

September 2016

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## President's Message

This has been a year for records. Record amount of rainfall in May, records set for extended heat July, and August has been a record for lack of rainfall. Courses all around the Commonwealth have been battling the heat and praying for cooler temperatures with the hope of a quick recovery. This has certainly been a summer I would like to put behind me as soon as possible. The light at the end of the tunnel is cooler nights and not so hot days ending August and into September.

The past few months has kept everyone quite busy dealing with heat and now it's time to turn to our fall schedules that will include aerification and the anticipation of the first frost. This fall also includes a few events scheduled by your local associations as well as the VGCSA. I would hope that everyone will try to find time in their busy schedules to get out and network with your fellow Superintendents. Please check our website calendar for upcoming local events.

The annual Joe Saylor Memorial will be held on Thursday October 20th at Fawn Lake Country Club. This a two-man event with several divisions and prizes awarded for both net and gross scores. I'm sure Dave Smith, CGCS and his staff will have the course in great shape. Please plan on bringing your assistant, your pro or a guest to play in this event.

The 2016 Virginia Cup will be held at Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria on October 23-25, with Mike Augustin as the host Superintendent. The VGCSA and Captain Matt Boyce have assembled a team that will contend to bring the cup back to Virginia. The team consists of Jeff Yarborough, Jeff Whitmire, Cameron Yancey, Terry English, Garrison Fowler, Chris Roberts, Scott Cornwell and Matt Zarnstorff. The Carolinas retained the cup in a tie at Berkley Hall last year. Play hard fellas and bring back the Cup.



This year's Assistant's Forum will be held at Independence Golf Club with hosts Dan Taylor, CGCS and Brad McCurry on Wednesday, November 9th. Brad is our Board Assistants representative, and he has been working hard to provide a relevant speaker and topic that will engage attending Assistants. Please have your Assistant attend as this has always been a great event for them to network and learn.

The VGCSA's Winter Conference will be held in historic Colonial Williamsburg at the Woodlands Conference Center on December 5th and 6th. The Monday half-day seminar will be sponsored by the Old Dominion GCSA and will begin at 1:00 p.m. and run until 4:00. The VGCSA Annual Meeting and Awards will immediately follow this event, followed by a FREE Partner appreciation reception. Ian Grove and Turfgrass, Inc. will host a Monday Night Football Party at a local establishment. Tuesday morning will begin with a networking breakfast, followed by a full day of speakers and education, highlighted by GCSAA VP Bill Maynard. Please make plans to sign up early as this event will be one not to miss. I want to thank John Deere Revels and Finch for their support as presenting sponsors for this event.

The 2017 deadline to obtain your Certified Nutrient Management Plan is just around corner. Derik Cataldi with DCR with support from the VGCSA has recently sent out postcards to courses around Virginia that have not yet received their plans. The postcard provides information on the process and the available planners that can assist in the process (see article inside).

There is still over \$100,000 dollars of state provided grant money available to all courses that will assist in cost. If you haven't started the process please do so as soon as possible.

As everyone knows the Department of Labor has issued changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act on overtime hours. The Society for Human Resource Management is currently working to address the overtime rule to reduce the immediate impact and gradually phase in the Department of Labor's new rule over three years. This new law will impact how you pay your Assistants in the near future. The new rule is supposed take effect on December 1st. Stay tuned for more news in the coming months.

I know everyone has had a rough summer and looking forward to a cooler fall. This industry has changed over the last several years but hopefully one thing has remained constant. This is a brotherhood, and we need to take the time to lean on one another and share ideas. Communication is a much needed tool that we all need to use. I encourage everyone to get out to your local and state events and continue to network with your fellow Superintendents. Also, make sure you make time to spend with your family. This industry takes up way to much of our time away from them, and they provide balance in your life.

I hope everyone has a great end of the summer season and a smooth transition into the fall. I would like to thank our Partners for their continued support and ask our members to continue to support those who support us. I look forward to seeing everyone at our future events.



Jeff Holliday, CGCS  
VGCSA President

# GCSAA Seeking Environmental Leaders

GCSAA is now receiving applications for the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards (ELGA). All GCSAA members in good standing are eligible to apply, and the deadline is September 30th. Presented by GCSAA and Golf Digest in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, ELGAs recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses around the world for their commitment to environmental stewardship.

While these awards are important for distinguishing our greatest environmental



leaders, they are also important in leveraging our advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, within our communities, and within our local and state governments. We all know some of the stigmas surrounding our

industry, and what better way to promote the game than to showcase some of golf's finest environmental sanctuaries.

Applications will be judged by an independent panel on categories such as water conservation, IPM, energy conservation, wildlife and habitat, outreach, and more. Winners will be recognized in Golf Digest and GCM, as well as at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. To apply or nominate a peer, please visit [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org) and look for the link on the website's homepage.



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# Event Previews

## Fawn Lake to Host the Joe Saylor Memorial – 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 20. 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!

From its inception, Arnold Palmer's "Virginia Masterpiece" stands apart from the legendary champion's other designs. The private Fawn Lake Golf Course is distinguished by its challenging layout and by its sense of seclusion from community homes. Generous open spaces and dense forest separate the homes from the golf course, respecting the privacy of both the homeowners and the golfers. Club members value the great traditions of golf and the friendships derived from their shared respect for the sport. The Fawn Lake Golf Course offers an unforgettable golfing experience!

As a tradition of this event, the awards reception will feature a chili bowl party with your favorite beverages, as well as some excellent door prizes!

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-greats of our association, Joe Saylor, who served golf for over 40 years — he passed away in 2007. Register online at [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org) or on the registration form included in the newsletter mailing.



Fawn Lake Country Club



Host Dave Smith



Defending Champions Jeff Whitmire, CGCS and Jeff Yarborough

## VGCSA Conference is December 5-6 in Williamsburg

The VGCSA Conference continues to grow in its third year, as it moves to Colonial Williamsburg on December 5-6, 2016.

Headlining this year's event is GCSAA Vice President Bill Maynard, who will share insights and visit with old friends.

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. This will be a dynamic, interactive session featuring Virginia Tech's David McCall and Willow Oaks CC's Jordan Booth, CGCS fielding past paced questions from the audience via a text platform. They expect to cover a lot of ground on many varied topics.

After Monday education, the Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations will commence, then there will be a FREE Partner Appreciation Reception, featuring your favorite beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of networking time with your friends. Turfgrass, Inc. is making plans for a Monday Night Football party.

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 putting the final touches on the lineup as we speak!

The event is clearly moving to a great 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.

Presented by



GCSAA Vice President Bill Maynard, CGCS



Williamsburg Woodlands Conference Center

# Change is Coming to Virginia Tech Field Days *David McCall*

The annual struggle continues. Hot, humid, and restless nights. Afternoon hand-watering to get bentgrass through the day. Goosegrass, bermudagrass, and crabgrass invading any openings caused by dollar spot, anthracnose, or Pythium. Plots signs, last minute mowings and rollings, field research summary deadlines, Schmidt Pavilion setup, catering and refreshments, registration and exhibitor set up, and all of the other behind-the-scenes logistics. The good, the bad, and the ugly (or beautiful) in research plots all across Blacksburg. But if nobody is around to see them, it is much like a tree falling in the woods; nobody knows whether the dying goosegrass makes a noise.

The Virginia Tech Turf Team struggles each year to find balance between having something worth showing and finding a time that golf course superintendents can leave their property long enough to see the latest in research. Some years are better than others, but attendance is typically lowest for the industry segment that we cater our research towards the most... the



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golf course industry. We understand. It is difficult to drive three or more hours to see research in a mountain environment that doesn't resemble most courses' growing conditions, especially when it is 95°F that day and bentgrass is on the brink of collapse.

So what have we collectively decided to do about it? Drop our campus field day! The campus Turf Team has met several times to discuss options, and consulted with Dr. Derr at the Hampton Roads AREC about possibilities. The most compelling solution to extend our research to our primary clientele is to hit the roads. We plan to increase our presence in the higher population regions with off-site field research and demonstration plots. There are already summer field days for the sports turf managers and sod producers. Dr. Derr hosts an excellent field day in Virginia Beach that

is catered mostly to lawn care operators and municipality employees. We will coordinate our efforts with these groups so that we can share some of our research at their events. There is no golf-specific event at this time outside of the VT field day, so we are in the planning stages of working with a golf course superintendent to host a research and demonstration field day. This will likely occur in the Richmond Metro area in 2017, sometime in late spring during bermudagrass green-up. Several of us already have a number of research trials underway in Richmond, with intentions of adding more for increased visibility. Full details are still in the works, so please stay tuned. Also, feel free to reach out to me ([dsmccall@vt.edu](mailto:dsmccall@vt.edu)) or my campus colleagues ([eervin@vt.edu](mailto:eervin@vt.edu), [goatley@vt.edu](mailto:goatley@vt.edu), [saskew@vt.edu](mailto:saskew@vt.edu)) with any ideas or suggestions.

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- *Kip Connelly: VTC Board Member and VTCA Board Member, Founder PrimeraTurf, VTC Lifetime Achievement Award*
- *Bo Jumbercotta: President: Greater Washington GCSAA*
- *Steve Burnette: Past President: Old Dominion GGCSA; VGCSA Distinguished Service Award*
- *Dave Lawson: Board Member TTA, VA Horticulture Foundation*
- *Kevin Connelly: Chairman PrimeraTurf and ITODA Board Member*

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# Virlina Cup Preview

## VGCSA Team Seeks Victory at Belle Haven Country Club

Last year in Carolina, the VGCSA Team righted the ship and played the favored CGCSA team to a draw on their home turf. Now Captain Matt Boyce has his sights set on bringing the Cup back to Commonwealth for the first time since 2010. And with a great lineup of players, the timing is right for a win. And for the first time, the event visits the DC beltway at one of the “power clubs,” Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria. Host superintendent Mike Augustin will have the course prepared for a great competition!

The competition is set for October 23-25, with teams of 8 players going head-to-head in four-ball, foursomes and singles matches. The VGCSA Team qualified at the VGCSA Championship and at various regional qualifiers. Syngenta is the founding sponsor of the event.



Belle Haven Country Club



Matt Boyce  
Team Captain



Jeff Holliday  
Assistant Captain



Scott Cornwell



Terry English



Garrison Fowler



Chris Roberts



Jeff Whitmire



Cameron Yancey



Jeff Yarborough



Matt Zarnstorff

# JD Dickinson Memorial Golf Tournament and Silent Auction – Sunday, September 25

Lend your support by participating in the second annual JD Dickinson Memorial Golf Tournament and Silent Auction, on Sunday, September 25, 2016. We hope to continue the success from last year's tournament to help raise funds for scholarships, in memory of JD. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to seeing you at Lake Monticello!

Visit [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org) to register.



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Golf - Shotgun Start



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# Nutrient Management Plan Grants Still Available

**Deadline is July 15, 2017**

As you may know, July 15, 2017 is the deadline for all golf courses in Virginia to have a certified Nutrient Management Plan for their Course. We now have over 100 clubs with certified plans. The state has approved a grant program to assist courses with complying with this regulation which is allotted on a \$10 / acre schedule, but each contractor sets their own fee. Here is a current list of contractors:

**Alan Marshall**  
**Ag Management Services**  
540-967-3889  
ag-management@comcast.net

**Andrew Jeffery and Ethan Virts**  
**Timmons Group Inc.**  
804-200-6500  
andrew.jeffery@timmons.com  
ethan.virts@timmons.com  
www.timmons.com

**Angela C. Whitehead**  
**Soil Horizons LLC**  
804-892-6678  
soilmapper@yahoo.com  
<https://sites.google.com/soilhorizonsllc/>

**Brent Wills**  
**Wills Soil & Stream**  
540-947-0337  
soils@bramblehollowfarm.com

**Bruce Petrelli**  
**Golf Course Consult**  
brucepetrelli@yahoo.com  
434-942-6351

**Jeff Michel**  
**M&M Consulting**  
540-229-0134  
mmwetest3@verizon.net

**John Roller**  
**Ecosystem Services**  
540-578-4296  
jon@ecosystemllc.com

**Laurie Anderson**  
**Landscape Ability LLC**  
703-802-6318  
landscapeability@cox.net

**Marshall T. Hibbs**  
**MT Hibbs Consulting**  
502-507-3558  
mthibbsconsulting@gmail.com

**Matt Austin**  
**Essential Elements NMP LLC**  
757-634-5595  
essentialelementsnmp@gmail.com

**Robert Habel**  
**Five Oaks Consulting**  
434-665-2813  
habelrf@gmail.com

**Ryan Lehrter**  
757-354-5663  
rlehrter@valleycrest.com

If you have any questions about the grant or your course's eligibility contact Derik Cataldi, DCR's Urban Nutrient Management Specialist. Derik.Cataldi@dcr.virginia.gov, 804-371-7489.

Visit the VA DCR website for a sample plan: [www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov).



## 2017 GCSAA Conference and Social Event Head to Orlando Reservations Now Available in the VGCSA Room Block for GIS in Orlando

The Doubletree by Hilton Orlando SeaWorld is the official hotel for VGCSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS for the 2017 Golf Industry Show in Orlando.

Room availability begins on February 4 and runs through February 11. Rates are \$132 for a king room or two doubles.

Please visit the VGCSA website ([www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org)) for the link to book your room.

This beautiful hotel will also host our annual Social Event poolside from

7-10 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, so save the date!

**DEADLINE TO BOOK IS  
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If you have any problems or have any questions please contact Robert Davila at Travel Planners, Inc., (212) 468 5291 or [robert.davila@onpeak.com](mailto:robert.davila@onpeak.com).



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# VGCSA Producing Video to Promote the Profession

## GCSAA Supports Project with Chapter Outreach Grant

The pipeline for future superintendents is not as strong as it once was, and clubs in Virginia are finding really hard to locate top candidates to apprentice for the role of superintendent – just check the job board to see many advertisements for assistant superintendents. And like other industries, baby boomer superintendents are starting to retire, so there is movement projected for the profession.

Recognizing this trend, the VGCSA Board chose not to sit back and let things transpire. Instead, they took advantage of a GCSAA Chapter Outreach Grant to produce a video showcasing the profession, as exhibited by top young professionals in our industry. The video should be ready this

fall, and it will be promoted on social media and directly to targets such as high school golf coaches, guidance counselors, college fairs and otherwise. Naturally Virginia Tech will roll the video into their recruiting efforts, but they are quick to note that community colleges also provide an avenue for turf industry candidates.

Heading the project is D.J. Granger of Silverado Productions, an experienced producer for the Virginia State Golf Association, who has done many golf videos. Trevor Hedgepeth of Kinloch graciously invited us to film there. The video will feature six young up-coming-professionals – Brad McCurry of Independence GC, Steven Ball and Justin

Hunt of Kinloch, Aaron Evans of Farmington, Ryan Johnson of The Kanawha Club and Doug Houser of Salisbury Country Club. The video also features Dr. David McCall of Virginia Tech and Travis Roberson, a graduate student in turf at Tech.

The film will showcase many positive aspects of the job – the beautiful setting of the superintendent's office, the swift gratification for good work, the interface with nature, the teamwork and camaraderie, and much more. The goal is to engage young people in a future career as a golf course superintendent. Look for a special showing of the video at the VGCSA Annual Conference in Williamsburg on December 5-6.



VGCSA Video "Stars" – L-R: Travis Roberson, Dr. David McCall, Doug Houser, Brad McCurry, Steven Ball, Ryan Johnson (not pictured, Justin Hunt)



Having your best friend hang out on the job with you is great – so says Justin Hunt of Kinloch

## Wee One Foundation Gifts its Millionth Dollar

The Wee One Foundation sent its millionth dollar to help a family in need earlier this year. The Foundation has only been in existence since 2004, when the Foundation's namesake, Wayne Otto, CGCS was diagnosed with cancer. Friends of Otto in the golf maintenance industry raised funds to help offset his medical expenses. Otto succumbed to this disease, but his vigor for life live on

in the Foundation formed to share his spirit and help others that have become ill and suffer because of medical hardship.

The Foundation assists golf course management professionals (and their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. The Foundation raises

funds through events, auctions, direct gifts, annual contributions and purchasing programs.

To learn more about the Wee One Foundation or to make a request for a person or family in need, please visit: [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org).



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# Turf Industry Gears Up for Economic Impact Study *Gil Grattan, Virginia Green*

The idea of a Green Industry Survey started in late 2013. Our industry, fighting some legislative battles in the State of Virginia, was utilizing 2005 data when discussing the economic value, the number of industry employees, and other important facts and figures. Our voices were not being heard, and therefore our industry was being ignored.

Based upon research in the surrounding states, we determined the following:

- NC Green Industry (2005) - \$8.6 Billion
- Tennessee Turf Impact Survey (2013) - \$5.8 Billion
- Florida Green Industry (2005) - \$15.24 Billion

With traditional Agriculture in the State of Virginia valued at \$52 Billion and Forestry at \$17 Billion according to the most recent survey done by VDACS, we felt a need to update our numbers and hopefully with the participation of all our allied associations, come up with some number we can all utilize. Estimates for the Green Industry in Virginia are between \$8-10 Billion.

After two years of working on a plan and a strategy, we have finally funded the cost of the survey and hired an outside party to manage the development and administration. With current support of the VNLA, the VTC and the VTF, we are in the process of developing the survey questions and getting feedback from all the industry groups. The

current associations participating in the survey are:

- Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Virginia Turfgrass Council
- Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association
- Virginia Sod Growers Association
- Virginia Sports Turf Managers Association
- Virginia Recreation and Park Society
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Virginia Flower Growers Association
- Virginia Turfgrass Foundation
- Virginia Cemetery Association
- Virginia Professional Grounds Management Association
- Mid-Atlantic Association of ISA
- Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association

The survey will be divided up into industry specific sections, along with a core section which will be the same for everybody. The core section will consist of questions about employees, total annual revenue, health care and other general information. The industry specific questions will be about things such as total acres, grass types, plants and other pertinent information. An example of the industry specific questions may be:

For the Sod Producers — In 2015, how many acres of Fescue did you sell? How



many acres do you have under management? How many new acres did you establish in 2015? How many acres did you remove from production or management in 2015?

Since all the Allied Associations are participating in the survey, each industry group will distribute the survey to their members throughout the fall and winter. Based upon the responses we receive, and the number of participants, we will be trying to complete the survey before February 2017.

Please take time to complete the survey and make sure to share it with your friends in the industry and associates. Our goal is to utilize the data collected to let everybody know we are a significant industry in the State of Virginia, estimated at \$8-10 billion in economic impact. If you have any questions, please email me at [gil.grattan@viriniagreenlawncare.com](mailto:gil.grattan@viriniagreenlawncare.com) or the survey directly at [greenindustrysurveyva@gmail.com](mailto:greenindustrysurveyva@gmail.com).

We look forward to your participation!

## Reducing Risk to Pollinators

### ***VGCSA Works with Coalition for Sensible Solution***

The VGCSA is working with the Virginia Agribusiness Council to come up with a sensible solution to protect pollinators who are at risk from pesticide applicators. A coalition has been formed to work with the Virginia Department of Agriculture on a plan.

Virginia's "Plan to Mitigate the Risk of Pesticides to Managed Pollinators" is a set of recommendations and best management practices intended to increase protection of managed pollinators and allow crop production and beekeeping to thrive. Virginia's Plan facilitates a collaborative approach to implementing risk mitigation

practices for beekeepers, agricultural producers, landowners, and pesticide applicators.

Virginia's Plan encourages effective communication between agricultural producers, pesticide applicators, landowners, and beekeepers. The Plan includes practices that mitigate potential pesticide exposure to bees, allowing for the effective management of pests, and avoiding situations of unnecessary conflict between these parties. In May, 2016 the parties embarked on a first draft of the Plan, and studies are ongoing to refine it. VDACS is following a measured pace to

gain input from all parties. Members can follow progress at [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org) and <http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov>.





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# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

Glad to see that August is in the rearview mirror, and cooler weather is around the corner! The fall will be such a pleasant arrival this year. Throughout the state, we have been through a cool wet spring to end with a hot dry August. We should all be grateful for our staffs that we have around us. I know I am thankful for my staff for their hard work and dedication.

This fall can provide a great opportunity to get some of your staff out for some golf and say “thanks”. On September 26 we will be meeting at Magnolia Greens Golf Club for a great day of golf, and on October 25 we will be gathering at Kanawha Club.

Come join us for these events for some socializing and golf — the meetings are free of charge!

The ODGCSA is still seeking to have more applications for the two \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded at our annual meeting this year, which will be held at the Fall Conference in December. The scholarships, which will be presented by Smith Turf and Irrigation, can be awarded to any golf course employee at a course with a VGCSA superintendent member — any field of study — must be actively enrolled — must be submitted to [bgraham@tworiversclub.com](mailto:bgraham@tworiversclub.com) by October 31.

The ODGCSA will be hosting a class during the Monday portion of the Annual Conference on December 5 in Williamsburg. There will be a panel of professionals that will discuss several topics. The audience can send text messages with questions to a mediator, who will provide an opportunity for an open discussion and provide feedback to the participants.



Scott Mauldin, CGCSA  
ODGCSA  
External Vice President

## TTA News

To sum up summer in the Tidewater area, HOT is the first word that comes to mind. She came in with a vengeance leaving many courses reeling from hot and dry conditions. What little rain came our way was so spotty that courses just miles apart were seeing drastically different conditions. One may have wet wilt, while the other was stressed due to drought.

We are looking forward to fall and a break from the long stretches of 95+ degree days. The next event on the schedule for the TTA is an event at my home course,

Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club, located on the Northern Neck. We welcome guest speaker, Dr. Shawn Askew (Extension Specialist and Associate Professor for Virginia Tech), who will speak on plant growth regulators. According to Virginia Tech, Dr. Askew has generated and spent over \$2.0 million in the past decade for research endeavors aimed at improving weed management programs for Virginia turfgrass managers. This event is free and includes the presentation, lunch and golf. Fall is a great time to catch up with our

peers and talk about the 2016 season.

The TTA will be using the cooler season to come up with great programs and schedule for next year. If you have any ideas or thoughts on topics and events you'd like us to schedule, please reach out to one of the TTA board members.



Pete Stephens, CGCSA  
Tidewater Turfgrass  
Association  
External Vice President

## VGCSA Award Nominations Open – Deadline Oct. 31

Nominations are now open for the 2016 VGCSA awards, which will be presented at the VGCSA Annual Meeting on December 5, 2016 in Colonial Williamsburg, as part of the Annual Conference. Any VGCSA member may submit a nomination to our committee. The awards are as follows:

**VGCSA Presidents Award For Lifetime Service** – “to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs but who may no longer be actively involved in the VGCSA. Qualifications include 20 years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, 10 of

which were as a superintendent.”

**VGCSA Distinguished Service Award** – “Presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents.”

**VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award** – “Presented to recognize distinguished and meritorious service in the environmental stewardship of Virginia golf courses.”

The Awards Committee is chaired by Sean Baskette, and we request nominations be submitted by October 31, 2016. A

nomination form is included in this newsletter mailing. Please email nominations to Sean Baskette ([hvccmaint@comcast.net](mailto:hvccmaint@comcast.net)).

### 2015 VGCSA Award Honorees



Rick Viancour  
Lifetime  
Service



Ken Giedd  
Distinguished  
Service



Dan Taylor  
Environmental  
Stewardship

# Scholarship Applications Being Accepted Through Oct. 31

## Buy Sod VGCSA Scholarship

The Buy Sod VGCSA Scholarship Program was established in 2012 by Buy Sod as a means to support the children of qualified golf course superintendents, who plan to attend an institution of higher learning, following graduation from high school.



High school seniors who are the children of Class A or B members in good standing of the VGCSA are eligible for the program. Applications must be received by October 31, 2016.

### Honor Roll of Past Recipients

2013 – Rachel Van Fleet, Stafford, VA

2014 – Jordan Cochran, Martinsville, VA; Jacob Whitfield, Haymarket, VA; Layne Zirkle, Amherst, VA

2015 – Jake Thompson, Charlottesville, VA

## ODGCSA Scholarship presented by Smith Turf and Irrigation

The ODGCSA and Smith Turf & Irrigation are proud to announce a NEW scholarship program for 2016. This year there will be two \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to students working at a VGCSA member golf club.

The applicant can be any employee at a golf course that also has an employee that is a member in good standing of the VGCSA. Applications must be received by October 31, 2016.



**An application for the ODGCSA scholarship is included as an insert to this issue of *Commonwealth Crier*.**

**To apply for the Buy Sod VGCSA Scholarship, visit our website [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org).**

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# News from Local Associations

## VTA News

Personally I am not going to talk about the summer of 2016 because quite frankly I am over it. Like the rest of Virginia and the most of the Mid-Atlantic, golf courses in the southwest part of the state did not fair particularly well this summer.

On a brighter side, the VTA has had a very successful season and I believe all of us enjoy the opportunity to get together with our fellow green industry guys and share in some fellowship. In June we had our meeting at Falling River in Appomattox. Topic of conversation was nutrient management plans. Robert Habel from Five Oaks Agronomy helped us understand the process and the ease of getting one completed.

In July, we had our annual Family Night

with the Salem Red Sox. This is becoming a tradition and it is great to meet everyone's families. Ironically, all the kids that attended were sitting quietly watching the games while the adults were the ones making noise and not paying attention to what was going on.

Our August meeting brought us to Primland Resort where Dr. Kerns from N.C. State led a great talk on diseases, controls and what they have been seeing throughout the region. This year, they have already seen as many samples as they usually do in an entire year. Scary thing is, just about half of the samples the N.C. State labs see, there is no disease present. Mechanical damage and turf that has just had enough and decided to call it quits for the year seems to be par for

the course.

We will end up the year with our Annual Meeting at Roanoke Country Club hosted by Dan Wheeler. I imagine all of us will be ready to play a little golf, hang with our friends and tell horror stories of the summer of 2016.

Football, leaf season and a chance for us all to catch our breath is upon us. Have a great Fall.



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

## SVTA News

What can I say, what a terrible summer it has been for most of us in the Shenandoah Valley. From a saturated July to an exhaustingly hot August, many of us look like chickens with no heads. A summer that will test anyone's nerves and many of us losing sleep over it. I know I am.

That second where you don't know what to do: "To water or not to water" "What is that, disease? Dry spot?" Couple of quotes that are my favorites to date ... "C'mon October!!" and "I've got crabgrass up to my

nutsedge" I guess the only saving grace we have right now is that the nights are getting longer and the days shorter. Hang in there everyone, don't forget to spend time with your loved ones and remember what is really important in life.

Don't forget about the upcoming SVTA fundraiser at Winchester CC on Thursday, October 20. Bring your staff and anyone else from your club for a fun-filled and relaxing day full of networking and good friends. We are hoping to have every club

sponsor a team. This will be a 10:00 shotgun start and we will have the cost to you as soon as we can.

Keep your head up and hope to see everyone soon.



*Scott Cornwell  
Shenandoah Valley  
Turfgrass Association  
External Vice President*

## News from the GWGCSA

Wow! Will we ever make it to the end of summer? Except for a couple (much too short) little periods of cool weather, this summer has made me a true believer in global warming. I can hear my ears ringing already and you all haven't even read this article. If you would like to sit down sometime and discuss real science and not politics, I'm always open to other views, even if they are wrong. Anyway, I'm just glad that September is here and relief is on the way. I think everyone got a little dinged this year and I noticed a lot of heights of cut being raised, but hey, we all knew what we were getting into when we came to work in HELL or the Mid-Atlantic as it is known to some. OK, enough complaining.

To be honest, I've been a little too

stressed lately to even keep track of what we've been doing, event-wise, in the GWGCSA. I know that the Maintenance Open was in July and the boys from Laurel Hill took home the trophy. I could not attend, but I understand Van Fleet had to be physically removed from the stage (where he was giving his annual address on the "State of Forest Greens") in order to get the golf started in time to finish before dark. I believe there was a social event in August, but again, I was absent. Knowing the boys like I do, I'm sure it was a WizBang of a time.

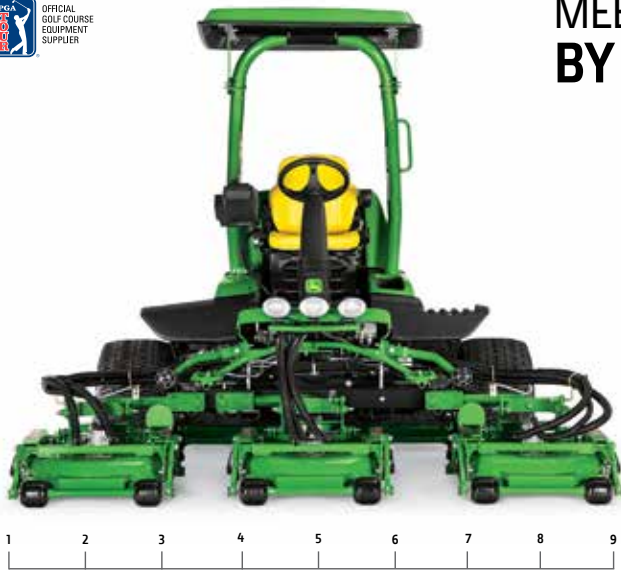
The main reason my head has not been in the game lately, is that I have recently taken on a new challenge in Upper Marlboro, MD. I have moved over to Lake Presidential

Golf Club and have had my hands full. On that note, this will be my last newsletter as the External VP for the GWGCSA. My new location and position will mean the Bo and Mueller will have to con some other soul into taking on the responsibility. But seriously, I have enjoyed every minute of it and will miss it greatly. While I have moved to the other side of the river, you will not escape my presence altogether as I will try to be a familiar face at GWGCSA events.

Goodbye and Good Luck.



*Shawn Gill  
GWGCSA  
External Vice President*



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