

Spring 2015

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

The spring season is upon us and the bermudagrass has started to green up in the greater Richmond area. It has been a long and cold winter which has pushed back a lot of our programs and projects. It seems like I'm always playing catch-up this time of year. I hope everyone is having a productive spring and is ready to get back out and begin our normal seasonal routines.

For those of you who attended this year's Golf Industry Show, the weather was not the best for San Antonio's standards, and the traveling was a bit challenging, but all in all, it was a great conference, and it was good to see a good turnout from the VGCSA.

Our joint social with the MAAGCS and the ESGCSA was held at the Westin Riverwalk and was well attended. I would like to thank our Presenting Sponsors: BASF, Finch Services, Jacobsen, Macro-Sorb SMS and Turf Equipment & Supply and Supporting Sponsors: Bayer, Syngenta, Fisher and Son, McDonald and Sons Construction and Design, Landscape Supply, Genesis, Yamaha, Synatek, Riverside Turf, Mid-Atlantic DryJect, and Turf Equipment & Supply for such a great event.

Meeting schedules are in full swing and I hope everyone will have an opportunity to get out and network with fellow superintendents. I know most of us have busy schedules not only with work but also with family, but I encourage everyone to try and make time to attend your local events, if not to play golf but to just continue to communicate and share ideas.

The Environmental Cup (formally the BMP Tournament) is just around the corner. The event will be held at Salisbury Country Club on Monday May 18th and I will do my best to live up to the standards set by the previous hosts of this great event. The proceeds from this event will be used to fund future environmental research, government relations initiatives and



support of the Nutrient Management Plan.

Speaking of the nutrient management plan, at this year's Environmental Cup, NMP planner Angela Whitehead has graciously donated her services to provide a NMP at no cost to the facility. All participating club teams that do not currently have a NMP will be entered into a drawing, which will be announced at the reception after the tournament. There is an event registration insert with this newsletter for the tournament. A huge thanks to Landscape Supply and all of their participating suppliers for their continued support of this great event.

On June 8 we will have a joint event with the CMAA and the NGCOA at Keswick Club with host Superintendent Peter McDonough. Keswick Club has just reopened their facility after completing a renovation designed by renowned architect Pete Dye. Mr. McDonough will be the featured speaker discussing his experience with the renovation and working with Mr. Dye. This should be a great event and I encourage everyone to come out and experience the new layout.

It's that time of the year again to dust off your clubs and come out and compete for a spot on the Virlina Cup team. Our Annual VGCSA Championship will be held at Glenmore Country Club with host Superintendent Kevin Fortune. The tournament will be held on Wednesday June 17 with the top two Superintendents qualifying for the Virlina Cup team. An Assistants Champion will also qualify at this event as one of the eight team members. This will be one of four events

that will be held across the state to round out the Virginia team. This year's Virlina Cup will be held at Berkeley Plantation in Bluffton, SC. I'm sure Mr. Fortune will have the course in excellent condition, so please get out and participate in this event as well as the other qualifiers, we need to field a strong team to bring the Cup back to Virginia.

At our last VGCSA Board meeting we discussed our Fall Conference at great length and the importance of providing quality educational and networking opportunities. The board of Directors, which includes External VPs which represent each of the local chapters, has unanimously decided to move our Annual Meeting to our Fall Conference in October. This decision will bring together three great events into one. Hermitage Country Club will not only host the Conference and Annual Meeting but also the Joe Saylor Golf Tournament. Golf will be held on Monday, October 19 followed by the Annual Meeting that night. The following Tuesday, October 20, we will hold the Fall Conference which will include another exciting line up of great speakers. So mark your calendars now, you will not want to miss this great event.

In closing I would like to thank our Partners, for without them this Association would not be as strong. Again I would ask all of you to support those who support our Association. I hope everyone has a great spring and Mother Nature will continue to bless us with great weather.



Jeff Holliday, CGCSA
VGCSA President

Save the Date: VGCSA-NGCOA-CMAA Joint Meeting to be held on Monday, June 8

This year's VGCSA-NGCOA-CMAA Joint Meeting at Keswick Resort promises to be truly special. Keswick golf course superintendent Peter McDonough will speak on the extensive renovation of the course by iconic designer Pete Dye.

Afterwards guests will have the opportunity to play the acclaimed layout, nicknamed "Full Cry," a nod to the English sport of fox hunting.

Visit www.vgcsa.org for complete details.

Don't miss it!



Keswick Resort (photo credit: Ted Jurkuta)



Peter McDonough



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The Environmental Cup Tradition Continues to Grow

One of the most important events of the year — and one of the most fun — is coming soon! With the unwavering generous support of Landscape Supply, Inc., the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association is pleased to announce The Environmental Cup will take place on Monday, May 18.

In the heart of the historical Village of Midlothian lies one of central Virginia's finest golfing venues — Salisbury Country Club, Founded in 1963, Salisbury Country Club features three unique 9-hole layouts. The original 18-hole course was designed by renowned architect Edward Ault and was opened in 1969. The course underwent a complete renovation and modernization in 1998 by nationally recognized architect, Lester George.

In 2002, George designed an additional third nine, the Huguenot Nine, which transformed Salisbury Country Club into one of the premier golf facilities in the eastern region. During this same period, a state of the art practice facility was constructed and included a double-sided practice range and four USGA constructed green complexes with bunkers for short game practice. In 2013, a new irrigation system was installed providing precise control over both water distribution and conservation. Landscape Supply and VGCSA are thrilled to bring the BMP event to Salisbury and acknowledges the club for its generous support.

In this seventh playing of the event, we will raise funds for important research associated with the environmental stewardship practices of Virginia's golf course superintendents. Previously over \$100K has been raised to complete the BMP project and the Water Quality Monitoring Research. VGCSA is currently discussing the next project with Virginia Tech researchers

Eligibility

The event is open to all VGCSA members and suppliers, their friends, colleagues (club professionals, GMs, board members) and associates at golf clubs in and around Virginia. We encourage Virginia legislators to participate in this event, which gives promise to Virginia's environmental stewardship. Clubs are encouraged to



Salisbury Country Club Clubhouse ▲

Hole 1 Monacan Course ►



support this important cause by fielding a team.

Format & Rules

Format for the event is four-man Captain's Choice (i.e., Scramble). USGA Rules govern play, as modified by Local Rules.

Flights

Teams will compete in various flights, based on team handicaps. The field will be limited to 27 teams, so please register early!

Prizes

Prizes will be awarded to winners in all flights. Prize distribution will vary according to the number of entries in each division. Other prizes will be awarded for closest-to-the-pin and long drive. The Environmental Cup trophies will be awarded to the top club (minimum of three players from the same club).

Entry Fee

Entry fee is \$500 per team (\$125 per player) and includes the following: green fees, cart rental, range balls, lunch stations and beverages, prizes, awards reception and tee gift. Thanks go to our sponsors, who have covered a large portion of the cost of this outstanding event. An entry form is included with the newsletter mailing.

Supporting Environmental Turf Research

A goal of the event is to showcase the

environmental stewardship practiced by Virginia's golf course superintendents to their staff members, general managers, club professionals, board members, committee chairs, legislators, turf professionals, industry suppliers, educators, students, government agency representatives and other interested parties. All proceeds will go directly to fund environmental turf research.

Sponsorship & Prize Donation

Golf industry partners are encouraged to support this event through the sponsorship program coordinated by Landscape Supply. Please contact Patrick Connelly (804-640-8872 pconnelly@landscapesupplyva.com) for details, and thanks go out to the many sponsors who will ensure our success the first six years!

Schedule

10:00 a.m. – Registration, Driving Range Open, Lunch Stations, Putting Contest
 12:00 noon – Shotgun Start, On-course beverages
 4:45 p.m. – Awards Party

Registration

Players may visit www.vgcsa.org to register or use the entry form enclosed with the newsletter mailing. Always a sellout — register early!

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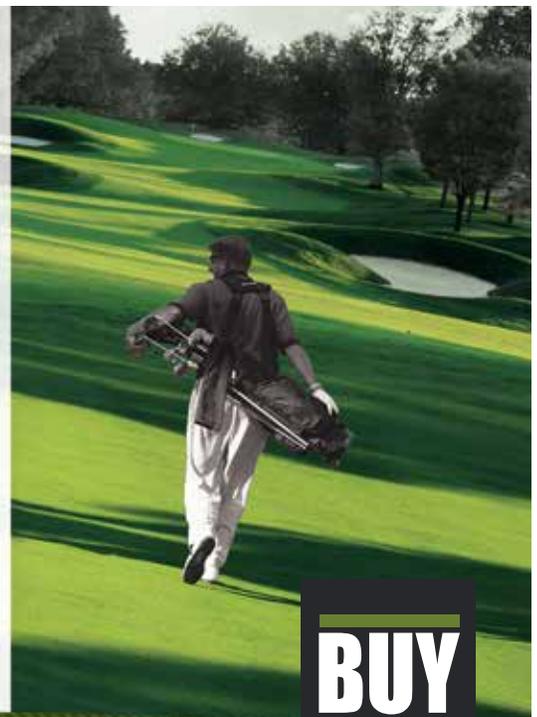
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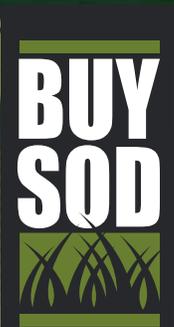
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VGCSA Visits State Legislature

VGCSA Government Relations Chair Shawn Gill led a contingent of Jeff Holliday, CGCS and David Norman to the 2015 General Assembly Session in Richmond in February, on behalf of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association. The group promoted Environmental Stewardship of golf courses and course managers by handing out thumb drives of our BMP document, a sleeve of golf balls, a soil test kit (highlighting nutrient management), and a business card to all of the Senator and Delegate offices as well as the offices of the Governor and Lt. Governor.

The event was a success from both a marketing and legislative standpoint, by pointing out how golf courses already are taking large steps toward IMPROVING the environment, as well as meeting with government officials and putting a face on the golf course management industry. The group also presented highlights from the Economic Impact Study for the Golf Industry in Virginia.

Thanks go to Brad Copenhaver of the Virginia Agribusiness Council for coordinating the event. The more VGCSA can show government officials that golf courses are a good thing, and that less regulation equals more affordable and better quality golf!



Jeff Holliday, CGCS and Government Relations Chair Shawn Gill at the State Capitol



Presenting VGCSA Information in the General Assembly Building



Shawn Gill and Jeff Holliday with the iconic statue of George Washington

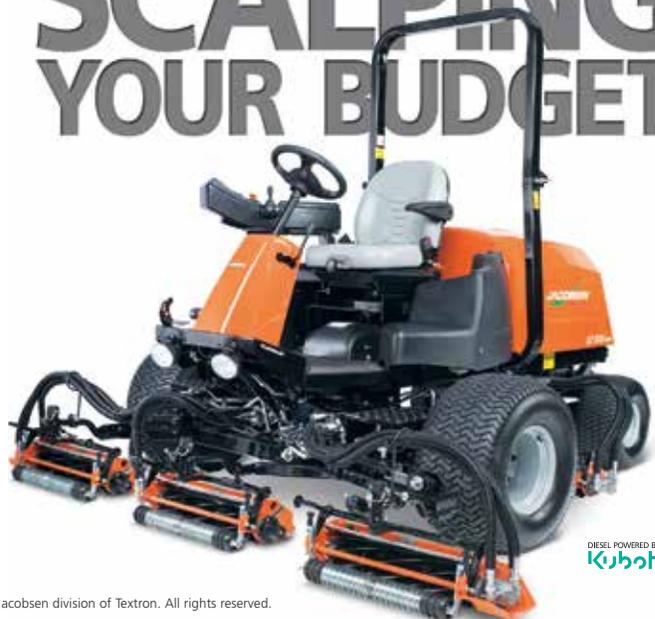


Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam recognizes VGCSA in the Senate Chamber, citing the Economic Impact of Golf in Virginia

2015 VGCSA Event Schedule

May 4	Tollie Quinn Tournament, Two Rivers Country Club, Williamsburg
May 4	GWGCSA Meeting, International Country Club, Chantilly, VA
May 13	TTA Dick Cake Memorial & Virlina Cup Qualifying, James River Country Club, Newport News
May 15	Virginia Agribusiness Council Tournament, Viniterra Golf Club, Providence Forge, VA
May 18	The Environmental Cup presented by Landscape Supply, Salisbury Country Club, Midlothian, VA
June 8	VGCSA-NGCOA-CMAA Joint Meeting, Keswick Club, Keswick, VA
June 17	VGCSA Championship, Glenmore Country Club, Keswick, VA
July 15	GWGCSA Maintenance Open, Forest Greens Golf Club, Triangle, VA
August 18	GWGCSA Social, Site TBA
September TBA	TTA Outer Banks Trip, Sea Scape Golf Course, Kitty Hawk, NC
September 22	SVTA Fundraiser, Rock Harbor Golf Club, Winchester
September 27-29	The Virlina Cup, Berkeley Plantation, Bluffton, SC
September 29	ODGCSA Fall Outing, Independence Golf Club, Midlothian, VA
October 6	GWGCSA/MAAGCS Superintendent/Pro, Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria, VA
October TBA	SVTA Meeting, Waynesboro Country Club
October 19-20	VGCSA Fall Conference, Joe Saylor Tournament & Annual Meeting, Hermitage Country Club, Manakin-Sabot, VA
October 26	VGCSA Assistants Forum, Belmont Country Club, Ashburn, VA
November 3	GWGCSA Annual Meeting, Evergreen Country Club, Haymarket, VA
February 8-11, 2016	GCSAA Conference & Golf Industry Show, San Diego, CA

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Glenmore CC to Host VGCSA Championships June 17

The VGCSA Championship features the top players of the VGCSA, vying for championships in two divisions, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. Glenmore Country Club in Keswick (Charlottesville area) plays host Wednesday, June 17 in this stroke play event. Class A, SM and C are eligible. The top 2 superintendents and the top assistant will qualify for the Virginia Cup at Berkeley Hall in Bluffton, SC this fall.

The event allows for a true championship competition with an individual stroke play format played under USGA Rules. Syngenta is the sponsor for the event and the Virginia Cup. The top two players in the Superintendent Division, as well as the Assistant Champion, will qualify for the Cup. There are three additional qualifying events hosted by TTA, GWGCA and SVTA/VTA. The GWGCA qualifier was held in April, and Scott Cornwell of Winchester CC won the spot with a 72. The TTA Qualifier is May 13 at James River Country Club in Newport News, as part of the Dick Cake event. The VTA/SVTA date will be announced soon.

There is a discounted entry fee, thanks to Syngenta's sponsorship. This includes golf, cart, lunch, prizes and awards party. An entry form is enclosed with this mailing, or you may register at www.vgcsa.org.



Past Superintendent Champions

2014 Jeff Whitmire, CGCS
 2013 Chester Guzek
 2012 Brian Vincel
 2011 Jeff Whitmire, CGCS
 2010 Jeff Whitmire, CGCS
 2009 Chester Guzek
 2008 Robert Friend, CGCS
 & Jeff Whitmire, CGCS (tie)
 2007 Robert Friend, CGCS
 2006 Robert Friend, CGCS
 2005 Jeff Whitmire, CGCS
 2004 Troy Hall
 2003 Jeff Whitmire, CGCS
 2002 Robert Friend, CGCS
 2001 Rick Wakefield, CGCS
 2000 Jeff Whitmire, CGCS

Past Assistant Champions

2014 J.D. Dickinson
 2013 Eric Sheets
 2012 Brendan McNulty
 2011 Matt Sobotka
 2010 Josh Saunders
 2009 J.D. Dickinson
 2008 Andrew McCormick
 2007 Ryan Severidt
 2006 Pete Alvord



VGCSA Fall Conference – Bigger and Better in 2015

VGCSA Annual Meeting Now Part of the Event

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Save the Dates of October 19-20 for the second edition of the VGCSA Fall Conference, returning to Hermitage Country Club in the western part of Greater Richmond. New for 2015 is the addition of the popular VGCSA Annual Meeting proceedings. With the Joe Saylor Memorial tournament also a part of the festivities, this event is quickly turning into a “can’t miss” opportunity for education, networking, golf and fun!

The Education Committee is currently working on the lineup of speakers, with an outstanding slate anticipated.

The Hilton Short Pump & Spa is the

official hotel, located adjacent to the Short Pump Town Center Mall, about 12 miles west of downtown Richmond. This new hotel is beautifully appointed and features a lively bar, Shula's Steakhouse and the Aura Spa.



Hermitage Country Club, Manakin Course, Hole 14

Fall Conference Schedule of Events

Monday, October 19

8:30 am – Joe Saylor Registration, Hermitage CC • Driving Range Open
10:00 am – Shotgun Start, M&M Consulting Putting Contest
3:00 pm – Awards Reception presented by Landscape Supply, 50-50 Drawing & Door Prizes
6:00 pm – VGCSA Annual Meeting, Hermitage CC, Networking Reception
7:00 pm – Dinner and Awards

Tuesday, October 20

7:30 am – Networking Breakfast
8:30 am – Welcome - Jeff Holliday, CGCS • Introductions
8:45 am – Education
10:00 am – Break
10:15 am – Education
11:30 am – Lunch
12:30 pm – Education
1:45 pm – Break
2:00 pm – Education
3:15 pm – DCR/DEQ Updates, Concluding Remarks - Jeff Holliday, CGCS
3:30 pm – Adjourn

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GCSAA Launches Marketing Campaign

GCSAA is launching an exciting new outreach campaign, hoping to stir golfer appreciation for the great work of our members. By utilizing TV, radio, print, and internet media, GCSAA's new "thank a superintendent" campaign aims at reaching the 25 million golfers who enjoy the fruits of their superintendents' labors.

The television spots (15 and 30 seconds long, respectively) are headlined by the Golden Bear, Mr. Jack Nicklaus, and feature other marquee names like Rory McIlroy, Rickie Fowler, Jordan Spieth, Matt Kuchar, Michelle Wie, and Nick Faldo. These big-name golfers have big-time influence, and GCSAA is using their testimonies to show the golf world why superintendents are a key component of the game's success and enjoyment. These ads will run on the Golf Channel throughout 2015 and you can check them out at <http://www.gcsaa.org/thankasuperintendent>.

The radio ads, similar to the TV ads, also feature Nicklaus and other brand-name

golfers and will air on Sirius XM PGA Tour Radio (Sirius 208, XM 93) as well as local golf radio shows throughout the nation. Both TV and radio ads can be co-branded by GCSAA chapters and aired in their local markets. The radio spots can be heard on the same link provided above.

By tracking internet traffic on golf-related websites, these ads will take advantage of dynamic internet marketing to pinpoint golfers' web browsers and lure them in with a chance to win a trip to the 2015 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits. When golfers view the ad, they are prompted to fill out a "thank your superintendent" form for their chance to win the trip to the PGA Championship. On the back end, GCSAA will then send that thank you note to the golfer's superintendent and the superintendent's employer. Pretty cool.

The project is spear-headed by two new faces to the GCSAA team – Associate Director of marketing Russell Sypowicz, and Director of communications and media,

Craig Smith. Both bring great experience to the GCSAA team, and look to continue making headway in future outreach and marketing initiatives.

In other news, Jenny Pagel-Guile is the new face of the GCSAA Certification Program, replacing recently retired Penny Mitchell. Jenny is working to help further develop and grow the CGCS program, and wants to hear member feedback in order to provide more directed services. 2014 saw 22 newly certified members, and 8 members have started the process in 2015. Please feel free to reach out to her directly for questions regarding the application process or eligibility at JPagel-Guile@gcsaa.org.



Chase Rogan
USGA
Field Representative

WE ARE GOLF Hosts 8th Annual National Golf Day Two Million Jobs, Nearly \$70 Billion Economic Impact Highlight Key Messages Reverberate through D.C. Special from Glenn Gray

WE ARE GOLF — a coalition of the game's leading associations and industry partners — visited Capitol Hill on April 15 for the eighth annual National Golf Day to discuss golf's nearly \$70 billion economy, \$4 billion annual charitable impact, environmental value to local communities and fitness benefits.

Golf's leaders met with members of Congress throughout the day to share stories about the game's 15,350 diverse small businesses, which employ more than two million Americans and provide \$55.6 billion in annual wage income. In addition, industry executives discussed golf courses' positive influences on ecology, local tax revenues and tourism. They even explained how walking 18 holes can burn 2,000 calories.

"Golf is a vital part of our country's economy and today was a great reminder of that," says Congressman Chris Collins (R-NY). "What better way to discuss the game's economic, charitable and environmental findings than here in our nation's capital."



Organizations participating included the GCSAA, LPGA, NGCOA, PGA, PGA TOUR, USGA, CMAA, US Golf Manufacturers Council, World Golf Foundation and others.

National Golf Day featured a day-long exhibit in the Rayburn Foyer with live lessons for Congressional Members and staff from 2012 PGA Teacher of the Year Michael Breed and LPGA Teaching Pro Karen Palacios-Jansen. Special exhibits and activities included a "Closest to the Pin" contest on an aboutGolf simulator; state-of-the-art swing analysis from GolfTEC; National Arboretum's "Grassroots Initiative" overview; a Republican vs. Democrat "Putting Challenge;" and a turfgrass exhibit

from the MAAGCS.

"Today marked a unique opportunity to share golf's significant impact with political leaders," says Steve Mona, CEO of World Golf Foundation and administrator of WE ARE GOLF. "Our broad scope is reflected in the two million jobs supported by the game and its diverse benefits to our economy and society."

WE ARE GOLF, created in 2010, is an industry coalition that communicates the economic, charitable and environmental impact of golf, as well the health and wellness benefits of the game and the affordability and accessibility of golf, to Members of Congress, the Executive Branch and regulatory agencies. The goal of WE ARE GOLF is to ensure that laws and regulations that impact the golf industry are equitable and appropriate to an industry. For more information, please visit www.wearegolf.org.

GCSAA Social Event

Hosted by VGCSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS

Wednesday, February 25, 2015
Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX

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Effect of Golf Course Turfgrass Management on Water Quality of Non-tidal Streams in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

C.M. WILSON¹, E.R. Yagow², K. Xia¹, E.H. Ervin¹, and S.H. Schoenholtz³

ABSTRACT

Turfgrass management activities on golf courses have been identified as a possible source of Chesapeake Bay nutrient pollution. Total Maximum Daily Load goals are in place to reduce nutrient amounts entering the Bay.

Dissertation investigations include (1) the role of golf course turfgrass management in nutrient deposition or attenuation in local streams, (2) estimations of total nitrogen (N) discharging to the watershed from stream outlet points as a function of land use and watershed area, and (3) other factors potentially affecting water quality on golf courses, including soil characteristics and use of best management practices (BMPs).

Total N, nitrate-N, ammonium-N, phosphate-phosphorus (P), streamwater temperature, specific conductance (SpC), pH and dissolved oxygen (DO) were sampled at 12-14 golf course stream sites in the James River and Roanoke River

watersheds during baseflow conditions. Discharge was determined at outflow locations.

Unit-area loads (UALs) were calculated from monitoring data. These UALs were then compared to UALs from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model land use acreages and simulated loads for corresponding watershed segments.

Virginia golf course superintendents were also surveyed to determine BMP use. No consistent impairment trends were detected for streamwater temperature, SpC, pH, or DO at any of the sites.

Outflow NO₃-N was below the 10mg L⁻¹ EPA drinking water standard. However, some sites may be at increased risk for benthic impairment with total N concentrations >2mg L⁻¹, as suggested by VADEQ.

Significant increases in nitrate-N at OUT locations were measured at four sites, whereas decreases were measured at two sites. Ammonium-N significantly decreased at two sites. Golf course N UALs calculated from baseflow monitoring were lower than or similar to UALs estimated for forested areas in the associated watershed segment at seven out of the 12 sites.

Golf course UALs ranged from 1.3-87kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹. Twenty-one of 32 surveyed BMPs had an adoption rate ≥50% among survey respondents.

In most cases, presence of golf courses generally does not appear to significantly degrade baseflow water quality of streams in this study. Management level appears to be an influencing factor on water quality and concerns may be heightened in urban areas.

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Rounds4Research Gears Up for 2015 Auction

Please Donate a Foursome!

Welcome to Rounds 4 Research, an innovative program aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future. The premise is simple: Golf facilities can support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two or four or "stay and play" packages and other items that will be auctioned off online to generate funds for turfgrass research. Rounds 4 Research is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf and presented in partnership with the Toro Co. The EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

The VGCSA is featuring a research auction for the ninth consecutive year, with proceeds going to the BMP Fund, currently in the Water Quality Monitoring phase. All VGCSA rounds are slated to be auctioned overlapping with this year's US Open and Father's Day, running June 8-21, 2015.

Accordingly we are now soliciting donated rounds. We already have a good start of rounds donated thus far as follows:

1757 Golf Club
Ballyhack Golf Club
Captain's Cove Golf & Yacht Club
Cedar Point Country Club
Eastern Shore Yacht & Country Club
Ford's Colony Country Club
Forest Greens Golf Club
General's Ridge Golf Course
Goodyear Golf Club
Goose Creek Golf Club
Heritage Hunt Golf and Country Club
Independence Golf Club
Ingleside Resort
Kiskiack Golf Club
Lake Monticello Golf Club
Prince William Golf Club
Salisbury Country Club
The Crossings Golf Club
Virginia Oaks Golf Club



Virginia Tech Golf Course
Winchester Country Club

We are asking *all Virginia clubs* to please donate one or two complimentary foursomes of golf (including cart) to be auctioned to benefit our research fund. In order to allow time to prepare for the auction, **please donate by May 22, 2015.**

A donor form is attached with the newsletter mailing, or you may donate online at www.rounds4research.com. **Please make sure you designate that proceeds benefit the Virginia GCSA.**

VGCSA members can help promote the auction by advertising the auction at their club in an electronic newsletter or special email – the VGCSA office will reach out for your help in advance of the auction.

Buy Sod Scholarship Program Grows in 3rd Year

The Buy Sod VGCSA Scholarship program was established in 2012 by Buy Sod, Inc. 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 SM members in good standing of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association are eligible for the program.

At the VGCSA Annual Meeting, Buy Sod's John Robertson funded the program again with a \$3,000 contribution, based on sales to customers in Virginia.

Scholarship winners must enroll at an institution of higher learning within one year of high school graduation, and the award check will be written to the school/institution. The VGCSA Board of Directors will be the final authority in the selection process. Awards will be announced by June 12, 2015.

Last year, the honorees were Jordan Cochran of Martinsville (daughter of Mike Cochran of Bassett Country Club), Jacob Whitfield of Haymarket (son of Rich Sereno of Oak Creek Golf Club) and Layne Zirkle of Amherst (son of Michael Zirkle of Winton Country Club). The committee plans to expand the program this year.

Applications are now open for this new program, and a form is enclosed with the newsletter mailing and available at www.vgcsa.org. Applications must be received by May 22, 2015.



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News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

March Madness, our beginning of the year social, was held on March 19 in Richmond, Williamsburg, and Charlottesville. Thanks to Jacobson for sponsoring this year's event at all three locations. Landscape Supply co-sponsored the Charlottesville event.

The Tollie Quinn golf tournament sponsored by Smith Turf & Irrigation will

be held on May 4. Brent Graham and Two Rivers Country Club will be the host of this year's event. The format is a two-man scramble with lots of food, drinks, and prizes.

The VGCSA championship will be held at Glenmore Country Club on June 17. Don't forget, this championship serves as the primary opportunity for our

members to qualify for the Virlina Cup.



Dan Taylor
ODGCSA
External Vice President

TTA Winter News

The TTA began the year in February with our annual night out at Buffalo Wild Wings followed by a Norfolk Admirals hockey game. This year's game had over 30 members and families in attendance. It was fun evening with a lot of great networking and camaraderie. We would like to thank Sam Coggin, Tom Rash and Vereen's for sponsoring this event. It would've been even better if the Admirals had won; however, it was still a good game.

In mid-March, Honey Bee Golf Club hosted the first official 2015 TTA meeting with a very important topic "Doing More with Less," presented by guest speaker, Keith O'Neill, of IAI Consulting. Keith talked about many ways he has found to save on resources, touching on everything from staff and time management to product selection and soil management. The meeting was well attended and very informative. Many thanks to Jeremy

Frisicaro for being an amiable host.

On April 28, the TTA held its meeting at Riverfront Golf Club. This event, which included golf and food was free to all members. Dr. Fred Yelverton from NC State spoke with an open forum discussion on weed control, with the main focus on *poa annua* management.

Looking ahead into May, the TTA will be holding the annual Dick Cake Memorial Golf Tournament and the Virlina Qualifier at James River Country Club on Wednesday, May 13. The registration forms can be found online.

The TTA is very excited about this upcoming 2015 season. We already have three great events under our belt and are looking forward to the next event coming up soon. The Board is encouraging every member to become more active within your association.

Coming to meetings, networking and socializing with your fellow superintendents is important to open communication and keeping a pulse on the golf community. Spending time with your peers can be productive and very beneficial to you, your club and our profession.

If you know of a fellow superintendent who is not currently a member, please encourage them to join the TTA or your local association and start enjoying the benefits associated with them. Likewise, this is a great time to get your assistant superintendent involved.



Pete Stephens, CGCS
Tidewater Turfgrass
Association
External Vice President

SVTA News

The Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association kicked off the year with a great roundtable discussion at Winchester Country Club in March. It was well-attended and topics discussed ranged from *poa* seedhead suppression to wetting agents. Thanks to everyone who attended. I thought it was one of our better meetings.

Our next scheduled meeting is May 28 at the Shenvalee Golf Resort in New Market,

VA. Dr. Shawn Askew from Virginia Tech will cover many areas, but one major topic will be weed-related.

The meeting at Shenvalee will also be a golf qualifier with the top four members going on to represent the SVTA at the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation fundraiser.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting and have a great spring.



Scott Cornwell
Shenandoah Valley
Turfgrass Association
External Vice President

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News from Local Associations

News from the GWGCSA

As with, I think, everyone on the entire eastern seaboard, I'm glad to see spring has finally arrived, and seems to be staying around this time. Similarly to last year, we have gone from frozen, to scrambling to get everything prepared for a, hopefully, long and beautiful golf season. It is actually nice to see people out on the course digging trenches with their irons (at least those who haven't figured out that hybrids are the way to go) and completely ignoring cart path only signs, and in the process, creating some perfect furrows for planting the wildflower gardens I had planned for the middle of all our fairways.

Things here in Northern Virginia are really about to gear up with our first event of the year, and boy is everyone excited about this one. After a substantial amount of arm twisting and mostly friendly ribbing, Mike Mueller (aka "Mayor of Herndon") most generously offered up the fabled Herndon

Centennial Golfers Club for our Virlina Cup qualifier on Tuesday, April 21. We had a good field attend the long-overdue return (Wait a minute. I think we've been trying to get an event at this exclusive track for years, to no avail.) to one of the most historic courses in the Greater Washington area. All kidding aside, I think this was a great event with many of us vying for a treasured spot on the team to represent Virginia and lead us back to the winners circle against the boys from down south. Scott Cornwell won the spot and Matt Zarnstorff was second.

We have some other great events planned for the year which I am going to withhold presently since things always seem to change after I put them out there. One event, however, that I'm sure will be going off, is the VGCSA Assistants Forum. This will be held in October at Belmont Country Club in Ashburn. Host Superintendent,

Aaron Wells, has arranged for us to use this tremendous facility for what I consider one of our most important events, a chance for all of us to help our proteges network and learn the skills they will need to fill our shoes in the future. I hope all of you will send your assistants and consider attending yourselves. See you all there.

Signing off now with my regular encouragement of making sure you are spending some time doing the things you love and not just working.



*Shawn Gill
GWGCSA
External Vice President*

VTA News

I guess my comments about how we have not had much snow this winter came back to bite us. Most of the region started March covered in snow. Luckily, that quickly melted away and gave way to some very favorable growing conditions. Aerification of greens has pretty much wrapped up and pre-emergent have been hitting the ground. Now it is just a battle keeping up with the mowing of rough and wondering if we can ever develop a sure fire way to deal with *poa annua* seed heads.

This year, we are putting our efforts into informing our members about the

importance of establishing a Nutrient Management plan. The state's deadline is quickly approaching and now with some more grant money freed up by the state, we want to make sure all the courses around here take advantage while the money is still there. Another major push this year will be the importance of reporting irrigation water usage to the state. In the long run, this will only help superintendents.

We started out our yearly meetings with a get together at Goodyear Golf Club in Danville. This May we will be holding our Bob Ruff fundraiser tournament at Ashley

Plantation and followed in June with a trip to Auburn Hills where Jeff Synder will look to defend his spot on the Virlina Cup this fall.

Have a great remainder of your spring and just remember that most of us will start our fall aeration in about 100 days, but who's counting.



*Sean K. Baskette
Hidden Valley
Country Club
VTA President*



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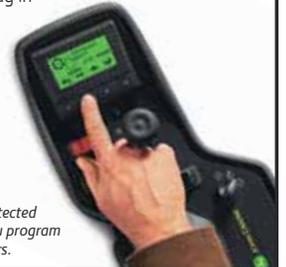
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