

# **President's Message**

There's no doubt the cool breezes of fall are upon us and summer's stress can be brushed off for another couple months while we watch our favorite football team do battle on the field. I welcome the jacket in the mornings and look forward to some new projects that will get us out of the daily grind of mowing turf.

Your VGCSA Board is excited about the fall season where will have our year end Joe Saylor event at the Kingsmill Resort, on October 21st, hosted by Ted Smith. We will once again be taking donations for the Toys for Tots campaign and hope you will come out and support this great cause.

We are also excited about the Assistant Superintendents Forum on October 28th, hosted by Dan Taylor and the Independence Club. Our keynote speaker will be Bruce Williams of Bruce Williams Golf Consulting and formerly of Los Angeles Country Club. Bruce will address our Assistants on techniques that will increase their marketability and make them more competitive in today's job market. We appreciate Mr. Aaron Evans, your Assistant Superintendent Board Member, for putting this all together.

A calendar change this year will hopefully spark some energy into the Wee One Tournament held at Cypress Creek this November 11th hosted by Phil Bailey. Changing the date will hopefully make it more appealing to everyone to increase the support. Phil has been the leader with the Wee One Tournament, which provides resources to Superintendent families in need, and we appreciate any support you can give leading up to and during the



event. Thanks Phil!

I'd like to congratulate our Virlina Cup Team for their fine representation of our association in their travels to the Pinehurst area to battle the Carolinas Team for the Virlina Cup. They played 36 holes at Forest Creek Golf Club and then traveled an hour north the next day to settle the singles matches at the Old Chatham Golf Club. Our Team consisted of Captain Jeff Berg, VGCSA Champion Chester Guzek, VGCSA Runner-up Chip Bass, VGCSA Assistant Superintendent Champion Eric Sheets, Local Qualifiers Jeff Whitmire and Scott Cornwell and Captain/Sponsor Picks Dick Fisher, Sean Baskette and Matt Boyce. This prestigious event could not be possible without the support of Steve Dorer, Sam Camuso, Mark Brazinski and the rest of the Syngenta Team. Read the article inside to see how the matches turned out – it came down to the last putt!

We continue to beat the drum with our 2017 deadline to achieve Nutrient Management Plans for all golf facilities. These actions are already starting to gain some attention with our legislatures and we hope to bring home the point by attaining our goals in 2017. The first round of Cost-Share funding has been allocated and we are currently working on the second round. We understand each facility will choose their path, but please secure your

resources or certification to help achieve our goals. We appreciate all the facilities that have attained or are working towards their plan.

This will be my last installment to the Commonwealth Crier as the current President. It's hard to believe it's been two years already, but before I sign off, I want to take some time and thank a few entities and individuals. I would like to say thank you to the Local Chapters and their leadership for devoting time and creating avenues for social interaction as well as education. To the VGCSA Partners who give their time and resources that enable the Board to move efficiently towards our goals. To each member who supports the Association through dues and the investment of time, I appreciate you seeing value in our efforts.

To the Board who takes time out of their busy schedule to travel to Richmond and create ideas that further enhance the Association and its members. Finally to David Norman who continues to overachieve, by taking our priorities to the top of the list and never letting any detail go unnoticed. I've enjoyed my time as your President and look forward to the VGCSA continuing to climb and further advance the members.

Thank you!



Matt Boyce VGCSA President

# **Regional Events on Tap This Fall**

VGCSA's neighboring GCSAA chapters are staging some excellent events this fall, and our members are invited.

# Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show Myrtle Beach, SC • Nov. 18–20, 2013

The Carolinas event is generally regarded as the largest and best regional conference in the country. There are over 25 different educational seminars, great speakers, social events and networking, plus great recreational opportunities including the popular golf event. The trade show features "everybody who's anybody" in the golf turf industry, with over 200 exhibitors. For registration information, visit www.cgcsa.org.



The Carolinas Show draws a big crowd.



The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay hosts the Eastern Shore GCSA Conference.

# Eastern Shore GCSA Conference Cambridge, MD • Nov. 6-8, 2013

The Eastern Shore event offers a golf outing and a day-and-a-half educational conference, in a fun setting at The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, MD. The program includes excellent education with CEU credits and networking opportunities. This year Troy Fink, CGCS of The Country Club of Virginia will speak on "Greens Organic Matter." For registration information, visit www.esagcs.org.

# Virginia Chapter GCSAA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## 2013 VGCSA Board of Directors

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# **VGCSA Fall Events Head to Great Sites**

# Joe Saylor Memorial at Kingsmill Resort • Monday, October 21st

The 2013 Joe Saylor Memorial is really one big homecoming party, as the inaugural event was held at Kingsmill Resort in 2005. Organizers chose Kingsmill for their first voyage on the strength of the Resort's outstanding facilities and renowned service levels. Oh, and the golf wasn't too shabby either!

So the James River Course returns to host after continuing the tradition of hosting professional golf with the LPGA Kingsmill Championship this spring. Bordered by the calm azure waters of the James River, this famed championship course has tested the mettle of the game's most famous names. On a still morning, with dew still beading on the precisely manicured greens, you can almost hear the echoes of applause for crisply struck irons and delicately holed putts. The River Course inspires you to test your own mettle to see how you stack up against the greats of today, and of years gone by.

Recently, the course has been reborn, thanks to the efforts of original architect Pete Dye. The famous designer tinkered just enough with his layout, bringing out the subtle details that make for a truly unforgettable round of golf, earning a Golfweek Magazine Top Ten Virginia Course distinction. The River Course beckons you for this reunion with your VGCSA friends.

Once again, the tournament charity is "Toys for Tots," the official charity of the US Marine Corps. The format for the Saylor is two-man captain's choice—the event is a perennial sellout. The tournament entry fee includes green fees, cart rental, range balls, lunch and beverages, prizes and Chili Bowl Awards Party. This year's event features an earlier starting time, to allow for travel time back home.







# Assistants Forum Featuring Bruce Williams, CGCS Independence Golf Club • Monday, October 28th

presented by



and GWGCSA, ODGCSA, SVTA, TTA, VTA

Former GCSAA President and Los Angeles CC Superintendent Bruce Williams, CGCS heads to the Commonwealth as the keynote speaker of this year's VGCSA Assistants Forum at Independence Golf Club in Richmond on October 28th. In just its fifth year, the Assistants Forum has grown to draw large crowds of assistant superintendents, equipment technicians, crew members and many others. All staff, including superintendents are encouraged to attend.

Bruce Williams has been making presentations to Turf groups for nearly 40 years. He grew up on a golf course, and was the #1 student in Michigan State University's turf management program. He was superintendent at Bob O Link

GC in the Chicago area, before moving to Los Angeles CC, two of the finest clubs in the country.

Bruce has been President of four GCSAA Chapters, as well as national President in 1996, following in his father's footsteps. Bruce currently serves on the California Alliance for Golf, the USGA Green Section and the California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation. Bruce Williams Consulting is one of several successful business ventures. Williams will relate his varied experiences in the profession, offering his observations on the current state of the industry for those entering the profession or fresh in their career.

Event Chairman Aaron Evans of Farmington Country Club has also organized an outstanding panel of top superintendents to interface with attendees and answer their questions. Panelists include Williams, Jeff Holliday, CGCS of Salisbury CC, Jeff Webster of Loudoun G&CC, Eric Frazier of Willow Oaks and Keith Fellenstein of Hermitage.



Previous events at Farmington Country Club, The Country Club of Virginia, Dominion Valley CC and Willow Oaks CC have been well-attended.

Independence GC Superintendent Dan Taylor, CGCS hosts the event at site of the State Open of Virginia. Following the morning education session, there will be a golf outing and reception.

Fall 2013 3

# GCSAA Conference & Golf Industry Show Heads to Orlando in 2014

## **VCGSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS Plan Social Event**

The GCSAA Conference & Golf Industry Show is set for Orlando, FL on February 3-7, 2014. The popular destination is expected to draw a big crowd for the annual excursion of education, networking, and some fun.

VGCSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS are again cooperating on a host hotel (DoubleTree at Sea World) and a joint social event there, set for **Wednesday**, **February 5, 2014**, so mark your calendar now!

GCSAA has broadly discontinued designating hotels for particular chapter, but they made an exception for us this year – so please check your email or our website, and reserve your room now!









# Wee One Event Moves to the Fall

# Cypress Creek Golfers' Club • Wednesday, November 13th

Last year's Wee One Foundation event proved to be one of the best ever, with growth in participation and sponsorship. The Wee One Foundation was developed as a tribute to Wayne Otto to assist golf course management professionals (or their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources. This year's event moves to the fall, in hopes of an even better turnout, avoiding the normally oppressive conditions of July.

Phil Bailey, CGCS, chairs the Wee One Foundation tournament at Cypress Creek Golfers' Club in Smithfield on Wednesday, November 13th. "We need your support to continue our track record of success. Last year we had donations of nearly \$14,000, and with matching funds from the Wee One Foundation, we were able to help a VGCSA member with over \$24,000 to cover extensive medical expenses."

Regular sponsors of the event include Larry McKee, Mark Many, Keith O'Neill, Landscape Supply, Tom Rash and Floratine, Agrium, Sam Coggin, Phoenix, Jacobsen, Rain Bird, Horizon, Syngenta, Hertz, Innovative Turf Service, VGCSA, David Norman, Home Field Fertilizer, Yamaha Golf Cart of Virginia, Mid Atlantic Sports Turf, Helena and Cypress Creek GC,

which completely donates all green and cart fees to the foundation.

The event features a golf event on the beautiful marsh-side links of Cypress Creek, one of the prettiest courses in eastern Virginia. Following the golf, players enjoy a BBQ reception and a raffle for extensive prizes.

Bailey remarked, "A special thank you goes out to my friends on the Wee One Tournament Board for assisting in making this a great tradition for an important cause."



Phil Bailey, Wee One Chairman



The scenic par-3 16th hole plays over the marsh.



#### **Wee One Foundation Facts**

- The Foundation has gifted over \$600,000.00 to individuals in 17 states.
- Members of the Wee One Foundation are found in 28 states.
- The Wee One has been and continues to be featured in industry publications including: Golf Course Management, Golf Course Industry, Superintendent News, Golfdom and many local superintendent chapter publications.
- · The Wee One has been the subject of several feature videos on GCSAAtv.
- · Annual Wee One events are held in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky.
- · The Wee One Foundation raises funds through golf events, auctions, membership, industry partnerships and gifts.
- It is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit Charitable Organization headquartered at the Midwest Golf House in Lemont, Illinois.
- For more information, please visit weeone.org or phone 630-457-7276

# **VGCSA Annual Meeting Set for January 28th**

# Fredericksburg Country Club Hosts Again During VTC Conference

In 2012, the VGCSA Board introduced a new format for its annual meeting, which was held at Fredericksburg Country Club. The new event was a huge success, featuring over 200 attendees for a reception, dinner and awards celebration—and it grew again this year. The 2014 Annual Meeting will return to Fredericksburg CC on Tuesday evening, January 28th.

"We have enjoyed great success with this new format," said Matt Boyce, VGCSA President. "We expect to have a great turnout of superintendents, assistants, Partner companies, honorary members and students in this fun affair."

Fredericksburg Country Club is conveniently located about 15 minutes



The event offers excellent networking opportunities

Fredericksburg Country Club

from the conference hotels, and the historic clubhouse provides ample space to accommodate everyone. The main house was originally built in 1819 as part of the Smithfield Plantation, and the history room contains many civil war artifacts.

# **Thank You 2013 Partner Program Participants!**

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# **VGCSA Award Nominations Open**

## Please submit by November 30, 2013

Nominations are now open for the 2013 VGCSA awards, which will be presented at the VGCSA Annual Meeting on January 28, 2014 in Fredericksburg. Any VGCSA member may submit a nomination to our committee. The Awards Committee is chaired by Bill Keene, and we request nominations be submitted by November 30, 2013. Nomination forms are available on the VGCSA website (www.vgcsa.org). Please email nominations to Bill Keene (bkeene@blacksburgcc.com). Here are the three award descriptions:

### **VGCSA Distinguished Service Award**

Presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents.

#### **Past Winners**

2012 Stanley J. Zontek

2011 Mark Vaughn

2010 Eric D. Spurlock

2009 Cutler Robinson, CGCS

2008 Bob Ruff, CGCS

2007 Steve Burnette

2006 Steve Snare, CGCS

2005 Jeff Snyder

2004 Thomas Dougherty

2003 Peter McDonough

2002 H.T. Page

2001 Jerome Dodson

2000 Dick Fisher, CGCS

# VGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service

Honors 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, ten of which were as a superintendent.

### **Past Winners**

2012 David Harmon

2011 Fred Reese

2010 Lee Dieter, CGCS

2009 Tony Montgomery

2008 Mike Burkholder

2007 A. Tildon Hankley

2006 Walter Montross, CGCS

2005 Jack McClenahan

2004 Eugene Sours

2003 Frank Flannagan

2002 Dave Geiger, CGCS2001 Peter McDonough

2000 Dick Fisher, CGCS

## VGCSA Environmental Stewardship Award

Presented to recognize distinguished and meritorious service in the environmental stewardship of Virginia golf courses.

#### **Past Winners**

2012 Donna Pugh Johnson2011 Peter McDonough



2012 Honorees Harmon, Johnson and Zontek

# 2013 Rounds4Research Auction Program Nets Over \$5,000 to Support Turf Research

Rounds 4 Research is a fundraising program with the goal of generating resources to support agronomic research for golf courses. It is in response to previous funding sources, both public and private, being eliminated. The program is being administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, in partnership with its chapters, like VGCSA. This year over 40 courses donated rounds and over \$5,000 was raised to support programs in Virginia.



GCSAA President Pat Finlen, CGCS (L) and GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans (R) present the big check to Scott Mauldin, CGCS

## **Honor Roll of Participating Courses**

Ballyhack Golf Club Bassett Country Club

Birdwood Golf Course at Boar's Head

Blacksburg Country Club Boonsboro Country Club

Brickshire Golf Club

Broad Bay Country Club

Cedar Point Country Club

Cypress Creek Golfers' Club

Elizabeth Manor Golf and Country Club

Forest Greens Golf Club

Foundry Golf Club

General's Ridge Golf Course

Golden Horseshoe Golf Club

Goodyear Golf Club

Hanover Country Club

**Heritage Oaks Golf Course** 

Hermitage Country Club

Heron Ridge Golf Club

Independence Golf Club

Ingleside Resort

Keswick Club

rses
gsmill Resort
Research

Kingsmill Resort

Lake Monticello Golf Club

Laurel Hill Golf Club

Loudoun Golf & Country Club

Nansemond River Golf Club

Ocean View Golf Course

Primland

Prince William Golf Club

**Princess Anne Country Club** 

**Providence Golf Club** 

Royal New Kent Golf Club

Salisbury Country Club

**Shenvalee Golf Resort** 

Spring Creek Golf Club

Stonehouse Golf Club

Stollellouse Golf Club

The Crossings Golf Club

The Osprey's at Belmont Bay

The Waterfront Country Club

The Westlake Golf and Country Club

Westham Golf Club

Winchester Country Club

Wintergreen Resort

# **VGCSA Team Norrowly Loses 4th Annual Virlina Cup**

The Virginia Team headed south for the fourth edition of the Virlina Cup in North Carolina, at Forest Creek Golf Club in Pinehurst and Old Chatham in Durham, with The Country Club of North Carolina hosting the practice round. It was a terrific event; however, the VGCSA Team fell just short in its quest to win back the Cup, falling by a slim 8.5 to 7.5 margin.

The "Road to the Virlina Cup" started with three players qualifying at this year's VGCSA Championship – Superintendent Champion Chester Guzek (Meadows Farms GC), Runner-Up Chip Bass (Falling River CC) and Assistant Champion Eric Sheets (The Olde Farm GC).

Then in regional qualifying, Jeff Whitmire (The Williamsburg Club) joined the team by winning the TTA Qualifier. Scott Cornwell (Winchester CC) won the SVTA/VTA qualifier to join the team. The GWGCSA Qualifier was rained out, so the remaining spots were selected by the Captain and Sponsor (Syngenta): Dick Fisher, CGCS (Meadowbrook-Chesdin CC), Sean Baskette (Hidden Valley CC) and Matt Boyce (Princess Anne CC).

Whitmire and Boyce have represented VGCSA on at all four events. Jeff Berg of Goose Creek GC returned as VGCSA Captain.

For the visitors, the first day started in fine fashion. In the opening Four-Ball Matches, VGCSA did not lose a match, with victories scored by Boyce-Bass and Baskette-Sheets, with the other two matches halved – VGCSA led 3-1.



Presented by







Syngenta's Sam Camuso Syngenta's Steve Dorer

In the afternoon Foursomes Matches, VGCSA only lost one match, with victories going to Whitmire-Fisher and again to Baskette-Sheets – the other match was tied, and VGCSA won Foursomes 2.5 to 1.5 and commanded a 5.5 to 2.5 lead, heading into the final day. Captain Jeff Berg was quite pleased.

The next day was a different story. With the threat of losing the Cup, the Carolinas Team staged a furious rally. Berg's strategy was to end it quickly, and Whitmire did come through with a victory in the first singles match, giving VGCSA a 6.5 to 2.5 lead – thus only 2

points were needed to secure victory.

Subsequently the Carolinas swept the next four matches to tie it! Sheets then came through with a big win over O'Neil Crouch, one of the top Carolinas players, to give VGCSA the lead again by one. But that proved to be the last gasp, as CGCSA won the last two matches to retain the Cup.

This premier event has grown into one of the finest in the industry. This comes from the commitment and support of the sponsor, Syngenta, and their representatives Steve Dorer, Sam Camuso, Larry Feller and Mark Brazinski – as well as the sponsoring organizations, VGCSA and CGCSA.



Chip Bass prepares for a shot







Forest Creek Golf Club in Pinehurst

## Jeff Whitmire, CGCS has represented VGCSA at every Cup event, and provided his thoughts:

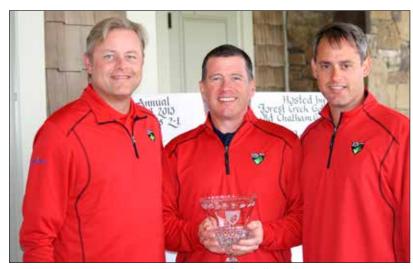
"We put up a good fight, played some great golf courses, met some great people, and enjoyed some wonderful food. Everyone gave it their best. I am very proud of how we played and I am honored to be part of such a great team.

The Virlina Cup gives our members an incentive to play good golf, improve their games, and become part of the "family of golf". Like it or not, golfing ability is a valued asset in this business. Events, such as the Virlina Cup, showcase our ability to play the game, understand the game, and compete. This can only serve to enhance our collective standing in our industry.

I want to thank everyone who has been instrumental in making this a great event—Matt Boyce and Paul Jett for the idea; David Norman and Tim Kreger for making the idea a reality; Syngenta (Steve, Larry, Sam, and Mark) for their financial and logistical support; and our passionate and supportive captains Mr. Berg, and "Captain Forever" Spurlock. Thank you all!"



The Virlina Cup teams



Presentation Ceremony: (L-R) Tim Kreger, Steve Dorer, Jeff Berg

# **Team Virginia**



Captain Jeff Berg



Sean Baskette



Chip Bass



Matt Boyce



Scott Cornwell



Dick Fisher



Chester Guzek



**Eric Sheets** 



Jeff Whitmire

# Is Golf Dead?

## By Larry Hirsh, Golf Property Analysts

## How is the health of golf defined?

Just yesterday, I got an email from another appraiser saying "golf is dead." If you would ask Tim Finchem about the health of the game, he would probably use things like tournament sponsor renewals, purse sizes and television viewership as his barometer. If you'd ask the USGA, it's likely that they would judge the health of the game by championship entries, associate memberships and the recent long-term TV contract signed with Fox as their measuring stick. Golf manufacturers would judge the game's condition based on equipment and apparel sales while those in other segments of the industry also focus directly on performance in their specific areas.

The golf course and club industry is somewhat different. Certainly, all these segments are intertwined and at least partially dependent on each other. However, those of us in the course/club segment realize all too well, that our success is measured by memberships sold, rounds played and ancillary revenues generated by food and beverage, pro shop sales and other fees. In other words, golfers have to

play golf and we need more of them. Without golfers, the core of the game, all the other segments crumble.

Of course, like any other business, golf courses have operating expenses that directly impact the financial feasibility of operating any club and two significant expenses are real estate taxes and golf course maintenance. Both of these items can "make or break" a golf course's profitability and in those areas where real estate taxes are high and water is costly, a course or club with one or both of these burdens can be busy and still not profitable.

In order to restore value to our golf properties, we need to make them more efficient.

- **Practice areas** can often accommodate 50 or more people in an area the size of one golf hole. Should we enhance our practice facilities and market them?
- Is there property onsite that can be used for alternative purposes or sold for development? Often golf courses have excess land that can be put to a profitable use.
- **Clubhouses** are too big and used too infrequently.

- How often is that 300 capacity banquet facility utilized?
- Does the pro shop offer the patron the ability to pick up a loaf of bread or carton of milk before heading home? Should we have the equivalent of small convenience stores in clubhouses? Hotels do it.
- Is there a fitness facility or kids area at the club or even the daily fee course? If Mom can't account for the kids, she can't play golf.
- Some in the industry talk about 6, 9
   and 12 hole rounds. Should courses start charging by the hole? Private club players have that advantage and use it regularly.
- **RULES** Don't get me wrong here, I appreciate and respect the traditions of the game, but society does change and we need to encourage more young people to enter the game. Some clubs have rules regarding dress codes, cell phone use and kids being restricted from the golf course—this is counterproductive to the long term viability of the clubs.

Continued on page 15



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# **Nutrient Management Planning Grants Available**

July 15, 2017 is the deadline for all golf courses in Virginia to have a certified Nutrient Management Plan for their course. For courses in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the state has approved a grant program totaling \$115,000 to assist golf courses with complying with this regulation. Essentially the grant is allotted on a \$10/acre schedule (e.g., 150 acres = \$1,500 grant). Grants are available on a

### FIRST COME FIRST SERVE basis.

The way the program is set up, Nutrient Management Planners were invited to apply for grants, to be paid to the planners, with the planners then crediting the grant to their clients (i.e., golf courses). There were eight planners that were awarded grants in varying amounts, and seven still have grants available. So if you would like to save money and get your course certified, now is the time!

A list of planners who have grant money is on the VGCSA website (www.vgcsa.org).

The VGCSA is working closely with the Virginia Agribusiness Council and DCR to seek additional funding for courses outside the Bay watershed. We will keep you posted on our progress. Please consider getting ahead of the curve and getting your course certified NOW!

If you have any questions about the grants, nutrient management plans in general, or are interested in becoming a certified planner yourself, please contact our colleague at DCR:

J. Derik Cataldi Urban Nutrient Management Specialist Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (804)-371-7489 Derik.Cataldi@dcr.virginia.gov

The DCR has posted a FAQ's page on their website (http://dcr.virginia.gov/water\_quality/faq-golf-course.shtml) in what's new section that addresses questions involving both how to get a plan and the grant funds that are available. Please go to their page or contact them directly if you have any questions.



# **VGCSA Receives GCSAA Chapter Outreach Grant**



GCSAA has established a fund to help chapters engage in activities that complement its efforts to communicate the value of membership to key constituents, primarily golfers and employers.

By creating awareness, the goal is to build greater understanding that leads to action. That action is manifested in increasing salaries, growing opportunities for career success/advancement and support of membership in GCSAA and its chapters. The support, in addition to providing dues, includes access to continuing education and networking resources.

For the second consecutive year, the VGCSA has been awarded a \$2,000 Chapter Outreach Grant from GCSAA, which will be supplemented by VGCSA

funds for an advertising campaign focused on leadership and environmental stewardship exhibited by VGCSA members at golf courses throughout Virginia. Beginning this November, ads will appear in *Virginia Golfer* magazine, which will showcase VGCSA's leadership in publishing the "Environmental Best Practices at Virginia Golf Courses," its ongoing Water Quality Monitoring Program, as well as an effort in the works to ready Virginia golf courses for mandatory Nutrient Management Planning by 2017.

"I congratulate the Virginia GCSA on its efforts to communicate the value of its members, the chapter and GCSAA," said Bill Maynard, CGCS, Chair of the Chapter Outreach Grant Committee.

# GCSAA Delegates Focus on the Future

The annual GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting (Oct. 1-2) took on a different appearance this year, as the focus was more on the future of the association and the profession, than the present state.

"We were intent on getting feedback on what the profession would look like in the future, targeting the range of 2020 to 2025," GCSAA President Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, said. "It became obvious to the board through our discussions with those in the golf industry, including members, that the profession is experiencing rapid change. Superintendents are being asked to do more, and the tools and resources we use to do that job are changing. Just look at what is happening with technology. The game of golf may not be changing much, but how we manage it is."

### Peering into the crystal ball

To begin the process, attendees were shown a video featuring GCSAA members representing different membership classes, years of service, ownership structure and budget size. They were then asked to offer their thoughts on what the future would entail for members and how GCSAA might be of assistance. The video may be accessed at http://www.gcsaa.org/Newsroom/News/GCSAA/2013/GCSAA-chapter-delegates-focus-on-the-future.aspx

### State of the association

Finlen and GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans briefed delegates on various programs and services, noting the 2014 GCSAA business plan would continue to focus on the following priorities:

- Enhance technology to allow GCSAA to better serve members and provide them with tools that provide on-course solutions
- Complete the implementation of the field staff program and the extension of member services to regions/chapters
- Dedicate additional resources to advocating on behalf of members to golfers, employers and policymakers
- Enhance education programming and evaluate membership classifications to remain relevant in the marketplace
- Explore means to increase revenues through traditional and non-traditional sources
- Continue to be prudent in exploring and implementing programs and services that expand GCSAA's contribution to growing the game worldwide



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# **News from Local Associations**

# **ODGCSA News**

The summer was a bit cooler and wetter than in the past few years. I hope that you were able to construct a management strategy that allowed you to be successful. Dealing with mother-nature always keeps you on your toes. It also seemed like a lot of televised golf events were hit with many rain delays as well. As we move into the fall hopefully we can all get together and play some golf and enjoy the benefits of the business.

Here at the ODGCSA, we have just finished with our September meeting at Keswick Resort and Glenmore Country Club. The meeting was well attended by both superintendents and assistants.

Peter Mcdonough of Keswick allowed Rain Bird Irrigation to use the facility to host the meeting portion of the event. Rain Bird gave attendees a brief overview on the benefits of their new irrigation system, along with providing lunch. The golf event was held across the street at Glenmore CC by host superintendent and ODGCSA board member Kevin Fortune. The golf course was in spectacular shape and played great! Thank you to all that were in attendance along with our host and sponsor. Our final meeting of the year will be on November 5th for the annual meeting and the popular "Par 3 event" at Independence Golf Club. Come

out and enjoy some golf and networking.

As always if you have any ideas or comment for the ODGCSA feel free to let us know. It is your association and we look forward to providing you as a member with the best opportunity to grow professionally and meet other professionals within the network.



Scott Mauldin ODGCSA President

assistants. | event" at Independence Golf Club. Come | DGCSA Pre

# **TTA News**

Greens aeration has come and gone; summer must finally be over. Our stress season wasn't really too stressful this year in the Tidewater area. Mild temperatures combined with lighter than normal rainfall led to putting surfaces that mostly remained in good condition all summer. Certainly rainfall was spotty as always and some areas received more rain, especially on the Peninsula. Thoughts have moved on to *poa* control for the fall and prevention of the dreaded spring dead spot. Many more courses are making preventive

fungicide applications to the Bermuda. Declining costs of fungicides that have proven effective for controlling this disease.

The TTA had their annual fall Outer Banks meeting at Nags Head Golf Links the second week of September. Attendance was low, but those that did go had a great time on a very well maintained golf course. It does not get much better than golf in the OBX during September. I hope that more people will make the trip next year and take advantage of the slower work schedule. The annual business

meeting will be on November 13th at Virginia Beach National. Golf will be around noon and the dinner meeting will be around 5pm. This meeting is usually a round table discussion concerning association business as well as any other topics of interest.



Rob Wilmans
Elizabeth Manor Golf and
Country Club
External VP-Tidewater
Turfgrass Association

## **VTA News**

The air is starting to have that crisp feeling to it in the morning, which can only mean one thing. Fall is definitely upon us in southwest Virginia. The days are certainly shorter and the leaves have started to change color. This is a great time of year to get out on the golf course and enjoy a few rounds before winter sets in. This is also the time of year everyone is busy putting their golf courses back together after the summer. There are plenty of holes being poked, lots of sand being spread, and plenty of seed being put in the ground.

After taking the month of August off from meetings, we started again in September at Blacksburg Country Club with Andrew Green from McDonald Design Group. He gave a very informative speech about tackling in house renovations. He

presented the group with ideas to improve your course, and when it is probably a good idea to call in the experts. We wrapped up our meeting schedule at Water's Edge at Smith Mountain Lake on October 14th. This meeting followed a different schedule as we had golf before hand and our meeting and dinner following the round.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the awards at the VGCSA annual meeting this January in Fredericksburg. We will be looking for nominations for three awards. The first is the VGCSA Distinguished Service Award. "This is presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents." The second is the

VGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service. The award is designed "to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs but who may no longer be actively involved in the VGCSA. Qualifications include 20 years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, 10 of which were as a superintendent." The third award is for Environmental Stewardship. Nominations are due by December 1st. Look for the nomination form in your email soon.



Bill Keene Blacksburg Country Club VTA External Vice President



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# **News from Local Associations**

# **News from the GWGCSA**

It's time to breathe a big sigh of relief. Fall is here and there's lots of time for recovery, and I'm not just talking about the turf. Summertime in the Mid-Atlantic can really take its toll on golf course superintendents, even during a year like this which was mild compared to the last two. While we watch our friends and even family members head off to enjoy weekends at the beach, most of us are toiling away at the course six or seven days a week. Mother Nature never sleeps and as a result, we have many sleepless nights. I hope you all came through all right and are taking ample time away from work to enjoy time with those you love or even some nice alone time.

Over the last couple months, things in the Greater Washington have been tame from a golfing/meeting standpoint. In August our members had a social night rather than golf. Although I wasn't present to verify personally, I hear that everyone had a great time gathering at the Grafton Street Irish-style pub in Gainesville. A few beverages were used to wash down some traditional Irish fare and there was a lot of good crack. For those unfamiliar with Gaelic, that is an Irish term for news, gossip, fun, entertainment, and enjoyable conversation. I don't believe anyone was caught dancing a jig, but maybe next time. Our September event was held on Monday, September 30 at Stonewall Golf Club in Gainesville. Ed Long and crew hosted a joint event with the MAGCSA. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time.

There was one big happening around here on the golfing front. Rick Owens, Brian Nevans and staff hosted a USGA Championship. Laurel Hills Golf Club was the site of the 2013 Amateur Public Links Championship. As luck would have, the week of the event turned out to be the hottest of the year and came immediately following several days of soaking rain. However, the course was in phenomenal

condition and the event was a huge success. A big shout out to all of the VGCSA members who volunteered their time to help with course preparations during that week. Your efforts helped make Laurel Hills shine for those gathered from all over the U.S.

To finish out the year, we had our Superintendent-Assistant championship on October 15. Everybody's favorite event of the year, our golf outing and annual meeting at Evergreen C.C is set for November 12th.

That's about it. I think it's time to grab a beer and go fishing. Always remember its "work to live", not the other way around!



Shawn Gill GWGCSA External Vice President

# **SVTA Update**

Cool mornings and fog have made it feel like fall in the Valley. Leaves are changing and falling off the trees. September was very dry, unlike the past few years. After having a wet and mild summer, September has made us swing back into summer mode with hand watering and running irrigation on a daily basis.

The SVTA had their last meeting at

Spotswood Country Club in Harrisonburg. Many thanks to the host, Kip Fitzgerald, and Dr. Askew for their update on the herbicide trials at Spotswood. Our final meeting will be at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club in Front Royal on October 24th. We will have a combined education session with golf.

Hopefully everyone has time to enjoy the

great fall weather before the winter temperatures arrive. It will be interesting to see what Mother Nature has in store for

us this winter!



David Lewallen SVTA External Vice President

# Is Golf Dead? cont.

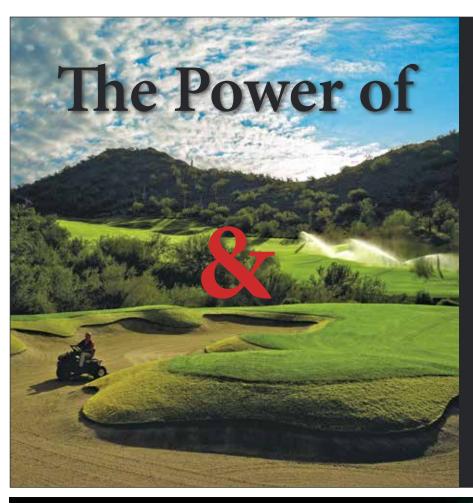
- What could it possibly be that is so offensive about (nice, well fitting, Polo brand) **Cargo shorts** that makes so many clubs prohibit them?
- Maybe I'm missing something, but collars and sleeves do not make women (or men) well dressed, and in fact many sleeveless and collarless shirts/tops are quite stylish and tasteful.
- No doubt, a cell phone in the hands of an inconsiderate person can be annoying. However, take away the cell phone and you still have an

- inconsiderate person, likely to be annoying in other ways.
- **Kids** are the future of the game and of clubs. If they are discouraged from playing at a young age, like they are at some clubs, they may not take up the game. At daily fee courses, how about letting kids play for free with a parent?
- And, of course, who could forget the USGA's recent ruling on anchored putters. To that, I simply say "too late". Regardless of whether you think they should be allowed or not, either they

should have been banned 30 years ago or not at all.

The "health of the game" means many things to many people. But if there's no growth in the number of players and the number of rounds played, the overall health of the game will suffer. The value of golf course properties will struggle to recover and my guess is that TV viewership would suffer accordingly. Make golf user-friendly. It's in the game's best interests.

Fall 2013 15



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