Spring 2010

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

I never thought the 2010 golfing season would arrive! What happened to the winter and the record snow fall seen throughout our region? Wow, what an off season! Spring has definitely made an appearance however with some warmer weather, tulips and daffodils blooming, and aerifiers plugging away. I hope all of you have come out of it on the good side of things.

There were a lot of happenings over the last couple of months during the "Record Winter" of 2010. The VTC Conference was well attended, we had a great 2010 annual meeting, the GIS show was another great conference, and our social event in San Diego was another huge success. I would like to thank our sponsors of our San Diego event who made it all possible. Those sponsors were, in no special order: BASF, Finch Services, G.L. Cornell, Nutramax Laboratories, Quali-Pro, Arysta Life Sciences, Bayer, Mid-Atlantic Dryject, LLC, Davisson Golf, Legends Landscaping, McDonald and Sons, Oakwood Sod, Sports Aggregates, McDonald Golf, and Herod Seeds.

I would like to take a moment and say a huge "THANK YOU" for our 2010 Industry Partners. As you look through our voice of the Commonwealth, *The Commonwealth Crier*, please take a moment and read page 10 that has our 2010 Partners listed. I ask that you support them as they have supported us. We are truly in challenging economic times and we greatly appreciate those partners that have stood by and supported us. Partners, without your committed support, we as an Association would not be where we are today. The VGCSA is as committed as ever to providing needed leadership, communication, and benefits to its members and we simply could not do it without support from you.

Through the hard work of our loyal membership, the golf courses maintained by VGCSA members have earned the reputation as some of the finest and best managed facilities in the country. I can assure you that the VGCSA is truly a membership driven organization. I would like to thank the current and past leadership of the VGCSA for continuing to put forth excellent opportunities and benefits for our members such as: educational opportunities, golf and social events, a quarterly newsletter, a membership directory, government relations, research donations, scholarship contributions, employment referral services, and of course, environmental stewardship information.

Virginia Chapter GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

It is truly an honor to be your President and I look forward to serving our members to the best of my ability. I cannot tell you how satisfying it is to give back to an industry that has meant so much to me and my family. I would also like to thank our current board which consists of Mr. Matt Boyce, Vice President, Mr. Jeff Holliday CGCS, Secretary/Treasurer, and Mr. Eric Spurlock, Past President. I look forward to closely working with you on putting our members first and continuing to run a first class organization. Mr. Spurlock, I only hope to continue the great work that you have left me. Last but certainly not least, a big "Thank You" to Mr. David Norman, our Executive Director, for all that you do for us as an organization.

One of our initiatives over the next few years is to put together, with the staff at Virginia Tech, a "Best Management Practice" guide to show how golf course superintendents are stewards of the land we maintain. The financial vehicle to fund this project is the "Rounds4Research" campaign. Through an innovative online auction, tee-times from courses across the Commonwealth have been donated and will be bid upon and auctioned for this good cause. A big "Thank You" goes out to all of you that stepped up to the plate and made donations, we have over 85 courses participating. As you read this, the auction will be live for bidders to participate. The auction ends on the 21st of April, so please help to get the word out to your members or regular daily fee golfers as many opportunities to play some of our most respected facilities are to be had. The website is www.Rounds4Research.com.

As some of you may already know, our "2010 Member Survey" has been sent out via e-mail. If you are a Class A or SM member and have not received a copy, go to our web site (www.vgcsa.org) or contact David Norman at our office and an electronic copy will be sent to you (survey respondents automatically receive final results). The data collected is truly amazing and should be taken seriously. "Thank You" to Mr. Jeff Van Fleet, our Survey Committee Chairperson, for all his hard work on this important project. Our goal, as a board, has been to create an electronic version which will help to ease the cost and burden of filling out a paper survey, which will greatly enhance the findings. So please, once you receive your version via e-mail, take the time to fill it out. Your data will help government officials and club decision makers make the right choices regarding our industry.

I would like for you all to please be aware of the many issues and challenges we face as an industry and the importance of standing together and speaking with one voice. If anything should come up in your neck of the woods, please get a hold of anyone of us on the board -- we are simply here to help. I would finally like to wish each of you a successful 2010 golf season. I look forward to seeing you all at a local association meeting, as one of my goals is to get around to all the locals this summer.

All the Best!

Jeff Berg
President
Virginia GCSA

Virginia Stars in Golf's Great Online Auction

Golfers can experience some of the most revered golf terrain in Virginia thanks to an innovative industry-wide campaign to raise money for turfgrass research. From now until April 21, close to 700 golf facilities across five states will offer tee-times for public auction online at **Rounds4Research.com**.

In Virginia, Robert Trent Jones Golf Club (host of four President's Cup matches) heads a list of stellar private facilities offering rare opportunities for outside play.

Among others supporting golf's best interests are Cedar Point Country Club, (host of last year's state amateur championship), Elizabeth Manor Golf and Country Club (host of the Eastern Amateur), The Homestead Resort's Cascades Course (rated the finest mountain course in the nation), Kingsmill Resort, Princess Anne Country Club, Roanoke Country Club, and many more.

Successful bidders from the auction are effectively buying rights to host a foursome of their choosing at a tee-time they arrange with the host facility.

"The chance to play some of these courses don't come along every day for most golfers," says Jeff Berg, VGCSA president, which coordinates Rounds4Research.com in the state. "Better still, when they buy a tee-time at Rounds4Research.com they help every aspect of the golf industry because it all starts with the grass we play on. Turfgrass research is the golf industry's insurance against threats from pests and disease and it's also our way to a future where we become even better stewards of the resources we manage. The game is already a good citizen but we're always striving to be better. Making sure that science can advance that relationship between golf and the environment is important and can serve as an example to other industries."

Rounds4Research.com generated more than $55,000 in new funding for golf turfgrass research on debut last year, drawing only on courses in the Carolinas. Georgia and Texas have also come on line for this year's auction more than tripling the number of foursomes available.

To register for this year's auction and to view a complete list of courses and packages on offer, go to www.Rounds4Research.com.

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GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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2010 VGCSA Member Survey

As many of you know, the VGCSA Member Survey is sent out every two years. Over this past winter, I and the VGCSA Board have dedicated a great deal of time and effort on the survey. In keeping up with the times, we have converted the old paper survey to a completely on-line version. There will be no hard copies of this survey sent out. The survey has been set up to be accessed from multiple computers so that a superintendent who does not have access to the internet will be able to fill the survey out at a neighboring golf course or otherwise. Given the fact that it is 2010, I realize that there are only a few members who do not have internet access, but I wanted to ensure that everyone has the chance to input their data. I would strongly implore all Class A and Superintendent Members to take the time to fill this out. If your email address is not on file with us, you may visit the web site to access the survey (www.vgcsa.org).

After spending almost a month inputting data, I thought it only appropriate to give some advice and insight before you sit down to take the survey. There are only 100 questions, including new questions as requested on the last survey by the membership. You can print out this survey, but it is very lengthy (about 24 pages). Additionally, you might want to have a copy of your budget and a calculator. One section of the survey had to be converted from physical dollar amounts to percentages of the total budget. For instance, "what percentage of your budget is spent on chemicals" rather than "what do you spend on chemicals." Finally, I would like to request your input on the overall survey. There is room at the end of the survey for open-ended comments. Please remember, this is our first attempt at an on-line survey. The more input we can receive, the better we will be able to support the needs of the membership. Thank you, and good luck.

Jeff Van Fleet
Survey Committee Chair

News From Around the Commonwealth

- VGCSA mourns the loss of Johnny Irvin of Danville, who passed away on April 1. Irvin served as superintendent of Tuscarora Country Club for over 30 years.

- Christopher Pittman, has joined the team at Innovative Turf Services. He is the new Territory Sales Manager for Southwest Virginia.

- VGCSA congratulates Drew Matera of Cannon Ridge Golf Club in Fredericksburg, who was featured in the Q&A article in a recent issue of *Superintendent* magazine.

- SynaTek announces the hiring of Jeff Flamisch as their newest member to the Technical Sales Representative Team.

VGCSA Webcast Education Event
Managing Nutrient Budgets in the Face of Rising Prices

Education Brought to You by VGCSA and GCSAA

This spring, the VGCSA is sponsoring a different type of education event—**an ON DEMAND webcast**—"Managing Nutrient Budgets in the Face of Rising Prices."

When the price of oil goes up, so do many of your other costs on the course. This webcast focuses on the cause of rising fertilizer prices, use of soluble and controlled release fertilizers, and how fertilizer programs can be adjusted to reduce expenses while maintaining turfgrass quality. Jason Dettman-Kruse, Ph.D., discusses making the right decision based on individual budgets and overall goals for fertilization.

This time of year, as you ramp up for the season, you've got less time to get your education points. To make it simple, the chapter has purchased access from GCSAA to a 90-minute webcast recording. There is NO COST to you!

You can go to our web site and download the file and listen at your convenience anytime in the next two months: **http://www.gcsaa.org/ni/webcast/ondemand/nutrient_budget.zip**.

To get your 0.2 education points, you complete and return the linked evaluation form that is linked off our web site under "News."

If you have any questions or need help, please contact Lisa Wick, senior manager of e-Learning programs at GCSAA, at 800-472-7878, ext. 3649; or David Norman, VGCSA Executive Director, at 804-747-4971.

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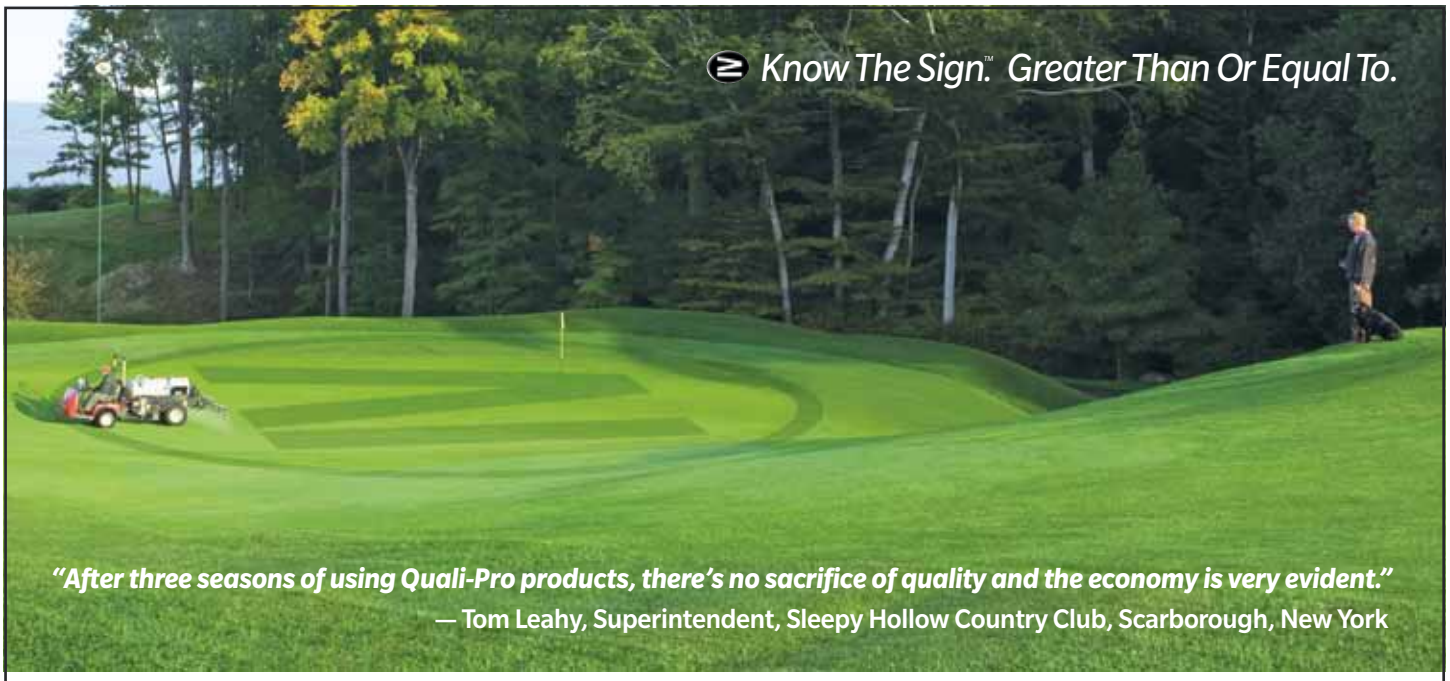

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— Tom Leahy, Superintendent, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, New York

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EPA's Newly Proposed Spray Drift Policy

By: CropLife America

Background

For decades, EPA and state pesticide policies have acknowledged that some small level of pesticide drift is unavoidable and, when used according to the product label, does not pose an "unreasonable adverse effect." When it is determined that certain uses of a product could cause an unreasonable adverse effect, restrictions are placed on the use of the product to meet the standard.

Unlike this FIFRA risk standard set and repeatedly confirmed by Congress, EPA's newly proposed spray drift policy, "Do not apply this product in a manner that results in spray [or dust] drift that could cause an adverse effect to people or any other non-target organism," adopts a precautionary principle approach and effectively replaces FIFRA's risk-benefit standard with a new zero-risk standard.

EPA is planning to apply this new spray drift language to both noncommercial and commercial pesticide uses commonly performed by hired personnel, including those for orchards, vineyards, farms, forests, golf courses, parks, roadway and other rights-of-way, and residential lawns and gardens. EPA's enforcement guidance for the new spray drift FIFRA label language would force states to become assessors of theoretical risks, and applicators to risk lawsuits every time they go to work.

State agencies generally do not have the toxicology endpoints, or risk assessments at their fingertips to make these types of decisions. Even forcing state regulators to become assessors of actual risks, let alone theoretical risks, is a stretch without the necessary data to make the decisions.

Major private-sector advances have been made in drift-reduction technology including Global Positioning System guided shutoff nozzles, low drift spray tips and product formulations, foaming agents and adjuvants.

Congress should ask EPA why it doesn't make the development of additional drift-reduction technologies and their implementation a requirement of pesticide labels—before moving forward with this controversial spray drift notice.

Talking Points

- **EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs should:**
  - Maintain FIFRA's risk-based standard of "no unreasonable adverse effects" and remove the vague, unenforceable, and unmanageable concepts of "could cause" or "may cause" adverse effects or "harm" from the Drift PRN;
  - Continue to acknowledge that some small level of pesticide drift is unavoidable in many common situations, and does not pose an "unreasonable adverse effect";
  - Acknowledge that simply detecting an off-target pesticide does not necessarily pose an unreasonable adverse effect and is not a violation of FIFRA that requires an enforcement action;
  - Remove the new hazard-based standard of "harm" from the Drift Pesticide Registration Notice;
  - NOT impose unnecessary buffers that would reduce cropland available for American agriculture;
  - Develop a bystander risk assessment exposure scenario for the pesticide registration process; and
  - Develop risk-based tolerances for non-target property.
- **Spray drift is already accounted for in EPA's registration restrictions:** In meeting FIFRA's requirement that pesticide use not pose an "unreasonable adverse effect" on people, wildlife or the environment, EPA's registration process evaluates the results of 120 different scientific environmental and safety research studies that take up to nine years and $184 million dollars to conduct. In the process, effects of potential spray drift are taken into account in EPA's risk assessment and assignment of registration restrictions and product label language. This rigorous process is data-rich, and, on average, only one chemical in 139,000 candidates makes it from development to commercialization as an EPA-registered product.
- **EPA's new drift language would move spray drift policy from a basis of scientific risk assessment to speculative vagueness:** EPA would overlook the safety risk factors already built into product use during the registration process, and add vague speculative label language requirements. These would require applicators to apply no registered pesticides if spray or dust drifts results that could cause an adverse effect to people or any other non-target organism. Thus, applicators must anticipate and avoid potential situations, and be ready to promptly shut down operations if any meteorological or ecological situation changes (e.g., the wind gusts, or birds fly nearby). And the pesticides they use could only affect the specific weeds, insect pests or diseases targeted on the pesticide label and none other, even if such other species are also pests. If labels aren't long enough now, they certainly will be under EPA's proposed spray drift label language requirements.
- **EPA's proposed spray drift label language will do nothing but spawn lawsuits:** Despite the care and anti-drift technology that applicators use, small amounts of spray drift often cannot be prevented and are not unreasonable under FIFRA's "no unreasonable adverse effect" standard. EPA's proposed label language is unachievable, both for the applicator and the regulator. It would force state regulators to become assessors of theoretical risks, and applicators to risk lawsuits every time they go to work. No one can meet EPA's proposed standard in every conceivable situation, and rather than improve pesticide policy, it encourages frivolous lawsuits.

FAQs

- **What causes spray drift?** Most chemical crop protection products are applied as aerial sprays from ground sprayers or airplanes, and consist of small droplets that are by nature light weight. Occasionally, swirling wind or an unexpected gust causes droplets to drift to places other than their anticipated settling points while they are still suspended in the air.
- **How is spray drift reduced?** Years of research have produced application methods and tools that can minimize chances of spray drift and such precautions are part of

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Phosphorus Fertilization and Environmental Concerns? What's the Story?

Erik Ervin and Sam Doak • Associate Professor and Instructor, Turfgrass Science
Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences • Virginia Tech

We have all been taught that phosphorus (P) is an essential nutrient for efficient seedling development and healthy turfgrass growth. In heavier soils (silts and clays), P is often bound tightly to aluminum, iron, or calcium and roots must expend energy for P uptake. Developing seedlings do not have sufficient stored energy, or the reach of a developed root system, to optimize P uptake. Adequate P must be at the soil surface, therefore, to ensure proper seedling development. This is the basis of the standard recommendation of applying 1 to 2 lbs P_2O_5 per 1000 ft^2 from a starter fertilizer (e.g., 15-30-15) at seeding.

Further, many of our turf textbooks recommend applying NPK to mature turf in a 4-1-3 ratio, prompting the commercial availability of many complete "turf" (e.g., 30-5-24) fertilizers. Continuous use of these fertilizers has had beneficial effects in terms of turf health, but has also resulted in many Virginia soils that have P levels far above levels necessary for adequate turfgrass nutrition.

So what? It turns out that P is most often the limiting nutrient for eutrophication (or algal blooms) to occur in water systems like the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Eutrophication impairs the ability of these waters to support aquatic life and our recreational activities

Where does this P come from? It can come from "point sources" which are generally pipes that drain into rivers and streams from industry or sewage treatment plants. However, the major contributor of P is "non-point sources" which include sediments or soil particles that are carried into water sources as well as surface and subsurface losses of P from crop lands and animal feeding operations, but also urban green spaces such as parks, lawns, ball fields, and golf courses.

While the Virginia Departments of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Environmental Quality (DEQ) have implemented policies to strictly regulate P-loading from factories, sewage treatment plants, and land applications of manure, only voluntary programs have been (or are) in development to attempt to restrict potential P-loading from turf areas.

There are several outstanding community-based nutrient management programs implemented by Virginia Cooperative Extension that strive to educate the homeowner and improve the water quality of the local area through soil testing and creating nutrient management guidelines for the consumers requesting this help. Such programs in James City, Chesterfield, and Prince William counties developed over 600 nutrient management plans for homeowners last year.

If most P is tightly bound to soil particles, how can it move to fresh waters? There are several pathways through which P can be lost directly from land to fresh waters, including erosion of soil particles and dissolved P in runoff from non-paved and paved surfaces following rain and irrigation events.

These are the main pathways of P loss, but more recent research has demonstrated the importance of P leaching from sandy soils. Leached P can eventually reach surface waters via subsurface pathways, especially where there is enhanced drainage from tile drains.

How much P is too much in fresh water? As opposed to the EPA limit of 10 ppm (parts per million) nitrate for fresh drinking water, the EPA limit for surface water quality is 100 times less for P or 0.10 ppm. Thus, even though P moves much less readily into fresh water, it only takes a small amount to have a large impact on water quality.

The next logical question is how do we know if the turfgrass areas we are managing pose a risk for off-site movement of P? **TAKE A SOIL TEST** and see where your managed areas fall on the grading scale[1] shown below:

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Soil Test Grading Scale

B: < 30 ppm P (= < 60 lb/A P) = BELOW OPTIMUM.
An increase in turf health or performance to fertilizer P would usually be expected.

A: 31-50 ppm P (= 60-100 lb/A P) = OPTIMUM RANGE.
There is a low probability of a turf health response to added P; small amounts of P may be added in starter fertilizers or to maintain soil test P in this category.

C: 51-75 ppm P (= 100-150 lb/A P) = ABOVE OPTIMUM.
P availability is more than adequate for turf health and no P additions are recommended until a soil test indicates that P levels have dropped into the optimum range. Soils in this grade are of "significant environmental concern" should conditions exist (e.g., open, erodible soils; thin turf on slopes, sandy soils) to transport particulate and dissolved P to surface and ground waters.

D: > 75 ppm P (= > 150 lb/A P) = HIGH POLLUTION POTENTIAL.
Minor erosion or large leaching events on these soils are very likely to result in P movement and potential environmental degradation. No P additions to these soils are justifiable until soil tests indicate that P-availability has dropped into the optimum range.

[1] Footnote about this scale: This scale was developed by the authors and is based on a compromise between the lower levels of soil test P needed for a crop response (as defined by the Virginia Tech Soil Testing Lab) and the higher levels of soil test P (using the Mehlich 1 test) needed to reach an environmental pollution threshold (as defined by Maguire et al., in chapter 6 of Agronomy monograph no.46: Phosphorus: Agriculture and the Environment, 2005). They are meant to function as guidelines only.

Time Line Set for TMDL Implementation Plans, Actions

By: Karl Blankenship

For many working on it, the Bay (TMDL) might instead be considered a TMLD–Too Many Long Days. Evening and weekend hours have become routine for many. Even when snow buried the government, arrangements were made to carry on with teleconference meetings, with participants calling in from home.

There are even countdown clocks. Competing versions have the due date at midnight Dec. 23—representing the hope that the task is completed by Christmas—while another represents the "actual" due date of midnight Dec. 31.

But the detailed plans to reach that date, which contain week-by week-and sometimes day-by-day actions that are needed, leave little margin for error.

At stake is the largest, most complex Total Maximum Daily Load ever developed. At its most basic level, a TMDL establishes a legally binding limit on the amount of a pollutant a water body can receive while still meeting its water quality standards. But no TMDL has ever covered a 64,000-square-mile watershed that includes portions of six states, as well as the District of Columbia.

As part of the TMDL process, the EPA is also requiring a new element, called Watershed Implementation Plans, which require states to provide more detail than ever about how they will achieve nutrient and sediment reductions. If they fail to submit plans, or submit insufficient plans, the EPA has outlined a number of punitive actions, known as "consequences," which it may impose on states.

On top of that, states will biennially have to submit "milestone" plans outlining specifically what they will do and accomplish in the upcoming two-year period.

Legally, the actual Total Maximum Daily Load document isn't "due" until May 2011—the date set by a 1999 court consent decree. But state and federal leaders pledged to finish completing the plan by the end of 2010, which previously had been the date for completing the Bay cleanup, creating a tight time frame to resolve the sometimes novel technical and legal issues that arise during the process for federal and state workers alike.

"This is a first for EPA Region III, for the Bay Program office and for the states," said Katherine Antos, water quality coordinator with the EPA's Bay Program Office in Annapolis. "They have done tributary strategies before. The states have done other TMDLs before. But the expectations that we set out for this TMDL and these watershed implementation plans and the consequences piece are new. We want them to be successful in this process."

Here's a glance at highlights from the time line that is keeping people awake at night:

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End of April 2010

The EPA and states will adopt "final" nutrient and sediment goals that represent the maximum amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment by river that can originate from each state. Preliminary goals were set last October, but computer model revisions and some information changes since that time mean the target numbers will change. These will also be the first numbers for sediment—those were missing in October. These will not be final numbers. States have until June to refine nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment targets if they find ways to more effectively achieve Bay water quality standards.

June 1, 2010

States must submit preliminary Watershed Implementation Plans to the EPA, which subdivides nutrient and sediment goals by sector, such as wastewater treatment plants, municipal stormwater, animal feedlots, septic systems and construction sites. Those plans must estimate the nitrogen and phosphorus reductions states expect to achieve from each sector, and evaluate whether existing state programs-and funding sources-can achieve those goals. The plans must explain how states would address such program shortfalls.

June 2 to July 1, 2010

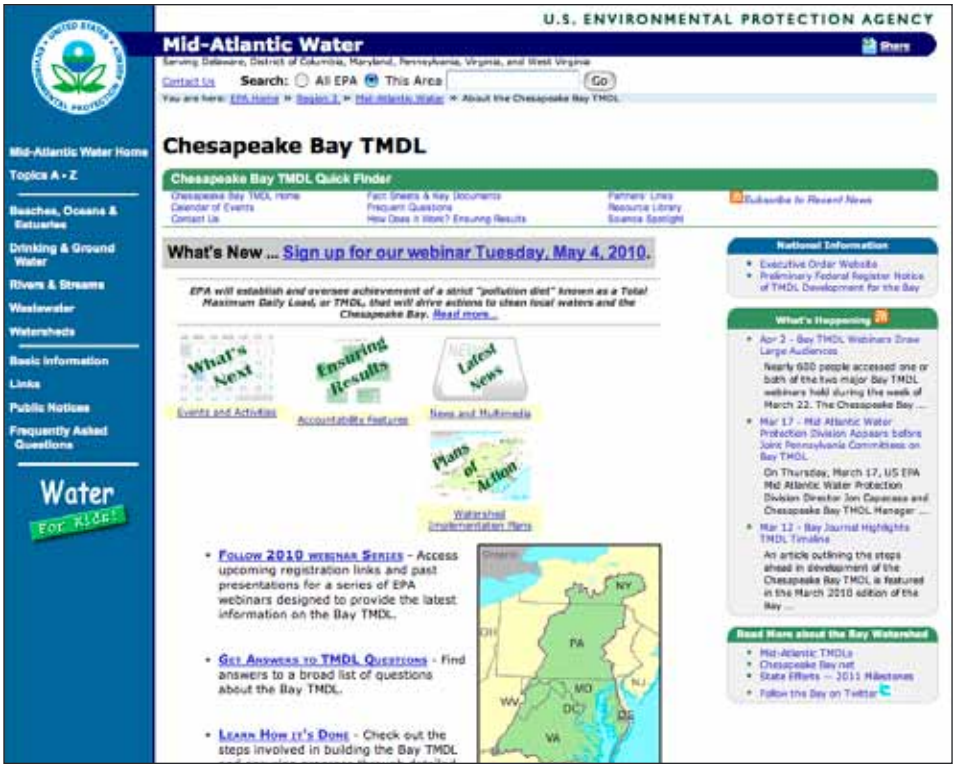
The EPA will review Watershed Implementation Plans to determine whether state programs are sufficient to meet nutrient goals established for each sector. If not, states will be asked to revise plans.

Aug. 15 to Oct. 15, 2010

The draft TMDLs and Watershed Implementation Plans will be released for a 60-day public review and comment period, which will include meetings and hearings in each state. State and federal agencies will provide written responses to comments.

Nov. 1, 2010

States are required to submit final Watershed Implementation Plans. After that, the EPA will analyze any changes in the plans to ensure they still achieve the TMDL goals. If state plans are insufficient to meet TMDL requirements, the EPA



may impose additional actions, or "consequences," such as forcing greater nutrient reductions from wastewater treatment plants and other regulated dischargers.

Dec. 31, 2010

The EPA and states agreed that the final TMDL will be published in the Federal Register by this date.

Jan. 1, 2011

Just because the TMDL is done doesn't mean plan-writing is finished. States need to start working on Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans, which will set nutrient and sediment goals to more local levels, probably counties. The goal is to make the nutrient and sediment goals more "real" for local governments, agencies and conservation districts that will actually need to take most of the actions. The local allocations are also intended to improve accountability, and the ability to track nutrient and sediment control actions.

Nov. 1, 2011

The final Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans must be submitted to the EPA for approval.

Dec. 31, 2011

States must complete the implementation of nutrient and sediment reduction milestones established in May 2009. These are the first in a series of what will become a series of biennial milestones, which will spell out the specific nutrient and sediment reductions, and other actions that will be accomplished over a two-year period to keep restoration progress on track.

Jan. 1, 2012

Implementation begins on the first post-TMDL development two-year milestone. Milestones are set by the states.

Jan. 1, 2017

States must submit Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans, updated with lessons learned in previous years, which will guide actions through 2025.

Dec. 31, 2017

States must have actions implemented that would achieve 60 percent of the nutrient and sediment reduction goals.

Dec. 31, 2025

All needed actions to achieve Bay water quality standards must be implemented throughout the watershed.

The EPA will host a webinar about the Chesapeake Bay TMDL on May 4. For information, or to register, visit its Bay TMDL website at **www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/**

Member Profile: Dudley Eames, CGCS

Jefferson Lakeside CC, Richmond

Golf holes at your facility: 18

Years at your current golf club: 17

Years as a golf course superintendent: 29

Favorite hobbies: Bee Keeping, Real Estate Venture, Home Repair/Remodeling

Favorite professional golfer: Ben Hogan

Favorite sports team(s): Washington Redskins, Hendrick Motorsports

Biggest role model as a professional: Big Til and Vince Hankley

How did you get your start in the maintenance profession? While working as an Assistant Golf Professional, Tildon Hankley offered me a job on the maintenance crew. Even with the meager wages Big Til gave me; it was more than I was making as a Golf Professional. I really loved working in the great outdoors and in a sport as great as golf.

What has been. to date, the most rewarding part of being a golf course superintendent? Making a piece of God's good earth a better place today than it was yesterday.

What would be one thing, if you could, change about the golf course superintendent profession? The many hats we have to wear and the day-to-day pressures we face.

In the next five to ten years, what are the biggest challenges we face as golf course superintendents? Dealing with the government and its broad reach into our industries environmental issues.

Thank You 2010 Partner Program Participants!

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VGCSA would also like to thank the sponsors of the GCSAA Social Event with our partners MAAGCS and ESAGCS:

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Audubon International's Golf Summit Kicks Off Links to Bay Campaign

On May 17, 2010, Audubon International will host a Golf Summit to kick-off the Links to the Bay Campaign and they are looking for 20 golf courses within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed interested in becoming a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. We hope you will consider joining us for this event!

What is Links to the Bay?

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in North America and one of the most productive in the world. The watershed that feeds the Bay is home to more than 3,600 species of plants and animals and more than 16.6 million people.

Links to the Bay is a multi-year, multi-partner effort to protect the watershed and improve the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay through outreach and education, environmental program enrollment, special events and training opportunities with a focus on the entities that have an impact on water quality within the Bay—golf courses, municipalities, parks and other recreational properties—as well as individual land owners.

Through partnerships with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the USGA and other established non-profit organizations and educational institutions within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and with the help of sponsorships from industry partners, Audubon International hopes to inspire a new group of citizenry within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to take active steps in the landscapes where they live, work, and recreate to better manage water and other natural resources. Visit **www.linkstothebay.com** for more information.

What is the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program?

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP) is an education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment, preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf, and gain recognition for their efforts.

Through collaborative efforts begun in 1991 with the United States Golf Association, membership in the ACSP has steadily grown to include more than 2,300 golf courses in the United States and two

dozen countries worldwide. Becoming involved in the ACSP has proven economic and environmental benefits. By participating in the ACSP, you will be creating an effective environmental management program with our staff that promotes efficient operations and can result in reduced costs for energy and water, as well as pesticides and fertilizers.

Having a proven record of environmental performance helps a course differentiate itself from others in a crowded market, while enhancing the nature of a course enriches the golfer experience. Most importantly, the ACSP helps golf courses conserve natural resources for future generations. Go to acspgolf.audubonintenational.org for more information.

About the Golf Summit

To kick off the Links to the Bay effort, Audubon International will host a Golf Summit for a group of 20 golf course superintendents that have been selected to enroll in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf.

The event will be a one-day, hands-on training workshop focusing on current research and innovations that have an impact on water quality and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, as well as practical, direct steps for golf courses that wish to improve their environmental impacts through the ACSP Golf certification program.

Event sponsorship will cover the membership fee for the first year of enrollment in the ACSP for the first 20 courses to register for the event ($200 value). Travel scholarships may also be available and space is limited. Registration will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis so please contact us by April 12th if you are interested in this opportunity.

For more information or to register your course for the Golf Summit, please get in touch with Audubon International's Development Office at 518-767-9051 x120 or email jdeslauriers@auduboninternational.org.

Links to the Bay Golf Summit Kick-off Event

Hosted by Audubon International

May 17, 2010 • Queenstown Harbor Golf Course, MD

Tentative Schedule:

Boat Tour - Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Speaker Luncheon - panel of experts to discuss water quality, product innovations, case studies, projects, etc.

Workshop - ACSP 101: site assessment, environmental plan

Who Should Attend: Golf Course Superintendents who want to become ACSP members and begin working on the certification process in order to have a more positive impact on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Sponsors (to date): Chesapeake Bay Foundation, DuPont, Ostara, Queenstown Harbor GC

Please Join Us!

We hope you will consider attending the Golf Summit to become an ACSP member. While the Golf Summit will be an exciting kick-off to the Links to the Bay effort, it is just one small piece of the on-going activities and long-term education Audubon International and our partners will be focusing on in the coming years within the Chesapeake Watershed. We hope you can attend!

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Virginia Turfgrass Foundation
Virginia Turfgrass Council
Wee Ones Foundation
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EDGE

Your online resource for golf and the environment: www.eifg.org

EDGE gives superintendents and other golf course professionals practical answers to many environmental issues in an easy-to-use online database.

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- Resources for presentations, reports, research or interviews
- Information developed by professionals and experts within the golf and environmental industries

You'll find:
- Best management practices
- Case studies
- Technical information

Featured topics include:
- Integrated plant management
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Environmental Institute for Golf

TORO. Supported in part by a grant from The Toro Foundation.

The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of GCSAA

News from Affiliated Chapters

News from the GWGCSA

I am sure a lot of superintendents are just like me. On your desk sits a large month by month calendar. It gets replaced every year by one (or several) of the various vendors in the area. You know the one that I am talking about.

On mine, I keep various notes such as tournaments, appointments and other pertinent information. I always tell my staff, if it is not on my calendar, you are not off. This is my way of organizing. By the end of the month, mine looks very similar to some of the notes and pictures my five year old daughter leaves scattered throughout the house, a mess.

Anyways, I decided to review the last three months and realized that we recorded 69" of snow and were closed for a total of 58 days with zero revenue coming in. I believe that pretty much sufficiently covers my weather report for the Greater Washington region.

To start out the season, I would first like to congratulate Walter Montross, CGCS, who received recognition for completing 25 years of certification through the GCSAA. Walter joins a very short and distinguished list of superintendents in the country. He was honored at the 2010 GIS in San Diego. Way to go, Walter.

I am pleased to announce 2010 meeting schedule. Of particular note, we are currently working on the ability to accept credit cards for meeting registration and fees. With any luck, this will be in place for the first meeting. The schedule of events is as follows:

- **May 11**, Belle Haven Country Club (Supt/Pro, joint meeting w/ MAAGCS)
- **June 22**, Fawn Lake Country Club (North-South Challenge w/ODGCSA)
- **July 21**, Forest Greens Golf Club (Maintenance Open)
- **August**, Open
- **September**, The Club at Creighton Farms (joint meeting w/MAAGCS)
- **October**, TBA (Supt/Assistant)
- **November**, Evergreen Country Club (Annual Meeting)

As a reminder, VGCSA membership dues were due at the end of February. 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

SVTA Update

I would like everyone to note that the Country Club of Staunton has changed its name to the Golf Club at Ironwood. The club has opened up some tee times for outside play which had not been the case in the past. We wish them luck in moving forward with their operations. The SVTA Board has put together their meeting schedule for 2010:

April 20	**Lexington Golf and Country Club**	*Joint Meeting with VTA*
May 4	**Rock Harbor**	*Golf Qualifier*
July 22	**Spotswood Country Club**	*VTF Fundraiser*
August 26	**Highlands at Fisher Mountain**	
September 21	**Joint Meeting with ODGCSA**	
October 28	**Winchester Country Club**	*Educational Seminars*

I hope to see you at a meeting this spring.

Edwin Eagle, CGCS
SVTA
External Vice President

VTA News

It will be a great year for Golf in 2010! Southwest Virginia is starting to green up rapidly after a long, snow-covered winter.

You won't want to miss a meeting this year! There will be a raffle at the last meeting for people who attend. The grand prize will be registration to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando (Non-transferable; Superintendents, Assistants, or crew members only). The more meetings you attend, the greater your chances are for winning! Additional door prizes will be drawn as well.

The VTA also plans to offer a local, half-day Q&A session with "the experts" at the end of the year for GCSAA credit. Keep a check on the website for updated details.

The 2010 VTA schedule is as follows *(dates & speakers subject to change)*:

April 20, Joint meeting w/ SVTA at Lexington Country Club

May 11, Fundraiser at Draper Valley to raise funds for Scholarships

June, Roanoke Country Club with guest speakers from Virginia Tech

July, VIR for a fun day of racing

August, Boonsboro Country Club

September, Ballyhack (limited to 40 players) with guest speaker Lester George

October, Final meeting, nominations, and special guest speaker Stan Zontek at Westlake

I am honored to serve on such a great Board this year. I would like to thank each board member for putting together a great program this season. I wish everyone a very blessed year!

Kimberly Garnett
VTA President
Superintendent, Class A
Auburn Hills Golf Club

News from Affiliated Chapters

TTA News

It is great to see warm temperatures and spring has arrived. The Tidewater area didn't get the snow that much of the Commonwealth received, but we still had our share of rain and cold temperatures. It will be interesting to see some of the lowest areas in the fairways that have been so wet since November, whether they come out of dormancy or not. We may be rolling in the sod trucks here sooner than desired.

The TTA meeting schedule got off to a great start with an outing at Greenbrier Country Club in Chesapeake. It was a great day for golf and a terrific presentation by Steve Doerr of Syngenta on Dollar Spot control. We had our biggest turnout in recent memory.

Thanks go to several people including Ben Pritchett, who hosted us and had the greens rolling fantastic. Also, thanks to Rob Wilmans and Mark McCaughan for sending out a multitude of emails promoting the event. We have starting us an E-vite system for promoting our events in addition to the great job David Norman does with the VGCSA email reminders.

Our joint meeting with ODGCSA at Ford's Colony in Williamsburg was on April 12th, featuring a presentation on Wetting Agents along with golf. Much of our schedule is complete and available on the VGCSA website at vgcsa.org.

Chris Petrelli
TTA Extermal VP
Cedar Point Country Club

News from the ODGCSA

The season has shifted quickly to spring from what was a harsh winter for most everyone reading this. With that comes many opportunities to gather with other superintendents and industry partners at our regular meetings.

We started the year on a Friday evening in March with a social event. With golf courses in our area just coming out from under the snow we decided that a good old fashioned "happy hour" might make more sense than playing golf. From all accounts it was a great time had by all and we hope that it serves as a springboard for future events.

We've put together all the dates and venues for this year's events:

May 17 Salisbury CC (Tollie Quinn)

June 22 Fawn Lake CC (North-South with GWGCSA)

September 21 Keswick (with SVTA)

November 9 Independence GC (Annual Meeting and Par 3 event)

Details for each event will be sent out with emails so be on the lookout. It is a huge help to the host club and to your board members if you RSVP. If you plan to come, please let us know as soon as possible once the meeting announcement has been made.

Education will be a part of at least two of the meetings and service points will be available at the other events. Your board has put a great deal of thought into this year's schedule, so mark your calendars and join us!

Dave Smith
ODGCSA President
Fawn Lake Country Club

Spray Drift Policy (cont.)

every-day pesticide use. They include using the right spraying techniques, drift-reduction technologies, and chemical adjuvants to stabilize droplets and enhance targeted deposition, taking account of weather conditions, consideration of neighbors' interests, and protection of the public, wildlife and the environment. Applications made during low wind speeds, with low release heights, when wind direction is away from sensitive areas, and using large droplet or particle sizes result in substantially lower levels of drift. Despite all of these advances, some trace level of spray drift may be unavoidable.

- **Is spray drift unavoidable?** Governments are aware that a trace level of pesticide drift may be unavoidable.
- **What is EPA's role in development of advanced Drift Reduction Technologies (DRTs)?** The green industry recognizes EPA's announced efforts to move forward with its DRT testing and validation program. However much more work needs to be done and EPA could play a stronger role in encouraging innovation and supporting development of new DRT technology. We urge EPA to work with industry and USDA to promote the use of DRTs, and give credit to farmers and applicators for using DRTs. Pesticide registrants could then incorporate those technologies on pesticide product labels for drift mitigation. We also urge EPA to incorporate DRTs into the risk assessment process and risk management decisions for the registration of pesticide products.

Phosphorus Fertilization (cont.)

Given this grading scale, what are the best management practices (BMPs) that professional turfgrass managers should implement?

- Your turfgrass facility should be divided into discrete management units that normally receive similar cultural inputs (e.g., each green, tee, or fairway; front and back yards; soccer field X, Y, and Z, etc.) and soil tests should be done on each.
- Use the soil test P levels to place each unit into a grade (A-D) and adjust your fertilizer P inputs accordingly.
- Repeat soil tests every 2-3 years on clay-based soils and once per year on sandy soils. **KEEP RECORDS.** These records and this type of program will place you firmly in the role of environmental steward when your clientele or state regulators begin to ask about this issue!
- And when your clientele ask you about environmental stewardship, be prepared to educate! Be sure they fully understand through both your words and actions the steps you are taking to protect and promote environmental health.

Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has an extensive Nutrient Management Program. One part of their program involves implementing urban nutrient management strategies in cooperation with private industry to reduce the potential for nutrient runoff from lawns, office parks, golf courses, athletic fields and other lands.

DCR also runs the Water Quality Improvement Program for urban lawn care retailers, lawn care companies and others who wish to be recognized for offering environmentally responsible products and services. Businesses that sign such agreements offer their customers information about lawn care or the application of nutrients within established criteria that are intended to minimize nutrient loss by controlling application rates and timing.

You can become a Certified Nutrient Management Planner or invite one to your facility to develop a site-specific nutrient management plan. The resulting voluntary nutrient management guidelines help you be a better steward of the environment.

The DCR says that nutrient management programs are already in place at about 105 Virginia golf courses, with these plans being reviewed by officials in Richmond every one to three years.

We encourage you to view DCR's program details at: **http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_&_water/nutmgt.shtml** and contact David Kindig, DCR Training and Certification Coordinator at **David.Kindig@dcr.virginia.gov** to learn more about how your turfgrass facility can take part in this voluntary program.

Turf Field Day and Pesticide Recertification

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

Virginia Tech • Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center
1444 Diamond Springs Road • Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Virginia Tech in conjunction with the Virginia Turfgrass Council will be hosting a turf field day on June 22, 2010 at the research station in Virginia Beach. Pesticide recertification credits will also be available for categories 3A, 3B, 5A, 6, 10, and 60. For additional information, contact Jeff Derr, Virginia Tech at 757/363-3912, email jderr@vt.edu, or Tom Tracy at 757/464-1004, email tetracy@hotmail.com. Preregistration information can be found at the VTC website www.vaturf.org/2010Events.html. Preregistration is required for lunch and for the pesticide recertification class.

Schedule:

7:00 – 8:00 am: Registration for Pesticide Recertification Class
8:00-8:30 am: Registration for the Field Tour
8:30 am - noon: Field Tour of Turf Plots
Noon - 1:00 pm: Lunch
1:00 pm - 3:00 PM: Pesticide Recertification Class resumes

Cost *(includes lunch):*

Tour free to VTC members,
Tour Nonmembers – $25
Pesticide recertification plus tour:
VTC members $40, Nonmembers $60,
Pesticide Recertification plus join VTC/ renew membership $90

Turf trials that will be shown include:

Warm season turf

Bermudagrass variety trial • Zoysiagrass installation with cool-season grasses • Zoysiagrass variety trial • Overseeding with annual, intermediate, and perennial ryegrasses • Organic fertilizer trials • Preemergence crabgrass control • Postemergence broadleaf control

Cool-season Turf:

Tall fescue variety trials • Shade trials • Tenacity tolerance in hybrid bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and tall fescue • Rhizomatous tall fescue variety trial • Annual bluegrass control in tall fescue • Preemergence crabgrass control • Combinations of tall fescue with hybrid bluegrass • Impact of mowing on bermudagrass encroachment • Organic fertilizer trials

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Kevin McIntire, Lexington Country Club

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Many have said it was having dedicated mobile service with certified technicians that come to them when they need them. Others said it was STI's huge investment in parts inventory to ensure they get the right parts when they need them. Some customers said it was the most innovative, productive and reliable equipment in the industry, while others credited the knowledgeable sales representatives or the long history of customer care, support and dedication.

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