

September 2017

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association



## President's Message

September is finally here, enough said. The numbers are in for our first joint Fundraiser at CCV and we will be sending over \$47,000 on to Virginia Tech for turf research. It was a great inaugural tournament. We're already planning for next year. Anyone with ideas for bettering the turnout or total, we're all ears.

Upcoming events include The Virgina Cup, to be held at The Highlands Club in North Carolina on October 1-3. Captain Jeff Holliday promises a strong defense of last year's win. The Joe Saylor goes home to James River Country Club this year and Rob Wilmans is excited to see a huge turnout. Steven Ball, our Assistants representative, has developed a stellar program for our Assistants Forum this year at Belmont CC. Steven has recently moved up to the Superintendent position at Ballyhack Golf Club, so he will be able to share some fresh transition thoughts to those attending. This year we are partnering with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAAGCS) at Belmont Country Club in Dulles.

The lineup for our Annual Meeting has been completed and it looks to be a diverse and informative field of speakers.

I am excited about the venue in Charlottesville (UVA's Darden School of Business) and I encourage your participation. We have responded to input from previous meetings, and I look forward to an improved event on December 4-5.

July came and went and with it the deadline for Nutrient Management Plans. We were informed by DCR that 39 courses either didn't have a plan or one started by the deadline. To me this was a great success and our industry should be commended as a whole. Going forward we will have this to point to when dealing with environmental issues and our ability to self-regulate. DCR will be contacting those courses that didn't comply – funds are still available and there will be a short grace period to start the process. If you are one of the 39, help the industry as a whole and get the ball rolling.

The fall season also brings with it the time for scholarship applications and award nominations. We have scholarships available for children of superintendents, turfgrass students, plus employees of VGCSA member clubs – we urge you to apply! Also, please take time to nominate

a worthy individual for one of our top awards, to be presented during the Annual Meeting in December.

Please save the date of March 6, 2018 for a huge new event, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Golf Conference in Alexandria. VGCSA is cooperating with our allied associations including VSGA, MSGA, MAPGA, NGCOA Mid-Atlantic and the CMAA chapters to stage a major networking and education event featuring top national leaders. The CEOs of GCSAA (Rhett Evans), PGA (Peter Bevacqua), NGCOA (Jay Karen), World Golf Foundation (Steve Mona) and other golf leaders have accepted our invitation to discuss the state of the industry. Consider bringing your GM, Pro and Club President – more info coming soon!

As always, huge thanks to our corporate partners and all they do for us.



Mark Cote, CGCS  
VGCSA President



## 2017 VGCSA Board of Directors

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# James River Country Club to Host the Joe Saylor Memorial on Monday, October 9

The VGCSA is excited to take the Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament to James River Country Club, in Newport News. TTA President Rob Wilmans will be your host. The event pays homage to one of the all-time-greats of our association, Joe Saylor who served golf for over 40 years. James River Country Club is also the course at which Joe spent 19 years of his career making this year's event extra special.

The golf course at James River Country Club is a classic design from the Golden Age of Architecture in America. The private, old-school layout, has now turned into a state-of-the-art milestone for the Hampton Roads area.

The par 5, 18th Hole is ranked one of the top finishing holes in the state of Virginia. A narrowed fairway from flanking trees on both sides, combined with an expansive James River framing the backdrop to an unreachable green by most golfers, makes everyone's round a once in a lifetime feel.

JRCC is also home to one of the world's greatest collections of golf artifacts and memorabilia. It is not only one of the foremost collections, it is also the oldest in the U.S. (1932). It opened four years prior to the USGA Museum, which began collecting its own artifacts and archives for its museum which opened in 1936.

The event will kick-off with a Bloody Mary & Screwdriver Bar and feature an on-course cookout for lunch. A local craft brewer will supply specialty brews. As a tradition of the event, the awards reception will feature a chili bowl party with your favorite beverages. The event is expected to sell out.

Defending the Member-Member title will be Patrick McNamara of Dominion Valley Country Club and Scott Furlong of Robert Trent Jones Golf Club. Last year Ed Eagle and Billy Sayre of Staunton won the overall title. VGCSA

invites players to bring their pro and compete in the Super-Pro Division. Other divisions include Member-Member and Member-Guest.



Host Rob Wilmans, GCS



Defending champions Ed Eagle and Billy Sayre



Chase Rogan participates in the putting contest as Ted Huhn looks on



James River Country Club



Trevor Hedgepeth and Paul Van Buren



Dave Smith and Jeff Holliday with items collected for Toys for Tots last year.



# Virlina Cup Preview

## VGCSA Team Defends the Cup at Highlands Country Club in Highlands, NC

This year marks the eighth year of the Annual Virlina Cup between the VGCSA and the CGCSA. After Team Virginia triumphed in an intense battle at Belle Haven Country Club last year, they will be making the trip to Highlands Country Club in Highlands, North Carolina to defend the cup.

Captain Jeff Holliday is fired up for the event, "I think we have assembled a team full of character and fight, I feel confident

that this is one of our strongest and most competitive teams we've had so far."

The competition is set for October 1-3 with teams of 8 players going head-to-head in four-ball, foursomes and singles matches. The VGCSA Team qualified at the VGSA Championship and at various regional qualifiers. A special thank you goes out to Sam Camuso, Ben Peters and the rest of the Syngenta team. Syngenta is the founding sponsor of the event.



*Presented by*

**syngenta**



Jeff Holliday, Team Captain



Mark Cote, Assistant Captain



Jeff Whitmire  
Williamsburg Golf Club



Jeff Yarborough  
King Carter Golf Club



Matt Zarnstorff  
Creighton Farms



Scott Cornwell  
River Creek Club



Garrison Fowler  
Two Rivers Country Club



Brent Graham  
Two Rivers Country Club



Chip Bass  
Falling River Country Club



Trevor Hedgepeth  
Kinloch Golf Club



Highlands Country Club  
Highlands, NC



# VGCSA Conference is December 4-5 in Charlottesville, Event Continues to Grow

The VGCSA Conference continues to grow in its fourth year, and the event moves to The UVA Darden Inn & Conference Center in Charlottesville on December 4-5, 2017 – **SAVE THE DATES!**

This year's lineup of speakers is exceptional, and the topics are varied. You will hear about turf challenges, life balance, positive psychology, hiring and retaining staff, organic nutrition and problems/opportunities. In addition, we will tackle how to engage more students to enter the profession.

The event kicks off with the optional pre-con event, where USGA Agronomist Elliott Dowling will discuss the advantage of using colorants for warm season turf during the off-season. Scott Kinnan is hosting at Farmington CC, and the event features an on-course demonstration.

After lunch the full conference begins at Darden. Significant education credits will be available to VGCSA members, as the Old Dominion's Education Segment will take place on the first day, running 1-4 pm. Headlining the day is Dr. Cale Bigelow of Purdue University, who earned his doctorate at Virginia Tech – he will discuss the "Assistants Pipeline." Also on Monday, we will have a special appearance by acclaimed sports psychologist Dr. Bob Rotella, who will share stories and insights designed to get you "thinking positive."

After Monday education, the Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations will commence, then there will be a FREE Partner Appreciation Reception, featuring your favorite beverages and hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of networking time with your friends. Ian Grove of Target Specialty Products will be sponsoring a Monday Night Football Party that evening at Sloney's Pub, on-site at the Inn, featuring great food and drink!

Then on Tuesday, a Networking Breakfast will run 7:30-8:30 a.m., followed by more education, beginning with highly acclaimed Tim Hiers, CGCS of Mediterra GC in Naples, FL speaking on "Problems & Opportunities." Next up will be GCSAA Government Relations specialist Bob Helland, updating us on state and national politics affecting the industry. Then Bigelow returns to discuss organic nutrition.

Presented by



After lunch on Tuesday, Everette Fortner (UVA Associate VP, Career and Professional Development) will discuss "Energy Management," a life balance discussion. Wrapping up the education is Addison Barden of the USGA Green Section, discussing "Employee Recruitment & Retention." The event will conclude with the award of door prizes and GCSAA event codes.

The event is clearly moving to a great

conference location, but the VGCSA Board is sensitive to the price for members. 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 \$99 plus tax at the on-site Darden Inn. The VGCSA is committed to providing value and service to its members.

## Speaker Lineup



Dr. Cale Bigelow



Dr. Bob Rotella



Tim Hiers, CGCS



Bob Helland



Everette Fortner



Addison Barden



Elliott Dowling

# Independence Golf Club to Host Virginia Tech Turf Trials, Research Funded by New Tournament

By Dr. David McCall

Most reading this article have likely already heard about the resounding success of the inaugural Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic and Field Day (TRC&FD) held this past May at the Country Club of Virginia. The VGCSA was well represented, both in attendance and in preparation leading up to the event. David Norman and Tyler Eastham did the lion's share of heavy lifting for this event with countless behind-the-scenes hours dedicated to making the event run smoothly. We greatly appreciate the support of Christian Sain and Dave Rathke for allowing us to "invade their property" at CCV for research trials. In all, the VT Turf Team placed fourteen trials within a short walk of the Tuckahoe Creek maintenance facility, which served as various stops for the field day. This event is what the Virginia Tech Turf Team has envisioned for quite some time; one that brings the industry together to showcase some of our current research, while also raising money for bigger and better things.

Most have also heard about our new partnership with the Independence Golf Club (IGC) in nearby Midlothian, where we are establishing nine different warm-season putting green varieties around the Bon Secours Short Course. What some may not realize is that the two events are directly related. The TRC&FD generated approximately \$47,000 that is being used, in part, to establish the new research facility at IGC. In partnership with the VGCSA and the VTC, the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation pledged \$30,000 towards establishing the research greens in 2017. Many of the grasses selected for IGC were on full display during the field day in the C4 NTEP putting green study.

To date, all nine greens at IGC have been established by either sprigs or sod, though the level of maturity varies from green to green. The first wave of sprigging and sodding occurred on May 23, the day after our inaugural TRC&FD. Sprigs of Champion, TifEagle, and G-12, along with L1F and M-85 zoysiagrass sod are now fully established and are receiving regular golf traffic (Figure 1). July sprigging of FAES 1302, Mini-Verde, 12-TG-101, and JK 110521 are in various stages of

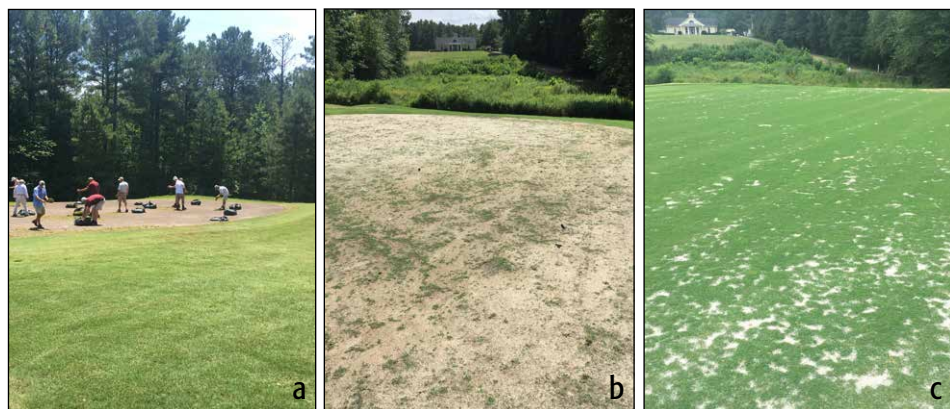
establishment. Some will be open for play by mid-September. As with any new project, there have been some growing pains. Some of the experimental varieties that we are testing have very small material stocks, therefore were necessarily sprigged at lower than desirable rates (Figure 2). Slow establishment was to be expected, but all greens are now reaching a point in their maturity that give us hope for a successful first winter.

With only a few loose ends to tie up with establishment, the VT Turf Team is now shifting focus towards establishing research on these greens. The first order of business is

to determine how no-till establishment impacts short-term and long-term playability (Figure 3). We are already seeing large variability in disease susceptibility (Figure 4), with trials underway to determine fungicide efficacy. Dr. Mike Goatley will lead studies that investigate how coloration of shade cloth impacts winter survival (and further establishment) over the coming months. We are still very active with research in Blacksburg, Virginia Beach, and many points in between. This new facility will serve as another home away from home for many projects in the coming years.



**Figure 1.** Fully established 'TifEagle' bermudagrass that is "open for business" at the Bon Secours Short Course at Independence Golf Club.



**Figure 2.** Tracking establishment of 'FAES 1302' bermudagrass at sprigging on July 12 (a), two weeks after sprigging (b), and five weeks after sprigging (c).



The 2018 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic and Field Day will be held at IGC on May 21, so please mark your calendars. We hope that many of you will

be able to make it out to this event, as there will surely be many interesting things that we learn in the first year of establishment and beyond. As always, we appreciate the

support of the VGCSA and all allied associations.



**Figure 3.** Ball roll.



**Figure 4.** Curvularia blight impacts one batch of 'L1F' zoysiagrass sod (foreground), while a second batch of the same grass was unaffected (background).

## Wadkins Headlines VGCSA/MAAGCS Joint Assistants Forum Oct. 30 at Belmont Country Club in Ashburn VA

CGS Aaron Wells and Belmont Country Club welcome us back for our Assistants Forum joint with MAAGCS on Monday, October 30. This year will feature former PGA Tour and current Champions Tour player Bobby Wadkins. VGCSA/MAAGCS assistants along with crew members, superintendents and partners are encouraged to attend this event. It is sure to be a fun and informative afternoon!

Bobby Wadkins won the Virginia State Amateur in 1971 and is a four-time winner on the Champions Tour, including a major, having captured the 2006 Senior Players Championship. He brings a wealth of knowledge through many experiences as he traveled the world. Bobby's topic will cover "Etiquette & Professionalism." Following the meeting he will treat us to a clinic on the driving range.

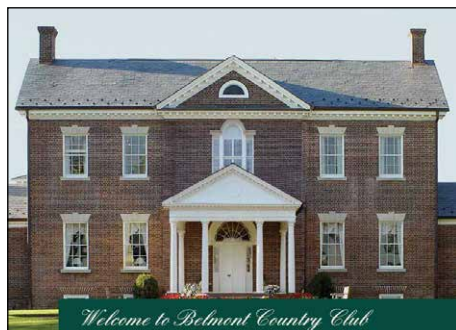
We will also have the Assistants Roundtable, an informative and lively

presentation with audience participation. Panelists include Bobby Watkins, Host Superintendent Aaron Wells and top industry professionals.

Following the meeting, there will be a

two-man captain's choice with a reception and prizes to follow.

Visit [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org) to register, or complete the registration form enclosed with the newsletter mailing.



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**Bobby Wadkins**

# Government Relations Round-Up

## Labor & Immigration

### GCSAA POSITION STATEMENT

Comprehensive immigration reform includes four pillars of reform: legalization; employment verification systems; temporary worker programs; and border security. GCSAA does not engage in the debate over legalization or border security. Due to the difficulty many golf facilities have in finding permanent and seasonal U.S. workers, GCSAA supports comprehensive immigration reform that includes guest worker provisions. Reform measures should safeguard seasonal worker programs and not place undue economic burdens on employers. Reform should create an immigration system and guest worker program that functions efficiently for employers, workers and government agencies. Reform should create a program that ensures U.S. workers are not displaced by foreign workers and ensures that all workers enjoy the same labor law

protections. Reform should strengthen national security by providing for the screening of foreign workers and creating a disincentive for illegal immigration. Enforcement of immigration laws is critical for the economic vitality of the country, national security and for successful comprehensive immigration reform. GCSAA supports reform that creates a fair employment eligibility verification system for new hires that functions efficiently, effectively, and inexpensively for employers, workers and government agencies.

GCSAA would like a more reasonable approach to overtime pay. We acknowledge the hard work the Department of Labor put into crafting the new overtime pay regulations but we want the agency to withdraw the rule and develop a new one that takes into consideration regional cost of living expenses. We want to see a phased in approach to the increase to the annual

salary threshold also. GCSAA members need additional time for employers to ensure compliance, communicate changes and accurately reclassify employees. GCSAA supports several pieces of legislation in Congress that reflect our concerns including:

H.R. 4773 – Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act

S. 2707 - Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act

H.R. 5813 – Overtime Reform and Enhancement Act



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## Use Your Voice to Help Permanently Rescind WOTUS

Golf Courses and Superintendents support clean water and work hard to protect our natural resources.

The WOTUS rule had more to do with land than water. I was a land grab, pure and simple, that:

- Created a huge regulatory burden for farmers, ranchers, and others who depend on their ability to work the land;
- Increased costs for golf courses, farmers, ranchers and others; and
- Produced confusion and uncertainty

Did you know that the rule has never been implemented because it was halted by both a federal district court and a federal court of appeals? But those court orders are only temporary. EPA's current proposal would eliminate the 2015 WOTUS rule permanently, while the agency goes back to the drawing board to develop a WOTUS definition that protects water quality without asserting federal regulatory power over



puddles on golf courses and in farm fields.  
Please visit [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org) to submit

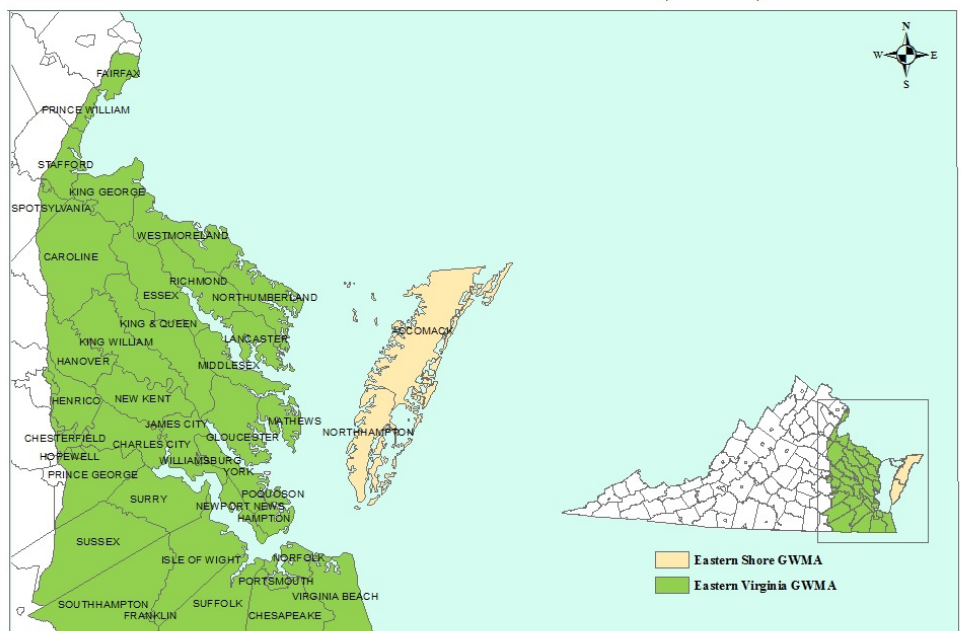
your comments and support the repeal of the 2015 "Waters of the U.S. Rule."

## DEQ Studying Eastern Virginia Groundwater Use

A new government relations issue is groundwater use in Eastern Virginia (east of I-95). A preliminary conference call with allied associations in turf took place in late August. DEQ is seeking to tighten regulations on surface water and wells; however, a "grandfather" clause is being contemplated. One thing is for sure – for any party that is operating a well without a proper permit, penalties will be enforced as of December 31 of this year – make sure your permits are in place!

Our committee has cited proposed elements that could hurt the golf course industry. The Virginia Agribusiness Council is helping us bring these issues to DEQ's attention. VAC has indicated that DEQ is not trying to hurt industries; rather, trying to update their regulations. Our committee is cognizant that new regulations in Eastern Virginia could then spread to other areas of the state later, so we are being vigilant to protect the industry and the 30,000 jobs it creates in Virginia.

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# Scholarship Applications and Award Nominations Accepted Through October 31

## Buy Sod Scholarship

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 must be received by October 31, 2017.

### Honor Roll of Past Recipients

- 2013 Rachel Van Fleet, Stafford, VA  
2014 Jordan Cochran, Martinsville, VA  
Jacob Whitfield, Haymarket, VA  
Layne Zirkle, Amherst, VA  
2015 Jake Thompson, Charlottesville, VA  
2016 Anna Friend, Richmond, VA  
Emily Murphy, Bristow, VA



## ODGCSA Scholarship

The ODGCSA continues with its scholarship program with support from Smith Turf & Irrigation. This year there will be two \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to students that are working at a club with a VGCSA 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 applicant can be any employee at a golf course that also has an employee that is a member in good standing of the VGCSA. Applications must be received by October 31, 2017. Applications should be sent to ODGCSA President Paul Van Buren (paulvanburen@verizon.net)

Applications for the Buy Sod Scholarship and the ODGCSA Scholarship can be found on our website [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org).



## VGCSA Award Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the 2017 VGCSA awards, which will be presented at the VGCSA Annual Meeting on December 5, 2017 at University of Virginia's Darden Business School & Inn in Charlottesville, as part of the Annual Conference. Any VGCSA member may submit a nomination to our committee. The awards are as follows:

**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 20 years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, 10 of which were as a superintendent.”

**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.”

**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, 2017. A nomination form is included in this newsletter mailing.

Please email nominations to Aaron Wells (awells@tollbrothers.com).

## 2016 VGCSA Award Honorees



Steve Snare, CGCS  
Presidents Award



Fred Biggers, CGCS  
Distinguished Service



Mike King  
Environmental Stewardship

# Complete Your Nutrient Management Plans Now

## DCR Grant Program Still Available – Penalties Imposed After Sept. 29, 2017

The deadline to complete your Nutrient Management Plan was July 31, 2017, but DCR still has grants available. As of today, only 39 courses in Virginia have not at least started the process for a plan. A golf course owner found in violation has until September 29, 2017 to submit a NMP to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for approval without penalty. If not submitted upon the deadline, a civil penalty of \$250 will be imposed.

The process to complete your NMP is easy and not as costly as you would think, often cheaper than the penalty for not having one at all. Having a plan shows the community that golf courses are conscious of the environment and actively taking steps towards protecting it.

The grant program is to assist courses with complying with this regulation which is allotted on a \$10 / acre schedule, but each contractor sets their own fee.

Visit VA DCR website for a sample plan: [www.dcr.virginia.gov](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov).

These contractors have DCR grant funds available to write nutrient management plans for Virginia golf

courses. You can contact DCR with questions about the grant or your courses eligibility by emailing [chantel.wilson@dcrvirginia.com](mailto:chantel.wilson@dcrvirginia.com) or call 804-887-8917.

### **Matt Austin**

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### **Marshall T. Hibbs**

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434-942-6351  
Area(s): All of central and western Virginia. Other areas call for availability.

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# Improving Your Maintenance Operation Using New Technologies

By Addison Barden, USGA Green Section Agronomist

Making agronomic decisions on the golf course has been backed a mix of science-based research and anecdotal decisions for decades. Until recently, data driven decision-making has not been prevalent in the day-to-day operations of superintendents. However, thanks to emerging technologies from other industries, gathering, interpreting, and implementing solutions is not just easy, it's affordable and extremely effective. James Harrington described the importance of making improvements by utilizing data well in his book, *Business Process Improvement the Breakthrough Strategy for Total Quality, Productivity, and Competitiveness*, when he said, "Measurement is the first step that leads to control and eventually to improvement. If you can't measure something, you can't understand it. If you can't understand it, you can't control it. If you can't control it, you can't improve it."

Despite data driven decision-making being a staple in many industries, I often hear superintendents say that they do not see the value using new technology to gather data such as labor. Doing so will give us the specifics behind how much particular tasks cost and how much is being spent on certain areas of the golf course. After all, labor is everyone's largest line item in a maintenance facility's budget and we track all of our other costs down to the square foot.

Accepting change can be difficult, especially in a conservative industry such as golf. Throw a new technology into the mix and it's no wonder that some superintendents don't want to be the "guinea pig" of a new product or service. However, it's 2017 and if we can land a rocket on a barge floating in middle of an ocean after it delivers its payload to the International Space Station, we should be able to incorporate new technologies on the golf course to help us do our jobs more effectively and with fewer resources.

There are four degrees of data adoption according to Brent Dykes, author of *Web Analytics Action Hero* and business consultant with numerous titans of industry.

Where do you fall in this spectrum?

1. **Data Denial:** You distrust data and avoid using it.
2. **Data Indifferent:** You don't care about data and have no need for it.
3. **Data Informed:** You use it only when it supports your opinion or decisions.
4. **Data Driven:** You use it to shape and inform all of your decisions.

Through no fault of their own, some superintendents have fallen under the first or second degree of data adoption due to the lack of affordable and useable technologies, but, times they are a changin.' Even though our industry will probably never reach the point that all of our decision-making is based on data, we're certainly at a point where many of our decisions can be easily made and delivered more effectively with data.

So how can we utilize data to make better decisions? Traditional data collecting, such as measuring putting green clipping yield, tracking growing-degree days, measuring volumetric-soil moisture with moisture meters, and even tracking labor hours are all great examples of how quantitative data improved maintenance operations and in turn, playing conditions.

Advancements in positioning technology (such as GPS and low-power wide area networks, or LPWAN) are taking our ability to track, manage, and plan where are resources are allocated to the next level. Positioning technology tracks any asset (golfer, golf cart, maintenance equipment, etc.) and then maps where that particular asset traveled to determine what areas are the course are most trafficked, or possibly left completely vacant. These tracks, or data, can be used to highlight pace of play issues, improve resource management, and even improve maintenance efficiency. Knowing exactly where certain demographics of golfers play on your course also helps with course setup and what architectural changes are needed to impact the greatest number of golfers.



Addison Barden

Course management software is also allowing superintendents to determine exactly how much specific tasks cost, determine full return on investment, maintain detailed records, and so much more. Those superintendents I visit who have implemented management software are in awe of how they previously operated without this data. This sounds strikingly similar to comments regarding the soil moisture meters many today cannot live without. This course management software also offers a reporting feature that provides easily digestible, yet detailed, reports that can be used to show facility stakeholders the importance, or worthlessness, of a particular agronomic program, project, or purchase. After all, chances are very high that the stakeholders at your facility are utilizing similar technologies in their business to make data informed decisions.







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# 2018 GCSAA Conference and Social Event

*Reservations Now Available for VGCSA Room Block in San Antonio*



The Hotel Contessa on the Riverwalk is the official hotel for VGCSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS for the 2018 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio. Room availability begins on February 3 and runs through February 11. Rates are \$182 for a king room or two doubles.

On Wednesday, February 7 will be the annual social event joint with MAAGCS and ESAGCS, so **SAVE THE DATE!**. The host venue for this year will be Howl at the Moon, the #1 nightlife spot in San Antonio that's keeping the Riverwalk dancing! Part bar and part concert, Howl creates a non-stop party with live music. With our VIP section it will be a fantastic event!

This is a **FREE** event thanks to partner sponsorships and will be a perfect time to catch up with your fellow industry colleagues and unwind with tasty treats and adult beverages. Registration for the social event is NOT required.

Please visit the VGCSA website ([www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org)) for the link to book your room.

**Deadline to book is December 1, 2017.**

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If you have any problems or have any questions please contact Kim Ragusa at Connections Housing – [gcsaa@connectionshousing.com](mailto:gcsaa@connectionshousing.com) / 702-586-0542 or 855-436-4743.





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# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

Hope everyone has had a great summer! I personally am ready to be able to get out and play some golf and enjoy the weather.

The Old Dominion has two \$1,000 scholarships that are to be awarded this fall. To apply for the scholarships you must be a student at a course that is currently a member of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendent. To apply for the scholarship is simple. Get the application form enclosed in this newsletter, write an essay explaining how this scholarship can help you further your education, and submit it by October 31, 2017. The application

and essay should be mailed to Paul Vanburen at Kanawha Club, 725 River Road West, Manakin-Sabot, VA or Emailed to paulvanburen@verizon.net.

The ODGCSA is excited to once again team up with the VGCSA to host a class at the fall conference this year. Dr. Cale Bigelow of Purdue University, and sports psychologist Dr. Bob Rotella will be the speakers for this year's class. They come with plenty of accolades and experience that is sure to be a highlight during the fall conference. Be sure to join us for this great event.

As a reminder, the timeline is over for the nutrient management plans, however, if you are one of the few courses that have not completed it and need help to get one completed for your course, please reach out to myself or any of the ODGCSA board of directors and we will be happy to help assist you.



Have a great fall season.

Scott Mauldin, CGCSA  
ODGCSA  
External Vice President

## TTA News

Mother Nature has been kind this summer and the season for most of us has been great to date. The Tidewater region has had only a few weeks of 90 degree plus days and for most of us the rain events has been timely and sometimes more abundant than needed causing Goosegrass, Crabgrass break-thru, and especially Nutsedge.

The last TTA event was the combination annual Dick Cake Memorial Golf Tournament and Virlina Cup Qualifier at Elizabeth Manor Golf & Country Club in May. It was a beautiful day and the course was in great shape. Many thanks to Jeremy Friscaro, a Director on the TTA Board and Golf Course Superintendent of Elizabeth Manor, for sponsoring the event. We look forward to more events at Elizabeth Manor.

Congratulations to Jeff Whitmire the

winner of the Dick Cake Tournament and Jeff Yarborough for coming in second place and qualifying for the Virlina Cup team this year.

On September 21st the TTA will be heading to the Outer Banks for our Fall meeting at Kilmarlick Golf Club hosted by Paul Culclasure, GCS. This will be another wonderful time to get out, play golf, and talk and network with our peers. One of our topics will be the DEQ Groundwater Proposal.

October 9th is the Joe Saylor Memorial tournament. It will be held at the James River Country Club, where Joe started as Assistant Superintendent. This event will be hosted by the TTA's President, Rob Wilmans. The TTA is excited to have the tournament back home and we know that

Rob will have the course in great shape.

The TTA board is looking forward to seeing everyone at these two events for camaraderie and networking. We wish everyone the best for the remainder of the season.

As always, if you know of a fellow superintendent who is not currently a member, please encourage them to join their local association and start enjoying the benefits associated with them. Likewise, this is a great opportunity to get your assistant superintendent involved.



Pete Stephens, CGCS  
Tidewater Turfgrass  
Association  
External Vice President

## SVTA News

It has been a quiet summer in the valley, but with cooler temperatures on the way. I would like to mention some dates to put on your calendar.

**October 9** – Joe Saylor Tournament at James River CC in Newport News

**October 20** – SVTA Fundraiser at Caverns CC in Luray

**December 4-5** – VGCSA Annual Conference in Charlottesville

**December 11-14** – Short Course at Belmont in Richmond

Hope to see you soon!



Ed Eagle  
SVTA External Vice  
President

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# News from Local Associations

## VTA News

Holes are being punched, seed and fertilizer starting to hit the ground and the smell of fall is close. Leaf blowers will start to get a workout before too long.

It goes without saying that there are no more “normal” summers. This year has been no different. The Southwest part of the state saw our fair share of hot and humid, which included a 16-day stretch in July with highs in the 90s. On top of that, most of the areas have been extremely dry. Beggars cannot be choosers. Last year was the other extreme.

In June the VTA held their meeting at Botetourt Golf and Swim Club where Sam

Taylor from Taylor Financial gave some insight into the current market and tips on how all of us can better save for the future. Also in June, we held our Virlina Cup qualifier at Boonsboro Country Club. We had a total of eight qualifiers, but none of us had anything for Chip Bass who shot an even par 72 to capture the VTA's spot on the team.

This August we held our annual Family Night at the Salem Red Sox. We could not have asked for better weather and, as always, it was great to get away with our family members and enjoy a great ball game, a few adult beverages and meet our

fellow peers' families.

We are going to wrap up the year with our Annual Meeting at Ballyhack Golf Club in mid- to late-October. The weather will have turned and it should be a great way to finish out the 2017 season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Joe Saylor and the Annual VGCSA meeting in December.



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

## News from the GWGCSA

The days are now getting shorter and like many Superintendents, Fall is by far my favorite time of year. Football, firepits, and frost delays. While it may be a little early for us to be talking about frost already, we've had some unseasonably cool temperatures for this time of year. Most of August provided us with a much needed break from the hot, wet conditions we experienced in July. I hope this cool weather trend continues which would allow for some great golfing conditions in our region.

The GWGCSA has a full line up of

events in the next several months so please be sure to make time to attend and support your local chapter. We are currently working on securing a venue for the September 26th meeting so please look for the upcoming email. Be sure to register early for one of the best events of the year, the Superintendent/Assistant Tournament at Springfield Golf and Country Club on October 23rd. A week later on October 30th is the Assistant's Forum at Belmont Country Club. This is a great networking event which provides an educational forum

in the morning followed by a round of golf in the afternoon. Then in early November we will have our year end meeting and golf event at Evergreen Country Club. Lastly, good luck to our Virlina Cup team as they head to Highlands Country Club in North Carolina to defend the title in early October.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.



*Aaron Wells  
GWGCSA External VP*

## Save the Dates!

### **October 9, 2016**

Joe Saylor Memorial Golf Tournament  
James River Country Club, Newport News, VA

### **October 30, 2016**

Assistants Forum Joint with MAAGCS  
Belmont Country Club, Ashburn, VA

### **December 4-5, 2016**

VGCSA Annual Conference  
University of Virginia Inn at Darden, Charlottesville, VA

### **February 7, 2017**

GCSAA Social at GIS  
The Hotel Contessa, San Antonio, TX

### **March 6, 2018**

Mid-Atlantic Conference  
Belle-Haven Country Club, Alexandria VA

### **May 21, 2018**

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Independence Golf Club, Midlothian, VA

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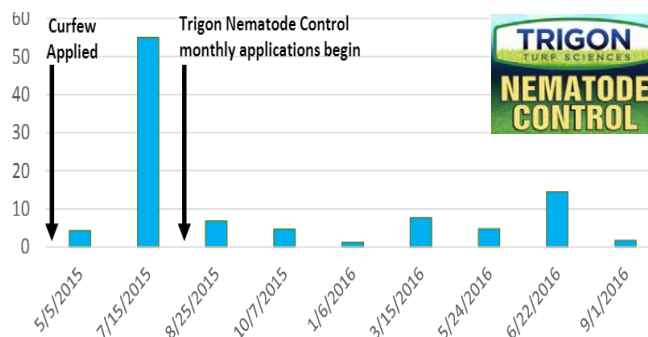
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