

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## President's Message – What Does the Future Hold?

The New Year always brings a sense of renewed energy and an essential battery charge to accomplish new things. This year marks the first year of my two-year term as President of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association. The first thing you might ask is ... "Who is this guy?" Fair question. Everyone likes to tell their story, so I will keep it brief.

My adventure started at a small family-owned public golf course where I spent six summers as a grunt doing the normal "green horn" activities. My career really got started when I enrolled at Penn State ... I know ... still proud, but it's a sore subject! During my tenure at Penn State I worked at Beaver Stadium and eventually did internships at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. My connections at Firestone afforded me the opportunity to venture to Pinehurst, North Carolina, where I spent seven years that included preparation of two U.S. Open Championships and a complete renovation of Pinehurst No.4.

My experience and education most recently allowed me to land in Virginia Beach where I reside as the Golf Course Superintendent at the Princess Anne Country Club where I worked with one of our Partners, The Aspen Corporation, undergoing a complete renovation in 2007. While in Virginia Beach I married my wife Lindy and we have two daughters, Chloe, who is three, and Keagan, who is one.

I am honored to represent this Association and feel humbled by the support of the Princess Anne and its officials who afforded me the opportunity to take this plunge.

Now that the introductions are over let's get down to the real matter at hand...

by Matt Boyce, VGCSA President



"Matt, what are you going to do to make this Association better?" Another fair question ... and my answer is ... *Nothing!* Now that you have completely realized I am off my rocker, let me explain my reply.

First and foremost, our direction will always correlate with our Association Mission and we will not stray from those objectives. We will keep a strong Partner Program and retain the relationships we have worked so hard to procure while pursuing new affiliations with existing vendors. Our Board will keep the members in mind when we focus on service programs and keeping strong to those ambitions. We will also keep ties strong with our lateral support which includes the GCSAA, MAPGA, CMAA, VSGA, Virginia Tech, VTC and DEQ just to name a few. The VGCSA will also continue to communicate to its members through publications, email, website and Facebook, while also providing social and educational opportunities through golf events, webinars and social mixers.

Let me get back to my original answer of ... "*Nothing.*" And before I get too carried away, let me inform you that I am a goal oriented person and my direction here will explain my candid answer. Here it goes ...

**Goal #5 – Communicate our Value.** In the years leading up my Presidency I have heard the comment "What am I getting for my money?" ... A fair statement? ... Yes, and our reply is coming! **Goal #4 – Promote Superintendent Golf.** It really doesn't

matter if you're a 15 or a 5 handicap, it is important that our end user, the golfers, know we understand the game.

**Goal #3 – Form a Long Range Plan.** Our Association has grown from a day to day operation into a long term endeavor. Our immediate Past President, Jeff Berg will head this Committee which will include Past President Eric Spurlock, Executive Director David Norman and myself.

**Goal #2 – Promote Environmental Stewardship.** The majority of this will be done through our new BMP Manual which will include distribution, fund raising, water monitoring and becoming Nutrient Management Planners.

Now, the number one goal will hopefully clear the water a little bit. As I said before, I am doing nothing. Yes, I as your President will participate in golf events, come to meetings and lead our Board... but **you** are going to help. **Our Goal #1 is to Get Involved.**

When I say "our" I don't mean the Board ... I mean our entire Association. This is **your** Association and you need to help. I realize the economy isn't the best and our funds have seen a decline, but how much do you have invested in watching a free webinar, sending in an idea that you think might benefit our Association, getting involved with your Local Association or writing an article for a publication ... **everyone can do something!** Every one of our Members is responsible for their part. Yes, the major decisions do come from the Board, but if you remember our Board is comprised of External Vice Presidents that are the sounding board for your region!

Continued on page 15



## 2012 VGCSA Board

*Front Row:* Chris Petrelli, Jeff Holliday, Matt Boyce, Jeff Berg, Jeff Van Fleet;  
*Back Row:* Patrick Connelly, Matt Sobotka, Dave Lewallen, Dan Taylor, Rob Wilmans, Mark Cote



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# Boyce Elected VGCSA President

## New Slate of Officers for 2012

**Matt Boyce** of Princess Anne Country Club has been elected President of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association. He was installed at the association's annual meeting on January 17, 2012 at Fredericksburg Country Club.

Boyce has been the Golf Course Superintendent at Princess Anne since 2007. Previously he worked by Pinehurst Resort, where he helped prepare the #2 course for the 2005 US Open. He has

served on the VGCSA Board since 2008.

The new slate of officers includes Vice President **Jeff Holliday**, CGCS (Salisbury CC), Secretary/Treasurer **Chris Petrelli** (Cedar Point CC) and Past President **Jeff Berg** (Goose Creek GC). Boyce will lead over 650 members of the VGCSA.

External Vice Presidents for the 2012 Board are **Jeff Van Fleet** of Forest Greens GC (GWGCSA), **Dan Taylor** of

Independence GC (ODGCSA), **Rob Wilmans** of Elizabeth Manor G&CC (TTA), **Dave Lewallen** of Bowling Green CC (SVTA) and **Mark Cote** of the Pete Dye River Course. (VTA). The Assistant position on the board is filled by **Matt Sobotka** of Spring Creek GC, while the vendor position is filled by **Patrick Connelly** of Landscape Supply.

# Syngenta Recognizes Boyce, Spurlock

Congratulations to **Matt Boyce** and **Eric Spurlock**, who were selected as two of 27 golf course superintendents to participate in the Syngenta Business Institute, a unique, educational program.

The Syngenta Business Institute is sponsored by Syngenta in conjunction with Wake Forest University's graduate school of business and was held Dec. 5-8 in Winston-Salem, N.C. While agronomic expertise is critical to superintendent success, Syngenta also recognized the need to provide superintendents with business management tools.

Syngenta worked with Wake Forest to



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develop a program that focused on business and financial management, human resource management, negotiation skills and generational conflicts.

Boyce and Spurlock were selected from a talented pool of superintendents based on an application process that reviewed their educational background, industry achievements and an industry-related essay.

Boyce is the golf course superintendent

at Princess Anne Country Club in Virginia Beach and current President of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association (VGCSA). Spurlock is a Past President of VGCSA.



Matt Boyce



Eric Spurlock

# Vincel & Haney Triumph at Creighton Farms' Joe Saylor Event

The VGCSA members gathered at the newest sensation in northern Virginia, the Club at Creighton Farms, for a fun and festive Joe Saylor Memorial tournament on Nov. 1. On a beautiful Fall day, it was Brian Vincel and Kevin Haney of Spring Creek Golf Club who took home braggin' rights, with a spectacular gross score of 10-under-par 62 in the two-man captain's choice format. Host superintendent Matt Zarnstorff and his crew had the course in immaculate condition, despite an early season snow, which delayed the event by one day.

In the Member-Member flight, it was Aaron Wells and Garrett Neville of Belmont CC winning with a net 63 (beating Jeff Van Fleet and Bo Jumbertcotta in a card playoff). In the Member-Guest flight, Matt Zarnstorff and Jose Velasquez shot 67 to finish first in a playoff with two other teams. And in the Superintendent-Pro flight,



Former VGCSA President **Jeff Berg** (center) with the 2011 Joe Saylor Tournament overall champions, **Brian Vincel** (left) and **Kevin Haney** (right).

**Marshall Hibbs** and **John Schoenfeld** of **Stonewall GC** won with a 65.

A highlight of the day was a hole-in-one by **Mark Merrick** of **Genesis Turfgrass** with a 4-iron on the 185 yard 15th hole. A dazed Merrick was the last one to leave the party!

The staff of Creighton Farms was exemplary, including **Michael Vidal** and

**Scott McArthur** of the golf staff, **Allie Marino** of the F&B staff and of course **Matt Zarnstorff**, superintendent. The association is grateful for the support of **Mike Robichaud** and **Attila Harai** as well.

## Joe Saylor Memorial Prize Winners:

Overall – **Kevin Haney & Brian Vincel 62 (gross)**

### Member-Member

1st – **Aaron Wells & Garrett Neville 63**

2nd – **Jeff Van Fleet & Bo Jumbertcotta 63**

3rd – **Ed Walker & Scott Cornwell 65**

4th – **Jeff Berg & Ricky Casamento 68**

5th – **Ryan Anderson & Chappy Chapman 68**

### Member-Guest

1st – **Matt Zarnstorff & Jose Velasquez 67**

2nd – **Mike Oates & Tripp Carper 67**

3rd – **Ron Janicki & Mike Evans 67**

### Member-Pro

1st – **John Schoenfeld & Marshall Hibbs 65**

2nd – **Eric Cobb & Ed Eagle**

Putting Contest – **Ric Collins**

# VGCSA Announces 2011 Award Winners



Fred Reese, 2011 President's Award Recipient

## Reese Wins President's Award for Lifetime Service

Fred Reese of Hot Springs, VA is the winner of the 2011 VGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service. The VGCSA's highest award is "to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs, but who may no longer be actively involved in the VGCSA. Qualifications include 20 years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, at least 10 of which were as a superintendent." On all accounts, Reese has earned the distinction.

Well known as the longtime head superintendent and director of grounds at The Homestead, Reese's involvement in the golf industry came about in a very unlikely manner. He grew up in Christiansburg, VA and went off to college at Emory & Henry to study history. When he graduated he somehow found himself as a Virginia State Trooper in Botetourt County, working the night shift. He found that duty terribly boring, so he sought recreation during the day and gravitated toward golf. He joined the 9-hole Botetourt Country Club, and quickly became a "regular."

One day he told the club president that if a spot ever opened up, he wouldn't mind working there. In the meantime he left the State Police and became an insurance investigator. So one day the superintendent left and the guy called him up and said "You still interested?" That day he became Pro/Superintendent at Botetourt Country

Club, without a bit of formal training! He learned by doing, and he did it all—pro shop, pool, golf course maintenance—there was only one other employee! He stayed there about three years.

Fred benefitted from a friendship he developed with Dr. John Shoulders, a turf professor at Virginia Tech. According to Fred, "he took me under his wing, and showed me how to care for grass."

In the late 1960s, Fred moved over to take the superintendent job at the Country Club of Staunton. He was there a few years, when a big opportunity opened up in 1972—superintendent at The Homestead. He headed up the operation, overseeing "foremen" assigned to each of the three courses. He was there for a while, but he actually left when a sales job beckoned, and he went to work for LESCO in Ohio. He was then recruited out to Denver Country Club (CO) and moved west for what turned out to be just a year. That's when The Homestead called him, "You ready to come back home!!"

So Fred moved his family back to Hot Springs and reclaimed his position at The Homestead. He remained in the job for three to four years, and then began a business with Sonny Helms, Butterfield Golf Car Sales. The Homestead asked him to stay on as a consultant, and he played that role when the US Amateur came to The Cascades Course in 1988. He moved on to become a distributor for Ransome, but with the success of the US Am, The Homestead once again called him back.

A defining year for The Homestead occurred in 1994. Financial problems forced the Ingalls family to sell its beloved resort to forego bankruptcy. Literally a day before the doors were to close, Club Corp out of Dallas, TX negotiated to buy the property and ultimately rescue it. With the new owner, the future of the employees was uncertain. Fred survived in his role as Director of Sports and Recreation. He then decided to focus on what he knew best, and he asked to focus solely on caring for the golf courses.

Over the next 10 years, Fred worked his way up to Vice President of Operations, basically responsible for everything outside the hotel. In 2004 he retired. Then at age 65, he started the Reese Group, initially consulting on property management. He

took care of farms and houses, and then last year sold his business. He and wife Marty bought a home at Lake Oconee, while retaining their Hot Springs residence. They now split time in the two locations, and enjoy their family of daughter Sandy Jo, son Mike and five grandchildren (all boys) who keep them quite busy.

Fred remembers when John Shoulders started the Virginia Turfgrass Association back in the 1960s. At the time, eastern Virginia (Old Dominion GCSA) aligned with the national association (GCSAA), while VTA did not. Fred became President one year, and leaned on Virginia Tech professors Shoulders, Dick Schmidt and Jack Hall to start a series of meetings that remain popular today. He remembers when Dr. Shoulders started the "Turf Day" at Tech, still popular today. The profession of golf course management was in its formative stages. Fred got in on the ground floor—there were only 8-9 guys doing it at the time, and for him it was a lot of fun! In the late 1970s, they started the first "Short Course" at Tech.

Fred jokes, "Being a state trooper was boring, but there was nothing boring about being a golf course superintendent! We didn't know what-in-the-hell we were doing!" There was only one book written on turf management when he started—Dr. Beard's book at Michigan State. They couldn't identify bugs very well, and the closest cut they could make on a green was ¼". Fred figured out how to grind the bed knives, and he was one of the first in the country to cut greens at 3/16". Finally manufacturers improved, and when Fred retired, the cut was down to 1/8" or less.

Fred had a lot of memories, and a lot of good times. "It was exciting being in the infancy of the profession, flying by the seat of my pants."

Fred has observed many changes over the years, and he acknowledges the challenges faced by the young guys in the business now. "It's a tough occupation, turned damn near impossible now. Golf is struggling, with owners trying to save money and rounds declining, but the strong always survive."

Nowadays Fred enjoys playing some great courses down in Georgia, and his visits with family in Virginia. He still sits on the USGA Green Section Committee

and contributes his years of experience. The VGCSA is proud to recognize Fred with its highest award.



Mark Vaughn, 2011 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

### Vaughn Recognized for Distinguished Service

Mark Vaughn of Danville, VA and Goodyear Golf Club has been recognized by the VGCSA with its Distinguished Service Award for 2011. The award is “presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents.”

Vaughn grew up in Madison, NC and enjoyed playing high school golf. He went to NC State University with plans to become a CPA, until one day he bumped into an old high school golf rival, who made a comment that changed his life—his friend told him that he was a student in the Turfgrass department, something Vaughn was unaware of—and after his freshman year, he changed his major. He was in the same class as Steve Vessels, longtime superintendent at Boonsboro Country Club.

Following graduation, Vaughn got his start with Gary Stafford at The Cardinal Golf Club in Greensboro, NC. He then took a brief assistant’s job with Oak Hollow GC in High Point, before moving over to Meadow Greens CC in Eden, NC. Then in 1980 he had the opportunity to go to

the new Goodyear GC in Danville, which was under construction—the first nine holes opened later that year. He has been there ever since! In 1984, he was made GM in addition to his superintendent duties, certainly a pioneer in that regard.

He loved Goodyear GC, which was corporate golf and golf only—and he was quickly immersed in all facets of the golf operation, including the pro shop and finance matters. Because of that, he often employed multiple perspectives in decision-making, balancing course conditioning concerns with revenue decisions.

Vaughn’s association involvement began with the Piedmont Turfgrass Association (NC), and he served as President in 1986. He has been a member of the Virginia Turfgrass Association (VTA) for over 30 years, with service on its Board, as well as the VGCSA since its inception in 1999. Vaughn has also served the Virginia Turfgrass Council on the Board and a number of committees, including a stint as Treasurer and chairman of the Research Golf Tournament. Currently he is the editor of the *VTC Journal*. In 2011, Vaughn was a panelist at the VGCSA Assistants Forum and a member of the VGCSA Virginia Cup Team.

Vaughn’s involvement in the profession grew out of his love of the game as a player, and he always enjoyed being outdoors. Once in the business, he always reveled in what was accomplished after a long, hard day of work. It was always a good fit for him.

“The people in this business are second to none,” Vaughn proclaimed, when asked about what he likes most about the profession. “I also enjoyed construction and the opportunity to play some really great courses.” Vaughn also enjoyed working major championships, including the 1999 and 2005 US Opens at Pinehurst #2, where he met VGCSA President Matt Boyce. He already has his sights set on working the 2014 US Open when it returns to Pinehurst.

Vaughn and his wife Rena have two daughters, Amy (30) who is married and is a 6th grade math teacher and Autumn (22) who is enjoying life and deciding what her career path will be. When the girls were younger, he had them out on the golf course helping him care for the course. They learned what hard work was all about.

When she was small, Amy was often seen riding a bulldozer with her Dad. As she grew into a teenager, she worked as a crew member right alongside the “guys” performing all of the daily maintenance tasks. Her favorite was irrigation repair, which her father still cannot quite understand. Her younger sister followed suit.

In his 30+ years in the business, he has seen LOTS of kids and employees at the club grow up. He will see them in the grocery store or just around town. They always remember him, but he admits he cannot always remember them.

Vaughn was asked about advice for the young people entering the profession. “They need to get involved!” he counsels. Early on, Virginia Tech professor Dave Chalmers got him involved writing articles on turf in south central Virginia. He did not want to do it at first, but he now looks back and sees how that led him to involvement locally, regionally then nationally. “I got a lot out of that. You always get more back than what you put it in,” he added. He recommends networking to the new generation of golf course managers, but not just by Facebook or Twitter. “There is no replacement for spending a few hours with your peers at a local, state, or national meeting; OR just playing 18 holes or sharing some other hobby with your golf brethren.”

In closing, Vaughn suggests, “you must find a balance between work and the rest of your life. It goes by fast!” He does think the younger generation is a little better at this than his own. “In the old days, a lot of us probably spent too many hours at the course, but that’s just how our generation is wired.”

Regarding this special award, he notes, “There is no better recognition, than that of your peers!”

### 2011 VGCSA Scholarship Winner

Jeff Henderson of Hanover, VA has been named the VGCSA Scholarship Winner for 2012. Henderson is one of the top students in Virginia Tech’s Crop & Soil Environmental Science Program, currently carrying a 3.4 GPA in the Turfgrass Management discipline, with

*continued on page 15*



## VGCSA Assistants Forum a Success

### GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans was Keynote Speaker

The third annual VGCSA Assistants Forum took place in November in a new region, and with 87 attendees at Dominion Valley Country Club, it was the most successful one to date! Previous events were at Farmington CC and the Country Club of Virginia, and each successive event has seen continued growth.

This year's rendition was highlighted by the keynote speech delivered by GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. Evans was candid in his remarks, acknowledging the challenges of today's economy, and reminding assistants that "the strong will survive." He related recent trends with graphs and analysis. Following his presentation, the assistants roundtable took place, with panelists Keith Happ (USGA Green Section), Ray Nash (host superintendent, Dominion Valley CC), Mark Cote (Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech), Mark Vaughn (Goodyear CC) and Evans. VGCSA Past President

Eric Spurlock acted as moderator, posing questions about the profession to the panel.

As usual, Charlie Fultz opened the meeting, thanking Presenting Partners Grigg Brothers and all five VGCSA local associations, GWGCSA, ODGCSA, TTA, VTA and SVTA. VGCSA Assistants Committee Chair David Callahan (Hidden Valley CC)

coordinated the program and introduced speakers.

Following the education, participants enjoyed a golf outing and reception afterwards. Matt Dryden and Matt Sobotka of Spring Creek GC won low gross, while Ray Nash (Dominion Valley CC) and Bo Jumbercotta (Landscape Supply) won low net.



Champions Matt Dryden (left) and Matt Sobotka



Eric Spurlock, Jeff Berg, Ray Nash, and Rhett Evans at the third annual VGCSA Assistants Forum held at Dominion Valley Country Club

## Virginia Leaves the Virlina Cup in the Carolinas

In the midst of heavy rains, soft conditions and winds gusting up to 40 miles per hour, the Virginia team was defeated by Carolinas in the Second Annual Virlina Cup matches; contested between golf course superintendents from both regions. Members of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association defeated their Virginia counterparts 9.5 to 6.5 in the two-day Ryder Cup-style event.

The team from the Virginia GCSA won the inaugural event last year but struggled away from their home turf this year. Matches were contested in the South Carolina Lowcountry at Chechessee Creek Club and Secession Golf Club where Carolinas GCSA director, Bill Kennedy, CGCS and president, John Davis, were respective hosts.

The Carolinas GCSA took a narrow early lead after the four-ball matches and never looked back through the foursomes and singles. The matches are presented in partnership between the two associations and Syngenta Professional



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Products to promote ties between the two regions allowing superintendents to expand their networks and share knowledge.

"The event has become a highlight for many of our members, not only for the golf but more importantly the camaraderie amongst all players. A great deal of time is spent discussing current turf issues and legislative issues that face both of our

regions," explained Eric Spurlock VGCSA Team Captain and Past President. "We may have been defeated, but the Cup will only remain in the Carolinas for a short period," he said with grin.

*For complete results, see page 15.*

# McDonough Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

Peter McDonough of The Keswick Club has been recognized by the VGCSA with its new Environmental Stewardship Award for 2011. The award is presented to a member “in recognition of



Peter McDonough

distinguished and meritorious service in the environmental stewardship of Virginia golf courses, and in grateful appreciation for unselfishly promoting the profession of golf course management, which led to the advancement of the association.”

In 2011, McDonough skillfully guided the team responsible for the production of the *Best Management Practices for Virginia Golf Courses* project, emphasizing the commitment of Virginia’s golf course superintendents to efficiently manage natural resources and to be stewards of the environment. The BMP project began as a dream several years ago, and through the leadership of McDonough, it became a reality with the engagement of the top superintendents in Virginia, Virginia Tech faculty turf experts and top industry suppliers, as well as effective fundraising of numerous sources (allied associations, vendors, private donors, etc.). The BMP

guide has just been published as is available at [www.vgcsa.org/bmps](http://www.vgcsa.org/bmps).

McDonough hails from New England, and he has displayed outstanding environmental stewardship at The Keswick Club, where he has been superintendent for many years. The golf course is among the very few in Virginia that has received its Audubon Environmental Certification, a highly sought after recognition program awarded to courses that have proven to provide a high degree of environmental quality for both people and wildlife. Categories of compliance include environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, integrated pest management, water conservation, water quality management and outreach and education.

The course maintains 25 acres of buffer zones in which no fertilizers or pesticides are used around the perimeter of the golf course or natural streams that run through it. With Keswick’s keen interest in the environment, it is not surprising the club is home to 80 different bird species, whitetail deer, fox, migrating geese, rabbits and squirrels. The Keswick golf course is also surrounded by 320 different varieties of trees and shrubbery.

McDonough also serves as Chair of the VGCSA Government Relations Committee, and he collaborates with association colleagues on agency committees and in

legislative activities to protect Virginia’s golf industry. Previously McDonough has been recognized with the VGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service in 2001 and the VGCSA Distinguished Service Award in 2003 for his work on the drought crisis. He was a founder of the VGCSA and served as its first President in 1999-2000.

## VGCSA BMP Guide Just Published

Environmental Best Management Practices for Virginia’s Golf Courses summarizes best management practices (BMPs) and provides details in accompanying recommendations specifically adapted for golf courses in Virginia using the results of current research, the experience of golf course superintendents in implementing BMPs, golf industry representatives, and State regulators with an emphasis on the protection of water quality. VGCSA developed the document in cooperation with representatives of Virginia Tech, Virginia governmental agencies, allied associations of the Virginia Golf Council, and private sector partners.

Golf course superintendents, current and prospective golf course owners, golfers and other stakeholders, and regulators will find the information contained within this document to be useful in understanding the use of BMPs for the protection of environmental quality.

Read the BMP Executive Summary which is included with this mailing, or download the BMP Full Report at [www.vgcsa.org/bmps](http://www.vgcsa.org/bmps). Hard copies will be available in February upon request from VGCSA.

## New Diamond Sponsor

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# Member Profile: Jordan Booth

Willow Oaks Country Club • Richmond, VA



Jordan Booth at St. Andrews Links' Jubilee Course

**Golf holes at your facility:** 18

**Years at your current golf club:** 7

**Years as a golf course superintendent:** 3

**Favorite hobbies:** Racquetball, golf, fishing

**Favorite professional golfer:** I pull for all of the Clemson guys: Jonathan Byrd, Lucas Glover, DJ Trahan, Sam Saunders.

**Favorite sports team(s):** Clemson Tigers, Atlanta Braves

**Biggest role model(s) as a professional:** John Pennypacker and Eric Frazier

**How did you get your start in the golf maintenance profession?** Summer job between high school and college,

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

Participating in the transformation of the golf course during and after the renovation in 2007.

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

I would change the stigma that superintendents are not environmental stewards.

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

Obviously water and environmental regulations but also the closing of golf courses across the country. Golf needs to be promoted at the junior level for all of us to succeed.

## Thank You 2011–12 Partner Program Participants!

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**VGCSA would also like to thank the sponsors of the 2012 GCSAA Social Event with our partners MAAGCS and ESAGCS** (set for 7pm, Wed., Feb. 29 at Treasure Island, Las Vegas):

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## The Buy Sod Corporation Announces New Appointment

The Buy Sod Corporation announced that John Robertson has accepted the position of Regional Sales Manager for our Golf and Sports Turf market segments. John is responsible for sales and marketing to the Golf and Sports Turf markets in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. He will also manage the company's wholesale landscape business in Virginia.



John Robertson

John graduated from Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC with a degree in Business Administration and North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC with a degree in Turfgrass Management. Prior to this position, served as a Territory and/or Regional Sales Manager in Sod Distribution, Golf-Residential-Commercial Irrigation and as an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. John brings 20 years experience and a proven track record of success in the turfgrass industry, which will be invaluable in meeting the needs of our customers.

John can be reached at 804-337-0703 or via email at [jrobertson@buysod.com](mailto:jrobertson@buysod.com).

## Horizon Acquires G.L. Cornell



Horizon Distributors, Inc., a full-service distributor of landscape and irrigation products and a wholly owned subsidiary of Pool Corporation, has expanded into the Maryland and Virginia markets with the acquisition of the G.L. Cornell Company. Based in Gaithersburg, MD, G.L. Cornell is a distributor of golf course equipment and irrigation products and a provider of equipment services with sales throughout Maryland, Virginia and Delaware. "We look forward to supporting and expanding the current product offerings in the former G.L. Cornell locations to include the full breadth of irrigation, landscape, specialty and professional lawn care equipment products currently available at all Horizon sales centers," said Jim Ross, president, Horizon. "The G.L. Cornell team has a long history of serving the golf course turf care professionals in the Mid-Atlantic market," said Ross. "This transaction allows Horizon to provide these professionals with additional resources that will help them build on their successes, and we're looking forward to doing just that."

Horizon is a professional distributor of turf irrigation products, outdoor power equipment, fertilizers and allied products, representing brands including Rain Bird, Hunter, Jacobsen, Toro, Irritrol, Exmark, Echo, Monsanto, Vista, Unique and FX Professional Lighting. For more information about Horizon, visit [www.horizononline.com](http://www.horizononline.com)



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# News from Local Associations

## News from the GWGCSA

By me sitting down and composing this newsletter, I realize that the season has finally come to a close. The rains that started in April continued throughout the year, totaling 53.2" for the year. No talk of drought restrictions this year. A mild weather pattern at the end of the season led to increased revenue, resulting in less grief from the sweater folders and bean counters.

Some news and notes from the Greater Washington – condolences go out to John Burke, golf course superintendent at Westfields Golf Club, on the passing of his mother. Additionally, congratulations go out to Dr. Peter Dernoeden, turfgrass science professor at the University of Maryland, for being selected to receive the 2012 GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Dernoeden will be acknowledged at the GCSAA Education Conference in Las Vegas.

We did manage to play some golf late in the season. The annual Superintendent-Assistant championship was held in October at Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club. Congratulations to the team of Eric Nelson and Matt Urban from 1757 Club who won the trophy with a better ball score of 63. Kudos goes out to Steve

Cohoon, CGCS, Daniel Mahoney and the entire staff at Heritage Hunt for a fine event.

November was a busy month in the Greater Washington. Starting off, we had the snow delayed Joe Saylor hosted by Matt Zarnstorff at Creighton Farms Golf Club. The overall championship was won by Brian Vincel, CGCS, and Kevin Haney from Spring Creek Golf Club.

The following week, Ray Nash from Dominion Valley Country Club hosted the VGCSA Assistants Forum. This well-attended event featured an informative "roundtable discussion", highlighted by panelists Rhett Evans (GCSAA CEO), Mark Cote (Pete Dye River Course), Mark Vaughn (CGCS, Goodyear CC), Keith Happ (USGA) and Ray Nash (Dominion Valley CC).

We finished off the season the next week with our Annual Meeting at Evergreen Country Club. As usual, Dave Anderson, CGCS, Mike Brennan and the entire staff must be thanked for another great event. I would also like to recognize Bryan Dolleslager and Chris Hall for their continued support of our chapter and this yearly event. The team of

Shawn Gill, Scott Jaquays, Aron Redd and Jason Wirtz won the scramble event. The evening concluded with our Board elections. Election results for the 2012/2013 Greater Washington Board are as follows:

**Ray Nash**, President  
**Bo Jumbercotta**, Vice President  
**Tony Blevins**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Jeff Van Fleet**, External Vice President

Of note, the 2012 event schedule is starting to fill up. We currently have confirmations at several venues. If you would like to host a meeting, please contact any of the GWGCSA board members for more information. The full schedule will come out in March.

As a reminder, VGCSA membership dues are due at the end of January this year. If you have not done so already, please submit your payment as soon as possible. Thanks, and enjoy the break while you can.



*Jeff Van Fleet*  
GWGCSA  
External Vice President

## Email Addresses Needed – Time to Update Your Member Contact Information

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

## News from the ODGCSA

The Old Dominion GCSA held our annual meeting and par 3 shoot-out in November at Independence Golf Club. The results from the Board of Directors elections for 2012 were: President-Eric Frazier (Willow Oaks CC), Vice-President-Scott Mauldin, CGCS (The Foundry GC), Secretary/Treasurer-Andrew McCormick (Hanover CC) and Director Kevin Fortune (Glenmore CC). Scott Mauldin gave us an update from the GCSAA chapter delegates meeting followed by a BMP update from Peter

McDonough.

Following the meeting we held the par 3 shoot-out on the Short Course. The winners of the superintendent's competition were: Dick Fisher, Scott Kinnan, John Destino, Nathan Warren, Charlie Clark, and Jared Struck. The winners of the vendor's competition were: John Pennypacker, Tommy Adams, and Andy Lutz. Thanks to all our suppliers for lunch, cocktails, and many great prizes.

We just attended the VGCSA annual

meeting at Fredricksburg CC on January 17th. A great turnout and the new format ensured that this would be a special evening—and it was! Our meeting schedule for 2012 is currently being established.



*Dan Taylor*, CGCS  
External President  
ODGCSA

# News from Local Associations

## VTA News

Finally we are catching a break from Mother Nature. Rounds have been up the past few months and the temperature has been conducive to lots of healing both of turf and frazzled nerves. We have had a busy year on and off the golf courses and this break in the action has been most welcome.

By the time this is published the new format of the Annual Meeting in Fredericksburg will be in the past and by all indications it will be an excellent start for a new tradition. The VTA is obviously proud of the two award winners as their honors were much deserved. Fred Reese of the Homestead (retired) and Mark Vaughn of The Goodyear Golf Club both deserved the recognition they received.

We are in the planning stages for meetings for the up coming year so if there is any subject that anyone would like to hear about now is they time to let that be known. The same goes for meeting locations as we will be trying to firm those up by March. I would like to thank all those who hosted meetings this year as well as the members of the VTA board who have worked to make them successful. I hope in advance that all were able to attend the annual as it will be a welcome break from the normal grind.



*Mark Cote*  
VTA President

## SVTA Update

Everyone is looking forward to a prosperous New Year in the Shenandoah Valley. 2011 had its ups and downs, but for the most part it turned out to be a successful year to grow turfgrass. This winter has been very interesting to say the least, with 4" of snow in late October and several days in the 50s in December. Hopefully the weather will stay mild to maintain play and we look forward to a great spring growing season.

The SVTA board has been busy setting up speakers and sites for 2012. We look forward to another great year and an opportunity to establish new relationships and hold exciting meetings. We have two new board members this year; Vice President is Paul Hartzell and Secretary is Peter Schmidt. The SVTA would like to thank Kurt Hellenga and Kip Fitzgerald for all their time and service to the organization.

Finally, I would like to warn everyone about a disease that is spreading across the state of Virginia rapidly and left untreated can cause severe life threatening issues. I'm talking about Lyme Disease. After struggling since the early spring and through summer with fatigue, aches and memory loss, I was finally diagnosed with Lyme Disease in late August and most recently with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in November.

Both of these conditions can go misdiagnosed because testing methods are not always accurate. I ended up in the ER several times with neurological conditions. After two spinal taps, extensive blood work, IV antibiotics for 28 days and over a month of oral antibiotics, I'm still looking for answers to many of my chronic Lyme Disease symptoms.

It is still hard to believe that one tiny insect can change your life in so many ways. Remember, half of all Lyme-related tick bites don't cause the stereotypical Bull's Eye marking on your skin and you can get multiple disease infections from one tick bite. It's very difficult to find ticks, especially the pinhead sized deer ticks. Beware that ticks don't disappear in the winter. Please educate your staff and yourself this spring about the signs and symptoms of Lyme Disease and be very persistent with your doctor to check you for Lyme if you are experiencing any symptoms.

I wish everyone a great 2012!



*David Lewallen*  
SVTA  
External Vice President

## TTA News

The last part of 2011 in Southeast Virginia turned out to be a great month for golf. Warmer weather kept the courses crowded all the way into the beginning of January. Winter projects here at Elizabeth Manor have been delayed while we continued to set the course up daily to accommodate the unusually heavy load of golfers for December.

Green grass on shady or wet fairways on January 1st is the norm from here all the way to the beach. Winter grassy weeds seem to be dominating areas that were not treated with pre-emerge this fall. Even areas that were treated have heavier break through than in years past. Quite a few courses in the area also experienced late season outbreaks of brown patch on greens. It was not uncommon to have the sprayers loaded with fungicide during the end of November or even the first weeks of December.

On the Tidewater Turfgrass side we are looking forward to a busy year in 2012 and are trying to find new events to increase membership at the meetings. This winter we are looking to have a day at a skeet-shooting club, as well as making it to a Norfolk Admirals Hockey game. In March we are going to kick off the season by bringing in Lane Treadway from NC State as our first speaker. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 29 at Kingsmill Resort. Mark your calendar!

The monthly TTA 9-holers will continue this year with an earlier start time in an effort to finish up before rush hour traffic becomes a problem. The Dick Cake Memorial will be held in June and the annual OBX trip in September are both on the schedule.

I hope everyone has a great year in 2012. There seems to be a small resurgence in the business of golf, and I hope to see that trend continue in the New Year.



*Rob Wilmans*  
Elizabeth Manor Golf and  
Country Club



## President's Message (cont.)

As I close on my first submission to the *Commonwealth Crier* I hope you see our goals as attainable, real and an avenue to propel this Association to another level. Your Board is excited for the New Year and look forward to the challenges we will face. I commend our Board for their time and efforts; I look forward to pushing our Association to another level with you.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Partners for their continued backing of our goals. They continue to be strong in an economy that is slowly making a comeback.

We appreciate their cooperation. I appreciate your attention and look forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully Submitted,



Matt Boyce  
VGCSA President

## Award Winnners (cont.)

graduation expected in May of this year.

Henderson's affection for the turf industry started early, when he worked in his father's business, Capital Turf & Irrigation during high school. His Dad was also a Hokie, and he told Jeff he would have to pay for his own college, so at an early age he learned to save. The grand plan was for him to take over his father's business after graduation from Tech, but economic pressures forced the business to close in 2008. So Jeff had to re-think his plans, and he sought to test out all arenas of turf management, interning at a landscape company, the Virginia Tech athletic fields and a golf course. He found golf to be his favorite.

His golf internship was at The Country Club of Virginia, under the tutelage of Troy Fink, superintendent of the famed James River Course. Toward the end of this past summer, a position opened up as assistant-in-training, and Henderson accepted the offer to come on board with

the CCV starting May, 2012. He also had the opportunity to work on Pete Wendt's team as a volunteer for the US Senior Amateur at Kinloch this past fall.



Jeff Henderson, 2011 Scholarship Recipient



## Who Is This Member?

New to the *Commonwealth Crier* this year is a "Who Is This Member?" contest. In the next newsletter (Spring) we will reveal the identity of the member pictured above and feature a current picture and profile.

The first person who emails the correct answer to [jholliday83@msn.com](mailto:jholliday83@msn.com) will receive a \$25 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods.

### Clues:

- Also a member of the ODGCSA
- His favorite college sports team is Clemson
- Originally from NC

## Match Results for the 2nd Annual Virilina Cup Presented by Syngenta

### Day One, Monday, October 10, 2011 at Chechessee Creek Club

#### Four-Ball Matches

O'Neil Crouch / Billy Lewis (CGCSA) tied Andrew McCormick / Chester Guzek (VGCSA)

Steve Agazzi/ Matt Davis (CGCSA) df Jeff Snyder / Jeff Whitmire (VGCSA) 4&3

Matt Boyce / Matt Sobotka (VGCSA) df Mark Miller / Will Pennell (CGCSA) 1 up

Troy Thrall/ Jim Knaffle (CGCSA) df Mark Vaughn / Dick Fisher (VGCSA) 4&3

**CGCSA leads 2.5 to 1.5 after Four-Ball Matches.**

#### Foursomes Matches

Dick Fisher / Mark Vaughn (VGCSA) df Mark Miller / Matt Davis (CGCSA) 6&5

Chester Guzek / Andrew McCormick (VGCSA) df Billy Lewis / Jim Knaffle (CGCSA) 1 up

Troy Thrall / Steve Agazzi (CGCSA) df Jeff Snyder / Jeff Whitmire (VGCSA) 3&1

Will Pennell / O'Neil Crouch (CGCSA) df Matt Boyce / Matt Sobotka (VGCSA) 2&1

#### Foursome Matches Tied 2-2

**CGCSA Leads 4.5 to 3.5**

### Day Two, Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at Secession Golf Club, Singles

Matt Sobotka (VGCSA) df Will Pennell (CGCSA) 3&2

Jeff Snyder (VGCSA) df Mark Miller (CGCSA) 3&2

Matt Davis (CGCSA) df Mark Vaughn (VGCSA) 4&3

Jim Knaffle (CGCSA) df Dick Fisher (VGCSA) 6&5

O'Neil Crouch (CGCSA) df Andrew McCormick (VGCSA) 4&3

Troy Thrall (CGCSA) df Matt Boyce (VGCSA) 7&6

Billy Lewis (CGCSA) df Chester Guzek (VGCSA) 2&1

Jeff Whitmire (VGCSA) df Steve Agazzi (CGCSA) 3&2

**Carolinas GCSA wins Singles Matches 5 to 3 and wins Virilina Cup 6.5 to 3.5**

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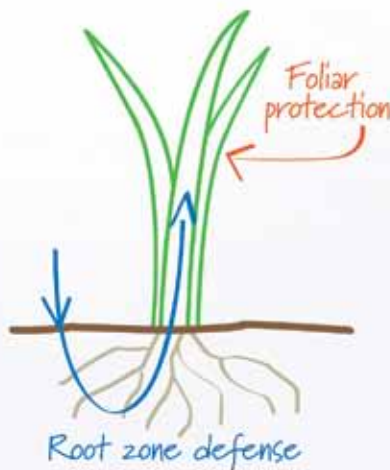
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