

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

October 2018

## President's Message



Finally, it looks like fall may be here, none too soon either. Heat, Humidity, Lightning strikes, Rain, Floods. We've had so much rain that Joe Hammer said "I didn't know whether to clean up mud or build an Ark," he also volunteered to go out and catch two of every animal just in case.

The 2nd Annual VA Tech Research Classic was finally held at Independence and so far indications are of another success. Special thanks to Dan Taylor and his crew after what has been an eventful summer. The Joe Saylor Memorial was held this year at Williamsburg Club and the rave reviews are still coming in. Thank you Jeff Whitmire for hosting. This fall will bring meetings and more events as we have more time. The 1st Match play tournament is at Kinloch this year and the Virgina Cup is at Princess Anne.

Meeting season is fast approaching and I

encourage everyone to attend either local, state or national meetings. Assistants can get some quality information at Stonehenge this year, thanks to Garrison Fowler our Assistants Rep. Our own VGCSA Conference will be December 3rd and 4th at the UVA Darden Inn again. The VGCSA Board will be having a Strategic Planning Meeting the day before to set direction for coming years. Finally this year's GCSAA meeting will be in San Diego and plans are already in place for another stellar Social event with MAAGCS and ESAGCS.

As many of you recall last year we had issue with Legislation that had been proposed regarding Ground water withdrawal. Because of that experience we have been exploring the idea of hiring a Lobbying firm to deal with Golf Specific issues that may affect us and not other

Agricultural entities. We are now at the point of deciding between 2 firms and will be able to speak much more about this at our annual meeting.

In closing, this will be my last newsletter article as my term is coming to a close. I have enjoyed my time as President and am proud of our accomplishments and the direction we have been heading in as an Association. And we are most appreciative of the support of our Partners!



Mark Cote  
VGCSA President

## Scholarships Available – *Deadline October 31*

The Old Dominion of Golf Course Superintendents Association and Smith Turf & Irrigation is proud to offer two \$1,000 scholarship to students who are working at a club with a Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association member. The Scholarship program was established in 2016 as a means to support the employees of golf courses that are actively enrolled in an institution of higher learning.

The Buy Sod VGCSA Scholarship Program was established in 2012 by Buy Sod as a means to support the children of

qualified golf course superintendents, who plan to attend an institution of higher learning, following graduation from high school.

High School Seniors who are the children of Class A or B members in good standing of the VGCSA are eligible for the program.

*Applications are available online and in the TTG eLetter – the deadline is October 31st.*





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# Better Billy Bunker Offers GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund Matching

A natural disaster has once again affected many within the golf community. As with Hurricanes Harvey and Irma in 2017, Hurricane Florence left a trail of devastation with countless golf facilities receiving significant damage that will take months to repair. Equally, if not more important, are the GCSAA members whose lives have been altered. Numerous members have still not been able to return to their homes to assess the damage.

In times such as this, the GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund is critical in ensuring GCSAA members who need help get it. Developed after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Fund is designed to provide assistance to members

personally affected by natural disasters.

As they did one year ago, Better Billy Bunker has announced a matching program for those wanting to show their support for GCSAA members through the Disaster Relief Fund. BBB will match the first \$10,000 in individual donations made to the Fund. Better Billy Bunker officials said "The images from Hurricane Florence are heartbreaking. However, as we have seen in the past, it is during the darkest times that our close-knit industry shows its resolve. We encourage all those within the golf family to support the GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund. We want our friends impacted by Florence to know they have the backing of their



organization and colleagues."

To make a donation, text "Disaster" to 785-693-2593, or donate online at <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/gcsaa-disaster-relief-fund>.

For GCSAA members personally impacted by natural disasters, call 800-472-7878 or email [mbrhelp@gcsaa.org](mailto:mbrhelp@gcsaa.org).

## Golden Eagle Golf Course to Close



IRVINGTON—With full commitment to the continued success of the Tides Inn and the preservation of the resort's legacy, the resort

management announced this week that the Golden Eagle Golf Course will close permanently on October 30.

The closure will serve to help redirect resources, investment and attention to restoration and redesign projects at the Tides, reported manager Susan Williamson in a news release. The future of the Tides-owned land is being carefully considered, she said.

The golf course is about one mile from the resort hotel, marina and other amenities in Irvington. Surrounding a 50-acre lake, the

course has operated since 1976.

Williamson said the resort's 2018 seasonal closure will be devoted to the repair and restoration of deferred maintenance items, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the guest experience and elevating the resort's presence in the market.

"We close the Golden Eagle Golf Course with immense pride in all it has accomplished and with a strong commitment to the long-term success of our future," she said...

## VGCSA Award Nominations Open — *Deadline October 31*

Nominations are now open for the 2018 VGCSA awards, which will be presented at the VGCSA Annual Meeting on December 4, 2018 in Charlottesville, as part of the Annual Conference. Any VGCSA member may submit a nomination to our committee. Here are the award descriptions:



2017 H.T. Page

**VGCSA Presidents Award For Lifetime Service** — "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 twenty years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, ten of which were as a superintendent".



2017 Rob Wilmans

**VGCSA Distinguished Service Award** — Presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents".



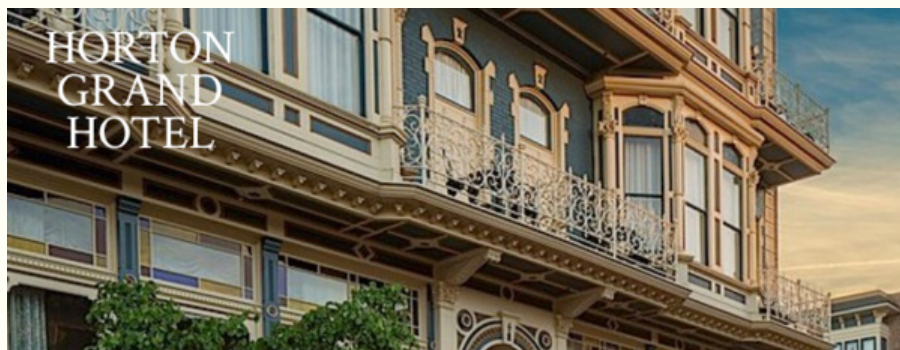
2017 Brent Graham, CGCS

**VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award** — "Presented to recognize distinguished and meritorious service in the environmental stewardship of Virginia golf courses."

The Awards Committee is chaired by Aaron Wells, and we request nominations be submitted by October 31, 2018. Visit the website or the TTTG eLetter for a Nomination form. Please email nominations to Aaron ([aaron.wells@basf.com](mailto:aaron.wells@basf.com)).

# Save the Date! 2019 GIS in San Diego

## *Social Event to Feature Top Entertainment*



VGCSA, MAAGCS & ESAGCS will return to the Horton Grand Hotel in the Gaslamp District for the 2019 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Room availability begins on February 2nd and runs through February 9th. Rates are \$175 - \$215 for a room (depending on date and beds requested). Book your room via the link in our

Through the Green eLetter.

This cool New Orleans style hotel will also host our annual Social Event from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday, February, 6th. Special entertainment will be provided by musical artist Lele Rose and you won't want to miss it, so **SAVE THE DATE!**



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## GIVE WATER A BREAK

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# First Green Merging with GCSAA

By Jeff Shelley

Initially announced at the Golf Industry Show in February, the First Green Foundation is moving forward with merging with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). A memorandum of understanding has been signed by the two groups, with First Green to be under the umbrella of the GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the EIFG.

GCSAA has an expansive network of green-industry leaders, and this partnership with First Green will increase the 15,000-plus students the program has already hosted on its field trips since its inception in 1997.

"As one of the world's leading environmental education programs utilizing golf courses, First Green provides an ideal platform for GCSAA members to further strengthen ties with their communities," said Rhett Evans, GCSAA chief executive officer.

The move will enable First Green to grow quickly around the U.S. and worldwide. "We are very excited to find a home with GCSAA since we share similar missions and goals – to promote the environmental benefits of golf courses," said Dr. Karen Armstead, Ph.D., First Green's Executive Director.

"Further, the EIFG supports research that enables golf courses to increase environmental stewardship, and through GCSAA's regional reps and local chapters, First Green will gain a larger footprint – nationally and globally."

First Green was co-founded by Bill Meyer, a longtime backer of amateur golf in the Northwest, and then-Overlake Golf &



Country Club superintendent Jeff Gullikson (now at Kalispel G&CC in Spokane). Its original tag line was "Links as Labs," and over its 21 years has brought students on field trips to golf courses to conduct STEM

learning experiments.

With golf course superintendents utilizing their knowledge in hands-on teaching of science-class students about turf, soils, water usage, conservation efforts and habitat management, First Green is the only program of its kind in the world.

The nonprofit has perennially received strong regional support from the WSGA, the Northwest Turfgrass

Association as well as Seattle-area clubs. In the past few years, it has expanded around the U.S., thanks to in-kind efforts of the GCSAA and financial support from the USGA. The latter included a public service announcement aired during all USGA championships on FOX over a three-year period, resulting in millions of worldwide "impressions" of First Green.

With its eight field staff members around the US, the GCSAA is well-positioned to expand the STEM-learning program. The USGA will continue to be involved as well, helping introduce First

Green into communities nationwide. Additionally, First Green has received interest from Scandinavian countries, the Far East, Australia and elsewhere.

Armstead, communications director Cathy Relyea, and Board members Jeff Shelley, horticulture high-school teacher Lynn McKay, and

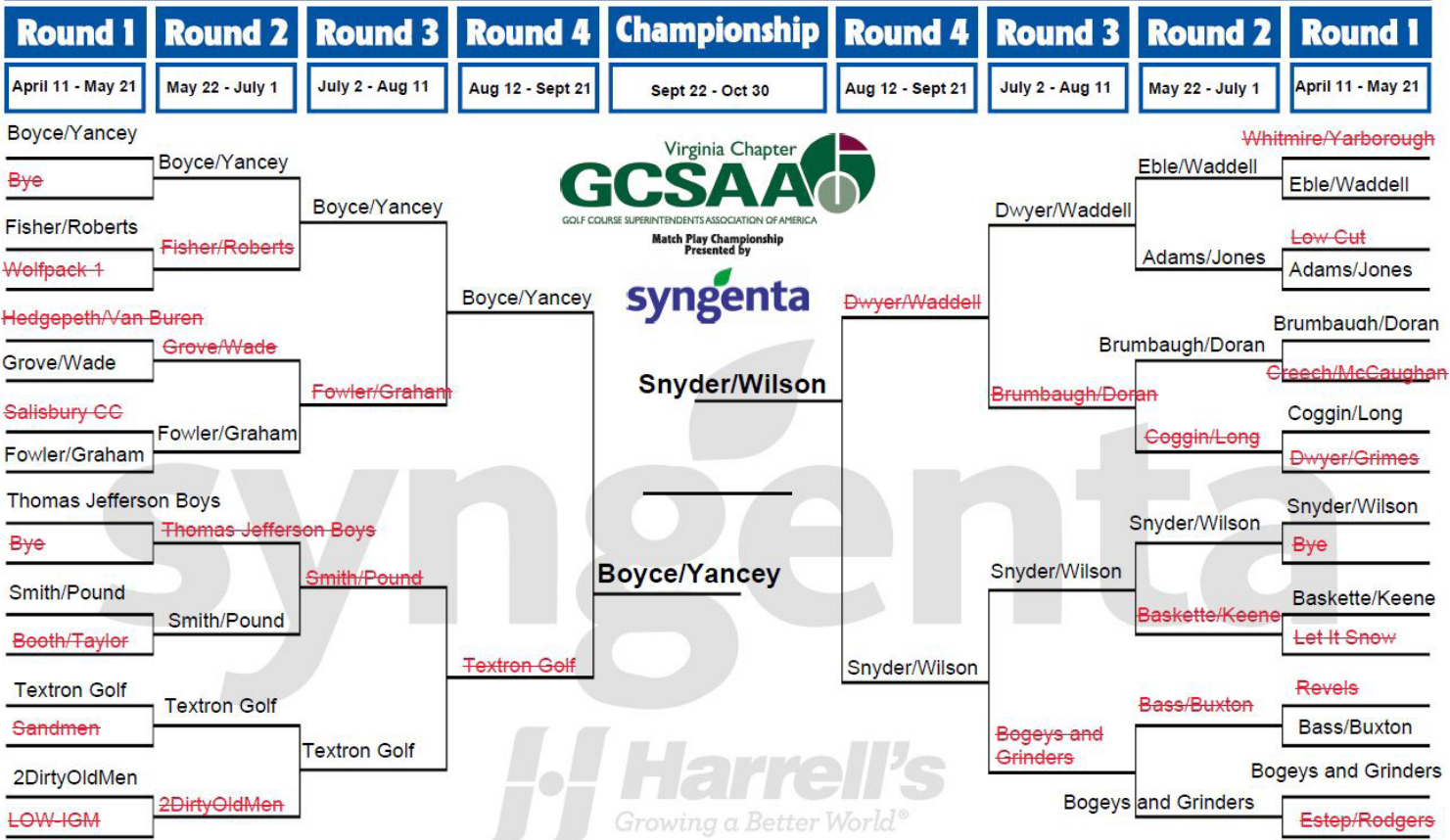
GCSAA field rep Dave Phipps went to GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS in early May 2018 to discuss the transition.

During their time there, the GCSAA

*continued on page 19*



# VGCSA Match Play Championship



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# 2018 Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament a hit at Williamsburg Golf Club

It was the fourteenth year of the VGCSA's staple event, the Joe Saylor Memorial, in honor of Joe Saylor, a Superintendent in the Hampton Roads area for nearly 40 years, and founder of the ODGCSA and charter member. Joe passed in 2005.

Williamsburg Golf Club played host and Jeff Whitmire, CGCS and his staff had the golf course in exceptional condition, particularly the quick greens, even after an inch and a half of rain that doused the golf course the evening prior. And as always this event was in partnership with the US

Marines and the Toys for Tots program. US Marines were on site to collect over 100 toys donated from attendees, all of which go to under privileged children during the holiday season.

The two-man captain's choice produced some great scores with Ed Eagle and Billy Sayre coming in with a 63 to claim the overall Low Gross honors. In the Member-Member Division, a scorecard playoff determined Matt Drayton of The Federal Club and Jim Wilson of Harrell's claimed first place net with a 62.1 over Bobby Friend



of and Matt Pair of The Brookwoods Golf Club. In the Member Guest/Open Division, Jeff Fleishman and Tim Pemberton posted a 63.8 to win first place over the 65.4 posted by Vince Hankley and Kenny Clark, PGA of Country Club of Petersburg.



Billy Sayre and Ed Eagle win Low Gross with a 63!



Dick Fisher looks on as Dan Sabina claims his prize for closest to the pin on #9



Host Jeff Whitmire, CGCS with US Marines



Josh Nunn & Jeff Holliday of Salisbury CC



Low Net Champions Matt Drayton and Jim Wilson



Jeff Whitmire congratulates Paul Van Buren who won two CTP prizes



# Fall 2018 Virginia Tech Turf Team White Sheet

By Jordan Booth

2018 has been a difficult year to manage turfgrasses in the state of Virginia. Severe cold temperatures in January followed by below-average temperatures and above-average rainfall in the spring of 2018 put turfgrasses at a competitive disadvantage heading into



Army worms

the summer. Many warm-season turfgrass growers suffered unprecedented winter damage with recovery efforts well into August. During the summer of 2018, much of Virginia experienced above-average rainfall making turfgrass maintenance very difficult, let alone recovery. To date The National

Weather Service Office in Wakefield, VA has experienced 48.59 inches of rainfall which is 14.37 inches above the historical average. Wet, saturated conditions have left turfgrasses with compromised root systems and did not allow for normal maintenance or critical cultural practices. All in all, 2018 has been a year to forget for many turfgrass managers across the state.

Unfortunately, September has decided to follow suit. Heavy rainfall, flooding, and in certain areas, tornadoes resulted from Hurricane Florence. Along with wet conditions, temperatures have stayed above-average across the state leading to abnormally-high turfgrass disease and pest activity for early fall. On top of compromised root systems and increased pest pressure, warm weather and heavy rains have caused cool and warm-season grasses to grow at an increased rate, making maintenance very difficult. During recent visits around the state, the VT Turf Team has observed many

pest outbreaks and a lot of stressed turf.

## Fall Armyworms

Fall Armyworms are a sporadic but serious pest of turfgrasses. Fall armyworm damage in turfgrass is very distinctive. Like the name implies, Fall Armyworm damage is most significant in the fall months. While the exact reason for the heavy outbreak in Virginia is unknown, newly-installed sod is



Fall Armyworm damage on bermudagrass sports field. Photo Credit: Bruce Adwell

more attractive and more susceptible to damage. Our team has witnessed dozens of

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armyworm outbreaks this year with widespread damage including two of our research facilities. Damage throughout the state has necessitated insecticide applications for control. Scouting is vital to timely control.

## Pythium Diseases

Root and surface diseases caused by Pythium species have thrived this year in wet, humid conditions. Preventative applications are critical for successful control. Maintain preventative applications for as long as you



Pythium Root Rot symptoms on bentgrass putting green during research trial

have wet, warm conditions. Current forecasts project this kind of weather well into October. Remain diligent with preventative fungicide applications to protect compromised root systems.

## Spring Dead Spot

While the symptoms do not appear until spring, the spring dead spot pathogen (*Ophiostoma spp.*) is currently active and now is the time for preventative fungicide applications. Immediately follow fungicide applications with at least 1/8" of irrigation. Subsequent applications need to be made three weeks after the first application. Penthiopyrad (Velista, Syngenta) and Isofetamid (Kabuto, PBI Gordon) have both performed well in our trials for the suppression of spring dead spot. The timing

is also right for preventative large patch and take-all root rot applications.

## Gray Leaf Spot

Recently, gray leaf spot (*Pyricularia grisea*) has caused serious problems on cool-season grasses throughout the state. While adequate fertility is necessary for healthy turfgrass, avoid high nitrogen application rates as lush turfgrass is highly susceptible to gray leaf spot infection. Soil moisture levels and irrigation should be closely monitored to avoid overwatering. On top of the warm and wet weather, ideal for infection, preventative fungicide applications have been difficult to make with saturated conditions. Continue to scout and treat for the disease as ideal gray leaf spot conditions have persisted well into October.

## Nematodes

Nematodes are microscopic, soil-borne roundworms that feed on turfgrass roots. Akin to heartworms in pets, nematodes can cause significant problems in turfgrass when population thresholds are met. Above-ground



Symptoms of nematode and ensuing mechanical damage on bentgrass putting green

symptoms include slow growth, thinning of the turf, poor response to adequate fertilization and irrigation, rapid wilting during dry weather, and weed invasion. These symptoms typically appear in irregular patterns across the turf stand and by the time the above-ground symptoms of nematode injury appear, significant damage to the root system has already occurred. Sampling is necessary to determine population levels. More information can be found at the VT Nematode Assay Laboratory website. Nematode damage has been observed across

the state throughout the entire year of 2018. With compromised root systems, nematode damage can occur at lower thresholds and are often accompanied by root-borne diseases. Continue to sample and scout for damage to determine if you need to make nematocide applications.

## Preparing for Winter

After a long, arduous year turfgrass managers need to focus on turfgrass health heading into the winter. Preparations need to be made including increasing the height of cut, preventative herbicide and fungicide applications, judicious use of water and fertility and limiting traffic on stressed or immature turfgrass. Shade management is also critical to turfgrass health. Year in and year out, the most predictable winter damage occurs in shaded situations. A tree management program should be implemented to identify areas for improvement. After the stress of 2018, the last thing anyone wants is a difficult 2019. Planning, calibration, education, and precision will be crucial to a successful 2019 as it relates to weed, disease, and pest management. While we cannot control the weather, controlling traffic and promoting turfgrass health will be vital to future success and cold-tolerance this winter.

## Virginia Tech Turfgrass Team

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Mike Goatley  
Turfgrass Extension Specialist

Shawn Askew  
Turfgrass Extension Weeds Specialist

Dave McCall  
Turfgrass Extension Pathologist



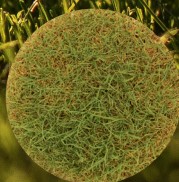
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### Drought Stress Tolerance

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# Government Relations Round-Up

## WOTUS Rule Still In Play for Selected States

### Allied Association Update - NGCOA

By Ronnie Miles, NGCOA Government Relations

Since the release of the “Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule” under the Clean Water Act of 2015, NGCOA has been working with other associations through “We Are Golf” to encourage Congress and the Administration to cease implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency’s new WOTUS Rule. In 2017 President Trump directed EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to rescind the rule and issue new guidance that ensures that the Nation’s navigable waters are kept free from pollution, while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty, and showing due regard for the roles of the Congress and the States under the Constitution. This followed a decision by the United States Supreme Court on January 24th to reverse the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision, which argued it had jurisdiction over challenges to the 2015 WOTUS Rule and they subsequently issued a nationwide stay of the rule.

On August 16, 2018, the District Court for the District of South Carolina enjoined the Sixth District Court decision and held that all states not included in the North Dakota and Georgia districts must comply with WOTUS Rule of 2015.



#### What does this mean to my golf course?

For golf courses located in states covered by this ruling, you will have to follow permitting process in accordance with the definition of “Waters of the United States” under the Clean Water Act of 2015. Members who are planning course construction or major maintenance projects may require federal permitting from the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to increased permitting cost, golf courses can expect an additional 60-90 days for their project

completion. Unnecessary delays may be avoided by engaging local Army Corps of Engineers office in your project planning to determine a type of permit required.

NGCOA will continue to follow the fallout from the court’s decision and the subsequent lawsuits challenging this decision. We remain hopeful the Administration will issue a new Rule which satisfies the differing court rulings. Questions and comments should be referred to Ronnie Miles at [rmiles@ngcoa.org](mailto:rmiles@ngcoa.org).





**One Team,  
Many Solutions**

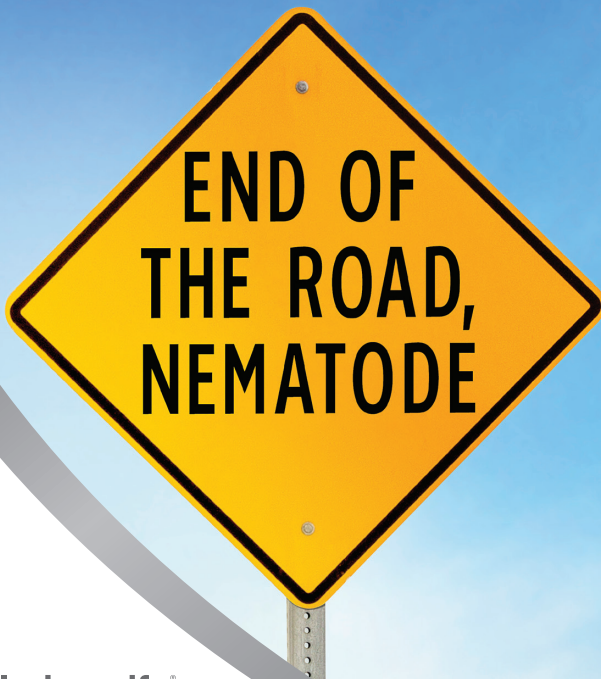
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# 2018 Event Previews

## VGCSA Conference Returns to Charlottesville in December

Kuhns, Gross, Jacobs Will Speak

Presented by



The VGCSA Conference continues to grow in its fifth year, and the event returns to the UVA Darden Inn in Charlottesville on December 3-4, 2018. The event will feature a similar format to the 2017 event. A good deal of education credit will be available to VGCSA members, as the Old Dominion's Education Segment will again be held on the first day, running 1-4 pm, then followed by the Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a FREE Partner Appreciation Reception, featuring your favorite beverages and



Mark Kuhns, CGCS  
Baltusrol



Patrick Gross, USGA  
Green Section West Region



Paul Jacobs, USGA  
Green Section  
Northeast Region



hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of networking time with your friends. The evening will feature a Monday Night Football Party presented by Ian Grove of Target Specialty Products.

Then on Tuesday, a Networking Breakfast will run 7:30-8:30 a.m., followed by more education, featuring outstanding speakers from the fields of turf and business, all designed to make your jobs just a little easier and a little better. Confirmed speakers include Mark Kuhns – GCSAA Past President & Superintendent at Baltusrol Country Club in Springfield, NJ, plus Pat Gross, USGA Green Section Agronomist,

Santa Ana, CA, who will speak on water issues and Paul Jacobs, USGA Green Section Agronomist, Easton, PA.

"We polled our members after last year's event, and we got some good ideas. We are committed to continual improvement of the program," said VGCSA President Mark Cote.

Thanks to the excellent support of sponsors like Revels Tractor and Finch Services (the John Deere distributors) and other excellent companies, the conference will be at a reasonable price, and a single guest room will be just \$99 plus tax. The VGCSA is committed to providing value and service to its members.

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# SBA Hosts Regulatory Reform Roundtable

By Chase Rogan, GCSAA Field Staff



I recently attended a Small Business Administration (SBA) Regulatory Reform Roundtable, at which small business representatives were afforded an opportunity to share their stories of how regulatory policy has affected small business. Approximately 50 attendees showed up to voice opinions, heard by a panel of representatives from the SBA Office of Advocacy. The conversation was interactive, and the panel listened deliberately, answered questions, and offered insights and follow up on presented matters.

The SBA Office of Advocacy is an internal office of the SBA and serves as the independent voice for small business within the federal government. In a nutshell, this office advocates on behalf of small business to ensure their regulatory feedback is noted. As part of their mission, the Office of Advocacy hosts roundtables across the country to gain valuable insights from small businesses in the field. Through the follow up process, the office has specialists who engage with the businesses that bring forth

concerns, making sure that the office understands the concern so that it can be addressed within the context and conversation of regulatory reform.

Industries showed up from manufacturing, transportation, construction, environmental engineering, cyber security, and others. As one individual brought up concerns regarding the WOTUS (Waters of the United States) rule, it provided an easy segue for me to speak of similar challenges within golf, citing the ambiguity of the definition of WOTUS and consequential lack of understanding of how the rule will be enforced. Likewise, I spoke to the industry's challenges with labor shortages across the country, as well as industry use of the H-2B visa program. And one thing is for certain, we are not the only industry struggling to find labor.

The office defines small business as fewer than 500 employees, thereby including nearly all golf course venues. While GCSAA's Grassroots Ambassadors program serves as a voice for representation within regulatory policy, the SBA Office of Advocacy can also help our industry, and have regional



**U.S. Small Business Administration**

advocates across the country with which you can connect. Find more information at the SBA Office of Advocacy website at [www.sba.gov/advocacy](http://www.sba.gov/advocacy).

I learned that one of President Trump's early policies on regulatory reform included a mandate to eliminate two federal regulations for every one new federal regulation imposed, which is a strategy to help small business growth. One of the most intriguing concerns that highlighted why the SBA Office of Advocacy is so important for considering the ramifications of regulations on small businesses was concerns over an issue with a change-order for the manufacturing of U.S. Naval Academy pea coats. Turns out, the change-order will switch to synthetic jackets that will hurt U.S. small-business manufacturing, including the production of wool required for the classic pea coats used in the past.

Furthermore, the classic wool pea coats worn by officers are much more flame and heat resistant than their incumbent synthetic version, further puzzling the decision to make this switch. This meeting was a great learning experience.

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# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

The extended summer has not been welcoming to a lot of us, but cooler days are surely in the near future. After a long summer, a lot of us are ready for a slow down so we can reflect on 2018 and do some planning for 2019.

During September we had a meeting at Wintergreen resort to review research results from Virginia Tech's Spring Dead Spot trials. Jordan Booth, Research Associate for VT, was on hand to discuss strategies for success in controlling SDS. Dr. Mike Evans was able to join us to formally introduce himself to our membership. PBI Gordon representatives were also on hand to give a great presentation confirming the research for using their product, Kabuto, with great

success when applied as directed. He seems to have a good vision of where he would like to take the program and I think that it is in good hands. We would also like to thank PBI Gordon for sponsoring this event. Without our sponsors, these events would not be successful. Make sure you thank sponsors when they contribute to hosting these events throughout the year.

We would also like to remind our members that there is still time to apply for the ODGCSA scholarship. You must be a student currently enrolled in college and working at a golf course that is currently a member of the VGCSA. This can be anyone at your club from the maintenance department, kitchen, cart attendants, etc. A

short essay will need to be entered on how this scholarship can have a positive impact on developing your future learning.

We will have our annual meeting in November, however, the final details are still materializing. We will send a follow up email blast ASAP when this is finalized.



Scott Mauldin, CGCS  
ODGCSA  
External VP

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## TTA News

Weather here in the Hampton Roads area continues to be a mystery. Summer temperatures have carried into October making us superintendents excited. Hopefully fall arrives soon and this Bermuda grass will finally stop growing.

The first annual Bert Walton Memorial Golf Tournament was held on September 20th at Kilmarlic Golf Club. We raised north of \$2500 to be used as a scholarship fund in Bert's honor for an upcoming turf student. It was well attended and something we look forward to growing in the future. Big shout out to Paul Culclasure and staff and to

all the sponsors who helped make the event possible. Way to go!!

The Joe Saylor was also around the same time and continues to be a great event. Williamsburg Golf Club hosted this year and was awesome as usual. Jeff Whitmire and his staff should be proud of the product they put out on a daily basis.

The TTA will have its annual business meeting on November 12th at Greenbrier Country Club. The notice will be going out soon so be sure to check your emails. It will be our last event of the year. We look forward to seeing you guys there!



Mike Hall  
TTA President

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## SVTA News

The association had a great meeting at Wintergreen with the Old Dominion association. Thanks to Dr. Evans from Virginia Tech for attending this event. The discussion went from replacing Dr. Ervin to addressing employment concerns in our industry.

Also, the SVTA will be holding it's fundraiser for the VTF in October at Caverns Country Club. Look for information soon. Have a great fall.



Ed Eagle  
SVTA External VP



# News from Local Associations

## VTA News

I think I can speak for not only everyone here in Southwest Virginia, but all superintendents in the state and up and down the East Coast when I say, "2018.... Just go away". The year of weeds, ABW, chinch bugs, winter kill, Grey Leaf Spot, Pythium (all of them), declining labor force, flooding and go ahead and throw in a tropical depression or two for good measure. Personally I am ready to start blowing leaves and having to make a few frost calls.

The good news is we are finally maybe possibly seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. Budget prep for next year is in the beginning stages, early order packets are arriving, and we are starting to plan year

end meetings and setting up and planning of winter projects is in full swing.

It has been a pretty quite meeting schedule for the VTA this year. In August, we had a great evening at the Salem Red Sox and getting ready for our year end meeting at Blacksburg Country Club in late October. It will be a great opportunity to hear from everyone on what successes they did have, what worked, what did not and what changes they are planning on making in 2019.

Leaf season and frost calls are right around the corner, and personally I am looking forward to all the educational opportunities ahead of us this fall and winter. Look forward to seeing everyone.



*Sean K. Baskette*  
VTA President

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## News from the GWGCSA

There's no doubt that 2018 will rank right up there as one of the worst growing seasons in the Mid-Atlantic. It's been a year of constant challenges no matter what month the calendar said it was. It seems like we set new weather records each month and September was no different. It ranked in the top 5 wettest and warmest Septembers on record, with just under 10 inches of rain for most of the greater Washington area. We dodged Hurricane Florence in our region, but our thoughts go out to those in the Carolinas who were affected, especially turf managers whose courses had damage and flooding.

The GWGCSA has had to reschedule our 2nd annual Glow Ball tournament at Stonewall Golf Club twice to avoid a washout. Superintendent Ed Long was our

brave host as we enjoyed an entertaining evening of golf.

Other great events are the Superintendent/Assistant Championship tournament, followed by the season ending "Buttery Goodness"/Annual meeting at Evergreen Country Club on November 6th. This is a don't miss event so be sure to sign up as spots will be limited.

Lastly, don't forget about the Assistants Forum on October 29th at Stonehenge Country Club in Richmond. Be on the lookout for more information about this terrific event in the weeks ahead.

Best of luck to everyone in the Fall season and I look forward to seeing you at one of these upcoming events soon.



*Aaron Wells*  
GWGCSA External VP

# 2018 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day

## Over \$50,000 Raised at Independence GC



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AGRICULTURE AND  
LIFE SCIENCES  
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For the second straight year, Virginia Tech teamed up with VGCSA and VTC for the annual Turfgrass Research Classic Golf Tournament and Field Day. Originally scheduled for May, the event was moved to September to allow the host club, Independence Golf Club, to re-grass, following the worst case of winterkill in 25 years. The golf course was perfect condition for the event.

Last year Virginia Tech established research plots on the greens of the nine-hole short course at Independence GC, and kicking off the day was the Field Day portion of the event. Dr. David McCall, Research Associate Jordan Booth, CGCS and the Virginia Tech team led over 60 attendees on a tour of the short course, presenting the research

conducted over the past year. Having these plots in established central Virginia will prove beneficial to the VT research team, as the climate is warmer than Blacksburg and closer to most of the rest of Virginia.

Following the field day, there was an exciting putting contest sponsored by Syngenta. Over 50 golfers lined the putting green and putt simultaneously to the same hole. Three balls hit the pin: the closest one belonged to Dan Sabina of The Federal Club, who took home the prize.

The golf tournament was a full field with 120 golfers competing in the 4-man captain's choice. Coming in with the low gross score of 57 was the Quali-Pro team of Matt Herrmann, Eric Squier, Vince Hankley and Cam Shelton. The Low Net score was posted by the Virginia

Green #2 team: Joe Donchez, Keith Kitchen, Doug Robbins and Corey Schultz.

With the help of top industry vendors, net proceeds surpassed \$50,000, bringing the two year total to more than \$100,000 going towards turfgrass research! Landscape Supply and Harrell's renewed the top sponsor level, Hokie Patron - \$5,000, with Virginia Green and BASF at the Dr. John Shoulders Patron - \$4,000. There were eleven \$3,000 sponsors, nine \$2,000 sponsors and over twenty-five \$500 hole-sponsors. The 50-50 raffle and silent auction raised an additional \$5,000+ for the cause. A special thank you goes out to everyone that helped make this event so successful to include sponsors, the event committee, club staff and everyone that participated in the event.



Dr. McCall showing off Research at the Field Day



Jordan Booth explains the research projects



Putting Shootout



Gil Grattan's Virginia Green Team



Ryan Dwyer and David McCall



The Virginia Tech Turf Team



Low Gross Winners Eric Squier, Cam Shelton, Matt Herrmann, Vince Hankley with David McCall



Tim Crumrine, Tyler Eastham, Ricky Bryner



Fred Biggers and John Pennypacker discuss the research



unveiled new plans on marketing First Green, not only to its members but the golf world in general. One of the key elements of those efforts is a new logo that will represent the organization as it moves into the future.

"The new First Green logo is fantastic!" said Relyea. "It communicates the essence of First Green, golf and the environment in a clean, organic way, while making a nod to the original First Green logo. We were extremely pleased with the design."

"The response by all the staff was incredible," said Shelley of the two-day session with the GCSAA and EIFG. "Everyone there is so excited about what First Green has accomplished and how much more the program can grow. Personally, it's been wonderful working with the folks on our small but gifted Pacific Northwest crew. Turning over First Green's reins to such a respected and global organization as the GCSAA is one of the highlights of my 31 years in golf."

"As a longtime advocate and fan of the First Green Foundation, I have always felt that it needed to be within GCSAA in order to reach a bigger audience," said Phipps. "Since becoming a First Green board member in 2012, along with joining the GCSAA as the Northwest Region Field Staff representative, the connection with GCSAA became even more evident."

Added McKay: "I believe First Green is now going to skyrocket! The GCSAA will have more superintendents who will invite teachers to their courses for field trips. And more students will be able to learn STEM activities in an outdoor setting – the ultimate goal of First Green."

"The First Green management team has worked hard to develop the program so it could be launched on a nationwide scale," said Kealy. "GCSAA has the resources to introduce the program to superintendents in all 50 states and actively support their participation. Our message that golf is good for the environment and the surrounding community will be spread to a new generation of kids, parents and teachers."

"First Green has been created by a

deeply committed and talented team that shared a vision of how First Green grows the game of golf and showcases the importance of environmental care of green spaces in cities," said Armstead.

"If golf courses are considered the 'lungs of the city,' then First Green can be seen as the heartbeat of future golfers," she added. "First Green is deeply grateful to all who have helped to resource and grow the organization. We are delighted to anticipate how GCSAA will continue to expand its programs and impact."

"Since the announcement of GCSAA's partnership with First Green, the response from our members and the industry has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic," noted Evans. "We are looking forward to using our resources and network to expand First Green's reach. First Green not only offers

students an innovative STEM learning experience, but it also offers GCSAA members the opportunity to introduce students to the golf industry.

"As part of its mission, GCSAA is committed to enhancing the growth of the game of golf," Evans added. "First Green will help us accomplish that by giving superintendents another platform to share golf's many positive benefits with young people."

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*Jeff Shelley has written and published nine books as well as numerous articles for print and online media. The Seattle resident is board president of First Green, an international, nonprofit program that provides environmental and STEM education outreach using golf courses as environmental learning labs.*

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## 2018-19 VGCSA Schedule

October 14-16	Virgina Cup, Princess Anne CC, Virginia Beach
October 16	VTAA Annual Meeting, Blacksburg CC
October 18	SVTA Fundraiser for VTF, Caverns Country Club Resort, Luray
October 29	VGCSA Assistants Forum, Stonehenge G&CC, Richmond, VA
October 31	Deadline to submit Award Nominations and Scholarship Applications
November 6	GWGCSA "Buttery Goodness" Golf Tournament & Annual Meeting Evergreen CC, Haymarket
November 8	VGCSA Board Meeting, Hermitage CC, Manakin-Sabot
November 12	TTA Annual Meeting, Greenbrier CC, Chesapeake
December 2	VGCSA Strategic Planning Meeting, UVA Darden Inn, Charlottesville
December 3-4	VGCSA Conference, UVA Darden Inn, Charlottesville
<b>2019</b>	
February 2-7	GCSAA Conference & Golf Industry Show, San Diego
February 6	VGCSA-MAAGCS-ESAGCS Social Event, San Diego, CA
TBA	Mid-Atlantic Regional Golf Conference, Richmond, VA

*Additional Events Coming Soon*

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