

# Commonwealth Crier

News from the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association

## President's Message

I hope everyone is having a busy and productive winter season. We have had a few cold days here in Richmond but not much snow to speak of and our earlier winter provided a few mild days, much to the golfers delight. I'm sure everyone is ready to get back to spring like conditions and shake off that cabin fever.

Our annual meeting which was held Tuesday, January 27 at Fredericksburg Country Club was a huge success with 160 in attendance. I would like to thank our Annual Meeting sponsors Landscape Supply, BASF, Syngenta, Turfgrass Inc. (a division of Residex), Trinity Turf Inc. and Divots Inc., Sunbelt Rentals and finally Genesis Turf. Your support is what makes this event so great. I would also like to thank all of our vendors for their support over this past year with their sponsorship of several events and the support of our Partner Program. These relationships are what make our Association strong and continue to grow. I would encourage all of our members to support those who support you.

A few special guests were in attendance including Chris Harriman (Cattail Creek Country Club in Glenwood, MD and current President of the MAAGCS), Cody Beckley (Nutters Crossing in Ocean City, MD and a representative of ESGCSA), Jamie Conkling and Matt Smiley (VSGA), Jon Guhl (Executive Director of the MAPGA) and Chase Rogan (our Field Staff representative of the GCSAA). These continued relationships are imperative as we move into the future of this industry.

I would also like to thank our outgoing Board Members. Larry Adcock, our Vendor representative from Revel's Tractor, who was a key contributor to our Partner Program and our new Fall Conference. Chad Karr, our Assistant Representative and Assistant Superintendent from Westham Golf Club, did an outstanding job with our Assistants Forum and helped redesign our new web site. Bill Keene, the VTA External VP and Superintendent from Blacksburg Country Club, has been our Awards Committee Chairman a very supportive board member the past few years. And finally Rob Wilmans, the TTA



External VP and formerly the Golf Course Superintendent of Elizabeth Manor and now with James River CC in Newport News, has lead our Government Relations Committee the past few years. Your leadership, commitment and service to our Board is truly an example of how strong our Association is. Thanks, gentlemen.

I would also like to announce our new board members this year. The Vendor representative will be Tom Adams of Helena Chemical. Ryan Johnson is the Assistant Representative and the Assistant Superintendent at the Kanawha Club. Pete Stephens, CGCS is the TTA External VP and Superintendent at Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club. Finally, Sean Baskette is the VTA External VP and the Superintendent at Hidden Valley Country Club. I know I speak for the entire Board when I say we look forward to your support and leadership. As always please feel free to contact any Board member for questions or comments as we are here to serve the membership.

Last year we had great events and this year our events will prove to be just as exciting. We are currently working with our local chapters to finalize our 2015 schedule which will be posted on our web site. Here is what we currently have scheduled: On February 25 at the GIS we will have the GCSAA Social with MAAGCS & ESAGCS at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio. On May 18 we will have the BMP Tournament at Salisbury Country Club. Monday, June 8 will be our Joint meeting with the CMAA and NGCOA which will be held at Keswick on June 17. The VGCSA Championship will be held at Glenmore Country Club, which will also be one of the qualifiers for the Virlina Cup. Please put these events on your calendar and we look to have the rest of the scheduled posted soon.

Speaking of the BMP, just a little background on what we do with the BMP money. This account has been set up to provide funding for environmental research related to golf courses and their continued stewardship of the environment. We have recently provided a grant, with the help of the GCSAA's EIFG, to Virginia Tech and Chantel Wilson for their research on the effects golf course turfgrass management on water quality of non-tidal streams in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The results of this research have been posted and will be used as a tool to provide information on our continuing environmental stewardship.

This money will also be used to continue to support environmental research at Virginia Tech and continue to support our Government Relations to include our exposure at the State Assembly promoting our Association and providing thumb drives that detail our BMP manual. Shawn Gill, Ryan Johnson, David Norman and I visited the General Assembly on February 5 to represent our Association and hand out these thumb drives. Thanks for representing us, fellas. We will also continue to support the Virginia Agribusiness Council as we show our support at their Annual Banquet and Golf Tournament where we have the ability to continue to develop relationships.

As we all know, in 2017 all golf courses will be required to have completed their Nutrient Management plans. To date 68 courses participated in the first grant which expired December 31, 2014. The new grant money is available now and there are 13 contractors servicing the grant for the next 18 months. The new grant is statewide and \$149,000 is available. I would encourage

*Continued on page 13*



Jeff Holliday, CGCS  
VGCSA President

# VGCSA Announces Board Line Up for 2015

At the recent Annual Meeting, the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents Association announced its Board of Directors for 2015. Jeff Holliday, CGCS will lead the organization in the second year of his term as President. Chris Petrelli of Cedar Point Country Club is Vice President, and Mark Cote of The Pete Dye River Course at Virginia Tech is Secretary/Treasurer. Matt Boyce of Princess Anne Country Club is Past President.

The Board includes five External Vice Presidents, representing their respective local associations: Dan Taylor of Independence Golf Club (Old Dominion GCSA), Shawn Gill of Prince William GC (Greater Washington GCSA), Pete Stephens of Indian Creek Yacht & Country Club (Tidewater Turfgrass Association), Scott Cornwell of Winchester CC (Shenandoah Valley Turfgrass Association) and Sean Baskette of Hidden Valley CC (Virginia Turfgrass Association).

Rounding out the Board are representatives are: Ryan Johnson of Kanawha Club (Assistants) and Tommy Adams of Helena Chemical (Associates).



**2015 VGCSA Board of Directors** – Front row (L-R): Matt Boyce, Jeff Holliday, Chris Petrelli, Mark Cote; back row (L-R): Pete Stephens, Tommy Adams, Scott Cornwell, Dan Taylor, Sean Baskette, Shawn Gill, Ryan Johnson



## 2015 VGCSA Board of Directors

### VGCSA Officers

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#### Past President

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# Eames Wins Presidents Award for Lifetime Service

Dudley Eames of Keysville, VA is the winner of the 2014 VGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service. The VGCSA's highest award is "to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs, but who may no longer be actively involved in the VGCSA. Qualifications include twenty years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, at least ten of which were as a superintendent." On all accounts, Eames has earned the distinction.

Eames always loved the game, first taking it up at age eight in Annapolis, MD at the US Naval Academy Course. At the time, the club was needing some cash for some course improvements, so they opened up the membership to civilians and his family joined. By age 12, he was caddying and working on the range and cleaning carts. He was a good player and dreamed of the glamorous lifestyle of the pro tour. By age 17 he graduated high school a half year early, and boldly sought his dream.

Eames looked 3,000 miles away to make his move immediately from high school – San Diego, CA. The San Diego Golf Academy was among the best in the country to learn the business of golf, and part of the curriculum was to play golf every day! The two-year program covered everything from pro shop operations to food and beverage, with a little golf course maintenance thrown in. After two years, he completed the program and received his associates degree. Not yet 20, he took his first job as an assistant pro at a local San Diego public course.

Then reality set in. He found himself working long hours, NOT playing golf and getting homesick. He was not even teaching golf. He was tired of the west coast and looking for a change. He heard about an assistant's job back in Richmond at Salisbury Country Club. PGA pro Frank Herrelko hired him after a phone interview – neither had ever seen the other! He returned to the east coast and started his new job at age 20.

While back closer to family and friends, Eames found that the work at a nice country club wasn't a whole lot different from his other course – a lot of long hours. And he still wasn't playing much golf. After two years he made a move as assistant pro to nearby Stonehenge Country Club, a new course that just came on the scene. But it was frustrating working seven days a week with little opportunity for golf. He felt the need to get out of the shop.



Dudley Eames

At the time, Tildon Hankley was the superintendent at Salisbury, and Eames applied to work on the crew. He remembered some of his turf studies from San Diego, but he was clearly learning from the ground up. Soon he was promoted to mechanic, then ultimately he got some assistant superintendent duties.

Around this time, Til's brother Vince recruited him to Pine Hills (formerly Pocoshock), a public course in Richmond – he got the title of superintendent. Pretty much all of his learning was on the job. But then the club came under some financial difficulties, so he left for Brookwood Golf Club in Quinton. He was learning and attended all the Old Dominion GCSA meetings, gaining his education from the speakers and his peers. After two years at Brookwood, he set a goal to work at a private club, with a more stable environment.

The Country Club of Virginia was his next destination, when the superintendent Jack Henry hired him to become the assistant on the Tuckahoe Creek Course, during construction in December of 1986. Eames enjoyed his work there, and he was inspired to pursue the CGCS designation. He was there almost five years, when his experience in construction landed him his next position.

It was June of 1991 and a brand new course was beginning construction – the Dominion Club. Eames was hired as the construction/grow-in superintendent, and the club opened the following year. Eames remembers the incredibly long hours, sunrise to sunset, especially when the club began to host the Nike Dominion Open, the PGA Tour's developmental circuit. His kids were

growing up, and he really struggled with his time away from family. The job kept getting more demanding, and he sought a more palatable situation. He found it across town.

Jefferson Lakeside was a club in need of some TLC and expertise in conditioning. It was 1994 and the condition of the golf course was not good. Rather than fearing the worst, the way Eames viewed it was that the only way to go was up! His final move in the business proved to be the best, with a tenure of 20 years. "I loved the members," Eames said, "They really appreciated what I was doing!" Eames had a great relationship with PGA pro Tom Barry, long regarded as one the true "nice guys" in the business. "Tom was always up front with me, and he always backed me on decisions to close the course due to weather conditions."

Looking back on a great career, Eames cited some key people as mentors – the Hankley brothers, Dick Fisher, Rick Owens and Steve Snare. The profession was like a fraternity, with everyone helping each other. It was great camaraderie and the local educational seminars were really good. He attended events in the Old Dominion, Tidewater, the VTA, the Carolinas and Maryland. In the early days of the Old Dominion GCSA, he ran the golf events.

As a backdrop to this stellar career, not a lot of people really knew about a health condition that plagued Eames since age 28 – a severe case of rheumatoid arthritis, a very painful ailment. A condition that started out in his neck and elbow ultimately spread to his entire body. Eames rarely complained, and tried to keep it to himself. He suffered damage to his knee and had a replacement at a young age, as well as fusing of an ankle. He also had bunions and was in tremendous pain. The condition created a noticeable limp and forced him to walk favoring one side. That led to deterioration of the other side, and the doctor told him he would need to fuse the other ankle and break bones in his foot to re-set them. The prognosis was too grim and the pain was too bad – in October of 2010, Eames decided to have his leg amputated below the knee. He knew it was the right decision, and he still never complains.

Asked about the future of the profession, he noted his own transition from the wet-behind-the-ears young guy to now being the "old guy." Eames remarked, "It is now a tough business, and you are judged on how

*Continued on page 13*

# Roberson Named VGCSA Scholarship Winner

Travis Roberson of Stuart, VA has been named the VGCSA Scholarship Winner for 2014-15. One of the top students in the Turfgrass Management discipline of Virginia Tech's Crop & Soil Environmental Science Program, Roberson expects to graduate in May 2016.

Growing up in rural southwest Virginia, Roberson had an interest in golf but never considered it seriously as a career path. After graduating high school he got an Associate's degree at Patrick Henry Community College, but was "befuddled" as to what his career path would be. He got a summer job working for Brian Kearns at nearby Primland Resort, the spectacular destination facility sitting high atop the Meadows of Dan. During his first summer there in 2013, he found himself "enthralled" at the different aspects of the turf industry.

He continued his studies at the New River Community College, and during his second summer at Primland, he began to ask questions to acquire more knowledge about the industry, such as chemical usage, proper mowing practices, management practices, and budgeting. His responsibilities included, including aerification, fertilization, some spraying, and leadership roles. He began to

realize work did not feel like work and more like a passion, which was when he decided to pursue a career in turfgrass management. He enrolled in the turf program this past fall.

In his first semester at Tech, Roberson put his passion to work, earning a 3.8 GPA. He also became a research assistant at the Glade Road Research Center at Tech and became involved in the Turf Club.

He already has next summer planned out. He will be completing an internship at Kinloch Golf Club, the #1 course in Virginia, where he expects to be challenged and gain knowledge and experience in turfgrass management. His long-term goals are to obtain an assistant superintendent job upon graduation and work extremely hard to learn as much as possible. With the knowledge from school, his internship, and other work experience, he has his sights clearly set on becoming a golf course superintendent.

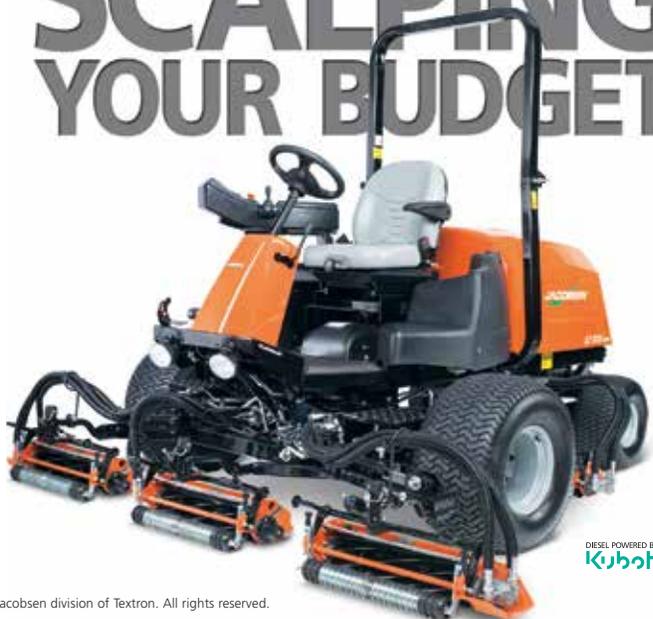
"This award means a lot to me," said Roberson. "The majority of my support for college comes from student loans, with help from my parents and my own money. This scholarship is greatly appreciated!"



Travis Roberson



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# Sain Recognized for Distinguished Service

Christian Sain of The Country Club of Virginia has been recognized by the VGCSA with its Distinguished Service Award for 2014. The award is “presented to a member who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the Virginia Golf Course Superintendents.” By all accounts, Sain earned the distinction through his professionalism and integrity, his interaction with his fellow superintendents, and his work on key projects, such as the Best Management Practices manual.

Sain grew up in Hendersonville, NC and was introduced to golf by his dad at age 9. They lived in the country, and his first golf was on a pasture course with push up greens. He even mowed in his own greens into a field near his house. He was also a 4-H'er, and enjoyed growing things, such as cherry tomatoes and squash in the summer. That was his introduction to agronomy.

By age 16, he began working at the Hendersonville Country Club course in the bag room cleaning clubs. A year later he joined the maintenance crew, then it was time for college. His mom told him that he had to stay in state (his sister had gone to Clemson, which was expensive). He chose N.C. State, and he noticed the Agronomy program, which was a good fit for him.

While he was at N.C. State, he got some fantastic internships each summer – first The Honors Course in Chattanooga, then Shoal Creek in Alabama (during the PGA Championship) and finally Muirfield Village in Ohio. He graduated in 1992, but there were limited jobs available. He saw a posting by Steve Schraw of Hermitage Country Club for an assistant and accepted.

Sain worked and learned at Hermitage for almost four years, when an opportunity arose at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg. Superintendent Ken Giedd, who previously held Schraw's position at Hermitage, recruited Sain to maintain the relatively new Woods Course. He did such a good job that Giedd put him in charge of Kingsmill's River Course in 1998, home of the PGA Tour event. Giedd left Kingsmill around 2002, and Kingsmill named Sain the Director of Maintenance, the top job at the largest golf facility in Virginia.

While at Kingsmill, Sain got to experience both PGA Tour events and LPGA Tour events. He also participated in the 2004 renovation of the Kingsmill River Course by Pete Dye – that was a huge project.



Christian Sain

Then in 2005, The Country Club of Virginia came calling, and he accepted the position of Director of Golf and Grounds Maintenance, overseeing all 54 holes plus other areas of the club. At the time, the Westhampton Course was undergoing renovation. He also oversaw the 2011-12 renovation of the Tuckahoe Creek Course, re-grassing greens and installing new irrigation. It has been “steady as she goes” at CCV, under the leadership of Sain.

The club now has embarked on a planning process with architect Andrew Green to create a master plan that brings cohesiveness to the three courses of the club. On the James River Course, the hope is to get back to a more “classic” style, evoked by original architect William Flynn. Whenever this might happen, there could be a project to replace the irrigation system at the same time.

Throughout his career, Sain has supported local association events, such as those of the Old Dominion GCSA and the Tidewater TA. He served VGCSA as an original member of the BMP Committee. Currently he is a GCSAA Ambassador for Government Relations, and he is in the final year of serving on the VTC board.

Asked about the profession, Sain described it as a “brotherhood,” with a friendly competition amongst peers, challenging each other to succeed. As far as CCV goes, he remarked, “I couldn't think of a better place to work. My goal is to help fellow staff workers, to make the club better and to help the members.” Sain plans to continue to grow professionally.

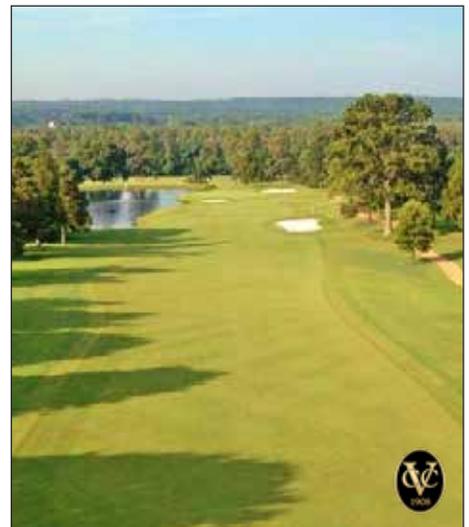
In his work on the VGCSA's BMP project, he remarked, “The results are truly amazing! It took a lot of work by a lot of people, and it was truly cutting edge. We all want to give back to our industry, and this was one way. Volunteering is important, and we are happy to be a part of the follow up work, the Water Quality Monitoring project.”

So how does Sain counsel the next generation of superintendents? “You need to get your education, then get an assistants job. But you must always have an eye out for your next move. The fundamentals of agronomy are the key, but you must also be able to communicate and write.” Sain saw from others what was important – how you dress, writing personal notes, being able to carry yourself in a board room.

Sain also advised that you need a life outside your profession. But all the while, you know you have to be on the job when needed. Perception is important, and you can never forget that you are an employee of the club. When hiring, Sain looks for individuals who thrive with autonomy and who are excited about growing their experience.

When asked about the meaning of the award, Sain said, “It is an honor to be recognized by your peers! What better recognition can you have than to receive an award from people who know and do the same job? They understand what you're doing, and that makes it special!”

Sain enjoys running, and he has competed in the Richmond, Chicago and New York Marathons. His goal this year is to run the Boston Marathon. He also enjoys reading and working around the home. He advocates to enjoy time away from the job.



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# Berg Recognized for Environmental Stewardship

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

Berg is the General Manager at Goose Creek Golf Club, an environmentally friendly course located alongside the creek that bears its name, in Loudoun County. He is a Regional Superintendent for KemperSports, and is a long-time VGCSA leader, having served on the board, then as President in 2010-11.

Berg grew up on a golf course in Illinois, where his dad was the superintendent. He first picked up a club at age four, but his interest became much more than simply playing. Village Greens Golf Course in the Chicago suburb of Woodridge was where he first developed a love for the game, and ultimately, the profession. He worked on the course, but got no favoritism – pulling weeds, edging bunkers, picking balls from ponds, definitely getting his hands dirty. The family later moved to NJ, when his Dad served as superintendent at Canoe Brook Country Club, a tony 36-hole private club in Summit. He continued his toils, working for his Dad as an intern. He loved the idea of making something in nature even better, and he enjoyed making a difference. He set his sights on the Turfgrass Science Program at Penn State.

Berg got his Turfgrass Management degree from Penn State University, and in the process, he learned the technical aspect of the work he had already been doing for his father. He graduated in 1999. After school he took a position as his Dad’s assistant at Valley Brook Country Club in Pittsburgh, but it wasn’t long before he was tapped as a superintendent – after just six months, he was offered the position at Venango Trail Golf Club in Pittsburgh. He was one of the youngest superintendents in the commonwealth.

He quickly found out that being an intern or an assistant was quite different from being in charge. The extra office work and management duties made him appreciate his Dad’s role when he was growing up. He was young and aggressive, and he dealt with owners and general managers on a daily basis.

It wasn’t long before he learned about an opening at a club in northern Virginia, Goose Creek Golf Club. The owner Kettler, a real estate developer, took a liking to him

and hired him as superintendent. Then when KemperSports got the management contract for the club, the management team of Kettler specified that Berg remain superintendent. Berg soon found himself employed by one of the best and largest management companies in the world, and ironically, a Chicago-based firm.

Berg’s tenure has reached 14 years and he is now the general manager and oversees other superintendents in the region for KemperSports. He loves where he is, and KemperSports has floated other offers at other clubs in bigger markets – so far, he is staying put. His relationship with the owner is terrific, and he loves Virginia. He is now working on the club’s plan to become a world class golf and practice facility, which will reduce the course down to nine holes. He has no doubt it will be successful – Kettler has also had a hand in developing some outstanding golf properties within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Berg’s recognition for the Environmental Stewardship Award is most significantly represented by his leadership in the VGCSA’s Best Management Practices manual, a \$70,000 two-year project that was published in 2012. Berg led the charge as VGCSA President from the outset, gaining inspiration from project mentor Peter McDonough. Berg expressed the need for inclusion to bring in allied associations (VSGA, MAPGA, NCCOA VA, CMAA and VTC) to support the project. He also brought in vendors and leveraged his relationships with GCSAA to gain a huge matching grant. He stressed the importance to use home-grown talent at Virginia’s land grant university for the research, so Virginia Tech’s Crop & Soil Sciences department was hired to do the research. Then he helped gather the top superintendents in the state as panelists, to guide the project. A very important element was to get buy-in from Virginia’s regulatory bodies, so DCR and DEQ were engaged in tandem. Once complete, the manual quickly gained national accolades as a “cutting edge” document, only the second such one in the country (FL was first). Berg was always quick to acknowledge the “team effort” in its success.

Berg shares the passion to give back to the profession, something he learned early on from his Dad. “I am proud to represent the Commonwealth on GCSAA committees and in my support of the EIFG,” he said. “My Dad always stressed the value and importance of research, and on a daily basis, he was an advocate for the course and the environment. We are and must be good resource managers



Jeff Berg

and stewards of the land on the local level and spread that word regionally and nationally.”

Reflecting on the award, Berg added, “This award is about the people I worked with and the effort that we all gave. A lot of names are associated with the success of our association. It is truly an honor to be recognized by my peers in this fashion!”

Berg particularly cited Peter McDonough as an inspiration. “He led the charge from the beginning, and he understands everything politically,” Berg noted. “He provided the energy and attached the importance, and I saw all of that first hand. He gave us the vision and stressed the urgency of what needed to happen moving forward.”

Berg believes that research is the “trump card” in facing off against uninformed environmentalists who make blanket charges against golf courses and our industry. “We will win when the pen hits the paper and properly done unbiased research yields the indisputable facts. We will not win on emotional debates – it will be the facts.”

Berg is keen to help the younger people coming up in the profession. He advocates passion, determination and patience. And he advocates giving back and getting involved with professional organizations like the VGCSA, GCSAA and EIFG. Berg was also an instrumental voice and leader in making the VGCSA’s assistant forum the outstanding event that it is today.

If you don’t see Berg on the golf course or at his desk at the club, you might see him on the ball field, coaching the local high school baseball team. It’s a passion he loves. There are few things Berg does without passion.

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USGA Green Section

# Assistants Forum a Success at Spring Creek GC

The 6th Annual VGCSA Assistants Forum was a success at Spring Creek Golf Club in the fall. Headliner Bill Brown, CGCS, CEO of Turf Republic, came in from Pennsylvania to share his insights on new communications technologies to improve job performance. His message reached an eager audience of 50, who were totally engaged in his excellent presentation.

Then a panel composed of some of the top Superintendents in the business fielded questions from the audience: Bill Brown, CGCS; Brian Vincel, CGCS (Spring Creek GC); Paul Van Buren, MBA (Kanawha Club); Jordan Booth, CGCS (Willow Oaks CC); and Dave Callahan (Spring Creek GC).

The entire program was coordinated by VGCSA Assistants board representative Chad Karr of Westham Golf Club.

Following the education, the group took on the Spring Creek course, site of the State Amateur, in a two-man Captain's Choice format. Winning the overall competition were Assistant Brady Hale and Superintendent Jordan Booth of Willow Oaks Country Club, shooting a gross score of 68.

Two hole-in-ones were scored – Sam Smith of Prince William GC and Paul Van Buren of the Kanawha Club.



The audience listens to Bill Brown



Speakers (L-R): Dave Callahan, Bill Brown, Chad Karr, Brian Vincel, CGCS, Paul Van Buren, MBA, Jordan Booth, CGCS



Champions Brady Hale (L) and Jordan Booth, CGCS (R) are congratulated by Chad Karr and Brian Vincel, CGCS



Ace makers – Paul Van Buren, MBA and Sam Smith celebrate their hole-in-ones with Brian Vincel, CGCS and Chad Karr



Keynote speaker Bill Brown, CGCS of Turf Republic



The beautiful 18th hole of Spring Creek Golf Club



Chad Karr emceed the program

# GCSAA Social Event is February 25 in San Antonio

Don't miss it! Hosted by VGCSA, MAAGCS and ESAGCS

Wednesday, February 25, 2015 • 7-10 pm • Westin Riverwalk

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## Save the Dates for Big 2015 Events!

<b>February 25</b>	GCSAA Social Event with MAAGCS and ESAGCS, Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX
<b>February 28</b>	TTA Norfolk Admirals Hockey Game, Norfolk Scope
<b>March 12</b>	SVTA Roundtable, Winchester Country Club
<b>March 19</b>	Old Dominion March Madness, Richmond, Williamsburg, Charlottesville
<b>March 19</b>	TTA Education Meeting, Honey Bee Golf Course, Virginia Beach
<b>April 23</b>	SVTA Meeting featuring Dr. Askew, Spotswood Country Club, Harrisonburg
<b>April 28</b>	TTA Open Forum, Riverfront Golf Club, Suffolk
<b>May 4</b>	Tollie Quinn Tournament, Two Rivers Country Club, Williamsburg
<b>May 18</b>	Landscape Supply BMP Tournament, Salisbury Country Club, Midlothian, VA
<b>May TBA</b>	TTA Dick Cake Memorial & Virlina Cup Qualifying
<b>June 17</b>	VGCSA Championship, Glenmore Country Club, Keswick, VA
<b>September TBA</b>	TTA Outer Banks Trip, Sea Scape Golf Course, Kitty Hawk, NC
<b>September 22</b>	SVTA Fundraiser, Rock Harbor Golf Club, Winchester
<b>September 27-29</b>	The Virlina Cup, Berkeley Plantation, Bluffton, SC
<b>October TBA</b>	SVTA Meeting, Waynesboro Country Club
<b>October TBA</b>	VGCSA Fall Conference & Joe Saylor Tournament
<b>October 29</b>	ODGCSA Fall Outing, Independence Golf Club, Midlothian, VA



# Turf Schools are Adjusting to Changing Times to Attract Students

Craig Smith, Director, GCSAA Communications and Media Relations with contributions from Dr. Erik Ervin and Dr. Mike Goatley

University turfgrass programs around the country have seen a decline in students over the last decade, and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's magazine took a look behind the numbers.

In an article for *Golf Course Management*, Howard Richman, associate editor, spoke with several U.S. turfgrass schools to learn about the state of their programs and determine whether their classrooms are growing or shrinking – and, just as importantly, why. A survey of turfgrass schools concluded that 70 percent have lower enrollments in their turf programs compared to 10 years ago.

However, there are some bright spots, such as at Ohio State University and Mississippi State University, which have seen recent upticks. Meanwhile SUNY-Cobleskill and New Mexico State University have each doubled their class size in recent years. Many graduate programs are also seeing strong numbers.

The factors affecting turf schools aren't isolated to any one region and are seen throughout the country.

For example, Indiana's Purdue University's program has about 43 students, according to Cale A. Bigelow, Ph.D. Twelve years ago, that number was 85. Oregon State University's enrollment is down to approximately 15 students from a peak of 35, says assistant professor Alec Kowalewski. Twelve years ago Virginia Tech had up to 30 students in its 4-year turf program; that number has stabilized at 15 in recent years. However, student numbers in Virginia Tech's 2-year associate's degree in Turf and Landscape Management have remained steady at approximately 30.

Two-year schools are also feeling the crunch. That includes Florida Gateway College, previously known as Lake City Community College. It announced earlier this year that it will no longer offer an associate's degree in golf course operations.

"We used to have a one-year waiting list. We were known nationally and internationally," says John Piersol, executive director of industrial and agricultural programs at Florida Gateway College. "But that doesn't mean it lasts forever."

Opportunities still exist for turf program graduates. And the GCM survey showed



that 92 percent of turf program students were interested in a golf course management career.

Virginia Tech's Dr. Erik Ervin noted, "Our student interest in golf course management as a career across 2 and 4-year programs has dropped to 50% or less, with interest in sports turf management and lawn care careers increasing."

"The golf industry is not doing as well as it used to, but there is a high demand for entry-level positions," says Doug Linde, Ph.D., turf professor at Delaware Valley (Pa.) College.

Schools are doing almost all they can to attract turfgrass students and find ways for them to be ingrained in the profession.

Kansas State University turfgrass science professor Jack Fry, Ph.D., recalls the days when his program had as many as 150 students. Today, that number totals in the 50 range, 30 of whom are geared toward golf course management. The dip in numbers is on his and others' radar at the school. Fry says he doesn't exactly feel pressured or that his job is on the line, but he senses a concern from those above him regarding program enrollment.

Perhaps the best way to attract more young people into the industry is the old-fashioned way.

"Golf courses used to have a lot of kids who were in high school working, and that

would serve as a feeder system," says Alex Ellram, Ph.D., professor at SUNY-Cobleskill. Those kids were better equipped when they came to college. We just don't see enough of them anymore." Dr. Ervin added, "I couldn't agree more! More high school students working on golf turf management crews will help increase student interest in attending college with a turf degree in mind."

Nevertheless, North Carolina State University's Rich Linton, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, believes the turfgrass program at his school is on good footing. He notes that 800 people attended the school's field day late this summer and that 89 percent of their graduates, in all fields, find jobs. Linton sees a bright future specifically for the turfgrass program.

"The green industry as a whole has suffered since 2008, but I think things are turning around," Linton says. "We are in a strong growing mode."

Regarding the Hokie program, Dr. Ervin noted, "Our job placement rate is consistently above 95%, often reaching 100%. We are not close to saturating the regional market with turf graduates. We want more turf students, but even those that find us as high school seniors often struggle to gain immediate admission to Virginia Tech as their test scores and GPAs are often not competitive with an applicant pool that is dominated by College of Engineering applicants. Many of my students get here as juniors by taking advantage of our College of Agriculture and Life Sciences policy of guaranteed transfer admission, given successful completion of a community college degree that consists of specified classes."

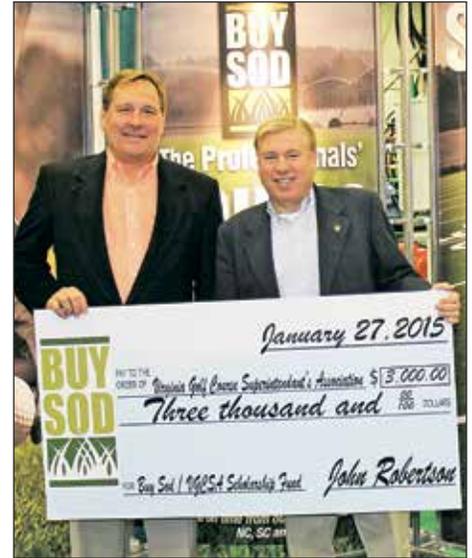


# At the VGCSA Annual Meeting

## January 27, 2015 • Fredericksburg Country Club



2015 VGCSA Award Winners – Travis Roberson, Dudley Eames, Jeff Berg and Christian Sain



Buy Sod's John Robertson (L) presents check to David Norman for the scholarship program



Jeff Holliday and Dudley Eames



Dan Taylor, Greg Galland and Ryan Dwyer catch up at the reception



Turner Revels, Jason Flowers and Scott Mauldin enjoy the reception



Steve Vessels congratulates Dudley Eames



Matt Drayton and Steve Dorer



Matt Boyce, Chris Petrelli, Jeff Berg, Mark Cote, and Jeff Holliday celebrate Berg's award



Guests enjoy dinner at Fredericksburg Country Club

# Leveraging Your Qualifications *Chase Rogan, GCSAA Field Staff*



Chase Rogan

We talk about how educated golf course superintendents are, and it's true. But do we do a good job leveraging qualifications to increase salaries? To gain clout with our members? To create job security? Some

probably do, some probably don't.

One would be hard pressed to find another industry that invests in continuing education as much as ours does. Although basic agronomic programs will never change; new products, new technology, evolving legislation and ongoing commitment to environmental programs make the job of a superintendent ever changing and always challenging. But you are qualified to do the job, and do it well. So you should be compensated fairly based

on your experience and qualifications.

Have you ever heard of GCSAA's compensation and benefits report? If you haven't, you should take a look at it. This report breaks down industrywide compensation trends using various factors such as facility type, facility location and personal education. The report can be a useful tool, and it's not limited to those starting new employment. Why not use these statistics to leverage a raise during your annual review? If money isn't an option, how about leveraging qualifications to improve your benefits package?

To elaborate further, how about leveraging your "Class A" or "CGCS"? An abundance of educational hours are inherent to these distinctions, and those accomplishments should be communicated to your employer. By communicating these achievements, you just may gain their trust

more so than ever before. For example, add "Class A Superintendent" to your business card. Add it to your email signature. Perhaps promote it in a board meeting when the opportunity presents itself.

If you do fall into that category of looking for new employment, take advantage of GCSAA's career services page. There you can gain tips for building your resume and cover letter, explore professional and personal profiles and web-sites, and grow your understanding of how to negotiate with an employer so that both sides come out happy.

I think sometimes in our industry we want to create a great product for the golfers and stay out of the limelight. But when it comes to negotiating and promoting yourself (and your qualifications) to your superiors, it is time to let your star shine a little bit. After all, you deserve it.

## Eames Award *cont.*

the course was for the Member-Guest, or how fast the greens are for the Club Championship." He advised to always be prepared for the next step, which may or may not be in the golf profession. Sometimes clubs now replace the "old guy" with the "young guy," just to save some bucks.

On advice for young people in the business, Eames recommends, "Get as much education as you can. Go to the best possible course early in your career. If you start at a lower level course, you can get branded."

When asked about the award, Eames said, "This is the highlight of my career! I was always low profile, but I maintained relationships and rode a lot of coattails. I got my inspiration from others, and I couldn't have done it without the support of my family. I was away a lot more than I wanted."

Eames retired in October of 2013 and moved to Keysville, VA with his wife Patty. They have a son Justin, who is 32 and living in Baltimore. Their daughter Jessica is a Director of Technology at a public boarding school. In his spare time, Eames tends to his bee hives, an interest he has held since childhood.

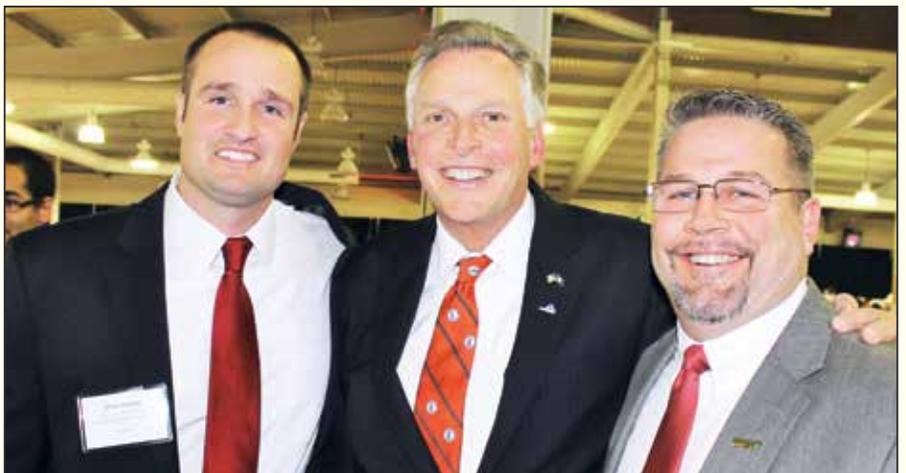
## President's Message *cont.*

everyone who has not yet completed their Nutrient Management Plan to take advantage of this grant money while it is available. A list of contractors will be posted on our web site.

We all continue to face challenges in this ever changing industry. Working more with less while expectations continue to rise, impending environmental challenges and the shortage of qualified assistants are all a part of this change. This is why I believe we all need to work together and continue to communicate. I know we all have busy schedules but try to make time to attend your chapter events, visit your industry

neighbors and use each other as sounding boards and resources. We all have information that might just help the guy next door. Encourage your Assistant to attend events, as this networking can only improve what they will bring back to your facility.

In closing I would like to thank our partners for their support this past year and we look forward to working with all of you in 2015. And finally I would like to thank our executive director David Norman for his dedication to our association, his efforts over the last several years are what has made our association grow and improve. Thanks, David!



VGCSA Vice President Chris Petrelli (L) and President Jeff Holliday (R) meet with Governor Terry McAuliffe at the Virginia Agribusiness Council Meeting

# Water Supply Planning Program – Annual Water Withdrawal Reporting



The Virginia Water Withdrawal Reporting Regulation (9VAC25-200-10, et seq.) requires the annual reporting of surface and ground water withdrawals. Withdrawal reports for the previous calendar year are due on February 28. The purpose of withdrawal reporting is to enable appropriate planning for the Commonwealth's future water needs through the collection of accurate information. Information collected is summarized and included in the Annual Water Resources Report.

Withdrawals in Virginia for crop production (including nurseries and sod farms) must be reported for withdrawals of one million gallons or more in a single month. Withdrawals in Virginia for ALL other purposes (including, but not limited to, livestock production, mining operations, public water supplies, manufacturing, power production, and golf courses) must be reported by users whose average daily withdrawal exceeds 10,000 gallons per day

in any single month.

It is important to note that the regulation requires the use of a methodology or the installation and operation of a gaging device at or near the withdrawal source to measure the cumulative volume of groundwater and/or surface water withdrawn. The gage or methodology used must be consistent with sound generally accepted engineering practice and produce volume determinations within 10% of accuracy. In addition, the regulation requires retention of water withdrawal and gage calibration records by the user for a period of three years.

Voluntary reporting of withdrawals that are lower than the reporting thresholds is encouraged and appreciated. "Get the Facts" is an informational brochure that encourages the reporting of all withdrawals, even those below the reporting threshold, to provide valuable information in support of Virginia's water resource management

efforts. Data collected includes monthly and annual withdrawal amounts and identifies the owner, source, source type, subtype, and category of use. Instructions for reporting raw water withdrawals for irrigation or agriculture include methods for estimating withdrawal amounts for these categories.

If your facility withdraws enough water to meet the mandatory reporting threshold and you are not yet reporting its water withdrawals, then you must register your facility by filling out a New Facility Registration Form and submitting it to DEQ. Once registered, annual water withdrawal reporting may be completed online at <http://deq1.bse.vt.edu/vwuds/>. A username and password is required for entry into the online reporting system.

Please contact the appropriate DEQ representative to submit your Registration Form and to obtain entry into the online reporting system.

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# News from Local Associations

## ODGCSA News

2015 looks to be a great year for the ODGCSA. Our elected board for the upcoming year will consist of:

President - Kevin Fortune

Vice President - Brent Graham

Secretary/Treasurer - Paul Van Buren

Director - Jay Wade.

Thanks go to these Board members for

serving, our great membership base for participating, and our wonderful suppliers for supporting our organization.

A preview of this year's ODGCSA events includes: March Madness on March 19 (Williamsburg, Richmond, Charlottesville), The Tollie Quinn Golf Tournament at Two Rivers Country Club on May 4, and a fall golf outing at

Independence Golf Club on September 29. Best of luck in 2015.



Dan Taylor  
ODGCSA  
External Vice President

## TTA Winter News

Happy New Year! So far, the weather in Southeast Virginia has been relatively normal with average precipitation and little to no ice and snow accumulation. The bermudagrass is mostly dormant with the exception of a few areas under trees, green surrounds, and low lying wet areas.

A few superintendents are working on bunker repairs and drainage and all superintendents are ready to get their winter herbicide program underway, if they haven't started all ready.

The TTA board has made some changes. Paul Culclasure is now President, Chris Brnich is Secretary/Treasurer, Travis Creech is Vice President, and Rob Wilmans, formerly External VP for the VGCSA, is moving into a director's seat. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob for his outstanding dedication and service for both the VGCSA

and the TTA as the External VP. Replacing Rob will be Pete Stephens formerly VP of the TTA now the External VP. Going off the board is Tony Gardner. We wish him the best and also thank him for his services for the TTA.

In January the Board finalized our 2015 meeting dates and locations. They have come up with a list of great topics and issues that superintendents can benefit from. This year the TTA will have four education/golf association meetings in addition to one, maybe two, *free* informal social events for members and their families. One of which is a social hour at the Norfolk Scope followed by a Norfolk Admirals hockey game on February 28, compliments of the TTA.

The first educational meeting is set for March 19 at Honey Bee Golf Course, with the key note speaker TBD. On April 28, the TTA will sponsor an open forum discussion

at Riverfront Golf Club free for all members, the Dick Cake Memorial/Virlina qualifier will be in May this year and September the TTA will continue its annual OBX golf trip playing at Sea Scape Golf Links Kitty Hawk.

On behalf of the TTA, we would like to wish everyone a great season. Also, please remember to become more active within your association and come to meetings, network and socialize with your fellow Superintendents. Spending time with your peers can be productive and very beneficial to both you and your club.



Pete Stephens, CGCS  
Tidewater Turfgrass  
Association  
External Vice President

## SVTA News

With the holidays over I hope everyone had a chance to sit back, relax, and spend quality time with family and friends. With the New Year started and having dodged a couple potential monstrous snow storms, it is a typical winter where 2 inches of snow here and there will halt any projects on the golf course. One day we will get them done.

The SVTA board has put together a great year of meetings. We have slimmed down the meetings from 6 to 5 this year. For June, July, and August, we were trying to find a place to play golf once a month. Our first official meeting of the year will be a "round table" discussion on

March 12 at Winchester Country Club. A very informal get-together of Superintendents discussing strategies that are used day in and day out at their facilities. Anything from pesticide strategies, safety in the workplace, or what is your desired turf and what are you doing to eradicate other turf types within this stand. It can be anything, we have a couple of ideas to start with, but please bring any topics that maybe a group of us could answer or help with.

The rest of the schedule is not complete, still looking for courses to host, but we will have a meeting April 23, possibly at Spotswood. Our SVTA fundraiser will be

at Rock Harbor on September 22.

Hopefully, many of you will be able to escape winter for a week by attending the GCSAA show in San Antonio, catching up with old friends and playing a little golf. Take care the rest of the winter and don't forget that early preventative application ... of ice melt!



Scott Cornwell  
Shenandoah Valley  
Turfgrass Association  
External Vice President



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# News from Local Associations

## News from the GWGCSA

As I look back on another year in this crazy (and great) profession, I am amazed by how quickly time goes by when you work in an industry where the coming and going of seasons dictates both what you do and how you get things done. In the last 27 (could it be that long) years, I've seen many things change for the better and for the worse in golf course management. While we have had tremendous advancements in the tools with which to do our jobs, we've also seen a corresponding rise in expectations on the way we manicure our courses. Overall, I think the hair pulling out factor has remained pretty constant, although admittedly, it has more to do with the stress we put on ourselves, as perfectionists. Hopefully, 2015 will pan out to be as easy as 2014 was because I don't have much hair left to spare.

As for the start of 2015 and the first half of winter, so far so good and bad. While it hasn't been as white as called for, it certainly has been wet and cold. It seems that every time things begin to dry out enough to get on the course and finish some projects, another bout of storms comes rolling through. The "off-season" is so short here in Northern Virginia to begin with, that we need every minute we can get to accomplish things

without being swamped by golfers. However, it could be much worse. We could be getting 2 feet of snow as did the northeast from the BLIZZARD of 2015.

It seems like a distant memory now, but the GWGCSA finished out 2014 with another super event at Evergreen Country Club. Thanks again to Dave, Mike and all the Evergreen staff for hosting and making it another sensational day for everyone. This year, the golf gods were kind and supplied a beautiful fall day to make up for last year's ice bowl. Temps were in the 60s and I even saw a bunch of shorts out there. Of course, no matter how cold it is, the "Buttery Nipple Open" (can I say that) will keep you warm with plenty of its namesake drink flowing around the course.

Following a perfect day on the links was our annual meeting, which seemed unusually subdued this year. I guess all the old guys like me are going to have to turn things over to the young up-and-comers to get things rocking again in the future. Along with a few awards and recognitions for those who make working as a Golf Course Superintendent such a rewarding experience, we were thankful to have Derik Cataldi from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation there to

speaking. Derik provided new and pertinent information about the constantly changing state of nutrient management planning as well as some great golf shots for my team.

The GWGCSA Board has met a few times recently to discuss the strength of our association and how to grow it as well as keep it valuable to our members. We will be putting out a short and pointed survey to find out what it is that makes membership important and what we can do to increase participation. Through this, we hope to grow further and provide our members with the best possible experience. I know that since coming to the area over 19 years ago, the relationships I have developed as an association member and representative have given me more than I can possibly repay and I hope to help continue that for all those who are starting out and coming up in this most challenging and rewarding profession.



*Shawn Gill  
GWGCSA  
External Vice President*

## VTA News

For those of us in the southwest part of the state, we can breathe a little sigh of relief, as this winter so far has been very tolerable. Through January, we have had very little snow, sleet or ice and for the most part, weather has been conducive to getting projects done while still being able to get a few golfers out onto the golf course. But we are not out of the woods yet. As we learned last year, February and March can still pack a punch.

2015 promises to be an exciting year for the Virginia Turfgrass Association. As always, we have are working on putting together an exciting meeting schedule, highlighted by our Bob Ruff Sr. Fundraiser in May, a family baseball night at the Salem Red Sox and our year-end meeting in October. Over the last couple of years we have tried to think outside the box with

our education and our speakers, bringing in meteorologist and dermatologist and the like to educate our members on more than just turf. This year we plan to continue this trend and are looking to broaden our scope on safety, environmental issues, financial planning and various other topics that will help our members continue to grow. As everyone knows, we are quickly approaching the date when golf courses need to have a nutrient management plan completed, so this too will be a common topic of conversation in our area.

We are also excited to bring on some new board members this year. Mark Madonna is joining the board to become our Secretary/Treasurer, Eric Spurlock as our vendor representative, and Chip Bass and Tim Murphy will be joining our team as directors. I would like to pass along a big thank you

to Chris Appel and Greg Austin for their many years of service to the VTA.

The VTA is also excited to roll out our vendor sponsorship program. We are still working out a few kinks, but feel this will give our vendors even more exposure at meetings, emails and allow for "one stop shopping" on their behalf.

Keep an eye out for the official 2015 calendar which we will be sending out in the middle of February. 2015 is sure to be another exciting year and as always welcome other association members to join us for a meeting or two.



*Sean K. Baskette  
Hidden Valley  
Country Club  
VTA President*



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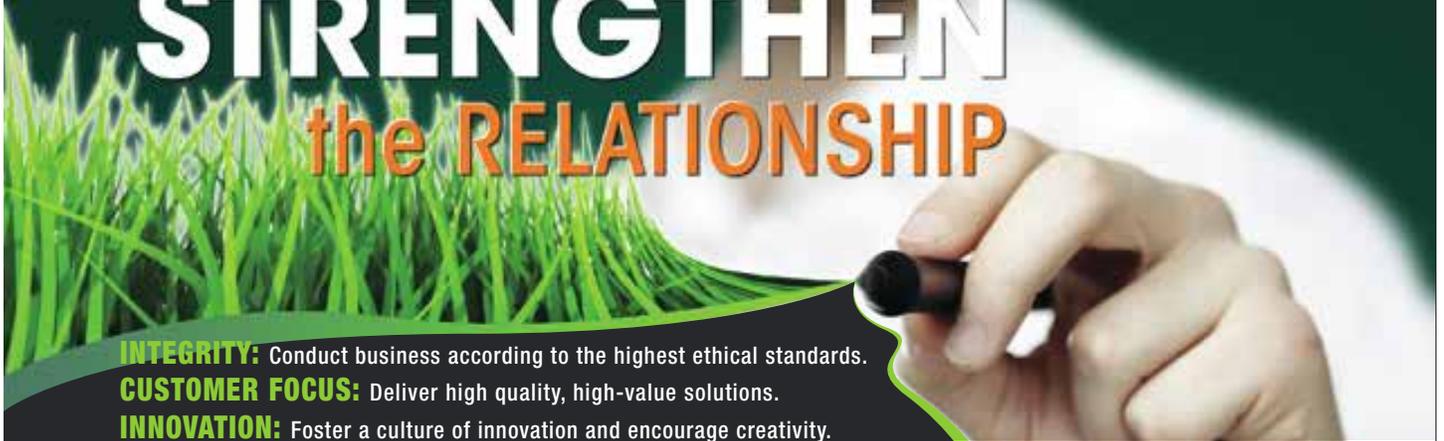


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- OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:** Maintain an environment that focuses on continuous improvement.
- LEADERSHIP:** Inspire and empower one another to achieve our corporate vision.
- TEAMWORK:** Promote collaboration and communication.
- DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT:** Cultivate an energizing environment that instills a sense of pride and winning spirit.
- EXCELLENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** Take personal ownership for ensuring that we strive for excellence in all aspects of our daily responsibilities. Exceed our customer's expectations, as well as our competitor's efforts.

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