

Summer 2012

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

True to form for the weather of 2012... abnormal is the normal. Most of the Commonwealth was blessed with a mild winter and, for once, we actually had a spring here in the Tidewater area. For a third consecutive year the summer weather has created challenges across the Commonwealth. Stay patient, as the fall temperatures and college football are just around the corner.

The fall season will also bring another rendition of the Virginia Cup. With the overall score even for the competition, your Virginia team is at home this year and will compete at Goose Creek and Trump National, while the Robert Trent Jones Club will host the practice round.

Mr. Jeff Berg will captain the squad as Past President of the Association, and will be led by Tollie Quinn Champion Brian Vincel and Assistant Superintendent Champion Brendan McNulty. The three other qualifiers competing with Mr. Berg are Bobby Friend, Jeff Whitmire and Andrew McCormick, with Scott Cornwell, Jeff Snyder and Matt Boyce finalizing the team as Sponsor and Captain's picks. Good luck guys and bring back the trophy!

The BMP Landscape Supply Tournament provided the BMP Fund another strong donation. Patrick and Kevin Connelly continue to improve this



tournament and the overall experience. The Board would like to thank Landscape Supply and all the vendors who support the tournament and BMP Program.

As part of the BMP document we are focused on two key issues over the next five years that will continue past 2017. Water Quality Monitoring will be headed by Kevin Fortune of Glenmore Country Club, who will work with the researchers at Virginia Tech to hone in on key facilities at the top, middle and bottom of the watershed to monitor nutrient levels entering and exiting each of the volunteer golf facilities.

The other key part of our quest is having each golf facility attain a Nutrient Management Plan by 2017. Most recently we have formed a separate Committee to focus in on all the details necessary to achieve our goals. Currently we are working with the Commonwealth of Virginia, GCSAA and other entities to create cost share opportunities for facilities might need help attaining a Nutrient Management Plan.

There's no doubt Education was a hot

topic this spring when the VGCSA Board discussed options for the 2013 VTC Conference. After hearing all the opinions from around Virginia, it was decided we would engage the VTC and work together for the best possible option. Dave Lewellan and the Education Committee attended the annual VTC Conference planning meeting and discussed options moving forward. We look forward to working with the VTC in the future to procure appealing education opportunities.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all our Partners on all levels. They are the lifeblood of our Association and we appreciate their support. If you get a chance, thank them for their Association support by engaging in their products.

Best of luck through the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at the Beach for the 2012 Joe Saylor here at the Princess Anne Country Club on October 29.

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Boyce
VGCSA President

Vincel, McNulty are Tollie Quinn Champions

Some would say that Hanover Country Club was the victor of the 2012 Tollie Quinn event, offering a stern test for the VGCSA players, who were also competing for spots in the Virlina Cup. When the dust settled, however, it was Brian Vincel of Spring Creek GC as victor, shooting a 77 and winning the scorecard playoff over defending champion Jeff Whitmire of The Williamsburg Club and host superintendent Andrew McCormick. Finishing fourth at 79 was Bobby Friend of Stonehenge CC, a winner of this event multiple times. The top four qualified for the Virlina Cup, a Ryder Cup-style event against the Carolinas GCSA.

Also qualifying for the Virlina Cup was Brendan McNulty, Assistant Superintendent of Hanover CC, who shot 86 to win the



Virlina Cup Qualifiers – Bobby Friend, Andrew McCormick, Brian Vincel, Jeff Whitmire, and Brendan McNulty

Assistant's title. Tommy Adams of Helena won the Vendor Division with an 82, while

John Pennypacker of Southern States was second with 83.

Vincel's round was pretty steady, playing 1-under-par on the first 6 holes, before suffering a triple bogey on the narrow par-4 7th hole, turning in 38. The difficult par-3 10th hole gave him more problems with a double bogey, but he settled down to play just 1-over-par the last 8 holes. That was good enough to tie host superintendent Andrew McCormick and six-time Champion Jeff Whitmire, who struggled mightily on the back nine, after a front of 35. Vincel was accorded the victory in a match of cards.

The Virlina Cup competitors will head north Oct. 14-16 to play Robert Trent Jones GC, Goose Creek GC, and Trump National Washington, DC.



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Through the Green

News and Updates from Around the Commonwealth

Allied Association Meeting a Big Success as Agronomic Issues Take Center Stage *photos by Bill Storer Photography*

Last month the VGCSA, CMAA and NCGOA chapters combined to offer a joint meeting focused on agronomic issues. Princess Anne Country Club in Virginia Beach played host, featuring USGA Regional Agronomist Darin Bevard and a panel of top superintendents in Virginia. The audience includes GMs, owners, superintendents, club staff, vendors and special guests, with over 70 in attendance.

Bevard has extensive experience in championship preparation, and he reported on the preparations for this year's US Open at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. In addition to discussing the agronomic practices, he noted the special measuring tools the USGA uses to test conditions and ensure desired speed of greens as well as firmness. Subsequently he discussed "Agronomy 101," an overview of basic agronomic principles to help GMs and owners better understand the cultural practices that superintendents employ to deliver the desired playing conditions.

Host GM Bill Shonk then gave a presentation on "The History of Golfe," highlighting its disputed origins from other games centuries before the Scots organized the game in the 1800s. The entertaining presentation was the result of a passionate exploration inspired by Shonk's visit to the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, where he once sat in the Secretary's chair.

Then a panel of top superintendents responded to questions posed by moderator David Norman, VGCSA Executive Director. The panelists were Matt Boyce, VGCSA President (Princess Anne CC), Christian Sain (The Country Club of Virginia), Cutler Robinson (Bayville GC) and Darin Bevard (USGA). Panelists discussed heat stress, syringing, disease and

pest issues, new grass strains, aeration, budget issues, communication and member/player education.

Following education, the participants enjoyed a golf outing on the superbly

conditioned Princess Anne course. Each participant received a custom photograph from Bill Storer Photography (www.billstorerphotography.com).



Golf participants Jim Atkinson (Yamaha Golf Cars), Aaron Evans (Farmington CC), Ted Smith (Kingsmill Resort), Rob Podleski (Farmington CC)



Host GM Bill Shonk addresses the audience on "The History of Golfe"

Smickley Hired as General Manager of The California Club



Longtime Virginia superintendent Glenn Smickley of Manassas has been hired as the General Manager of the prestigious California Club of San Francisco. Most recently Smickley was an executive for Fisher and Son, but he is best known as former superintendent and General Manager of Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Lake Manassas, VA. Smickley presided there when the club hosted the inaugural Presidents Cup match, as well as every subsequent one. He had left the club in 2012 to join Fisher and Son.

Glenn's new contact information is as follows:

Office: 650-244-0104

E-mail: glenn@calclub.org

The VGCSA wishes Glenn & his family well in their move to San Francisco!



Superintendent Panel: Darin Bevard, Christian Sain, Matt Boyce, Cutler Robinson



Hole #3, The California Club of San Francisco

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Wee One Event Draws Big Crowd

Nearly \$24,000 Raised for Virginia Superintendent

“Wow! What a great turnout to support Brian Lewis and his family during this critical time of battling cancer,” said Phil Bailey, CGCS, chair of the Wee Once Foundation tournament at Cypress Creek Golfers’ Club in Smithfield. “With your support, we have donations of nearly \$14,000, and with matching funds from the Wee One Foundation, Brian should receive close to \$24,000 to offset his medical expenses.”

The 2012 edition of the Wee One Foundation event proved to be one of the best ever, with growth in participation and sponsorship. The Wee One Foundation was developed as a tribute to Wayne Otto to assist golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. This year’s event benefits Brian Lewis, former superintendent at The Brookwoods GC, who is battling colorectal cancer.

Bailey continued, “I would like to personally recognize the following folks for showing their generosity in assisting Brian and promoting the great work of the Wee One Foundation:

The Lewis Family, Larry McKee, Mark Many, Keith O’Neill, Landscape Supply, Tom Rash and Floratine, Agrium, Sam Coggin, Phoenix, Jacobsen, Rain Bird, Horizon, Syngenta, Hertz, Innovative Turf Service, VGCSA, David Norman, Home Field Fertilizer, Yamaha Golf Cart of Virginia, Mid Atlantic Sports Turf and Helena.”

Congratulations go to the team Tom Rash, Jeff Knapp, Trevor Hedgepeth and Chris Roberson for winning a scorecard playoff for the title with a score of 57 (15-under-par) in the scramble format. Following the golf event, players enjoyed a BBQ lunch and the raffle for extensive prizes.

Bailey also remarked, “A special thank you goes out to my friends on the Wee One Tournament Board for assisting in making this a great event to assist Brian. In addition, much love goes out to my wife Terese for all her hard work and sticking with me.”



Mike Spillar and Mark Many discuss the Foundation’s efforts on Cypress Creek’s scenic #15 green.



Phil Bailey, Wee One Chairman



Wee One players enjoy a BBQ lunch after play.



2012 Winners – Chris Roberson, Tom Rash, Trevor Hedgepeth, Jeff Knapp

Landscape Supply BMP Event a Big Success

The 4th Annual Landscape Supply BMP Fundraiser tournament was a huge success at Creighton Farms GC on May 21.

First and foremost, the event generated sponsorships of over \$20,000, with the proceeds of the event benefitting the BMP project's Water Quality Monitoring project, currently underway under the direction of Dr. Erik Ervin of Virginia Tech. The project is a co-op of the VGCSA and the Environmental Institute of Golf, the GCSAA's research entity.

Patrick and Kevin Connelly of Landscape Supply conceived of the event in 2009 as a way of giving back to the industry. They engaged their suppliers to make sizeable donations ranging up to \$3,000.

The field for the event was sold out, with 108 players participating. Mike Vidal, Creighton Farms Director of Golf remarked, "This may be the largest event we have ever staged at Creighton Farms."

With superb conditioning, an incredible setting in the Virginia horse country, and a brand new clubhouse, Creighton Farms is viewed as one of the best golf clubs in Virginia, with a similar look and feel to Kinloch GC, the state's #1 rated course.

In the golf competition, Lakeview's team of Kurt Hellenga, Mike Gooden, Leyton Jarrells and Dwayne Watson easily captured Low Gross with a 16-under-par 56 in the scramble format.

Winning Low Net was Russ Bennett, Paul Hartzell, Robert Blumer and Peter Schmidt with a 55, after a scorecard playoff with two other teams.

Tyler Koser won the putting contest sponsored by Ted Huhn of BASF.



Low Gross - Kurt Hellenga, Leyton Jarrells, Dwayne Watson, Mike Gooden



Creighton Farms Team



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Goose Creek Team



Willow Oaks / LS team



Ted Huhn of BASF with Tyler Koser (Putting Contest Winner)

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Salisbury CC Team



Rounds4Research Now Accepting Donations of Rounds

Last year, 84 clubs in Virginia donated foursomes of golf and over \$10,000 was raised to support the BMP Program through "Rounds4Research," an online auction program in partnership with the Carolinas GCSA. This year, the program has gone national, and it is now administered by GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG). Solicitation for donations is starting now, and VGCSA would like to thank our member superintendents, as well as GMs and PGA professionals, for their support in advance!



As in the past, we are asking clubs to donate a foursome of golf including carts. Some clubs may wish to donate two foursomes. To participate, please fill out the Donation Form inserted in this mailing and fax (785-832-4448) or email (rounds4research@gcsaa.org) to EIFG. It

is our goal to receive all donations by 5 p.m., Friday, August 25th, so that the auction may begin in September.

Proceeds from this year's auction will go to benefit the BMP Project's "Water Quality Monitoring" phase, currently underway. The project administration is headed by Dr. Erik Ervin of Virginia Tech, in cooperation with the BMP Committee, headed by Peter McDonough and VGCSA President Matt Boyce and Past President Jeff Berg. Betty Parker of the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation is acting as administrator and funding agent.

Sign up your course using the insert included with this newsletter.



Save the Dates!



VGCSA Joe Saylor Memorial

Princess Anne Country Club, Virginia Beach, VA

Monday, October 29

Host Superintendent: Matt Boyce, VGCSA President

VGCSA Assistants Forum

Willow Oaks Country Club, Richmond, VA

Monday, November 5

Host Superintendent: Eric Frazier, ODGCSA President

Keynote Speaker: Billy Fuller



VGCSA Annual Meeting

Fredericksburg Country Club, Fredericksburg, VA

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

Host Superintendent: Ron Barley

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At The Halfway Point

By Darin Bevard and Keith Happ, Senior Agronomists, USGA Green Section

Weather conditions continue to provide management challenges, but we are about halfway through the traditional summer stress period.

The story in this region continues to be the weather! Rain has occurred in some areas, but others are currently under drought conditions. Within a 30 minute drive there has been as much as a 75 percent difference in rainfall amounts since early summer. For some, the rain has been just right, not enough for others, and in rare cases far too much. When this happens in conjunction with high heat, turfgrass decline has occurred. Scald, wet wilt and water mold diseases have been a problem. It is always better to operate from a position of prevention rather than curative treatment strategies when managing pythium outbreaks. Disease pressure has been high and many superintendents have supplemented their treatment programs with conventional fungicides. Research has demonstrated that phosphites may only provide protection from pythium under moderate pressure.

There have been steady outbreaks of *Hyperodes* weevils this season. Damage has been limited but still there has been a need to scout and spot treat whenever damage is discovered. We are experiencing multiple generations of this insect. It is not uncommon in the same plug to see larvae, pupae and callow adults! Select the controls carefully! One specific product may not control all of the life cycles.

Playing defense has become the strategy of choice this July. The heat has been oppressive and all efforts are being made to minimize any chance of self inflicted damage. Mowing frequency on greens is being reduced and supplemented with rolling. Water is applied carefully, and the grass is being fertilized lightly to promote controlled growth. Playing defense now will make a difference when the weather is more favorable for maximizing playing quality.

Summer weeds, especially sedges, *kyllinga* and goosegrass have been



Controlling how much water goes down during hot weather is critical to turf health. Hot weather is challenging, but hot and wet weather is devastating. Defensive management is critical to turfgrass survival. Playing conditions can be improved quickly when the weather breaks unless turfgrass decline occurs during the heat.

problematic at many golf courses. Preemergent strategies have been ineffective in many instances. This may be a product of early germination due to warm spring weather. Application timing may have been too late, or pressure may be extremely high. Regardless of the reason for weed emergence, as you consider postemergent strategies, keep the health and quality of desirable grasses at the forefront. A poorly timed herbicide application under environmental stress could severely thin or even kill the turfgrass. While weed populations are unsightly, they are not nearly as unsightly as dead grass. Be sure that weather conditions are right for herbicide applications if they are needed.

Finally, the drought conditions emphasize the importance of monitoring water quality! Water levels are down and this has affected water quality not only for irrigation but also product application. Don't assume anything. With less rain and greater reliance on wells or even potable water sources, water quality can

change. Most public water has pH values in the 7.8 to 8.2 range, which can negatively impact product efficacy. Check the quality of the water to determine if spray tanks need to be buffered to maximize the effectiveness of a treatment strategy. Knowing the water quality will aid in how irrigation is applied, and if deep watering cycles are necessary to flush the profile. Syringing and light watering are being performed frequently. With these applications, salts and other detriments to turf maintenance can accumulate in the upper portion of the soil profile. If these salt levels get too high, turf performance can be affected. Again, know your water quality.

The Mid-Atlantic Region agronomists are part of your agronomic support team. If you have a question or concern, give us a call or send an email. You can reach Stan Zontek (szontek@usga.org) and Darin Bevard (dbevard@usga.org) at 610/558-9066 or Keith Happ (khapp@usga.org) at 412/341-5922.

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News from Local Associations

News from the GWGCSA

Many of you know that I have been at Forest Greens GC for almost 17 years. Most of you with children remember the first words, the first haircut and the first lost tooth. I also experienced a first recently, hopelessly watching the grass that I have nurtured for a long time struggle due to lack of power to the irrigation. Widespread power outages, coupled with five days above 100° resulted in substantial turf loss. The “feel good” tour will start early this season. As predicted in my portion of the March newsletter, I think we are in for a long summer.

Our golf season started in April at Northwest Golf Course. This was a joint event with the MAAGCS with the format of Superintendent/Pro. Kudos goes out to Chris Fernandes, Wayne Rohauer and the entire staff at Northwest for an exceptional event and great course conditions. A special thanks goes to Theresa Baria for all her help coordinating the event. The winning team and winners of the traveling trophy was Jeff Van Fleet and Tom Coffman from Forest Greens Golf Club. [No asterisk here RTJ.]

In May, we teamed up with Landscape



(L-R) Forest Green's General Manager Tom Coffman, PGA, and Superintendent Jeff Van Fleet won the MAAGCS Super/Pro at Northwest Golf Course.

Supply for the BMP fundraiser at Creighton Farms Golf Club. The staff at Creighton Farms was exemplary and deserves recognition, including Matt Zarnstorff and Mike Vidal. A special thanks goes out to David Norman and the Connelly family for organizing this fine event. Low gross was won by the team from Lakeview Country Club and low net was won by the team of Russ Bennett, Paul Hartzell, Peter Schmidt and Robert Blumer.

June featured the North-South Challenge at Augustine Golf Club. Host

Superintendent Eric Ferrell and all the staff at Augustine had the course in excellent shape. Let's just say that the Greater Washington put a thorough beat down on the Old Dominion. Low net was won by John Dunker and Russ Bennett. Low gross was won by Jeff Van Fleet and Bo Jumbercotta.

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

- **August 14**, GWGCSA Social at Wing Factory
- **September 18**, Laurel Hills Golf Club
- **October 16**, Belmont Country Club (Superintendent/Assistant + Open division)
- **November 13**, Evergreen Country Club (Annual Meeting)

As always, have a wonderful rest of the season. Think of it this way, we are already into July. How much worse can it get?



Jeff Van Fleet
GWGCSA
External Vice President

TTA News

The TTA has had a busy year so far with a number of meetings at great facilities with excellent education topics. Kingsmill Resort hosted the joint meeting with the ODGCSA the last week of March. There was a HUGE turnout to hear Lane Treadway talk about diseases of bentgrass greens as well as Bacterial Wilt (which he does not consider a disease for bentgrass). I think everyone who attended gained knowledge of putting green diseases and enjoyed the hospitality of the Kingsmill staff. Chad Compton and Ted Smith had the course looking awesome and the entire group enjoyed a great day for golf.

April took us to Broad Bay where Tony Gardner gave an informative presentation on converting to Ultra-Dwarf Bermuda putting greens. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words. Tony brought lots of photos that really gave the audience a chance to see what is involved in a project of that magnitude. Thanks to Jeff Losaw and the staff at Broad Bay for hosting the event. Thunderstorms ended golf early, but

if you want to know how to control seed heads on *poa* ask Mark Steadman. The greens putted great!!

In May we visited the Virginia Tech Extension Research Center in Virginia Beach, and then played golf at Bay Creek on the Eastern Shore. Thanks to Adam Nichols and Jeff Derr from the research station for showing the research going on at this important facility. Also thanks to Mike Smith at Bay Creek for getting us out on the premier Nicklaus course.

June was the Dick Cake Memorial Golf Tournament here at Elizabeth Manor. Congratulations to Jeff Whitmire as overall champion. Nice playing Jeff!

Monthly 9-hole social events have not been very well attended. The courses have been great and the clubs very generous in giving away tee times. Thanks to Mike Schiller to setting up these events.

Growing Bermuda in Tidewater this year has been a pleasure. Turf came in early and timely rains have kept it growing strong all

season. Primo is in full effect making life easier for all of us. Bentgrass weather was great early on, then the heat jumped on us. Temperatures were very high for about a 10 day period, but the second week of July brought a few days of cooler temps to give the grass a chance to breathe. Hopefully we will continue to get a few cool days here and there to get us through.

The rest of the summer is quiet for the TTA. We will do a Norfolk Tides baseball game in August, then we're off to the Outer Banks in September for our annual golf trip.

Our annual business meeting will be at Cedar Point Country Club on November 14. More details to follow.

I hope everyone has as stress free of a summer as possible.



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News from Local Associations

VTA News

The summer started inconspicuously and went to the dogs fast. The VTA meeting at The Homestead was a success. Between the excellent location and Lane Treadaway's presentation, things couldn't have gone better. It was ironic—or perhaps just good planning—that some of his presentation centered on some of the newer products designed to help with plant health in the fight against disease and stress. Two weeks later we had both.

The storm on June 29 added destruction and power loss to a period of heat that broke numerous records in our area. It is raining now, which always makes things better. Many are still experiencing the results of that one-two punch. Hopefully things improve from here on.

Mark Vaughn of Goodyear Golf Club has

some interesting theories on the weather patterns in this area and their causes and will share them I am sure, if asked. I will say that he believes Joe Hammer and an intergalactical weather commission play a role. I do have some questions on some of these phenomenon. Why is it that the bad weather seems to have Spanish names, Derecho, El niño, La niña are some examples. I don't have the answers but intend to have a meeting with Mr, Vaughn in the near future to get to the bottom of these issues. Anyone interested in this

should contact Mark regarding time and place.



Mark Cote
VTA President

ODGCSA News

During last month's North-South event the North walked away with a win. The hospitality was great! We would like to thank Eric Ferrell and The Augustine golf club for hosting the event. The course was in great shape and a fun time was had by all players.

We would like to remind our members that September 24th we are having a Joint meeting with the SVTA. The event will be at Wintergreen resort at Devils knob golf club. This will be a great time of the year to head to the mountains and enjoy the scenic views and play some golf in the cooler weather. We look forward to having a great turnout for this event.

During June the ODGSA sponsored two teams in two different golf tournaments,

Jeff Holiday, Eddy Grattini, Scott Mauldin and Dick fisher played in the First Tee of Chesterfield golf tournament. They walked away winners with Low net score and supported a great foundation.

ODGCSA President Eric Frazier headed up a team with Andrew Mc Cormick, Fred Biggers and Christian Sain to play in the Virginia Agribusiness Council tournament. They had a great day of fellowship and networking. Thanks to all of you for representing the ODGCSA.

The weather has been wet for some and dry for others this summer. Both conditions have caused some stress for all of us. Let's remember we are more than half way through the summer and the cooler nights are approaching.

See you soon!



Scott Mauldin
ODGCSA Vice President

SVTA Update

As I reflect on the end of spring and the beginning of summer, the only word that comes to mind is exhausting. The weather in Virginia has been so crazy this year from the warm winter with little snowfall to a brutal beginning of summer. Everyone has suffered through power outages, downed trees, and debris scattered across their golf courses. Now when I look at the radar and see a storm coming, I just cringe hoping to be spared the brunt of the storm. The high day and nighttime temperatures have made it a challenge to manage cool season grass in the Valley.

On the bright side, it was great to see the SVTA bring the Commonwealth Cup back to the Valley! CONGRATULATIONS to Mike Sprouse, Tim Suess, Ed Eagle, and Bryan Rankin who secured the trophy for the SVTA at the VTC Research Golf Tournament in June.

The SVTA also had their fundraising tournament at Rock Harbor Golf Course in June. It was a great success! We would like to thank Bobby Jenkins and his staff for having the golf course in grand shape. Also, we would like to thank everyone who put in a team and thank you to all of the sponsors who support the SVTA!

Our next meeting will be at Millwood Country Club on August 9. This will be a late afternoon meeting with golf and a catered meal. On September 24, our meeting will be at Wintergreen Resort along with the ODGCSA. Bragging rights will be on the stake for this get together!

I wish everyone a weather-safe summer!



David Lewallen
SVTA
External Vice President

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