

Summer 2009

Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

President's Message

Here we are again, now into another typical summer or do I mean non-typical summer, or is it a typical- non-typical summer? I think I am confused now. Oh well, in the last President's Message I noted how excited I was to get the season underway. Wanting to see smiling faces and to get out of the doom and gloom the long winter months can bestow upon us, especially in a down economy. The economy is still depressed; however, members seem to be smiling and enjoying themselves away from the offices ... and that is good. I am not saying that golf has fixed or is fixing the current situation within our nation, but it is giving our customers a place to go and relax ... and that is really good.

I was fortunate enough to have been selected to serve on the 2009 U.S. Open Golf Course Maintenance Staff as a volunteer. This has been a dream of mine and one that I am honored to be a part of and to be able to represent my club and the VGCSA. See page 10 for more highlights from my trip to Bethpage Black.

John Libassi, Assistant Superintendent at Heritage Oaks, and VGCSA Board Members and the rest of the Education and Assistant Committee members are working hard to develop a program this fall geared towards Assistant Superintendents. While not all the details have been ironed out, this is shaping up to be a nice event for the assistants. As we get more information,



we will pass it along.

Here's an update on GCSAA activities. The GCSAA Golf Championship and GIS have made numerous changes—please visit their website for the details. While on the subject of the GCSAA Golf Championship, the 2010 Virginia team was determined at the Tollie Quinn held in May at Spring Creek. The team is Chester Guzcek, J.D. Dickinson, Brian Vincel, and Andrew McCormick. Congratulations to you all and best of luck to you!

The GCSAA has appointed a new Chief Operating Officer, J. Rhett Evans, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities division for the city of Mesa (Ariz.), and he will officially begin July 9th (see page 7).

We have also been active on the government relations front. At the end of April, the VGCSA joined forces with our Virginia Golf Council allies (MAPGA, CMAA-VA, NGCOA VA, VSGA and VTC) to meet with the Governor's Chief of Staff, Wayne Turnage. Turnage assured the VGC that the Governor understands the economic impact of golf in Virginia and is supportive of the industry. Two weeks later, we were represented at National

Golf Day in Washington, D.C. Our executive director David Norman met with Virginia Congressmen Frank Wolf (NVA) and Eric Cantor (central VA) to highlight the importance of the golf industry to the economy, as well as its environmental stewardship.

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

I would like to wish you all the best during this stressful time of year. Remember the important things in life—family, friends and green grass!

Eric D. Spurlock
President
Virginia GCSA



Guzcek Claims Tollie Quinn Title – Four Qualify for GCSAA

Chester Guzcek of IGM Lake of the Woods fired a 3-under-par 69 at Spring Creek Golf Club, to easily claim the Tollie Quinn title by 5 shots. Once again, the event was sponsored by Smith Turf & Irrigation, and a nice crowd of superintendents, assistants, and vendors enjoyed the beautifully manicured course prepared by host superintendent Brian Vincel, and his assistant J.D. Dickinson.

Thus it was a little "home cookin'," when both Vincel and Dickinson earned their way onto the VGCSA Team, each firing 74 to tie for second overall. Joining them on the four-man team to represent VGCSA at the GCSAA National Championship was Andrew McCormick of Hanover CC, after a 77.



VGCSA Team Qualifiers Chester Guzcek, J.D. Dickinson, Brian Vincel, Andrew McCormick



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Virginia Golf Council Meets with Governor's Office

David Norman represented the VGCSA on the Virginia Golf Council as the council met with Governor Kaine's Chief of Staff, Wayne Turnage. Other representatives on the council were Dick Johns (MAPGA), Tripp Sheppherd (VSGA), Jeff Holliday (VTC), Richard Cromwell (CMAA-VA and NGCOA), plus Erik Winborn of Winborn Solutions (PGA of America).

Each party presented key findings from the VGC's study, "Virginia's Golf Economy," emphasizing the importance of golf economically, as well as its environmental stewardship and other positive values. The message was well-received, and Mr. Turnage emphasized that the Governor is a supporter of golf, and he pledged to carry our message to him.



On April 27, 2009, members of the Virginia Golf Council met with Governor Tim Kaine's Chief of Staff Wayne Turnage. Picture above are (left to right) Jeff Holliday, Richard Cromwell, Wayne Turnage, Dick Johns, Tripp Sheppherd, and David Norman.

Golf's Leaders Make Their Case in D.C.

Mr. Finchem goes to Washington.

Well, he actually went May 13 and he had plenty of company.

The PGA Tour commissioner and executives of golf's major industry associations met with congressional leaders for the second annual National Golf Day.

Created last year, the event is staged to remind legislators of golf's contributions to the economy, environment and charitable causes. Industry officials organized the trip to counter what they contend are misperceptions about the industry, which they said led to legislation that hurt golf business. For example, courses were ineligible to receive federal relief funds issued in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's devastation of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005.

According to a 2005 study commissioned by the industry, golf accounts for 2 million jobs, \$61 billion in wage income and \$3.5 billion annually for charities. The PGA Tour and its tournaments raised \$124 million for charity in 2008. But Finchem said such donations likely will decline this year because of the recession's impact on sponsorship sales.

"If I had to guess right now, I'd say we wouldn't be off more than 10 to 14 percent with our charitable contributions, which I



Peter Hill of Billy Casper Golf, Bob Swiger of Raspberry Golf Management, and VGCSA Executive Director David Norman were in Washington, D.C. on May 13 for the second annual National Golf Day.

think would be a victory," Finchem said. "If that were the case, I would feel real good about it. It's still too early to tell."

PGA Tour events are structured as nonprofit organizations that donate proceeds to local charities. By Finchem's estimate, the Tour is on pace to give \$12 million to \$17 million less in 2009.

Nevertheless, golf's overall contributions remain significant. Direct economic impact of the entire industry is measured at \$76 billion, according to the 2005 Golf Economy

Report. That total takes into account various facets of golf business, including: facility operations, course capital investment, consumer goods, tournament operations, charities, real estate and tourism.

Steve Mona, CEO of the World Golf Foundation, said the industry plans to commission an economic impact study once every five years, which will serve as a focal point for the congressional meetings. On an annual basis, the Capitol visits primarily will be educational in nature, though they can become more of a lobbying effort if the need arises, Mona said. But he cautioned that the industry can't expect National Golf Day to address all their legislative concerns.

"This cannot be looked at as an event that occurs one day a year," Mona said. "We have to consider this as part of an on-going, overall, year-round strategy. We have to engage our respective associations' memberships. Members of Congress are interested in talking to their constituents and not necessarily hired guns who are there simply to represent a particular group."

Gene Yasuda
Golfweek deputy editor of
Business & Multimedia
with wire service contributions

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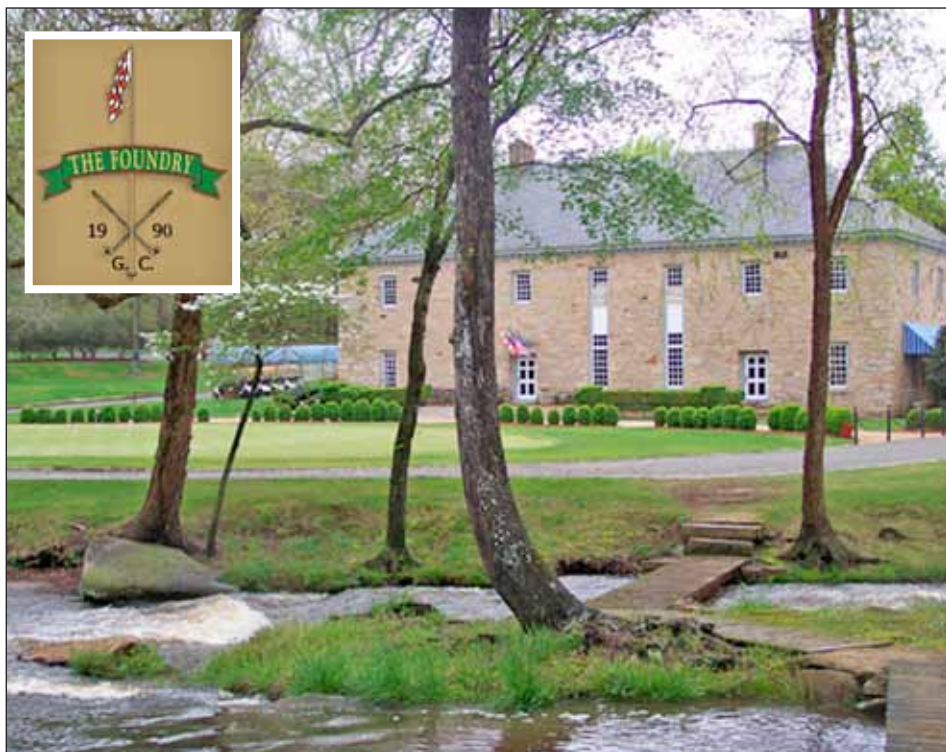
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The Foundry Set to Host 2009 Joe Saylor Memorial

New Renovation to be Showcased on Monday, October 26, 2009.

Mark your calendars for Monday, October 26th for the 2009 Joe Saylor Memorial, which moves to recently renovated The Foundry Golf Club in Powhatan. The popular event features two-man teams in a captain's choice format and is always a sellout. The tournament committee is pleased to announce that one of Virginia's premier private clubs will host this year. Host superintendent is Scott Mauldin, who has been working non-stop toward the club's reopening this summer. The Foundry Golf Club rests on one of the most naturally stunning properties in Virginia. The rolling terrain, native vegetation, and scattered rock outcroppings, combine with the meandering banks of Fine Creek to showcase the beautiful Piedmont countryside.

Details and an entry form will be available online and in the Fall newsletter, which will also feature an article on The Foundry. Don't miss it!



The Foundry Golf Club's clubhouse sits alongside the banks of Fine Creek. The newly renovated club will host the Joe Saylor Memorial on October 26, 2009.

GCSAA News and Announcements

Superintendents' salaries up: Report reveals latest salary, benefits, operations trends

GCSAA's recently released Compensation & Benefits Report shows superintendents' salaries have grown on average 6.9 percent since the 2007 report. A record number of superintendents participated in last winter's survey, and results offer members a valuable resource for negotiating and hiring decisions, as well as information on health care and retirement benefits, maintenance budgets, reporting relationships and more. If you are one of the more than 4,600 members who participated in the survey, **learn more by accessing a free online copy**, or order a paper copy for \$15. Members who did not participate may order online access for \$125, or both online access and paper copy for \$140.

Assistant Superintendents Committee discusses chapter, national involvement

Members of GCSAA's Assistant Superintendents Committee held a virtual meeting April 28 to address issues such as networking, chapter involvement, marketing, technology and the Web site.

Superintendents' children awarded college grants

GCSAA has awarded 2009 Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grants to Jenna Gunselman, stepdaughter of Class A member Jeffrey Madsen; Eric Andresen, son of Class A member Jeff Andresen; and Morgan Millies, daughter of Jeffrey Millies, CGCS. Jackson Esoda, the 2008 Garske Grant winner and son of Mark Esoda, CGCS, renewed his scholarship for a second year.

Deadline July 1: Nominate for 2010 board of directors

Learn more about submitting a nomination for the GCSAA Board of Directors. The offices of president, vice president and secretary/treasurer, along with two board of director positions, will be up for election at the 2010 annual meeting in San Diego. The 2009 Nominating Committee will review nominations and select the official slate of candidates for the available offices.

2010 GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award Nominations Due

Entries are due on or before Friday, August 21, 2009. Printable and online forms can be located at www.gcsaa.org.

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Evans Selected as CGSAA Chief Operating Officer

New COO brings extensive experience in organization management.

J. Rhett Evans, director of the parks, recreation and commercial facilities division for the city of Mesa (Ariz.) has been selected as chief operating officer for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

"I am pleased that Rhett will be joining the GCSAA team," said GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Mark Woodward, CGCS. "I witnessed his talents first hand working with him in Mesa and have always been impressed with how he goes about his work. He is great in developing relationships and his business acumen is sharp. He will be a great fit with our team and our members."

Evans, who will begin July 9, will plan and direct key aspects of organizational operations, including policies, objectives and strategic initiatives. He will be responsible for developing and implementing key programs that support GCSAA's short- and long-term financial and operational goals to ensure future sustained growth.

"I am honored to have been selected as GCSAA's chief operating officer and look forward to joining the team and working with the members," Evans said. "All of my previous experiences with GCSAA have been terrific. The association has a great reputation. I have had a wonderful time in Mesa and will miss the city and the great people I have worked with and for. It takes a special opportunity for me to leave, and I consider GCSAA to be just that."

Evans earned both his undergraduate (sociology major/emphasis in business) and graduate (recreation management and leadership/emphasis is public administration) degrees from Brigham Young University. He is also a graduate of the Public Assembly Facility Management School.

Evans has been with the city of Mesa since 2001, serving as director of the convention center and amphitheatre until 2005 before he advanced to his current position. He currently manages a



New CGSAA Chief Operating Officer J. Rhett Evans

staff of more than 700, through a team of 12 supervisors and three assistant directors, in all program areas, including a convention center and amphitheatre, spring training baseball complex (Chicago Cubs), cemetery, two golf courses, recreation and aquatic complexes and 2,600 acres of park space. He manages a \$32.5 million annual operating budget and a \$28 million capital improvement budget. In his time as director, he grew ancillary revenues and customer per-capita spending by 43 percent by improving concession and merchandise operations. He also recently enacted a staff reorganization that resulted in a 25 percent increase in daily productivity and 23 percent increase in customer satisfaction.

Evans, 40, also has experience in facility and events management at the Delta Center and Franklin Quest Stadium in Salt Lake City (1992-97) and the McKay Events Center in Orem, Utah (1997-2001).

With the appointment of Evans, Woodward has completed his executive team, which includes Cam Oury, managing director, finance; Teri Harris, managing director, development; Carrie Riordan, managing director, member programs; Jeff Bollig, managing director, marketing and communications; and Eileen Bangalan, executive operations administrator.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is a leading golf organization, and since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. The association provides education, information and representation to more than 20,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. The association's philanthropic organization, The Environmental Institute for Golf, works to strengthen the compatibility of golf with the natural environment through research grants, support for education programs and outreach efforts.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Jason Wirtz, of G.L. Cornell Company, and his wife Alexis on their new arrival! The new addition to their family arrived on Wednesday, May 20th at 6:15 p.m. Jason and Alexis are now the proud parents of Lydia Hayes Wirtz, their new baby girl. Lydia marks the first addition to their family and everybody is healthy and happy as can be. It has been an amazing time for the Wirtz family!

As always, on behalf of the VGCSA, we congratulate the Wirtz family and we wish you all the best!

SVTA Event a Success at Gypsy Hill

The SVTA event at Gypsy Hill GC was a big success. The event featured qualifying for the SVTA Team for the upcoming VTF event, as well as an update on government relations activities in a recent meeting with the Governor's Chief of Staff and the efforts of National Golf Day on Capitol Hill. Educators from VA Tech and VGCSA Partners joined the group of superintendent members from SVTA.

Tournament Results

SVTA Team Qualifiers - Jim Wilson 74, Tim Suess 76, Ed Eagle 80, Tim Sprouse 83 (1st Alt. - Irvin Hoyt 83)

Low Gross - Brad Cassidy 72, David Norman 75, Erik Ervin 76

Low Net - Tripp Carper 81-10-71, Greg Austin 80-4-76, Jim McHenry 88-9-79

CTP - David Norman #2, Tim Suess #5, Erik Ervin #8, Dan Murphy #12



Qualifiers for the SVTA Team are Tim Suess, Tim Sprouse, Ed Eagle and Jim Wilson

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Developing a Quality Internship Program

How to meet the needs of both the student and the superintendent.

A quality internship involves much more than working on a golf course. To be a valuable experience for both the student and the superintendent, goals and expectations must be aligned. The goal of a quality internship should be to provide a supervised work experience in order for students to build their expertise and proficiency in turf and grounds skills, as well as enhance their problem solving abilities. The internship structure should allow students to build skills, apply them to special problem solving situations and interact in at least one student/employer evaluation.

Beginning the process

Although individual elements of the internship program may differ from golf course to golf course, a strong program should include a number of elements and be built around the educational experience of the student.

Begin by writing a well-defined plan of activities and job tasks for the student intern. Be sure to include a broad spectrum of responsibilities, so the student gains a better understanding of overall golf course maintenance operation. Structure the internship so that the student not only gains knowledge and experience, but also contributes to the operation with their knowledge and experience.

A certain level of responsibility should be associated with the position. The intern should be put in a position that requires long hours and an on-call status. The intern should be made to realize that a typical golf course management is not 40 hours with a few extra hours on Saturdays. Too many students enter the profession or have gravitated into assistant and superintendents positions believing the work will consist of 40 hours during the week and three hours or so on Saturday mornings! When interns experience true-to-life working conditions, they have fewer surprises



early in their careers.

Each intern will possess different capabilities and bring a different level of experience to the internship. Thus, any internship program must allow for customization and provide the best possible format to meet the needs of the intern. A strategy to help your plan meet each intern's unique needs is to have the intern submit an outline of what they wish to accomplish.

When developing a program, consider timing. Some golf courses offer internships during the summer months only. A longer internship — for example over a six-month period — may provide a more rounded experience, exposing the student to important activities that occur during the other seasons.

When budgeting for an internship program, remember there are costs beyond hourly compensation. For example, many programs include housing and a bonus plan.

When seeking an intern, do not limit your hiring strategy to considering only those students enrolled in a turfgrass program. A recent graduate of a program who is not quite ready for an assistant's position may make an excellent intern. It is important that the intern become more than a hired hand or cheap labor on your maintenance crew. The primary

purpose of a good internship program should be to expose students to the practical side of golf course management so that students can tailor their education to best meet a realistic career path.

Practical experience helps students better understand classroom theories and information and how they are applied to real conditions on the golf course. It is also an excellent way to prepare for the transition from the classroom to the workplace. In addition, the internship allows students to develop personal contacts, which may lead to job placement opportunities and build self-confidence, leadership and good communication skills while working with others.

Since getting a job after graduation is usually the major goal for students, expand your internship program to help them with employment search skills. Set up mock interviews. Review and critique their resumé, being sure it gives prominence to the internship experience. Introduce them to other superintendents. Provide them with a list of networking contacts.

Of course, a logical outcome of an internship program is to hire that student after graduation as an assistant. What better way is there to groom an assistant and have a legal sneak peek of their work ethic?

The Toughest Open

Eric Spurlock's Tales from Bethpage

"I would do it all over again," said a rather weary, yet still enthusiastic Eric Spurlock, after spending a week at Bethpage Black as a member of the golf course operations team at the U.S. Open.

Our VGCSA President realized a dream of working the most important golf event in the world, and certainly the most demanding one—from a golf course conditioning standpoint. "This would be a great experience for anyone!"

Well so says "the Prez." Golf course superintendents are known for hard work and dedication to the task at hand. So at the Open, it's just another work week—right? Well, not exactly.

The practice round work schedule started at 4:30 a.m. each day, but that was true luxury, compared to the tournament rounds when the crew reported at 3:30 a.m. Overall it takes a team of 150 professionals to prep the course during Open week, and each person has a particular assignment essential to the success of the championship. Only 40 are from Bethpage—the rest are volunteers coming from the Met or Long Island GCSAA Chapters, or literally from all over the globe (five from Japan, two from Bermuda, and one from Belgium, Ireland, Jersey Island ... you get the picture).

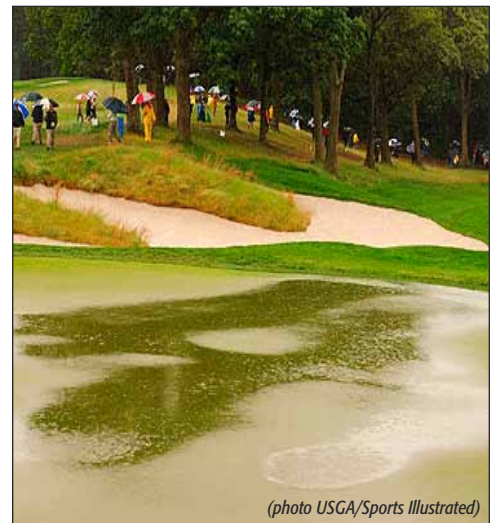
So every morning, Spurlock and his Portuguese roommate would leave their quarters in the dorms at SUNY Farmingdale to drive through the pitch dark of night to the maintenance operations center. It was at the 2002 Bethpage Open that the USGA first used the two-tee start format, making course prep even more demanding with a 7:30 a.m. start off #1 and #10. Throw in the miserable weather that ravaged the course and grounds nearly every day, and it was not hard to understand just how good the Bethpage team had to be to pull it off.

Spurlock's arrival was on Sunday of tournament week, and at 4:00 p.m. he was in a preparatory meeting attended by USGA officials David Fay, Mike Davis and Dave Otis. They helped rally the troops, bringing along the actual U.S.



Phil Mickelson (under umbrella) went out of his way to thank the maintenance crew (Eric Spurlock, right foreground) for their tireless efforts.

Left: VGCSA President Eric Spurlock enjoys a dry moment in the 12th greenside bunker at Bethpage Black
Right: Days of heavy rains provided constant challenges for the course operations team.



(photo USGA/Sports Illustrated)

Open trophy. One hour later, the crowd broke into groups and got their assignments—Spurlock drew the back nine bunker detail, headed by one of the assistant superintendents on staff at Bethpage. They trained for a couple of hours to replicate the fluffy championship standards dictated by the USGA. Greenside bunkers were hand-raked, while fairway bunkers were groomed by machine.

During the practice rounds, Spurlock and the team did their early prep work, and then got a break or could opt for

additional assignments when play started. He ran into friends Glenn Smickley (Robert Trent Jones GC), Pete Wendt (Kinloch GC), Bob Farren (Pinehurst Resort) and a couple of acquaintances from Quail Hollow in Charlotte. By 5:30 p.m. play was passing through the turn, and he was back on the course again, prepping bunkers until sunset.

Of course when tournament play started, it only got tougher. "The weather was really difficult," said Spurlock, "and the course is so spread out. It was really



hard to get around.” The crew was perpetually on call, ready to go to work whenever a suspension of play was called. “We had a hundred squeegees, twenty Water Hogs and access to any type of equipment imaginable.”

Of course it wasn’t all just tiresome commitment—a little fun was mixed in—including joking around with Phil Mickelson near #2 green on Sunday when play was suspended. Phil went out of his way to thank the maintenance team on the hole, and Spurlock’s invitation to join them was greeted with a wry smile and a polite “thanks, but no thanks,” from Mickelson.

Spurlock also had fun with teammate Steve Paxton, brother of actor Bill Paxton (director of “The Greatest Game Ever Played”). “Steve was a real character! We were prepping bunkers on Hole #17, and Steve got the crowd chanting while we worked. One side of the gallery shouted ‘Bethpage,’ while the other countered with ‘Black.’ It was like a college football game!”

It took five days to complete the championship, and with close to 2,000 volunteers working on some forty committees, it was a true team effort to put this one in the books. Still, no one would argue that Spurlock’s committee was the MVP of the event.

Finally on his way home Monday morning after prepping for the final round, Spurlock summed it all up. “This was a true testament to the camaraderie of the profession. It was the pride to do a good job and help others.” That they did, and it was one of the most demanding Opens ever.



The crew readies nine mowers in preparation of mowing the fairway in one direction.

***So how does one get invited to work a major championship?** Spurlock suggests contacting the host superintendent in the fall prior. The old “friend of a friend” system doesn’t hurt, as he got an assist from a friend of Bethpage’s Grounds Director, Craig Currier. The main thing is to simply plan in advance, and of course get the support of your employer. The ability to network and get new ideas is a true benefit to your club when you return home.*

Member Profile: Corey Haney

Washington Golf and Country Club

Golf holes at your facility: 18

Years at your current golf club: 4.5

Years as a golf course superintendent: 18

Favorite hobbies: Anything on the water

Favorite professional golfer:
Seve Ballesteros

Favorite sports team: Seattle Seahawks

Biggest role model as a professional:
My Father

How did you get your start in the golf maintenance profession? Thought it would be fun, boy was I wrong!

What has been, to date, the most rewarding part of being a golf course superintendent?

I enjoy the early morning sunrises and the feel of fall in the air.

What would be one thing, if you could, change about the golf course superintendent profession? The hours!

In the next five to ten years, what are the biggest challenges we face as golf course superintendents? To ensure the game continues to grow and that superintendents are considered a vital part of the business.



News from Affiliated Chapters

TTA Update

It's been a rainy spring and early summer in the Tidewater area, which is a departure from the past couple of years. We exceeded normal June rainfall in the first week and it looks like more is headed our way. Here at Cedar Point, it is rare to see my lakes full of water in the month of June. Anyway, the TTA has had a busy spring season so I will provide some highlights.

We had good attendance on April 14th for our first event at Cypress Point Golf Club. It was good to see some new faces at one the event. I want to thank Mary Katherine Hogg from Wachovia Financials for a good presentation on financial management and providing

some tips for future investment. On May 18th, we had our 2nd Annual Fishing trip. This year we spent most of the time on the James River targeting some striper. The weather was perfect and everyone had a good time.

Our 9-hole golf and social events have been in full swing and we are starting to see some new faces at these events as well. We have had the last three at Lambert's Point, Princess Anne and James River. I want to thank Charlie Womble, Matt Boyce, and Jay Long for hosting us. So far we have had two to three foursomes play and are always looking for more attendance. We are still working on locations for the rest of

the season, but remember the 2nd Thursday of each month is the date.

Upcoming events are the Annual Dick Cake on June 29th at Elizabeth Manor and July 27th the Wee One Foundation Tournament at Cypress Creek. Rob Wilmans and Phil Bailey are the hosts and they always do a great job getting the courses ready for the events.



Chris Petrelli
TTA President
Cedar Point Country Club



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News from Affiliated Chapters

News from the GWGCSA

I guess the biggest question running through everyone's mind is if the rain is ever going to stop. Since my last newsletter on March 20, we have recorded a total of 17.5" of rain. And yes, eventually it will stop and it will be time to hang on for the thrilling summer ride of managing turf in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Of note, the Greater Washington board is back to full strength. I would like to recognize Ray Nash, Golf Course Superintendent at Dominion Valley Country Club, for stepping up into the Vice President position. Welcome aboard.

On the golf side, the Greater Washington opened the season in April with a joint meeting with the Mid Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents at Stonewall Golf Club. Recognition goes out to the speakers, Jay Nalls and Teddy Blauvelt, for their talks

on winter covers and bunker renovation. As usual, the golf course was in excellent condition. Thanks goes out to Ed Long, Jason Pakkala, Nathan Grayson and the entire staff at Stonewall. Additionally, a big thanks also goes out to Theresa Baria for her tireless efforts in organizing yet another fun and educational day. Congratulation goes out to the winning team of Glenn Smickley, CGCS, Pete Riccadi, Nathan Grayson and Mike Maloney.

The May meeting was held at Mount Vernon Country Club. Recognition goes out to our speaker, Paul McMahon from Hydro Designs, for his talk on HDPE pipe and its application on golf courses. Even with the winter renovation project winding down (new irrigation system, new driving range and cart path curbing), the golf course played

excellent. Thanks goes out to John Duncker, Russ Bennett and the entire staff at Mount Vernon. Congratulations goes out to the winning team of Alan Sours and Paul McMahon.

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

July 15, Maintenance Open at Forest Greens Golf Club

September 1, Chantilly National Golf & Country Club

Thanks and here is wishing everyone a wonderful season. October is right around the corner.



*Jeff Van Fleet
GWGCSA
External Vice President*

ODGCSA News

I hope you all have had a good golfing season up to this point. It is hard to believe July is already upon us and half the year is over. I guess time does fly when you are having fun.

The Old Dominion has had a few great events already this season. Thanks to Andrew McCormick and the staff at Hanover Country Club for hosting the March meeting. Thanks also to Dale Peyton and staff at Greene Hills Golf Club for hosting a joint event with the SVTA in April. Thanks to Brian Vincel and staff at Spring Creek for hosting the Tollie Quinn in May. Congratulations also to Chester Guzek for taking home the Tollie Quinn title. Finally, thanks to Drew Matera and staff at Cannon Ridge for hosting the North vs. South event this June.

We have had decent turnouts for all the events this year. As always seems to

be the case, we wish we had more people receiving the benefits of the events. The events are organized for the members of the association as ways to receive inexpensive continuing education, network with peers and just to have fun playing golf. It seems many of us got into the business because we liked playing golf, but the longer we are working in the business the less we play. If any of you have suggestions or ideas for events please let me know. The ODGCSA Board of Directors will be meeting in November to get a start on next year's events calendar.

As the rest of the year unfolds I know we all will be faced with numerous challenges. Fortunately, the season has started with an ample supply of rainfall. After having drought conditions for the last two seasons, it has been refreshing to leave the hoses hanging up and keeping

the irrigation system quiet. I cannot remember a season that I have used our irrigation system this little at this point in the season. I know rainfall accumulation is extremely variable and I am sure many of you are either needing more or wanting less, but it seems to be a good start to the summer.

If any on you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 434-245-5370 or e-mail at skinnan@fccva.com.



*Scott Kinnan
ODGCSA President
Farmington Country Club*

News from Affiliated Chapters

News from the VTA

We are a little less than halfway through our meetings for the year! We've had some great turnouts for our meetings. We hosted our first meeting at Hidden Valley thanks to Sean Baskette! Our number of VTA members at each meeting is about 25-30 people.

Our Fundraiser was held at the beautiful Pete Dye River Course of Virginia Tech under the direction of Mark Cote. Mark did a wonderful job pulling everything together! Thank you to all the hole sponsors and teams for your support. Despite the rain, Mark Vaughn's team finished and won the tournament! Congratulations!

Barry Joyner was gracious enough to host us at Forest Park. The food was excellent and the weather was great! Stacy Yeates came in first place for the event!

Congratulations to our brand new VTA member. Jake Gunter is hosting us at Vista Links Golf Club for our next meeting. Mr. Jeff Haley, PGA Agronomist, will be speaking at that meeting. It will be a great time!



Kimberly Garnett
VTA President

SVTA Update

I would like to thank everyone that participated at our annual golf day at Gypsy Hill Golf Course on May 14. This was great event that allowed for some fun and relaxation. David Norman has the results posted on our web site for those that are interested.

The subsequent event in our area was the MAPGA Pro-Superintendent at Lakeview Golf Course on June 24. I think that this is the first time that this event has been in our region.

The fundraiser for the Turf Foundation is

July 14 at Blue Ridge Shadows Golf Course in Front Royal. Access and entry form with sponsor information at www.vgcsa.org.

On a different note Ingleside Resort is hoping to sign a contract for a television series to be filmed on the property. We will know by July if this is going to happen.



Edwin Eagle, CGCS
SVTA
External Vice President

SVTA Fundraiser Golf Tournament benefitting the VA Turfgrass Foundation

Blue Ridge Shadows GC • Tuesday, July 14, 2009 • Front Royal, Virginia

FORMAT: 18 Hole Captains Choice, Team

TEE TIME: 1:00 PM, Lunch at 12:00pm, Shotgun Start

ENTRY FEE: \$320.00 per team includes lunch, golf, cart, prizes, and mulligans. Awards and refreshments will follow play.

PRIZES: Pro Shop Prizes Based on the number of entries. Scores will be flighted.

PLAY POLICY: BRSGC is a "NON-METAL" spike facility. Proper golf attire required.

No jeans allowed. Sponsors Deadline: July 3, 2009. Entry Deadline: July 10, 2009.

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Blue Ridge Shadows Resort is home of the Holiday Inn and suites we are offering a special event rate of \$99 per room (based on double occupancy). Call 540-631-3050.

2009 VGCSA Local Association Presidents



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2010 Golf Industry Show Schedule Change

I understand the dates for the education conferences and trade show will change beginning in 2010. What are the dates of the trade show?

The trade show will open Wednesday, Feb. 10 following a Combined General Session (from 8-9 a.m.) for all audiences, including exhibitors. The trade show will continue on Thursday, Feb. 11 following another Combined General Session (from 8-9 a.m.) and will end with a Closing Event (from 5-6 p.m.), both of which exhibitors are encouraged to attend. The trade show will be open from 7 - 9 a.m. for the Distributor Preview and from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. for all attendees on Wednesday and from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. for all attendees on Thursday, with virtually no competing events on either day.

What are the dates for the GCSAA Education Conference and the other partner education conferences?

The GCSAA Education Conference, NGCOA Annual Conference and CMAA World Conference on Club Management will be held Monday, Feb. 8; Tuesday, Feb. 9; and Friday, Feb. 12; The CMAA will also sponsor education Saturday, Feb. 13.

What about the Golf Championship?

The 2010 National Championship and Golf Classic will be held Feb. 5 - 7 in Palm Springs, Calif. and will be conducted as follows:

- **Four-Ball Mixer: Feb. 5**
(Open to all flights including the National Championship Flight)
- **National Championship: Feb. 6-7**
(Two-day event, previously a three-day event)
- **Golf Classic: Feb. 6-7**
(Remains a two-day event)

By concluding all activities and events on Sunday, Feb. 7, all participants will be able to take full advantage of the education opportunities offered at the GCSAA Education Conference in San Diego beginning on Monday, Feb. 8.

Why has the schedule been adjusted?

The adjusted schedule will allow attendees to focus almost exclusively on the Golf Industry Show on Wednesday and Thursday. There will be no worrying about attending a session or seminar that competes with the activity on the floor. For NGCOA and GCSAA attendees, it will also allow them to return to their facilities and their families in time for the weekend. We know that there is much to consume from education, to the trade show, to networking. The new schedule will eliminate many of those conflicts and allow you to do what is most important when it is most important – knowing that you did not miss an opportunity.

For exhibitors, the adjusted schedule means focused trade show only time for our attendee groups for two solid days with virtually no competing events. Additionally, all audiences will have very

similar arrival and departure patterns, truly bringing them together under one roof for the Wednesday and Thursday trade show. Finally, the schedule now allows for exhibitors to attend the Combined General Sessions each morning and Closing Event following the second day of the Golf Industry Show. These are new, exclusive networking opportunities for our exhibitors.

The decision was made based upon attendee and exhibitor survey feedback. We enlisted the consultation of Steven Hacker, CAE, President of the International Association for Exhibitions and Events (IAEE) and of Skip Cox, President/CEO of Exhibit Surveys, Inc. The new schedule of events represents a maturing of the Golf Industry Show based upon our success. We are always evaluating our event for opportunities to enhance the experience for attendees and exhibitors.



golf industry show

**Palm Springs
Golf Championship**
February 5-7

**San Diego
GCSAA Education Conference**
February 8, 9, 12

Golf Industry Show
February 10-11



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Eligible organizations include:

Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association
Virginia Turfgrass Foundation
Virginia Turfgrass Council
Wee Ones Foundation
and many others



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up•time (noun) { úp-tīm }

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



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