

Winter 2008

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## President's Message

I hope you and your family had a safe and happy Holiday Season. The leaves have fallen and the temperatures are a lot lower. Frost/frozen turf delays are the norm coupled with the question "Why can't I play now?" or the popular, "There wasn't any frost at my house." We are able to rehash the events of the previous season and learn from mistakes, focus on family and recharge the batteries, so to speak.

This fall/winter season, however, has been anything but the norm. We are being forced to maintain higher standards and winter projects are taking a back seat for the time being. Oh well, we must play the cards we are dealt, and it's hard to stack the deck against Mother Nature.

By now I am sure you have heard that Jeff Yarborough had to depart the Board as President, due to a career change. I am honored to follow in his footsteps as acting President. Jeff was instrumental in the formation of the VGCSA. He also was an inspiration to us all on the Board and his dedication was unmatched. Seeing his face light up when discussing the success of the Joe Saylor Tournament was an absolute joy. Jeff will be greatly missed from the Association and from the profession. That sentiment is also being felt by him. Best wishes to Jeff and his family in future endeavors. It is my goal to lead this Association with the same respect and care that Jeff did.

Recently, the Board of Directors voted and approved (unanimously) to adopt a new logo. In future



publications and mailings we will be using a new logo more and more. There were several reasons for the change, including the alignment of all Affiliated Chapters with the same logo the GCSAA has used for better recognition, and audiences will be able to recognize the resemblance immediately. We are all very excited about this change.

There are several big ticket items lurking out there. First, the H2B program including the returning worker visas is huge. If it is not passed, the ramifications can be felt throughout the economy.

The Old Dominion GCSA has changed its typical Monday GCSAA Seminar at the VTC Conference. The new program features speakers to help guide each of us in a Nutrient Management Plan. Currently the State of Virginia does not have one, and this could be the first step in conceiving one. We, the ODGCSA and the VGCSA, feel it would be better to be included in the plan (actually help write it), than to have a plan mailed to us one day. Please mark your calendar and attend the seminar, as it is in all of our best interests.

Thirdly, the State Water Control Board recently approved a program (passed unanimously) that encourages

cities and counties to send wastewater from their sewage plants—water from toilets and similar sources that is treated to reduce germs—to be used for activities that don't require pure

tap water. Irrigation on golf courses was listed as a site to dispose of the wastewater.

Another "good news" item is the initiation of a VGCSA Social Event at the GCSAA National Conference in Orlando. We will be joining up with the MAAGCS for food, drink and good company at the Crowne Plaza on International Drive in Orlando on January 31. This should be a great event!

In closing, these are some big issues, and I'm not sure if they will all be resolved this year or next. We do, however, need to join together and have our voices heard. The near future will be a critical time for all golf courses throughout the Commonwealth. Please take time to recharge those batteries, spend some more time with the family and get the plans ready for 2008. I look forward to seeing you all at the VTC Conference and possibly the Golf Industry Show Social event.

Eric D. Spurlock  
VGCSA President



# The SVTA Celebrates 25 Years!

On December 14, 1982, a group of turf professionals from the Shenandoah Valley met at Luray Caverns Golf Club with the purpose of forming an organization of turf professionals to promote turf in the Shenandoah Valley of VA. At the original meeting were Mike Burkholder, Bobby Jenkins, Jack McClenahan, Ed Embres, Ed Romatowski, Preston Licklider, Don Zirkle, Doug Hawkins, and Lewis Lamp. From this original group, Mike Burkholder was elected President, Bobby Jenkins (Vice-President), Jack McClenahan (Secretary) and Ed Embres (Treasurer). Dues were set at \$15 per year. From this humble beginning, the SVTA has grown from 40 members to almost 100 in 2007.

A luncheon celebrating the 25th Anniversary of SVTA was held at Shenandoah Valley GC in Front Royal



In attendance at the SVTA 25th Anniversary Luncheon were 10 charter members (l-r) David Geiger, George Hoenig, Sheldon Betterly, Dale Payton, Lee Dieter, Bobby Jenkins, Mike Burkholder, Jack McClenahan, GW Ruckman, and Carl Kreyenbuhl.

with almost 50 members and former members in attendance. Several of the original members were in attendance, including three of the original officers. After introductions, a moment of silence was observed for those deceased

members of the organization. There was no formal speaker, but, it was noted that many lively discussions were being held at the tables, especially at the table where many of the "old-timers" were seated.

Congratulations SVTA!

## 2008 VGCSA Board of Directors

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Eric Spurlock  
Hermitage Country Club  
1248 Hermitage Road  
Manakin-Sabot, VA 23013  
Ph. 804-784-3298 / Fax 804-578-0017  
Email: erics@hermitagecountryclub.com

#### Vice President

Jeff Berg  
Goose Creek Golf Club  
43001 Golf Club Road  
Leesburg, VA 20175  
Ph: 703-729-2500 / Fax: 703-729-9364  
Cell: 571-233-0993  
E-Mail: jberg@kempersports.com

#### Secretary/ Treasurer

Matt Boyce, CGCS  
Princess Anne Country Club  
3800 Pacific Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
Ph: 757-428-0346 / Fax: 757-428-6976  
Cell: 757-971-7222  
E-Mail: mrb206@hotmail.com

#### Past President

Michael Oates  
Winchester Country Club  
1300 Senseny Road  
Winchester, VA 22602  
Ph: 540-662-2682 / Fax: 540-662-3949  
E-Mail: mike\_wcc@verizon.net

### External Vice Presidents

#### Old Dominion Golf Course Superintendents Association

Peter McDonough  
The Keswick Club  
701 Country Club Drive  
Keswick, VA 22947  
Ph: 434-923-4380 / Fax: 434-923-4385  
E-Mail: pmcdonough@keswick.com

#### Tidewater Turfgrass Association

Chris Petrelli  
Cedar Point Country Club  
P.O. Box 6138  
Suffolk, VA 23433  
Ph: 757-238-2629 / Fax: 757-238-2629  
E-Mail: ckpetrelli@charter.net

#### Virginia Turfgrass Association

Kim Garnett  
Blacksburg Country Club  
1064 Clubhouse Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
Ph: 540-552-2461 / Fax: 540-552-0461  
Cell: 540-392-0604  
E-Mail: kim@blacksburgcc.com

#### Greater Washington Golf Course Superintendents Association

Steve Harris, CGCS  
Belmont Country Club  
19661 Belmont Manor Lane  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
Ph: 703-723-8520 / Fax: 703-723-8522  
E-Mail: belmontsuper@tollbrothersinc.com

#### Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association

Stuart Scott, CGCS  
Heritage Oaks Golf Course  
305 S. Dogwood Lane  
Harrisonburg, Va. 22801  
Ph: 540-820-4068 / Fax: 540-433-9169  
Cell: 540-820-4068  
E-Mail: stuartscott@ci.harrisonburg.va.us



### Staff

#### Executive Director

David Norman  
VGCSA  
10231 Telegraph Rd., Suite A  
Glen Allen, VA 23059  
Ph. 804-747-4971/Fax: 804-747-5022  
Cell 804-399-7802  
E-Mail: DNorman007@aol.com

# Big News for Virginia Golf Courses

## Wastewater Treated as a Resource

### State board approves its reuse for irrigation, industrial needs

Wednesday, Dec 05, 2007 • By Rex Springston/*Richmond Times-Dispatch* Staff Writer

Localities treat water from rivers and aquifers so you can drink it. But a lot of that drinking water also is used to run factories, wash cars and flush toilets. The State Water Control Board voted unanimously yesterday to try a new approach.

The board approved a program that encourages cities and counties to send wastewater from their sewage plants—water from toilets and similar sources that is treated to reduce germs—to be used for activities that don't require pure tap water. Otherwise, that wastewater would be dumped into rivers. "This has the potential to remove a lot of wastewater from the streams of Virginia and apply it to beneficial uses," water board Chairman Shelton Miles said. "It's the ultimate in recycling." The program should lessen demand for tap water, enabling localities to cope better with growth, experts say.

For the average person, the program could mean a more reliable water supply during droughts. "We've been reminded in 2007, and we were reminded in 2002"—another drought year—"how difficult it sometimes is to count on how much water we have," said Bill Hayden, a spokesman for the state Department of Environmental Quality. The DEQ provides staff for the water board. The water-recycling program, which still requires some tweaks, should begin next year. However, it could take years for the program to take off, because new pipes will have to be laid to carry the recycled water. Some of the recycled wastewater could be used in activities where people aren't exposed to it. That would include irrigating crops that people don't eat, such as trees and cotton; controlling construction dust; watering livestock; and cooling industrial equipment.



Virginia just got a new source of water for golf courses

Wastewater that is cleaner but still not as pure as drinking water could be used in activities where people might be exposed to it, such as firefighting, watering lawns and the flushing of toilets in businesses. The program will not allow recycled water to go to residential toilets, largely because there would be little control on home plumbers who might mistakenly connect wastewater to a tap. Water recycling is being used in a few places in Virginia now.

The Hampton Roads Sanitation District, a regional agency, sends about 500,000 gallons of wastewater a day from its sewage plant in York County to the Western Refining Yorktown Inc. petroleum refinery on the York River, less than a mile away. "The alternative is buying tap water, which is better used in supplying houses, etc.," said Dave Pavlich, the refinery's environmental compliance manager.

In the spring, Chesterfield County will begin sending about 8 million

gallons of treated wastewater a day from its Proctor's Creek sewage plant to Dominion Virginia Power's nearby plant at Dutch Gap. The water will be used in a process that reduces air pollution. That arrangement will keep nearly all of that wastewater, which contains nutrients that cause algae, out of the James River. Most of the water will evaporate, said Dominion spokesman Dan Genest. State officials hope a formal program will encourage similar arrangements.

Water recycling has worked for years in states such as California, Arizona and Florida, experts say.



Peter McDonough represented VGCSA on the Technical Advisory Committee for DEQ.



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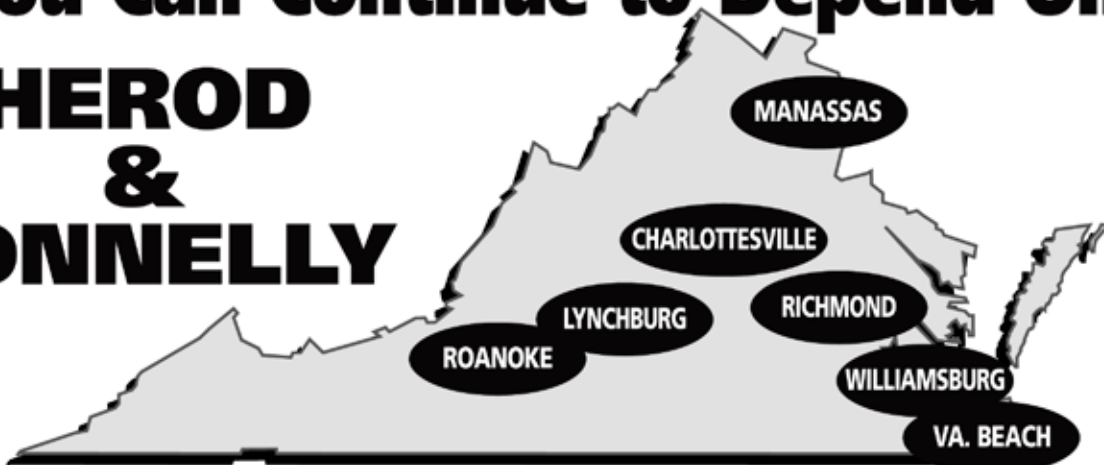
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# H2B Visas and The Green Industry

A successful business is dependent upon many factors to stay competitive in today's world. One key factor in reaching such success is finding and maintaining good employees. Across the nation, local labor pools have become smaller and competition for these employees can be fierce.

Green industry groups, such as golf courses and landscape companies have been affected more than others and they now find themselves looking across United States borders for a possible answer to the labor shortage. That answer, at least in part, may lie in the non-immigrant worker visa programs offered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. The most significant of these is the H2B visa.

## What is an H2B visa?

An H2B visa is a non-immigrant work visa available to foreign nationals. This visa is offered to the non-agricultural community, which includes golf and landscape industries and is intended to boost the labor force when local labor is not available or is not sufficient to meet the employer's needs. The H2A visa is similar but is designed to assist employers in the agricultural community with their labor needs.

## Who can get an H2B visa?

An employer can sponsor any foreign national for an H2B visa as long as certain criteria are met. The visa is for temporary work so the employee cannot be in the country more than one year at a time. Also, the employer has to show that the need is either a one-time occurrence, seasonal, or peakload.

A **one-time occurrence** is when the employer has not used workers for that particular job in the past and will not need the workers for that same task in the future. **Seasonal** is when the need for employees occurs only part of the year, but at the same time each year. **Peakload** is a common scenario in the

green industry and is when the business employs permanent workers year-round, but requires H2B workers during the busier times of the year.

## What industries use the H2B visa?

The Green industry is not alone in petitioning for H2B visas. Many occupations including construction, manufacturing, food processing, and resort services use H2B visa workers. We are just as likely to bump into an H2B worker at our favorite ski resort or amusement park as on the golf course.

## How many H2B visas are available?

There are 66,000 H2B visas granted each year. This number is split in two with half the visas given out in the first six months of the fiscal year starting October 1. You are allowed to submit the proper forms up to 120 days before the expected need for the worker. Because of the many businesses looking to acquire workers through the visa program it is advisable to submit the request as early as possible.

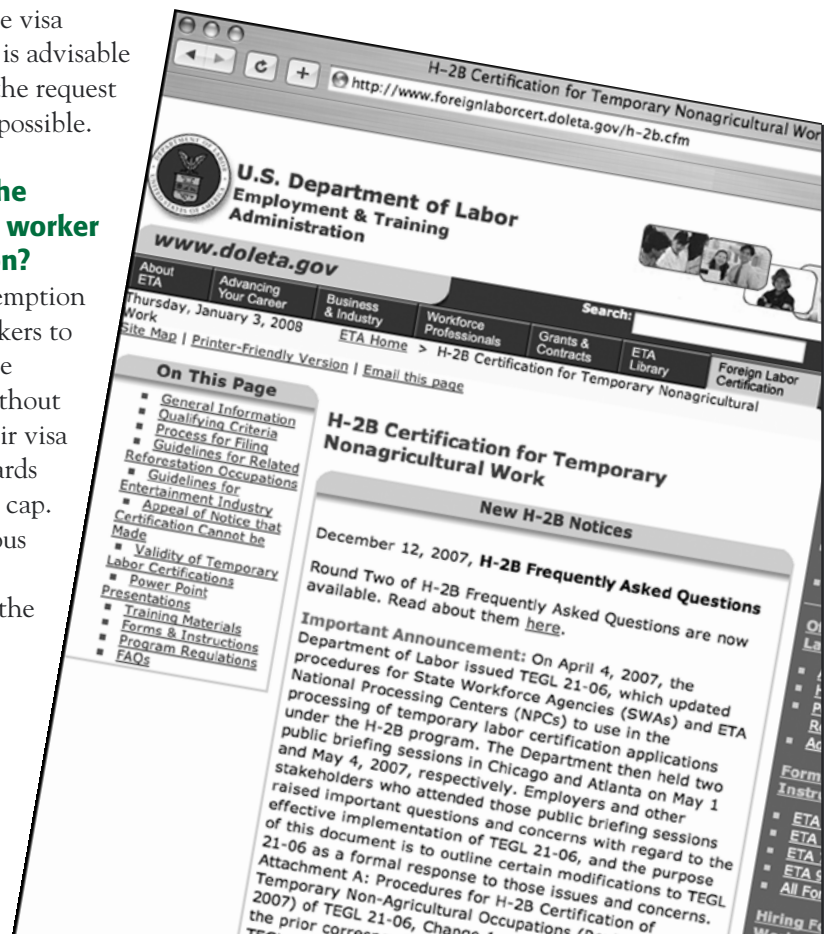
## What is the returning worker exemption?

This exemption allows workers to re-enter the country without having their visa count towards the 66,000 cap. The previous exemption expired at the end of the 2007 fiscal year

(September 30, 2007). There is currently a bill being discussed in congress that would reinstate the exemption for the 2008 fiscal year, retroactive to October 1. This exemption is important, because it alleviates some of the problems experienced with the limited number of visas currently available.

The H2B visa has become a fact of life for many in the green industry. That is why many state and national associations and member groups, such as the Nursery and Landscape Association, the Landscape Contractors Association, and Golf Course Superintendents Associations have all voiced support for the H2B visa program and the returning worker exemption.

For more information on the H2B visa or to download forms and directions you can visit the Department of Labor website at <http://www.foreignlaborcert.doleta.gov/h-2b.cfm>.





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# Golf Digest Article Highlights

## Virginia Courses and VGCSA Members

Ron Whitten

Though there are no sure things, in life or in *Golf Digest's* annual survey of America's Best New Courses, the teaming of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Doak in a course design seemed like a can't-miss proposition.

And it didn't miss. As many expected, Nicklaus and Doak's symbiotic **Sebonack Golf Club** in Southampton, N.Y., reigns as America's Best New Private Course of 2007. It's the seventh Best New honor for Nicklaus since 1984, the second for Doak since 2001.

Tom Fazio, designer of 12 previous Best New winners, didn't get a first place in 2007, but he did have a pair of runners-up. His **Fallen Oak**, north of Biloxi, Miss., finished second in the Best New Public \$75 and over competition to **The Highland Course at Primland** in a remote corner of Virginia. Fazio's **Coppinwood**, in Goodwood, Ontario, was edged for Best New Canadian honors by **Muskoka Bay Club**, a Doug Carrick design.

A former Fazio apprentice did shine this time. Ed Carton, who spent six years in the field and at the drafting table for Fazio, won his first Best New honor with another Virginia layout, **Spring Creek Golf Club**, the year's Best New Public Course Under \$75.

The Remodel category has been split into public and private sectors, to recognize the shift toward course renovation in American architecture, and the 2007 winners are familiar names. **The Old White Course at The Greenbrier** in West Virginia is our first Best New Public Remodel champion, and **TPC Boston**, a stop on the PGA Tour, is our inaugural Best New Private Remodel.

Somewhere, Sam Snead is smiling—if not about Spring Creek, the course that could have been a linchpin in a golf trail bearing his name, then certainly about his favorite pigeonhole,

The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., who's refurbished and re-imagined The Old White Course is 2007's Best New Public Remodel.

It's no longer the tiny-green, shallow-bunkered Old White where Sam picked pockets through his twilight years; it's the massive-green, bold-bunkered Old White that Sam first came upon as a young golfer in the 1930s. It's back to being the Old White that architects C.B. Macdonald and Seth Raynor envisioned in 1914, an ode to British and Scottish styles. Sadly, that Old White emerged from World War II neglect with much of its Old Country character filled in or mowed away, and it stayed that way until a reclamation effort began in 2003.

The reclamation was led by **Richmond, Va., architect Lester George**, who scrutinized a blow-up 1930s aerial of the course with the magnifying intensity of a desk-bound spook searching a satellite photo for traces of a terrorist training camp. He found the par-3 third once had a 65-yard-long Biarritz green, and so he re-created it, a long front plateau and a small back one, separated by a six-foot trench. The fifth and eighth greens were once guarded by conical mounds, so he reintroduced that novel "dragon's

teeth." A creek that slashed diagonally across the 12th, one of just two par 5s on the course, had been inexplicably piped and buried. By uncovering the creek, George recovered the hole's primary strategy.

Not everything George did was brute reproduction. He added a few original touches, like the huge dip in the left half of the second green and the sinister, serpentine fairway bunker hugging the narrow-pedestal 14th fairway. His center-of-the-11th-fairway "Principal's Nose" bunker varies considerably from the original at Scotland's St. Andrews. There, it's a prominent knob with twin pot bunkers at the base. The Old White's version is a prone nose, the nostrils more flared, the long bridge of the nose leading to the green. By re-establishing the lines and angles of the original design, its perpendicular bunkering of geometric shapes, its angular slopes in rectangular greens, and by selectively clearing out walls of trees to open up Allegheny splendors, George has transformed the Old White into a captivating and entertaining resort course. Oh, that Sam Snead could still be there. We imagine he'd be bagging more than a few pigeons by holing pitches and putts off that crazy horseshoe ridge on the 18th green.

### VIRGINIA IN THE GOLF DIGEST RANKINGS

#### BEST NEW PUBLIC: UNDER \$75

1. **SPRING CREEK G.C.** • Gordonsville, Va. • Yards 7,172 • Par 72 • Fee: \$70 • Designer: Ed Carton • 540-832-0744  
springcreekgolfclub.com • Superintendent: Brian Vincel, CGCS
4. **THE MANOR RESORT G.C.** • Farmville, Va. • Yards 7,214 • Par 72 • Fee: \$49 • Rick Robbins • 434-392-2244  
themanorresort.com • Superintendent: Ed Evers
6. **BLUE RIDGE SHADOWS G.C.** • Front Royal, Va. • Yards 7,302 • Par 72 • Fee: \$72 • Tom Clark • 540-631-9661  
blueridgeshadows.com • Superintendent: Vince Distefano

#### BEST NEW PUBLIC: OVER \$75

1. **THE HIGHLAND COURSE AT PRIMLAND** • Meadows of Dan, Va. • Yards 7,034 • Par 72 • Fee: \$175  
Designers: Donald Steel and Martin Ebert • 276-222-3827 • primland.com • Superintendent: Brian Kearns
8. **LAUREL HILL G.C.** • Lorton, Va. • Yards 7,010 • Par 71 • Fee: \$89 • Bill Love • 703-493-8849  
fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/laurelhill • Superintendent: Rick Owens

#### BEST NEW PUBLIC REMODEL

1. **THE GREENBRIER (THE OLD WHITE CSE.)** • White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. • Yards 6,826 • Par 70  
Fee: \$225 • Redesigner **Lester George** • 800-453-4858 • greenbrier.com • Superintendent: Pat McCabe, CGCS

# News from Affiliated Chapters

## News from the GWGCSA

Greetings from Northern Virginia and the D.C. suburbs. Winter has set in and hopefully everyone is able to take some time away from the course and relax. This time of year always gives us time to reflect on the past year and see what worked and what might not have turned out so well.

This past year has been a very good year for the GWGCSA. Meeting attendance was very strong for all the events. We met at some first class facilities and had some great speakers for the meetings. A huge "Thank You" goes out to all the superintendents at the host clubs. We all know how hard you work to get your course ready to host a group of your peers. I would also like to thank all of the vendor sponsors. Without your support of the association

we would not be where we are today.

The final two meetings of the year were very successful. The Superintendent/Assistant Championship was held at River Bend C.C. Congratulations to Jeff VanFleet and Scott Jaquays for winning the 2007 title. Thank you to Tom Lipscomb and his staff for hosting the event.

The year-end meeting at Evergreen C.C. was once again outstanding. Dave Anderson and his staff had the golf course in great shape. We are very fortunate to be able to close out our year at such a great location year after year, thank you Dave! The November meeting also held the elections for the upcoming year. This year's board includes Mike Mueller as President, John Burke as Vice President, and Bo

Jumbercotta as Secretary/Treasurer. I will continue as the External Vice President. The GWGCSA would like to extend its gratitude and "Thanks" to Jefre Tschudi for serving as our President. Thanks Jefre! Job well done!

I hope to see everyone in Orlando at the Golf Industry Show. This year the VGCSA has partnered with the MAAGCS to host a joint reception on Thursday January 31, 2008. The reception will be from 7-10pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Be on the lookout for an invitation, it should be a great event.

Steven Harris, CGCS  
External V.P.  
GWGCSA



### **Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association & Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents**

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# News from Affiliated Chapters

## News from the Old Dominion GCSA

Despite the fact that we were several inches of rainfall behind in 2007, the quality of golf courses in the central Virginia area have never been better. There are many people that you would like to say 'Thank You' to during the entire season, and one goes to Cutler Robinson and the great event held this year at Bayville.

Another person who I know we all would like to say thanks to is Frank Flannigan, for his tireless efforts in all areas of legislation. This year can be recapped with many positive things that have happened in Virginia golf. Virginia Golf Day was held at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond this past May with all of golf's Heads of State present for this special event. The state Water Control Board has

approved the reclaimed water use regulations, which has been on the table for the past 10 years. This is a vital tool that will affect golf for many years to come.

I'd also like to personally thank Steve Burnette and the great job that he has done as President of the Old Dominion GCSA. He represents us very well.

The incoming board of the Old Dominion GCSA for 2008 is as follows:

**Steve Burnette** – President  
**Scott Kinnan, CGCS** – Vice-President  
**Dave Smith** – Secretary/Treasurer  
**Eric Frazier** – Director (1 year)  
**Tommy Adams** – Director (2 years)  
**Jeff Whitmire** – Past President  
**Peter McDonough** – External Vice-President

We are looking forward to a great venue in 2008 and invite all members across the state to join us in our monthly meetings this coming year. I hope you had a great Holiday Season and we look forward to seeing several of you in Orlando, and please come to our hospitality get-together in which we will be entertaining with the Mid-Atlantic GCSA. Plenty of details will be coming to you on this in the near future.

*Peter McDonough  
External V-P for ODGCSA  
Keswick Club*

## TTA Update

Holiday New Year to all. I hope everyone had a good holiday season and are getting the necessary rest needed to get ready for the upcoming season. In the Tidewater area, we have seen great weather for golfing and have had green fairways into December. Thanks to TifSport bermuda.

The TTA had a good year for meetings and events, one in which we had better participation and attendance than in previous years. We held four events and will look to do at least that many in 2008. I want to thank all of our sponsors for the year, which are too many to name.

Our annual meeting was held on December 13th at Cavalier Yacht and Country Club. I want to thank Mark Hill for hosting the event. The course conditions were exceptional, as was the dinner. At the meeting, we elected our 2008 TTA board. They are as follows:

**Chris Petrelli** – President  
**Travis Creech** – Vice President  
**Charlie Womble** – Secretary/  
Treasurer  
**Jeff Armstrong** – Director (1 year)  
**Scott St. Louis** – Director (1 year)  
**Bert Walton** – Director (2 years)  
**Rob Wilmans** – Director (2 years)

We awarded the TTA President's Award and Distinguished Service Awards for 2007 to Jeff Yarborough. Jeff was unable to attend the meeting, but we hope to present his awards to him at a later date. Jeff's service to the TTA for many years made him a very easy and deserving choice for both awards.

I had mentioned in the previous newsletter that the TTA was going to have a fishing trip in the fall. We were unable to get that event to take place, but are committed to trying it in the spring of 2008.

At our annual meeting, we had a healthy discussion about how to make the TTA stronger and continue to increase participation. There seemed to be a consensus that different events, like fishing, may appeal to our members and fuel greater participation. We will continue to think along those lines for the future to make the TTA a vibrant association.

I hope to see everyone at the VTC Conference or at the National Conference in Orlando. The educational program put together this year in Fredericksburg looks outstanding.



*Chris Petrelli  
External V-P for TTA  
Cedar Point Golf Club*

## VGCSA Team to Compete at National Championship

The VGCSA Team will compete for the GCSAA Chapter Championship later this month in at The Independence Course at the Ginn Reunion Resort near Orlando, FL.

The team members are **Jeff Whitmire** (Williamsburg Country Club), **Scott Kinnan** (Farmington Country Club), **Brian Vincel** (Spring Creek Country Club) and **Brent Graham** (Two Rivers Country Club). Good luck gentlemen!

Qualifying for next year's team will take place during the Tollie Quinn tournament this coming spring. Look for details on the VGCSA web site ([www.vgcsa.org](http://www.vgcsa.org)).

## VSAE Honors VGCSA and David Norman

On Friday, December 7th during the Holiday Luncheon, the Virginia Society of Association Executives announced its top recognition, the Award of Excellence.



VGCSA Executive Director David Norman

### CEO Award of Excellence

The highest award VSAE can bestow upon one of its active members is the CEO Award of Excellence. David Norman, Executive Director of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association, has provided service and dedication to the profession of association management and to VSAE.

While there are no specific standards for nomination, the criteria states among other things that the candidate should possess a high degree of integrity and professionalism, a

record of success and achievement in association management and have a record of consistent leadership and service to VSAE.

David Norman has served many positions in VSAE from President, Board Member, Committee Chair and Committee Member. He is a proactive member, dedicated volunteer and good friend to Active and Associate members.

David, as quoted from his nomination forms, has "proved over and over his dedication, integrity and loyalty to VSAE and its members. Not only being past President of VSAE, but also his dedication to events, mentoring new members and his honesty to all of us. ... He would provide any service to make sure our members are taken care of. ... I don't know of one person who would ever say that he did not give 100% to VSAE and its members. He welcomes everyone and brings them into our family."

Congratulations David, job well done!!



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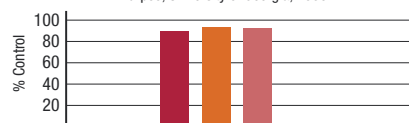


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### Brown Patch Control

L. Burpee, University of Georgia; 2006

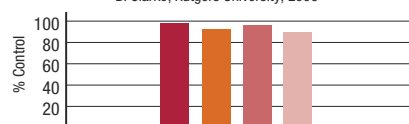


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Evaluation Date: 8/24/2006

### Pythium Blight

B. Clarke, Rutgers University; 2006



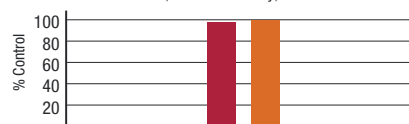
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Evaluation Date: 8/07/2006

### Gray Leaf Spot

R. Latin, Purdue University; 2005



14-day interval

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