

Fall 2015

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## President's Message

The 2015 golf season is near its end as we move into the fall with cooler temperatures and shorter days. I'm sure this gives everyone time to reflect on this past year's successes and shortcomings as we begin to prepare our programs for next year. Your association is doing much of the same, looking back at this past year's events and programs to continue improve what I think has been a successful year.

Our fall conference was a big hit this past October as we included our Annual meeting with the Joe Saylor golf tournament and the Conference held the following day. The golf tournament was played on the beautiful Manakin course at Hermitage Country Club and the weather couldn't have been any better. That evening our annual meeting was held at Hermitage Country Club. After the normal business of the association was discussed the award winners were presented. Rick Viancour, CGCS received the President's Award for Lifetime Service, Ken Giedd, CGCS received the Distinguished Service Award and Dan Taylor, CGCS received the Environmental Service Award. Congratulations again gentlemen and well deserved.

The fall conference the following day will filled with great speakers and useful information. Rafael Barajas, Director for the GCSAA, kicked off the morning with an update from the GCSAA on member standards and other changes to the association. Next up the ODGCSA presented a segment titled "Focus on Water" that included Kerry McGrath of Hunton & Williams, whose practice focuses on environmental, energy, and administrative law. She has been tracking the Waters of the US regulation.

We also had Heather Mackey, Water Supply Planner for Virginia DEQ and Derik Cataldi, Urban Nutrient Specialist for Virginia DCR. David McCall, Dr. Erik Ervin



and Dr. Sean Askew from Virginia Tech provided a panel discussion on their recent research and answered questions from the audience on issues facing superintendents in the area.

Elliott Dowling and Addison Barden from the USGA Green Section presented the year in review detailing their experiences as they traveled the Mid-Atlantic this past year. Our Keynote Speaker, Seth Jones, editor in chief of *Golfdom* magazine closed the day with his perspective of the golf course industry and his fortunate experiences meeting unique people. I would like to thank the folks at Hermitage Country Club for their outstanding hospitality and service especially Keith Fellenstein and his staff for the great course conditions for the golf tournament.

Our final event of the year which was organized by Ryan Johnson, our Assistants board representative from Kanawha Club. He worked hard on what was one of our best Assistant Forums to date. The event was held Monday, November 2 at Belmont Country Club in Ashburn, Virginia and was a joint meeting with the Assistant Superintendents from the MAAGCSA. The featured speaker was Tim Morgahan of Aspire Consulting who provided his insight of the golf industry as it related to Assistants aspiring to be Superintendents. This was a great event with invaluable networking opportunities.

San Diego will once again play host to the GIS on February 8-11 with the joint social again scheduled for that week. Reservations are now available in the

VGCSA room block for GIS in San Diego at The Horton Grand Hotel in the Gaslamp District. This is the official hotel for VGCSA for the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Room availability begins on February 6 and runs through February 12 so call for you reservations soon.

With resignation of Chris Petrelli effective this past summer, we have recently revised our current VGCSA officers. Section 4-J of our Bylaws states that the President will choose a successor who shall hold office for the expired term in the event of a vacancy in the office of any Director of the President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, or other office. For the remainder of the term vacated by Chris Petrelli which expires on December 31, 2015, Mark Cote will assume the responsibilities of the Vice-President and Bill Keene will assume the responsibilities of the Secretary/Treasurer. The Nominating Committee will meet in November to approve the slate of officers for 2016 which will be a one year term.

WOTUS (Waters of the US) and the Final Clean Water Rule has been a hot topic of discussion this past year. The rule was originally passed on June 29, 2015 and was set to go into effect on August 28, 2015. However after several nationwide petitions and numerous phone calls and letters to legislators, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit has stayed the

*Continued on p. 2*



Jeff Holliday, CGCS  
VGCSA President

# President's Message cont.

implementation of the Clean Water Rule (otherwise known as "WOTUS"). Fortunately for us, we had Kerry McGrath with us at our fall conference to update us on the progress.

The date is quickly approaching for everyone to obtain their Nutrient Management Plan. July 2017 is the deadline so please contact one of the Nutrient Management Planners from the list provided on our web site. All golf courses can now apply for the Government grants, not just the courses in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Please follow the link on our web site to obtain additional information on how to apply.

We continue building relationships with our allied associations with our representation with the Virginia Golf Council which includes the VGCSA, Mid-Atlantic PGA, CMAA Virginias Chapter, the Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Owners Association, VSGA and the Virginia Turfgrass Council. We continue working together for the betterment of golf in the state. We have also increased our communication with our neighboring GCSAA affiliated chapters discussing future partnership to grow our voice and maintain our Environmental Stewardship throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

Finally I would like to thank our Partners for their support and contributions to our Association. I can't say this enough that your support is a large part of the success of the VGCSA. Please support those who support you. I look forward to 2016 with a new year of meeting and events. Please feel free to call me or any other board member if you ever have any questions or concerns.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season spent with family and friends.

Jeff Holliday, CGCS  
President VGCSA



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# Peter McDonough to Receive 2016 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship from GCSAA

*Keswick Club Superintendent to be recognized at Golf Industry Show in San Diego*

Peter McDonough, the golf course superintendent at the Keswick Hall and Golf Club in Keswick, Va., for the last 24 years, has been selected to receive the 2016 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship by the board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

McDonough, 53, will officially receive the award Tuesday, Feb. 9, during the Opening Session of the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego (Feb. 6-11). The Opening Session is presented in partnership with Syngenta.

The GCSAA President's Award for Environmental Stewardship was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contribution to the game of golf; a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course superintendent's image as a steward of the land."

"Peter's work is a positive example for all superintendents," said GCSAA President John O'Keefe, CGCS. "Through his impactful environmental stewardship and collaborative work with legislators, he demonstrates how golf courses can be healthy environments through professional management. We are pleased to honor him for his accomplishments."

"I am honored and flattered by the award, especially because it is given by my peers," said McDonough. "The award represents the best of everything we should be doing as superintendents, and this is an honor for everyone involved in what we are doing in Virginia."

McDonough has been active in environmental projects and issues from the start of his career. A 26-year member of

GCSAA, McDonough has served as president of the Old Dominion GCSA and the Virginia GCSA, and he was part of the founding members of the Virginia Golf Council to serve his region on important environmental issues. He was awarded VGCSA President's Lifetime Service Award in 2001, and in 2003 he earned that association's Distinguished Service Award.

A graduate of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture in Amherst, Mass., McDonough served as chair of the VGCSA Government Relations Committee when severe drought conditions hit the state in 2002. Since then, he has worked directly with the governor's office, the Department of Environmental Quality and other state legislators to adopt practical policies for water conservation and water management. His efforts were noticed by GCSAA, and in 2008 he won the association's Excellence in Government Relations Award.

In 2011, McDonough was responsible for the publication of a handbook of best management practices for Virginia golf courses, showing superintendents how to efficiently manage natural resources with a commitment to environmental stewardship. The landmark publication is a model for other states to follow, and McDonough has been a leading consultant.

A native of Millbury, Mass., McDonough was heavily involved in Pete Dye's renovation of the 18-hole Keswick Club, which was completed in 2014. Through his work, the club has been recognized as an Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary every year since 2002. In the last several years alone, the club has added 25 acres of environmental protective buffer



Peter McDonough

zones adjacent to its streams and ponds, and converted 25 acres of turfgrass to low maintenance natural vegetation to save costs and provide wildlife habitats.

McDonough has also found time to serve as a GCSAA grassroots ambassador since the program's inception in 2014. The program seeks to match a superintendent member with a local member of congress for improved advocacy on behalf of the golf industry.

"I want to be doing everything for the right reasons," he says. "It's about sharing our natural resources and using what we have been given in a responsible manner. We want people to know what we are doing for the environment through having a voice at the table with policymakers. Golf has a lot to offer."

For a full list of past award winners, visit [www.gcsaa.org/community/awards](http://www.gcsaa.org/community/awards).

## CGEP: Take the Pest Management Practices Survey

GCSAA needs your help to determine nationwide pest management practices through the Pest Management Practices Survey; no pesticide records required. This information provides much needed data for

GCSAA to advocate on behalf of the golf course industry and superintendent profession. Without it, we won't have supporting data to back up the facts showing golf courses as professionally managed

greenspaces. The Golf Course Environmental Profile is sponsored by the USGA in conjunction with the EIFG. Please visit [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) to complete the survey.



# Fall Conference Draws Top Speakers and a Big Crowd

The second rendition of the VGCSA Fall Conference featured great speakers and excellent attendance at Hermitage Country Club on October 20, 2015. Once again, Revels and Finch were presenting sponsors, with Riverside Turf as a supporting sponsor.

The all-star lineup included GCSAA CEO Board Member Rafael Barajas, CGCS, USGA Agronomists Elliott Dowling and Addison Bardin, top turf professors Dr. Erik Ervin, Dr. Shawn Askew and Dr. David McCall of Virginia Tech, WOTUS expert Kerry McGrath, DEQ's Heather Mackey, DCR's Derik Cataldi and noted publisher Seth Jones of *Golfdom* magazine. And the participants numbered nearly 100, coming from all points of the Commonwealth to be a part of this superb event.

The two-day event began with the Joe Saylor Memorial tournament on Hermitage's Manakin Course (see article in this issue). Following that, the participants attended the VGCSA Annual Meeting & Awards Celebration at Hermitage. Then it was on to the conference the next day, also at Hermitage Country Club.

"I was really pleased that we were able to attract an excellent lineup of speakers," said current President Jeff Holliday, CGCS. "Everyone accepted our invitation immediately – they all wanted to be a part of this event." All participants earned GCSAA CEU's for the multi-faceted program.

Rafael Barajas, CGCS led off the conference with an update from headquarters. He discussed current issues facing the association and the industry. GCSAA continues to invest in Government Relations, and the Ambassador program continues to grow.

Then a special segment on water issues was presented by the Old Dominion GCSA. ODGCSA President Kevin Fortune moderated the session, which featured McGrath, Mackey and Cataldi. McGrath gave good news that the WOTUS rule, which is strongly opposed by GCSAA, is now "stayed" thanks to a recent lawsuit. A big concern is the vague description of which waterways would be included.

Mackey and Cataldi gave an update on state issues. Mackey did significant research to build a current database of 324 Virginia golf courses, and the goal is to get all of them to do the water reporting. She cited a projection of water needs in 2040, showing which counties might be stressed for water. Cataldi added DCR is there to be a resource of superintendents, and he expressed personal thanks to the group for assisting him professionally.

Then Dr. David McCall led a panel discussion with his colleagues, Dr. Ervin and Dr. Askew. Ervin cited the increasing difficulty for students to be admitted to



A large audience attended the event



Dr. Shawn Askew and Dr. Erik Ervin



Kerry McGrath review WOTUS implications



Dr. David McCall reviews his research projects



Kevin Fortune, Derik Cataldi and Heather Mackey



Rafael Barajas, CGCS addresses the group



The USGA's Elliott Dowling presents The Year in Review



Seth Jones entertains the audience



VGCSA President Jeff Holliday, CGCS emcees the conference



The USGA's Addison Barden adds his insights

Virginia Tech, and he offered a path involving community college, then automatic acceptance if certain grade standards are met. He also reviewed some of his research, including a drought resistance study and the putting green trials at The Country Club of Virginia, studying bermudagrass specimens. There is also a project at Blacksburg Country Club.

Dr. Askew discussed his area of expertise, weed science. He has a herbicide resistance project, a Ball Roll study and a Pylex study seeking to eradicate goose grass in bermudagrass.

Dr. McCall reviewed his work on spring dead spot and fungicides. He also outlined the drone study, for which he and VGCSA are seeking funding from EIFG — this would be a collaborative project with his colleagues. This could help with stress detection.

After lunch, the program resumed with Elliott Dowling and Addison Barden delivering the popular “The Year in Review” presentation, which clearly was fresh in the minds of the audience. He took the group on a tour of conditions around the Mid-Atlantic and the challenges of operating in the “Transition Zone.” One key point was that club member complaints about rough height is more an issue of the frequency of cut, not the height of cut.

“Batting cleanup” was the popular Seth Jones of *Golfdom* magazine. In an entertaining presentation, he traced the history of his publication back to 1927, recognizing its founder, Herb Graffis. He shared some of the fun experiences he has had, interviewing sports celebrities, industry leaders and one US President. He gave valuable advice on how to be interviewed, including embellishing the moment with interesting stories.

The event concluded with Holliday’s “thank you” to speakers and sponsors. Then he drew the winner of the Redskins ticket package donated by Buy Sod, won by Steve Snare. Plans are already being drawn for an encore event in 2016.



# At the VGCSA Annual Meeting

## October 20, 2015 • Hermitage Country Club



Mark Cote, Matt Boyce, Jeff Holliday



Award Winners – Ken Giedd, Rick Viancour, Dan Taylor, Jeff Holliday, VGCSA President



Rafael Barajas, Dean Graves, Bo Jumbercotta



Rick Viancour, Greg Otto, Laura Otto, Debbie Viancour

### Keene to Serve as Secretary/Treasurer

The VGCSA Annual Meeting transitioned as a part of the Fall Conference activities this year at Hermitage Country Club. President Jeff Holliday, CGCS emceed the event, which included the popular Awards Ceremony, where Rick Viancour, CGCS, Ken Giedd, CGCS and Dan Taylor, CGCS were honored (see related stories in this issue).

As part of the business meeting, Holliday announced that Mark Cote of the Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech will move up to Vice President to fill the vacated seat of Chris Petrelli, who relocated to a club in Atlanta this summer.

Bill Keene of Blacksburg Country Club was named to fill the position of Secretary/Treasurer. The Nominating Committee is expected to present the same slate of officers to serve in 2016, which also includes Immediate Past President Matt Boyce.



Bill Keene



VSGA Executive Director Jamie Conkling and Rafael Barajas



Sean Baskette presents award to Ken Giedd



Scott Mauldin, Ian Grove, Tommy Adams

# Viancour Wins Presidents Award for Lifetime Service

Rick Viancour, CGCS of Williamsburg is the winner of the 2015 VGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service. The VGCSA's highest award is "to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs, but who may no longer be actively involved in the VGCSA. Qualifications include twenty years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, at least ten of which were as a superintendent". On all accounts, Rick has earned the distinction.

"I was always interested in earth sciences," said Rick. He loved the outdoors, and he achieved the challenging recognition as an Eagle Scout. He really didn't play much golf until he went off to college at Virginia Tech, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Crop and Soil Sciences in 1979.

Rick's first few golf course jobs were an awakening in the life of a golf course superintendent. He started at the Tartan Course in Irvington, where he worked for Ed Lee. Rick did every job there was to do, including night waterman, a second assignment he did after his regular work on the crew. In 1980, Rick moved to a course in Henrico County. From his first day on the job in the beginning of March until the middle of November, Rick opened every single day - welcome to the golf business! In 1981, Rick began working at Brandermill Country Club in Midlothian, a fairly new private course set in a massive real estate development. There he was able to hone his skills in pesticide application and irrigation. He was essentially the assistant superintendent, although such titles were rare in those days. In 1986, Rick left for the new Windmill Point Marine Resort in Kilmarnock. They were building a new 9-hole course and lured him away with a substantial raise. He helped with the construction and earned his first superintendent job. In 1987, Rick became the superintendent at Cedar Point Country Club in Suffolk where he oversaw an irrigation renovation.

Rick's career at The Golden Horseshoe Golf Club began in 1989 when he was



Rick Viancour, CGCS

hired to oversee construction of the newly designed Rees Jones' Green Course. Shortly thereafter, Rick became the superintendent for the 45-hole operation. The Green Course opened in October 1991 and in 1998, Rick oversaw the renovation of the Gold Course. Both courses have received many awards over the years and have been recognized by many organizations and magazines including Golf Digest, Golf Magazine, and Golf Week. The Golden Horseshoe Golf Club is one of the few courses in the nation to have earned and maintained recognition by the Cooperative Audubon Society Sanctuary.

During Rick's 25 years, the Golden Horseshoe has hosted numerous VSGA Championships, including the Men's and Women's State Amateur Championships. The courses have also hosted several national championships – the 1998 USGA Senior Women's Amateur, the 1999 USGA State Team Championship, the 2004 US Women's Public Links (16-year-old Michelle Wie was the Runner-Up) and the 2007 NCAA Division I Men's Championship. In the early 2000s, Rick and his staff even survived some serious hurricanes, including the infamous Isabel, which destroyed some 1,600 trees on the property.

Rick particularly appreciates the

opportunity to work with his colleagues, remarking "The people in this business like to share – it is nothing like the competition seen in other industries. It is the little things – borrowing equipment, products, and knowledge – you know you can go to them and ask for help. I have enjoyed working with all my coworkers at the Golden Horseshoe. I appreciate their support which has allowed me to give back to the industry."

The Old Dominion GCSA was his first involvement in the early 1990s. He remembers laying out the association's newsletters using an Exacto razor and handling the printing and mailing in-house. He served as President, then Past President, and then President again! It was around this time the VGCSA was being born (late 1990s). He attended the VGCSA organizational meeting at the Keswick Club for the purpose of establishing an umbrella organization to bring official GCSAA affiliation to all local associations.

Then in 2000, Dr. David Chalmers recruited Rick to serve on the board of the Virginia Turfgrass Council. During his time on the board, he served as Treasurer, then Vice President, and eventually the President, a position he held for three and a half years. He continues to serve on the board at the request of the current president to assist with many issues to help superintendents.

In looking back on his career, he credits his wife Laura with much of his success. "I had the great support of an understanding wife for years while being on the job, working weekends and holidays."

"I am humbled because awards are not won alone," Rick commented. "It has been an honor to serve with so many professionals in the industry in the state of Virginia."

Rick lives in Williamsburg with his wife Laura, and their son John who is a senior in high school.



# Giedd Recognized for Distinguished Service

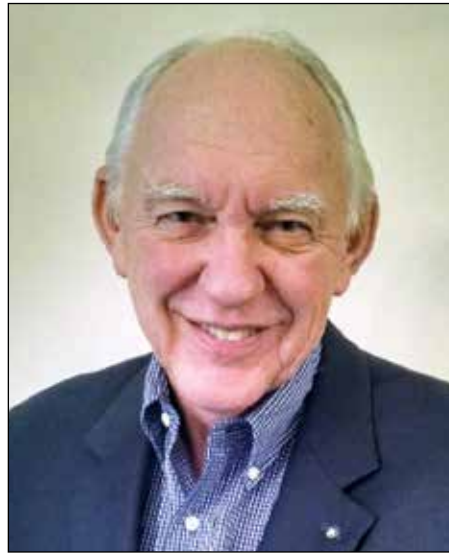
Ken Giedd, CGCS of Williamsburg has been recognized by the VGCSA with its Distinguished Service Award for 2015. The award is “presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents.” By all accounts, Giedd earned the distinction through his professionalism and integrity, and his interaction with his fellow superintendents, which led to the formation of both the Old Dominion GCSA and ultimately the Virginia GCSA.

Giedd grew up in Richmond, and his grandfather was a golfer. His first experience in golf was to cut down old clubs, wrap electrical tape as a grip, and then whack a ball around the back yard. The old Laurel Golf Club was within a bike ride – that was where he played his first round. He also had some buddies who were junior members at Hermitage Country Club in Northside (the club is now Belmont GC). He played there around age 12-13, but his interests migrated to football in high school, and he always enjoyed gardening.

After high school, he decided to attend Virginia Tech, and he learned about a new golf agronomy program being led by Dr. Dick Schmidt. He had a lot of interest in plants, biology and the outdoors – growing things was a bigger draw than the golf part. One of his classmates was Dick Fisher, CGCS. His junior year, he had a summer job working on the construction of Salisbury Country Club in Richmond in the late 1960s. He graduated early and shortly thereafter married his sweetheart, Susan.

Now he had to fulfill a three-year commitment to the Army as part of the ROTC program. His army service landed him in Seoul, Korea, and his work was quite unlike that of the other soldiers. The General learned of his background and promptly assigned him to look after the 8th Army Golf Club, where some of his mates were assigned “training exercises,” which essentially meant that they were his construction crew. The last year of his Army service was spent at Ft. Lee, near Petersburg, where he managed the golf course there.

In 1972, he was recruited by his Tech professors to take the job at Blacksburg CC. He had the best Green Committee ever,



Ken Giedd, CGCS

which included Dr. John Shoulders, Dr. Dick Schmidt, Dr. Wayne Bingham and Dr. A.J. Powell. He was there two seasons before he had an opportunity to come home to Richmond.

In 1974 he took the job at Hermitage CC, a club seeking its ultimate identity during a major recession. The club planned to move its operation to Goochland County where it built 27 holes, but selling off its Richmond course took some time. The land in Goochland came as a trade-off for the Ethelwood course (now The Crossings), which Hermitage had built earlier. Carrying the loan on 27 holes when interest rates hit 18% was tough, but maybe not as tough as trying to grow the Kentucky 31 cool season turf on the shrink-swell clay base of eastern Goochland. Giedd fortunately inherited Frank Flannagan as his assistant, and promptly put him in charge of the old 18 in Northside.

Everything about the new course was a challenge. The hydraulic irrigation did not function well in clay. It was a time when golf was “growing up,” and there was more and more automation. The night waterman job was fading fast. PVC was being used for the first time, and there were many problems with joint leakage. Pumping stations were rudimentary and not reliable. The first motorized bunker rakes were being introduced, as were riding greensmowers. Giedd was at Hermitage for 11 years through 1985, and along the way

he helped train Flannagan, Chuck Thompson, Brook Parker, Steve Schraw and others.

His next calling was Kingsmill Resort, where Anheuser-Busch was sponsoring Virginia’s only PGA Tour event. That event was in the second week of July in brutally hot, humid conditions, and normally just a short time after the transition of the spring rye to bermuda. “I always liked challenges and staying busy,” Giedd reflected. But working for the Busch crowd was very demanding – their expectations were extremely high.

A lot went on during a 16-year stint at Kingsmill. The Plantation Course was being built in 1985, and it was then he discovered the high sodium content of the water there, which led to mitigation via transfer pumps. Then the Woods Course opened in 1995, and Giedd enjoyed working with co-designer Curtis Strange, who represented Kingsmill. But soon Giedd’s role changed.

Upper management was struggling with areas outside of golf, including housekeeping and engineering. All of a sudden, Giedd was thrust into areas unfamiliar, while still retaining his oversight responsibilities for golf and grounds. Luckily he had recruited some eventual all-star help on the three courses – Christian Sain, Troy Fink and Brad Pegram to name a few. He enjoyed working for Teri Haack the GM, but a shake-up and re-structuring after 9-11 resulted in his early “retirement” at age 55.

Too young to retire, Giedd’s old colleague Stan Zontek of the USGA told him about a headhunter in Florida he needed to contact. After much reluctance, Giedd called him, and eventually landed a great job at the Polo Club of Boca Raton (FL). This was after the events of 9/11, and while golf and the world were struggling, the Polo Club was not – the reliable influx of snowbirds kept things jumping throughout the winter. Giedd had 7-day-a-week work in the winter and a much easier summer. He finally retired for good in 2008 back to Williamsburg.

Giedd recalls his many years working with his fellow superintendents on

*Continued on page 22*



# Taylor Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

Dan Taylor, CGCS of Midlothian has been recognized by the VGCSA as just the fifth recipient of the VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award. The award is presented “in recognition of distinguished and meritorious service in the environmental stewardship of Virginia golf courses, and in grateful appreciation for unselfishly promoting the profession of golf course management, which led to the advancement of the association.”

Taylor is the Director of Golf Course Maintenance at Independence Golf Club, an environmentally friendly course located in the Richmond area. He is serving his fifteenth year at the club, which underwent some significant renovation work the past two years, and he is being recognized both for the renovation and his daily practices. He is a VGCSA leader, having served on the board the past five years as External Vice President for Old Dominion GCSA. He also served on the USGA Green Section Committee.

Taylor grew up in Gastonia, NC and started playing golf in middle school. In high school he got a part-time job in the golf shop at the local muni, but he soon learned that he wanted be working outside instead of flipping burgers and collecting green fees — so he joined the maintenance crew. Then it was off to college (Clemson for two years then two more at UNC-Charlotte to earn his business degree), but all the while he kept his summer job at the golf course. In facing the decision on a career path, he decided to follow his heart and pursue golf.

Thus he sought an agronomy degree and enrolled in the turf program at Catawba Valley Tech in Hickory, NC. While there he played in a national championship tournament. After graduating, his first job was in Naples, FL at Quail Creek Country Club, regarded as the best club in the area. Lloyd McKenzie hired him, the same man who was previously at Augusta National. He learned from McKenzie for two years, then it as off to the Sandestin Beach Resort in Destin, FL where Randy Fuller was superintendent (his brother Billy was Augusta National superintendent then).

At a time when the Sandestin Resort was struggling, Taylor got the opportunity to go to a new course being built in Nashville, TN, the Legends Club. It was

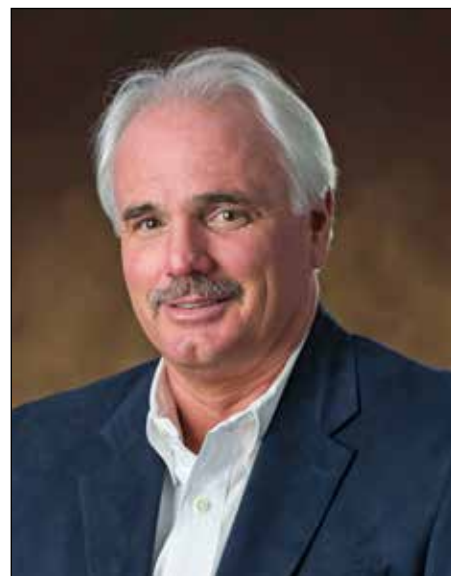
Randy's brother Billy who recruited Taylor to the new project, which became a 36-hole complex plus a short course with special children's programs through the Tennessee Golf Foundation. Taylor learned a lot about construction, riding along with architects Bob Cupp and Tom Kite. He stayed on as assistant superintendent to Joe Kennedy, who became a mentor to him.

In 1995, Taylor got his first head superintendent job, when Bill Maynard, CGCS left the Virginian Golf Club in Bristol, VA. This was a great Tom Fazio course that uniquely host two state amateurs in the same year — both Virginia and Tennessee — in 1997. The Virginian also had a three-hole warm-up course, and it was one of the first clubs to sport Zoysia fairways.

Taylor enjoyed his five years at The Virginian, but he was also tracking a new course on the drawing board in Richmond. It was a Fazio design, it had a Short Course, and it was to be owned and operated by a Foundation of the Virginia State Golf Association. Taylor was recruited and accepted the position at Independence GC in 2000, during the construction and grow-in phase. He worked closely with Fazio and Landscapes Unlimited, the firm that was also building Kinloch at the same time. Taylor was consulted on drainage issues, and there was a significant amount of wetland mitigation on the project.

There were many “highs” for Taylor in the early days of Independence — everything was world-class from the outset, and the VSGA had lofty goals with many programs to promote golf in Virginia. Both resident and day camps for juniors became the envy of clubs around the Commonwealth. The club hosted numerous championships, including the State Open. The USGA Green Section invited Taylor on their committee of just three Virginia superintendents.

Things at Independence started to change in the recession of 2008, as the VSGA's foundation donations dwindled. Struggling to remain afloat, the club was finally sold in 2013 to Giff Breed, who made his mark as a PGA Tour player agent for his company Pros, Inc. Breed immediately knew he had one of the best superintendents in the state, so they quickly partnered to create a new vision for



Dan Taylor

the club. The basic tenets were Sustainability, Playability and Pace of Play. The renovation was true to these goals.

This time it was Lester George who was brought in as architect for the renovation. In focusing on playability and sustainability, 40% of the bunker acreage was removed — some bunkers went away, others shrank, others were simply “softened.” The “Better Billy Bunker” method was used to improve drainage. In addition, greenside roughs became closely mown areas, adding new options to shot-making around the greens. The roughs that remained were mowed lower and more frequently. Around the course, hundreds of trees and shrubs were removed and grassed. Out of play areas were groomed down from their prior “wild” look.

Perhaps the most significant decision was the new grassing of the course. 419 bermudagrass was selected for fairways, providing a fine, tight surface. But most unique was the decision to go with Champion bermudagrass on the greens. Taylor knew that his old bentgrass greens were good, but he had been studying a trend in NC to move to the new grass. There was less wear-and-tear, and the bermudagrass was very consistent. Breed wanted something to set them apart, and this was it. The results are superb. A side benefit is that they only have to aerify once a year, and they use less pesticides.

*Continued on page 20*

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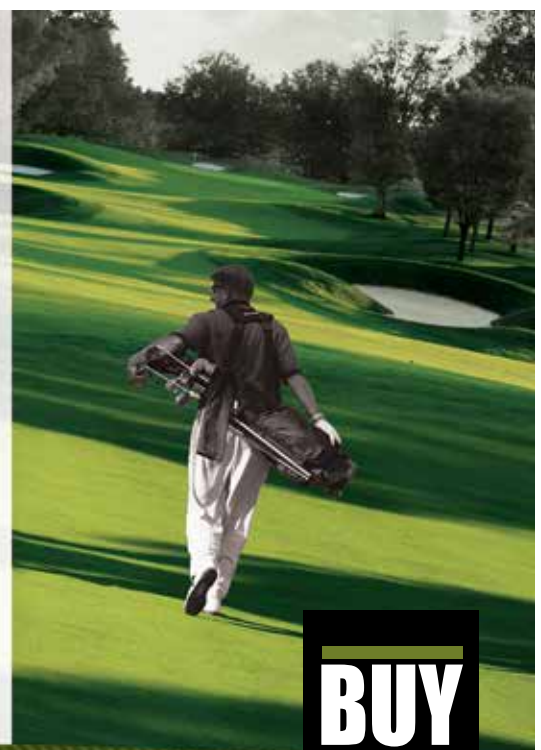
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# Joe Saylor Competitors Test Hermitage's Manakin Course

The 11th Annual Joe Saylor Memorial Tournament started with a short frost delay and finished with a glorious fall day on Hermitage's Manakin Course in the Richmond area. The event plays homage to the man who proved to be a leader with the Tidewater Turfgrass Association and in state affairs, who passed away in 2005.

As usual, the event started with the US Marines showing up for the Annual Toys for Tots promotion, as all attendees brought a new toys for needy youngsters. "This was one of our best events ever," said Sergeant Alexander Kessell, after he and his partner collected over 100 toys.

Turfgrass, Inc. got the event off to a fun start with their Bloody Mary Bar, and Genesis Turfgrass returned with their popular craft beer hole. Meanwhile Lebanon Turf took care of lunch and Landscape Supply sponsored the fun after-party.

In the tournament, host superintendent Keith Fellenstein and his staff had the course in superb shape, with smooth, fast greens and some challenging hole locations. An old friend showed up with a familiar face to take home the overall championship – it was former VGCSA President Jeff Yarborough, teaming with 7-time VGCSA Champ Jeff Whitmire, who combined for 66 to win by one.

Finishing tied for second with 67 were Kinloch's Trevor Hedgepeth and Steven Ball, along with Revel's Tractor's Larry Adcock and Greg Austin, plus VGM Club's James Hockman and Kyle Phillips. Adcock and Austin won the playoff for the Member-Member Flight, while Chad Karr and Ben Longest of the host club edged out Hockman and Phillips for the Open Flight.

DCR's Derik Cataldi won the Long Putt hole from sponsor M&M Consulting. The Long Drive went to Matt Drayton of the Federal Club and GCSAA National Board member Rafael Barajas from California led a group of four closest-to-pin winners. Taking home the cash in the 50-50 drawing was Jordan Booth.



US Marines with Jeff Holliday



Champions Jeff Whitmire and Jeff Yarborough



Ben Longest and Chad Karr won the Open Flight



James Hockman and Kyle Phillips tied for second



Jordan Booth took home the 50-50 raffle



Larry Adcock and Greg Austin won the Member-Member Flight

## Results

**Low Gross** – Jeff Whitmire-Jeff Yarborough 66

**Member-Member Flight (net)** – Greg Austin-Larry Adcock 63, Trevor Hedgepeth-Steven Ball 63, John Crain-Matt Drayton 63, Peter Schmidt-Bo Jumbercotta 65

**Member-Guest Flight (net)** – Chad Karr-Ben Longest 65, James Hockman-Kyle Phillips 65, Edwin Holland-Derik Cataldi 66

**Closest-to-the-Pin** – Jimmy Rodgers (#4), Ben Longest (#7), Jordan Booth (#12), Rafael Barajas (#16)

**Long Drive** – Matt Drayton

**Longest Putt** – Derik Cataldi

# Virlina Cup Matches Halved, Carolinas Retains Cup

The spectacular venue of Berkeley Hall in Bluffton, SC played host to the sixth playing of the Virlina Cup, pitting the VGCSA team against CGCSA. The two Low Country courses at Berkeley Hall were superbly conditioned, offering a challenging test for the best golfing superintendents of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. In an amazing and dramatic finish, the 2015 Virlinas Cup Match ended in a draw!

The Carolinas won the opening four-ball matches 3-1, winning two matches and gaining halves in the other two. But in the foursomes (alternate shot) matches, the Virginia Team won two matches and tied one, winning that format 2.5 to 1.5. So heading into the single matches, the Carolinas led 4.5 to 3.5.

Then in singles competition, the Virginia Team won 4.5 to 3.5, but it wasn't enough to win the Cup outright – under Cup rules, a tie allows the team holding the Cup to retain it. It all came down to a seven-foot putt that Jeff Whitmire had for a halve in his match against Steve Agassi,



which would have won the Cup – it slid by, and the Carolinas Team escaped with the Cup.

## Scoring Summary

### Four-Ball Matches

Crouch-Durham (C) def Vincel-Yancey (V)  
Whitmire-Fisher (V) halved Agassi-Baker (C)  
Friend-English (V) halved Graham-Lewis (C)  
Brown-Ross (C) def Keene-Cornwell (V)

**Carolinas 3-1**

### Foursomes Matches

Vincel-Yancey (V) def Agassi-Lewis (C)  
Graham-Brown (C) def Friend-Lewis (V)  
Whitmire-Fisher (V) def Couch-Durham (C)  
Keene-Cornwell (V) halved Brown-Ross (C)

**Virginia 2.5-1.5**

**Carolinas lead 4.5-3.5**

### Singles Matches

Yancey (V) def Crouch (C)  
Vincel (V) halved Durham (C)  
Keene (V) def Lewis (C)  
Friend (V) def Graham (C)  
Ross (C) def Cornwell (V)  
Baker (C) def Fisher (V)  
English (V) def Brown (C)  
Agassi (C) def Whitmire (V)

**Virginia 4.5-3.5**

**Match Result – Carolinas 8, Virginia 8**

**Carolinas Retains Cup**

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2015 VGCSA Team - Bill Keene, Terry English, Cameron Yancey, Dick Fisher, Scott Cornwell, Jeff Whitmire, Bobby Friend, Brian Vincel



Billy Lewis and Bill Keene



Bobby Friend and Terry English line up a putt



Brian Vincel and Anthony Durham



Dick Fisher and Carolinas Captain Tim Kreger share a laugh



Captains Tim Kreger and Matt Boyce



Jeff Whitmire and Steve Agazzi



Syngenta Team - Steve Dorer, Mark Brazinski, Larry Feller (Sam Camuso not pictured)



Terry English rolls a putt



Scott Cornwell, Dick Fisher, Steve Dorer

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### For more information, contact:

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# Where is Your Water Coming From? *Chase Rogan, GCSAA Field Staff*



**Chase Rogan**

Unless you have been living in a hole, you have likely heard that California is in the midst of a historical drought. Consequently, golf courses residing in the state have been under the water-usage microscope. While this certainly presents challenges to our water-dependent industry, the situation also provides an opportunity to self-reflect, learn and try to get better in regards to water management.

I'm not here to sound the panic alarm, or shame our industry for using water. After all, in actuality, golf courses only use one half of one percent of all water withdrawn in the United States annually. And only 14 percent of golf courses use water from a municipal water supply. So you may be asking, "Who cares then?" Well, a lot of people do, just read the news. I could go on with numerous anecdotal facts that support golf's claims as responsible users of water. And believe me, I buy into all of them. But that still doesn't mean that we can't improve.

Golf course irrigation can actually be mutually beneficial for golf, the environment, and other water consumers. How so? By using recycled water. In a story published by the Napa Valley Register ([napavalleyregister.com](http://napavalleyregister.com)), golf receives some positive PR as we learn about Napa Valley Country Club's conversion to recycled water. Sure, the

upfront cost associated with installing the required infrastructure is certainly notable. But given the current state of water access in the state, I believe this is an investment well worth it. And as General Manager Todd Meginness points out, "aesthetically, environmentally, everybody wins. We'll be recharging the water table at the same time." Now that brings the initial point full circle.

Certainly, here in the Mid-Atlantic region, our weather conditions are quite different. We receive more rain, we experience a little season called winter when there is no need to irrigate (most of the time), and I would argue that public pressure for reducing water usage is not quite as high. But we still have a responsibility to do our due diligence and evaluate our current water management plans.

- Do you have the ability to use reclaimed water? If so, what are the costs/benefits long-term and short-term?
- How efficient is your current irrigation system? Have you audited recently?
- Do you have a drought management plan in place?
- Is there opportunity for irrigation reduction by replacing plantings with more drought tolerant plant species?
- Is your club or association part of a water conservation task force? Should it be?
- Do you have a relationship with your local water authority? Should you?

- Do you use soil moisture meters to determine irrigation requirements?
- Ever thought about building a retention pond and capturing runoff to use for irrigation?

The list goes on. As an industry we have more work to do with developing drought tolerant grasses, salt tolerant grasses, etc. A project that likely will never end, nor should it. Likewise, we are continually developing our BMPs, and water management is a key section.

Similarly, water quality is not too different from water usage. Cue the Chesapeake Bay. Have you heard there is a water quality issue there? That is why I really like the idea of using recycled water, if at all possible. Not only does it benefit us, but it benefits everyone, and it is a great PR move for our industry. Maybe there are grants available. Maybe you and a local club could cost-share to get the appropriate infrastructure in place. Maybe the sanitation plant would cost-share. Maybe there would be tax write-offs.

I don't know your specific situation. But I do believe it is our responsibility as an industry to evaluate our water management practices annually, and ask ourselves the question, "how is my water management, and how can I improve?"

## GCSAA Ambassadors Named in Virginia

The GCSAA Government Relations Ambassador Program continues to grow in Virginia. The program pairs a GCSAA member constituent with a Congressman to enhance the Grassroots effort. The follow VGCSA members are paired with their respective Congressmen:

### **Congressman**

Rep. John J. Whitman  
Rep. Scott Rigell  
Rep. Robert Hurt  
Rep. David A. Brat  
Rep. Bob Goodlatte  
Rep. Morgan Griffith  
Sen. Tim Kaine

### **Ambassador**

Jeff Whitmire, CGCS  
Matt Boyce  
Peter McDonough  
David Smith  
Fred Biggers, CGCS  
Bill Keene  
Christian Sain

GCSAA is seeking good candidates to serve on this committee for Senator Warner and the other Congressional Districts.

Contact Chase Rogan for information at (814) 241-3037 or [CRogan@gcsaa.org](mailto:CRogan@gcsaa.org).

# WOTUS Rule Put on Hold

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit has stayed the implementation of the EPA and Army Corps' of Engineers Clean Water Rule (otherwise known as "WOTUS"). The effect of the decision is to put the rule on hold nationwide.

Legal activity has occurred simultaneously at the district and appellate court level on the validity of the WOTUS rule. The decision by the 6th Circuit does not change that. It does however stop – at least temporarily - any further implementation of the WOTUS rule until a final decision on its merits. In this latest filing, 18 states including petitioned the 6th Circuit for a nationwide stay of the rule, citing the need to preserve the status quo as the merits of the rule are decided.

In their petition the states contend:

1. The Rule's treatment of tributaries, "adjacent waters", and waters having a "significant nexus" to navigable waters is at odds with the Supreme Court ruling in *Rapanos*, where the Court vacated the Sixth Circuit's upholding of wetlands regulation by the Army Corps of Engineers.
2. It is far from clear that the new Rule's distance limitations are harmonious with the instruction.

3. The rulemaking process by which the distance limitations were adopted is facially suspect.
4. The proposed rule did not include any proposed distance limitations in its use of terms like "adjacent waters" and significant nexus.

In deciding on granting the stay, the Court concluded "the petitioners have demonstrated a substantial possibility of success on the merits of the case". The order offered the following reasons for issuing the nationwide stay:

1. The likelihood that the party seeking the stay will prevail on the merits of the appeal;
2. The likelihood that the moving party will be irreparably harmed absent a stay;
3. The prospect that others will be harmed if the court grants the stay; and
4. The public interest in granting the stay.

The 6th Circuit ultimately made its decision on this fact:

"What is of greater concern to us, in balancing the harms, is the burden—potentially visited nationwide on governmental bodies, state and federal, as well as private parties—and the impact on

the public in general, implicated by the Rule's effective redrawing of jurisdictional lines over certain of the nation's waters. Given that the definitions of "navigable waters" and "waters of the United States" have been clouded by uncertainty, in spite of or exacerbated by a series of Supreme Court decisions over the last thirty years, we appreciate the need for the new Rule. In one sense, the clarification that the new Rule strives to achieve is long overdue. We also accept that respondent agencies have conscientiously endeavored, within their technical expertise and experience, and based on reliable peer-reviewed science, to promulgate new standards to protect water quality that conform to the Supreme Court's guidance. Yet, the sheer breadth of the ripple effects caused by the Rule's definitional changes counsels strongly in favor of maintaining the status quo for the time being." (Page 5-6 of decision)

GCSAA will continue to monitor the legal developments impacting the Clean Water Rule and update our members on [gcsaa.org](http://gcsaa.org). We will also continue to push for passage of legislation in Congress to stop the rule. Please use our S. 1140 action alert to help support this effort.

## Become a Certified Nutrient Management Planner

The Department of Conservation and Recreation Urban Nutrient Management Program is holding its Fall training schools on **December 9-10 and December 17-18**, and its next certification exam to become a certified nutrient management plan writer **February 5, 2015**. The training schools and exam will be held in the Richmond area.

As you all know golf courses are required to have a nutrient management plan by July 1, 2017. Becoming a certified planner allows you the option of developing your own plan or to have a better understanding of your plan should you choose to have it written by a consultant. FYI, the training schools are not required if you already meet the educational requirements to become a planner.

However, the Soil Science, Soil Fertility and Turf Production School is a great refresher course for the certification exam, featuring presentations from Virginia Tech professors on the background science

needed to understand nutrient management planning. The Nutrient Management Plan Writing School is also great course for anyone thinking about certification. The course is run by DCR Nutrient Management staff and will cover the technical skills needed to write plans that will be in compliance with the Nutrient Management Training and Certification Regulations. Space is limited, so if you are interested in attending, you need to sign up as soon as possible. To register please contact:

**Susan M. Jones**

NM Training and Certification Technician  
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Eastern Area Regional Office

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Tappahannock, VA 22560

Phone: (804) 443-3803

FAX: (804) 443-4534

E-Mail: [Susan.Jones@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Susan.Jones@dcr.virginia.gov)

If you have further questions about certification eligibility, training schools, exams, plan writing or our program in general please visit the DCR Nutrient Management ([http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil\\_and\\_water/nutmntg.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/nutmntg.shtml)) or contact DCR's Urban Nutrient Management Specialist Derik Cataldi. Phone: (804) 371-7489 Email: [derik.cataldi@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:derik.cataldi@dcr.virginia.gov)

Thanks for your continued support of VGCSA, and please help us reach our goal of compliance for Nutrient Management Plans for ALL Virginia golf courses by July 1, 2017. Grants are still available through DCR Contractors until June 30, 2016.





# 2016 GCSAA Conference and Social Event

## Reservations Now Available in VGCSA Room Block for GIS in San Diego

The Horton Grand Hotel in the Gaslamp District is the official hotel for MAAGCS, ESAGCS and VGCSA for the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Rooms are available February 6-12. Rates are \$169 for a king room. Please visit the VGCSA website ([www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org)) for the link to book your room.

This New Orleans-style hotel will also host the annual VGCSA-MAAGCS-ESAGCS Social Event from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10.

**Deadline to book is January 18, 2016 – First Come, First Serve.**

If you have any questions please contact Robert Davila at Travel Planners, Inc., (212) 532 1660 ext 2185 or [robert.davila@onpeak.com](mailto:robert.davila@onpeak.com).



The Horton Grand Hotel is the official hotel of the VGCSA at the 2016 Golf Industry Show in San Diego.



Chava McKeel and Leann Cooper

## The Ultimate Job Security and Career Satisfaction? The Family of Golf?

Jim McLoughlin

Because golf is played in 118 countries around the world by over 60 million people, it encompasses the deepest and most widespread fraternity known to man recognized respectfully as **The Family of Golf**.

### What Is The Family Of Golf?

The Family Of Golf is the community of people who make up the **core humanity** of the golf world; i.e., those people who shape the playing and/or the staging of the game of golf.

### Who Inherently Belongs to The Family of Golf?

Regular playing golfers with official handicaps; those with a working knowledge of and a demonstrated support for the *Rules of Golf*; Rules officials per se; golf professionals because they are seen as the gatekeepers of the game; club/course officials; golf association administrators and the like.

### Are Superintendents Considered to be Inherent Members of The Family of Golf?

They are **not** so perceived because the profession lacking leadership in this regard — has consistently shown little interest in joining golf's fraternity and by so doing

allowed themselves to be perceived as **outsiders** to the game.

**Not a good position to be in when the game supports your profession because superintendents have paid a price for this cavalier attitude through the years.**

The irony here is that golf course superintendents by the unique nature of their jobs would routinely be considered one of the more respected categories of members in the Family of Golf if they elected to do so.

### Can Superintendents Correct This Oversight?

Absolutely, in addition to meeting their responsibilities as golf course superintendents professionally, by taking the time to commit to the following:

1. Required: Playing golf regularly including from time to time with members/players.
2. Required: Earning and posting scores to earn an official USGA handicap.
3. Required: Visibly meeting their responsibilities to support the *Rules of Golf* as presented in blogs dated February 5 and Feb 12 thereby qualifying for and, in fact, serving on their golf course/club *Rules* committee.
4. Required: Increasing visibility as

suggested in Oct 9 blog message.

5. Optional: Taking and passing the PGA/USGA *Rules* test thereby, again, becoming eligible to become a member of their golf course/club *Rules* Committee.

**No specific talent is needed by superintendents to join the Family only a willing participation in the game beyond their jobs and by so doing demonstrating a respect for the game.**

The **benefits that accrue** to golf course superintendents once they are perceived as being members of the Family of Golf are that they are **virtually guaranteed**:

1. The benefit of the doubt whenever circumstances arise that might question their job security.
2. The best opportunity to secure their jobs through written employment agreements.
3. A more certain path to industry standard compensation packages.
4. The only way to gain true satisfaction throughout their careers in golf.

Analysis through the years consistently shows that roughly 90% of dismissed superintendents were not perceived as being members of the Family of Golf.

# Assistants Forum a Success at Belmont Country Club

The 7th Annual VGCSA Assistants Forum was a success at Belmont Country Club earlier this month. The event was co-sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, and it was jointly coordinated by Ryan Johnson of the Kanawha Club for VGCSA and by Chris Sandels of the Chevy Chase Club for MAAGCS.

Tim Moraghan of Aspire Golf delivered an exceptional education piece on restoration projects at the Forum. Tim particularly emphasized the need for excellent communication throughout the process to create buy-in by key parties and to keep it on track when unexpected circumstances arise. He traced the critical path sequence of events that ultimately leads to the successful completion of the project, on time and on budget.

The Superintendent panel segment was also a hit with some of the associations top Superintendents providing invaluable information on their personal experiences with restoration projects. The panel included Moraghan, plus host superintendent Aaron Wells (Belmont CC), former VGCSA President Jeff Berg (Goose Creek GC), MAAGCS President Chris Harriman (Cattail Creek CC) and former MAAGCS President Dean Graves, CGCS (Chevy Chase Club). A popular topic among the panel was the importance of the superintendent's communication with club members and the decision-makers, to help them understand the reasons for a restoration project and the value it can bring to the membership. The short and long-term financial commitment must be discussed up front.

Host Superintendent Aaron Wells and his assistants Tim Sockriter and Ryan Jarrett had the golf course in beautiful shape for this year's event. The weather was exceptional with bright blue skies and the temperature was in the high 60's, making for a most enjoyable afternoon on the golf course.

Following the education, the group took on the Belmont Country Club course in a two-man Captain's Choice format. Winning the overall competition were Assistants Tim Crowley and Ryan Peach of Westwood Country Club with a net 63. Matt Park and Brett Vander Heide of Congressional Country Club were second with a net 65. Winning low gross were Kyle Trazskos of McDonald & Sons and Tyler Eastham of Norman & Associates with a 70. Troy Brawner of Bethesda Country Club won the long drive, while closest-to-the-pin winners were Joe Betcher (Robert Trent Jones GC), Shaun Clark (Northwest GC), Adam Schilpp (TPC Potomac) and C.J. Pascual (Little Bennett GC).

Sponsors



Chris Harriman speaks while Tim Moraghan looks on







2015 Assistants Forum - Chris Sandels, Chris Harriman, Dean Graves, Tim Moraghan, Jeff Berg, Aaron Wells, Ryan Johnson



Ryan Johnson congratulates tourney champs Tim Cowley and Ryan Peach of Westwood CC



Dean Graves & Jeff Berg



Belmont Country Club in autumn

## Taylor Recognized cont.

The expansive 250-acre plot housing Independence offers a friendly environment for native wildlife. Regularly you will see deer, wild turkeys, beavers, ducks, geese, rabbits, foxes, herons, turtles, frogs, skunks, hawks and an occasional Bald Eagle, among many types of birds.

Independence also is very conservative on water usage. The lakes on the property catch runoff, and they recently drilled two wells to supplement their needs. "We do not want to EVER over-water," said Taylor. To help him in that regard, he has a new Toro e-Osmac system that is computerized to control every sprinkler head on the property individually according to their needs. The system is programed with the size of the head, the nozzle, the soil type and many other variables to allow great control to only water where needed.

Taylor also hired Angela Whitehead to

put together a Nutrient Management Plan for the club, something that will be required of ALL Virginia golf courses by July, 2017. He noted that there is state grant money to defer half the cost.

Regarding environmental stewardship in daily maintenance practices, Taylor downplays this as nothing unique among superintendents. "Superintendents are good stewards BY NATURE. It's what we've been taught. You don't use fertilizer unless it's necessary – the same with pesticides. Likewise, we conserve water and don't use it when it's not needed," Taylor remarked.

Taylor also has the VGCSA's Best Management Practices manual right at his desk. This significant publication covers all aspects of golf course maintenance, and Taylor seeks to emulate it in his daily practices. He is very careful about his storage areas for pesticides and fertilizers,

using separate metal structures that are floored. The above-ground fuel storage is double-walled to eliminate spills.

Taylor was asked what it meant to be honored by his peers. "It is very much an honor," he remarked. "The majority of what we do as stewards is what we learn and it's just part of the job. And the best thing about the job is the people. And I mean not just the superintendents but also the vendors, who are here to help us. I feel like if I ever have a problem, I can pick up the phone and get an answer from a peer."

Taylor is married to wife Susie and he is step-father to two sons and a daughter. One is his Assistant at Independence, Brad McCurry. DJ is in Gastonia, while Kendall is in her last year of college at JMU.

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# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

On September 29 we held our fall golf outing at Independence Golf Club. Mother Nature was the winner of the event as it rained most of the day sending us to The Tavern for lots of food and drinks.

During the VGCSA fall conference our association sponsored a portion of the education called "Focus on Water." It

featured Heather Mackey with DEQ, Derik Cataldi with DCR, and Kerry McGrath with Hunton and Williams LLP.

Following the VGCSA's fall conference we held our Annual Meeting. Brent Graham was elected to replace Kevin Fortune as President, Chris Roberts was elected as our newest Director, and Scott

Mauldin will replace me as our External Vice President.



*Dan Taylor*  
ODGCSA  
External Vice President

## TTA Fall News

This September, the annual Outer Banks trip was at Kilmarlick Golf Club hosted by our President, Paul Culclasure. Thanks to Paul and his staff for their hospitality and great conditions. This was another great opportunity to get out play golf and talk with our peers.

The annual meeting and golf this year schedule for Sleepy Hole Golf Club was canceled due to the inclement weather. The Board is meeting in November to discuss TTA review of 2015 events, a 2016 membership recruitment program and Paul's replacement, as he was kind enough

to finish his term year while taking a new position at Kilmarlick. The TTA would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication for the TTA throughout this season. We know it was challenging.

August and September were a little more challenging than last year with temperatures in the low to mid 90s most of the time, coupled with no rain for 8-10 weeks. Many of us within the Tidewater region having less than desirable water quality (high sodium and bicarbs) were required to flush our greens more often than last year.

All in all, it wasn't a terrible summer and we are finally getting the much needed rain in October.

With aerification behind us and the last spring dead spot application going down, it is time to relax, unwind and enjoy life.



*Pete Stephens, CGCS*  
Tidewater Turfgrass  
Association  
External Vice President

## SVTA News

The SVTA had our annual fundraiser golf tournament at Rock Harbor Golf Course on the October 15. First off, thank you Bobby Jenkins for hosting a great event at your facility and thank you to all of our sponsors. We couldn't of had such a great event without your support. We raised \$1,000 for the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation.

Thank you to all of the SVTA members

for supporting our association again this year and to all the superintendents for hosting events at your facility. Hope to have another successful upcoming year with some great events. Please contact me if you have any ideas for meetings or if you want to host an event at your club.

Not much else is going on in the Valley, other than having our first frost a few weeks

back and leaf blowers running wild! Stay warm and hope to see everyone at the GCSAA show in San Diego.



*Scott Cornwell*  
Shenandoah Valley  
Turfgrass Association  
External Vice President

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## Giedd Recognized cont.

association matters. He was one of the original founders of the Old Dominion GCSA, when they met at Dave Harmon's place (Golden Horseshoe) for the organizational meeting in 1974. While at Blacksburg CC, he was involved with the VTA (Virginia Turfgrass Association, serving SW Virginia). As a charter member of the ODGCSA, he was elected Secretary/Treasurer and served around seven years, and was eventually elected President. He still remembers publishing the monthly newsletter, a project he recruited his wife and kids to help with. He also handled the

dues, and organized the meetings. This was when he was at Hermitage, but when he moved to the demanding job at Kingsmill, he had to cut back.

When asked about the award, Giedd remarked, "I'm honored to be remembered. The Old Dominion's formation was attributable to many people who put in a lot of time and effort. In this business, no one gets there on their own – there were a lot of people who gave me opportunities, and associates who worked with me, and these people still mean a lot to me. This has been a wonderful career, and I would recommend

it to anyone who enjoys people, the game of golf, and the world of landscaping."

Giedd and his wife Susan of 46 years live in Williamsburg. They have five sons and three grand-sons. Giedd now has the opportunity to return to gardening and grooming his yard, while going on the occasional fishing trip. He stays very busy serving as an Assistant Chaplain at the regional jail, and serves as President of the Williamsburg Camp of The Gideons International.

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# News from Local Associations

## News from the GWGCSA

We made it through another Mid-Atlantic summer! I never get tired of saying that. Probably because, by the time we make it to October, I can't muster the strength to say much more.

Not sure about the rest of you, but this year seemed to fly by faster than some of the previous ones. I was thinking it was on account of all the fun I had getting up to spike greens at 3:00 a.m. when it wouldn't stop raining, but I've been informed it's more likely because I'm getting older and just forgetting what I did the day before.

The summer of 2015 was surprisingly similar to that of 2014. Some rain, some drought, a s%t ton of rain and then a bunch of heat. I even saw some diseases that I didn't think existed anymore — summer patch eating up the Bluegrass roughs (you mean I have to budget fungicides for my rough with all this climate change stuff!) and gray leafspot rearing its ugly head on some of the Ryegrass fairways (guess I'll have to go back to mowing my fairways in circles from the outside in like we did in the "old days" in order to keep from tracking that crap in from the roughs.)

Oh yeah, I almost forgot, remember how we all thought that Bentgrass was our savior for fairways and tees and that we would have so much less to worry about than

with Rye. Well now we gotta go and add \$30k to our budgets to take care of those pesky little annual bluegrass weevils. How can something so small and easy to crush between your fingers, cause so much damage? As Forest, Forest Gump says "That's all I have to say about that."

OK, what's been going on in the GWGCSA? Summer being summer, we had no golf going on but there was a little social gathering one afternoon in August. I missed it due to the fact that our "leadership" made a last minute date change due to "conflicting schedules." As I didn't hear any stories about that gathering, it was either not much fun or so much fun that nobody remembered what had happened.

In September, we traveled up to Winchester Country Club where Scott Cornwell and the rest of the outstanding staff treated us to a great day and a phenomenal golf course for our Superintendent/Assistant Championship. Who won? Who cares? All I can tell you is that everyone had a super time, especially Mark Merrick, who found a completely new route back to his house from there. And if anybody does care, my Assistant and I came away the winners (still trying to get the trophy over here.)

Finally, Mike Augustine hosted a joint meeting with the MAAGCS for the

Superintendent/Pro Championship at beautiful Belle Haven Country Club. It was an absolutely perfect day and the hospitality delivered by the club was truly first class. There were so many categories of winners that I won't go into them here as they've all been covered in numerous other posts. Some of the awards were quite impressive with open division champs, John Karas and Bruce Pennington walking away with a couple half gallons of Jack Daniels Tennessee Whiskey. One of these bottles produced a terrible show of alcohol abuse as it was accidentally kicked over on the stone patio and shattered, leaving a puddle of that sweet-smelling brown elixir and Bruce's teary eyes staring at his loss. The initial look on his face reminded me of Bluto in National Lampoon's *Animal House* when the whiskey bottle is smashed outside the fraternity house. Bruce, I'm sure Ed will buy you a replacement bottle.

Parting words from the GW, there is something to be said for the old adage "Work Hard, Play Hard." You've earned it!



Shawn Gill  
GWGCSA  
External Vice President

## VTA News

This fall seems to be following this year's trend of being consistently inconsistent. August was very dry, stretching well into September. Then, the rains came. In southwest Virginia we saw anywhere from 8-15 inches of rain over a two-week period.

So what does it do when it stops raining, turns dry once again with over a three-week stretch with no rain. Oh well, guess that is why we make the big bucks.

The year ended on a strong note for the Virginias Turf Association. Our September meeting was hosted by Doug

Miller at The Homestead Resort. The weather kept some people away, but for those that came had a great time playing the storied Cascades Course and participated in an open discussion regarding Annual Bluegrass Weevil, Nutrient Management, WOTUS and other impending issues that affect us locally as well on the state level.

In October we visited Boonsboro Country Club hosted by Steve Vessells for our year-end and annual meeting. The meeting was highlighted by some great weather, great golf and the handing out of

two scholarships to turf students attending Virginia Tech. The first one went to Josh Washburn, a graduate student, and the second scholarship was received by Travis Robertson a junior in CSES.

Preparations are in the works as we look to have another great year.



Sean K. Baskette  
Hidden Valley  
Country Club  
VTA President



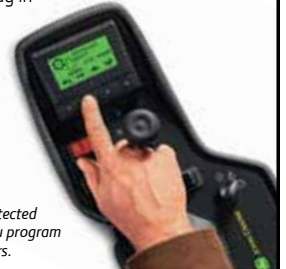
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