

Spring 2012

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

With a mild winter and early spring, golf in Virginia is off and running. Record high temperatures across the state are forcing most of us to get back in the saddle a little earlier than we have the past couple of years. Hopefully Mother Nature will continue the favorable temperatures and promote a mild summer.

The 2012 Golf Industry Show (GIS) in Las Vegas was another successful show for the GCSAA and VGCSA. Las Vegas offered all the entertainment, while the GCSAA offered a variety of educational opportunities and a trade show that offered many opportunities to find a fertilizer, chemicals, hard goods or a piece of equipment.

During the GIS, three of the VGCSA representatives outlined our *Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual* efforts. Peter McDonough spoke about the Manual in "Keeping your facility above water: How water quality regulations may affect the golf business". Then David Norman took the stage at the Chapter Executives Session to relay our progress and the logistics of attaining our goals. Finally Jeff Berg spoke on behalf of the Environmental Institute for Golf about funding research, education and advocacy for you.



There have been many in our state that contributed to this manual, and it's an honor for these gentlemen to relay all the hard work. Great job, guys!

Our work is not done and we continue to promote our BMP Manual with funds from the **Landscape Supply BMP Golf Tournament at Creighton Farms on May 21**. Patrick and Kevin Connelly have done a great job building this tournament, and we look forward to being in the Northern Virginia area for another stellar event. Thanks again to the Connelys, Matt Zarnstorff and the Creighton Farms team.

Don't forget about the **Tollie Quinn Championship** hosted by Andrew McCormick at the **Hanover Country Club on May 8th** (brought to you by Smith Turf and Irrigation).

This is our State Championship and qualifier for the 3rd Annual Virlina Cup slated for the Northern Virginia area in October. The tournament will qualify four superintendents and one assistant superintendent. The remaining two

spots will be selected by Jeff Berg, our outgoing President and new Virlina Cup Captain. Steve Dorer and Syngenta will have the final selection that will cap off the team of eight. The cup is currently in the Carolinas and we look forward to another great competition.

As I close on the President's message, I encourage each member to get involved. The local associations have done a wonderful job of outlining fantastic educational and networking engagements for the year. All of this is available on the website at www.vgcsa.com. Take some time to look up a local meeting in your area.

As always, our success is predicated on our Partner Program and I salute the partners at all levels of participation, as they allow us to enhance your VGCSA.

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Boyce
VGCSA President

The Foundry Golf Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence

The Foundry Golf Club in Powhatan has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, an Audubon International program. Scott Mauldin, Certified Golf Course Superintendent, has led the effort to obtain sanctuary status on this course and is being recognized for Environmental Stewardship by Audubon International. The Foundry Golf Club is the 33rd course in Virginia and the 975th in the world to receive the honor.

"The Foundry Golf Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said



Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs.

"To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Sluiter. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program has enticed our staff and members to learn more about the benefits

of helping the environment around us. We have enjoyed the added benefits from the wildlife and the natural beauty of the native areas, while at the same time reducing the amount of dollars being spent with-in our maintenance operations," said Scott Mauldin CGCS.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, endorsed by the United States Golf Association, provides information and guidance to help golf courses preserve and enhance wildlife habitat, and protect natural resources.



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President

Matt Boyce
Princess Anne Country Club
3800 Pacific Avenue • Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Ph: 757-428-0346 / Fax: 757-425-6976
Cell: 757-971-7222
E-mail: mboyce@princessannecc.com

Vice President

Jeff Holliday, CGCS
Salisbury Country Club
13620 Salisbury Road • Midlothian, VA 23113
Ph: 804-794-8389 / Fax: 804-794-0389
Cell: 804-640-0748
E-mail: jholliday83@msn.com

Secretary/ Treasurer

Chris Petrelli
Cedar Point Country Club
P.O. Box 6138 • Suffolk, VA 23433
Ph: 757-238-2629
Cell: 757-641-6222
E-Mail: cpetrelli@cedarpointcountryclub.com

Past President

Jeff Berg
Goose Creek Golf Club
43001 Golf Club Road • Leesburg, VA 20175
Ph: 703-729-2500 / Fax: 703-729-9364
Cell: 571-233-0993
E-mail: jberg@kempersports.com

VGCSA External Vice-Presidents

Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association

Dan Taylor, CGCS
Independence Golf Club
600 Founders Bridge Blvd. • Midlothian, VA 23113
Ph: 804-594-2750 x116 / Fax: 804-594-0291
Cell: 804-640-9467
E-Mail: dtaylor@independencegolfclub.com

Tidewater Turfgrass Association

Rob Wilmans
Elizabeth Manor Golf & Country Club
One "Ace" Parker Drive • Portsmouth, VA 23701
Ph: 757-488-8918 / Fax: 757-465-5991
Cell: 757-761-4767
E-Mail: emgcc@aol.com

Virginia Turfgrass Association

Mark Cote
Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech
8400 River Course Drive • Radford, VA 24141
Ph: 540-633-0247
Cell: 540-679-9002
E-Mail: mcote@vt.edu

Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association

Jeff Van Fleet
Forest Greens Golf Club
4500 Poa Annua Lane • Triangle, VA 22172
Ph: 703-221-2207 / Fax: 703-221-2401
Cell: 571-238-0098
E-mail: jefffleet@msn.com

Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association

David Lewallen
Bowling Green Country Club
53 Southern Drive • Strasburg, VA 22657
Ph: 540-636-9728 / Fax: 540-635-1151
Cell: 540-974-2889
E-Mail: davekara@shentel.net

At-Large Board Members

Assistant Superintendent

Matt Sobotka
Spring Creek Golf Course
109 Clubhouse Way • Gordonsville, VA 22942
Cell: 434-566-1225
E-Mail: sobotkam1@gmail.com

Associate

Patrick Connelly
Landscape Supply
2931 Oak Lake Boulevard • Midlothian, VA 23112
Ph: 804-744-5445 • Fax: 804-744-9899
Cell: 804-640-8872
E-Mail: pconnelly@landscapesupplyva.com

Staff

Executive Director

David Norman
VGCSA
10231 Telegraph Road, Suite A
Glen Allen, VA 23059
Ph: 804-747-4971 x113 / Fax: 804-747-5022
Cell: 804-399-7802
E-Mail: DNorman007@aol.com

General Counsel

M.E. "Dick" Gibson, Jr.
Tremblay & Smith, LLP
P.O. Box 1585
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Ph: 434-977-4455 / Fax: 434-979-1221
E-mail: dick.gibson@tremblaysmith.com

Through the Green

News and Updates from Around the Commonwealth

Tollie Quinn & Virlina Cup

Qualifying Mark your calendar for **May 8** for the popular Tollie Quinn Memorial Tournament, hosted by Andrew McCormick at **Hanover Country Club**. Once again, Smith Turf & Irrigation returns to sponsor this event, which will also serve as the qualifier for the Virlina Cup Team. The event is individual stroke play, flighted with gross and net prizes.

Five spots will be available for the **Virlina Cup Team**—the top four superintendents and the low assistant will qualify for this third annual encounter with a team from the Carolinas GCSA. The match is tied 1-1, with each squad winning on home turf. This year's event heads to northern Virginia, with Trump National and Dominion Valley set to host, with the third course to be announced soon. Dates are **October 14-16**.

A Tollie Quinn application is included in this newsletter mailing.

Wee One Foundation Tournament

Phil Bailey and Cypress Creek Golfer's Club will once again play host to the Wee One Foundation



Tournament, set for **Monday, July 16**.

This popular event generates funding to support superintendents and their families when health issues create financial problems. In the past, the foundation has supported Virginia superintendents. This year the starting time has been moved up to 9 a.m. to avoid the heat and to allow for a nice social event, complete with many raffle prizes. Format is four-player scramble.

Phil has formed a tournament committee consisting of Ian Grove, Jeff Snyder, Sam Coggin, Tom Adams, Mark McCaughan, Rob Wilmans, Jay Long, Jeff Holliday, Tyler Minamy, Jeff Losaw, Dave Melton, Dan Taylor and Ted Smith. There is a goal to increase sponsorship and participation, thus broadening the support of the foundation. Be on the lookout for more information and a tournament application soon.

VGCSA Member Survey The biannual VGCSA Member Survey is now underway. Superintendent members are asked to respond by **April 30**, and all respondents will automatically receive a free copy of the results. The survey covers all aspects of operations, ranging from compensation, benefits, vacation, equipment, fertilizer & pesticide utilization, and many other variables.

The survey is broken down by VGCSA region (local association), ensuring a true peer-to-peer comparison. The survey is online, and the system allows respondents to do a part of the survey and return later to finish it. Be on the lookout for an email reminder, with a link to the survey—if you haven't received it, please contact the VGCSA office and update your email address.

Buy Sod Scholarship Program

A new VGCSA scholarship program has been created by The Buy Sod Corporation. A new twist is that the recipients will be the children of VGCSA member superintendents. Buy Sod will donate funds according to the success of a sales promotion to be conducted annually. "We are truly excited to create this new program to benefit VGCSA members and their families," said John Robertson, Regional Sales Manager for Buy Sod. The promotion has already begun, and every time a Virginia golf course makes a purchase from Buy Sod, a donation is set aside for the fund. The promotion will culminate in the fall, when the amount of funding for 2012 will be announced.

The VGCSA Scholarship Committee will be responsible for setting the application requirements and distributing applications. More information will follow on the VGCSA website (www.vgcsa.org) and in coming issues of *Commonwealth Crier*.

The Buy Sod Corporation is a full line producer of both cool and warm season turf grasses with headquarters in Pinehurst, NC, and multiple production sites strategically located throughout Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. There are 3,700 acres in

production, and all of Buy Sod's turf grasses are certified by the appropriate state certification agency to warrant the genetic purity of their product. Buy Sod also offers sod installation and stripping services as well as customized contract grow services. They specialize in golf course quality inventory levels. (See their ad in this issue)

For more information on this program and Buy Sod's product offering, contact John Robertson at 804-337-0703 and/or jrobertson@budsod.com.

VTF's Bob Ruff Jr.

Research Golf Tournament Virginia's turfgrass industry owes a great debt to the scientists at Virginia Tech. Their research and outreach on our behalf make our work possible. Say your thanks—and ensure that research will continue—by participating in the 33rd Annual VTF Bob Ruff Research Golf Tournament. In just over three decades, your support has enabled the VTF to donate over \$205,000 for turfgrass research at Virginia Tech.

This year's event is scheduled for **Monday, June 4** at **Spring Creek Golf Club**. The event starts at 9:30 a.m. with the BIG BREAK contest. Host superintendent Brian Vincel is setting up glass windows and other obstacles. This contest is a great chance to warm up and have some fun—legally break some windows while raising money for research.

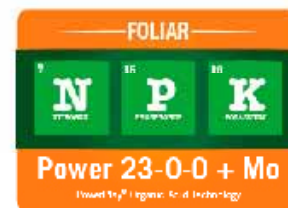
The tournament includes golf and carts, breakfast, lunch and dinner plus on-course beverages and snacks—but most important, you also get to help our industry. We are grateful to Shawn Askew, Mike Goatley, Erik Ervin, Jeff Derr, Rod Youngman, David McCall, Adam Nichols, and others are able to conduct the research we need through your support.

Tournament details are available on the VTC's website (www.vaturf.org) or call 757-464-1004.



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2012 VGCSA Meeting & Event Schedule

Date	Meeting/Event	Location
4/18	Trinity Turf Meeting & Golf	Goose Creek GC, Leesburg
4/19	VGCSA Board Meeting	VGCSA Office, Glen Allen
4/24	GWGCSA Pro-Supt. w MAAGCS	NW Park GC, Silver Spring, MD
4/26	SVTA Meeting	Spotswood CC, Harrisonburg
4/26	TTA Meeting	Broad Bay CC, Virginia Beach
5/3	TTA Nine Hole Mixer	Virginia Beach National GC
5/8	ODGCSA Tollie Quinn & Virlina Cup Qualifying	Hanover CC
5/14	GWGCSA Brody King Tournament	Piedmont Golfers' Club, Haymarket
5/15	VTA Fundraiser	Ashley Plantation GC, Daleville
5/21	Landscape Supply BMP Fundraiser	Creighton Farms GC, Aldie
5/24	TTA Nutrient Management Meeting	VT Coop. Ext. Hamp. Rds. & Bay Creek
5/31	SVTA Qualifier for VTC	Bryce Resort, Basey
6/4	VTC Fundraiser	Spring Creek GC, Gordonsville
6/7	TTA Nine Hole Mixer	Cypress Creek GC, Smithfield
6/11	VTA Meeting	The Homestead, Hot Springs
6/18	TTA Dick Cake Memorial	Elizabeth Manor GCC, Portsmouth
6/19	SVTA Fundraiser	Rock Harbor GC, Winchester
6/19	North-South Challenge	Lee's Hill GC, Fredericksburg
6/24	CMAA-VGCSA-NGCOA VA Joint Meeting	Princess Anne CC, VA Beach
7/5	TTA Nine Hole Mixer	Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg
7/10	VTA Meeting	Boonsboro CC, Lynchburg
7/13	GWGCSA First Tee Fundraiser	Forest Greens GC, Triangle
7/16	Wee One Foundation Tournament	Cypress Creek GC, Smithfield
7/17	GWGCSA Maintenance Open	Prince William GC, Nokesville
8/2	VGCSA Board Meeting	VGCSA Office, Glen Allen
8/2	TTA Nine Hole Mixer	Elizabeth Manor GCC, Portsmouth
8/10	SVTA Meeting	Millwood CC, Boyce
8/14	GWGCSA Social	The Wing Factory, Chantilly
9/11	VTA Meeting	Goodyear GC, Danville
9/18	GWGCSA-MAAGCS Joint Event	Bethesda CC, Bethesda, MD
9/20	TTA Outer Banks Trip	Nags Head Golf Links
9/24	ODGCSA-SVTA Joint Meeting	Devil's Knob, Wintergreen Resort
10/4	TTA Nine Hole Mixer	Princess Anne CC, VA Beach
10/9	VTA Meeting	Roanoke CC
10/14-16	Virlina Cup	Dom. Valley, Trump Nat'l, TBA
10/16	GWGCSA Supt-Asst Event w "open" division	Belmont CC, Ashburn
10/29	VGCSA Joe Saylor Memorial	Princess Anne CC, VA Beach
10/25	SVTA Educational Symposium	Shenandoah Valley CC, Front Royal
11/5	VGCSA Assistants Forum	Willow Oaks CC, Richmond
11/6	ODGCSA Annual Meeting	Independence GC, Midlothian
11/8	VGCSA Board Meeting	VGCSA Office, Glen Allen
11/13	GWGCSA Annual Meeting	Evergreen CC, Haymarket

Big Events to Benefit BMP Program

The call to action to support the VGCSA's "Best Management Practices" program has been broad. At this year's Golf Industry Show, VGCSA Past Presidents Jeff Berg (2010-11) and Peter McDonough (1999-2000) each spoke to highlight the landmark project that was accomplished only through the cooperative efforts of golf course superintendents, Virginia Tech researchers, government agencies and industry supporters. And even though the two year project has culminated in publishing of the nationally acclaimed guide, Virginia's golf and turf industries continue to support the effort as we move into the water quality monitoring stage.

At the VGCSA Annual Meeting, Helena Chemical's Bill Goodrich announced a donation of over \$3,000 to the BMP project, part of a sales promotion created by Mike Rincon and supported by Tommy Adams. Rincon has announced that the program will continue for 2012.

Also to note, Club Car's Richmond distributorship did a similar promotion



Peter McDonough (R) with GCSAA's Greg Lyman

last year that netted \$1,000, and Michael Pastirik has renewed the commitment, hoping for a larger donation this year.

Then there is Precision Labs, the company that kicked off the corporate fundraising in 2010, with the largest single donation of over \$5,000 through their sales promotion. After a transition year in 2011, new regional representative Bo Barefoot has made a strong statement with a Gold Partner sponsorship of VGCSA, with part of the sponsorship going to BMP.

Then there is the 800 pound gorilla fundraising team of "Team Connelly" and Landscape Supply. Three years ago they started their own golf event to raise funds for industry initiatives. Now the event is partnered with the VGCSA and dedicated solely to raising funds for the BMP effort. Last year's event at The Water's Edge, hosted by Jeff Snyder, was a tremendous success. This year there is a goal for 100 players and a big donation of over \$10,000 through broad sponsor involvement (*see brochure inserted with this newsletter*). Creighton Farms Golf Club in Aldie, VA plays host at one of Virginia's finest clubs, and with a new clubhouse to host the social activities, you will not want to miss this event on Monday, May 21.

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Thank You 2012 GCSAA Social Event Sponsors!

Presenting Sponsors – BASF, Finch Services (John Deere), Horizon Distributors

Supporting Sponsors – Bayer, DuPont, Fisher & Son, Genesis Turfgrass, Inc., Helena Chemical, McDonald & Sons, McDonald Design Group, Turf Equipment and Supply Co.

Friends – Agrium, Arysta Life Science, Environmental & Turf Services, John Deere Landscapes, Oakwood Sod Farm, Plant Food Company, Syngenta, Turf Trade, Wadsworth Golf, Yamaha Golf Cars



A large crowd turned out for the GCSAA Social Event in Las Vegas



Matt Boyce, Angela Nitz, Chava McKeel & Jeff Berg at the GCSAA Social Event with MAAGCS and ESAGCS

A Warm Spring is Good for Golf, But ...

By the USGA Green Section

Warm early spring conditions have been great for golf, but it is important to remember many courses are not yet fully staffed and pest management programs may require adjustments.

Tee it up! Golf activity always parallels the weather. A mild winter and warm early spring conditions have been welcomed by golfers across the country. Golfers are not the only ones loving the weather, however, as golf facilities are seeing boosts in early season revenues.

Obviously, the unanticipated financial gains are important to all golf facilities but especially helpful to courses that suffered abysmal margins last year due to extreme weather conditions, most notably the severe drought in the southern U.S. and excessive rain and heat in many Midwestern and northern states.

As golfers gain an early start honing their game in 2012, golf course superintendents are busy with course preparations roughly a month or more ahead of schedule. Staffing is limited at this time and the labor hours available are typically reserved for completing offseason projects, such as drainage installation, tree maintenance, bunker renovations, etc. With full staff levels still several weeks away, turf managers are scrambling to condition golf courses to meet expectations while still trying to complete scheduled off-season projects.

Labor is the largest line item in a golf course maintenance budget, so the obvious concern in bringing seasonal employees back early is an effect on the bottom line. An early start to the golf season equates to an extended golf season, and this requires more labor and resources for course conditioning and setup. Operating budgets are determined well in advance and on the assumption of a golf season more typical in length. Unless serious adjustments are made to the "to do" list, it is unlikely that turf managers can operate within the approved operating budgets created months in advance. Keep these early-season expenses in mind as the season progresses.

In addition to labor concerns, a few other factors need to be considered as they relate to the early spring.

- A significant amount of winter and/or early spring play on putting greens that are not actively growing could lead to



Forsythia bloom, a common plant indicator for turf managers to apply pre-emergent herbicides for crabgrass prevention, is three to four weeks ahead of schedule in many parts of the U.S.

turf thinning and bumpy surfaces. Turf may be green but not actively growing and therefore unable to recover from wear injury. Or, if it is growing, is it growing fast enough to stay ahead of wear? Additional nitrogen inputs and light topdressing may be necessary to promote active growth for recovery from traffic stress. Additional aeration and rolling may also be necessary to smooth the surfaces from winter play. To further complicate early season turf recovery efforts from increased winter play, sometimes regional challenges exist, with one such example being a state regulation in New York that does not allow golf courses to apply nitrogen until April 1.

- For cool-season turfgrasses, spring is the time to produce a healthy and deep root system, which is an indicator of how well the turf is prepared for hot summer conditions. An earlier spring could equate to a longer period in which to build a deep, healthy root system before summer. However, root production is directly related to mowing height, so potential gains in rooting could be thwarted by earlier than normal ultra-low mowing heights on putting
- Warm-season grasses have greened up but have yet to begin the lateral growth necessary to recover from whatever damage was experienced last fall and through the winter. As a result, they are

highly susceptible to additional injury from concentrated traffic. The key is to control traffic before damage occurs, not after it is obvious to everyone.

- Pre-emergence herbicides used to suppress summer annual grassy weeds (e.g. crabgrass and goosegrass) will need to be applied earlier than normal because soil temperatures warmed up so early. With the early application, some herbicides may not last the entire season, and this could lead to weed breakthrough later in the season. An additional pre-emergence application may be necessary for season-long control, or additional post-emergence control may be necessary.
- An early rise in air and soil temperatures brings with it earlier insect emergence and activity. Proper insecticide timing is crucial for control, and the early spring dictates that adjustments to planned control strategies will be necessary. Not only are insecticide applications needed earlier in the year for control, but the extended season may also require repeat applications. For the northeast U.S., the annual bluegrass weevil, a tiny, yet devastating turf insect, becomes active as spring weather warms. The insect has become active already in many areas weeks ahead of schedule, which will

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GCSAA, Profession to be Represented in Washington, DC, at National Golf Day on April 18

GCSAA storytellers, members, board and staff will join allied associations as part of the We Are Golf coalition

Golf is so much more than a game - it's an industry that contributes billions of dollars each year to local, state and national economies, and employs more than 2 million people nationwide. This is the story that will be told on Capitol Hill April 18, National Golf Day, by members of GCSAA's board of directors, Government Relations Committee and staff, GCSAA storytellers, and allied golf organizations CMAA, NCGOA and the PGA of America. For the initiative, which is part of the We Are Golf coalition, GCSAA will educate lawmakers about the U.S. golf industry's economic, environmental and social contributions.

As part of the GCSAA delegation, GCSAA President Sandy Queen, CGCS, CEO Rhett Evans, and GCSAA storytellers will join other association leaders to represent the industry in meetings with Democratic and Republican leadership, and the Sustainability Caucus to share quantifiable data that demonstrates the economic contributions golf makes.

GCSAA's storytellers

For 2012, GCSAA has expanded its group of storytellers to represent the industry. Among the speakers is the VGCSA's own Peter McDonough:



Peter McDonough, Class A GCSAA member at Keswick Hall, Club and Estate, Charlottesville, Va., is a man of action. A 21-year GCSAA member, he has been a leading

force among golf course management professionals in Virginia. His efforts have shown lawmakers and regulators how the golf industry is not only a valuable asset to the region, but also a steward of the land. His accomplishments include the Virginia Turfgrass Council Award in 2011, the Virginia GCSA's Environmental Stewardship Award in 2011, GCSAA's

National Golf Day Messages

- **2 million jobs makes golf more than just a game for America**
- **\$76 billion makes golf more than just a game for America's economy**
- **Did you know you burn 2,000 calories walking an 18-hole golf course? Golf is more than just a game**
- **\$1.1 billion raised for charity by the PGATOUR, another reason golf is more than a game**
- **Golf courses increase America's green space and benefit the environment, making golf more than just a game**

Excellence in Government Relations Award in 2008, the Virginia GCSA's Distinguished Service Award in 2003, the Virginia GCSA's President's Award in 2002, and the Virginia Turfgrass Council's R.D. Cake Memorial Award in 2000. He also founded and was the first president of the Virginia GCSA, a founding board member of the Virginia Golf Council, and a member of the Virginia Technical Advisory Committee.

Additional GCSAA representation

GCSAA and the golf course management profession will also be featured in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building during National Golf Day. Members of the Mid-Atlantic GCSA will provide demonstrations using technologies for golf course management — Mike Barrett, CGCS, Teddy Blauvelt, Jay Nalls, Jon Lobenstine.

Also representing GCSAA at National Golf Day events are:

GCSAA board and staff: Patrick Finlen, CGCS, GCSAA vice president; John O'Keefe, CGCS, GCSAA director; Peter Grass, CGCS, GCSAA director; Rafael Barajas, CGCS, GCSAA director; Darren Davis, GCSAA director; Richard Konzem, GCSAA COO; Greg Lyman, GCSAA director of environmental programs; Chava McKeel, GCSAA senior manager of information and public policy

GCSAA Government Relations Committee: Scott Hines, CGCS, Mark

Jordan, CGCS, Travis Moore, Don Naumann, Robert Nielsen Jr., CGCS, Bradley Smith, Charles Wolsburn, Luke Cella, CGCS

About We Are Golf

The We Are Golf coalition retained the Podesta Group, a Washington, D.C.-based government and public affairs firm, to coordinate the initiative's unprecedented legislative efforts concerning small business, labor, tax and environmental goals. Its objective is to assist the coalition in getting the golf industry a seat at the table when important and relevant legislation is being developed. Visit www.wearegolf.org for more information on the coalition and its strategic progress.



Member Profile: Dan Taylor

Independence Golf Club • Midlothian, VA



Dan Taylor was pictured in the *Who Is This Member?* column featured in the Winter 2012 *Commonwealth Crier*. John Robertson correctly guessed his identity to win the prize.

Golf holes at your facility: 27

Years at your current golf club: 12

Years as a golf course superintendent: 22

Favorite hobbies: playing golf

Favorite professional golfer: Tom Watson

Favorite sports team(s): Clemson Tigers,
Carolina Panthers

Biggest role model(s) as a professional:
Joe Kennedy Jr.

How did you get your start in the golf maintenance profession?

I worked part-time at our local municipal golf course, maintenance staff during the week and selling tee times and hot dogs on weekends.

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

The people in our industry are second to none.

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

Make a summer vacation mandatory.

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

- 1) We will have to continue to figure out how to do more with less.
- 2) We will need to understand and abide by all water regulations.

Thank You 2012 Partner Program Participants!

Diamond

Buy Sod
Finch Services (John Deere)
Growth Enhancer Turf Consultants & Tom Rash Co.
Harmon Turf Services, Inc.
Home Field Fertilizer & Meadowspring Turf
Horizon (Jacobsen)
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Joe Hammer of Landscape Supply, Inc. Retires After 25 Years in the Industry

What can you say about someone that has been in the trenches for 25 years? You would think it would be easy to write a few words about someone that you have known since you were eight years old. Hell, he's been like a father, uncle or brother to most all of us in the industry. But when people care about someone as much as they do Joe ... you want the words to mean something.

Joe started with Landscape Supply, Inc. in 1987 as the first 'true' outside sales account manager. He quickly gained respect and friendships with so many superintendents across the state of Virginia. Over the last 25 years Joe has been a tremendous asset to this industry. Superintendents and fellow co-workers were always in good hands with Joe. Ask anyone, and they will say the same thing ... Joe was always trusted to pitch in and help with additional assignments when needed. His loyalty to Landscape Supply, Inc. and the industry has been proven again and again.

Throughout his tenure in the "green-industry," Joe served on multiple boards,



Joe Hammer

including secretary of the Virginia Turfgrass Association (VTA), where he continues to remind us that the development of the newsletter we know today consisted of an old typewriter and snail mail.

On a personal note (outside of business), I appreciate the VGCSA allowing me to write a few words about

Joe. Not only has he been an incredible partner in our business, he's been a TRUE friend to everyone he worked around. He was the first person I traveled with when I was 15. He took me to see Dick Fisher and Peter McDonough in Charlottesville. From that day on—we were like two best friends working around one another.

I guess that's what everyone says about Joe. You only have to meet him once to like him! There's an instant draw to want to hang around Joe ... one of the funniest SOB's you will ever meet. Never taking anything too serious ... "Unless one of his customer's delivery was off schedule—then you knew to watch the hell out!"

Joe, thank you for all your service to our company and more importantly our industry. You've been a blessing to the green-industry! An unsung hero, asking for zero credit, but committed to helping in any way! You will be missed by many—but not me—because I know we will stay in touch for many years to come!

—Kevin Connelly
Landscape Supply Company

BMP Benefit Events (cont.)

VGCSA Past President Jeff Berg of Goose Creek Golf Club is excited about the BMP Tournament. "We have already entered our team and signed up for a sponsorship," said Berg. "We are looking for a great turnout, and we hope everyone

can join in the fun for a good cause."

Current President Matt Boyce of Princess Anne Country Club added, "It's

great to see the industry coming together for a cause so important to our industry and profession."



Highly acclaimed Creighton Farms will host the Landscape Supply BMP Tournament on May 21.

Eric Spurlock to Join Landscape Supply Team



Eric Spurlock

following a 17-year-tenure at Hermitage Country Club, where he began as an assistant and rose to Superintendent of the highly acclaimed Manakin Course, which received numerous national accolades following a

Landscape Supply, Inc. announces the hiring of Eric Spurlock as new sales representative for their Southwest Virginia region. Spurlock comes to the company

Keith Foster renovation, which Spurlock presided over.

Spurlock is well known as a Past President of the VGCSA (2008-09), and recipient of the association's Distinguished Service Award for 2010. He also served as an officer of the Old Dominion GCSA. Spurlock will transition into his new position May 15, with relocation to Roanoke with his wife Brooke and two daughters slated for this summer.

"I am excited to join a strong family-run company, that has been a mainstay in our industry for many years," said Spurlock.

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News from Local Associations

News from the GWGCSA

In the Greater Washington region, the weather has been mild to say the least, even hot at times. Where did the winter go? Oh, that's right, we never had a winter. We recorded a whopping total of three inches of snow. Soil temperatures climbed early and have stayed there. I can't remember the last time during Master's week that our dogwoods were in full bloom. If this pattern continues, we are all in for a long season.

In news and notes, please join me in congratulating Aron Redd, the new Superintendent at Lake Ridge Golf Course.

I am pleased to announce the 2012 meeting schedule. Of particular note, we are still able to accept credit cards for meeting registration and fees. Additionally, due to scheduling conflicts, the Maintenance Open has been moved to our sister course, Prince William Golf Course. I am sure their beverage carts will be just as efficient. The schedule of events is as follows:

- April 24, Northwest Park Golf Course (joint meeting w/MAAGCS, Super/Pro)
- May 21, Creighton Farms Golf Course (BMP fundraiser)

- June 19, Lee's Hill Golfers Club (North-South Challenge w/ODGCSA)
- July 18, Prince William Golf Course (Maintenance Open)
- August 14, GWGCSA Social at Wing Factory
- September 18, Bethesda Country Club
- October 16, Belmont Country Club (Superintendent/Assistant + Open division)
- November 13, Evergreen Country Club (Annual Meeting)

As a reminder, VGCSA membership dues were due at the end of January. If you have not done so already, please submit your payment as soon as possible. Thanks, and here is to a wonderful season for all.



Jeff Van Fleet
GWGCSA
External Vice President

ODGCSA News

The Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association began its 2012 schedule with our March Madness social held at Champps Sports Bar on March 15. We held a joint meeting with the TTA at Kingsmill on March 29. The Tollie Quinn and Virlina Cup Qualifier will be held at Hanover Country Club on May 8, followed by the Landscape Supply/BMP Fundraiser at Creighton Farms on May 21.

As always, we will plan to support the VTC Fundraiser on June 6 and then defeat the GWGCSA in the North-South Challenge at Lee's Hill GC on June 19. In the fall we will support the VGCSA's Joe Saylor event on October 29 at Princess Anne Country Club and Assistants Forum at Willow Oaks Country Club on November 5. To finish the year, our Annual Meeting will be held at Independence Golf Club on November 6.



Dan Taylor, CGCS
External President
ODGCSA

Warm Spring (cont.)

add to the challenge of preventing this pest from damaging golf course turf. For the southern parts of the country, nematode and mole cricket activity has demanded earlier control treatments that may have to be repeated as the season wears on.

- Disease prevention programs may require adjustments, especially for pathogen control that is implemented based on soil temperature (e.g., summer patch). Many courses will need to make initial applications earlier than normal and potentially require more total applications for the season. For instance, summer patch disease prevention in most situations requires control from mid May through August. That window may be extended by an

extra month this year. On courses with bermudagrass greens, leaf spot (*Bipolaris* and *Drechslera*) has been much more active and is present earlier than usual. Other turf diseases may become active earlier as well, extending the need for fungicide applications, which will add significant costs. Remember, heavy traffic and slow turfgrass growth increase disease occurrence, reduce the effectiveness of control efforts, and exacerbate disease damage.

- Earlier than normal maintenance may also mean earlier than normal impacts on the budget. Regular mowing and other routine maintenance tasks cost money. Enjoy the additional early season revenue, but remember the

potential impacts that this may have on your maintenance budget!

Golf courses are busy and that is a great thing! Just remember that with all the benefits of the early spring warm weather, there are season-long implications for the turf and operating budget. Some golf course maintenance practices may need to be examined and adjusted. Of these, labor resources will be the most limiting. Golfer patience and understanding become even more important.

Now is a great time to contact your Green Section regional agronomist and arrange for a Turf Advisory Service visit. To find out more, visit www.usga.org and select the **Course Care** tab.





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News from Local Associations

VTA News

As usual weather dominates all superintendents' conversations. This year is no different. Right now in Southwest Virginia we are about one month ahead of schedule as far as agronomic issues go.

Although the weather is awesome and the winter was non-existent, we still find things to worry about.

We are getting ready to start our monthly meetings with the kickoff at Draper Valley and look forward to an informative year for all our meetings. I hope that every one takes the time to look at our schedule and attend at least one of our meetings.

For those that think they can't afford the time away from work, I would say you can't afford NOT to get away for one day or half a day out of 365. For me the drive to some of these locations becomes one of the best stress relievers of all.

I would like to acknowledge Joe Hammer of Landscape Supply who is retiring this

June after many years of service to the superintendents in Virginia. From a personal perspective, Joe has been more than just a salesman. To all of us in the VTA he has been a true friend and an honest and trustworthy person who has over the years dispensed both the products to heal turf as well as words of wisdom and laughter that helped heal other stresses. I know the superintendents in this area will miss him and his co-workers at Landscape Supply will miss him.

I won't miss him because he has decided to spend the first few years of his retirement working part time at The River Course.

I do know a good thing when I see it.



Mark Cote
VTA President

SVTA Update

What a mild winter we have experienced here in the Shenandoah Valley! I still cannot believe our biggest snowfall was at the end of October. I just shook my head and thought about how bad the winter was going to be. Not at all! With the mild temperatures we had a tremendous amount of play throughout the winter. It's been hard to find "down time" for winter projects and equipment maintenance with the continuous need to mow greens, change cups, etc. The increase in play has been great for winter revenue, but recovery from divots, ball marks and cart traffic has been reduced. Now, I find myself already saying, "We need rain!" Hopefully April showers will replenish ground water levels.

I hope everyone has an opportunity to attend our meeting in April at Spotswood Country Club in Harrisonburg to learn about

Dr. Shawn Askew's *Poa* research trial. The SVTA is looking forward to a calendar full of opportunities to learn and get together with our counterparts from other courses. Don't forget the tremendous resources we have available through our industry representatives and our Virginia Tech researchers if you're in need of advice! I hope everyone has a great spring and finds the time to enjoy the season before the summer!

We want to wish Kip Fitzgerald a speedy recovery from his heart issues as we keep him in our prayers!



David Lewallen
SVTA
External Vice President

TTA News

The first quarter of 2012 finished up the same as the end of 2011 in Tidewater with above average temperatures. This spring will give us an idea of how Round-up and Ronstar will affect bermudagrass that is not completely dormant. Some courses sprayed anyway, some changed up their pre-emerge plans and some used other herbicides to combat existing weeds. I thought winter was supposed to be the non-stressful time of year!

We had our second annual TTA night at the Admiral's hockey game in February. The evening was well attended with 40 tickets given out. It was nice to see everyone out with his or her families for an event. Thanks to Cleary Chemical for sponsoring and to Chris Brnich for doing all of the legwork and getting the tickets.

The first meeting of the year was at Kingsmill with Lane Treadway as the speaker. This was a joint meeting with the ODGCSA, sponsored by Syngenta. Thanks to Ted Smith and Chad Compton for hosting the event and setting up the speaker.

April we will be going to Broad Bay Country Club on the 26th. Tony Gardner from Sewell's Point will be talking about Ultradwarf bermudagrass. Tony converted his greens last summer from bent to Champion Bermuda and will share his experiences on the renovation project.

This year the TTA is focusing on education as well as social events in an effort to get our members involved! I hope everyone has a great spring, get out and enjoy life before the dog days of summer arrive.



Rob Wilmans
Elizabeth Manor Golf and
Country Club
Tidewater Turfgrass
Association

Email Addresses Needed – Time to Update Your Member Contact Information

The VGCSA is committed to communicating with members about local and state events, regional news, employment opportunities and much more. The online member directory is a great networking tool. But none of these efforts are successful if your contact information is out of date. So if you are not getting our communications (emails, newsletter, mailings), please send us an email with your correct info (dnorman@vgcsa.org). Email address updates are particularly important to keep you informed throughout the year!

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