

Summer 2008

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association



## President's Message

Hello All!

In the last edition of the *Commonwealth Crier* I started out by saying, "I cannot believe the 2008 golfing season is here." Well, here we are now and I cannot believe the oppressive heat and humidity that is facing us as I write this message. I am not going to harp on the weather as it will soon pass ... but if you know of a career that is fun, exciting, equally challenging as managing turf in the Mid-Atlantic and is air conditioned ... please let me know.

I am sorry about the bad joke, but coming of our Member-Guest Tournament and the hottest week ever (it seemed to me), I could not resist. I was able to break away from the golf course for a morning and attend the Governor's Forum on Drought and Water Conservation. The forum was kicked off by hearing Governor Tim Kaine give an overview of the water situation in the Commonwealth. He was followed by presentation given by Terry Wagner (DEQ) and David Paylor (DEQ). There was an exorbitant amount of information, numbers and graphs thrown up on the screen. Some key points that were made: **CONSERVE, CONSERVE** and **THEN START CONSERVING.**

As of now, even with the rains much of us have received this spring, ground

water levels are still low. Secondly, as an industry (golf) we are looked upon as large users of water and in the irrigation industry, we again are looked upon large users of water. With the large push in "Going Green" type advertising (just watch TV or read a magazine), I SUSPECT we will all face several questions and comments from our golfers. Please look over the Economic Impact Study (available at [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org)) and review the water use information. When compared with water use for other purposes, golf's water use is minimal and a good investment.

While I am still on the legislative soapbox ... we are in the swing of things in golf course maintenance, sales consulting, etc. Please keep your ears open to legislation that is happening throughout the state. Just recently, some proposed legislation was brought forth to the County of Albemarle about banning the use of pesticides on county properties. The County Board voted to remove all "toxic" chemicals in facilities run by the county. While this may not impact you or me directly ... in the future it could. If you hear of any threatening legislation, please inform us.

As you have all heard by now GCSAA has announced the new CEO replacing Steve Mona. Mr. Mark Woodward,

CGCS, will be taking over the reigns in Lawrence in July. I have spoken with him a couple of times in passing and he is a wonderful gentleman. In other GCSAA news, there has been a review of capabilities in New Orleans as the GIS prepares to open its doors there in February and the Delegates Meeting this fall. From all reports, the city has been rebuilt and is able to accommodate the needs of the GIS.

Most importantly, I hope that all is well with each of you and you are able to find time to spend some quality time with the family this summer, as they are our greatest supporters in this demanding profession. Good luck to you all during the next couple of months. If I or any of us on the Board can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call.



Eric D. Spurlock  
President  
Virginia GCSA

# Old Dominion GCSA Defends Title at Spring Creek

In a tight contest at Gordonsville's highly acclaimed Spring Creek GC, the Old Dominion GCSA successfully defended its title in the Commonwealth Cup, as part of the Virginia Turfgrass Council's fundraiser for turf research.

The ODGCSA Team of **Brian Vincel** (Spring Creek GC), **Tommy Adams** (Providence GC), **Chris Roberts** (First Tee of Chesterfield) and **Jeff Whitmire** (Williamsburg CC) combined for a 14-under-par 58, to eak past the SVTA team by one stroke. Tied for third, just one more shot back, was VTA and GWGCSA with 60s. The TTA team struggled home with a 66, citing putting woes.

All competitors raved about the beautifully conditioned Spring Creek GC, recent winner of *Golf Digest's* "Best New Public Course in America" (\$75 and less



2008 Commonwealth Cup Champions from ODGCSA: Brian Vincel, Tommy Adams, Chris Roberts and Jeff Whitmire

category). Host superintendent Brian Vincel and his staff was recognized for the outstanding work in conditioning the course.

The event was sold out once again, and all proceeds went to the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation to fund research projects.

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# Jeff Whitmire and Bobby Friend Share Tollie Quinn Honors

Smith Turf Sponsors Outstanding Event at Two Rivers Country Club

Fast, smooth greens and breezy conditions highlighted the competition at the ODGCSA Tollie Quinn tournament at Williamsburg's Two Rivers Country Club, presented by Smith Turf & Irrigation.

Sharing top honors were longtime "adversaries" **Bobby Friend** and **Jeff Whitmire**, collectively the winners of seven of the last nine runnings—both carded 1-over-par 73s.

The event also featured qualifying for the VGCSA's team at the 2009 GCSAA Championship. Qualifiers were **Friend** and **Whitmire**, plus **Scott Kinnan** of Farmington Country Club

(77) and **Chester Guzek** of Lake of the Woods (77).

**Andrew McCormick** won Low Gross for the Assistant's Division with 78. PGA Professional **Woods Woolwine** took home Low Gross in the Associates Flight with 72, while **Tim Swaim** of Luck Stone won Low Net with 70.

Superintendent Bob Ruff, CGCS and PGA Professional Chris Warring were hosts of the event. Smith Turf and Irrigation was recognized for its continued sponsorship of the event, honoring the founder of the original company, Tollie Quinn.



Bobby Friend (left) and Jeff Whitmire both shot 73s to share the 2008 Tollie Quinn tournament trophy.



2009 GCSAA Qualifiers: Scott Kinnan, Jeff Whitmire, Bobby Friend and Chester Guzek

# VGCSA & MAAGCS Make Plans for 2009 GCSAA Conference

Plans are already underway for the 2009 GCSAA Conference and Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, February 1–7, 2009. The VGCSA and Mid-Atlantic AGCS have made plans to strengthen their partnership for the event.

In an effort to facilitate networking opportunities, the two organizations have designated the same host hotel, the Astor Crowne Plaza on Bourbon Street. A joint room block has been reserved, available on a first-come, first-serve basis for members of either association. The block will be managed by Golf Industry Travel, with more information due out around September 1, 2008. Reservations must be made by November 7, 2008.

In addition, the two organizations are planning a joint social event for the evening of Thursday, February 5, 2009. Details on location and time have not been finalized. Sponsorship opportunities will be available for this popular event, and we gratefully acknowledge the 2008 sponsors: Syngenta, Nutramax Laboratories, Helena, GL Cornell, Turf & Garden, Quali-Pro, Davisson Golf and FMC.

## Newsmakers ...



Superintendents take center stage in the May issue of Virginia Golfer magazine. Featured on the cover are Peter McDonough, Dan Taylor, Pete Wendt and Cutler Robinson.

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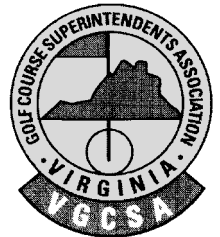
**Eligible organizations include:**

- Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Virginia Turfgrass Foundation
- Virginia Turfgrass Council
- Wee Ones Foundation
- and many others

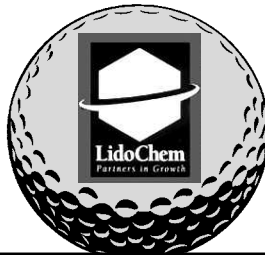


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# Virginia State Water Plan

by David Weisser

The State is required to prepare and submit to the Governor, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources, and the State Water Commission, a state water resources plan in accordance with § 62.1-44.38, which includes information from existing local and regional water supply plans.

The state water resources plan shall include (i) an estimate of current water withdrawals and use for agriculture, industry, domestic use, and other significant categories of water users; (ii) a projection of water withdrawals and use by agriculture, industry, domestic water use, and other significant categories of water users; (iii) an estimate, for each major river and stream, of the minimum in-stream flows necessary during drought conditions to maintain water quality and avoid permanent damage to aquatic life in streams, bays, and estuaries; (iv) an evaluation, to the extent practicable, of the ability of existing subsurface and surface waters to meet current and future water uses, including minimum in-stream flows, during drought conditions; (v) an evaluation, in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Health and local water supply managers, of the current and future capability of public water systems to provide adequate quantity and quality of water; (vi) an identification of water management problems and alternative water management plans to address such problems; and (vii) an evaluation of the hydrologic, environmental, economic, social, legal, jurisdictional, and other aspects of each alternative management strategy identified.

Local and Regional Water Supply Plans will be included in the State Water Resource Plan when determined to be in compliance with the State Plan. 9 VAC 25-780-140.G requires that “in conjunction with the compliance determination made by the board, the state will develop additional



information and conduct additional evaluation of local or regional alternatives in order to facilitate continuous planning.”

This additional information shall be included in the State Water Resources Plan and used by localities in their program planning. This information shall include:

1. A cumulative demand analysis, based upon information contained in the State Water Resources Plan and other sources;
2. The evaluation of alternatives prepared pursuant to 9 VAC 25-780-130.B and C;
- 3) The evaluation of potential use conflicts among projected water demand and estimates of requirements for in-stream flow; and
- 4) An evaluation of the relationship between the local plan and the State Water Resources Plan.

## The Concept for the State Plan includes the following:

- To put local and regional plans together with relevant state water resource information in one place;
- To provide a qualitative and quantitative description of water resources in Virginia based upon readily accessible data, and guidance on the use of that information in the decisions that face the Plan’s users;
- To provide a statewide snapshot of what the water supply needs are, where

they are met, and our best estimate of the resource's ability to meet additional needs;

- To manage water resources to ensure their continued availability, while also maximizing environmental and economic benefits;
- To provide an on-going process that evolves in response to changing conditions over time;
- To identify areas of the state where multiple users want the same source for their water needs;
- To identify existing areas of the state where water availability may be insufficient now or in the near future based on these needs;
- To try and find resolutions to conflicts through regional solutions, alternative sources, or some other option;
- To identify a locality’s needs and the constraints to meeting these needs;
- To see where there may be willing partners for regional solutions and where these solutions may be most practical; and
- To provide a useful economic development tool by identifying areas with available water supplies, and areas where water needs for promoting tourism and recreation are identified.

You might ask yourself what does this have to do with me and my golf course? All of our golf course facilities throughout the Commonwealth should do their part in reporting their water withdrawal values. It is crucial for us as an industry to demonstrate the importance of using our most precious of resources wisely, our water. Water usage in our industry is critical; it is now time to help turn the tide against the “perception” that is out there in the public that golf courses are wasteful water users. Let’s all do our part and report, for it is our duty!

**up•time** (noun) { úp-tīm }

1. *the time during which a machine or equipment is operating or ready for use*



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# Virginia Heat Wave: A Major Summer Killer

NOAA's National Weather Service • Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services

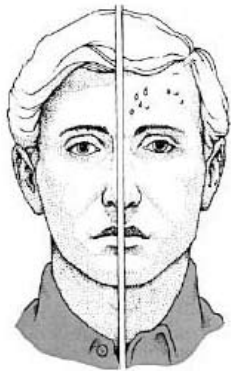
## A National Problem

Heat kills by taxing the human body beyond its abilities. In a normal year, about 175 Americans succumb to the demands of summer heat. Among the large continental family of natural hazards, only the cold of winter—not lightning, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, or earthquakes—takes a greater toll. In the 40-year period from 1936 through 1975, nearly 20,000 people were killed in the United States by the effects of heat and solar radiation. In the disastrous heat wave of 1980, more than 1,250 people died.

And these are the direct casualties. No one can know how many more deaths are advanced by heat wave weather—how many diseased or aging hearts surrender that under better conditions would have continued functioning.

North American summers are hot; most summers see heat waves in one section or another of the United States. East of the Rockies, they tend to combine both high temperature and high humidity although some of the worst have been catastrophically dry.

## Know the Signs



### Heat Stroke

1. Dry, hot skin
2. Very high body temperature

### Heat Exhaustion

1. Moist, clammy skin
2. Normal or subnormal temperature

## Heat Index/Heat Disorders:

Possible heat disorders for people in higher risk groups.

**Heat Index of 130° or Higher:** heatstroke/sunstroke highly likely with continued exposure.

**Heat Index of 105°-130°:** sunstroke, heat cramps or heat exhaustion likely, and heatstroke possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

**Heat Index of 90°-105°:** sunstroke, heat cramps and heat exhaustion possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

**Heat Index of 80°-90°:** fatigue possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.

Note on the HI chart the shaded zone above 105°F. This corresponds to a level of HI that may cause increasingly severe heat disorders with continued exposure and/or physical activity.

## How Heat Affects the Body Human

Human bodies dissipate heat by varying the rate and depth of blood circulation, by losing water through the skin and sweat glands, and—as the last extremity is reached—by panting, when blood is heated above 98.6°F. The heart begins to pump more blood, blood vessels dilate to accommodate the increased flow, and the bundles of tiny capillaries threading through the upper layers of skin are put into operation. The body's blood is circulated closer to the skin's surface, and excess heat drains off into the cooler atmosphere. At the same time, water diffuses through the skin as perspiration. The skin handles about 90% of the body's heat dissipating function.

Sweating, by itself, does nothing to cool the body, unless the water is removed by evaporation, and high relative humidity retards evaporation. The evaporation process itself works this way: the heat energy required to evaporate the sweat is extracted from the body, thereby cooling

it. Under conditions of high temperature (above 90°) and high relative humidity, the body is doing everything it can to maintain 98.6° inside. The heart is pumping a torrent of blood through dilated circulatory vessels; the sweat glands are pouring liquid—including essential dissolved chemicals, like sodium and chloride onto the surface of the skin.

## Heat Wave Safety Tips:

**Slow down.** Strenuous activities should be reduced, eliminated, or rescheduled to the coolest time of the day. Individuals at risk should stay in the coolest available place, not necessarily indoors.

**Dress for summer.** Lightweight light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight, and helps your body maintain normal temperatures.

**Put less fuel on your inner fires.** Foods (like proteins) that increase metabolic heat production also increase water loss.

**Drink plenty of water or other non-alcohol fluids.** Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty. Persons who (1) have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease, (2) are on fluid restrictive diets or (3) have a problem with fluid retention should consult a physician before increasing their consumption of fluids.

**Do not drink alcoholic beverages.**

**Do not take salt tablets unless specified by a physician.**

**Spend more time in air-conditioned places.** Air conditioning in homes and other buildings markedly reduces danger from the heat. If you cannot afford an air conditioner, spending some time each day (during hot weather) in an air conditioned environment affords some protection.

**Don't get too much sun.** Sunburn makes the job of heat dissipation that much more difficult.

# News from Affiliated Chapters

## Shenandoah Valley Turf Association News

Welcome to July, that wonderful time of the year for fungi, insects and all other assorted pests. But, I digress.

The Valley is experiencing the same conditions as everyone. You might think that the snow has just gone away, but that would be folk tale by the realtors trying to sell retirement lots. We do have heat and humidity, just like you guys in the foothills and beach areas. No major problems that I know of. Hand watering is the regular practice to keep the greens in perfect condition.

Having just returned from New Mexico on a service visit to a new course under construction, I don't want to hear about complaints of 90 degrees

and 90% humidity.

Try 105° with no humidity and nary a tree in site. Even the lizards wore sunscreen! Oh yeah, add to that a slight breeze of 10-30 mph. Now, we're talking dry. This leads me to water and its use.

I think you might agree that one of the next major battlefields will be about water, its use and availability. In New Mexico, water is monitored closely. The Rio Grande River is but a small stream through El Paso because of the siphoning off of gallons upstream.

What about Virginia? We've seen localized restrictions during drought conditions. I'm going to throw out a few ideas. Do you water by ET? When

was the last time that you had an Irrigation Audit, checking water rates and coverage? Do you have a dedicated irrigation technician on staff? Are you using moisture sensors? How efficient is your pump station?

Be prepared. You might be sitting on top of the aquifer that feeds Virginia, but, you know, the government owns it and can regulate your use.

Thanks. Have a great summer. In the words of Jack McClenahan, "it's all downhill from here!"

*David Geiger, CGCS  
President, SVTA*

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# News from Affiliated Chapters

## TTA Update

On April 28th, the tidewater area was struck by a series of strong storms that caused significant damage. Most specifically, the epicenter of the strongest storms struck Suffolk, and it was characterized as F3 tornado. This area was around Nansemond River Golf Club and the damage was unbelievable to witness. It was particularly scary for myself and my family for the path of the storms went directly overhead our home. We were fortunate that the tornado did not touch down in our neighborhood, but many other homes were destroyed. Nansemond River Golf Club had a great deal of damage, particularly to the 9th hole.

One of the great things about our profession is the way superintendents and assistants are willing to help out when one of our colleagues is in need. Almost immediately, superintendents and vendors were reaching out to help out Mike Schiller and his staff at the club. Later that same week, superintendents and members of their staffs, were lending a helping hand with the cleanup of debris. I know Mike was very thankful for the

assistance we all provided. I want to thank all the superintendents for their contribution, and to Dave Melton of Smith Turf along with Jason Pool of GL Cornell for their help with their time and the lending of equipment. With our help, we were able to clean up a tremendous amount of debris and allowed the club to open back up for play much sooner.

The TTA had our first annual fishing trip on May 22nd. We had a terrific afternoon of weather out in the Chesapeake Bay and I believe everyone that attended caught at least one fish. I want to thank Neil Jones of Landscape Supply for his sponsorship of the event. Everyone that joined us had a great time and we are hopeful for even better attendance next year.

Our next event was the annual Dick Cake Memorial at Elizabeth Manor Country Club on June 30th. Rob Wilmans again hosted the event and the course was once again in great shape. Also, keep an eye open for the 2nd Annual Wee One Foundation Tournament on July 28th. Cypress Creek Golfers Club is hosting

the event this year. The proceeds for the event are going to assist Bob Rupp, superintendent at Two Rivers Country Club, in his battle with cancer. Strong participation throughout the state would be go a long way to helping Bob get the treatments he needs.



*Chris Petrelli  
External V-P for TTA  
Cedar Point Country Club*



Everyone who headed to the Chesapeake Bay for the first annual TTA outing caught a fish.



An F3 tornado struck the Suffolk area on April 28, leaving behind a trail of destruction that included damage to the Nansemond River Golf Club. Superintendents from across the area came out to assist with the cleanup effort at the course.

# News from Affiliated Chapters

## News from the GWGCSA

What a difference a year makes. Last year everyone's irrigation ponds were already depleted and stress was building for those with limited water supplies. This year Mother Nature won't turn the water off! We are already just three inches shy of last year's total and it's only June. Hopefully everyone is handling the weather and the onset of summer well.

As summer sets in it is a good time to remind everyone about keeping your employees safe in times of extreme heat. After just finishing up our first real bout with temps in the upper 90s it seems timely. There are many ailments that can arise from working in hot conditions. Heat stroke, heat exhaustion, cramps, rashes, and fainting can all occur if

the proper steps aren't taken to protect employees.

As supervisors, it is our responsibility to keep our staffs safe. There are several things that we can do to help:

1. Provide plenty of drinking water (discourage drinking sodas as they are high in sodium and can make dehydration worse).
2. Provide a cool area for breaks; this area should be out of the heat and sun.
3. Try to schedule the most strenuous tasks for early in the day to avoid the hottest temperatures.
4. Educate your employees on the warning signs of any of the above ailments. (for more information, see page 7)

OSHA (Occupational Health & Safety Administration) has guidelines for employers to follow to help keep your workers safe. There is a wealth of information on their website ([www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)) to educate your employees about the risks of not taking care of themselves in the heat. There are also plenty of tips for employers to assist in providing a safe workplace.

Have a great summer and I hope to see everyone at one of the upcoming meetings.



Steven Harris, CGCS  
External VP, GWGCSA

## News from the VTA

This year has been a blessed year so far. It seems as if we've had a normal weather season ... if there is such a thing as normal. As for labor needs, I wish I could send my 30+ extra applicants to those who struggle with labor. I hope everyone has had a great, problem free year so far. It has been my experience that if you hope for the best and keep a positive attitude, you can accomplish more than you ever expect.

Our fundraiser at Draper Valley went really well! On behalf of the VTA, I would like to thank Tony Montgomery for hosting a wonderful tournament. Also, our June 9th meeting at Primland was at maximum capacity! Thank you all for attending.

Let's change gears and discuss a critical topic: Regulatory Necessities. I am going to review some small details about rules and regulations that apply to all facilities:

**Fluorescent Light Bulbs:** Green tipped ones can be thrown in the dumpsters. Silver tipped ones need to get mailed off for recycling (make sure you are buying

the green tipped ones). Trust me, spend the extra money. It is expensive to mail old bulbs back to [www.bulbs.com](http://www.bulbs.com) (Ballasts are also required to be recycled.)

**Used Oil:** Documentation is needed for your recycling efforts of oil. You can call in a company to pump out a used oil storage tank (file paperwork for future inspections). It is also very acceptable to give your used oil away for winter burning of a furnace; however, it must be documented. The person who consumes the oil for burning must sign a paper stating the gallons used, the date taken, and the name and contact information.

### Emergency Clean Up:

1. Spill of machinery fluids in shop
2. Pesticide Spill
  1. An Emergency Spill kit (optional, but highly recommended) is needed. This should be kept where all employees can access it easily. Also, all employees must be aware of its location.

2. Pesticide Spill: It is required to notify VDACS (Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services) in the event of a pesticide spill WITHIN 48 HOURS. A written report must be sent within 10 days from the time of notification. It doesn't matter how big or small of a spill, report it anyway. It is better safe than sorry.

I'm sure that these are already known by most golf course superintendents; however, it is a great refresher for new staff members. We can never be too cautious or careful when it comes to fine tuning our maintenance program while protecting our environment. I wish you all the best for this golfing season and many more!



Kim Garnett  
VTA Vice President



# News from Affiliated Chapters

## News from the Old Dominion GCSA



### Has anyone seen this guy?

Hello to all that read this. In the words of a Hall of Fame running back, “I’m bored, broke and back.”

I would like to take this space to thank Scott Kinnan, Jeff Holliday and the rest of the fine ODGCSA board of directors for taking up the slack for me during my recent illness. Also, many thanks to all that called and emailed me to check up on my status. I have learned that

once again the ODGCSA represented itself well at the VTC Tourney and as usual, waxed the competition. Also, I understand that the ODGCSA kicked butt at the rain-shortened South vs. North event.

My main message though is to remind my peers that while the season has started (in a HOT way), that time with family remains important. Recently I attended my daughter’s high school graduation just in time but my wife informed me that she thought that I would be missing. Two days later, my youngest daughter graduated from middle school and yes, while it was 103° that day, I was just about late for that too ... and oh, by the way, the gym we were in was a cool 97°.

Back to my point—remember to keep in touch with the ones that you love, and reassure them that daddy is doing all he can to get to the swim meet on time, even if the meet is over at 11:30pm. Have a date with your wife!

Last but not least, with the way this summer has started, it reminds me of my grandpa’s favorite saying, “once you are in the water Steven, It’s not a matter of whether you wanted to go swimming.”

KEEP COOL

*Steve Burnette*  
President  
ODGCSA

## Virginia Beach’s Bayville Golf Club to Host 2011 U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur

The United States Golf Association has announced that Bayville Golf Club in Virginia Beach has been selected to host the 2011 U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship. Championship dates are September 17–22, 2011. Designed by Tom Fazio and opened in 1995, Bayville will be hosting its first USGA championship. The course is set on a 268-acre former dairy farmland site and is susceptible to the winds of the nearby Chesapeake Bay.

The Commonwealth of Virginia will be hosting its first Women’s Mid-Amateur as well. Virginia has hosted 15 USGA championships. The 2009 USGA Senior Women’s Amateur will be played at The Homestead in Hot Springs.

Among the events previously hosted by Bayville Golf Club are the 2002 Virginia State Golf Association Men’s Amateur Championship and the 2004 Women’s Eastern Amateur Championship. Later this year, the club will host the 2008 Virginia State Golf Association Women’s Amateur Championship.

“The members of Bayville are honored to be given the opportunity to host the 25th U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship,” said Club President Tommy Rueger. “We look forward to working with the USGA in the planning and execution of this competition. The event will be great for the entire golf community in Hampton Roads.”

First played in 1987, the Women’s Mid-

Amateur is open to female amateurs who are at least 25 years old and have a USGA Handicap Index not exceeding 9.4.



Hole No. 2, Bayville Golf Club

## Got Calibrated? Time to Check Your Sprayers.

Calibration is sometimes considered a tricky matter involving formulas, charts and conversions factors. But you can complete a thorough calibration for boom sprayers, backpack sprayers and spray guns in only a few steps. Calibration steps vary for each sprayer types. The following information details the specifics for each.

### Backpack Sprayers

1. Add a measured amount of water to the sprayer.
2. Spray an area measuring exactly 1,000 square feet (for example, 20 x 50 feet). Maintaining a constant walking speed, hold the nozzle steady at a constant height either walk back and forth or move the nozzle with a sweeping, overlapping motion.
3. Measure the amount of water still in the tank. Subtract this amount from the amount with which you started. The difference between the two measurements is your application rate in gallons per 1,000 square feet.

### Lawn care spray guns

1. Check flow rate by collection liquid from the gun for 1 minute.
2. Measure the time required to spray 1,000 square feet.
3. The time required to spray 1,000 square feet times flow rate = application rate in gallons per 1,000 square feet.
4. Adjust application rates by changing pressure or application speed.

### Boom sprayers

1. Check you sprayer speed. Mark a 100- or 200-foot strip of turf. With tank half full, record the time required to drive the course at your desired throttle and gear settings. Be sure to bring the sprayer to speed before you pass the start marker. Convert time to miles per hour, then identify and record the correct throttle and gear setting.
2. Record your set-up before spraying. For example, assume you are going to use a nozzle with a flat-spray tip to spray 21 gallons of material at 4 mph. (Make sure all tips on the boom are identical). Then record the set-up as: Application volume: 21 gallons per acre or 0.48 gallons per 1,000 square feet; Spray speed: 4 mph; Nozzle spacing: 20 inches.
3. Calculate your required nozzle output. To determine nozzle output on gallons per minute (gpm), use only the following formulas:

$$gpm = \frac{gpa \times mph \times W}{5,940}$$

$$or \frac{(gallon \ per \ 1,000 \ square \ feet) \times mph \times W}{136}$$

Where:

gpa = recommended gallons per acre from product label

mph = your actual sprayer speed

W = width of nozzle spacing (or spray width in inches for single nozzle and boomless spraying)

**Note:** The denominators (5,940 and 136) are unitless constants that remain the same in their respective equations regardless of other values.

4. Set the correct pressure. First, turn on the sprayer and check for leaks; inspect and clean tips and strainers with a soft-bristle brush. Then check the appropriate tip selection table and determine the pressure needed to deliver the target flow rate calculated from the formula in Step 3 for your new tip. Finally, turn on the sprayer and adjust it to the desired pressure.
5. Check for target flow rate. Do this by collecting water from one new nozzle for 1 minute. Then compare the volume of this nozzle to your target flow rate in Step 3 (0.28 gpm in the example). Make any fine adjustments to the spray volume by adjusting the pressure. Next, check the flow rate of several tips on each boom section. If the flow rate of any tip is 10 percent more or less than that of the manufacturer's specifications, recheck the output of that tip. If only one tip is faulty, replace it with a new tip. However, if a second tip is defective, replace all the tips on the entire boom. Two worn tips on the same boom indicate tip-wear problems. Once you have replaced all the appropriate tips, your system is ready for spraying.

For more on calibration of liquid sprayer see: *Fine Tuning a Sprayer with "Ounce" Calibration Method* (VCE Publication 442-453, <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/bse/442-453/442-453.html> )



# Evaluation of Cool-Season Species for Naturalized Roughs in Virginia

Dr. Erik Ervin, Associate Professor  
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A common trend of the last decade has been to expand the acreage of non-mowed rough areas to accomplish a number of goals such as:

- Labor and gas savings due to less primary rough mowed
- Fertilizer, pesticide, and water input reductions
- Enhancement of wildlife diversity
- Enhancement of the golfing experience in terms of **aesthetics and playability**

This last goal is especially important when planning, establishing, and maintaining these naturalized areas: **they must remain attractive and playable or slowing of play and excessive golfer complaints will turn your efforts from the positive to the negative.** Thus, creating naturalized areas by just not mowing the resident tall fescue or other turfgrass species often fails. The objective of the research reported here was to intentionally establish various candidate species with ultra-low seeding rates and compare their post-establishment aesthetics and playability.

Six cool-season grass species were broadcast seeded at rates 10 to 20 times less than those recommended for mowed turfgrasses in October 2005 onto prepared silty clay loam at the Turfgrass Research Center in Blacksburg. These rates were all less than 1 lb per 1000 square feet and are listed in Table 1. Since we used 10 ft by 10 ft plots, it was easiest for us to hand seed these ultra-low rates. For larger golf course areas, my best suggestion would be to use a hydro-seeder in an attempt to uniformly apply such low rates. Previous research and experience with un-mowed fine fescue areas had taught us that merely cutting recommended rates in half still resulted in areas of excessive

density that lodged, swallowed balls, and required excessive bailing, sweeping, raking, or burning each year.

Maintenance inputs were kept to a minimum, but included the following: Fertility: 1 lb N, P, K per 1000 square feet at seeding; 0.5 lb N in April 06, 07, and 08; Preemergent herbicide at 1x rate in early April of 06 to 08 and October 06 and 07; Postemergent herbicide once each spring and fall to clean up broadleaf weeds; and mowing to 4-inches each October. Minimal use of nitrogen and no supplemental irrigation, except during establishment, kept the stands thin and playable, while spring and fall pre- and post-emergent herbicide applications provided enough weed control to provide acceptable aesthetics.

**Results.** Even at these ultra-low seeding rates all species achieved greater than

50% cover by the end of the first spring (Figure 1). Hybrid bluegrass, Virginia wildrye, and tall fescue filled in the fastest, achieving 70% or greater cover in the first year. Note here that while much of the soil was covered by these grasses, shoot density remained quite low, with minimal overlap or crowding of tillers in these plots. By the second year (07), percent cover ranged from 60 to 90% with the hybrid bluegrass having the highest cover. By the third year, the blue and hard fescues had caught up with the hybrid bluegrass, with all three providing excellent plot uniformity.

For the rest of the article I will discuss each species in order of least acceptable to most, with main reference to the playability X aesthetic index that I developed from the final set of collected data (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Seeding rates of the varieties tested and various performance data for mature stands of candidate grass species for naturalized un-mowed golf course rough areas

Entry	Seeding Rate/ 1000 sq. ft.	June 08 Seedhead Height (in.)	Gap Wedge Escape (yards) <sup>1</sup>	Playability x Aesthetic Index <sup>2</sup>
Tall fescue blend	0.6 lbs	33" a <sup>3</sup>	40 c	103
'Harpoon' hard fescue	0.3 lbs	26" b	48 c	125
'SR 3210' blue fescue	0.3 lbs	24" b	59 b	127
'Midnight' Kentucky bluegrass	0.2 lbs	28" ab	66 b	118
'Fire & Ice' hybrid bluegrass	0.2 lbs	22" b	89 a	164
VA wildrye	0.3 lbs	32" a	30 c	63
Tall fescue mowed check	6.0 lbs	None, 2.5"	99 a	NA

<sup>1</sup> Golf balls were dropped randomly in each plot and hit with a 52-degree gap wedge by Dr. Ervin. Numbers are the average of 6 balls.

<sup>2</sup> This Index was calculated by multiplying final June 08 aesthetic quality rating by 10 and then adding this number to the gap wedge escape yards. A higher number is preferred.

<sup>3</sup> Numbers followed by letters that are the same in each column are not significantly different at a 95% probability level.



**Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*)**

**Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*)**

is a native cool-season perennial grass that prefers moist, fertile, and heavier soils. It is often used as a palatable and nutritious pasture grass and grows to 3 feet tall. It was included in this trial as one of our only truly native cool-season grass choices for Virginia. It germinated readily and provided good cover via tillering. However, it is very coarse, upright, and pale green and therefore did not provide an acceptable unmowed rough. It had the worst index of **63** because of poor aesthetics and very tall shoots from which escape was almost impossible. It should only be considered for far out of play areas or hazards.

**Tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*, southern lawn blend)**

had the next lowest index of **103**, mostly due to its height and coarseness of texture. While I could hit my gap wedge 99 yards from tall fescue mowed at 2.5 inches, I could only average 40 yards from the un-mowed, almost 3 feet tall plots (Table 1). Flowering tall fescue can be attractive, but must be kept exceedingly thin to provide any playability.



**Tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*, southern lawn blend)**

**Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* 'Midnight')**

, when managed in this minimalist way, provided a thin and medium-low stand that gave improved playability (**118 index**), but worse aesthetic quality relative to tall fescue. Compact-type Kentucky bluegrasses like Midnight appear to be able to provide an acceptable naturalized stand, but would most likely require glyphosate wicking of invading bunches of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass.

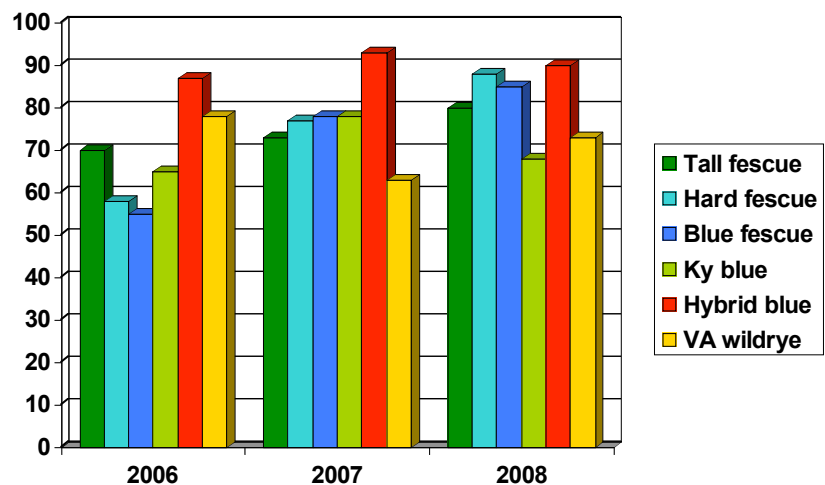


**Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* 'Midnight')**

**Hard fescue (*Festuca trachyphylla* 'Harpoon')**

finished with a very good index of **125**. Hard fescue is a very attractive (Figure 2) un-mowed grass that did not get too tall under these low maintenance conditions. It did, however, get fairly thick by the third season, restricting my gap wedge average escape distance to only 48 yards (Table 1). Hard fescue, if managed with almost no irrigation or nitrogen, can provide a very attractive and playable naturalized rough.

**Late-spring percent cover of naturalized turfs**



**Figure 1.** Percent cover of turf varieties for naturalized un-mowed golf course roughs in the late spring for three years following establishment.





**Hard fescue (*Festuca trachyphylla* 'Harpoon')**

Harpoon was released in 2007 and is available from Cascade International Seed and Jonathan Green.

**Blue fescue (*Festuca glauca***

**'SR3210')**: This variety was commercially available from Seed Research of Oregon in 2007 and is a blue fescue that was selected specifically for un-mowed areas in the mid-Atlantic. Most blue fescues are sold as clumpy ornamentals, but this variety formed a uniform turf. Its bluish color and wispy seedheads gave it a very attractive naturalized look, plus it was a bit more forgiving than its hard fescue cousin, allowing me to advance the ball an average of 59 yards. It finished with the second highest index of **128** and should be seriously considered for your naturalized rough areas in Virginia.

**Hybrid bluegrass (*Poa pratensis x arachnifera* 'Fire & Ice')**

Hybrid bluegrasses are crosses between Kentucky and Texas bluegrasses. Texas bluegrasses have rhizomes and are inherently deeper-rooted than Kentucky. Fire & Ice is a recent commercial release from Turf Merchants and did very well in this low-input trial. It established quicker than Midnight (Figure 1), but stayed shorter.



**Blue fescue (*Festuca glauca* 'SR3210')**

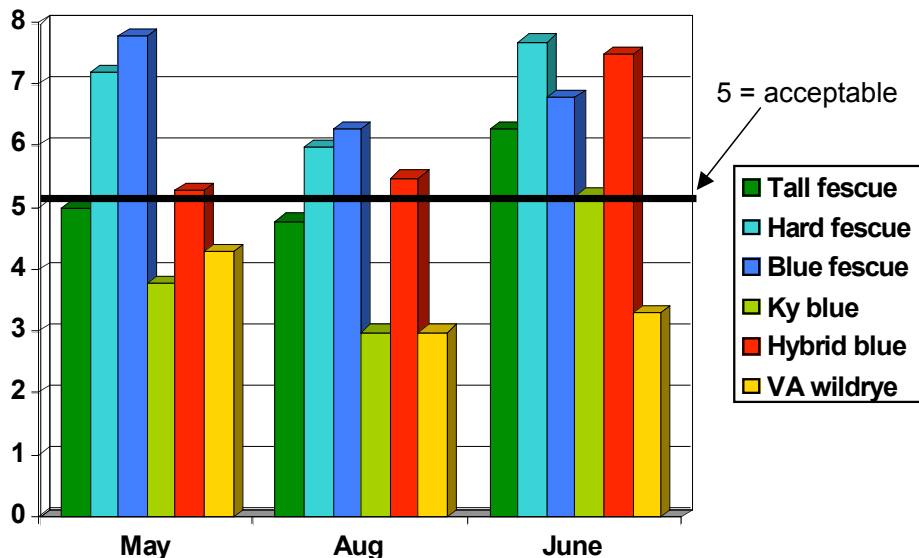
Its uniformity and overall aesthetic quality was also much better than Midnight (Figure 2). The look of this hybrid bluegrass was not as showy, in terms of seedheads, as the fine fescues, but its lack of tillering thickness allowed for a gap wedge escape average of 89 yards. Hitting a ball into it was still



**Hybrid bluegrass (*Poa pratensis x arachnifera* 'Fire & Ice')**

penal, while allowing the ball to be easily found and knocked back into play. All of these factors gave it the highest aesthetic x playability index of **164**. The thinner, shorter appearance of an un-mown rough of Fire & Ice may not be to everyone's liking, but consider giving it a try.

**Aesthetic quality of naturalized turfs**



**Figure 2.** Aesthetic quality of candidate grasses for naturalized un-mowed golf course roughs in May 07, Aug 07, and June 08 following an October 05 establishment.

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