

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message – A Look to 2013

The weather is starting to break and we're all ready to get some warmer temperatures to kick-start our turf. After another great conference season, the VGCSA is ramping up for another year of member service. This year we will enhance some of the traditional events, but we are also offering some new events to the calendar.

On April 23rd, the Foundry Golf Club will be hosting the 1st Annual VGCSA Championship. This will be a stroke play event that will crown a Superintendent Champion, Runner-up and Assistant Superintendent Champion, which will all qualify for the Virlina Cup hosted by the Carolinas this fall. The remaining competitors will be selected through three local qualifiers that will be tied into an already existing meeting hosted by the TTA, GWGCSA and a joint meeting hosted by the SVTA and VTA. The new format will give each member four opportunities to qualify for the Virlina Cup.

The VGCSA is also working on the Water Monitoring Program with Chantel Wilson and Dr. Ervin from Virginia Tech. As seen in this edition of



the *Commonwealth Crier* and the VTC December issue, the team at Virginia Tech is working with superintendents throughout the State collecting data and producing results. The funding for this research was provided by EIFG and the VGCSA through avenues such as the Landscape Supply BMP Tournament.

The VGCSA is also working behind the scenes with Katie Frazier of the Agribusiness Council and Mr. Peter McDonough to provide cost sharing for facilities that will be embarking on the 2017 Nutrient Management Plan deadline. Working with State and Federal environmental agencies, the BMP Manual outlines that each golf facility *MUST* have a Nutrient Management Plan by the year 2017. There are multiple consulting companies that will provide this service or you can become the facilities representative by becoming a Certified Nutrient Management Planner.

The VGCSA will continue to work with its allied Associations at the Golf Council Meetings to include a joint meeting on June 10th at the Princess Anne Country Club that will host Mr. Billy Fuller as a keynote speaker. Mr. Fuller will speak on his experience at Augusta National as the Superintendent and then relay insight to the attendees on Master Planning and Golf Course Architecture.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the leadership of the Local Associations for providing meetings and avenues to acquire education and networking opportunities.

I would also like to thank our Partners for their efforts and support. It is through those relationships we are able to accomplish our goals! Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Boyce
VGCSA President

Newly Certified Superintendents

The VGCSA congratulations superintendents who have recently earned certified status, **Brent Graham**, CGCS of Two Rivers Country Club and **Pete Stephens**, CGCS of Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club.

Way to go gentlemen!



Brent Graham



Pete Stephens

McDonough Wins Agribusiness Award

The Virginia Agribusiness Council is proud to recognize Peter McDonough, GCS of The Keswick Club, as the recipient of the 2012 Agribusiness Environment Award. The Award is given to an agribusiness representative in recognition of outstanding achievements, research, or practices that benefit both agribusiness and the environment. The following criteria are evaluated:

1. Environmental impacts and results (including social significance of impacts)
2. Innovative practices (efficient, cost-effective)
3. Either long-term or new practice
4. Either one project or a combination of several (i.e. leadership)

McDonough was hailed for his leadership in establishing the "Best Management Practices" document for Virginia golf courses, as well as the follow up project, Water Quality Monitoring. Last year McDonough was the inaugural recipient of the VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award.



Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech (l) congratulates Peter McDonough (r) at the Virginia Agribusiness Council Banquet.

2013 VGCSA Board



Front Row (L-R): Chris Petrelli, Jeff Holliday, Matt Boyce, Jeff Berg; Middle Row (L-R): Steve Dorer, Rob Wilmans, Shawn Gill; Back Row (L-R): Dan Taylor, Bill Keene, Aaron Evans, David Lewallen



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

Vice President

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

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Cedar Point Country Club
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Ph: 757-238-2629 / Fax: 757-238-2069
Cell: 757-641-6222
E-Mail: cpetrelli@cedarpointcountryclub.com

Past President

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

VGCSA External Vice-Presidents

Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association

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

Tidewater Turfgrass Association

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

Virginia Turfgrass Association

Bill Keene
Blacksburg Country Club
1064 Clubhouse Road • Blacksburg, VA 24060
Ph: 540-552-2461 / Fax: 540-552-0461
Cell: 540-537-1096
E-Mail: bkeene@blacksburgcc.com

Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association

Shawn Gill
Prince William Golf Club
14631 Vint Hill Road • Nokesville, VA 20181
Ph: 703-754-3125 / Fax: 703-753-2401
Cell: 571-238-0090
Email: sgill@princwilliamgolf.com

Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association

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

At-Large Board Members

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Aaron Evans
Farmington Country Club
1625 Country Club Circle
Charlottesville, VA 24590
Ph: 434-245-5368 / Fax: 434-296-2849
E-Mail: aevans@fccva.com

Associate

Steve Dorer
Syngenta
2000 Parliament Place • Apex, NC 27502
Cell: 919-943-0360 / Fax 919-629-2333
E-Mail: stephen.dorer@syngenta.com

Staff

Executive Director

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

General Counsel

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

Harmon Wins Presidents Award for Lifetime Service

David C. Harmon of Williamsburg, VA is the winner of the 2012 VGCSA Presidents 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, Harmon has earned the distinction.

Well known as the longtime head superintendent at Colonial Williamsburg's Golden Horseshoe Golf Club, Harmon's involvement in the golf industry came about at a young age. He grew up in Anderson, IN, playing golf with his father as a youngster in the 1950s. Initially getting his start at the local muni, his father later joined Edgewood Country Club and David worked a part-time job in the bag room there, under Dick Stage, the pro/superintendent. He attended high school at Madison Heights HS, and it was there that he got the inspiration that took him to a career in golf.

"I'll never forget my experience playing on the golf team there," said Harmon. "It was a brand new school, just two years old, and our team qualified for the state championship. Back then, they only had four players on the team, and I was #4. The championship was in Indianapolis, and our team played great. My teammates finished ahead of me, so I was the last guy on the course. Everyone was gathered around the 18th green, as I hit my shot on the green. No one told me a thing about how we stood, but they needed me to get a par to win the championship. I hit my first putt about 3-feet short, but when I made the second putt, everyone started yelling and ran out onto the green. We had won by one stroke! I will never forget it, and the school put our photo up."

Despite his success at the state championship, Harmon knew he wasn't going to be a golf pro. He enrolled in Purdue University and began working on the golf course at Edgewood. Dr. William Daniel played at Edgewood, and he encouraged Harmon to enroll in the Agronomy Department at Purdue, so he did. His last year at Purdue, he got to see them build a second nine at Edgewood, which was fascinating. "Back then, they didn't have



Sketch from
Golf Digest

great equipment to build a course or grow it in. I remember we went to the local hardware store to get Milorganite for fertilizer and Turfbuilder for the greens!"

After graduating Purdue in 1962, it took him a little while to find a job, since he wanted to be in golf. He lucked out getting on with golf course architect Jack Snyder, who had been the superintendent at Oakmont. After working for Snyder in AZ, he learned of a new course they were building in Escondido, CA. The owner wanted to hire him, and he had been engaged to his fiancé just a year. So with the opportunity looming, he and his bride-to-be decided right then and there to accept the job, and they took all of four days to pull off a wedding. They were married on December 23rd, visited her folks on Christmas Eve, then his folks on Christmas Day and the following day they headed off to the California adventure. They took all their belongings with them on the plane, including a heavy sewing machine.

They arrived in California with no car and no place to stay, but they made it work. The owner looked after them, and Harmon began his job as construction superintendent. When he went out to the site, the only tree on the property was the biggest palm tree you ever saw. Harmon was amazed to see them take it out unscathed with a bulldozer. He stayed on as superintendent well after the course opened.

Then one day, Snyder told him about a new project he was building in Suffolk –

Cedar Point Country Club. He asked if he would like to go as the construction superintendent, so he took the offer and headed off to Virginia for the first time in 1964. The club was being built on an old vegetable farm. It was a flat piece of land, but Snyder told him, "We will make a championship course out of it." Excavation was done by a local road builder, while the irrigation was contract out to a local plumber! Snyder added mounds to give it character. Before the course was completed, his wife got pregnant and put her foot down that the cross-country traveling days were over. After grow in, he stayed on as the club's first superintendent for six and a half years.

They had just hosted a big ladies event at Cedar Point, when his mentor Dr. Daniel made a visit. There had been a problem with the greens at The Golden Horseshoe, and they let the superintendent go. Harmon had built a good reputation, so the Colonial Williamsburg management really wanted him to take over the superintendent role—they tempted him with good compensation, and he accepted the offer—in fact; he was named "Director of Recreation Activities" and was in charge of golf, tennis and swimming. The Harmon's moved there around 1971.

Harmon enjoyed 22 years of service at The Golden Horseshoe, including the construction of the Green Course in his latter time there. He worked with architect Rees Jones on the project, who also renovated his father's original course.

Then another new project sprung up, Kiln Creek in Newport News, and Harmon was again the target of an owner seeking his services. He was presented with an attractive offer, and being so close to Williamsburg, he didn't have to move. But it wasn't long before the real estate developer got in trouble with some shaky financial dealings, and he was sent off to jail! The owner then hired a management company who offered to keep Harmon on, but he decided it was again time to make a move.

His timing was excellent, as he was able to move over to nearby Deer Run Golf Course (now Newport News GC), a very good public facility. Harmon's employer was the Newport News Parks and Recreation

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Harmon receives Lifetime Service Award, cont.

Department, and he was superintendent there for seven years, with his last years of a 15-year-stint coming as a supervisor in the landscaping division. At his last post, he enjoyed training the staff, who had very little formal training previously. Harmon retired at age 67.

During his career, Harmon was a GCSAA member for 51 years, and he attended 36 international turfgrass conferences and trade shows. He considers a couple of his biggest achievements to be winning the Leo Fesar Award for writing, and helping the Old Dominion GCSA claim the team victory at the GCSAA Championship in Corpus Christi, TX in the mid 1970s. He was also a founder of the Old Dominion GCSA, which was formed in a casual meeting in the downstairs lobby at The Golden Horseshoe.

When asked to recount some of the changes in the industry from the start of his career to today, Harmon noted, "Back at Edgewood, we used roller-based sprinklers with reflex heads, which had to be moved in the middle of the night. We used farm

tractors to pull a gang of five mowers. We bought fertilizer from the hardware store and used chlorodane for our pesticide. It was a wonder it didn't kill us!"

"It got better over time, and it's a totally different world today," Harmon continued. "I'm not sure today's guys could have maintained a course with yesterday's tools. Superintendents back then had to make do with a little, but then again, the greens were cut at 1/4" back then. Nowadays we are seeing more people go to the dwarf bermudagrasses, which are very smooth."

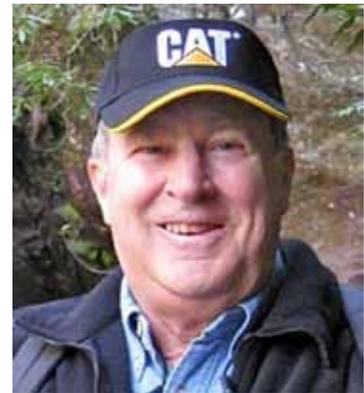
Harmon was asked what advice he would give the younger guys. "Wear a hat and plenty of sunscreen," was his first offering. Harmon has had to deal with some skin cancer, so he advises to wear a bigger hat and cover your ears and nose.

He also advises to stay on top of business. He worked frequently with USGA Agronomist Stanley Zontek, and he enjoyed that.

"Take advice from the older guys," suggested Harmon. "Take them to lunch and pick their brain. Nowadays there is a lot

of education available—we only had one textbook on turf back when I was going to school. But the 'elders' have been through everything, and they can help you avoid a mistake that could cost you your job."

Nowadays Harmon enjoys his retirement, still living in Williamsburg, but doing some trips with his wife. At press time, he was in Orlando, rubbing it in that it was 80 degrees and sunny. He was deeply honored and humbled to receive the VGCSA's highest award.



David Harmon

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Wilson Named VGCSA Scholarship Winner

Chantel Wilson, MS of Blacksburg, VA has been named the VGCSA Scholarship Winner for 2013. Wilson is currently working on her PhD in the Crop and Soil Environmental Science program, in collaboration with the Virginia Water Resources Research Center. Previously she earned her Masters at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with her undergraduate degree from Hood College.

During Wilson's undergraduate work, Wilson studied general biology and earned a stellar 3.73 GPA and completed an honors thesis studying the Eastern Painted Turtle populations. Following graduation, she worked for the US Department of Agriculture's Foreign Disease/Weed Science Research Unit, where she was encouraged to pursue her masters. She entered the program at Wisconsin, and got an assignment to

sample dormant turf in the winter. "My colleague had been had been cutting out cores in the ground with a drill, then he gave me a hammer and chisel, and instructed me to chisel the samples out of the frozen ground!" she remarked. It was there that she began to appreciate the turf industry.

After completing her masters with a thesis on dollar spot biology, she decided to move on to pursue a doctoral degree in Crop and Soil Sciences under Dr. Ervin and Dr. Stephen Schoenholtz. She is currently working on the VGCSA's Water Quality Monitoring Program, studying golf courses in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Specifically she is working to combat the negative perception of the general public toward the environmental sustainability of the turfgrass industry by assessing best management practices aimed at improving water quality and



Chantel Wilson setting traps

reducing downstream pollution of the Chesapeake.

"I really appreciate the game of golf and the turf industry," she remarked, "and I would like to provide managers with the best information to create ideal playing surfaces and lawns in the most sustainable and environmentally friendly manner possible."

Donna Pugh Johnson Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

Donna Johnson of the Virginia Agribusiness Council has been recognized by the VGCSA as just the second recipient of the Environmental Stewardship Award. The award is presented "in recognition of 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."

Johnson recently retired in 2012 as President of the Virginia Agribusiness Council where she served for 18 years, following her work with Colonial Farm Credit. The Mechanicsville native studied at the University of Richmond and Virginia Tech, and was best known for her engaging style of negotiation with the Commonwealth's law makers, serving on task forces for Governors Mark Warner, Tim Kaine and Bob McDonnell. Her efforts protected the business of her constituents, including golf courses in Virginia and the VGCSA. Among her many honors was the Virginia Society of Association Executives' highest honor in 2006, the Award of Excellence.

Peter McDonough, Keswick superintendent and longtime colleague of Johnson remarked, "What impressed me the most was Donna's



Donna Johnson speaks with Governor Bob McDonnell as Peter McDonough looks on

willingness to understand our particular needs in golf course management, what it took for us to do our jobs successfully. After that, she became the educator on how to go about representing our industry needs and its environmental benefits to the legislators and regulatory agencies with the utmost professionalism and integrity any of us could possibly ask for. The benefits of her actions on golf's behalf will leave its mark for many years to come. She is truly deserving of this year's Environmental Stewardship Award."

The Crier asked Donna how she broadened the base of VAC to include golf courses, and she remarked, "The VAC has a history of being all-inclusive in representing the

business interests of the agribusiness industry. When some of our established relationships with the turfgrass industry introduced us to members of the golf industry, together we quickly realized the value of becoming partners in addressing the business interests of the golf industry through our government relations activities. The concerns and opportunities of the golf industry are quite similar to those of traditional agriculture—environmental stewardship, taxation, transportation, water quality, property rights, etc. The golf industry expressed a sincere desire for effective representation in the government relations arena and the VAC is an excellent fit."

The Crier asked her about Government Relations initiatives, and she responded "We were able to achieve reasonable environmental legislation and regulation because our members not only talked about environmental stewardship, but clearly demonstrated their commitment in the daily management of their businesses ... "Walk the talk" as they say. When decision makers are presented factual, scientific information along with undeniable examples of environmental stewardship, they are convinced that

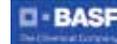
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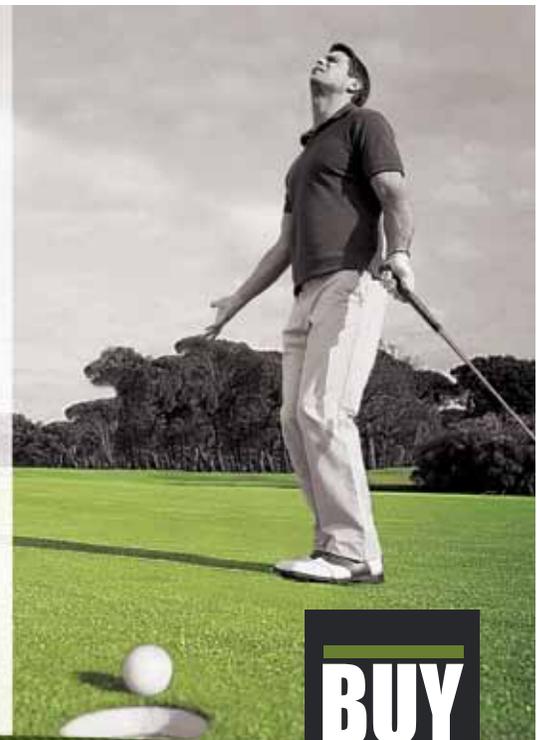
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Not the Usual Suspect

By Chantel Wilson, M.S. Virginia Tech

Primary Investigators: Erik Ervin, Ph.D. and Stephen Schoenholtz, Ph.D. Virginia Tech

Let's face it. When we hear about crime in the news, we usually have an idea of who might have been responsible for the dastardly deed. The creepy guy who stares at you every time you see him in the grocery store, but never says hello. Or the odd neighbor that seems to only emerge from her home under the cover of darkness. When you hear about the pollution of the Chesapeake Bay, do the usual suspects come to mind? Farmers, industry, construction, golf courses ... surely they are the culprits! They are the ones responsible for the degradation of the Bay and must be controlled!

Now think of this—how many times have you been wrong when assigning the blame for a crime? When they show a mug shot of the robber on the news ... is it anyone you know? Probably not. It certainly isn't the creepy guy at the grocery store. Turns out, the reason he stares and never says hello is that he is new to town. He wants to say hello to you, and you seem really nice, but he is just too shy to say anything! Was the mug shot of your neighbor that seems to emerge only at night? Nope, not her either. She isn't out committing robberies or satiating her blood thirst because she is a vampire ... she simply has a night shift as a nurse at the local hospital. She makes a lot more money taking the shift differential, and she never was a morning person!

My point is, these people were assumed to be guilty until proven innocent. That is not how our justice system works! A reasonable amount of research has been done to show that agriculture, industry, and construction are responsible for sediment, nutrient, and pesticide inputs into the Bay. The evidence does exist. What about golf courses? They apply tons of fertilizer to the grass, right? Could our preconceived notions that they are contributing to bay pollution be false?

Turns out, quite a bit of research has been done with respect to water quality monitoring on golf courses. Turfgrass management, when done properly, has been shown not to contribute significant amounts of nutrients or pesticides into the local watershed on most golf courses. So, that means the case is closed, right? Golf courses are not contributing to Bay eutrophication? Not necessarily. Most of the research already completed was on a

Table A: Nutrient levels in streams from five seasonal sampling events on participating James River watershed golf courses

Site	Stream In			Stream Out		
	NO ₃ #	NH ₄	PO ₄ *	NO ₃	NH ₄	PO ₄
	ppm or mg/L					
1	0.12	0.14	0.02	0.10	0.09	0.00
2	0.56	0.08	0.01	0.84	0.02	0.00
3	0.24	0.06	0.00	0.42	0.06	0.00
4	0.84	0.12	0.01	1.15	0.07	0.01
5	1.49	0.08	0.04	2.90	0.09	0.03
6	2.66	0.06	0.00	3.88	0.06	0.01
7	1.22	0.03	0.01	3.32	0.03	0.01
8	1.67	0.03	0.01	2.88	0.02	0.00
9	0.27	0.06	0.01	0.14	0.05	0.00

plot-level basis, just focusing on single courses. Much less research has been done on a watershed level, and none in the state of Virginia. We can't extrapolate too many of the results from these other studies for a few important reasons. The first and foremost being the hydrology and soil composition of the site; a golf course in Colorado might have a completely different set of drainage patterns, climate, and soils to move water and affect chemical composition. Different turfgrass cultivars and cultural practices may also affect water and nutrient uptake ability.

Through a collaborative effort between Virginia Tech's Turfgrass Culture and Physiology program and the Virginia Water Resources Center, we are assuming the role of detective and investigating if golf courses are a significant contributor to the eutrophication of the Chesapeake Bay.

We have been sampling streams both upstream and downstream of managed turf sites on golf courses since the summer of 2011 with focus on courses located in a subset of the James River watershed, which empties into the Bay. Upstream and downstream levels will be compared to determine if the course is adding nutrients or contributing to stream degradation. We take samples for laboratory nutrient analysis (nitrate, ammonium, and phosphate) and conduct on site readings of important indicators of stream health including dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, temperature, and pH.

To date, we have not seen any significant trends of impairment with respect to

dissolved oxygen, specific conductance, temperature, or pH on nine monitored stream sites. As for nutrient levels, the averages of five quarterly samples for each of the nine sites are presented in Table A. Stream levels of NO₃ (nitrate) were well below the EPA established level of 10 ppm for drinking water. However, levels above 1 ppm of nitrate can contribute to increased algal growth and eutrophication of the stream. Five of the sites (on two separate golf courses) had averages of nitrate slightly higher in the water leaving the course than the water entering the course that were also higher than 1 ppm. NH₄ (ammonium) is also a source of nitrogen allowing for algal growth and eutrophication. No significant increases of ammonium were found in water leaving the golf course, and in fact, decreased at most sites. As for PO₄ phosphorus (phosphate), no increases in water leaving the sites were found and most decreased. The phosphate levels in water leaving the course were below the EPA recommendation of 0.05 ppm.

What does this all mean? To the disappointment of those that believed that golf courses are a significant contributor to Chesapeake Bay pollution, the data suggest otherwise thus far. Even the slight increases of nitrate are far below the levels contributed from significant point-source discharge and agriculture. However, our work is not done. We plan to build on this preliminary data by continuing to sample for the next few years and developing an estimate of the amount

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Not the Usual Suspect, cont.

of nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay from the subset of the James River watershed. We are also collecting water quality data from golf courses all over the state of Virginia within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to assess how other conditions and management settings are contributing to nutrient levels and stream health. All data will be compared to the Total Maximum Daily Load amounts established by the EPA for the segments of the Chesapeake Bay watershed in order to estimate the level of nutrients that the Virginia golf industry is contributing to each.

To further build on this project, we will also be testing the effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) at two sites with identified minor elevations in nutrient levels. Many golf courses already utilize several BMPs in their turf management programs, and this may be largely responsible for the nutrient levels being much lower and stream health being much higher than expected surrounding the course. The first site will involve air removal of grass clippings from equipment

before entering the wash pad. Clippings can serve as a significant source of nutrients (as much as 1 lb per 1000ft² annually!) and are often used as a recycled organic fertilizer. Removal should prevent the clippings from entering the drainage system and reduce amounts entering the stream leaving the course. The second site involves comparison of waters adjacent to mowed turf buffer strips versus non-mowed, native vegetation buffer strips to see which is more effective at reducing nutrient leaching. These sites will be intensively sampled monthly both before and after BMP implementation to see if the practices are helping to reduce nutrient concentrations. We have already established

baseline data and are now collecting data post-BMP implementation. Stay tuned, the investigation is ongoing!

In summary, don't toss the golf courses to the jailer just yet- the suspect has not been proven guilty or even had reasonable doubt established against them! Properly managed turf and utilization of BMPs on golf courses appears thus far to not cause significant pollution of the watershed and therefore, the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you to participating golf courses and our research sponsors: The Environmental Institute for Golf/GCSAA, Virginia GCSA, CMAA, Mid-Atlantic PGA and the GCOA.



Dr. Erik Ervin obtains a water sample at the Keswick Club.

Thank You 2013 Partner Program Participants!

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Carolinas Team Holds on to Win 3rd Annual Virlina Cup

The third annual Virlina Cup matches headed north this fall to host clubs Robert Trent Jones GC, Goose Creek GC and Trump National Washington, DC. Captain Jeff Berg's forces fell to the Carolinas Team after a furious second day rally, leaving the victors dazed despite retaining the Cup.

It began with Robert Trent Jones hosting all the competitors to a practice round and pre-tourney dinner, including on-site accommodations at one of Virginia's finest clubs. The fun and camaraderie of the opening day, belied the ambush the Carolinas Team was planning the following day.

Heading into the event, the matches were tied 1-1, with each team claiming victory on its home turf. So it reasoned that with Captain Berg hosting Day One on his own course (Goose Creek GC), the Virginia squad might have a slight advantage. That was decidedly NOT the case. Throughout the four-ball matches, the Virginia team stayed close and generally the leads by either team did not get past 2-up. But a couple of matches went south at the end, and the Carolinas took a commanding 4-0 lead at the lunch break in the rainy conditions.

Berg tried to rally the troops and Jeff Whitmire and Bobby Friend got done quickly with a 6 and 5 cake walk in foursomes, to give some good news to Berg. But that was the only good news to be had, as the rest of the team lost soundly to their Carolinas counterparts. Berg seemed down, but not out. The score was 7-1 Carolinas.

Despite the lopsided score, the teams gathered for the Players Dinner that evening at Robert Trent Jones and enjoyed some good fun and a little razzing. The photo of both teams didn't really show who was ahead and who was behind, as clearly the fellowship was on center stage. Still the Virginia Team went to bed with their pride on the line the next day.

Sunshine greeted competitors then next day on a brisk morning at Trump National. The teams squared off on the River Course, with many holes alongside the Potomac River. The grandeur of the club, coupled with the beauty of the course, may have distracted the Carolinas Team

continued on page 10

Presented by **syngenta**



Practice round at Robert Trent Jones



Jeff Berg (L) ponders his options after Day One. Carolinas Captain Tim Kreger looks less concerned.



All competitors and sponsors from Syngenta at the Players' Dinner

Virlina Cup, cont.

that was feeling good and coasting. They were not anticipating the furious rally that was about to occur.

Berg had Bobby Friend out first, and he again sent good news through the ranks by crushing Drew Ramsey 6 and 5, making it 7-2. Whitmire then held on for a 1-up victory over Carolinas stalwart Jim Knaffle in a match the Carolinas figured to win, and the lead dwindled to 7-3. VGCSA Champ Brian Vincel of Spring Creek won his match, followed by Winchester CC's Scott Cornwall's victory, and then it was 7-5. The impossible was looking very possible.

In a match of Chapter Presidents, Matt Boyce of Princess Anne CC squared off against Doug Lowe of Greensboro CC. It was a tight match throughout, but Boyce gained a 1-up lead heading to the 18th hole. An errant tee shot set him back, and Lowe won the hole to get a halve. The match was 7.5-5.5, and the Carolinas Team now need just one more halve to retain the cup.

The next match featured Trevor Hedgepeth of The Federal Club against



Trump National Washington, D.C.

Mark Swygert, the South Carolinian who was one of the top players for Carolinas. Hedgepeth fought hard and the match ended in a draw, giving the Carolinas Team the half point they needed, making it 8-6.

The final tally was 9.5-6.5 after VGCSA Assistant Champion Brendan McNulty dropped his match and VGCSA veteran Jeff Snyder tied the final match.

This event has become a true highlight of the year, and a new qualifying scheme will be put in place next year (see President's message), giving more opportunities to qualify. The VGCSA would like to thank

the host clubs and their superintendents, Scott Furlong (Robert Trent Jones GC), Jim Christy and GM Jeff Berg (Goose Creek GC) and Brad Enie (Trump National).



Brian Vincel hits a pitch at Trump

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2012 Virgina Cup presented by Syngenta

Goose Creek GC, Leesburg, VA • October 15, 2012

MATCH 1 (FOUR BALL)

Doug Lowe (Greensboro CC) - Drew Ramsey (Cutter Creek GC) df Brian Vincel (Spring Creek GC) - Trevor Hedgepeth (The Federal Club) 2 and 1
 Don Tew (Class A Retired) - Jim Knaffle (Int'l Club of Myr. Bch) df Jeff Whitmire (The Williamsburg Club) - Jeff Snyder (The Water's Edge) 1 up
 Scott McCoy (May River Club) - Mark Swygert (CC of Lexington) df Matt Boyce (Princess Anne CC) - Scott Cornwell (Winchester CC) 2 and 1
 Billy Lewis (Dormie Club) - Steve Agazzi (Kiawah Is. - Turtle Pt.) df Bobby Friend (Stonehenge CC) - Brendan McNulty (Hanover CC) 1 up

Four-Ball Results: Carolinas 4, Virginia 0

MATCH 2 (FOURSOMES)

Doug Lowe, CGCS (Greensboro CC) - Jim Knaffle (Int'l Club of Myr. Bch) df Jeff Snyder (The Water's Edge) df Trevor Hedgepeth (The Federal Club) 4 and 3
 Jeff Whitmire (The Williamsburg Club) = Bobby Friend (Stonehenge CC) df Drew Ramsey (Cutter Creek GC) - Scott McCoy (May River Club) 6 and 5
 Billy Lewis (Dormie Club) - Don Tew (Class A Retired) df Brian Vincel (Spring Creek GC) - Matt Boyce (Princess Anne CC) 4 and 3
 Mark Swygert (CC of Lexington) - Steve Agazzi (Kiawah Is. - Turtle Pt.) df Scott Cornwell (Winchester CC) - Brendan McNulty (Hanover CC) 7 and 6

Foursomes Results: Carolinas 3, Virginia 1

Day One Standings: Carolinas 7, Virginia 1

Trump National GC Washington DC • October 16, 2012

MATCH 3 (SINGLES)

Bobby Friend (Stonehenge CC) df Drew Ramsey (Cutter Creek GC) 6 and 5
 Jeff Whitmire (The Williamsburg Club) df Jim Knaffle (Int'l Club of Myr. Bch) 1 up
 Brian Vincel, CGCS (Spring Creek GC) df Don Tew (Class A Retired) 2 and 1
 Scott Cornwell (Winchester CC) df Billy Lewis (Dormie Club) 3 and 2
 Matt Boyce (Princess Anne CC) tied Doug Lowe (Greensboro CC)
 Trevor Hedgepeth (The Federal Club) tied Mark Swygert (CC of Lexington)
 Scott McCoy (May River Club) df Brendan McNulty (Hanover CC) 5 and 4
 Jeff Snyder (The Water's Edge) tied Steve Agazzi (Kiawah Is. - Turtle Pt.)

Singles Results: Virginia 5.5, Carolinas 2.5

Final Standings: Carolinas 9.5, Virginia 6.5



"Thank You, Syngenta" (L-R) Sam Camuso, Mark Brazinski, Carolinas Captain Tim Kreger, Larry Feller, Steve Dorer



Matt Boyce and Scott Cornwell



Brian Vincel and Trevor Hedgepeth



Bobby Friend and Brendan McNulty



Jeff Whitmire and Jeff Snyder



Jeff Whitmire hits an approach shot at Trump



Jeff Snyder escapes a tough lie



Mark Brazinski of Syngenta (C) flanked by Captains Tim Kreger (L) and Jeff Berg (R)

Bevard Named Director of USGA Mid-Atlantic Region

The USGA is pleased to announce that Darin S. Bevard has been named director of the Green Section Mid-Atlantic Region. Darin began his career as an agronomist for the Mid-Atlantic Region in 1996, and was promoted to senior agronomist in 2006, a designation awarded to those who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and expertise in their USGA Green Section responsibilities.

Darin is a graduate of Penn State University

receiving his B.S. and M.S. degrees. His master's thesis involved the investigation of weed control in newly established turfgrass, and during his last year of study was awarded the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council Scholarship for outstanding graduate work.

Prior to joining the USGA, Darin worked at several Maryland golf courses, including Talbot Country Club, Old South Country Club and Harbortowne Country Club.

Darin will continue to work with Senior

Agronomist Keith Happ in providing the Mid-Atlantic Region with sound agronomic advice through on-site visits to golf courses in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia, and the development of multimedia agronomic education.



Darin S. Bevard

Johnson Recognized, cont.



Donna Johnson

government doesn't need to be heavy handed when industry is already doing the right thing. Virginia's golf industry has been fully engaged in the VAC's policy development, interaction with decision makers, and effective positive promotion of the golf industry. The VAC and golf industry have a very effective partnership."

On her relationship with Peter McDonough, VGCSA Government Relations Chair: "Peter demonstrated that the golf industry's objective was to be good environmental stewards and in the forefront of defining their future. Rather than waiting to see what regulations and laws may be imposed on them, Peter took the lead with his golf associates in promoting rules that would enable them to be effective environmental stewards and at the same time conducting successful businesses."

The Crier asked her to reflect on the

best part of her job: "The people, the challenges, and the successes! I thoroughly enjoyed working with members of our agribusiness industry and Virginia's decision makers. We faced many challenges that through an effective working relationship with all parties we were able to succeed in having a positive impact on the business interests of Virginia's largest industry. I hope that our work together will have valuable effects for the present and future."

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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

The ODGCSA held our annual meeting on Nov. 7th at Independence Golf Club. Our board for 2013 will consist of: Scott Mauldin-President, Andrew McCormick-Vice President, Kevin Fortune-Treasurer, Brent Graham-Director, and Eric Frazier-Past President. Following the meeting, the 3rd annual 3-club shoot out was held on the par 3 course. As always, thanks to our many sponsors that made it possible.

Look for a few changes in 2013. Most notably, The Tollie Quinn will have a new format with a "fun for all" atmosphere made up of 2-man teams. It will still be our primary golf event of the year, but will not serve as the qualifier for the



2013 ODGCSA Board of Directors (L-R) :
Scott Mauldin, Andrew McCormick, Kevin Fortune,
Brent Graham, Eric Frazier

Virlina Cup. This year's event will be held at The Williamsburg Club on May 7th, sponsored by Smith Turf and Irrigation.

The ODGCSA will host two concurrent educational opportunities on the morning of January 28th prior to the VTC conference with lunch sponsored by FMC. The remainder of our schedule has been finalized and is now posted on the web site.

Congratulations to Brent Graham for becoming our newest Certified Golf Course Superintendent.



Dan Taylor
ODGCSA
External Vice President

TTA News

The Tidewater Turfgrass Association would like to thank Chad Compton for his hard work last year on the Board of Directors. This year we would like to welcome Tony Gardner from Sewell's Point back and look forward to again working with him. 2013 planning is under way, with what looks to be a great calendar of events. January kicked off with a great social event at the Norfolk Scope to watch the Admirals, our local hockey team. The last few years this has been a well-attended event for both members and their families. Our first education meeting will take place in February at Virginia Beach National. The speaker will be discussing stress and anxiety

management, with golf to follow if the weather permits. Plans are being made to have our joint meeting with the Old Dominion in March this year in the Williamsburg area, possibly returning to Kingsmill. Speaker is TBD. The Dick Cake Memorial Golf Tournament will be moved this year to May 13th. It will be a qualifying event for the Virlina Cup team and will again be held at Elizabeth Manor. All members of the VGCSA are invited!

Weather in Tidewater has been it's typical unpredictable self. Turf went dormant in early December, and then greened back up again before Christmas. This winter has been very wet, with more

weed pressure than years past. Hopefully a couple of good frosts in a row will allow us Bermuda guys to get out some round-up. Areas treated here at EM with late season Simazine have stayed pretty clean, but in the non-treated rough areas the Poa is booming. It's only the first week of January, but 4 or 5 days of working in the shop sure makes me long for spring. Hope everyone has a great 2013.



Rob Wilmans
Elizabeth Manor Golf and
Country Club
External VP-Tidewater
Turfgrass Association

VTA News

The VTA held our final meeting and elections at Roanoke Country Club in October. The new officers for 2013 are: Brian Kearns secretary/treasurer, Sean Baskette Vice President and Bill Keene who will be President as well as assuming the duties of the Eternal VP for the VGCSA. The Director positions are still open and anyone interested should contact Bill Keene. I would like to thank Chris Appel and Greg Austin for their years of service as Directors. Their's will be large shoes to fill.

One of the things we as Superintendents

need to keep in the front of our minds this winter is planning for the Nutrient Management requirements that are coming. The big push for us in Southwest Virginia is to make sure that everyone realizes what it is and what it will cost. I would encourage those reading to keep up to date on what is required and when it is required. I would hope that anyone reading who isn't sure of what it is should contact any board member whether regional or local or go to the VGCSA website for information. Doing nothing is not going to be an option for this program.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve both in the VTA as well as the VGCSA these past few years. I would encourage others to get involved whether on a local or statewide basis it is a very rewarding experience.



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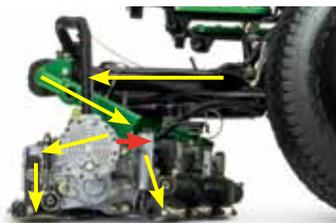
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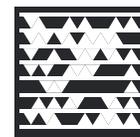
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News from Local Associations

News from the GWGCSA

This is it for me. After reviewing my files, I realized that I have been writing these newsletters dating back to some point in 2003. During this time, I have really enjoyed having the power of the pen. That's right Scott, this is the last time I will have the ability to call you out for losing the Maintenance Open with a bunch of interns/sweater folders. Just an asterisk is left behind. In all seriousness, it has been fun. I hope I was able to pass along some pertinent information over this time. At this point, I would like to take the time to thank all those who have helped me along the way, including my staff at Forest Greens GC.

Congratulations go out to Shawn Gill for his appointment by the Greater Washington Board to External Vice President for the VGCSA. Represent us well.

We did manage to play some golf late in the season. The annual Superintendent-Assistant championship was held in October at Belmont Country Club. Congratulations to the team of John Burke and Tim Weiss of Westfields Golf Club who won the trophy with a better ball score of 67. The team of Rob Hessler and



GWGCSA Board 2013 - Sean Gill, Tony Blevins, Bo Jumbercotta, Ray Nash, Mike Mueller

Bob Wilbur won the open division with a score of 68. Kudos goes out to Aaron Wells, David Walter and the entire staff at Belmont Country Club for a fine event.

We finished off the season in November 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 Jeff Clarke, Eric Nelson, Pat Swedock and Mark Murphy won the scramble event.

Of note, the 2013 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 information. The full schedule will come out in February.

As a reminder, VGCSA membership dues are due at the end of February. 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
(Retired)

SVTA Update

Everyone in the Shenandoah Valley had a beautiful white Christmas this year thanks to our snow storm on Christmas Eve. Before the snow storm, temperatures remained mild. As we look back on 2012, extreme weather seemed to be a common denominator. Grass grew, trees leafed out and flowers bloomed very quickly last year. This made Valley Superintendents adjust their application schedules because soil temps rose. Storms also became a major issue this past year with high winds, hail, thunder, lightning, and floods. It will be interesting to see what 2013 will bring!

The highlight for the SVTA in 2012 was our 30th Anniversary Dinner. It was a privilege to hear stories from the past that still have a great influence and relevance to our lives as superintendents. I felt honored to be a member of the SVTA as I listened to how the SVTA was formed by our charter members and I am

even more inspired to serve in this association. The charter members worked hard to provide the Shenandoah Valley with a voice in turf related issues. I can only hope as current day members we can lead this association in ways that would make them proud.

I hope everyone takes the time to get involved in your local association. It's a great way to bond with other turf professionals, learn ways to improve as a professional and if nothing else, get away for the day!



David Lewallen
SVTA
External Vice President



Charter members holding recognition of the SVTA's induction into the VTF Platinum Club (for reaching \$50,000 in donations to VTF). Pictured, left to right: Lee Dieter, J.R.Ruckman, Bobby Jenkins, Jack McClenahan, Mike Burkholder, Sheldon Betterly and Dave Geiger.



David Geiger (left) received the SVTA Lewis Lamp Distinguished Service Award, in recognition of his career in turf and longtime service to the SVTA, from Bobby Jenkins (center) and SVTA president Vince DiStefano (right).

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