deliver our message of environmental stewardship, water conservation, pollinator protection and our economic impact within the state. Shawn Gill, David Norman and Tyler Eastham visited offices and handed out packets that include Burt's Bees lip balm, VGCSA golf balls and a thumb drive containing our BMP document. They were introduced to the floor by Senator David Marsden at the General Assembly and then lauded by Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam for all the positive things the golf industry does for the



Commonwealth.

In a move directed by the voice of our membership, we are moving the Fall Conference and Annual Meeting to December 5-6. The Joe Saylor will now be a stand alone event in the fall. These first of the two days of education will kick off with a half day of education in the afternoon on December 5 presented by the ODGCSA, followed by the Annual Meeting and awards and finishing with a free Partner appreciation cocktail party. The second day will begin again with our networking breakfast followed by a full day of great speakers. This change shows our commitment to our members and truly reflects our mission and objective as an Association, "The purpose of this Association is to enable golf course superintendents in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be unified, affiliated, and represented on a state and national level. The purpose is further to promote networking, education and professional growth for golf course superintendents throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia." More information on our slate of education topics and speakers will be announced soon.

Our first event of the year will be a joint meeting with the CMAA and the NCGOA at Salisbury Country Club Monday March 14. The schedule includes a General Manager presentation, followed by a GM panel discussion. There will also be a segment in which we will share updates on the Nutrient Management Plan, water withdrawal reporting and WOTUS. This would be a great opportunity for any facility that has not yet completed their NMP to come and ask questions. Derik Cataldi will be on hand along with several individuals who have already completed their plans.

The VGCSA Championship this year will

be held at Boonsboro Country Club on Monday, May 9. This stroke play event will qualify three individuals to play in the Virlina Cup, the Superintendent and Assistant champions as well as the first runner-up Superintendent. This year we are adding a net division and a vendor division to attract more participants and grow the event. Please come out for a day of golf at a great facility. Thanks to Syngenta for their continued sponsorship of this event and thanks to Steve Vessels, his staff and Boonsboro for hosting.

How fitting is it that Keswick will host our Environmental Cup this year on Monday, June 13 – host Superintendent Peter McDonough is the recipient of the GCSAA's Presidents Award for Environmental Stewardship! The Keswick Club's championship golf course fittingly name "Full Cry," was recently renovated by renowned architect Pete Dye. The event is now in its eighth year, and last year we raised over \$18,000 thanks to the support of many sponsors, including Landscape Supply who led the efforts for the first seven years. This is a "can't miss" event at this magnificent course, so please sign up early!

I would like to welcome our new board members this year. Mark Rodriguez, General Manager for STI Virginia, is our new Vendor representative. Brad McCurry, Assistant Superintendent at Independence Golf Club, is our new Assistants representative, and Scott Mauldin, CGCS, is replacing Dan Taylor as the ODGCSA External VP. We look forward to your leadership and input on the board this year. Now I would like to thank our outgoing board members Tom Adams from Helena, and Ryan Johnson, the

Continued on p. 2



Jeff Holliday, CGCS
VGCSA President

President's Message cont.

Assistant at the Kanawha Club – your input and hard work this past year has been invaluable. Last but not least, I recognize Dan Taylor, CGCS, Superintendent from Independence Golf Club and the ODGCSA's External VP for the past 10 years. Dan your leadership and input over the past years have helped move this association forward and continue to grow. Thanks for time and commitment to your Association. To all members, please consider at some point volunteering with a local association or the state association. There is a lot an individual can gain from giving back to the industry, and we truly appreciate what these volunteers do.

I would also like to share one of our goals, not only from this Association but from a group of Superintendents that care about the progress, support and growth of our land-grant University, Virginia Tech. Mark Cote, Bill Keene and a few other superintendents have come together to work with our Turf Team with a few initiatives. First, we need to find ways to attract students to the turfgrass program and second, we need to create new ways to generate funding to offset expenses involved in research. We want to continue building on the relationship that will not only benefit them, but also our members in the long run. We will share more information

throughout the year as we continue communication with Virginia Tech.

I would wish that everyone has a productive and successful spring and Mother Nature is kind to everyone this coming season. If there is ever anything I or anyone on the Board can do to help, please do not hesitate to call. And don't forget that July 2017 is quickly approaching, so please make plans to get your Nutrient Management Plan completed as soon as possible.

Finally, thank you VGCSA Partners – your support allows us to serve our members best!



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VGCSA Announces Board Line Up for 2016

The Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association announced its Board of Directors for 2016. Jeff Holliday, CGCS of Salisbury Country Club will lead the organization in his third year as President. Mark Cote of The Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech is Vice President, and Bill Keene of Blacksburg Country Club is Secretary/Treasurer. Matt Boyce of Princess Anne Country Club is Past President.

The Board includes five External Vice Presidents, representing their respective local associations: Scott Mauldin, CGCS of The Foundry Golf Club (Old Dominion GCSA), Shawn Gill of Prince William GC (Greater Washington GCSA), Pete Stephens, CGCS of Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club (Tidewater Turfgrass Association), Scott Cornwell of Winchester CC (Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association) and Sean Baskette of Hidden Valley CC (Virginia Turfgrass Association).

Rounding out the Board are representatives: Brad McCurry of Independence Golf Club (Assistants), Mark Rodriguez of Smith Turf

(Vendor) and David McCall of Virginia Tech (Turf Educator).

The purpose of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association is to serve its

members through unified representation on a state and national level and by advancing their professional growth.



2016 VGCSA Board of Directors (L-R): Pete Stephens, CGCS, Brad McCurry, Matt Boyce, Scott Cornwell, Jeff Holliday, CGCS, Mark Rodriguez, Mark Cote, David McCall, Bill Keene, Sean Baskette, Scott Mauldin, CGCS

VGCSA Conference Moves to Dec. 5-6 in Williamsburg

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!

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

Presented by



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.



VGCSA Visits Capitol Hill in Richmond

On Thursday, February 18 VGCSA had its annual trip to the state legislature. Shawn Gill, Tyler Eastham and David Norman visited every Delegate and Senate office (140 total), as well as the Governor's office. They passed out green bags containing a message on environmental stewardship, a thumb drive containing the BMP documents, the promotional postcard on the BMPs, a two-pack of Bridgestone golf balls with our logo and a small Burt's Bees gift set.

We emphasized our environmental stewardship, water conservation and reporting, our commitment to Nutrient Management Planning, protection of pollinators and other highlights. Another message was the economic impact of the golf industry, estimated at \$2.5 billion, employing 30,000 Virginians.

The group also personally met with Gill's Senator, David Marsden, who was formerly an opponent on issues related to fertilizers, but now he is supportive. They also met with Norman's Delegate, Peter Farrell, who is a CCV member and totally supportive of our efforts.

In the afternoon we were introduced on the floor of the Senate by Senator Marsden, who gave an overview of our association and our environmental stewardship. Then Lt. Governor Ralph Northern lauded our efforts and emphasized how important the golf industry is to Virginia.

VGCSA would like to thank the Virginia Agribusiness Council (Katie Frazier and Brad Copenhaver) for helping us organize the trip.



VGCSA Vice President Mark Cote, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, and VGCSA President Jeff Holliday



Shawn Gill with Senator David Marsden



Tyler Eastham passes out VGCSA literature to Delegate offices



Senator Marsden introduces VGCSA representatives on the floor of the Senate



Governor McAuliffe expresses his support of Virginia's golf industry in a letter following the legislative visit.

VGCSA Championship to Boonsboro on May 9

New Net & Vendor Divisions This Year

The VGCSA Championship has always been a highlight of the golf season, but in the past it was a “Who Can Beat Whitmire” contest, that not a lot of guys sought to try. Jeff Whitmire, CGCS of The Williamsburg Club owns seven titles in the event’s 16-year history — that’s a pretty good batting average of .438!

The event serves as one of the qualifiers for the Virgina Cup, and while that always provides spice, the scratch-only format left a lot of players on the sideline. Over the winter, the VGCSA Board made some changes to make this fun event popular for everyone. New in 2016 is a Net Division for Superintendents, with prizes awarded to the best golfers measured against their handicap (not necessarily against Mr. Whitmire).

And while Syngenta returns as presenting sponsor, the event will also feature a new Vendor Division, so come one, come all! The Vendor Division will crown both a gross and net champion. Qualification for the Virgina Cup will still be a gross competition, with two spots going to the Superintendent Division and one to the Assistants Champion.

With the new format, another perk is the move to one of the prettiest and most scenic courses in the Commonwealth, Boonsboro Country Club in Lynchburg. Host superintendent Steve Vessells plans to have the course in excellent condition (as he always does), and the test will be both stern yet fun.

If you haven’t played Boonsboro, DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY – truly among the BEST in Virginia – especially in the heart of spring, on May 9. The rolling hills and beautiful vistas make it truly memorable. Then there is the famous hospitality of Boonsboro – always making you feel welcome, with good food and drink!

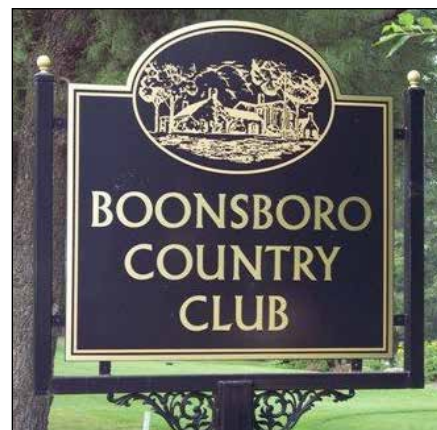
Defending Champions are Cameron Yancey of Nottoway River CC for Superintendents and Terry English of The Olde Farm for Assistants.

VGCSA Championship presented by

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Seven-time VGCSA Champion Jeff Whitmire



Defending VGCSA Champions Cameron Yancey and Terry English



Boonsboro Country Club ninth hole and clubhouse.

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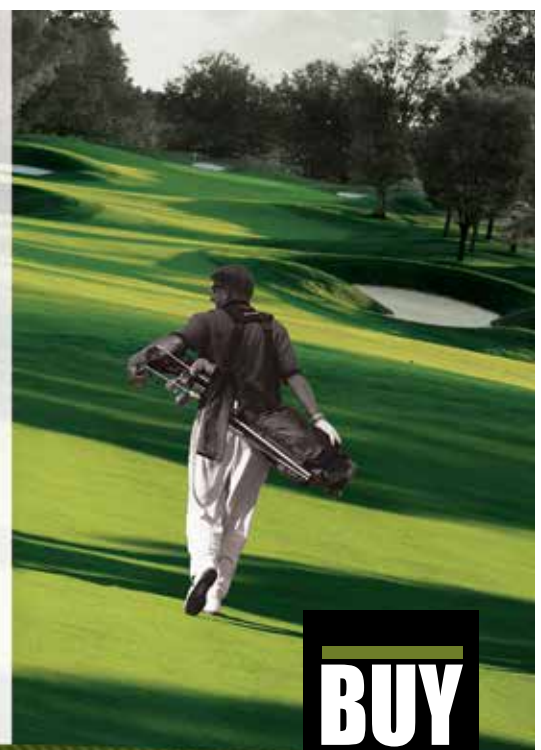
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Environmental Clup to The Keswick Club on June 13

GCSAA President's Award Winner Peter McDonough to Host



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The VGCSA is pleased to announce that 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 recently 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 will be taking the lead role for 2016 — thank you Mike Rincon and Tommy Adams!

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 completed last year. 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 fund 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.

Visit www.vgcsa.org for more information.

2015 Environmental Cup Honor Roll of Sponsors

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Greater Washington GCSA	Nufarm	Tidewater Turfgrass Assn
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Peter McDonough, GCSAA President's Award winner and Environmental Cup host.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words *David Oatis, USGA Regional Director, Northeast Region*



David Oatis

Turf educators have extensively used the power of pictures for years, because a good image can tell a great story. Often, a good image can more powerfully, more convincingly and more quickly convey ideas and concepts than a

lengthy description. The image to the right may not look all that impressive, but combine it with a brief description to set up the story and it becomes very powerful.

This is an image of two soil profiles, taken about 40 feet apart, from a green that experienced extensive winter injury in 2014. The green was sodded with washed bentgrass sod two months before the picture was taken.

The profile on the left has visibly weaker rooting. Close inspection shows that the roots are thinner in diameter, much less dense and much shallower as compared to the profile on the right. What is the difference, you ask? You guessed it; the profile with better rooting was taken from an area of the green that receives full sun. The weaker-rooted profile is from a shaded area of the

same green that only receives approximately 50 percent of available sunlight. The green had not yet been opened for play, but you can imagine how the turf performed once it began to receive normal traffic. The canopies don't look all that different, but the portion of the green with a weak root system didn't handle traffic well.

Most courses have at least one or two greens that are located in shaded environments. Pulling soil profiles and comparing root growth from shaded greens to root growth from greens located in the open can tell quite a tale. Hopefully this technique will help you more effectively communicate with your golfers.



Root growth tells a great story. The healthy roots in the profile on the right are thanks to ample sun. The profile on the left has weak roots because of heavy shade.

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Interested in Attending 2016 National Golf Day? *Chase Rogan, GCSAA Field Staff*



Chase Rogan

Interested in attending 2016 National Golf Day?

Have you heard of National Golf Day? It's a pretty cool initiative. It's a day where golf's leading associations come together as a coalition (known as WE ARE GOLF), to

celebrate our industry's storied lifetime. It's golf's chance to shine on Capitol Hill, where our elected representatives are undoubtedly courted by countless industries all looking out for number 1. What makes this day pretty cool for our industry is that we have great information to share with our legislators.

Information like our \$70 billion economy, our \$4 billion annual charitable impact, and numerous environmental and fitness benefits. Industry leaders will meet with members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies on Capitol Hill to discuss golf's 15,000-plus diverse businesses, 2 million employees, tax revenue creation and tourism value. And this year, National Golf Day is set for **May 18th**.

Having experienced this day first hand, I must say it is an energizing, educational opportunity to not only share what we love about our game, but also valuable time getting further acquainted with our colleagues and the nuances of how our

federal government operates. And as the primaries are well underway, I understand that many of us may be frustrated with some of the happenings leading up to the election of our new President.

But as Steve Mona, CEO of World Golf Foundation states, it may be more important now than ever to make sure our voices are heard. "With 2016 being an election year, it's even more important for political leaders to understand the impact our industry has on local communities and millions of Americans," said Mona. Further stating, "since our first event in 2008, National Golf Day has educated our nation's lawmakers about the countless benefits of the game and we look forward to continuing this agenda in May."

National Golf Day has been growing ever since its inception, and this year GCSAA would like to extend an invitation for its Class A, SM, or C members to attend the event and be part of meeting with Congressmen and Senators to share information about your particular businesses, and what those businesses mean to your employees, customers, and community.

As we are still working out the logistics of signing up to attend the event, please be on the lookout for further details that will be communicated through various GCSAA channels. And if you can't attend in person,

you can still get in on the action by participating in the tweet rally by using #NGD16 and @wearegolf to show your support for the golf industry. So let's gear up for another successful year, and make this the best National Golf Day thus far.



Jack Nicklaus visits with our neighbors from Mid-Atlantic GCSA

National Survey Shows Golf Courses Using Nearly 22 Percent Less Water Than Eight Years Ago

Survey conducted by GCSAA also shows increased water conservation practices

Golf course superintendents used 21.8 percent less water overall and just 1.44 percent of all irrigated water in the U.S. to maintain their courses in 2013, compared with usage in 2005, according to recently released survey data. The survey was conducted by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and funded by the United States Golf Association (USGA) through GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG).

The survey results from nearly 2,000 golf course superintendents were collected and independently analyzed by scientists at PACE Turf and the National Golf

Foundation (NGF), which published the findings for peer review before making the information public.

"This study shows us that the golf industry has been addressing water issues for some time and is realizing positive results. The numbers show that golf course superintendents across the country have reduced water consumption," said Wendy Gelernter, Ph.D., co-owner of PACE Turf, which has been providing data analysis for the golf industry for more than 25 years. "There is always room for improvement, however; and I think we will see even less water being used and fewer acres being irrigated in the years ahead."

Along with reducing overall water usage by 500,000 acre-feet, golf course superintendents increased their use of recycled water by 33 percent over the last study. Both of those trends are positive for the industry, since golf courses are able to filter recycled water before it re-enters the ecosystem.

Golf course superintendents also have demonstrated water savings through turf reduction and improved technologies, such as computer-controlled targeted irrigation systems and sensors that measure soil moisture. Since 2005, golf courses have

Continued on p. 13

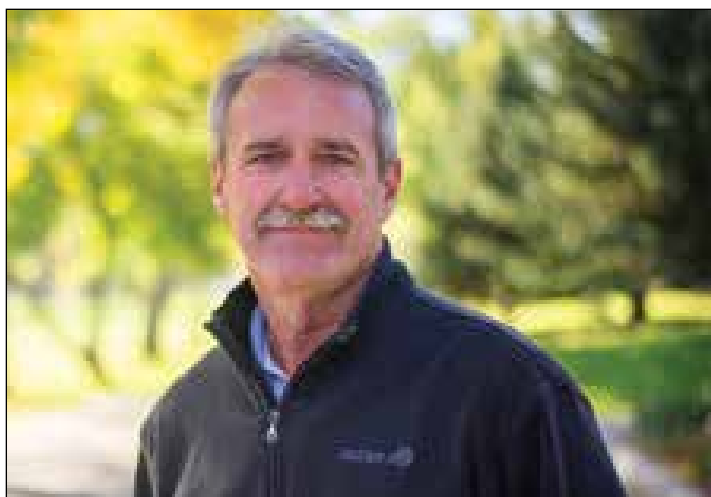
At the GCSAA Conference and Golf Industry Show

Social Presenting Sponsors



Mark Rodriguez, Adam Kerr, James Nick, and Christian Sain network at the joint social event.

Social Supporting Sponsors



Pete Grass was elected GCSAA President at the Annual meeting in San Diego.



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SiteOne Landscape Supply, Plant Food Co.,
Helena Chemical, Murray Sod Farm



2016 VT Turf Bowl Team: (L to R) Camden Shelton, Lee Coppock, Josh Lillard, Matthew Herrmann, Travis Roberson

Water Study News cont.

reduced managed irrigated turf by 14,430 acres, enough of a reduction to cover more than 100 golf courses. This reduction does not include golf course closures.

In addition, the study provides data on average water use in the seven different agronomic regions of the country, with water usage the lowest in the Northeast and the highest in the Southeast and Southwest – two regions that have year-round play and turf growth.

“The golf course superintendent profession is committed to science-based technologies and environmental stewardship,” said Rhett Evans, CEO of GCSAA. “We hope that this national study will demonstrate our commitment to efficient water management and inspire the industry to continue to lead in the future. In the end, water management is about providing playing conditions that satisfy the needs of golfers today without compromising the needs of the future.”

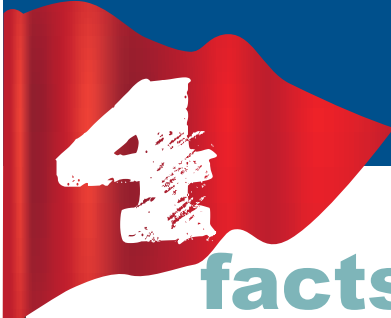
It's not surprising to find water usage down and water costs up nationally for golf course managers. The picture of the golf industry has changed, and it will continue to evolve, even at the national championship level, where the world's best players are seeing a shift from overall uniform green to firmer surfaces that receive less water.

Visit www.gcsaa.org to review the complete survey report.

Over the next two years, GCSAA will publish four additional national surveys in key areas related to golf course management as part of its Golf Course Environmental Profile. Each of those surveys is also being funded by the USGA through the EIFG.



Hand watering was the second most commonly used conservation practice by U.S. golf facilities in 2013, with 77% of survey respondents reporting its use.



4 facts about golf and water in the U.S.

- 1.** Golf's use of water continues to improve. U.S. golf courses have reduced water consumption by 21.8%.
- 2.** Golf uses only 1.44% of all irrigated water in the U.S. Irrigated areas on golf courses have decreased by more than 14,000 acres.
- 3.** Water conservation measures have saved 500,000 acre-feet of water. Conservation practices, turf reduction, use of advanced irrigation systems, and tools such as moisture meters have increased efficiency.
- 4.** Golf's use of recycled water has increased by 32.7%. Recycled water now counts for 25% of all water used on golf courses. Use of all other water sources, including potable water, has decreased.

Data from 2006 and 2014 Golf Course Environmental Profile Water Use & Conservation surveys

GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Program

Help shape the future of the golf course management profession. We want you as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador. We are seeking an enthusiastic, motivated member (Class A, SM or C) to build a proactive relationship with a Member of Congress. The link between the Member of Congress and the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador is based on golf facility location. Also, the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador needs to belong to an affiliated chapter.

A GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador commits to a two year appointment with the option to continue for two more years after the initial appointment. Terms begin on a quarterly basis. There is a summer class starting in July, fall class starting in October, a winter class starting in January and a spring class starting in April. Check the chart below for openings, and apply to become a GCSAA Ambassador – information is on the website at www.gcsaa.org.

Desired GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Traits:

- Highly organized
- Knowledge of computers
- Willingness to serve a two year term
- Good communication skills
- Good image and good standing within chapter and community
- Interest in government issues
- Supports issues nationally
- Has existing relationship with Member of Congress and/or staff (not required)

GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Job Description:

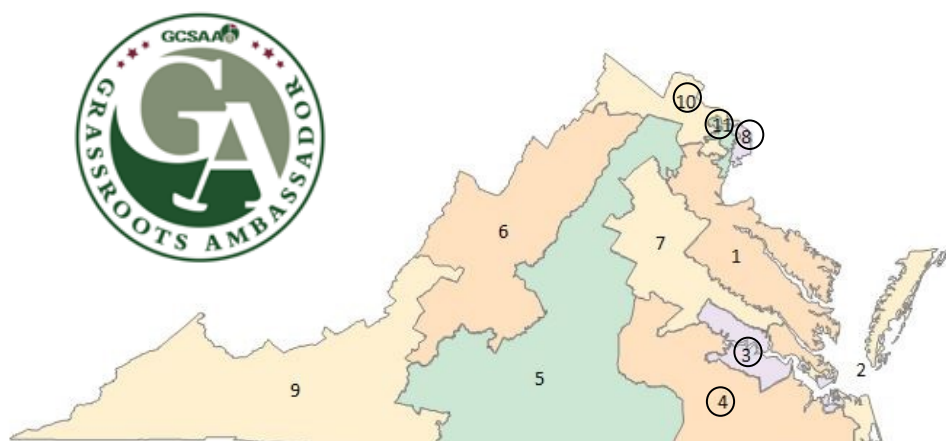
- Attend half of the events and activities on the 12-month Ambassador Engagement Calendar.
- Meet personally with assigned policymaker or his or her key staff at least two times each year. Options: attend an August recess town hall, have a meeting in the district office, attend National Golf Day and/or host a golf course site visit.
- Attend Grassroots Ambassador Bootcamp at the Golf Industry Show (if attending and available).

Other GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Functions:

- Build and maintain positive relationship with assigned policymaker.
- Review Greens & Grassroots, action alerts and updates on GCSAA's Government Affairs website.
- Respond to GCSAA action alerts in a timely manner.
- Report activities to GCSAA Government Affairs department (online feedback form available).
- Invite policymaker to attend chapter meeting or other GCSAA affiliated function.
- Publish activities in chapter newsletter and websites, if possible.
- Provide updates at chapter meetings, if possible.

Recognition:

- Annually, on the service anniversary date, you are awarded points based on completion of at least 50% of activities in the Ambassador Engagement Calendar.
- .25 service point per year for completion of 50% or more of service related activities (attend a town hall meeting, host a site visit, attend a federal or state lobby day, etc.).
- .50 education point per year for completion of 50% or more of education related activities (participate in web-based training)



Congressional District	Member of Congress	Ambassador
VA-01	Rob J. Wittman	Peter Stephens, CGCS
VA-02	Scott Rigell	Matt Boyce
VA-03	Bobby C. Scott	
VA-04	Randy Forbes	
VA-05	Robert Hurt	Peter McDonough
VA-06	Bob W. Goodlatte	Fredrick Biggers, CGCS
VA-07	David A. Brat	David Smith
VA-08	Donald S. Beyer	
VA-09	Morgan M. Griffith	William Keene, Jr
VA-10	Barbara J. Comstock	
VA-11	Gerry E. Connolly	
Senator Warner	Shawn Gill	
Senator Kaine	Christian Sain	

Deadline for Nutrient Management Planning Draws Nearer

Grants are available

By July 1, 2017 all golf courses in Virginia are required to have a Nutrient Management Plan. Government grant programs are available to reduce the cost by 50% or more are available from planners registered through the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR). Visit the web page to learn more: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil-and-water/faq-golf-course>.



Honor Roll of Courses with a Nutrient Management Plan as of February 1, 2016.

Aeropines Golf Club (TomCat and Hornet)	Virginia Beach	Jefferson District Golf Course	Falls Church
Algonkian Regional Park	Sterling	Kiln Creek Golf Club	Newport News
Army Navy Country Club (Arlington and Fairfax)	Arlington	King Carter Golf Club	Irvinton
Bayville Golf Club	Virginia Beach	Kinloch Golf Club	Manakin Sabot
Belle Haven Country Club	Alexandria	Lake Chesdin Golf Club	Chesterfield
Belmont Country Club	Ashburn	Lake Monticello Golf Course	Palmyra
Belmont Golf Course	Henrico	Laurel Hill Golf Club	Lorton
Birdwood Golf Course	Charlottesville	London Downs Golf Course	Forest
Blacksburg Country Club	Blacksburg	Loudoun Golf & Country Club	Purcellville
Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Club	Front Royal	Lynch Links (Emory & Henry College)	Emory
Boonsboro Country Club	Lynchburg	Magnolia Green Golf Club	Moseley
Brambleton Golf Course	Ashburn	Meadowbrook Country Club	Richmond
Brickshire, The Golf Club at	Providence Forge	Meadowcreek Golf Course	Charlottesville
Broad Run Golf & Practice Facility	Bristow	Meadows Farms Golf Course	Locust Grove
Brookwoods Golf Club	Quinton	Millwood Country Club	Boyce
Bull Run Golf Club	Haymarket	Montclair Country Club	Dumfries
Burke Lake Golf Course	Fairfax Station	Mount Vernon Country Club	Alexandria
Cahoon Plantation	Chesapeake	Mountain Greens at Massanutten Resort	McGaheysville
Cavalier Yacht & Country Club	Virginia Beach	Newport News Golf Club (Cardinal and Deer Run Courses)	Newport News
Caverns Country Club	Luray	Oak Marr Golf Course	Oakton
Cedar Point Country Club	Suffolk	Old Trail Golf Club	Crozet
Chantilly National Country Club	Centreville	Osprey's Golf Club	Woodbridge
Club at Viniterra	New Kent	Penderbrook Golf Course	Fairfax
Colonial Heritage Club	Williamsburg	Pendleton Golf Club	Ruther Glen
Colonial Hills Golf Club	Forest	Piedmont Club	Haymarket
Country Club of Fairfax	Fairfax	Pinecrest Golf Course	Alexandria
CC of Virginia (James River, Tuckahoe, Westhampton)	Richmond	Pohick Bay Golf Course	Lorton
Creighton Farms, The Club at	Aldie	Poplar Grove Golf Club	Amherst
Crossings Golf Club	Glen Allen	Providence Golf Club	Richmond
Dogwood Trace Golf Course	Petersburg	Rapidan Golf Club	Locust Grove
Dominion Valley Country Club	Haymarket	Raspberry Falls Golf & Hunt Club	Leesburg
Eagle Haven Golf Course	Norfolk	River Bend Golf & Country Club	Great Falls
Eastern Shore Yacht & Country Club	Melfa	The Pete Dye River Course	Radford
Elizabeth Manor Golf & CC	Portsmouth	River Creek Country Club	Leesburg
Falling River Country Club	Appomattox	Riverfront Golf Club	Suffolk
Farmington Country Club	Charlottesville	Rock Harbor Golf Course	Winchester
Fauquier Springs Country Club	Warrenton	Royal New Kent Golf Club	Providence Forge
Fawn Lake Country Club	Spotsylvania	Salisbury Country Club	Midlothian
Federal Club, The	Glen Allen	Sandy Bottom Golf Course	Bridgewater
First Tee of Hampton Roads	Virginia Beach	Sewell's Point Golf Club	Norfolk
Ford's Colony Country Club	Williamsburg	Sleepy Hole Golf Course	Suffolk
Forest Greens Golf Club	Triangle	Spotswood Country Club	Harrisonburg
Foundry Golf Club	Powhatan	Spring Creek Golf Club	Gordonsville
Front Royal Golf Club	Front Royal	Springfield Golf & Country Club	Springfield
Glenmore Country Club	Keswick	Stonehouse Golf Club	Toano
Golden Eagle Golf Course	Irvinton	Stonewall Golf Club	Gainesville
Goose Creek Golf Club	Leesburg	The Club at Ironwood	Staunton
Greendale Golf Course	Alexandria	Trump National Golf Club Washington DC	Potomac Falls
Greene Hills Golf Club	Stanardsville	Two Rivers Country Club	Williamsburg
Hamptons Golf Course (Woods, Links, Lakes)	Hampton	Virginia Beach National GC	Virginia Beach
Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club	Gainesville	Virginia Tech Golf Course	Blacksburg
Heritage Oaks Golf Course	Harrisonburg	Washington Golf & Country Club	Arlington
Hermitage Country Club	Manakin Sabot	Water's Edge Country Club, The	Penhook
Herndon Centennial Golf Course	Herndon	Williamsburg National GC (Jamestown/Yorktown)	Williamsburg
Heron Ridge Golf Course	Virginia Beach	Willow Oaks Country Club	Richmond
Heronwood Golf Course	Upperville	Winchester Country Club	Winchester
Independence Golf Club	Midlothian	Winton Country Club	Amherst
Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club	Kilmarnock	Woodberry Forest Golf Club	Woodberry Forest
Ingleside Resort	Staunton	Woodlands Golf Course, The	Hampton
International Country Club	Fairfax	Woodstone Meadows GC at Massanutten	McGaheysville
James River Country Club	Newport News		



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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

The Old Dominion started out the year with a Board Meeting with the newly elected BOD Brent Graham, President, Paul Van Buren, Vice President, Jay Wade, Secretary/Treasure, Chris Roberts, Director and Immediate Past President, Kevin Fortune. The main focus of the meeting was to prepare the calendar of events for 2016.

The popular social event for the "March Madness" will once again take place on March 17th this year in three different locations, Charlottesville, Richmond and Williamsburg. Come out and enjoy, it is free! Beverages and light appetizers included. It is a chance to get out and see your peers as we get ready for spring and watch some exciting basketball. We will send out several email blast to confirm the times and locations.

One of the more exciting changes for the

year and moving forward is implementing a scholarship tournament during late April. The Board has been looking for ways to give back to the industry while supporting some of our younger professionals. We have decided to host a tournament that will allow for more sponsors to get involved in the tournament to raise funds to help students win a scholarship of up to \$1000. These students can be employees of any active golf club in good standings of the state or local associations. This can be applied to a short course, online classes and national or local conferences. We hope to draw more participation of superintendents, assistants and crew leaders. This tournament will take place at "SPRING CREEK" on Monday, April 25th. The Tournament will be a 2-man best ball using a Modified Stableford Scoring. There will also be other

prizes up for the winnings, start thinking of who your team will be and get signed up!

During the national conference this year the ODGCSA helped to sponsor the VT Turf Club at this year's turf bowl. The participants had a great time and finished 15th out of 62 clubs. This is a great experience for the students and we are glad that we could provide some assistance for the Turf Club.

All the final details will be emailed out and also listed on the state website, look forward to seeing you at the events.



Scott Mauldin, CGCSA
ODGCSA
External Vice President

TTA News

At the end of the year, the tidewater area ended up having great golfing weather. Speaking for myself, the golf rounds here at Indian Creek were up over previous year's (49% for November and 97% for December). There are bermudagrass areas in most golf course in the tidewater area that did not go completely dormant until late January. Following the warm weather trend came heavy rain and snow, then more rain and more snow. This weather pattern we have been in has been a challenge with trying to spray for winter weeds.

The board has made some changes this year: Mark Ross, Superintendent at Virginia Beach National Golf Club, is now President, Chris Brnich, Superintendent at Hamptons Golf Course, continues as Secretary/Treasurer, Travis Creech, Superintendent at Bide-a-Wee Golf Course, is Vice President, and Rob Wilmans, Superintendent at James River Country Club, continues to sit in the Director's seat, along with Bert Walton, Mark McCaughan and, newly appointed, Mike Hall,

Superintendent at Elisabeth Manor. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our new board members of the TTA and thank you in advance for serving our association.

The TTA Board finalized its 2016 meeting dates and locations. We are looking forward to a great year with interesting and informative topics and speakers and CEUs. We hosted a February social at the Top Golf driving range in Virginia Beach with nearly 30 in attendance. It was a great time for all and a good chance to do a lot of networking.

The first educational meeting is set for March 22nd at Elizabeth Manor Country Club with Fred Yelverton as the keynote speaker. He will be discussing turfgrass weeds and control. On April 20, Virginia Beach National GC and the TTA will host Joel Simmons from Earthworks to speak on soils, fertilizers and soil sampling with golf following. These two events are free to members. On May 17th, Cedar Point will be hosting the Dick Cake

Memorial/Virginia Qualifier. Please RSVP to Rob Wilmans at emgcc@aol.com. Additionally, on October 19, Indian Creek Yacht and Country Club 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. Mark your calendars for these events!

On behalf of the TTA, we would like to wish everyone a great growing season. Also, please remember to become more active within your association. Coming to meetings, networking and socializing with your fellow Superintendents is good for all aspects of both our professional careers and the industry. Spending time with your peers can be productive and very beneficial to both you and your club.



Pete Stephens, CGCSA
Tidewater Turfgrass
Association
External Vice President

**SAVE
the
DATES**

December 5-6 • VGCSA Annual Conference

Great Education • Annual Meeting & Awards • Partner Thank You Reception • Colonial Williamsburg

Rounds4Research Gears Up for 2016 Auction

Please Donate a Foursome!



Welcome to Rounds 4 Research, an innovative program aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. The premise is simple: Golf facilities can support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two or four or "stay and play" packages and other items that will be auctioned off online to generate funds for turfgrass research.

Rounds 4 Research is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf and presented in partnership with the Toro Co. The EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The VGCSA is featuring a research auction for the tenth consecutive year, with proceeds going to the Environmental Research Fund. All VGCSA rounds are slated to be auctioned this spring starting April 1 and ending on Masters Sunday (April 10). Accordingly we need your donated rounds NOW!

We are asking *all Virginia clubs* to please donate one or two complimentary foursomes

of golf (including cart) to be auctioned to benefit our research fund. In order to allow time to prepare for the auction, **please donate by March 31, 2016.**

A donor form is included with this newsletter mailing, or you may donate online at www.rounds4research.com. **Please**

make sure you designate that proceeds benefit the Virginia GCSA.

VGCSA members can help promote the auction by advertising the auction at their club in an electronic newsletter or special email – the VGCSA office will reach out for your help in advance of the auction.



Magnolia Green, one of the Commonwealth's newest courses, has already donated to Rounds4Research.

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News from Local Associations

VTA News

This time of year has always been hard for me, not really sure I am ready for spring, but on the other hand I cannot wait for winter to be over. As has been the norm in the last twelve months, this winter has been full of extremes. December was so warm, most in the area were mowing greens well into December and were faced with what to do about *poa annua* seed heads on greens and fairways. January came and the bottom fell out. Extremely cold temperatures and then throw in twenty inches of snow (and yes, it was nice having less than the rest of the state for a change). The Roanoke Valley was hit in the middle

of February with snow and ice, causing power outages and playing havoc on pine trees which line most of fairways in the area. Oh yeah, throw on top of that plenty of rain. Oh well, tis the life of a Superintendent.

The VTA is in the process of putting together a nice meeting schedule for 2016. As most associations, we are thinking of ways to enhance the experience for our members, not only with changing up meeting locations, but thinking outside the box on our guest speakers. Keep your eyes out for the finalized schedule which will be coming out the first week of March.

I, like most superintendents have a tendency

to put things off until the last minute. Well, it is now officially last minute for superintendents to work on their Nutrient Management Plans. Look for constant reminders concerning the NMP and if you have any questions of who to contact about getting yours completed, please feel free to contact anyone on the VTA board.



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

SVTA News

Hopefully everyone is gearing up and ready for spring as much as I am. First off I would like to introduce our new SVTA Board. David Lewallen from Bowling Green Country Club has taken over the reins of the SVTA as our new president. I would like to thank Paul Hartzell for all of his time and effort while serving as our president. He will now serve as Past President. Peter Schmidt from Shenandoah Valley Golf Club is now serving as Vice President with Eric Ferrell from The Caverns Country Club, stepping up as our new secretary. Bobby Jenkins from Rock Harbor Golf Club is still in

charge of our money acting as our Treasurer.

We have all met and are currently contacting individuals about hosting our SVTA events this year. We would love to hear from you if you are interested in hosting an event. As of right now, our first meeting of the year will take place at Bowling Green Country Club hosted by David Lewallen. This will be a CPR/First Aid training class on March 17th. Golf and lunch are available after. The cost for this event will be \$50 for training, \$10 for lunch, and \$10 for golf. We encourage everyone to join us. The only other

meeting that is set in stone is October 20th at Winchester Country Club. This will be our SVTA Fundraiser. Hope to see everyone at our meetings this year as we try and revamp the SVTA with involvement from all of our Superintendents. Help us make this year the best we have had. Take care and good luck in the upcoming months.



*Scott Cornwell
Shenandoah Valley
Turfgrass Association
External Vice President*

News from the GWGCSA

By the time you are reading this, it is probably 75 degrees outside and you have open aerification holes and a ton of sand covering your greens. However, right now we are in the midst of a late arriving, cold and extremely wet winter. As soon as we get a few days of dry weather and golfers start bothering the starters about the course being cart path only, we get a storm dropping two feet of snow or another couple of inches of rain. I've heard many stories of very "funky" looking turf and some cool weather pathogens that we haven't had to deal with for many years. On course winter projects have been put on hold everywhere, mostly due to equipment disappearing in quagmires. My compadres tell me they have run out of hazard stakes, tee markers, flag sticks, walls and floors to paint and crews have begun to revolt since being told they would have to head up to the clubhouse for painting duties if they wanted to keep working. Some even quit rather than

face the thought of hanging around sweater folders all day, who are having contests putting into crystal glassware while they sweat and toil sanding, filling and painting all the scuffs and dents on the walls caused by the "pros" misjudged practice swings. But I digress.

Once again, we've got an incredible lineup of events planned for 2016 in the GWGCSA. I have absolutely no idea what they are, other than the annual Maintenance Open at Forest Greens Golf Club and the Buttery Nipple Open at Evergreen C.C. in July and November respectively. I've been told that super-secret negotiations have been taking place to get some of the most sought after venues for our events. I look forward to inviting all of you to come play these events with us here in Northern Virginia during the up-coming golf season.

This past fall we had our bi-annual election of officers during which Bo Jumbercotta succeeded Mr. Mueller as the

"Grand High Exalted One" while Tony Blevins moved into second in command. The most exciting race was for the much sought after position of Secretary/Treasurer where Patrick McNamara squeezed out an incredibly tight and hard fought victory to earn a six year leadership stint and a chance to add some youthful exuberance into our organization. Congratulation Patrick!

To close it out I'd typically urge you to keep warm and dry, but again, by the time you read this that won't be very applicable, so I'll say good luck with your continued repair of all the cart tire ruts and other sundry damage still left on your courses.



*Shawn Gill
GWGCSA
External Vice President*

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