

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

I hope this message finds everyone and your families in good health. We recently held our VGCSA Annual Meeting at the 2011 VTC Conference and Show at the Fredericksburg Expo. I would like to thank the VTC Board and Tom Tracy for another outstanding show this year. Many of you utilize this season to take in the GCSAA Conference and GIS, and I know it is time well spent.

I would also like to congratulate Lee Dieter for recently being awarded the 2011 President's Award, Eric Spurlock for being awarded the 2011 Distinguished Service Award, and Josh Focht for being our 2011 Scholarship recipient. Thanks again, gentlemen, for all you do, have done, and will do to promote the superintendent profession and our great industry.

The VGCSA Board has been busy the past couple of months. Our BMP Committee has been meeting regularly and has been communicating with the Virginia Tech staff on our BMP (Best Management Practices) Project. We look forward to our first draft, of this important document, in late February 2011. Peter McDonough, our chairman, has also been busy on the hill in Richmond meeting with law makers to discuss issues associated with our industry. Thanks, Peter, and to everyone that joined him in Richmond for all your hard work!

The Joe Saylor event held on October 25th was, again, a huge success. I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and thanks to the entire Farmington Country Club Staff and in particular Scott Kinnan and his staff for a fabulous golf course to play that day. The Joe Saylor was again our charity event as we donated, what seemed like, a record amount of toys this year.

Following the Joe Saylor, in November, Eric Spurlock, our Past President, attended the GCSAA Chapter Delegates meeting in Kansas City. Eric was asked to give a



presentation on our Commonwealth's environmental stewardship and an orientation regarding our BMP Project. The outcome of the meeting is posted on our website (www.vgcsa.org) and the GCSAA website.

During the Chapter Delegates Meeting, the delegates were given the opportunity to meet and speak with the 2011 Slate of Nominees. All candidates are highly qualified and very professional. Other issues discussed were a proposed dues increase, new programming initiatives, and new conference and show features were outlined as well. Congratulations goes out to Mr. J. Rhett Evans for recently being named the new GCSAA Chief Executive Officer. All the best in your new position Rhett!

The Second Annual Assistants Forum was a huge success! I would like to thank Mr. Josh Saunders, Assistant at Kinloch Golf Club, for organizing this wonderful event. We had a great speaker, Mark Kuhns, CGCS, of Bultusrol Golf Club, who led the meeting and discussed the future of our industry and why we do what we do. Mark also gave our group some great tips for a successful career in golf course management. I think it is safe to say that our assistants that did attend are looking forward to next year's event, and those who did not I would highly recommend that you be there in 2011.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the entire staff at Country Club of Virginia for hosting us, and in particular Christian Sain and his staff for having the golf course in fantastic shape for us. I would also like to thank Griggs Brothers and our other partners that helped sponsor the event.

At this writing, I'm headed down to the GCSAA Conference and our 4th Annual GCSAA Social Event with the MAAGCS and Eastern Shore GCSA (February 9, 2011 in Orlando, FL at the GIS). The event is always a great time to catch up with longtime friends, network with industry peers, and share some great food and drink.

During our November Board Meeting, we accomplished several things. The primary goal was to set the 2011 Budget. Again, a conservative budget was voted on and approved by the Board. Financially the VGCSA is in good shape as we had a great 2010 campaign. Our VGCSA Board Officers will not change and at this time I would like to thank Mr. Matt Boyce, our Vice President, Mr. Jeff Holliday, our Secretary/Treasurer, and Mr. Eric Spurlock our Past President for serving again with me on the 2011 Board. There will be four new faces that comprise the Board of Directors for 2011, of which I am honored to serve with. We welcome Dan Taylor, External VP from the ODGCSA, David Lewallen, External VP from the SVTA, Charlie Fultz our Partner Position on the Board, and David Callahan our Assistant Position on the Board. Welcome gentleman! Thanks to Mark Price ODGCSA, Ed Eagle SVTA, Dan McGrory—Partner Position, and Josh Saunders—Assistant Position for your willingness to serve and your commitment to our great organization.

I would like to take this time and challenge each and every one of you in 2011. We belong to one of the most engaged Golf Course Superintendent organizations in the country and I am extremely proud of where we have come from, where we are, and where we are going. There is a need for volunteers and always will be when it comes to volunteer

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2011 VGCSA Board of Directors: Front Row (L-R): Jeff Holliday, Matt Boyce, Jeff Berg, Eric Spurlock, David Callahan. Back Row (L-R): Charlie Fultz, Dan Taylor, Dave Lewallen, Chris Petrelli, Jeff Van Fleet. Not pictured: Mark Cote.



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Rounds4Research 2011– Benefitting the BMP Project

We Need Everyone's Support!

Very soon you will receive a formal appeal to support this year's Rounds4Research.com auction in the mail. As you know, we raised more than \$8,000 to further turfgrass research efforts in our first year. This year's auction runs April 10-17, and we hope to do better.

We certainly have the room for improvement, given that significantly less

than half the facilities in the state donated a tee-time in 2010. Please do your best to ensure your facility's participation by completing and returning the donation form or go to www.Rounds4Research.com and take care of business right now.

This year all funds will support our Best Management Practices (BMP) Project,



which will greatly benefit our industry. If anyone would like to make a cash donation, a check may be made to "Virginia Turfgrass Foundation" and sent to VGCSA office—donations are tax-deductible.

Nominations Sought for Most Valuable Technician Award

Does your turf equipment technician deserve a day in the sun, a tip-of-the-cap for all the hard work and the vital behind-the-scenes role they play in the success of your golf facility? If so, then nominate them for GCM's Most Valuable Technician (MVT) awards program, presented in partnership with Foley United.

Nominations are now being accepted for

this program, designed to honor the best and brightest golf course equipment technicians in the industry, the men and women who play such a key role in keeping the tools of golf course maintenance up and running.

The nominations will be narrowed to a field of three finalists by a team of industry judges. GCM readers will then be able to review the resumes and qualifications of the

finalists and vote online for their favorite. The winner of the MVT competition will then be announced in the June issue of the magazine.

To nominate a turf equipment technician, submit your nomination by **February 18** at <http://www.gcsaa.org/gcm/technician.aspx>.

Be sure to check back in March to vote for the finalists!

President's Message (cont.)

industry organizations. The VGCSA is no different.

I am challenging you to ask yourself a few questions, "Can I do more?", "Am I really that busy that I can't give back?", and "Is it really about me or the greater good of our industry?" If you are having problems answering those questions then get involved and welcome aboard. I can honestly tell you that it has been fun and an honor to serve the VGCSA members. It has also been a source of pride for me in my career as my father, Len Berg, was also a President of a Superintendent organization. He served as President, in the early 80's, of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents.

It has been a wonderful learning and growing experience and has afforded me the opportunity to develop long lasting relationships within the golf industry. Our 2011 Board is comprised of great people and leaders who will lead this organization with you, the member, in mind during each and every decision we make. As usual, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get a hold of any of us.

I would like to call on all our members in support of our 2011 Rounds4Research campaign which will run April 10th-17th. This great initiative is in cooperation with other Superintendent organizations across the country and raised over \$8,000 last year for our BMP Project. It was a wonderful event that pulled all our colleagues together for a great cause. I would like to thank our Head Golf Professionals, General Managers, and other club officials for supporting this important campaign. I would also like to thank David Norman and Matt Boyce for helping put this initiative together and collect all the donations and keeping us organized throughout this frenzied process.

Thanks to those that supported this effort last year and to those that have already sent in their rounds this year. At this time, you should have already received a letter from me concerning this year's event, please get your rounds donations in ASAP! You can check to see if your course has donated by going to www.Rounds4Research.com.

In closing, I would like to take this

opportunity and thank all of our partners for their support they have given us over the past year. I hope, for our industry as a whole, that the recent economic turnaround continues and that discretionary spending increases as well. Our Association relies heavily on this support from our partners and us, as industry peers, need to support those who support our Association. 2010 Partner Program Participants, on behalf of the VGCSA Board of Directors, we THANK YOU and look forward to another successful season in 2011.

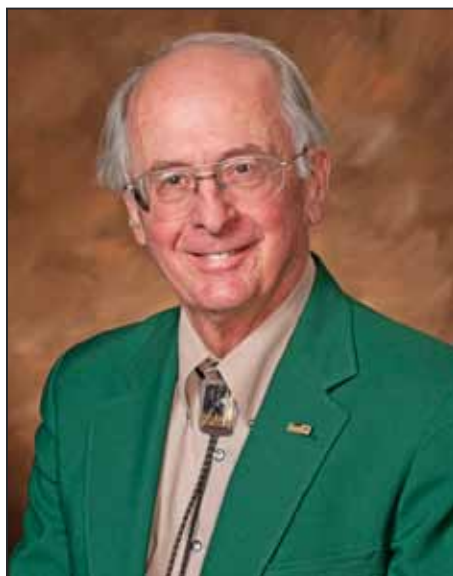
I wish all of you a great start to the 2011 golf season!

Fairways and Greens —



Jeffrey L. Berg
VGCSA President

VGCSA Announces 2010 Award Winners



Lee Dieter, CGCS, 2011 President's Award Recipient

2010 VGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Achievement

In the nomination for Lee Dieter, CGCS for the VGCSA's highest honor, the President's Award for Lifetime Achievement, one member wrote:

"Lee was a long time superintendent at Washington Golf and Country Club. He was involved in the GWGCSA and was past president of the Virginia Turfgrass Council. Lee dedicated his life to the golf course industry and was well respected."

Lee is admittedly a member of the "old guard" of golf course superintendents, and has witnessed major transformations in the industry from his arrival in Virginia in 1960, until his retirement some fourteen years ago. And in addition to industry metamorphosis, he was a catalyst for change in developing the associations that now serve the industry.

Lee may be the only individual to serve as President of four major regional organizations: GWGCSA, MAAGCS, VTC and VTE. He was a charter member of SVTA and ODGCSA, and he served on the USGA Green Section Committee for 15 years. Lee was also a pioneer with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, initiating that program at Washington G&CC early on.

So why didn't Lee get this award sooner, you may ask. Well he was actually retired when VGCSA was formed in 1999. But his career contributions made

it an easy choice for the committee to bestow this great honor this year. *(Please see the article "Reflections..." on page 5 for more on Lee's passion and commitment to the profession)*



Eric Spurlock, 2011 Distinguished Service Award Recipient

2010 VGCSA Distinguished Service Award

Eric Spurlock is this year's Distinguished Service Award winner, and VGCSA President Jeff Berg wanted to make sure it was a surprise to Eric. This was particularly difficult, as Eric currently serves as VGCSA Past President. It was evident that Jeff succeeded, as Eric was floored when he was announced to the crowd during the VGCSA Annual Meeting.

Eric is the superintendent of the Manakin Course at Hermitage Country Club in the Richmond area. He graduated with a Turf Management degree from Virginia Tech in 1995, and was immediately hired by Hermitage to be the Second Assistant Superintendent. Two years later he moved up to First Assistant Superintendent, and just a year later he became Superintendent of the Manakin Course.

In 2004, Eric worked with top-rated architect Keith Foster on the renovation of the Manakin Course, which included extensive drainage work, a new irrigation

system and the re-grassing of all playing surfaces. In 2006, the Manakin Course was rated #5 in the US for "Best Renovation" by *Golf Digest*.

Eric has a stellar record of serving fellow superintendents through his involvement in various organizations. He is a Class A GCSAA member, where he has served on numerous national committees. He was a Charter Member of VGCSA. He was a Past President of ODGCSA, then he moved to the VGCSA's board. He served the VGCSA as Vice President in 2007. When then-President Jeff Yarborough left the industry, Eric moved up to President. He was the elected President and served for two more years.

One of Eric's fond memories was serving on the grounds crew for the 2009 US Open at Bethpage Black Course. He remembers how nice Phil Mickelson was, when he spoke with him while prepping the course following a severe rainstorm. Of course, his best memories are with his wife Brooke and their two lovely daughters.



Josh Focht, 2011 Scholarship Recipient

2010 VGCSA Scholarship Winner

Jason Focht's passion for the game of golf started at an early age. He attended Fluvanna County High School in Palmyra, Virginia where he was the

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Reflections on 50 Years of Serving the Golfing Public and Our Profession – Lee Dieter

It's the morning after and I'm sitting here trying to realize what happened yesterday in Fredericksburg. Although I had a couple of days notice, I really didn't reflect on the enormity of the honor I was receiving—The Lifetime Achievement Award from my fellow Virginia Superintendents.

It certainly ranks at the top of my list of things of which I am proud. Receiving it from an organization that didn't exist when I retired 14 years ago is more amazing. Most of the board members were not even born when I came to Virginia 51 years ago. It made me reflect that I guess I did have a bit of an impact on golf course maintenance practices, the growth of the industry, and the betterment of our profession.

Thank you all for stirring up this old memory of mine. I loved everything about my years of involvement with the VTC; The Virginia Turfgrass Foundation; The Greater Washington, Mid-Atlantic, The Old Dominion, The Shenandoah, and the National Golf Course Superintendents Associations. It truly was a labor of love!

When my bride and I moved to our new home and new careers in Virginia in 1960 many things were so different. Integration was a dream; women worked in their homes and were there for the kids. Men devoted their lives to employers who were expected to reward them with employment and a full and rewarding career, including retirement. Have things changed much? They certainly have.

The dream is now close to reality (Integration); it takes two people working outside the home and working together to raise their children.

Today's employers, I believe, now look at

not moving on to new jobs and responsibilities as stagnation in an employee.

How about the golf course maintenance practices of today? The developments in this area over the last 50 years are unbelievable. The development of chemical control for weeds, insects and diseases, the breeding of new grasses for better quality and more closely mowed turf, the use of more and more improved power equipment to apply fertilizer and chemicals, and to groom and mow these turfs. The automatic irrigation systems (I could write a book about night watermen and manual systems), our maintenance buildings, crews, and budgets have grown to enable us to provide the kind of conditions that our golfers see on TV and at the resorts they visit in their leisure.

Let me reflect back on what it was like in those post WWII war years. People would ask about the turf on my course, and I would tell them what I was trying to grow in the Mid-Atlantic. My answer was that the little tees were mostly bare ground (unless the crabgrass came in early and heavy). I tried to hold the Poa in the fairways until the soft crabgrass came in. I felt that was a better alternative than the goosegrass that came in later and was so hard to get a good clean cut.

The turf areas all reseeded themselves, didn't they? Then what about the greens? Fertilizer and chemicals were applied with a proportioner and drop-type spreaders. Topdressing was with done with shovels and wheelbarrows. Weeding on greens was by hand with crews of school kids and bamboo poles (the only time when the crews exceeded 10).

The maintenance buildings were small; much equipment was kept out in the weather. The main room (office, shop, lunch room, paint shop, was all in one room) was heated by a pot belly stove fueled by wood from the golf course. We recycled then, too! All the mowing, tees, aprons and fairways were done with the newest equipment, five gang Worthington Chief fairway units.

Enough of these references to maintenance practices back then, I had almost forgotten how bad it was. Thank God we had the devotion to our careers and profession to push for change in all these areas. We all worked together to influence legislation, and get more accomplished in all areas of turfgrass research. We interacted with the equipment manufacturers hoping they would build what we needed and had invented on our own. We educated the golfers to understand that it would take all these efforts, as well as funding, to give them the golf facilities that they had learned to expect. What we see today on the golf courses in Virginia and the rest of the golfing world is really the result of these interactions.

Each year at the club brought course improvements, new and more innovative equipment, a fleet of golf carts (10) in 1961 and a continuous cart path (one of the first in 1965), and the bridges, walls, and buildings to support them. We renovated the maintenance building with a heated addition, and an office for the golf course superintendent. (I moved the phone from the end of the work bench.)

Among the innovations I used to achieve the improvements were: the

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Award Winnners (cont.)

caption of the golf team his senior year. After high school he attended Ferrum College for a year majoring in horticulture. In 2008, he transferred to Virginia Tech as a horticulture major focusing in landscape contracting. After a semester at Virginia Tech he discovered the turfgrass management degree and decided to add the too! Now, he is a

rising senior at Virginia Tech double majoring in Horticulture, Landscape Contracting and Crop Soil Environmental Science, Turfgrass Management option.

Over the last four years of his college career, he has completed summer internships at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville and at Spring Creek in

Gordonsville, under the supervision of Brian Vincel. Currently Jason is working with David McCall, the turfgrass pathologist at Virginia Tech, assisting him in field and lab research.

After graduation Jason plans to pursue a career in turfgrass management as a superintendent at a golf course in Virginia.

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EPA Accepts Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Plan

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has received word that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan submitted by the Administration in November. The plan was developed as part of EPA's establishment of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) or "pollution diet" for the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia is one of seven Bay jurisdictions which develop such plans. The TMDL sets goals for all the Bay states and the District of Columbia to reduce the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment entering the Chesapeake Bay from its rivers and streams.

"We are pleased that EPA has accepted the Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan as a part of their Chesapeake Bay TMDL," said Governor McDonnell. "Our plan reflects recommendations made by the public and Virginia stakeholder groups and proposes specific actions in appropriate timeframes to achieve significant cost effective reductions in pollution to the Bay. We feel it is a stringent but workable plan that demonstrates Virginia's commitment to cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay while providing for continued economic growth in the Commonwealth. After much discussion with the EPA, the approved plan balances the important environmental protection concerns with the need to protect jobs in agriculture and farming. While we maintain our concern about aspects of the EPA watershed model and enforcement authority, as well as the significant additional public and private sector costs associated with plan implementation, we believe Virginia's plan will make a significant contribution to improving water quality in the Bay."

The plan identifies actions to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment entering the Bay from all major sources, including sewage treatment plants, industrial facilities, urban areas, agriculture, forestry and septic systems. It also establishes a special process for evaluating the James River based on its unique characteristics and on water quality standards that apply only to that river.

The plan approved today by EPA includes revisions made to an earlier draft submitted in September based on discussions with the federal environmental agency and stakeholders. These stakeholders included representatives from local governments, the agricultural and development communities

and sewage treatment plant operators. Key provisions of the plan include:

- An additional 2.6 million pounds reduction of nitrogen in the James River basin from wastewater treatment plants.
- High expectations for the adoption of resource management plans on agricultural operations that will feature water quality best management practices, with consequences if goals are not achieved.
- Actions that will lead to nitrogen-reducing septic systems.
- High standards for limiting runoff from new development and for the control of storm water in existing storm drainage systems.
- Use of new and emerging technology to achieve nutrient and sediment reductions.
- The expansion of the existing nutrient credit exchange program, which will be a tool for greater flexibility and cost effectiveness in pollution reduction actions.

The plan also includes specificity regarding the timing, oversight and enforcement of pollution reduction actions.

"As we stated when we submitted this plan, we continue to believe this is the most far-reaching and ambitious plan ever devised to clean up Virginia's rivers and the Chesapeake Bay," said Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech. "And we have devised a plan that while ambitious is also

realistic, balanced and cost effective. It is significant that EPA accepted Virginia's plan without imposing any Clean Water Act backstops or consequences. A lot of the credit goes to the leaders and professionals at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation working under the Governor's direction to get this plan done right."

"I appreciate both Governor McDonnell's leadership during the development of the Watershed Improvement Plan and the EPA's acceptance of it," said Todd P. Haymore, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. "I am also grateful for the assistance that the administration received from our key agricultural stakeholders. Although farmers are the country's original environmentalists and chief stewards of our precious natural resources, Virginia's agricultural community expressed to Governor McDonnell, Secretary Domenech, and this secretariat its continued willingness to enhance Chesapeake Bay water quality now and in the future. We worked with them to develop a plan that is reasonable and equitable."

For more information or to comment, phone Taylor Thornley at (804) 225-4262 or email Taylor.Thornley@governor.virginia.gov.

VGCSA Webcast Education Event • ON DEMAND • Available at Your Convenience

How to Read Your Soils Report

VGCSA has purchased access from GCSAA to a 90-minute educational webcast. **There is NO COST to you!** You can download the file to your computer and listen at your convenience anytime through the end of March. The "live" version attracted 65 participants, so you won't want to miss it! **Email Lisa Wick at [GCSAA](mailto:lwick@gcsaa.org) and register now: lwick@gcsaa.org**

The Course Knowing more about the soil on your golf course may help you manage your turf and ornamentals more effectively. Understanding the details on the soils report you've received back from the lab may not be as simple as it sounds. Learn more about how to correctly read your soils report during this 90-minute webcast with Beth Guertal, Ph.D., who will show examples of various documents and provide key details on how to use that information on your golf course.

The Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Guertal is an Associate Professor of Turfgrass Management and Soil Fertility at Auburn University. She conducts research in the area of turfgrass soil fertility and is responsible for teaching Introductory Turfgrass Management and is also the advisor for the undergraduate students enrolled in Turfgrass Management in the Department of Agronomy & Soils. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University and Oklahoma State University.

To get your 0.2 education points, you will be asked to complete a short survey after the program.

If you have any questions or need help, please contact Lisa Wick, senior manager of e-Learning programs at GCSAA at 800-472-7878, ext. 3649, or David Norman, VGCSA Executive Director at 804-747-4971 x113.

Take advantage of this unique opportunity brought to you by the VGCSA!

Evans Named GCSAA Chief Executive Officer

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, announced today that J. Rhett Evans has been selected as the organization's chief executive officer.

Evans, who has served as interim CEO since late June of 2010, came to GCSAA in July 2009 as chief operating officer. Prior to joining GCSAA, he was the director of the parks, recreation and commercial facilities division for the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, Ariz., (population 490,000). He was elevated to that position in 2005, after serving as that city's convention center and amphitheatre director beginning in 2001.

"We are excited to have Rhett Evans as our CEO," Fitzroy said. "He has a track record of success everywhere he has been. He has experience in the golf industry, both on the facility level and from an organizational perspective. He has experience in managing a large staff and being accountable to a variety of constituents. And, he is a consensus builder. That will serve him well with GCSAA



Rhett Evans

members and in the increasingly collaborative golf industry."

While in Mesa, Evans managed all program areas including the convention center and amphitheatre; spring training baseball complex (Chicago Cubs); cemetery; recreation and aquatic complexes; and 2,600 acres of park space. Also under his watch were the operations of Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses. He

oversaw a budget of \$32.5 million and a \$28 million capital budget.

In his tenure at GCSAA, he exhibited solid leadership in implementing cost saving measures through more advantageous contracts in the areas of technology and convention and travel services; implementing headquarters building operational efficiencies; and staff reorganization. At the same time, GCSAA has improved member service through the creation of a member savings program; automated membership, registration and donation processes; new communications vehicles; an improved online job board; and the expansion of the field staff program.

As GCSAA CEO, Evans also assumes the duties of chief executive officer for its philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf.

Fitzroy indicated GCSAA will conduct a search to fill the chief operating officer position created by Evans' promotion, although no timetable or job description has been established.

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Member Profile: Ray Nash, Superintendent

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Golf holes at your facility: 36

Years at your current golf club: 10

Years as a golf course superintendent: 12

Favorite hobbies: Fishing, woodworking and golf.

Favorite professional golfer: Arnold Palmer

Favorite sports team(s): Baltimore Orioles

Biggest role model as a professional: My Father... The simple lessons learned from him have resurfaced many times. Among them, the importance of putting in an honest day's work; also, never to put off until tomorrow what could be accomplished today; and, in any situation, to always treat others the way I would want to be treated.

How did you get your start in the golf maintenance profession? Playing junior golf at a modest 9-hole course and assisting with its maintenance.

What has been, to date, the most rewarding part of being a golf course superintendent? Having a positive impact in the lives of co-workers—mentoring others and helping them to realize their full potential.

What would be one thing, if you could, change about the golf course superintendent profession? Convincing the public in general that Golf courses have a positive effect on the environment; and that Superintendents are, in fact, stewards of the environment.

In the next five to ten years, what are the biggest challenges we face as golf course superintendents? Doing all that is possible to control costs and keep golf affordable, while maintaining courses at a very high standard.

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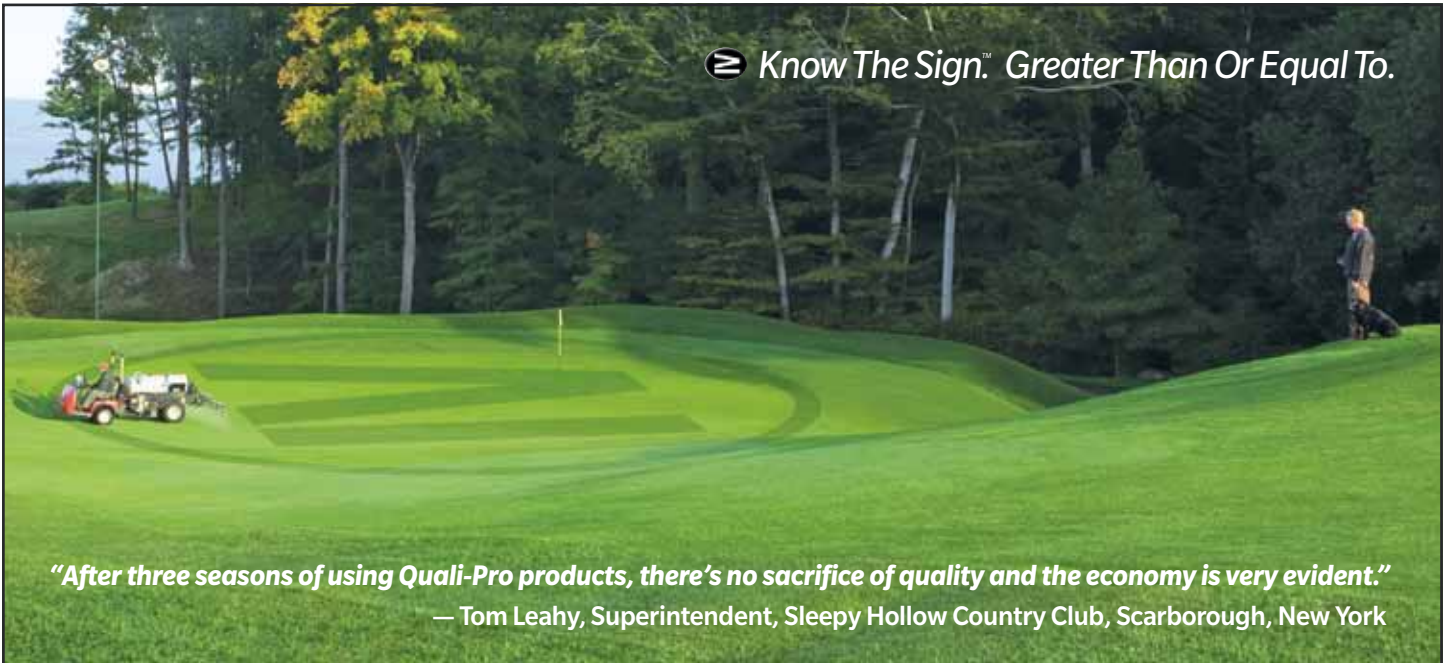
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Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

Driving Actions to Clean Local Waters and the Chesapeake Bay

On Dec. 29, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), a historic and comprehensive “pollution diet” with rigorous accountability measures to initiate sweeping actions to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and the region’s streams, creeks and rivers.

Despite extensive restoration efforts during the past 25 years, the TMDL was prompted by insufficient progress and continued poor water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. The TMDL is required under the federal Clean Water Act and responds to consent decrees in Virginia and the District of Columbia from the late 1990s. It is also a keystone commitment of a federal strategy to meet President Barack Obama’s Executive Order to restore and protect the Bay.

The TMDL—the largest ever developed by EPA, encompassing a 64,000-square-mile watershed—identifies the necessary pollution reductions from major sources of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment across the District of Columbia and large sections of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, and sets pollution limits necessary to meet water quality standards in the Bay and its tidal rivers.

Specifically, the TMDL sets Bay watershed limits of 185.9 million pounds of nitrogen, 12.5 million pounds of phosphorus and 6.45 billion pounds of sediment per year – a 25 percent reduction in nitrogen, 24 percent reduction in phosphorus and 20 percent reduction in sediment.

The pollution limits are further divided by jurisdiction and major river basin based on state-of-the-art modeling tools, extensive monitoring data, peer-reviewed science and close interaction with jurisdiction partners. The TMDL is designed to ensure that all pollution control measures needed to fully restore the Bay and its tidal rivers are in place by 2025, with at least 60 percent of the actions completed by 2017.

The final TMDL is shaped by an extensive two-year public involvement effort and, in large part, by final Phase I Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) developed by the six Bay states and the District of Columbia, which detail how and when the jurisdictions will meet pollution allocations.

In addition, the TMDL includes targeted



The Chesapeake Bay Watershed shown in green.

“backstop allocations” for the few areas where the WIPs did not meet the allocations or EPA’s expectations of reasonable assurance that those allocations would be met, and a plan for enhanced oversight and contingency actions to ensure progress.

Also, EPA has committed to reducing air deposition of nitrogen to the tidal waters of the Bay from 17.9 to 15.7 million pounds per year through federal air regulations during the coming years.

The Chesapeake Bay TMDL is unique because of the extensive measures EPA and the jurisdictions have adopted to ensure accountability for reducing pollution and meeting deadlines for progress. The accountability framework includes the WIPs, two-year milestones, EPA’s tracking and assessment of restoration progress and, as necessary, specific federal actions if the jurisdictions do not meet their commitments.

Addressing the Challenges

A TMDL is the calculation of the maximum amount of pollution a body of water can receive and still meet state water quality standards designed to ensure waterways meet a national primary goal of being swimmable and fishable. Monitoring data continues to show that the Bay has poor water quality, degraded habitats and low populations of many species of fish and shellfish. The Bay and its rivers are

overweight with nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment from agricultural operations, urban and suburban runoff, wastewater, airborne contaminants and other sources. The excess nutrients and sediment lead to murky water and algae blooms, which block sunlight from reaching and sustaining underwater Bay grasses, and create low levels of oxygen for aquatic life, such as fish, crabs and oysters.

The Bay TMDL—actually a combination of 92 smaller TMDLs for individual Chesapeake Bay tidal segments—includes pollution limits sufficient to meet state water quality standards for dissolved oxygen, water clarity, underwater Bay grasses, and chlorophyll a, an indicator of algae levels.

Actions under the TMDL will also have significant benefits far beyond the Chesapeake itself, helping to clean rivers and other waterways that support local economies and recreational pursuits like fishing and swimming, and serve as drinking water sources.

In 2011, while the jurisdictions continue to implement their WIPs, they will begin development of Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans, designed to more closely engage local governments, watershed organizations, conservation districts, citizens and other key stakeholders in reducing water pollution. The Phase II WIPs are expected to provide local area targets for implementation on a smaller scale. Phase III WIPs in 2017 are expected to be designed to provide additional detail of restoration actions beyond 2017 and to ensure that the 2025 goals are met.

For further information, visit
<http://www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl>





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News from Affiliated Chapters

News from the GWGCSA

By me sitting down and composing this newsletter, I realize that the season has finally come to a close. In my 25 years in the industry, I can't recall a worst sustained weather pattern than last summer. We are cautioned not to write off last year and to actually take something from our experiences. I choose to take this, I don't like summer anymore. That just about sums it up.

We did manage to play some golf late in the season. The annual Superintendent-Assistant championship was held in October at Bristow Manor Golf Club. Congratulations to the team of Dave Horton and Shane Sullivan from Old Hickory Golf Club who won the trophy with a better ball score of 67. The team of Bo Jumbercotta and Rob Hessler won the open division with a score of 68. Kudos goes out to Stephen Barrett, Benny Benton, Dave Ahart and the entire staff at Bristow Manor 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.

Additionally, special recognition and thanks goes out to our speaker, Dr. Erik Ervin from Virginia Tech, for his update on the BMP project. The team of John Dunker, Bert Schoenadael, Tim Weiss and Sean Owens won the scramble event.

Of note, the 2011 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 March.

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

VTA News

Greetings from Southwest Virginia, we are having another cold and snowy winter with no break in sight.

The board of the VTA has met and the plans for this year are exciting and the meeting schedule is shaping up to be another filled with educational opportunities. As an incentive to attend and in recognizing the continuing dwindling budgets we are trying to make each meeting as affordable as we can, this may include price reduction and or subsidizing the costs as an association.

In order to reach as many members as possible we will holding meetings in all parts of our membership area, we hope that all these efforts encourage more members to attend what looks to be a promising educational line up. The finished schedule should be available by the end of February at the latest.

In order to improve our communication with our members we will be sending an electronic newsletter on a monthly basis. I would encourage any one to provide us with news or information to be included. At this time I would like to extend congratulations to David Callahan, Assistant Superintendent at Hidden Valley CC, for being selected to serve as the Assistant's representative to the VGCSA board. I hope that all in our area should extend a helping hand should he ask in his planning of this year's Assistants Forum,

We look forward to an exciting year here in southwest Virginia and hope to see as many people as can make it to our meetings.



Mark Cote
VTA President

USGA Green Section Regional Conference Set for March 8

A regional green seminar conducted by the United States Golf Association in cooperation with Virginia Golf Council. This seminar is for golf club green committee members, golf course superintendents, assistant superintendents, club managers, golf course owners and operators, golf professionals, golf association officials and interested golfers.

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 • Country Club of Virginia (Westhampton) • Richmond

Hosted by Virginia Golf Council

Continental Breakfast

Links to the Bay Initiative • Darin Bevard, Senior Agronomist

Bacterial Wilt of Creeping Bent-grasses: A New Disease of Golf Course Putting Greens
Nathaniel Mitkowski, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Plant Pathology, University of Rhode Island

Firm and Fast. What Is It and How Do You Get There? • Keith Happ, Senior Agronomist

How Fast Are Your Greens...Really? • Darin Bevard, Senior Agronomist

Tools of the Trade Brought to You by the USGA • Dr. Kimberly Erusha, Managing Director of Education, USGA Green Section, Far Hills, New Jersey

Looking Back at The US Open at Pebble Beach While Looking Ahead to Congressional (Plus a Few Extra Words of Wisdom for 2011)
Stanley J. Zontek, Director, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section, Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

Questions and Answers

Luncheon Deli Buffet

Jacket & Tie Please • **\$45 Pre-registration (by March 4) • \$55 at the door**

Register online: <https://www.usga.org/register> • Event Code 30811

For Additional Information please contact Laura Niehaus at 412-341-5922 (lniehaus@usga.org) or Marti Zontek at 610-558-9066 (mzontek@usga.org)

News from Affiliated Chapters

TTA News

Happy belated holidays to everyone and, thankfully, goodbye to 2010. We survived everything that Mother Nature threw at us last year, it's good to turn the page and face 2011 with renewed energy and focus.

First, I want to welcome the newest members of the TTA board for 2011 and those that have moved on. We have added two new directors, Ted Smith from Kingsmill and Chris Brnich from the Hamptons GC, and all of our officers positions have changed. It is good to see some new faces and some new ideas on how to keep the association relevant and serving our members needs.

Special thanks to Travis Creech and Rob Wilmans for their many years of service and I know they will be involved with the TTA in many different ways in the future. The complete list of our new board is available on the website at vgcsa.org.

The TTA has been busy planning our upcoming schedule and we should have a complete list of events out soon. Our first

event will be February 18th, a gathering to watch our local minor league hockey team the Norfolk Admirals. This is our first time for this and we want it to become a regular event.

This year, we will emphasize having at least three meetings with education being offered. Tentatively, we are shooting for these to be our March, April and May meetings because meeting attendance seems to be the greatest in the spring. We will also continue our 9-hole socials with an attempt to increase participation. We are going with a 3:30 starting time this year, to appeal to some of our superintendents that are unable to leave work early. I encourage all of our members to join us for another great slate of events in 2011.



Chris Petrelli
TTA External VP
Cedar Point Country Club

News from the ODGCSA

Life is too short to wish time away, but 2010 made most of us wish for 2011 to get here quickly. It's here now and we will soon be facing new challenges that have yet to be identified.

One challenge that the ODGCSA faces each year is how to increase attendance at our regular events. Last year we made some adjustments to our routine and saw improvement that we will continue to build upon. The full schedule of events will be out soon and we hope you will make time to join us often.

For now we have firm plans to hold another **March Madness** social gathering

on **Friday, March 18th at Champs Bar and Grill** in Stony Point, Richmond. This was a hit last year and with more details to follow we expect this year to be even better.

People are what make the industry and our association great and I think you'll find a benefit in joining us.



Dan Taylor, CGCS
External President
ODGCSA

SVTA Update

The Shenandoah Valley has experienced a rather dry winter. I think we are all happy not to see the large amounts of snow we received last year, but nobody wants to go into the spring and summer in drought conditions.

This past fall, the SVTA donated \$5,000 towards the state's BMP program. The SVTA is currently exploring ways to increase member participation by making our meetings more interactive.

Our new board members are: Vince DiStefano, President; Kurt Hellenga, Vice President; Kip Fitzgerald, Secretary; Bobby Jenkins, Treasurer; David Lewallen, External Vice President; and Kurt Fellenstein, Past President.

We are looking forward to more precipitation and hope for great growing conditions in the spring. We would like to thank everyone for their support of the turf industry as more and more regulations come out of Richmond. Please continue to stay up to date with the BMPs and nutrient management changes.



David Lewallen
SVTA
External Vice President

2011 golf industry show Silent Auction



Bidding is open and closes on Feb. 21. Go to the Silent Auction website, <http://www.golfindustryshow.com/showinfo/silentauction.asp>, to bid now!

The Golf Industry Show Silent Auction is presented by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the National Golf Course Owners Association Foundation, the American Society of Golf Course Architects, and the Golf Course Builders Association of America Foundation. Proceeds support environmental stewardship programs, including research and education to strengthen the compatibility of the game of golf with our natural environment, player development programs, and providing young people the opportunity to learn golf and the life values the game of golf represents.

EPA Unveils Its Plan to Restore the Chesapeake Bay

The 15-year plan aims to reduce pollution from sewage plants, farms and storm water runoff.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday released a Chesapeake Bay cleanup plan that relies primarily on actions pledged by bay states, including Virginia.

"This is a very historic moment in the history and the future of the Chesapeake Bay," said Shawn Garvin, administrator of the EPA's mid-Atlantic region.

Garvin called the plan "the largest water-pollution strategy" in the nation and one of the largest in the world.

Bay states largely would carry out the cleanup, but the EPA could enforce compliance through punishments such as cracking down harder on sewage-treatment plants or withholding grants.

The plan is indeed historic, but the hard work lies ahead, said William C. Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, an environmental group.

"It is essential that EPA stand firm and impose consequences" if state cleanups lag, Baker said.

The 15-year plan aims to reduce pollution from sewage plants, farms and storm water runoff. It seeks to clean not just the bay but also waters leading to it.

No one has calculated the total cost of



the cleanup, but in Virginia the price is estimated at \$7 billion or more in state money alone.

Experts have placed the value of the bay, even in its degraded state, at more than \$1 trillion to fishing, tourism, property values and shipping.

Howard R. Ernst, a U.S. Naval Academy political scientist, has been critical of past cleanup efforts. Ernst said Wednesday that the latest effort—which the EPA calls a "pollution diet"—amounts to putting goals on paper.

"As many overweight people will remind you, starting a diet is far easier than shedding pounds," Ernst said.

Efforts to restore the bay have fallen short since the 1980s. President Barack Obama's administration has given the cleanup a new emphasis.

For Virginia, the EPA plan relies largely on measures Gov. Bob McDonnell's administration outlined in November,

including new pollution cuts for sewage plants in the James River region.

McDonnell said Wednesday that Virginia's plan "balances the important environmental protection concerns with the need to protect jobs in agriculture and farming."

The EPA praised Virginia officials for saying they would consider new pollution-cutting requirements for farmers by 2013 if incentives don't do enough.

But EPA officials said they would subject Virginia to "enhanced oversight" to make sure urban areas sufficiently address pollution from storm water that runs off streets and yards.

The EPA plan is designed to cut nitrogen pollution 25 percent, phosphorus 24 percent and waterborne dirt 20 percent. The pollutants cloud bay waters and fuel the growth of algae.

The plan aims to put enough pollution controls in place by 2025 to clean the bay—with most of the controls in place by 2017.

The plan affects Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The EPA's Garvin said the cleanup will evolve as experts see what works and what doesn't.

"It's going to be somewhat fluid," he said.

Reprinted from the Richmond Times-Dispatch

Reflections (cont.)

planting of hybrid bermuda grasses on the tees then the fairways (1961), the overseeding of tees then fairways to perennial ryegrasses (1966), creeping bentgrass tees (Penncross of Course 1968), removal of clippings from tees then fairways (1976), automated water system (1976), and the use of a computer in the office (1980).

I implemented and carried out a regular yearly tree planting, trimming, and removal program. I always tried to stay on the cutting edge of developments that could improve the quality and condition of the turf on the course. I strived for 36 years for the best that could be achieved in all areas of golf course maintenance at the Washington Golf & CC. Before retiring, I implemented the first phases of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Jim Weaver who followed me at the club finished implementing the plan.

I continue to work for the industry and the environment in every way I can. I have been water testing and groundwater well depth testing for the Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River for the last eight years. These efforts have been my primary focus in my retirement.

Thanks again for the honor of being named the recipient of the President's lifetime achievement award for 2011.

God Bless you all. May He keep you and your families healthy, and your grass greener than ever.

Lee C. Dieter, C.G.C.S., retired

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Virginia Turfgrass Council – President 1971 & 1972; Board Member 12 years

Virginia Turfgrass Foundation – President 2 years

United States Golf Association Greens Section Committee – Member 1974-1978

Greater Washington G.C.S.A. – President 1964

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America – Member of Certification Committee when Education and Certification were implemented. Member of the Historical Preservation Committee for 9 years and during the 75th Anniversary Celebration. Member of the Conference and Show Committee, Member of the Election Committee,

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