

Fall 2009

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## President's Message

Hello, all ...

I hope all are winding down from the summer months and are enjoying the fall renovation season of aerification, seeding, fertilizing, oh, and football season!! No question, the challenges we faced managing a golf course this year was different than in recent years. We all had "trouble spots" on the golf course, well at least I did, and sure we all had our issues dealing with budgets. Looking forward into 2010, it appears as if most clubs will be just as conservative, if not more so, with their dollars. Start planning next year now; and ask yourself what your department can do to help the facility even more, and be ready to implement these ideas when needed.

The Board of Directors met in August to begin the 2010 budget process. Along with the Board, invitations were extended to Presidents of the five local associations to get feedback on services currently in place and what services could be implemented in 2010 and beyond. The meeting was good and informative with several ideas. We are planning rather conservatively (imagine that), and we will not cut member services, only try to improve on them.

We are in the planning process for several events. As you may know, we have the Joe Saylor event right around the corner in October. The Board is planning to have a retreat coupled with this event. The purpose of the retreat is to allow for the board to interact with each other in a more casual relaxed atmosphere compared to our Board Meetings. We will also have



the opportunity for a meeting to discuss the future of the association. Basically visualize where we want to be in the future, what services would we like to incorporate and ask ourselves, "What if ...". I, along with the rest of the Board, am really looking forward to this and am confident that the benefit will be huge to us all.

John Libassi Assistant Superintendent at Heritage Oaks and VGCSA Board Members and the rest of the Education and Assistant Committee members are working hard to develop a program this fall geared towards Assistant Superintendents and crew members. This is shaping up to be a nice event, featuring Tim Moraghan of Aspire Golf as the speaker. The date is Monday, November 9 at Farmington Country Club, so mark it on your calendar.

On the GCSAA front; we have set our host hotel for the 2010 conference in San Diego—Holiday Inn on the Bay. Theresa Baria Executive Director for the MAAGCS is the point person this year, and she has been working closely with the hotel management staff to ensure our social event will be as nice and cost effective as what we have experienced in the past. The Chapter Delegates Meeting is being held in Kansas City on October 9-11. Please feel free to contact me or your External Vice President on any information you would like for me

to ascertain or bring forth to GCSAA.

Again, I would also like to take a moment and offer a huge THANK YOU to all our 2009 Partners. Partners, without your generous support during this difficult economic climate, we as an Association would not be in the position we are in now. The VGCSA is a highly regarded association among our allied golf association peers in Virginia. For those of us who are end-users of products and services, I ask that you support our Partners as they have supported us through the Partner Program.

In closing, I would like to offer a couple of thoughts—do not be lulled away by the cooler temperatures; we all need to be looking towards 2010. Please make sure you spend some extra time with the family. Personally, I had a "situation" several weeks ago involving my four and a half year old. Everything is okay now, but a perspective on the important things was made clear.

Enjoy the fall, the heavy dew, and of course a little football.

All the best ...

Eric D. Spurlock  
President  
Virginia GCSA



# Over \$9,000 Raised at 2009 Wee One Tournament

The 2009 Wee One Foundation Tournament held July 27 at Cypress Creek Golfers' Club in Smithfield was a big success. Over \$9,000 was raised for this important charity, which assists superintendents in the case of financial hardship associated with an illness within their family. The Harrell's team of Ian Grove, Jeff Holliday (Salisbury CC), Scott Mauldin (The Foundry GC) and Tommy Adams (Providence GC) took home top honors with a captain's choice score of 61, 11-under-par. The group enjoyed a beautifully conditioned course, as well as an excellent event which featured numerous prizes, both for the tournament and for door prizes.

## 2009 Wee One Foundation Tournament Team Scores Cypress Creek Golfers' Club • July 27, 2009

61 Harrell's	64 Syngenta	70 Landscape Supply
62 Mckee Team	65 Herod Seeds	70 Turf & Garden
63 St. Louis Team	66 Home Field Fertilizer	74 Revels
63 Phoenix Environmental Care	67 Flanders Blackwell	75 Crop Production Services
64 Sledd Sledd Askew Cobb	Fitzpatrick Kirchner	NC Cedar Point Club
64 Wendt Severidt Saunders Bower	67 Norman Many Landis Sarka	



The Harrell's team finished with a captain's choice 11-under-par, 61 to take top prize at the 2009 Wee One Foundation Tournament.



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# New Assistants Forum Set for Nov. 9 at Farmington Country Club

The new VGCSA Assistants Forum is scheduled for Monday, November 9th at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville. The event features a special education program presented by Tim Moraghan of Aspire Golf, focusing on what assistant superintendents need to know to build and enhance their career opportunities. The education session will take place in the morning, with a lunch and a golf outing to follow.

This event is ideal for assistant superintendents and crew members who wish to better themselves and their

careers. You do not have to be a VGCSA member to attend. Superintendents are encouraged to promote the event to their team. Entry fee will be modest, and it will include continental breakfast, education, lunch, golf and awards. Mark your calendar now and look for additional information in the mail and on the web site.

(Note: The VGCSA has set up various levels of sponsorship for companies who wish to show their support of our future leaders. Please contact the VGCSA office at 804-747-4971 or visit [www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org)).

## In Loving Memory of T. Wade Ashburn

Thomas Wade Ashburn, 28, died August 16, 2009. Wade never knew a stranger and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

He was born in Suffolk, the son of Robert D. and Debbie C. Ashburn of Suffolk and was preceded in death by his grandparents, Thomas and Janet Ashburn and Johnnie and Elizabeth Cook.

He was the assistant superintendent at the Suffolk Golf Course and was a member of the Suffolk Golf Association. Wade was a member of Western Branch Baptist Church. He was a graduate of Virginia Tech and a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his brother, Brian James Ashburn of Suffolk; cousins, Jeff Griffin and wife Amanda, Carolyn Ferraro and husband Mike and their daughter, Ashlyn; Shannon and Holly O'Berry, Alison Stevons and husband Tim and their son, Cooper, Kevin Gray and wife, Kristi and their son Hunter, Craig Gray and wife, Michele and their children, David, Mitchell and Hugh; aunts and their husbands, Theresa and Leonard Provost, Marian and Kenneth Gray, Carolyn and David Shannonhouse,



Wade Ashburn

Vickie and Jimmie O'Berry; great aunt, Rita Stubbs and husband George; great great aunt, Judy Massey.

Memorial contributions may be made to the T. Wade Ashburn Memorial Golf Scholarship Fund at Lakeland High School, and sent to Western Branch Baptist Church, 6952 Old Myrtle Road, Suffolk, VA, 23434. Condolences may be registered at [www.rwbakerfh.com](http://www.rwbakerfh.com).

## Assistants Corner

### Support Local Associations

Greetings fellow assistant superintendents! Many of us start our GCSAA memberships as students in college and then eventually become Class C members. We all enjoy the many benefits of being a "card carrying member" of the GCSAA, but what about state and local membership? Following the "all government is local" philosophy, I believe active participation in your state and local association is every bit as, or even more, valuable to you as you work to achieve your goals in the industry. This revelation hit me early on in my career. I got my very first job in golf maintenance by simply contacting the president of the local association where I was planning to go to turf school. If you think about it, your local association is composed of your friends and mentors, current, (and quite possibly future) employers. They are the folks you play golf with, borrow equipment from (or loan equipment to). They likely see the same environmental conditions you do and deal with many of the same challenges. They are the friends just down the road, or just a phone call away.

As with many things in life, you get out of your association what you put into it, so active involvement is the key, not just membership. It's not hard to figure out that it's a lot more difficult for an assistant superintendent to be actively involved in GCSAA than to be involved at the local level. The Virginia Golf Course Superintendent's Association is committed to making this easier than ever with services and opportunities targeted specifically for assistants. The local chapters are doing their part by sponsoring the first ever assistant's education event this year. I encourage all assistant's seeking advancement in the industry to become an active member of a local superintendent's association. Here are some ideas: Serve on a committee, help recruit assistants who are not members to join, volunteer to help out with a conference or other event, host a "shop talk" for local assistants to share ideas, or just let your local superintendents association board know that you want to get more involved—they'll take it from there!

John Libassi  
Assistant Superintendent, Heritage Oaks GC  
At-Large Member, VGCSA Board of Directors

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### up•time (noun) { úp-tīm }

1. *the time during which a machine or equipment is operating or ready for use*



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# The Foundry's Renovation Maintains Tradition

## Central Virginia Gem Set to Host the Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament.

After 19 years of service as Virginia's first true "golfer's golf course," The Foundry carefully laid out plans to renovate and restore its scenic course, and the results are right on target.

When The Foundry originally opened in 1990 as a golf-only private club in rural Powhatan County, there was a commitment to offer something unique and special. Founder Ken Timmons envisioned a retreat with great service, a caddie program, a historic clubhouse, but most importantly, a golf course that upheld the traditions of the game, challenging but fun. There would be no pool, no tennis, no gym; only golf. The course drew together a membership that shared and appreciated the vision, and The Foundry became a "golfer's golf course."

A year ago in June, it was time to update the course. Golf Course Superintendent Scott Mauldin, CGCS explains, "Nineteen years ago, The Foundry was a new concept to Richmond, and since that time, many advancements have come along in turf and other golf course elements. Our goal was to renovate with modern grasses, while retaining the traditional elements of the course. As the course matures, we will have the great foundation to make it what it's always meant to be."

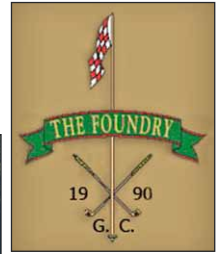
McDonald & Sons was selected for the design and construction work, with architect Andrew Green charged with the delicate task of meeting the expectations of the club. Greens were converted from Penncross to an A1/A4 blend. Bunkers became steeper, necessitating new sand suitable for high faces. Native grasses were added to outside corridors, enhancing the beauty and adding a little intimidation factor. And new walk paths were added to emphasize the club's commitment to walking with caddies.

On the fairways, Meadowspring Turf was responsible for the Celebration Bermudagrass, and sprigging was handled by Jason Flowers of East Coast Athletics. E&S Soil provided the bunker sand, and all the while, Mauldin's crew remained dedicated and steadfast in their work on the project.

The Foundry Team used a collaborative system when considering changes to the golf course. The team consisted of the architect, the superintendent, the golf staff



The Foundry GCS Scott Mauldin (right) reports positive member reaction to the newly-renovated course. A more prominent water feature in the drive zone will increase the difficulty of the classic par-5 16th hole.



and the Green Committee chairman. Each person evaluated the proposed changes from their perspective, and then the team submitted their joint recommendation to the Club President, who made the final decision. As Mauldin explained, "This system worked well because no one was blind-sided by a change, and then had to fix it for a cost."

"One of the biggest changes was our tees," said Mauldin. "We added 25% more space to our tees, and we also added some forward tees. This allows us to space out the traffic and gives us more variety in the setup of the golf course."

"On the greens, we strived to maintain the same contours (one of the hallmarks of The Foundry)," Mauldin continued. "We 'GPSed' the greens from renderings and through digging to find the soil mix, and we put them back to their original locations. We used a grid system to match the elevations, but with the new grasses, we had to bring some of the high points down a bit. We now have five or six viable hole locations per green, as opposed to just four previously."

Another change was the addition of closely mown areas around greens, adding variety to shot selection. In addition, teeing angles were altered on some holes to bring back the challenge to driving, lost to the technological advancements in golf equipment. And on the classic dogleg par-5 16th hole, a meandering stream protecting the drive zone was converted into a more substantial water feature, forcing "bombers" to rethink their strategy on the hole.

The renovation certainly was not without its challenges. The goal was to

complete the construction work by October of last year, and McDonald & Sons was up to the task, bringing in extra staff to meet the timeline goals. Last summer's eight week drought added challenge, and then came the winterkill leading into this spring. Sprigging took place on May 20th this year, and by the opening on July 4th, they were in good shape.

"Member reaction has been great," said Mauldin, "The course is more consistent now. That helps players' scoring, but then other elements present new challenges. The bunkers are truly a hazard now, and the maturation of the roughs will place a premium on driving."

Mauldin credits Club President Coley Wortham and Green Chairman Jim Potts with maintaining the vision for the project, coupled with the patience necessary to cope with the ups and downs of the work process. "For all we have gone through, I can't think of two more positive guys to work with," Mauldin noted. "They have helped me work through problems, and that's what allowed us to accomplish what we did in this amount of time."

The Foundry has already been tested in big club events, such as the Member-Guest and the Club Championship this summer. With the VGCSA Joe Saylor Memorial coming up on October 26th, players will be treated to a wonderful course in blazing autumn glory on this beautiful setting. The event is sure to be oversubscribed, as players enjoy one of the greatest golf experiences in the Commonwealth.

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# Virginia Tech Field Days Highlights

Event was held at Virginia Tech's Pete Dye River Course September 1-2.

Virginia Tech Turf and Landscape Field Days were held in Blacksburg on September 1 and 2. First day activities kicked off with the Turf Club Fundraising Golf Tournament at the Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech. Thirty-six golfers played in a two-man Captain's Choice format. Captain Dick Fisher and putting-extraordinaire-partner Mark Vaughn took home the prize with a 6-under 66. The fundraising aspect was a success raising over \$2000 to go towards travel expenses to upcoming GCSAA and STMA Turf Bowl competitions in San Diego and Orlando.

First day activities continued with a VT Athletics Field Tour led by Assistant Sports Turf Manager Nick McKenna. Participants heard first-hand about the slow growth and fill-in of the high wear areas of Worsham Field in Lane Stadium due to our excessively cool, cloudy and rainy summer in Blacksburg. Remember the rule that hybrid bermudagrass needs 100 hot and sunny summer days for proper recovery from late fall events and overseeding? We saw first-hand that our Patriot bermuda needs this. Never fear, the ryegrass is up and the field played great on September 12 for the Marshall game.

The first day finished up with the annual question and answer session with VT Turf Specialists at the Schmidt Pavilion. We had a lively session featuring detailed questions about proper uses of Tenacity (mesotrione) that Dr. Askew fielded with prowess, followed by updates on nuisance insects like cicada killers and Tiphia wasps with Dr. Youngman. The evening finished



Matt Goddard addresses the crowd at Virginia Tech Field Days.

with an update on disease control success with new dispersible granule fungicide formulations from David McCall.

Field Day proper began on the second day with a two-hour session of mostly weed-control talks at Askew's Glade Road field plots. Dr. Askew's group has some exciting new chemical compounds that he showcased. Cumyluron and amicarbazone are both showing great potential for selective and safe *Poa annua* control in creeping bentgrass greens and may be registered for use in the US in the next 2 years. Metamifop was shown to be very safe on cool-season grasses, even putting greens, for post-emergence control of crabgrass, goosegrass, and encroaching bermuda.

After the morning session the group drove to the Turfgrass Research Center and had lunch. Following the usual turf faculty announcements and thank-yous, another two hours of research talks proceeded. Dr. Ervin gave an update on first-year results of the creeping bentgrass putting green NTEP, followed by a demonstration by the

Harmons of their Graden verticutting/sand-injection unit and a discussion by Ervin on percent surface area removal targets for putting greens. David McCall wowed the crowd by showing excellent dollar spot and brown patch control on a bentgrass fairway with a granular Headway (propiconazole + azoxystrobin) formulation, followed by a discussion of fungicide + fertilizer program approaches for premier summer putting green quality.

Dr. Goatley discussed his recent work on growing ultra-dwarf bermuda greens in southside and coastal Virginia areas, along with updates on the bermuda NTEP and a buffalograss variety trial. All of our cool-season NTEP trials were also on display. Finally, Dr. Derr presented an update on proper weed management approaches in landscape beds and lawns.

It was an excellent two days of turf fellowship and education, with perfect weather and a great attendance of 200.



Dr. Erik Ervin reviews tests on putting surfaces.



Dr. Mike Goatley reviews dwarf bermuda greens.

# Member Profile: Steve Harris, CGCS

Belmont Country Club

**Golf holes at your facility:** 18

**Years at your current golf club:** 9

**Years as a golf course superintendent:** 9

**Favorite hobbies:** Fishing, golf, SCUBA diving, coaching youth soccer

**Favorite professional golfer:** The one who complains the least!

**Favorite sports team(s):** Any University of Tennessee team.

**Biggest role model as a professional:** My dad. He isn't a superintendent, but taught me about working hard and taking responsibility.

**How did you get your start in the golf maintenance profession?** I worked for Jeff Carson at Country Club of Fairfax as a high school student looking for free golf. I thought that was a lot of fun. It sort of blossomed from there.

**What has been, to date, the most rewarding part of being a golf course superintendent?** It would have to be the grow-in and opening of Belmont Country Club. It was a very rewarding experience, culminating in opening day and rave reviews from Mr. Palmer about the course. It was a proud day for my staff and me.

**What would be one thing, if you could, change about the golf course superintendent profession?** Raising the value of the superintendent through the eyes of the average golfer. I think that most managers and pros recognize the value of a good superintendent; many golfers are still clueless as to what we do.

**In the next five to ten years, what are the biggest challenges we face as golf course superintendents?** I think the obvious answer is trying to do more with less. Our members still expect PGA Tour conditions on a daily basis but don't want to see dues increases or assessments. With budgets remaining flat (or even lower) we have to become more creative in how we do things. Whether it is doing the job with fewer staff members or with fewer expenses, we all have to find a way to deliver the same results.



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# Off Season? What's That?

**Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America**

Many golf facilities have a nine-month golf season, which means they also have a period when the volume of play declines. So what type of activity does the golf course management staff engage in during the “off” season?

While golfer activity may be virtually non-existent during the off-season, there is still much work to be done by the golf course superintendent and his/her staff. It should be noted that a golf course is staffed on a seasonal schedule to meet demand, thus temporary workers and/or student interns may not be available during the off-season to assist the full-time staff.

Depending upon weather conditions, a variety of golf course projects can be completed even though the temperatures are not conducive for member play. Such activities could include sodding bare areas with turf, renovating bunkers, rebuilding tee areas, trimming and planting trees, etc. These projects could close down portions of the course if undertaken during the playing season; therefore the off-season offers the opportunity to make improvements with little or no inconvenience. Whether or not there is play on the course, superintendents must be attuned to turf conditions. For example, allowing ice to sit on the turf for extended periods can result in turf winterkill.

Various golf course accessories might also need repair. Benches, signs, water cooler containers, trash bins, ball washers, rakes, etc., may need to be built or renovated. Routine building maintenance on areas such as the clubhouse, turf care center, pump houses, green house, tennis center, etc., are often set aside for this time period. Again, delaying work on these areas until consumption patterns decline results in little interruption.

Equipment is also a focus for the golf course superintendent during this time period. Everything from purchasing to various mechanical repairs such as engine tune-ups and reel sharpening are on the



## Key Points for the Off Season:

- A golf course is staffed on a seasonal schedule to meet demand.
- The off-season offers the opportunity to make improvements with little or no inconvenience.
- The off-season provides the opportunity to complete a variety of business management responsibilities.
- Superintendents focus on equipment during this time period.
- Staff development is a requirement for golf course managers.

schedule. Irrigation systems are in need of similar annual maintenance to ensure that they do not get damaged during extreme cold spells.

The off-season also provides the opportunity to complete a variety of business management responsibilities. Annual plans and budgets must be developed and then presented to the appropriate club leaders. Inventories for fertilizers, pesticides, seed and other supplies need to be replenished. Staffing plans must be developed and employees have to be secured for the golf season. Golf course managers should also review their course conditioning programs on annual basis. Issues such as turf selection, green speed, bunker sand characteristics, fairway widths and integrated pest management programs all require

significant research and planning.

Staff development is also a requirement for golf course managers. Superintendents and assistants participate in regional education seminars and attend the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. These continuing education opportunities provide information on the latest management techniques, products and services available to course managers. The opportunity to network with peers and learn how others tackle challenges can result in significant benefits to a facility, some of which do not have a price tag.

For more information regarding golf course management practices, contact your local superintendent or the GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

# Thank You, Kevin McIntire

**Golf Course Superintendent • Lexington Golf & Country Club • Lexington, Virginia**

In April, 2007, Kevin was hired as the golf course superintendent at the Lexington Golf & Country Club. Kevin's practical "hands-on" experience and operational knowledge of heavy, earthmoving equipment has paid dividends for our club. One of the small dams on the golf course needed repair. Kevin rented the necessary equipment, purchased the materials, and accomplished the repairs with his staff, saving the club several thousand dollars. Additional monies have been saved by his careful management of personnel and chemicals—and the course is in its best condition in recent years.

Kevin is respected by our members and the club staff for his dedication, operational knowledge and hard work. He is passionate about his responsibility and willingly attends to our golf course needs regardless of the time or day of the week. He routinely works on weekends if necessary to correct a problem that can't wait until the usual Monday work schedule.

Kevin was raised in a small mid-western



Kevin McIntire

community and became interested in golf at an early age. During high school, he worked and played on the local golf course. Upon graduation, Kevin enrolled at Clark State College, Springfield, Ohio, and continued his involvement with golf as a member of the college golf team.

After college, he began his career as an assistant greens keeper, working his way to

assistant superintendent at the Locust Hills Golf Course in Springfield, Ohio. In 2001, Kevin became involved with the construction of the Vista Links Golf Course in Buena Vista, Virginia. He participated in all phases of the construction, and as assistant superintendent, was responsible for its grow-in, final completion, and daily operations. Following the Vista Links project, Kevin worked with a Virginia turf company, and the sports field crew for the University of Virginia.

Kevin lives in Rockbridge County with his wife, Jen, son Braden and will soon have a daughter, Kylie.

We feel fortunate to have Kevin as our golf course superintendent, and are delighted to call his accomplishments at our club to your attention.

**Jim Naylor**  
**Golf Committee**  
**Chairman**

**Alex Macheras**  
**Green Committee**  
**Chairman**



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The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of GCSAA

**Environmental  
Institute for Golf**



# Value Proposition of Joe Saylor Memorial (per player)

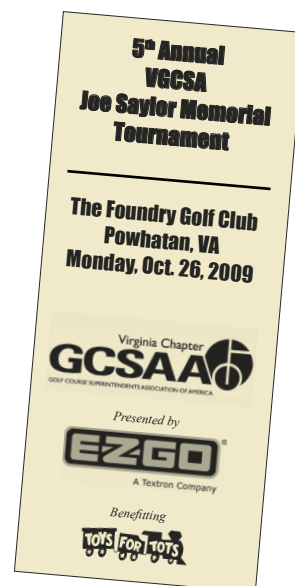
Monday, October 26, 2009 • The Foundry Golf Club

Foundry Guest Fee & Cart	\$100
Range Balls	5
Lunch	15
On-course beverages	15
Tee Gift	20
Prizes	30
Door prizes	10
Reception	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$220</b>

**Actual Cost per player \$90**

Thank you to The Foundry and our sponsors for funding a major portion of the cost of this event!

Members, please register early using the form enclosed with this newsletter.



## Bayer to Send 5 Superintendents to Conference & Show

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), The Environmental Institute for Golf, and Bayer Environmental Science will send five golf course superintendents to the 2010 GCSAA Education Conference (Feb. 8-12) and Golf Industry Show (Feb. 10-11) in San Diego.

The purpose of the grant is to assist golf course superintendents with their professional development through participation in the annual event, which features the most comprehensive education program and trade show in the industry.

"This is the seventh straight year Bayer

will send golf course superintendents to the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show," GCSAA CEO Mark Woodward, CGCS, said. "We greatly appreciate Bayer's continued support of this program and recognizing the role of the golf course superintendent in the success of a golf facility."

Golf course superintendents who did not attend the last two GCSAA Education Conferences and Golf Industry Shows are eligible. Those interested should complete and submit the online application at <http://www.gcsaa.org/Conference/>

[education/GrantApplication.aspx](http://www.gcsaa.org/Conference/education/GrantApplication.aspx) or contact GCSAA member services at 800-472-7878 to receive an application via fax. Entries will be accepted through Oct. 19, 2009. Only one application will be accepted per person. GCSAA membership is not required. Call 800-472-7878 with any questions or for assistance with the application. The complete official rules are listed below.



## Did You Know? Quick Facts About Golf Courses:

1. A properly repaired ball mark heals completely in 2-3 days, while an unrepaired ball mark takes 15-20 days to heal properly.
2. A typical 18-hole golf course covers approximately 125-150 acres of land. The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about 1/2 the state of Connecticut.
3. A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.
4. Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.
5. Who is the most important person at a golf facility? According to a 1997 survey of 500 *Golf Digest* subscribers, the golf course superintendent was listed the most (48 percent). Other responses included the course/club professional 25 percent, club/course manager 14 percent, beverage cart or halfway house person 11 percent.
6. Golf courses have a cooling effect during the hot summer months. The average temperature on the golf course is typically 5-7 degrees cooler than a residential area and 7-15 degrees cooler than an urban downtown setting.
7. The infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is home to four holes of the Brickyard Crossing golf course. The remaining 14 holes outside the oval are accessed through a tunnel under the track.

# News from Affiliated Chapters

## ODGCSA News

Greetings to all in the Old Dominion! I hope everyone had a good summer. I am sure the cool air of the fall is welcome by all. College football and cool mornings are two of my favorite things about fall.

Not much to report from the ODGCSA. It has been a quiet summer. This past summer was a good summer to grow cool season grass. The bermuda was a little slow, but I am sure most of you would take many more summers like this past one.

This fall there are a few events coming up. I encourage everyone to attend the Joe Saylor event at The Foundry. I know the VGCSA is expecting a great turn-out and I am sure Scott Mauldin and his staff will have the course shining for the event.

I also encourage all of you to attend this year's Annual Meeting in December. The meeting will be held at the

Independence Golf Club. The date has not been set, but we will have a few items to vote on at that meeting.

At this year's Annual Meeting, the ODGCSA Board of Directors will be presenting a change to our by-laws. Before the meeting I will send all of you the proposed changes. The main change will be the composition of the Board of Directors. Since the inception of the VGCSA there have been no changes to the ODGCSA BOD. Before the VGCSA, the Old Dominion BOD was responsible for newsletter, dues collections and a whole host of other items. Currently, the VGCSA takes care of all those responsibilities, thus the demands placed on the Old Dominion BOD are much less. At the Annual Meeting, we will be proposing a

reduction in the number of members of the BOD. We also will be changing some of the roles and responsibilities of each position. We think this is a prudent change that will benefit all future ODGCSA BODs.

If any of you have any thoughts or suggestions please let me know. My e-mail is [skinnan@fccva.com](mailto:skinnan@fccva.com) or phone number is 434-245-5370. Please don't hesitate to call.



Scott Kinnan  
ODGCSA President  
Farmington Country Club

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**Eligible organizations include:**

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Virginia Turfgrass Foundation  
Virginia Turfgrass Council  
Wee Ones Foundation  
and many others

  
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# News from Affiliated Chapters

## News from the GWGCSA

I generally try to open up all my newsletters with information about the weather in our region and other unimportant facts about disease trends, etc. However, I would like to take this opportunity to write about something that means a great deal more to all of us... family.

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Brody King back in August, the four month old son of Mike and Sonny King. Words cannot describe the horrific loss and mental anguish dealt to the King family this summer. This tragedy was a real eye-opener in the importance of family and living for the moment because you just never really know. Bad things can happen to good people at any given time.

As golf course superintendents, many of us get caught up in all the little things and lose focus on what is really important. We should all try to learn a valuable lesson and remember this the next time we are put in a position to choose between work and spending time with family. Mike and Sonny, my thoughts and prayers go out to you.

On the golf side, June opened up with a thorough shellacking of the Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association in the North-South Challenge at Cannon Ridge Golf Club. The Greater Washington won by 28 strokes (427 to 455). Top honors went to Stuart Scott and Tripp Carper.

June also was host to a joint meeting with the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents at Washington Golf and Country Club. Recognition goes out to the ever-entertaining Stanley Zontek from the USGA Greens Section for his talk on Fads in the Turfgrass Industry. The golf course and entire day were just stunning. Thanks goes out to Corey Haney, Alex Baiccho and the entire staff at Washington Golf and Country Club for a wonderful event.

The July meeting, the Maintenance Open, was held on my home turf at Forest Greens Golf Club. I would like to recognize Scott Jaquays, Aaron Redd, Jan Fero (F&B), Peter Kim (GM) and my entire staff for their combined effort in making this event happen. The eventual winner came down to a match of cards.

Congratulation goes out to the winning team from Mount Vernon Country Club consisting of John Dunker, Russ Bennett, Sean Owens and Frank Doran with a score of 59.

The September meeting was held at Chantilly National Golf & Country Club. Thanks goes out to Rick Kent, Josh Alpaugh, Mike Maines and the entire staff at Chantilly National Golf & Country Club for a great event. Congratulations goes out to the winning team of Troy Brawner and Mike Fuocco.

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

**October 20**, Superintendent/Assistant Championship at Springfield Country Club

**November**, Annual Meeting at Evergreen Country Club



*Jeff Van Fleet  
GWGCSA  
External Vice President*

## SVTA Update

The SVTA held the fundraiser for the Virginia Turf Foundation on July 14 at Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Course in Front Royal. This was a great event and I would like to thank all that participated and those that sponsored this event. We raised \$2000 for the Turf Foundation this year as we hope to raise more funds in the future.

It is getting to be the time of year for nominations. If you have someone you would like to nominate for office for the VGCSA please contact me or your representative on the board. Also, nominations for awards can be done in the same manner.

The Shenandoah Valley has experienced a milder than normal summer with warmer temperatures just beginning in the middle of August. However, with fall around the corner I would like to turn attention to a couple of events coming up.

SVTA Fall Seminar, Front Royal, **Oct. 22**

Joe Saylor Tournament, The Foundry, **Oct. 26**



*Edwin Eagle, CGCS  
SVTA  
External Vice President*

# News from Affiliated Chapters



WHSV meteorologist George Hirschmann (center) spoke at the Waynesboro Country Club in August. He joined above by VTA President Kim Garnett (left) and SVTA President Kurt Fellenstein (right).

## WHSV Meteorologist Speaks at Joint Chapter Meeting

The SVTA, VTA, & ODGCSA had a successful joint meeting at Waynesboro Country Club in August. Kurt Fellenstein introduced George Hirschmann, chief meteorologist of WHSV-TV 3, who spoke to our group about general weather patterns and principles. The presentation was very informative and very entertaining! Shortly after the presentation, Peter McDonough walked us through some new environmental legislation that impacts golf courses. It was a great meeting with good attendance. After the

meeting we had a nice salad, lunch, and cookies. Then we had about 7 groups for golf. We had beautiful weather and played on a beautiful course. It was unfortunate that Mr. Hirschmann could not grace us with his presence on the golf course.



Kimberly Garnett  
VTA President

## 2009 VGCSA Local Association Presidents



### Greater Washington GCSA

#### Mike Mueller

Herndon Centennial Golf Course  
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Fax: 703-437-6821  
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### Shenandoah Valley TA

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### Tidewater TA

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### Virginia TA

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Cell: 540-392-0604  
E-Mail: kim@blacksburgcc.com



# VGCSA Announces Host Hotel for 2010 GIS & GCSAA Conference

Once again, the VGCSA is partnering with the Middle Atlantic AGCS and the Eastern Shore GCSA for a host hotel and social function at the 2010 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA, Feb. 7-12. This year's host hotel is the Holiday Inn on the Bay, and the conference rate is \$179 plus tax. This is in the mid-price range for the conference, and the hotel is in an excellent location.

To register for our host hotel, please complete the enclosed registration form and mail or fax it to Golf Industry Travel (mailing address and fax number are on the housing form).

**Important Date** – November 16, 2009 – Individual reservation forms are due to Golf Industry Travel and must include a credit card guarantee for each reservation. The hotel reserves the right to charge the credit card a one night deposit.

Golf Industry Travel can also assist your attendees with airline reservations and car rentals. Call 800.442.7220 to speak with a professional travel consultant for personal assistance.

Golf Industry Travel  
Michele Onofrio, Travel Consultant  
www.worldtek.com  
111 Water Street, New Haven, CT 06511  
Phone: 203-772-0470



The Holiday Inn on the Bay awaits the arrival of VGCSA members.

## GCSAA needs your help to build the "You Asked For It . . . You Got It!" conference session! Topic submittal ends Sept. 25.

How does this session differ from other education offerings at the GCSAA Education Conference in San Diego? YOU build the session! Please encourage your fellow members to share their topics with us and then watch this power-packed session develop. Members can visit the GCSAA Education Conference Website to enter topics until Sept. 25 (<http://www.gcsaa.org/conference/education/buildaprogram.aspx>)

## Virginia Legends of Golf Event

*Benefiting the VSGA Foundation and Junior Golf*

**Independence Golf Club • Midlothian, Virginia**

### **Sunday, October 4**

- 12:30 p.m. MAPGA Pro Am at Independence Golf Club
- 5:30 p.m. Junior Golf Clinic with Robert Wrenn, Vinny Giles, and select MAPGA Professionals at Independence Golf Club
- 6:30 p.m. Virginia Legends of Golf Caddie Auction and Reception at Independence Golf Club Pavilion (tickets \$100)

### **Monday, October 5**

- 11:30 a.m. Sponors Lunch Reception at Independence Golf Club
- 1:00 p.m. 18-hole Skins Game Exhibition at Independence Golf Club (tickets \$100)  
Proceeds directly benefit VSGA Foundation Junior Golf Programs

For additional information, please visit [www.vsga.org](http://www.vsga.org) or call VSGA at 804.378.2300



Featuring Curtis Strange,  
Lanny Wadkins, Bobby Wadkins,  
Robert Wrenn, Vinny Giles

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