



President's Message

St. Patrick's Day has passed, and I think everyone is ready to see green. Hopefully everyone has weathered the winter well and has been able to wind down some as well as get some education from the various conferences and seminars available.

The month of January turned into a bust time for the Board with a lesson in politics. Senate bill 520 was proposed, which would limit access to confined aguifers in the eastern part of the state. With some investigation of the bill, it was decided that the impact on future superintendents was unacceptable, and we as a board took steps to lobby against the bill. This was done through visits to Senators on the Agriculture Committee as well as testimony in front of the committee. The bill was ultimately voted down and we were able to get some valuable insight into the legislative process. Special thanks go out to Peter McDonough, Jeff Holiday, Jeff Whitmire, Jay Wade, Scott Mauldin for visits and Rob Wilmans and Brent Graham for their testimony to the committee.

Not long after that the Board made its annual visit to the state legislature to meet with legislators to make them aware of what we do and try to create an understanding on their part of the role of golf in the state. Unfortunately this wasn't as well represented and myself, Jay Wade and Tyler Eastham and David Norman

made a mad dash through the offices to get our message across. One thing that I have come to realize of these interactions with the legislators is that it is vital that we continue and get better participation. The bill that we lobbied against is not going to be a one-time deal. These issues are not going to go away and we should be prepared to do more of this in the future. We have worked with the various state agencies in the past to help institute policy.

The NMP has proven to be a great success with approximately 96% participation mainly through our efforts. We continue to work with the water usage reporting and our BMPs have been a model for the rest of the country. This is our message to the legislators that we want to work with them for solutions and we have track record for doing so, rather than be arbitrarily told what to do.

OK, off the soapbox now and back to normal business. The GCSAA conference and GIS was a success for those that attended. Our joint social event was at Howl at the Moon with a record attendance of 314. Although loud at times (showing my age now), it was a great venue to blow off some steam and meet with fellow superintendents. I was honored to represent the VGCSA at the annual meeting and voted as a delegate for the first time. I was particularly happy to see Bob Mitchell, whom I worked for at The

Greenbrier. Bob was the oldest Past GCSAA President and it was impressive to see all of the Past Presidents who had attended.

The Mid Atlantic Golf Council put on a Golf Conference at Belle Haven Country Club. This was a great concept and many leaders of the National associations in golf came to discuss the issues golf now faces. Another article will give details, but special thanks go to Jeff Holliday for instigating this concept and David Norman and Tyler Eastham for their aid in putting it together.

We are currently developing a program for our Annual Meeting, building off last year's success. We are going to have it at the same venue, The Darden Inn in Charlottesville. This location received rave revues last year and hopefully we can increase attendance for this year. It will be held the at same time, in the first week of December.

I would like to thank those Partners who have renewed this year and welcome new ones. Without your continued support many of our efforts would fall flat.



Mark Cote, CGCS VGCSA President



2018 VGCSA Board of Directors

VGCSA Officers

President

Mark Cote
Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech
8400 River Course Drive
Radford, VA 24141
Ph: 540-633-0247 / Cell: 540-679-9002
E-Mail: mcote@vt.edu

Vice President

Bill Keene
Blacksburg Country Club
1064 Clubhouse Road
Blacksburg, VA 24060
Ph: 540-552-2461 / Fax: 540-552-0461
Cell: 540-537-1096
E-Mail: bkeene@blacksburgcc.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Whitmire, CGCS Williamsburg Golf Club 1801 Merrimac Trail Williamsburg, VA 23185 Cell: 757-291-2286 E-Mail: jeffwcc1@gmail.com

Past President

Jeff Holliday, CGCS
Salisbury Country Club
13620 Salisbury Road
Midlothian, VA 23113
Ph: 804-794-8389 / Cell: 804-640-0748
E-mail: jholliday83@msn.com

VGCSA External Vice-Presidents

Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association

Scott Mauldin, CGCS
The Foundry Golf Club
3225 Lees Landing Road
Powhatan, VA 23139
Ph: 804-598-5968 / Cell: 804-467-3167
E-Mail: smauldin@foundrygolfclub.com

Tidewater Turfgrass Association

James Mazowieski Kingsmill Resort 1010 Kingsmill Road Williamsburg, VA 23185 Ph: 757-253-5968 / Cell: 757-810-9742 E-Mail: james.mazowieski@kingsmill.com

Virginia Turfgrass Association

Sean Baskette
Hidden Valley Country Club
2500 Romar Road
Salem, VA 24153
Cell: 540-892-9299
E-Mail: hvccmaint@comcast.net

Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association Aaron Wells

BASF 44292 Fawngrove Court Ashburn, VA 20147 Ph: 571-233-5534 E-mail: aaronmw8@gmail.com

Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association

Ed Eagle, CGCS
Ingleside Resort
1410 Commerce Road
Staunton, VA 24401
Ph: 540-248-7888 / Cell: 540-292-0019
E-mail: eeagle522@gmail.com

At-Large Board Members

Assistant Superintendent

Garrison Fowler Two Rivers Country Club 1950 Two Rivers Road Williamsburg, VA 23185 Ph: 757-258-4605 E-Mail: garrison.fowler@gmail.com

Associate

lan Grove
Target Specialty Products
11132-A Progress Road
Ashland, VA 23005
Ph: 804-382-8838
E-Mail: igrove@residex.com

General Counsel

M.E. "Dick" Gibson, Jr.
Tremblay & Smith, PLLC
105-109 East High Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Ph: 434-977-4455
E-mail: dick.gibson@tremblaysmith.com

Talina Hammonds
Administrative Assistant
Tremblay & Smith, PLLC
105-109 East High St.
Charlottesville, VA 22902
E-mail: talina.hammonds@tremblaysmith.com
Ph: 434-977-4455

Staff

Executive Director

David Norman VGCSA 1900 Manakin Road, Suite C Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103 Ph: 804-708-9760 / Cell: 804-399-7802 E-Mail: dnorman008@gmail.com

Chapter Executive

Tyler Eastham VGCSA 1900 Manakin Road, Suite C Manakin-Sabot, VA 23103 Ph: 804-708-9760 / Cell: 757-329-3577 E-mail: teastham@gmail.com

VGCSA Announces Board Line Up for 2018

The Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association announced its Board of Directors for 2018. Mark Cote of the Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech will lead the organization in his second year as President. Bill Keene of Blacksburg Country Club is Vice President, and Jeff Whitmire, CGCS of The Williamsburg Club is the Secretary/Treasurer. Jeff Holliday, CGCS of Salisbury Country Club is Past President.

The Board includes five External Vice Presidents, representing their respective local associations: Scott Mauldin, CGCS of The Foundry Golf Club (Old Dominion GCSA), Aaron Wells of BASF (Greater Washington GCSA), James Mazowieski of Kingsmill Resort (Tidewater Turfgrass Association), Sean Baskette of Hidden CC (Virginia Turfgrass Association), and Ed Eagle, CGCS of Ingleside Resort (Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association).

Rounding out the Board are representatives: Garrison Fowler of Two Rivers Country Club (Assistants), and Ian Grove of Target Specialty Products (Vendor).

The purpose of the Virginia Golf Course
Superintendents Association is to serve its

members through unified representation on a state and national level and by advancing their professional growth.



2018 VGCSA Board Front (L-R) Jeff Whitmire, Mark Cote, Bill Keene, Jeff Holliday Back (L-R) James Mazowieski, Ed Eagle, Sean Baskette, Aaron Wells, Garrison Fowler, Scott Mauldin

VGCSA Conference Returns to Charlottesville

Kuhns, Gross Will Speak in December

Presented by







The VGCSA Conference continues to grow in its fifth year, and the event returns to the UVA Darden Inn in Charlottesville on December 3-4, 2018. The event will feature a similar format to the 2017 event. A good deal of education credit will be available to VGCSA members, as the Old Dominion's Education Segment will again be held on the first day, running 1-4 pm, then followed by the Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Presentations. Immediately following the meeting, there will be a FREE Partner Appreciation Reception, featuring your favorite beverages and hors d'oeuvres, and plenty of networking time with your friends. The evening will feature a Monday Night

Football Party presented by Ian Grove of Target Specialty Products (formerly Turfgrass, Inc.).

Then on Tuesday, a Networking Breakfast will run 7:30-8:30 a.m., followed by more education, featuring outstanding speakers from the fields of turf and business, all designed to make your jobs just a little easier and a little better. Confirmed speakers include Mark Kuhns – GCSAA Past President & Superintendent at Baltusrol Country Club in Springfield, NJ, plus Pat Gross, USGA Green Section Agronomist, Santa Ana, CA, who will speak on water issues.

"We polled our members after last year's event, and we got some good ideas. We are

committed to continual improvement of the program," said VGCSA President Mark Cote. Thanks to the excellent support of sponsors like Revels Tractor and Finch Services (the John Deere distributors) and other excellent companies, the conference will be at a reasonable price.



Mark Kuhns, CGCS

At the GCSAA Conference and Golf Industry Show

Howl at the Moon San Antonio

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Patrick Bowers and friends enjoy the GIS Social.jpg



Mark Cote and Mike Bostian congratulate 50-50 winner Chris Sandels



Jeff Holliday and Ryan Kraushofer

Mid Atlantic Allied Associations Host Regional Golf Conference

The allied associations in Virginia and Maryland were proud to host a regional golf conference at Belle Haven Country Club on March 6. Speakers from five national organizations presented and interacted with over 160 attendees from the golf industry about the future of the game. National speakers included Jay Karen, CEO of the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA); Rhett Evans, CEO of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA); John Easterbrook, PGA, CMO of the PGA of America; Craig Annis, Director of Communications from the USGA; and James Cramer, Director of Communications for World Golf Foundation.

The event was organized and run by the Mid Atlantic Golf Council, made up of the local golf associations (Middle Atlantic Section of the PGA, Virginia State GA, Maryland State GA, Mid Atlantic Chapter of NGCOA, three local chapters of the CMAA, Washington Metropolitan GA, Middle Atlantic GA, and three chapters of the GCSAA). These organizations came together as an organization to provide state-wide Economic Impact Studies, Best Management Practices for golf courses, and local and national lobbying of government entities on golf related issues. This conference was a great example of the different golf associations working together for the benefit of the golf industry.

Kicking off the conference was the dynamic Jay Karen of the National Golf Course Owners Association. He acknowledged the challenges facing golf but also noted some "tailwinds" for the industry. The fact that courses are closing and no new ones are being built is a move toward shoring up a supply and demand imbalance. The numbers

for junior golf, particularly for girls, is strong. He suggests embracing team golf, both for juniors and adults (leagues). Golf is doing a better job of tapping into family spending. Technology is being used to improve the golfer experience. Regarding TopGolf, he suggests to take pieces from their mantra and to not get too consumed in converting their customer base. An interesting stat he dropped was that last year, Korea had more simulator rounds than rounds on golf courses.

Following Jay's presentation was James Cramer, VP of Communications for the World Golf Foundation (WGF). James gave a synopsis of the foundations initiatives accentuating their mission to unite the golf industry. The First Tee, World Golf Hall of Fame and Golf 20/20 are the three main components of the WGF, all of which encourage participation and growth of the game. Reaching new audiences is an important aspect of their mission and WGF has created their Diversity Task Force to lead this initiative. The four demographics that the task force is focusing on are women, caddies, juniors and the millennial population.

Craig Annis, Head of Communications for the United States Golf Association (USGA) explained how the USGA is using data to establish trends. One example was a mapping program that was used to track the amount of golf balls that entered a particular bunker during the golf season. With this data it was discovered that the particular bunker had a very low amount of balls entering it, raising the question of the bunker's value, versus its maintenance requirements and expenditures. You can see more about this program at rm.usga.org

Craig also discussed the Play9 program which encourages golfers to play 9 holes of

golf when time is not permitted to play a full 18 holes. This program has raised the awareness of the game.

Next up was John Easterbrook, Chief Membership Officer for the PGA of America. One topic covered was the intimidation factor of golf. New golfers sometimes feel uncomfortable and out of place the first time they visit a golf course. Breaking down this barrier is an important goal to grow the game. The PGA is doing this by focusing on education for PGA professionals that will enhance the faculty training at their courses and also improve PGA member engagement with their customers.

Rhett Evans, CEO of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), closed out the morning session. Rhett stressed teamwork and collaboration as a key to success in the industry, especially now, with new laws and political viewpoints that are singling out the industry as a whole. Labor, environment and government affairs are at the top of this list. Through the best management practices initiative and grassroots Ambassadors programs, GCSAA is at the forefront of these issues. Education was another important aspect of Rhett's presentation. He told the group that GCSAA and The First Green have entered into a partnership and how the GCSAA First Green Program is engaging with elementary schools students. Superintendents and owners invite the students their golf course for a half-day field trip to engage in STEM education activities.

Following the presentations was a panel discussion with all five of the tremendous speakers. Audience participation was plenty, and the moderator, Bobby Vermillion of *Endless Golf*, did an excellent job.



James Cramer



Jay Karen and Rhett Evans share a laugh



Bobby Vermillion



Craig Annis

March 2018

VGCSA Event Previews

TTA and Old Dominion GCSA Plan Joint Meeting on April 2 at Kingsmill Resort

The Tidewater Turfgrass Association and the Old Dominion GCSA are once again partnering on an early season event in Williamsburg, this time on Monday, April 2nd at Kingsmill Resort. New James River Course Superintendent Tim Doran is playing host, joined by new VGCSA Board Member James Mazowieski of the Kingsmill Woods Course.

The event feature education with David Tolleris of WxRisk.com, a weather forecasting company. Then participants will have lunch, followed by golf on the River Course, site of the LPGA tournament.



Old Dominion Scholarship Tournament at Magnolia Green GC on April 23

The Old Dominion GCSA Scholarship Tournament was a big hit last year at Richmond Country Club. And plans are to make it even better this year at Magnolia Green Golf Club on Monday, April 23rd. So get your taxes done, and celebrate with the Old Dominion!

The tournament grew out of the old Tollie Quinn event, which Smith Turf & Irrigation sponsored for years. STI remains a top sponsor, and other top companies are joining to support this important new event which funds scholarships for employees of Virginia golf clubs – it doesn't even have to be at an ODGCSA club. Last year two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded.

"We want to continue to grow our event, and we welcome participation statewide, no matter what local association you belong to," said ODGCSA Jay Wade of the host club. Check the website for registration information, coming soon.



CMAA-VGCSA-NGCOA Joint Meeting at Farmington on May 14

Save the date for the annual joint meeting of CMAA, VGCSA and NGCOA Mid-Atlantic – Monday, May 14th at Farmington Country Club in Charlottesville.

GM Joe Krenn and Superintendent Scott Kinnan are your hosts. The education topic will be "The Future of Golf." The event features a networking breakfast, education,

lunch and optional golf on one of Virginia's best courses. Textron Golf is the presenting sponsor and IGM is sponsoring the golf.

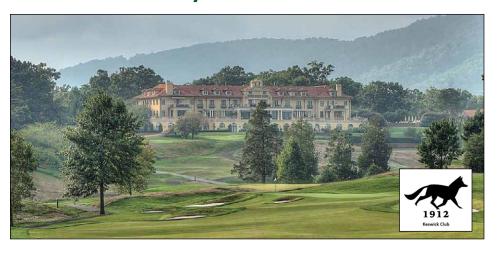


VGCSA Championship to Keswick Club on May 16

The VGCSA Championship added a new twist last year – a new Senior Division – it was a big hit, and there was a nice turnout. So when this year's event travels to the Keswick Club on Wednesday, May 16th, we are expecting a lot of fun, fellowship and spirited competition! The net prizes and a special Vendor Flight means there's something for everyone.

The event serves as one of the qualifiers for the Virlina Cup, and that always provides spice. And while Syngenta returns as presenting sponsor, each of four divisions (Superintendent, Senior Superintendent, Assistant and Vendor) will crown champions. Qualification for the Virlina Cup will still be a gross competition, with two spots going to the Superintendent Division and one to the Assistants Champion.

With the new format, another perk is the move to one of the prettiest and most scenic courses in the Commonwealth, the Keswick



Club. Host superintendent Peter McDonough plans to have the course in excellent condition (as he always does), and the test will be both stern yet fun. If you haven't played KESWICK CLUB, DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY – truly among the BEST in Virginia.

Defending Champions are Jeff Whitmire, CGCS of The Williamsburg Club for Superintendents, Garrison Fowler of Two Rivers CC for Assistants, Bobby Friend of Brookwoods GC for Seniors and Jim Wilson of Harrell's for Vendors.

Turfgrass Research Classic & Field Day Set for May 21 at Independence GC

The VGCSA and VTC are proud to announce the return of their joint fundraiser, the Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic, set for Monday, May 21st, hosted by Independence Golf Club in Richmond. Last year's event at The Country Club of Virginia was a sellout and raised over \$47,000 for turf research.

Last year the Virginia Tech researchers established turfgrass testing on the Short Course at Independence. During the event, guests will be able to take a tour that morning. The Tech team wanted to establish research in central Virginia, as the climate and growing conditions are more "mainstream Virginia," than that found in Blacksburg. Primary testing is for warm season grasses on putting greens. Independence has Champion bermudagrass on their greens.

This year's golf tournament promises to be a "can't miss" affair! Plans are in place to make it totally first class from the golf, to the food & beverage, to the prizes and more. In addition, the event will feature a silent auction component to add excitement to the day. The event has become the ultimate networking event in the industry.







The tournament committee is announcing the event and opening sponsorship and golf team sales now. Please visit www.vgcsa.org and www.vaturf.org for event details and plan to attend!

Government Relations Round-Up

VGCSA Representatives Trek to the State Capitol

Recently, VGCSA President Mark Cote, ODGCSA President Jay Wade and staffers David Norman and Tyler Eastham visited with state senators and delegates at the General Assembly. They visited each representative's office, offering a gift bag with important information about our association and the industry. A postcard with the QR code to our BMP document highlighting our environmental stewardship was also included.

After the visit to the General Assembly, the VGCSA representatives headed to the Senate Chamber. They were introduced to the floor by Senator David Marsden who noted the \$2.5 billion economic impact to the state and the 30,000 Virginians that are employed by the industry. The annual trip is important to building and strengthening the relationships with our elected officials.



Henrico Co. Delegate John McGuire with Mark Cote



Jay Wade at the State Capitol



Mark Cote visits with his delegate Chris Hurst, who is also his neighbor

Virginia Agribusiness Council Banquet a Sellout

On Thursday, January 11, the Virginia Agribusiness Council welcomed a sold-out crowd at the 47th Annual Legislative Appreciation Banquet held at the Old Dominion Building at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Industry partners and elected officials gathered together for an evening of delicious food and fellowship in celebration of Virginia's top private industries, Agriculture and Forestry. While the Governor and First Lady were unable to attend, we were pleased to welcome Congressman Dave Brat, as well as other state legislators and elected officials.

Representing VGCSA were President



Congressman Dave Brat (center) greets Jay Wade, Scott Mauldin, Mark Cote and Tyler Eastham

Mark Cote, ODGCSA President Jay Wade, ODGCSA rep Scott Mauldin, CGCS,

VGCSA Chapter Executive Tyler Eastham and Executive Director David Norman.

Frazier Leaving Virginia Agribusiness Council



Katie Frazier

Katie Frazier, President of Virginia Agribusiness Council, has accepted a new position with Farm Credit of the Virginias effective May, 2018. Katie has been with the Council in her current role as President since 2012, and previously served as Vice President of Public Affairs from 2004-2011. During her tenure at the Council, Katie has made it her goal to build upon our organization's reputation as a reliable and credible resource on industry matters and an ally for agribusinesses across the Commonwealth. Her passion for advocacy and her ability to unite individuals and groups of all

backgrounds has set the Council apart and earned the respect of many.

The Virginia Agribusiness Council is now seeking an Executive Director to lead the association into its next level of growth. Interested candidates should visit their website, www.va-agribusiness.org, for more information.

SB 520 Defeated in Tense Battle on the Floor

Virginia's myriad of golf courses east of I-95 dodged a bullet when SB 520 was defeated on the floor of the Senate. The bill sought to limit access for new wells on golf courses into the deep Potomac aguifer, where the cleanest water resides - upper aguifers are brackish, thus not suitable for irrigation. The VGCSA Government Relations Team were not comfortable with the bill's language toward a "grandfather" clause, thus they sought to stop it dead.

Initially the committee visited every

member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, which was step one in making it law. A Republican from outside the affected area crossed over in the committee vote, meaning that the bill went before the full Senate a week later.

Superintendents Brent Graham, CGCS of Two Rivers and Rob Wilmans of James River Country Club testified on behalf of the VGCSA. Aided by the staunch opposition from Senate Agriculture Chairman Richard Stewart, the bill was defeated.



SB 520 would have limited access to the Potomac aquifer for new wells

Taylor and Barley Complete CGCS Recertification

The GCSAA is proud to acknowledge the completion of CGCS recertification for two VGCSA superintendents. Congratulations to Dan Taylor, CGCS of Independence Golf Club in Midlothian and to Ron Barley, CGCS of the Country Club of Fredericksburg.

The CGCS designation is among the industry's most prestigious recognitions.









March 2018

Golf 20/20 and WE ARE GOLF put on National Golf Day

WE ARE GOLF, a coalition of the game's leading associations and industry partners, announces the 11th annual National Golf day will be held on Wednesday, April 25 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of National Golf Day is to celebrate the game's impact in the world, including its \$70 billion economy, \$4 billion charitable impact, as well as the environmental and fitness benefits.

This year, industry leaders are proud to meet with members of Congress, the Executive Branch and federal agencies to discuss golf's value. Topics such as tax revenue creation and tourism value will be highlighted, not to mention the 15,000 diverse businesses and two million jobs impacted.

The 2017 Community Service Project was such a success that it is returning in 2018! Industry leaders will converge with Michael Stachowicz, Turf Management Specialist of the National Park Service, on the National Mall the morning prior to the event to focus on beautification and preservation of this area. Projects include laying sod, raking, edging, overseeding, aerating and sprucing up pathways. The effort is headed by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents, along with VGCSA volunteers.

"With one in 75 U.S. jobs impacted by golf, the industry plays a significant role in stimulating our economy nationwide," says Steve Mona, CEO of World Golf Foundation, administrator of WE ARE GOLF. "Last year, a record 2.5 million people tried golf for the first time, further cementing why it is vital to share golf's interests with our country's lawmakers, showcasing the game's many economic, charitable and fitness benefits."



2018 VGCSA Member Survey

If you have not already done so, it is time to provide your feedback to help fellow superintendents, greens committees and general managers throughout the state of Virginia! Please take a few minutes of your time to complete and rate our on-line survey so that we can continue to improve for the future. Note that you will have the option to

save and exit the survey, then re-enter through the "survey invitation" page. All information and data collected will be kept strictly confidential as well as names of participants. Past participation has been much appreciated and we need your continued support to keep growing. The deadline to complete this year's survey is

approaching, so get the responses in soon! Please use the link in the email. We thank everyone for their commitment to our success.



Rounds4Research 2018 Campaign VGCSA Aims to be Among the Nation's Leaders

The Rounds 4 Research program was designed to address a critical shortage in turfgrass research funding by auctioning donated rounds of golf online. The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA. Although there is a wide scope of research going on, some key areas include disease management, insect management, turfgrass management and water quality. Funds from this program

are also used to support the EIFG's Chapter Cooperative Research Program which works with GCSAA-affiliated chapters by providing matching funds for applied agronomic or environmentally related research. This is a powerful program and VGCSA has benefited greatly from these matching funds. So, please use this opportunity to donate a foursome and help raise money for future research projects. In 2017, the R4R auction raised more than



\$200,000! This year, the auction is set for April 30-May 6, so get your donations in soon! Donating is quick and easy! You can simply fill out an on-line form or use the form included in this mailing and send to the EIFG. EIFG can create the winner's certificate for you.

2018 VGCSA Schedule

April 2 TTA/ODGCSA Joint Meeting, Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg

April 23 ODGCSA Scholarship Tournament, Magnolia Green Golf Club, Moseley

April 24 GWGCSA Virlina Cup Qualifying, TBA
April 24-25 National Golf Day, Washington, DC

April 30 TTA Field Day with Toro, Deere, Jake, Riverfront GC, Suffolk

May TBA SVTA Meeting, Bryce Resort

May 14 VGCSA/CMAA/NGCOA Joint Meeting, "The Future of Golf", Farmington CC, Charlottesville

May 16 VGCSA Championship, Keswick Club

May 21 Virginia Tech Turfgrass Classic, Independence GC

May 24 TTA Dick Cake Memorial, James River CC, Newport News

June 5 GWGCSA Two Man, TBA

July TBA SVTA Meeting, Ingleside Golf Resort

July 18 GWGCSA Maintenance Open, Forest Greens GC, Triangle

September TBA TTA Bert Walton Memorial, TBA

September 13 GWGCSA "Glow Ball" Tourney, TBA

October TBA SVTA Fundraiser for VTF, Caverns Country Club Resort, Luray

October TBA VGCSA Joe Saylor Memorial, TBA

October 9 GWGCSA Superintendent/Assistant Championship, TBA

October 14-16 Virlina Cup, Princess Anne CC, Virginia Beach

October 29 VGCSA Assistants Forum, TBA

November 6 GWGCSA Annual Meeting Evergreen CC, Haymarket
November 12 TTA Annual Meeting, Greenbrier CC, Chesapeake

November TBA ODGCSA Annual Meeting, TBA

December 2-3 VGCSA Conference, UVA Darden Inn, Charlottesville



Thank You 2018 Partner Program Participants!

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Booth Joins VT Turf Team, will be Based in Richmond

The Virginia Tech Turf Team is excited to announce a new research faculty member that will be based in Richmond to better serve central Virginia. Jordan Booth, CGCS has accepted a special research and Extension appointment within the College of Agriculture & Life Science. As a Research Associate, Jordan will have responsibilities of providing practical solutions to professional turf managers on both warm- and coolseason grasses. His primary research focus will be on bermudagrass putting green management at the Bon Secours Mentor Short Course at Independence Golf Club.

This position was made possible through collaborative efforts of many of our industry partners. The generous support from Independence owner, Giff Breed, and golf course superintendent, Dan Taylor, CGCS have paved the way for a successful new research endeavor. The Virginia Tech Turf Team has worked closely with the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation, the Virginia Turfgrass

Council, the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association, with each serving as an umbrella association for our allied green industry partners. Fundraising efforts from the inaugural Virginia Tech Turfgrass Research Classic and Field Day in May 2017 helped to kick-start these efforts and will continue to play a vital role in this important service to Virginia's turfgrass industry. Jordan will work closely with turf managers in Central Virginia to address real-world challenges with practical solutions that will benefit our industry.

With strong roots in the area, Jordan lives near Richmond with his wife Erin and their two sons. Jordan brings 13 years of experience, most recently as golf course superintendent at Willow Oaks Country Club. Jordan is a proud Clemson University alumnus but has learned to cheer for the Orange and Maroon when the two schools aren't playing each other.

Jordan's graduate work in Virginia Tech's

Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology, and Weed Science has focused on site-specific management of spring dead spot, where he has managed to reduce inputs without sacrificing control. When asked why he wanted to step away from his career for this opportunity, Jordan responded with "Research and emerging technologies have always fascinated me. I am excited to bring a practical background to the VT turf team and provide a university presence in central VA."

Jordan will bring backgrounds in both practical turf management and scientific research to the position and hopes to serve



as a conduit between the turfgrass industry and Virginia Tech.

Don't hesitate to contact Jordan with any questions or research needs:

Jordan Booth jordanbooth@vt.edu @JordanCBooth

Springfield Golf and Country Club to Attain Audubon Sancturary Certification

Springfield Golf and Country Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. Lentz Wheeler, Golf Course Superintendent, led the effort to obtain sanctuary designation on the property. Springfield G&CC is one of 36 golf courses in Virginia and 891 in the world

to hold the title of Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

"Springfield Golf and Country Club has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program. They are to be commended for their efforts to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property," said Christine Kane, Executive Director at Audubon International. "To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas," explained Kane. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.





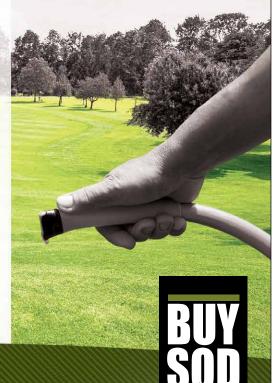
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Tips for Tournament Success from the USGA

Tournament golf at every level — from local outings to national championships — provides golfers an opportunity to put their game to the test. At the same time, golf course superintendents may use the opportunity to showcase their ability to produce quality conditions on the golf course. Unfortunately, it only takes one or two unforeseen events to erase all of the hard work that went into preparing the golf course for a big event.

When preparing a golf course for a tournament, avoiding big mistakes should be considered a success all on its own. Following are some important factors involved with preparing for and hosting a successful event.

COURSE CONDITIONING

In preparation for tournaments, goals should be set for green speeds, height of cut, mowing frequency, moisture content and overall conditioning. Reaching these goals during the tournament is ideal, but special care needs to be taken so that the turf is not stressed heading into the tournament. Conversely, if turf is managed too delicately prior to the event, and then maintenance intensity increases rapidly, turf decline could result. Turf quality should not be compromised for a tournament.

DRAINAGE

During a golf tournament, rain can be one of the most detrimental events, resulting in poor playing conditions, maintenance difficulties and complications with the rules of golf. Ideally, poorly draining areas would be addressed and resolved prior to a tournament, but that is not always possible. Some of the key areas that can become problematic following heavy rain events can be addressed within course set-up.

Hole Locations When selecting hole locations, difficulty and pace-of-play need to be considered, but weather must also be accounted for. When inclement weather is forecasted, avoid using low-lying or poorly draining areas. Selecting a hole location that is appropriate for the weather forecast may be the difference between completing a round or a suspension of play.

Tee Marker Placement Proper tee placement goes beyond avoiding standing water on the teeing ground itself. Tee markers should be placed to minimize the number of tee shots landing in areas of poor surface drainage.

Bunkers The priority for bunker maintenance during a tournament should be returning the bunkers to a playable condition. If staffing is plentiful, this could mean pumping any standing water out of the bunker and returning it to normal condition.

In the worst cases, the ability to remove standing water could be limited. If this is the case, it is important to provide an area of sand in the back portion of the bunker to serve as a drop area. The rules of golf allow for a golfer to take relief from casual water within a bunker, but the ball must remain in the bunker. If there is no area to take relief within the bunker, no closer the hole, the golfer may drop outside the bunker but will incur a one stroke penalty.

PUTTING GREEN SPEED

Putting green speed is an important factor of putting green quality, but should be secondary to producing smooth and true putting surfaces.

Ideal putting green speeds for tournament play should demand great touch when putting and invoke a player's imagination when recovery shots need to be hit around the green. Ideal putting green speeds vary from course to course for reasons including architecture, putting green size, firmness, weather conditions, demographics of competitors and the number of rounds played during the tournament. During a tournament, putting greens speeds may be faster than for regular play, but even during a tournament it is possible to have putting greens that are too fast. Putting greens that are too fast can be detrimental to pace of play, plant health and golfer enjoyment.

MAINTENANCE TIME FRAMES

To ensure that maintenance does not interfere with play, it is critical to know precisely how long each maintenance task will take to complete and how many staff are required. Special attention should be paid around the first, tenth and eighteenth holes.

If play is delayed for weather, synchronizing maintenance with the golf schedule becomes easier if pre-determined time requirements are established for different maintenance tasks.

EQUIPMENT

Non-conventional start times for maintenance mean that operating without daylight becomes necessary. While it may seem intuitive, it is a good idea to make sure that all mowers and equipment have lights — that work.

The amount of equipment needed should be evaluated well in advance of the tournament, and if additional mowers are going to be added to the current fleet, they need to be adjusted and tested prior to the tournament.

PLAN FOR THE WORST BUT HOPE FOR THE BEST

Organize a "rapid response" cart, which has all tools and maps necessary to address issues that could include: irrigation breaks, damaged cup liners / hole edges, ball marks, divots, dead vehicle batteries, fallen or damaged trees, etc.

Dedicate a member of the maintenance team who is detail oriented and trustworthy to go behind maintenance on every hole to make sure all clippings are cleaned and all playing surfaces are ready for play.

CONCLUSION

Keep the remainder of the golf season in mind when preparing for a tournament. Tournament conditions should provide an appropriate challenge to the competitors, but pushing too hard can result in poor conditions for the remainder of the season. This is especially important for early — mid season events that conclude during a time of year when turfgrass recovery is limited.

Although the importance of surface refinement and course detailing should not be diminished, being prepared for unfortunate events and severe weather patterns – if they happen – can separate a good event from a great event.



Paul Jacobs USGA Green Section Agronomist

New Education for Assistants

Within any industry, continuing education is an important asset in professional development. Our industry is no different, and superintendent positions are as competitive as ever. For assistant superintendents looking for their first opportunity, this education could be a key factor in separating themselves from the pack. Particularly, it should be highlighted and leveraged on a resume to show potential employers that you are engaged in actively trying to improve yourself beyond the degree you may have previously earned.

To help you reach your educational goals, GCSAA has been developing and will soon be releasing education certificates for assistant superintendents. The certificates

will cover 4 competency areas including: principles of golf course agronomy, business, communications/leadership, and environmental management. Although these certificates are geared toward assistants, any member or non-member can take the exams (cost is cheaper for members) to help improve their skills.

The first two exams along with an associated study guide on agronomy and business were released in January 2018 and can be found on the GCSAA website (www.gcsaa.org/education). Each exam will be between 70-75 questions. The remaining two exams will be developed and released later in 2018.

For assistants or others looking to hone

their mechanical intuition, GCSAA also has 8 competency exams for equipment managers and covering: cutting units, drivetrain systems, electrical systems, engine technology, hydraulic systems, metalworking and fabrication, spray systems, and fundamentals of turfgrass operations. These certificates are currently



available for any member or non-member, and can be found at www.gcsaa.org/ education.

Chase Rogan, GCSAA

Save the Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2018

VGCSA Championship at Keswick Club



News from Local Associations

ODGCSA News

We've had a busy first couple of months of 2018! This winter, some of our members helped to represent the industry in some political circles. First, we traveled to a networking/fundraising event at the Virginia Agribusiness Council Banquet. This was a great event and allowed us to get some face time with Congressman Dave Brat and other legislators. Congressman Brat is an advocate for our industry and advised us to contact him for support in the future.

Next, we went to the Capitol to oppose Senate Bill 520. This bill was written to restrict new wells being drilled into the Potomac Aquifer east of interstate 95. This could potentially have major impacts on new and existing golf courses that need wells for irrigation. Thankfully, SB 520 was not passed.

Finally, we were lucky enough to go back to the Capitol to hand out packets of information on the BMP for Virginia golf courses, talk about golf's economic impact on Virginia and to make new friends with Virginia's legislators. This is an annual trip and if anyone would like to lend a hand next year, I highly recommend it!

Our event schedule kicked off February 27 at Salisbury Country Club. I'd like to thank Eric Snelsire, from Bayer, for sponsoring the event. Thanks to Dr. Askew, Dr. Mudge and Jordan Booth for speaking. I'd also like to thank Jeff Holliday for hosting. This event was focused on herbicide strategies for the upcoming year. Some of us may have come out of the session a little confused, but I believe we all learned plenty! Member participation was outstanding!

Our next event was our annual March Madness Social on March 15. Textron Golf again sponsored this event and it was free to all members. This has always been a great time to watch some basketball and talk with new and old friends.

On April 2, Kingsmill will be hosting a joint meeting with the TTA. Dave Tolleris, from WxRisk, will be our speaker. He is going to focus on weather patterns and what we should expect for the upcoming golf season. Hopefully he brings good news! We will have lunch and golf available after our speaker. This event will be \$35 per person. Thank you to Revels Turf and Tractor for the sponsorship!

Finally, on April 23, we will have our Third Annual Scholarship Tournament at Magnolia Green Golf Club. There are more details to come for this event, but put it on your schedule now.

Here's to warmer weather and a



successful season for everyone!

Scott Mauldin, CGCS ODGCSA External Vice President

TTA News

2018 is off and running and we've had a bit of a roller coaster start to the year, to say the least. February's weather was much warmer and wetter than usual, prompting adjustments to agronomic programming and chemical applications. The Weather has finally settled back into a more normal pattern, with colder, drier conditions prevailing. We look forward to the next few months and successful spring transitions for all our members and their playing surfaces.

The TTA has been very busy in the early part of 2018, planning meeting dates and locations, hosting events and making unexpected visits the State Legislature. Our first meeting took place on Feb. 23 at Top Golf in Virginia Beach. The meeting was well attended, as always, and was a great opportunity for our members to create fellowship and network. We would like to say a big Thank You to Smith Turf and Irrigation, DLL Financial, and 1st Products, for sponsoring the event. We appreciate your commitment and service to our Association!

The next event the TTA will hold is a joint meeting with the Old Dominion Golf

Course Superintendents Association at Kingsmill Resort on April 2. The River Course and Tim Doran will be hosting and Dave Tolleris of @wxrisk, will be the guest speaker. The event is sponsored by Revels and we are looking forward to a great joint event with the ODGCSA.

In addition, Mike Hall will be hosting an industry Field Day on April 30 at Riverfront GC. We will have representatives from John Deere, Toro and Jacobsen on hand, and it is sure to be a great educational and networking event.

We would like to say a big thank you to Brent Graham, CGCS from Two Rivers Country Club, and Rob Wilmans of James River Country Club, for taking the time out of their schedules to represent the TTA and the VGCSA in Richmond. Early this spring, we were faced with a senate bill aimed at major changes and restrictions to water withdraw and usage for our area golf courses. The bill targeted all areas East of I-95 and had the potential to greatly impact members of the TTA. Brent and Rob went to the Senate floor and spoke on behalf of the members of the TTA to relay not only

the potential impact of SB 520, but inform them of our on-going commitment to BMPs and Environmental Stewardship Programs. Their efforts were ultimately successful as SB 520 was later defeated in the Senate.

The TTA is excited for 2018 and we are always looking to grow, so if you know of a fellow Superintendent, Assistant, Equipment Manager etc, who is not currently a member, please encourage them to join the TTA or your local association and start enjoying the benefits associated with them! We are committed to supporting our members so if there is any way we can better do that, please do not hesitate to reach out to any and all Board Members. Please follow us on Twitter- @tidewater turf and Facebook-Tidewater Turfgrass Association, or better yet, come on out to our next event!



James Mazowieski Tidewater Turfgrass Association External Vice President

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News from Local Associations

VTA News

Once again, the weather in Virginia has been quite the roller coaster this winter. It has definitely been a test of one's patience this year. In January all we could think about is how dry and cold it was, what is the turf going to look like in the spring, how many irrigation repairs do we have ahead of us, and the list goes on. Well, finally we were able to see some much needed rain and actually some above normal temperatures. Golfers banging down the door, asking why greens have not been mowed and they are a "little on the

slow side." This led to plenty of time standing at the first tee explaining that it is still February and winter is not yet over. Well, March thus far has not made me a liar. Blustery conditions, off and on snow showers and plenty of wind damage that took its toll on many of those not only in the southwest part of the state, but all throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

Once again we are looking to have a great meeting schedule for the Virginias Turf Association this year. We are just putting the finishing touches on our schedule, but are looking forward to visiting some great venues, learn a few things and as always have a chance to get away from the grind of our courses for a couple hours.

I hope everyone had a safe and productive winter and I look forward to another great year to seeing everyone

throughout the season.



Sean K. Baskette Hidden Valley Country Club VTA President

News from the GWGCSA

I hope everyone had a great time in San Antonio at this year's GIS and was able to take away a few things that you can use at your club. A common theme as I walked the show floor was efficiency. How to do more with less. Several things that stood out to me this year and peaked my interest were the GPS sprayers and units that can be retrofitted to your current sprayers. Also, the many programs available for labor tracking and task management. The other hot topic of the GIS was the weather.

Many of us look forward to escaping the cold weather at home during these events but it wasn't until we got back home that we had some warm temperatures. Record highs close to 80 degrees were recorded in February which led us to mowing greens and fairways, but forecasts may be indicating that our winter isn't over just yet.

The GWGCSA had a March Madness social event on March 16th. This was a fun event to network with colleagues, watch some basketball and enjoy some food. Be

on the lookout for emails for our upcoming events. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Best of luck as we kick off another growing season in the Greater Washington.



Aaron Wells GWGCSA External VP

Aaron Wells Hired by BASF, Reports on GCSAA Leaders Trip

VGCSA Board Member Aaron Wells, formerly of Belmont Country Club in Ashburn, has been hired as the new Sales Representative for BASF, taking over for Ted Huhn, who retired at the end of last year. Wells' territory will be Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. Wells plans to serve out his term on the board as External Vice President for the Greater Washington GCSA.

Wells recently returned from the GCSAA Chapter Leaders Symposium in Lawrence, KS and was impressed by the program. His report follows:

I had the opportunity to represent the Virginia Superintendent's Chapter at the GCSAA Leadership Symposium. This event was attended by chapter representatives from all over the country to collaborate and

discover ways to better serve our members and grow our chapters. I've sometimes wondered what exactly does the GCSAA do other than set up the GIS and publish a monthly magazine? After attending this event I can assure you that the GCSAA is doing plenty. They have taken on the leadership role of being the advocates of golf. They have listened to the issues that superintendents are faced with and have instilled programs to help combat those issues. Whether it's the First Green program that uses field trips from local schools to golf courses expose kids to our industry, or programs that work with high school students enrolled in the FFA. who have an interest in agriculture, opening the door for golf as a possible career path. The GCSAA is looking at the future of the

golf industry and how they can grow the game. I'm proud to say that the MAAGCS is being recognized for their contributing efforts in the First Green program already.

The GCSAA has also implemented great programs over the years to improve our presence in Washington, D.C., making sure our voices are heard on environmental issues — the Grass Roots Ambassadors and National Golf Day programs are just a few. These programs are set up by the GCSAA, but it's the local chapter's involvement that makes these programs so successful. Whether you're already a member of a chapter and want to become more involved, or wanting to become a member of a local chapter, please reach out anyone on your chapter's board to learn more.



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Jay Watson, CGCS (276) 698-4718 jaywatson@embargmail.com