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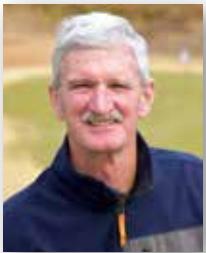
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Will Holroyd has fueled his passion for more than 30 years at Musgrove Mill Golf Club near Clinton, SC.

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Time to Think Boldly And Share Thoughts



Carolinas GCSA president Adam Charles from The Preserve at Verdae in Greenville, SC says it is time to look hard at what is next for the association.

Back in 2011, I enjoyed a few handshakes after being elected to the Carolinas GCSA board of directors. I appreciated all the well-wishes and support but something I heard from a couple of members stuck with me. They said something along the lines of: "We are glad that you were elected now we've got someone we feel comfortable picking up the phone and calling if we need to."

These guys are long time colleagues, I call them friends, which is why I think I can mention their names - Dean Bedenbaugh from Ponderosa Country Club and Scott Crouch from Mid Carolina Club. Both are active in the Carolinas GCSA and Midlands Turfgrass Association, where both are past-presidents. So it surprised me a little to think that any member, let alone two who are so well-respected by their peers, would feel like they couldn't pick up the phone and call any member of the Carolinas GCSA board at any time.

It's true that our region is home to facilities of all kinds and a wide range of budgets but we are still all golf course superintendents. In my book, that automatically makes us brothers - and in a few cases sisters. I can tell you every

member of every board I have served with since 2011 feels the same way. So please believe me when I say we want to hear from you as we prepare for a strategic planning session on March 26.

I know there's a school of thought that says if you're not hearing complaints you must be doing well. That may be true but it doesn't necessarily mean you are doing as well as you possibly can. The Carolinas GCSA did not become one of the strongest GCSAA chapters in the country by resting on its laurels and refusing to make dynamic decisions. On the contrary, today's generation benefits from a legacy of bold decisions by our predecessors - many of which hit the mark but some of which didn't.

The way forward always requires leaving a little of the past behind and that takes some courage, particularly when things are going well. But with the pace of change in the world today, if you're not advancing you are being left behind.

That's exactly what one Carolinas GCSA board did 20 years ago when they sat down and took a long hard look at the health and future of the association. Out

"The way forward always requires leaving a little of the past behind and that takes some courage, particularly when things are going well. But with the pace of change in the world today, if you're not advancing you are being left behind."

of that navel gazing came Chuck Borman as the first full time executive director, moving Conference and Show to the Myrtle Beach Convention Center and so much more.

What can we do better? What should we be doing that we are not? Where are we losing ground? What are our biggest threats? Are we meeting our mission? These are just some of the questions we need to ask ourselves and now is your time to suggest any answers you may have. Or even if you just have questions of your own, please, get in touch with your nearest Carolinas GCSA director or call the staff at headquarters in Liberty, SC.

It's time to think boldly and put everything on the table. Who knows, we might come to find that we really are close to doing all we can. But if we don't ask the question, then how can we know for sure. And we want to do all we can to be as sure as we can. We owe it to those who came before us and most certainly to those who will follow. ■

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This is Year with Lots To Look Forward To



Carolinas GCSA executive director Tim Kreger welcomes attendees to the winter meeting at Sage Valley Golf Club.

I'm excited about 2017 - and not just because Clemson won a football game recently. But they did, didn't they? Just saying. We in the Carolinas GCSA have a lot to look forward to in the months ahead. That includes stuff that's on the table and plenty more that's in the mixer.

We wrapped up the last year on a high with another great Conference and Show and the release of our very own BMP manual was a major feat. The publication has already made a significant impact in many quarters and we may find ourselves looking at a second printing before long. The response to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

I can't tell you how excited I was when we confirmed Sage Valley Golf Club as the host venue for our annual winter meeting. It truly is a special facility and to be able to welcome our members, with a special emphasis on assistant superintendents, to the club was something we will all remember for a long time. Time and again, I had young guys - and some older ones - come up to me over the course of the two-day meeting and say how grateful they

were for the opportunity to experience the club and the course first-hand.

Next - on March 27 and 28 - we're headed to the "home of American golf" for the annual Southeast Regional Conference. That's what Pinehurst is officially billed as and rightly so. Donald Ross may have been born in Scotland but there is plenty of his heart and soul in the North Carolina Sandhills. I'm sure the education will be first-class just like the golf tournament we will enjoy on the resort's No. 4 course. No. 4 is set to undergo a renovation by Gil Hanse in the fall to give it more of a rustic flavor to match No. 2.

There is also an exciting event on the eve of the conference. The Carolinas GCSA board of directors will convene for a strategic planning meeting to help layout a path for the years ahead. This is not easy work which is one reason why we are bringing in Joe O'Brien to help facilitate discussions. Joe is the senior director of education and outcomes with The First Tee of America. But even more importantly as far as we're concerned, he is the brain that helped orchestrate a

strategic planning meeting back in 1997 that helped get us where we are today.

We would love to hear from you in advance of that planning session. Any suggestions, ideas, dreams, critiques or complaints are welcome. This is about charting a path for the future. The world is changing constantly and what works today is not guaranteed to work tomorrow.

Towards the end of May, we are looking to reinvigorate the North-South at a facility in the Charlotte, NC area. We had to cancel last year's challenge between superintendents from either side of the Carolinas border. Tough weather conditions going in and several other factors made it difficult for guys to get away, even for a day. But we're confident of a big bounce back for this first-class event this year, with a slightly later date.

Then in the fall we're preparing to regain the Virlina Cup when the guys from the Virginia GCSA come to Highlands Country Club in Highlands, NC. They might have gotten the better of us last year but we're confident that was just a bump in the road.

I'm also excited about some of the features already in store for this year's Conference and Show in November. The planning wheels are already turning and churning out some cool initiatives. One that I can mention is a new photo booth on the trade show floor where you can get professional head and shoulders shots for free. You can then use these photos on resumes, club web sites and more. It's just one more service to help project you in the professional light you deserve.

You can see why I'm excited. I hope you are too. ■



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The Lost Art of Listening

And Other Good Lessons



Pat Jones

Early in the dawning days of 2017, I got on my first flight of the year and headed to Nashville, TN to meet up with our good friend Matthew Wharton, CGCS, MG from Carolina Golf Club in Charlotte, NC. What an awesome start to a new year it was.

Our joint mission was co-teaching a seminar on the joys of Twitter to the attendees of the Tennessee Turfgrass Association's annual conference and show. We did that ... but I got something out of it as well because, along the way, Matthew gave me a great education about a few other things.

Allow me to share what I mean and what each of my lessons from Mr. Wharton might mean to you as a fellow superintendent.

First, I learned that Matthew is a juggler. No, I don't mean the tossing and catching of bowling pins and chainsaws type of juggling. I mean keeping a bunch of life balls up in the air. In the months leading up to the conference, he had

simultaneously completed his Master Greenkeeper certification through BIGGA (something only a handful of America superintendents have done), represented the Carolinas GCSA at multiple events, done a bunch of projects and changes around his club, attended the Golfdom Summit (Boo!!!) and still managed to own Twitter and stay happily married to the amazing Mrs. Greenkeeper. Impressive to say the least.

What's that mean to you? It's really rewarding to have multiple interests beyond just the challenge of running a golf course. Leadership opportunities, travel and engagement with colleagues around the country are hugely rewarding. One of the greatest things about this community is the chance to build friendships with other turfheads from around the nation and the world. Seek those out!

Second, he learns without looking like he's learning. We went to dinner with Shelia Finney (former superintendent turned Tennessee chapter executive turned GCSAA executive), Ron Wright (GCSAA regional dude) and Paul Carter, the great Tennessee superintendent famed for his environmental and wildlife programs.

Predictably, between bites of food, I pontificated and yammered and peppered Shelia and Ron and Paul with questions. Occasionally I looked over and saw Matthew doing something crazy: he was carefully listening. This is a skill I simply do not possess that Mr. Wharton has mastered. I asked him later if he'd heard what Shelia and I were gossiping about. "Every word," he said with a shy smile.

What's that mean to you? Hopefully you too can be one of those people who - like Matthew - is capable of "active listening." It takes every ounce of willpower I have to actually listen to someone instead

of thinking of a smarty-pants response. In short, if you concentrate on what someone is really trying to say, you'll learn far more than when you try to impress someone with how smart your response is.

I suggest Googling "active listening" and studying some of the articles that come up. But a workshop or a seminar on the subject can teach you volumes. It's probably the most important yet underdeveloped skill you can have in business.

Third, Matthew reminded me of what the late House Speaker Tip O'Neil used to say: "All politics is local." We had agreed to come up with a list of people that we suggested superintendents should follow on Twitter. I spent 12 seconds compiling a list of the usual suspects. Matthew showed up with a PowerPoint full of images of great Twitter feeds ... and many of them were Ph.D.s and turfheads from the Volunteer State. Duh! He took the time to think about who would be the most meaningful to the audience.

What's that mean to you? Anytime you're presenting an idea - whether it's selling your owners on a new pump station or outlining a safety program to your staff - remember your audience and what motivates them.

The classic motivation is WIIFM - What's In It For Me? Why should I listen? Why should I agree with what you have to say? By making the information immediately relevant to the Tennessee audience, he got their attention. You can do the same by putting yourself in the shoes of the person you're trying to convince. In short, remember WIIFM.

Fourth, pretty much as soon as our speech was done, I bolted for the airport to head someplace else. Matthew, on the other hand, stayed put even though our

(continued on page 10...)

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stated mission was complete. He stuck around and attended more classes, hung out with some of the great turfheads and educators over there and continued to share what he heard and saw via social media.

Two things impressed me about that. One: He had planned his schedule to make time to feed his own brain after we'd gotten done feeding the brains of attendees. And two, he did an excellent job of sharing what he learned not just with y'all and others who follow him on Twitter, but also with his club. He went back and gave them a full report on why that time was well-spent.

That's an often forgotten part of attending a conference - whether it be the Carolinas Conference and Show or the national. Take the time to document the value of your trip to your employer, even if it's just a quick email or memo. It will make it infinitely easier to get approval for future trips if you've justified the one you just took.

So, in the end I hope that those Tennessee turfheads learned a little about Twitter from us. I know I learned a few lessons about professionalism from Matthew. I seriously doubt he learned anything from me except, of course, to always get a smart guy like Mr. Wharton as your teaching partner. ■

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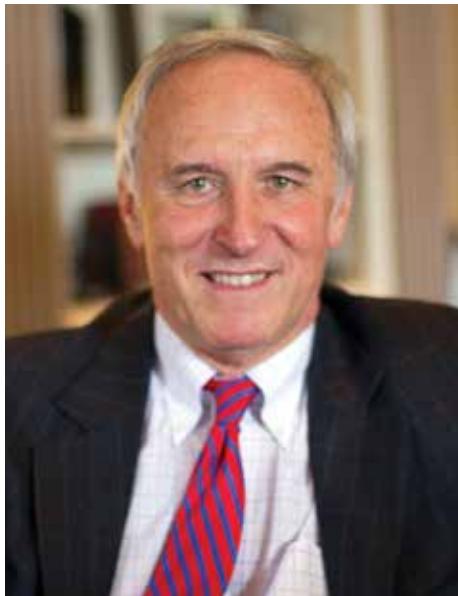
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The Art of the Ask: Time to Get Busy



Chris Valauri

In the famous and timeless political movie The Candidate (1972), the protagonist, played by Robert Redford, is surprisingly elected to the U.S. Senate in California. At the end of the movie, he turns to his chief campaign strategist Peter Boyle and asks a very simple question: "What do we do now?"

While not a lot of folks would admit to this fleeting moment of uncertainty (at least on the record) it's a good bet that the President and newly-elected Governors and Senators all suffered a little buyer's remorse when they took their oath of office. There's an old cliché that bears repeating: Running for office, painful as it may seem at times, is the enjoyable part of the process. Actually governing is the true challenge where legacies are made or broken.

As we wade into the legislative sessions in Raleigh and Columbia (and Washington DC) it's a good time to revisit some of the basic tools for navigating the legislative process and to renew your relationships with legislators, county commissioners, local city councils and even your local chambers of commerce. It's very important for each and every member of the golf community to understand and

"There's an old cliché that bears repeating: Running for office, painful as it may seem at times, is the enjoyable part of the process. Actually governing is the true challenge where legacies are made or broken."

appreciate how very important it is to know these folks.

The North Carolina House consists of 120 members led by House Speaker Tim Moore of Cleveland County. The NC Senate is smaller and a bit more fraternal with 50 seats led by President Pro Tem Phil Berger of Rockingham County. Both are attorneys in relatively small communities. Neither is a golfer. But both are interested in the welfare of the game and understand and appreciate the economic and social impact the game has on the state's economy. They know the game is a big player at both the corporate level and in driving the travel and tourism sector. The \$5-billion impact the game has on the economy is something we have emphasized and manage to drop into each and every casual conversation.

The new legislative session brings with it a new freshman class that means there is an opportunity to recruit new allies. Do they play golf? Where did they go to college? Are they a member of a club or play at your course? Do your children go to school with theirs? This is very important information to know and can pay valuable dividends down the road.

Finally (and most importantly) is the time honored principle made famous by former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill:

"All politics is local." As the constituent and voter, you are at the very top of the pyramid of influence. Consider the time and effort you make in cultivating these relationships an investment. Whether we're dealing with suppliers, other members of the management team or staff, we're already in the relationships business. It's a natural extension to the world of lobbying and advocacy.

We have established a very solid track record as an industry in and around the halls of the General Assembly. Over the course of the past decade we have enjoyed a series of successes dealing with issues ranging from water use and taxation policy to enhancing the public policy presence as a recruitment tool for economic development and industrial recruitment. It's important to note these challenges are never entirely and completely resolved. There will be another drought and there will be another budget shortfall. The key is to have a secure seat at the decision-making table when it happens.

I was taught (and have passed this message along several times in this space over the years) that the best time to lobby is when you and your organization are not asking for a thing. The absolute key is to build relationships before you need help. If the first time you meet a member or their chief of staff is when you need their help the odds for success drop significantly.

I have a very vivid memory of a conversation with former Senator John Kerr of Goldsboro during our first NC Golf Day almost 10 years ago. He was sitting on a tractor on the legislative mall before we hosted an outdoor lunch for members and staff. He looked at me and Brian Powell, CGCS suspiciously and asked: "What are you guys asking for this session?" "Nothing," we replied. "Come on guys. It must be something?" "Nothing," we reiterated. "Not yet anyway." 'The ask' always comes later. ■

- Chris Valauri is Carolinas GCSA government relations counsel in North Carolina.

No Such Thing as One-Size Fits All

When it comes to Nitrogen Programs



Dr. Bert McCarty

Dr. Bert McCarty, Research and Extension Turf Specialist at Clemson University, will address any turf-related question in this column.

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Q Your recent Turf Talk articles regarding various nutrient needs of turfgrasses have been very informative. What are your thoughts on nitrogen programs on greens as I hear wide and divergent recommendations from various sales reps, in articles read and from workshops attended?

A Making universal nitrogen (N) recommendations for golf greens is virtually impossible given the diversity in our industry with regard to environmental conditions - such as rainfall and length of growing season, construction materials used, amount of play, budgets, grasses grown, customer expectations, plus many other factors (Figure 1). The following is intended as a starting point when developing fertilizer programs which can be subsequently fine-tuned over time. Several things to ponder include:

1. For healthiest turf, research indicates total yearly N applied should be evenly split between granular and liquid sources. This is especially true when using various micronutrients which are incrementally tied up at higher soil pH (>7.0) values.

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2. If the objective is to encourage turf growth (recovery), granular sources are best. Liquid sources cannot be applied at sufficient rates to really promote aggressive growth without the risk of foliar burn. Typically, this is during slow spring transition for warm-season grasses and fall recovery from summer stress for cool-season grasses or recovery from aerification and damage from ball marks or excessive play.
3. Ammonium (NH_4^+) nitrogen sources should predominate when the turf is under stress and not actively growing since all N sources applied are eventually converted to this form in plants. Up to three times more energy is needed for the conversion of other nitrogen sources to ammonium, usually at a time when the turf has minimum energy to expend. When the turf is actively growing, the form of N applied becomes less important.

Rates

Rates depend on a balance of when and how much growth (recovery) is needed versus when color is the primary objective. A general yearly range of N needs for

(continued on page 14 ...)



Figure 1. Many inputs are necessary for successful golf greens. One hotly debated factor is what constitutes an appropriate nitrogen rate. Often a balance is needed between color and turf health to satisfy customer perceptions and maintain a manageable growth rate.



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bermudagrass golf greens is from four to 12 lb N/1,000 ft². Seashore paspalum, zoysiagrass, bentgrass and bentgrass/Poa annua greens annually require three to eight lb N/1,000 ft².

Courses with sufficient resources, low-CEC (sandy) soils, longer growing seasons, higher annual rainfall amounts, excessive traffic, pest problems and elevated color expectations should err on the higher rate range. Courses interested in a lower maintenance playing surface, or those with limited labor and financial resources, should use rates in the lower range or apply very small doses frequently to ensure sufficient nutrient availability.

Frequency

Warm-Season Grasses - Suggested percentages of N fertilizer applied to warm- and cool-season turfgrasses during the year are listed in Table 1. In general, to maintain optimum color and density during periods of active growth, highly maintained bermudagrass golf greens need ~¼ to ½ lb N/1,000 ft² every seven to 14 days. This can be applied as slow-release granulars or evenly split with weekly applications of liquids.

For courses with fewer resources, bermudagrass can be maintained with ½

lb N/1,000 ft² applied every 14 to 21 days during periods of active growth. However, long-term low rates may lead to disease issues such as dollar and leaf spot, pink patch, anthracnose and mini-ring.

To encourage quicker turf recovery from aerification or heavy play, higher rates (e.g., one lb N/1,000 ft²) are often needed. Once turf recovery is satisfactory, rates should be lowered. During periods of naturally slowed growth, 1/10 to ½ lb N/1,000 ft² is suggested every seven to 14 days to enhance color; ammonium sources should be considered for reasons discussed earlier.

Bentgrass and Poa annua - The total amount of N used for bentgrass or bentgrass/Poa annua greens generally ranges from three to eight lb/1,000 ft² annually. Typically, four to six lbs are used annually for bentgrass in areas with longer growing seasons such as the lower transition zone, while three to six lbs are typically used in shorter-growing regions.

The timing for these applications is based on the temperatures affecting shoot and root growth. Table 1 lists the general rule-of-thumb of the percentage of total N amounts applied during the various seasons of the year. The majority of N (40

to 75 percent) should be supplied during autumn months.

A typical bentgrass fertilization schedule for a golf green in warmer climates based on Table 1 would include ½ to one lb N/1,000 ft² each for the months of September, October, November and December. January and February (depending on location) would probably receive slightly less to reduce succulent growth in the subsequent spring months. By contrast, in cooler-climates, or where the soil freezes during winter months, little or no N should be applied after mid-fall, as plant roots have a limited capacity to take up fertilizer in cold or frozen soils.

Spring months might receive ½ lb N/1,000 ft² each while the summer months would receive a minimum amount (e.g., ¼ lb N/1,000 ft² each) to discourage diseases and reduce heat and drought stress. A good rule of thumb for high sand content (>80 percent by volume) greens is to use lower fertilizer rates applied at more frequent intervals such as ¼ lb N & K/1,000 ft² every 10 to 14 days during stressful environmental periods.

If the objective is to encourage bentgrass at the expense of Poa annua, long-term research strongly suggests an annual N program of six+ lb N/1,000 ft², low P (<1 lb P2O5/1,000 ft²), plus 3.5 lb S/1,000 ft². It is believed this program discourages Poa by allowing diseases such as anthracnose and Fusarium patch to selectively remove it from bentgrass, or the lack of P reduces the number of viable Poa seeds produced. ■

Table 1. Percentages of nitrogen fertilizer applied to turfgrass during the year.

Season	Cool-season grasses		Warm-season grasses	
	greens/tees	other areas	overseeded	non-overseeded
Fall (Sept, Oct, Nov)	40 to 75	45 to 75	15	10 to 15
Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)	0 to 30*	0 to 45*	15	0
Spring (Mar, Apr, May)	10 to 20	10 to 20	25	35
Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug)	10 to 20	0 to 10	45	50 to 55

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On and Off the Course



Paul Rothwell

Paul Rothwell knows a thing or two about balance. He grew up playing ice hockey through frigid New England winters in Boston. Out of college, he moved to southern California where, making up for lost time in the sun, he learned to surf. In winter, he'd climb the San Gabriel Mountains and snow ski. Today, Rothwell coaches youth roller hockey on Hilton Head Island.

Most significantly though, he's managed to keep his feet in other ways, ways that seem to elude far too many of his colleagues in the profession.

For one, after more than three decades growing and mowing, including 33 as a Class A superintendent, Rothwell's still in it at age 57. He's also still in his marriage after more than 25 years, still in the same house after more than 20 years and still in the same job he started back in the spring of 1999.

That's a kind of grounding uncommon to a field that is often as ruthless as it is fickle. But Rothwell's sense of balance extends beyond an ability to stay vertical. He's just as conscious of maintaining his equilibrium between work and life. There's a boat tied to the floating dock off his backyard that helps in that regard as does

the family's annual summer vacation to Cape Cod.

Not much, if any, of the above has happened by accident. Rothwell knew from his early days at the University of Massachusetts that the west coast was a land of opportunity he wanted to explore. So one summer break, he and a buddy nursed a 1968 Volkswagen across the country and "fell in love with the place."

They returned out of college landing in Palos Verde where Rothwell became a superintendent after just a year as an assistant. "I was 23 and remember wondering at the time if I was the youngest superintendent in the country," he laughs. "These days I wonder if I'll be the oldest!"

Rothwell maintained bentgrass on the California coast for 12 years. Along the way, he met his wife, Annette, who just happened to have grown up 15 miles from Rothwell in Boston. They loved the life out west but the cost of living demanded that both work, something that didn't jibe with how they wanted to raise a family.

They began to look east and Hilton Head emerged as a target, a little more affordable and closer to family but not too close to the cold and "definitely" still on the coast. Rothwell started at Shipyard Golf Club then spent a couple of years at Port Royal Golf Club before settling at Oyster Reef. Annette landed a job with the school system which put her on the same hours as their sons Samuel, now at the University of South Carolina, and Harrison, a sophomore at Hilton Head High. More balance.

"It's been a really good environment," Rothwell says with satisfaction, adding that the proximity of his professional circle has been another boon to his quality of life. "There's so many of us (superintendents) here. There's always a Friday afternoon golf game going on somewhere and I'll jump on that. Then I'll bump into someone at a high school basketball game or something. It's nice having so many of the

Introducing the people who make up the profession through a partnership between Syngenta and the Carolinas GCSA

guys around."

Some of those guys have played their own role in helping Rothwell. He rattles off a list of names of fellow superintendents he regularly talks turf and life with. Tom Metzger at Sea Pines Country Club is one, as is Charlie Duncan at Port Royal and Gregg Baxter at Shipyard. Mike Carn, who died suddenly late last year was another. "I really miss him already," Rothwell says. "He was always a great phone call, a great resource and friend."

Of course there are more. Jonathan Wright from Harbour Town Golf Links and Patrick Wake at Palmetto Dunes are two. Wake worked for Rothwell as an assistant years ago.

But there is also an even younger generation Rothwell enjoys his relationships with just as much and who he has had a hand in helping along. One of them, Michael Reeves, an assistant superintendent at Belfair Plantation, is the son of one of Rothwell's longtime neighbors and friends. Rothwell has known Reeves since he was six and had him out working on the golf course long ago.

Rothwell's interest in the next generation also extends to those playing the game. He serves on the board of The First Tee of the Lowcountry and helps maintain the group's six-hole facility. But his primary focus of course is Oyster Reef, where he maintains some of the oldest Tifeagle greens in the region. He installed them at the club the year he arrived.

"That was really cutting edge at the time," he says. "I think my bentgrass experience actually helped me out because like bentgrass they can be a little more temperamental than the old bermudagrass. They need a little more TLC. We still have them and they are every bit as good now as they were in the beginning."

The same can be said of superintendents like Rothwell. ■

Sage Valley Delivers Fun And First-Class Hospitality

Night golf, a banquet fit for kings, first-class education and caddied golf on one of the highest-ranked courses in the Southeast were just some of the highlights of the Carolinas GCSA's annual winter meeting. Any wonder that "spectacular" and "awesome" tied for the title of busiest adjective during the two-day event at Sage Valley Golf Club near Aiken, SC. About 100 superintendents, assistants and affiliate members attended.

Of course it didn't hurt that the January weather was more like that of early spring with clear skies and temperatures in the mid-60s. By any measure it was a grand kick off to the New Year thanks to host superintendent Chuck Green and the ownership and staff at the club.

"This was a special opportunity for everyone involved," Carolinas GCSA executive director Tim Kreger says. "But for 50 of our assistant superintendent members it was an immersion experience

in what might be possible in their careers. We couldn't be more grateful for the chance to bring our members to a club like Sage Valley."

Kreger gave special thanks to Green, a Carolinas past-president, for his efforts in securing the invitation to Sage Valley and for preparing outstanding conditions despite heavy rain 24 hours before the event. For his part, Green clearly enjoyed watching his colleagues enjoy everything Sage Valley had to offer. Time and again he urged attendees to relax and have fun.

There was plenty of fun on the first evening of the meeting when attendees made the most of the club's three-hole practice circuit adjacent to the clubhouse. After the sun went down, everyone headed inside the dining hall beneath the Fazio Cottage for a meal that even some of the association's heartiest eaters struggled to finish. Then it was back outside for more golf, this time under lights.

Fun was also an underlying theme of a presentation by golf course architect Beau Welling who was on the team that created the design of the golf course with architect Tom Fazio. Welling deviated from the standard architectural presentation to raise questions about the future of the game and how designers and superintendents can contribute to its growth.

One of Welling's recent projects was to collaborate with Tiger Woods on the design of Bluejack National outside Houston, TX. While the course has received strong reviews, Welling cited its little cousin, The Playgrounds, as a real eyebrow-raiser. The Playgrounds is a 10-hole short course with hole lengths between 57 and 102 yards. The venue has proved so popular that there is thought to converting some of it to artificial turf to cope with the traffic.

Welling described The Playgrounds as "fun central" for golfers of all ages and levels of ability. He said the facility encouraged enjoyment and interaction between golfers, something that sometimes got lost in the more formal game. He urged superintendents to consider if there was room at their facilities to install a similar type of layout.

Welling's presentation was followed by another from Clemson University's Dr. Bruce Martin who drew a few cheers, as well as jeers, when he held up a Clemson golf cap in recognition of the Tigers' recent college football championship win.

Trip Morrow from Meadowbrook Golf Course in Rutherfordton, NC qualified for the Virlina Cup team as the low assistant superintendent in the golf tournament. Morrow's even par round of 72 left him one stroke clear of his nearest rival, Ryan Hull from Methodist University Golf Course in Fayetteville, NC. Hull played on the Carolinas GCSA team last year.



Sun and serenity were welcome themes during the golf tournament at Sage Valley.



Carolinas GCSA director Billy Bagwell congratulates assistant superintendent golf champion Tripp Morrow from Meadowbrook Golf Course.

This year's Virlina Cup will be played at Highlands County Club in Highlands, NC with Carolinas GCSA director Brian Stiehler, CGCS as host superintendent. Morrow joins fellow assistant superintendent Riley Boyette from The Golf Club at Briar's Creek on Johns Island, SC as the earliest qualifiers for the annual challenge against the Virginia GCSA in the fall.

Boyette qualified by virtue of winning the Carolinas GCSA championship in Myrtle Beach, SC in November. Morrow actually shot a four-under round of 68 to beat Boyette's round of 70 in Myrtle Beach. But he was not a member of the Carolinas GCSA at that point.

Kreger made a special point of thanking several industry partners for their help in presenting the winter meeting at Sage Valley. Green Resource sponsored the meeting as it has for several years and Jacobsen and Syngenta sponsored Monday night's banquet. "The fact we are able to make events like this possible is thanks in large part to our industry partners," Kreger says. "They are as gracious as they are generous in their support of what we aim to be, and that is the best we can be for all of our members." ■



Night golf on Sage Valley's three-hole practice circuit provided a novel experience for attendees at the winter meeting.



Host superintendent Chuck Green welcomes attendees to the winter meeting at Sage Valley Golf Club.



Golf course architect Beau Welling took the audience beyond the golf course and deep into the health of the industry with his presentation.



Brock Turner from Mountaintop Golf and Lake Club drives down the first hole at Sage Valley Golf Club.



Ryan Hull and Mark Miller, both from Methodist University Golf Course.



Cordie Morgan, of Milliken, and Tripp Morrow, from Meadowbrook Golf Course.

Golf results

Flight A

Gross: 70

Ryan Hull, *Methodist University Golf Course*
Mark Miller, *Methodist University Golf Course*

Net: 70-6-64

Cordie Morgan, *Milliken*
Tripp Morrow, *Meadowbrook Golf Course*



Adam Brewer and Parker Henry, both from Sedgefield Country Club.

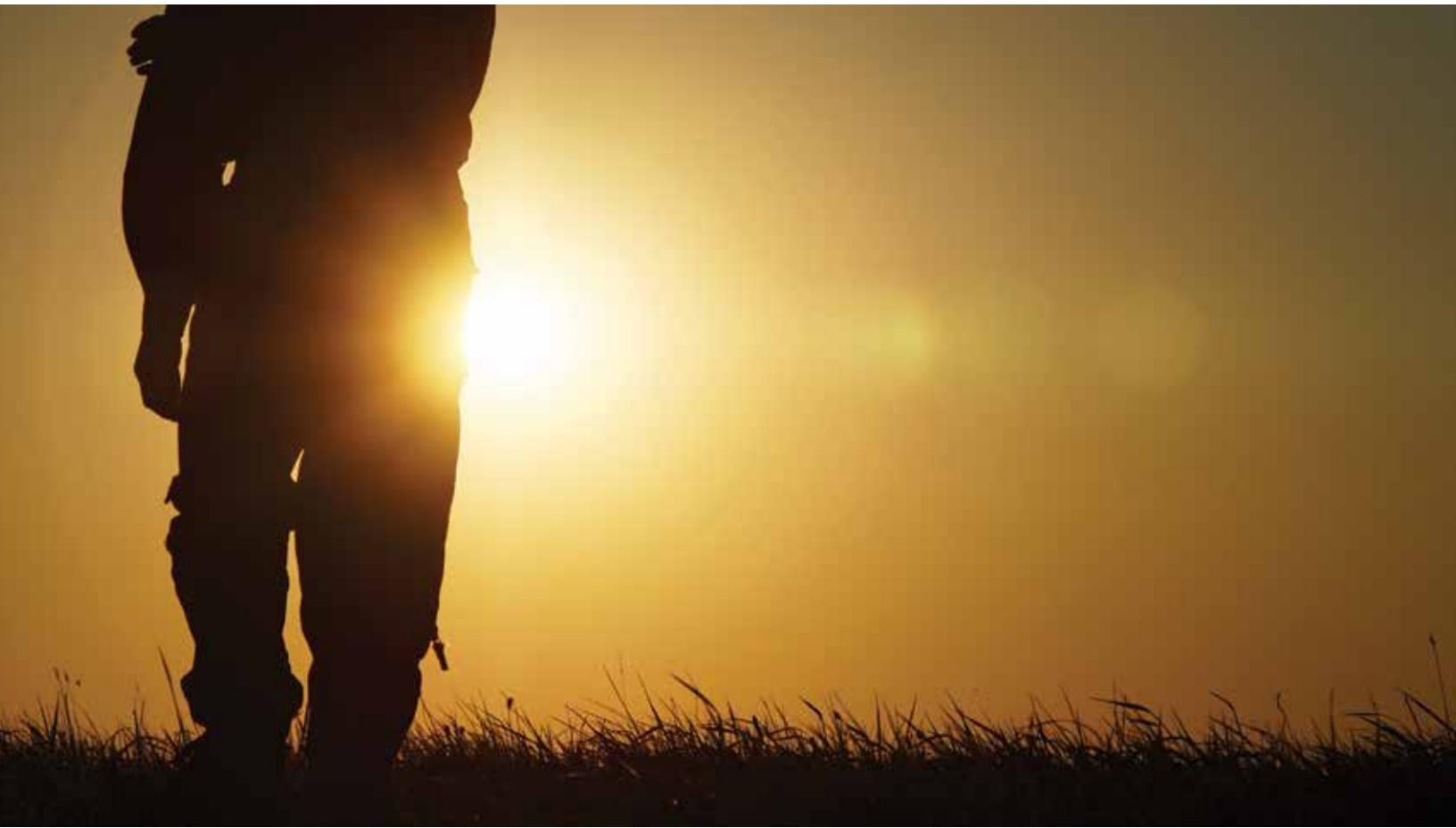


Brian Lussier, of Lussier Golf Design, and Brock Turner, from Mountaintop Golf and Lake Club.



Charlie Spears and Joe Hill, both from Cherokee Plantation.

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Hanse Headlines Program At Southeast Conference



Gil Hanse is a hot commodity in the world of golf course design after creating the golf course for golf's return to the Olympic Games in 2016.

Gil Hanse, who designed the course for golf's return to the Olympic Games in Brazil in 2016, headlines the program at this year's Southeast Regional Conference in Pinehurst on March 27 and 28. Hanse's appearance is certain to generate plenty of interest given the challenges confronted in creating the Olympic Golf Course in Rio de Janeiro. Hanse and the construction team had to deal with issues ranging from the environment to crime in getting the stage set for golf at the Games after an absence of 112 years.

Now he is preparing for a major renovation of Pinehurst's No. 4 course, which will host a golf tournament for conference attendees on the first day. "Getting to hear from Gil Hanse first-hand will be a fascinating experience for our members," says Carolinas GCSA executive director Tim Kreger. "He is definitely a hot commodity in the design world right now. It will be great to hear what he has in mind for No. 4."

No. 4 was originally designed by Donald Ross and most recently overhauled in 1999 by Tom Fazio. Talk about what was

next for No. 4 began as a result of the Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw renovation of the No. 2 course in time for the back to back men's and women's U.S. Opens in 2011. Their back-to-the-future restoration of sandy waste areas and native grasses in place of rough and pine straw was a "game-changer" Pinehurst president Tom Pashley said in an interview in November. "When it became what it is, we started looking at everything differently."

In addition to the Olympic course, Hanse has been busy recently at celebrated venues including Winged Foot in New York and Streamsong Resort in Florida. His work at Pinehurst will also entail design of a new short course, in keeping with an emerging trend towards family and beginner friendly facilities. He will speak after lunch on the second day of the conference in advance of two panel discussions, the second of which features innovative superintendents covering everything from bees to trees and putting green hole locations.

Some of the speakers on the program in addition to Hanse include:

Dr. Casey Reynolds, Assistant Professor

and Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Texas A&M, College Station, TX - Looking at Turfgrass Colorants Under the Microscope.

Dr. Bert McCarty, Professor of Turfgrass Science & Management, Clemson University, Clemson, SC - EPA Glyphosate Final Ruling Summary.

Dr. William "Billy" Crow, Professor of Nematology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL - BMP's for Nematicides for Turfgrass Usage - Prolonging Their Efficacy.

Adam Moeller, Director, USGA Green Section Education, Easton, PA - Driving Value to Golf Facilities.

Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL - Utilization of Bahiagrass for Golf Courses.

Turfgrass Disease Management - New Game Plans to Consider:

Dr. Steve Kammerer, USGA SE Region Director, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Jim Kerns, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist, NCSU, Raleigh, NC; Dr. Bruce Martin, Professor, Turfgrass Pathology, Clemson University, Pee Station, SC; Dr. Leon Lucas, Retired CGA Agronomist and NCSU Turfgrass Pathologist, Raleigh, NC.

Innovative Superintendents - New Ideas for SE Region Golf Courses:

Matthew Wharton, Superintendent, Carolina Country Club, Charlotte, NC.

Jared Nimitz, Superintendent, The Peninsula Club, Cornelius, NC.

Chris Young, Director of Golf Course Maintenance, Berkeley Hall Club, Bluffton, SC.

Ken Lee, Director of Golf Course Maintenance, Belfair Plantation, Bluffton, SC.

Keith Wood, Superintendent, Quail Hollow Club, Charlotte, NC.

Gene Scarborough, Superintendent, Santee Cooper Resort, Santee, SC. ■

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Members Rally to Support Charleston's First Tee Kids



Alan Fitzpatrick



Thousands of kids in the Charleston, SC area will enjoy an enhanced golf experience later this year thanks to the efforts of a group of Carolinas GCSA members led by Alan Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick is golf course superintendent at Patriots Point Golf Links where he is building a new putting green for the city's chapter of The First Tee. "Anything to help the kids," he says. "I wish we could do more."

By contrast, Bucky Dudley, executive director of The First Tee of Greater Charleston, is overjoyed at the way Fitzpatrick and golf course vendors have stepped up. "Alan has always done everything for us," Dudley says. "He set us up with a tee at the far end of the driving range and has mown out a little three-hole course for the kids. And he never asks for anything in return."

Both Dudley and Fitzpatrick are grateful for the support of Bubba Jones of Murray Sand, Andy Burns of Simmons Irrigation and John Brown of New Life Turf with donations and discounts towards construction of the 7,000 sq. ft. surface. "I thought it could be a tough call to make when I was looking for help," Dudley says. "But the help has been huge. We couldn't be happier and thankful to these guys."

Each year The First Tee of Greater Charleston reaches more than 13,000 kids through its work with school physical education classes, between 2,000



Progress on the new green at Patriots Point Golf Links.

and 3,000 others in youth programs with groups such as the Salvation Army and another 800 in the ongoing core program. Currently, The First Tee

participants share the Patriots Point putting green with golfers preparing for their round. "Sometimes it gets a little tight," Dudley says with a laugh. ■

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Will Holroyd is as much a fixture at Musgrove Mill Golf Club as the club's logo itself.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL

HOLROYD FINDS WAY AT MUSGROVE MILL

By Trent Bouts

It was six months before Will Holroyd's neighbors' kids even knew he existed. Over for lunch one day, as was often the case, they wondered who this guy was hanging around like he owned the place. To that point, Holroyd hadn't been home during daylight hours since moving to Upstate, SC to help build Musgrove Mill Golf Club.

"You've got to have passion for it," he says by way of explanation. As every good golf course superintendent knows – and some wives come to understand - there are times when that passion needs to be all-consuming. Construction and grow-in amount to one of those times, particularly when you're not just building a golf course, but building your dream.

For Holroyd, who considers himself a native of the Upstate, Musgrove Mill was certainly that. He'd fantasized about the job for several years, ever since Dick Ford, of Porter Brothers, came by with a newspaper clipping touting the prospect of a new course on the banks of the Enoree River. Holroyd, who was at Pickens Country Club at the time, went home that evening telling his wife, Carole, that this new course would be his job one day.

It wasn't just a question of the location and the chance to come home. It was also the nature of the club that he



The ninth hole in the foreground and 18th beyond it bracket a wetland providing a spectacular view from the clubhouse porch.

"You have to have enough of an ego to be confident in what you do. But you also have to understand that the golf course is not yours. And that can be hard to do. It's hard to disassociate yourself because it feels like it's your baby. But at the end of the day, it's not yours. So you have to pick your battles."

found appealing. They were talking about pure golf and only golf. "It fits my professional personality," Holroyd says of the Arnold Palmer design that opened in 1988. "Having a membership that is only interested in golf and that is mostly made up of better players, who appreciate and know what it takes, is a dream for me."

Indeed, playability has always been the ultimate ruler in the Holroyd hierarchy. "Fortunately, a lot of agronomic practices result in better turf and better playing conditions," he says. "But there's a balance and you can fall over the cliff in a hurry. Lord knows I've fallen over that cliff plenty of times. I know we breed strong grasses but this stuff wasn't meant to be treated the way we treat it. So we might think of it as maintaining turfgrass but really we're not growing turf, we're growing a playing field."

Holroyd says he learned that perspective from an old pro-superintendent, Herb Edwards, who was his first boss at Oconee Country Club. Holroyd worked there as a kid along with college roommate Tim Pope, who was a cousin of Edwards and who would later become a stalwart member at Musgrove.

Like a lot of his generation caring for golf courses at the time, Edwards grew up on a farm. As much as he loved the land he maintained, he felt that looks didn't matter for much if they didn't pay their way. "So everything he did was geared towards playability," Holroyd says.

That's a brand of pragmatism Holroyd has never forgotten in a career that now spans close to 40 years. "You have to have enough of an ego to be confident in what you do," he says. "But you also have to understand that the golf course is not yours. And that can be hard to do. It's hard to disassociate yourself because it feels like it's your baby. But



at the end of the day, it's not yours. So you have to pick your battles."

In that regard, and others, Holroyd counts himself "extremely fortunate" to be at Musgrove Mill. Most of any "battles" he's had to fight have been one-on-one and really those were more accurately defined as conversations than confrontations. Because of the club's own focus on playability, the chain of command has always been a short one.

Initially, Holroyd dealt with head pro Randy Glover, the former PGA Tour player, Carolinas and SC Golf Hall of Famer and father of Randall Glover, Kiawah Island Club's director of golf maintenance. Their relationship was a strong one and established a precedent that was followed when Richard Lowry came onto the club board, Holroyd says.

"The King" (Palmer) might have designed the golf course but Lowry himself earned the same nickname for the iron-willed manner in which he ruled the club board. "It didn't matter what it was," Holroyd says. "If Richard didn't want to do it then it wasn't going to happen. I had what no superintendent ever gets but always dreams of – a lifetime one-man committee."

Lowry's benign autocracy made working life all the more efficient and enjoyable for Holroyd. "There was always a singular focus, always a singular plan going forward," he says. "There was turnover on the board but thanks to Richard the plan didn't change and it never deviated. We could make big decisions in five minutes over the phone. All the other department heads, well, I wouldn't say they've hated me over the years but they could want a \$50 toaster and not get it. But if Will needs a \$20,000 aerifier, 'Well, heck let's go ahead and get it!' That's just a mindset that the leaders of the club had."

Whatever the golf course needed is what the golf course was going to get."

That didn't mean Musgrove Mill was immune from the world outside and the Great Recession hit hard as it did at so many private clubs across the country. Eventually, the club was bought by Raleigh, NC-based McConnell Golf. Holroyd admits there was a period of considerable trepidation. "Obviously, with going from a private club background to becoming part of a multi-course operation there was some anxiety," he says. "Everyone was wondering what we were fixing to get into. What does this mean for me?"

He needn't have worried.

McConnell Golf proved as committed to the pure golf experience "and as passionate about the game" as the club's founders had been. What's more, the company's vice-president of agronomy Michael Shoun "is great," Holroyd says. "He's perfect in that role. He's there to help you with things that you need him to help you with. He does not micromanage you. He just does not do that. It's a case of 'How can we help you be successful?' Then go do it. McConnell Golf is an exceptional company that takes care of its people. I tell you that having experienced it first-hand."

There are more than a few others in the world of golf course maintenance who feel the same way about Will Holroyd. His alumni include Carolinas GCSA past-president Don Garrett, CGCS from The Walker Course at Clemson University and current president Adam Charles at The Preserve at Verdae in Greenville, SC. Ashley Davis from Long Cove Club in Hilton Head, SC worked for him too as did Brook Sentell, now at Heron Point at Sea Pines Resort also in Hilton Head, J.R. Hawkins at Lakeside Country Club in Simpsonville, SC, David Coleman at The Palisades Country



The first and second greens at Musgrove Mill.

Club near Charlotte and David Smith at Fawn Lake Country Club in VA.

There are many, many, others, including some who left golf course maintenance but have done well in other aspects of the turfgrass industry. That list includes Mills Grant with Carolina Fresh Farms, Gary Goss, who worked at East Lake Golf Club and Reynolds Plantation and now runs his own landscape business, and Milling Blalock with Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply.

Holroyd laughs when he reflects over the long list of people who have prospered after spending time under his wing. "Actually, it's a credit to them," he says. "I mean there have been some really, really, good people. And in spite of my Herculean efforts to sabotage their careers they've managed to go on to do grand things."

Holroyd's contribution to his profession also included a number of years serving the South Carolina Turfgrass Foundation. He covered many miles up and down I-26 from in the industry's earliest days of walking the halls and knocking on doors of the Statehouse in Columbia.

He was once invited to serve on the board of the Carolinas GCSA but that was in the earliest days of Musgrove Mill. Having returned to the Carolinas from two years at Fairfield Glade in Tennessee to take his dream job, he wasn't about to compromise on what he could offer the new club. He knew how fortunate he was having left "a factory" in Tennessee.

"It was crazy," he says. "They told us we were doing 50,000 rounds a piece at the two courses. I don't know how that's possible. You never had time to do anything to the N-th degree. It was just get it done and get out of the way. That just didn't suit my interest or my passion."

By contrast, Musgrove Mill sees in the order of 9,500 rounds a year. That number would likely be a lot higher but, relatively speaking, the club sits in the middle of nowhere.

Loosely, it is inside a triangle bound by Greenville, Columbia and Charlotte, NC with Greenville closest at 50 miles away.

Holroyd sees that distance as a plus and integral to the "laid back feel" of the club. "This place is all about decompression," he says. "It's a place where the members can leave all of their troubles behind. We like to say that it's not too far away. Instead it's just far enough away. It's an escape. I just count myself deeply fortunate to be here. I mean I pursued this job. I pursued it in my mind for many years. To actually land here and somehow survive so many years, I've been blessed. It's been awfully good to me."

None of it would have been possible, he says, without the support of one individual. "For a golf course superintendent it's so important to have someone who allows you to pursue your passion," he says. "In my case, it's my beautiful wife, Carole. I'm not going to say she was always in favor of the hours but she saw the passion I had for what I did. It doesn't matter how much passion you have if you don't have somebody that allows you to pursue it. She's been great." ■



The Enoree River sweeps by the seventh hole.



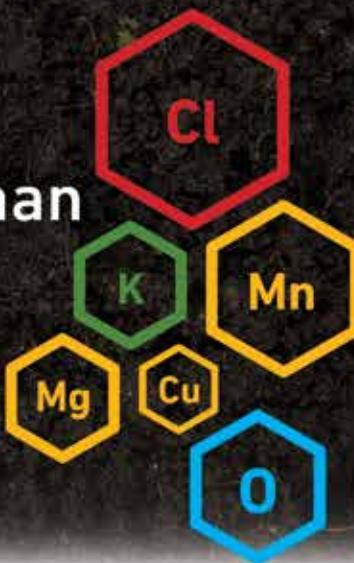
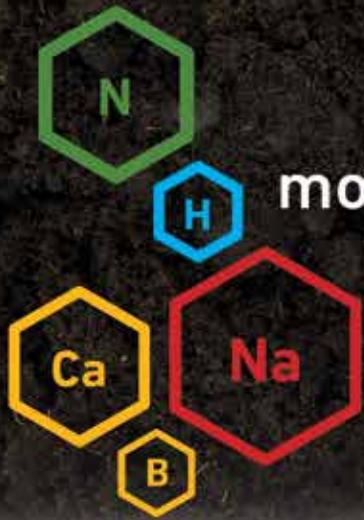
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Rodney Crouse

Recently, I received a text message from a friend of mine in the turf industry that read "I need to talk with you soon. It's been a while, and I have some things going on at work that I need your thoughts about." After speaking with my friend about another failed marriage between a superintendent and an assistant, I realized that when looking to advance your career in this industry you must be willing to be patient and find the job that best fits you and your situation.

Just like in real life marriages, I believe there is someone for everybody when it comes to superintendents and assistants; it just takes time and effort from both parties involved to find a combination that works. As an assistant or prospective assistant superintendent, we can make sure we find the right job by employing a few simple practices.

Take your time. Taking a job quickly is more likely to result in unhappy endings. Now, I realize that sometimes in life you are forced to take the next available position open to

you due to financial restrictions so please understand that I am not telling you to put your family's best interests on the back burner by waiting for the best position for your personal situation.

However, if it is feasible, taking your time when searching for a golf turf management position is a positive thing. I will be the first to admit that I told myself before I graduated college that I was going to accept nothing less than a first assistant superintendent position out of school. Looking back on the situation now, I wish that I had taken the time to get a better grasp on the industry before I settled into a more serious role. Taking your time when choosing a management position can mean the difference between a trial by fire, or learning with training wheels.

Don't always choose the job by the name of the golf course. Again, I am not trying to persuade you not to work for a big name course if that is what you want to pursue as a part of your career. In fact, if your goal is to host a major championship or a PGA Tour event then you should get that experience at a big name club. However, if you are not sure that the big tournament route is the path you want to take, make sure you explore all of your options.

There are plenty of wonderful golf courses and great superintendents to work for at clubs that do not host big events. Let's be honest, hosting a major tournament is not an easy task and if you do not have a passion for it, it can chew you up and spit you out.

My advice to anyone that is not sure if they want to be involved with a major tournament is to find a position that will allow you to volunteer for a big event. Once you have experienced a week volunteering at a major tournament, you will have a better understanding of the commitment it takes to be successful on that level. Some people love it, others despise it. But it is up to you make the right choice for your

personal situation.

Do your research. This point goes hand in hand with taking your time. It is important that you take the time to know all of the aspects pertaining to the management position you are interested in taking. If you do not take anything else out of this article, please take the time to know what you are going into when you are looking at prospective jobs. There is nothing worse than getting a few months into a job and realizing that you are miserable.

While it is important to know the grass types, environmental conditions and overall maintenance goals of an operation, it is equally as important to know the management style of the superintendent that is looking to hire you.

To me, one of the beautiful things about this industry is that virtually no two superintendents go about their jobs the same way. There are many different management styles and personalities in this industry. Also, we work in a tight-knit industry so if you ask around you can find out any information you need know about a position to make the best possible decision for your career. As a prospective assistant superintendent, it is important to find a superintendent that uses a management style that will best complement your strengths.

Finding the right job for you in the golf turf industry can be a tough endeavor. Take the time to have a plan and a list of goals that you would like to achieve on your next job. If you are careful to make sure that you are choosing the right position, your path to success in this industry will be much easier. ■

- Rodney Crouse is assistant golf course superintendent at The Players Club at St. James Plantation.



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North-South

As I write this article we are bringing in the New Year with a winter chill. Recent weather patterns have dropped several inches of snow across the North-South TA footprint followed by single digit temperatures, leaving many courses closed for several days until the snow and ice finally melts.

Only five days after this snow event it felt more like spring as we broke record highs with temperatures in the upper 70s in the Charlotte area. Hopefully we can get back into a normal winter weather pattern soon because we all still have winter projects that need to be completed, not to mention the concern of potential for winter injury of our warm season grasses.

However, spring is coming and it will be here before we know it. By now you can already hear the conversation in the golf shop as weather conditions improve and we get closer the first major golf event in April in the little town of Augusta, GA. At this time you will be implementing your agronomic plans for the year, putting away your covers for greens and sharpening those reels and bed knives.

On January 12, we hosted our first event to kick off the New Year at Gaston Country Club where Tim Carpenter, CGCS was our host superintendent. The event was a great success with great food followed by great speakers. Our headliner for the morning was Keith Wood from Quail Hollow Club who talked about his greens conversion program, bunker renovations, rerouting of golf holes and preparing for the large crowds of spectators that will walk the property during the PGA Championship in August.

We were also fortunate enough to have Chris Valauri, the Carolinas GCSA government relations counsel in NC for our industry, along with Del Ratcliffe from the North Carolina Golf Course Owners Association join us to discuss issues in our industry from a political point of view. In addition Matthew Wharton CGCS, MG joined us to provide the history of



North-South TA leaders Travis Scott, Kyle Manus, Kenny Gilmore, Barry Rewis, Scott McArthur, Brandon Hicks and James Sowers with the check to support Willie Pennington and his grandson during treatment for illness.

the Carolinas GCSA BMP manual and how it made it into our hands. There were many industry leaders involved with this publication and we can't thank them enough for what they have provided us as another useful tool. As the local GCSAA chapter delegate Matthew also made those in attendance aware of the importance of their vote as it relates to upcoming changes with the GCSAA.

Following this event we had our first North-South TA board of directors meeting for 2017 where it was voted on by the board to help a leader in our industry in a time of need. Many of you know the troubles that face Willie Pennington, a representative of BASF, and his grandson. The board felt it was important to help out those in need that have helped us for many years. The North-South TA is proud to announce that it will be donating \$500 to Willie to help with traveling expenses for him and his grandson as they make visits for cancer treatment.

Once this publication has been printed, we will have just held our education conference at Tega Cay Golf Club in mid-February where Chuck Smith was the host superintendent for our event. Speakers were to include Dr. Bruce Martin, Dr. Jim Kerns, Steve Ninemire with Ninemire Group Agronomic Consulting and

Analytics, Larry Feller of Syngenta, Cam Copley of Nufarm and David Swanigan of Bayer. With such high quality speakers we were expecting a good turnout.

Upcoming events include the Hamrick Cup which will be hosted by the Upstate TA this year. This event is in remembrance of a long-time leader in our area Bob Hamrick. The date has not been set but is in the works. I hope you can join us as we battle it out with the "turf nerds" from the west and help us retain the cup.

In addition the North-South TA will sponsor a team at the Guy Hollar Memorial Tournament on April 26. I encourage you to join us for this great cause. The North South Golf Classic, which is a fundraiser for the Central Piedmont Community College turf program, is set for May 10 and Mitch Clodfelter will host the event at Cowans Ford Country Club. Last year we funded just over \$3,000 to help students enroll in a program that was in a time of need. We hope to have many of the recipients of this money in attendance at the event so they can be recognized.

As a reminder you can always find out more by going to our website [www.northsouthta.org](http://northsouthta.org) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook. Finally, I would like to thank

all of the sponsors that have supported us over the past year. Without your support none of these events would be possible.

We currently are in the process of starting our new sponsorship campaign for 2017. There have been some changes made and one of our board members should have been in contact with you already to highlight these changes. If you have any questions concerning this or any other topics don't hesitate to contact me. Hope everyone transitions nicely into spring as we celebrate the true meaning of Easter.

Barry Rewis, The Club at Longview (704) 443-2535.

Palmetto

It is with great pleasure we officially announce the winner of the 2016 Palmetto GCSA \$500 scholarship. Patrick Saber, son of Dan Saber, CGCS of Pawley's Plantation is the recipient. He is a well-rounded, focused student and we wish him success in his future.

2016 was a great year and the Palmetto GCSA board is currently busy mapping out this year's events. First up, we were looking forward to our Palmetto GCSA vs. Coastal Plains GCSA Challenge at the Heritage Club. This Ryder Cup style event was set for mid-February and promised to be a fun way for the two associations to get together and network as one. No sand bagging was expected.

Another Ryder Cup challenge against the Midlands TA is currently in the works for April after the field day at the Clemson Research facility. Stay tuned for more.

The Palmetto GCSA would also like to recognize Horry-Georgetown Technical College for another Turf Bowl victory at the 2016 Carolinas GCSA trade show. Congratulations to the students and faculty for your hard-earned, down-to-the-wire win. These students are the future of our industry and we wish them all well.

- Dan Woolley, Myrtlewood Golf Club (570) 468-9766.

Western NC



Shannon Peterson, CGCS.

Greetings from the Western NCTA. My name is Craig DeJong, golf course superintendent at Hendersonville Country Club and I will be your president for the next two years. Our former president, Shannon Peterson, CGCS did an outstanding job, left us in a great position and set our association up for continued growth. Thank you Shannon for all of your years of service.

I'd like to introduce you to our current leadership team: President, Craig DeJong, Hendersonville Country Club; vice-president, Brent Ward, Bald Mountain Country Club; secretary-treasurer, Ryan Snowden, Burlingame Country Club; immediate past-president, Shannon Peterson, CGCS Mountain Air Country Club.

Directors: Barry Graham, CGCS Wildcat Cliffs Country Club; Scott Sparks, Wolf Laurel Country Club; Christian Drake, Balsam Mountain Preserve; David Sluder, Greenville Turf and Tractor; Jay Reins, CGCS Green Resource.

Christian Drake and I recently attended the Local Association Annual Planning Meeting at the Carolinas GCSA headquarters in Liberty, SC. It was a very informative day and gave us numerous ideas for continued growth within our association. Remember, this is your association. If you have any comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or any other board member.

Currently, we are putting together our event calendar for the year. For the most current Western NCTA information, including upcoming events, please check out our webpage. It can easily be accessed through the local association

tab at www.carolinascgsa.org. A big thank you to Christian Drake for setting up and maintaining our website.

- Craig DeJong, Hendersonville Country Club (828) 692-7867.

Sandhills

The Sandhills GCSA would like to thank you for your support in 2016 and we hope that support continues in 2017. We would also like to send out a special thank you to all the vendors that support our association year after year.

I enjoyed seeing everyone at our annual breakfast sponsored by Syngenta and Eastern Turf Equipment. The staff at Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club did an excellent job preparing and feeding the hungry agronomy teams from all the local courses. Adam Anchero of Eastern Turf Equipment and Ben Peters of Syngenta pulled off another great prize raffle with some lucky winners.

We are looking forward to a great year and hope to have an exciting line up of outings and meetings in 2017. The plan is to have the schedule set by the time this comes out in print early March. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the upcoming Southeast Regional Conference on March 27-28 at Pinehurst Resort.

Hopefully, we will have a nice mild spring and not go from winter to summer in an instant. All of you with greens conversions planned for summer we hope everything goes smoothly and that Mother Nature takes it easy on us.

Lastly, we would like to thank past-president Billy Lewis from Dormie Club for his hard work to bring our association members great outings and events last year.

Here's to another successful and prosperous year!

Rusty Smith, Mid South Club (910) 367-3542.

Upstate



Mills Grant, Grayson Clark and Jason Higginbottom were the big winners at the Upstate TA's annual sporting clay event.

As 2017 started, so did the education and fun for the members of the Upstate TA. We had our annual sporting clay event at The Clinton House with some education from Clemson University's own Dr. Bert McCarty. As always the Dr.'s talk was informative and we are very fortunate to have him so close. He shared with us how the Carolinas GCSA BMP manual was created and the work that went into bringing it to all of the Class A superintendents in the Carolinas GCSA. We also talked about some of the issues and concerns that the Upstate TA superintendents have at their facilities.

After a great lunch, we paired up into our assigned teams and proceeded to do what would come naturally to most red blooded Americans and that is ride around in trucks and shoot stuff with your buddies. The sporting clay event has become a staple for our winter meeting and the weather did not hurt us one bit. We had a great group of guys that shot and at the end of the day the team of Mills Grant of Carolina Fresh Farms, Grayson Clark from The Cliffs at Mountain Park and Jason Higginbottom of Harrell's were the big winners in the team competition. Mills Grant also won the individual honors. This has been a great event for us.

At press time we were looking forward to seeing not only Upstate TA members but any Carolinas GCSA member at Embassy Suites in Greenville on February 21 for

our regional education seminar. We were also looking forward to the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL early in February. Also, please don't forget about Rounds 4 Research donations. Let's make sure that we get them in and ready for the online auction which runs May 1 to 7.

*Chuck Connolly, The Club at Brookstone
(803) 378-3274.*

Lowcountry



Jerry Ross

The Lowcountry has been getting back to normal after months of hurricane clean up. We have been blessed with better than average temperatures so far this winter. I guess that's the payoff for all of the stress we have been through for the past few months.

The Lowcountry GCSA Christmas party was held at Oldfield Club at the River House and we had some fun. The views of the Okatie River were great, as well as the food and the bonfire. Rick Barnes from Hidden Cypress at Sun City was the big winner, taking home a \$750 gift card. We would like to thank all who came out, and a big thank you to Brian Roller and the Oldfield staff for hosting this event.

At press time we were looking forward to our bowling tournament, mid-February at Station 300 in Bluffton. Our chapter championship will be in March at Fripp Island Golf and Beach Resort. We are always looking for venues to hold events. Some upcoming events that are still open are the member-pro and Christmas tournament. If you would like to host an event, please contact us and we would be happy to plan an event at your club.

The Lowcountry GCSA would like to welcome Jerry Ross from Ocean Creek Golf Club and Brad Young from Hilton

Head National to the Lowcountry Board. Both will serve in director positions.

*Grant Backus, Palmetto Hall Golf Club
(843) 368-8836.*

Midlands



Rhett Baker moves to the Ohoopee Match Club.



Mark Swygert moves to Palmetto Golf Club.



Chris DeVane moves to the Country Club of Lexington.

The Midlands TA would like to thank you for your support in 2016 and we hope that support will continue in 2017. Your membership is the reason that we have such a great association. A special thank you to all of the vendors who continue to support this association. Without you we could not be as successful as we are. With that said, Midland TA members, please return that support to them by including them in your purchasing decisions throughout the year.

The Midlands TA said goodbye to Rhett Baker as he moved from Palmetto Golf Club to his new position in Georgia. We were pleased to find out that Mark Swygert from the Country Club of Lexington will be moving on to Palmetto and that current Carolinas GCSA director Chris Devane will be joining the team at Lexington. Congratulations to all three of these guys. The Midlands TA

would like to thank you for supporting this association in the past and we look forward to your support in the future. We wish you all good luck in your new positions.

We are looking forward to our meeting at Columbia Country Club on March 7 with Jim Young hosting. The speakers for this meeting were unnamed at deadline time but we were planning for a couple of chemical company reps that could educate us on new products and ideas.

Our joint meeting with the Palmetto GCSA will be in April but at press time, no date had been set. We are planning on meeting at the Pee Dee Research Center and hearing from the fantastic minds over there. Last year's golf at Florence Country Club, with Dru Clark hosting, was rained out so hopefully we can schedule this event there again and can play golf this time. We hope to solidify a date for this event, soon, because this meeting is always very informative. Be on the lookout for information on the April meeting date and then clear your calendars so that you can be sure to attend this event.

The Midlands TA also encourages members to try your best to donate some rounds of golf to the Rounds 4 Research campaign this year. It serves a great cause and research is vital to this industry. The rounds of golf that you donate will pay for research that your club will use at some point in the future. What better investment could there be for your dollars? So please donate if you are able to do so. Also, you can sign up to donate for several years in advance. That way you don't have to remember to do so every year.

Wishing everyone a great season and lots of success this summer.

*Mike Holt, CGCS Santee National Golf Club
(803) 378-3274.*

Blue Ridge



New Blue Ridge TA president Shaun Harrelson thanks outgoing president Joel Whitley for his service.

Let me begin by saying what an honor and privilege it is to serve as your association president this year. I will do my best to continue the growth and success the Blue Ridge TA has enjoyed in its first five years in existence. First and foremost, a huge thank you goes out to all members and vendors for the support you show the Blue Ridge TA. You are the reason we continue to have success.

On January 27, we hosted our annual winter social at Boone Golf Club. Luckily, the snow flurries did not hinder the turnout. I would like to thank Tim Bryant for allowing us to use the facility for the second year in a row and Casa Rustica for catering our food.

The evening began by recognizing Joel Whitley from Mountain Glen Golf Club for serving on the board the past three years, of which, his past year was as president. Joel did an outstanding job serving as president considering the adversity faced in his own personal life. On behalf of the association, Joel, we thank you. Although he was not in attendance, I would also like to thank Michael Hileman of JRM Inc for his dedication and service the past three years on the board.

The last order of business taken care of before enjoying the evening was three vacant board member positions being

voted on and filled. We are grateful to have Jesse Cigary of Smith Turf and Irrigation, Jason Murphy from Oak Valley Golf Club and Scott Watson from Linville Golf Club join our board.

Next, I want to share my first official experience serving as the president of the Blue Ridge TA. I was fortunate enough to attend the Local Association Annual Planning Meeting in Liberty, SC at the Carolinas GCSA headquarters on January 30. If you are ever in the area and have a chance to stop by, I highly recommend doing so. The job that Tim Kreger, Kim Clark, Angie Davis, Cindy Baldwin, Melissa Smith and Trent Bouts do for the Carolinas is absolutely amazing. Stop in some time and check out the only permanent regional association building in the country and let them know how much they are appreciated.

In conclusion, I look forward to the upcoming year and what is in store for the Blue Ridge TA. Be on the lookout for all upcoming events and hopefully your job and personal schedule allows you to attend. I strongly encourage you to make as many events as possible. Thanks and see you soon.

Shaun Harrelson, Lenoir Golf Club (704) 778-7047.

Piedmont

We hope 2017 is treating everyone well so far. Here's to a happy green-up for all. The Piedmont GCSA is working very hard for a successful year. The philosophy of the board in 2017 is to have fewer but higher-quality events. Most of all, we ask for your participation to make the Piedmont great again.

We say thank you to former board members T. Dawson, Chris DeVane and Andrew McClannon for their many years of service. And we welcome new board members Wes Crompton, Ronnie Porter and Nick Raby.

We were looking forward to teaming

up with the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina for our education event at Sedgefield Country Club late February. The event offered two NC pesticide points. Speakers were Drs. Jim Kerns, Susana Milla-Lewis and Grady Miller from North Carolina State University and also Ken Mangum, CGCS former director of grounds at Atlanta Athletic Club. A big thank you to Billy Cole, TCNC president for letting us partner up. For 2018, we hope to revamp the Turfhead Summit, previously hosted by Bryan Park.

We are currently working on locations and dates for our three golfing events and one social event. By the time of publishing, we aim to have all events planned.

What matters most this year is member participation. While it may seem like people are avoiding golfing events because they don't feel they can compete, we don't care if you are a 30-handicapper or play off scratch. Please come out and have a

great time and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow superintendents. That's what we are all about.

Jeff Van Pelt, Alamance Country Club (336) 584-0345.

Eastern NC



Eastern NCTA members enjoyed a great line-up of speakers at this year's pesticide conference at Wayne Community College

I hope everyone had a safe and happy New Year and had your batteries

recharged for another year on the links. The east has had a pretty busy start to our season thus far. We had our annual planning meeting in early January to plan a very informative meeting schedule for the year.

First line of business was to organize our annual Pesticide Conference at Wayne Community College hosted by Rob Woods. This year's event was the best attended in recent memory. I think the reason for good attendance to the great speakers that were present.

Many thanks to Dr. Jim Kerns and Dr. Fred Yelverton both of North Carolina State University and Bland Cooper, CGCS competitions agronomist for the PGA Tour. All speakers were very informative and interesting. Thanks to Rob Woods for hosting this event.

We also presented Bo Barefoot of Green Resource with a plaque recognizing his service on our board of directors. Bo's energy and input was a real asset.

Please stayed tuned to our website for a very exciting meeting schedule. Something new this year includes a return to Kinston for family night with the new "Down East Wood Ducks." Also, we return to Benvenue Country Club in May for our annual fundraising golf tournament.

As always, thank you to our sponsors and members. Without you our association does not thrive.

Andy Ipock, Country Club of the Crystal Coast (252) 269-9051.

TETAC

Here we are in the middle of some more winter time projects. This year I will replace all the reels on my three riding greens mowers. Boy, they sure are pretty when the job is complete. Nice shiny black reel with a thin silver sharp edge. Bad thing is, they don't seem to stay pretty for long. Soon guys will be doing half-hearted wash jobs. Running over stuff on the green they didn't see or are too lazy to get off and remove.

Sometimes I wish people cared more about the awesomeness that is involved in the cool science behind a perfectly adjusted cutting unit ready for work. People just take it for granted. No idea what all is behind this work of art. Guess I woke up on the wrong side of the bed this morning. On a positive note, the more people damage, the more they need me. Job security is always nice.

So, aside from winter projects on the

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equipment, how about some winter projects in our shops. As a technician, I do take a lot of pride in the appearance of my shop. We should always be making sure our shop is clean and neat. We should look at our jobs as more than just a place to pick up a check. If we are going to spend so much of our lives in our workplace, we might as well make it our home away from home. Keep those floors and workbenches clean. Slap some paint on the floors and walls. Organize your parts inventory. Separate your parts by equipment brand or models. Hang some posters or pictures up - just make sure they are tasteful. No need to offend people.

I can assure you, no superintendent will ever get upset with his technician being clean and organized. Plus, it will always be helpful when your shop is not totally in disarray. And let me ask you this, isn't it always nice to show up to a shop each day

that is clean and together. My wife can't stand to come home each day and see her kitchen all out of sorts. We should take that same approach to our shops. Work in the shop, then clean it up and start the next day fresh. Fellas, help your wife keep her kitchen clean too, just saying.

In the meantime guys, hang in there. Winter will pass soon enough. Take advantage of this slow period while you can. Enjoy some meals with the guys. Before you know it, you'll be back to 10-hour work days and all the stress and aggravation that can come with them. Use your time wisely this winter to put yourself in a good position to at least start the spring off with a bang. Then just take the repairs and maintenance one job at a time.

TETAC leaders are meeting regularly to help prepare another awesome conference this year. If you have any questions or

concerns, go to the website and get some names and numbers and reach out to us. We truly are all in this field of work together. Let's motivate each other to be as successful as we can be. The website is www.tetac.org. We look forward to seeing everyone back at this year's conference. Bring along some new faces too. Until then, have a great winter and God bless.

*David Johnson Jr., Rivers Edge Golf Club
(843) 446-1720.*

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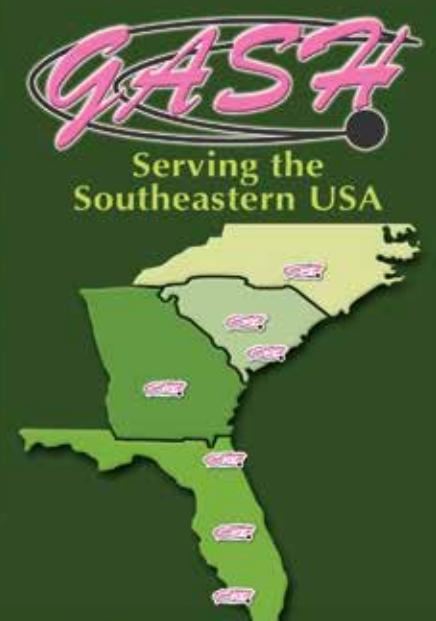
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Some of the Big Names Help Legend Celebrate



Peter Horn from Alamance Country Club, George Thompson, CGCS retired, Ed Ancherico, Craig Manning from Stryker Golf Course and Mike Claffey, retired.



Dave Dalton from Highlands Country Club, Ron Hall from Carolina Lakes Golf Course, Michael Hall and Dale Bibby from the Country Club of North Carolina, Ed Ancherico, J. B. Elkins formerly with Upjohn, and Mike Willey, formerly with Bayer.



Randy Dallas with Bulk Aggregate Golf, Ron Kelly, CGCS from the Country Club of North Carolina, Ed Ancherico and Steve Sheets from Linville Ridge Golf Club.

Some of the best known names in Carolinas golf course maintenance traveled from far and wide to pay tribute to one of the legends, Ed Ancherico, on his 90th birthday. Ancherico, a past winner of the Carolinas GCSA Distinguished Service Award, incorporated Eastern Turf Equipment in 1965. But he began selling equipment to golf courses back in the '50s.

Carolinas GCSA past-presidents Butch Sheffield, CGCS from North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh, NC, Fred Biggers, CGCS from Wintergreen Resort in VA and Steve Sheets from Linville Ridge Golf Club in Linville, NC were among the crowd that turned out on July 12. So were Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame member George Thompson, CGCS, Distinguished Service Award winner Dr. Leon Lucas and past Carolinas GCSA



Martin Acker, CGCS of Acker Golf Management, Bobby Davis, Fred Biggers, CGCS from Wintergreen Resort, Dr. Leon Lucas, Steve Womble, CGCS, Butch Sheffield, CGCS from North Ridge Country Club and Greg Webb with Ed Ancherico seated.

director Mike Claffey. They and many others traded stories and memories with Ancherico at the party at the company headquarters in Fayetteville, NC.

Ancherico's son Adam and his wife Pam organized the celebration. "It was a great day and to see so many people who know dad turn out in the middle of summer like that was wonderful," Adam Ancherico, who is a sales representative for the company, says. "Dad didn't know anything about it until the day before. I know he truly appreciated seeing so many guys who he's known for so long."

Grant Helps Offset BMP Manual Cost

The Carolinas GCSA is one of nine affiliated chapters of the GCSAA sharing a total of \$67,000 towards establishing comprehensive golf course best management practices at the state level. The Carolinas GCSA's share of \$10,000 will be used to offset costs producing the nearly 300-page Best Management Practices for Carolinas Golf Courses which was published last fall.

The BMP grant program is funded through the Environmental Institute for Golf, the philanthropic arm of GCSAA, through a generous donation from the PGA Tour. The Carolinas GCSA was one of four groups receiving \$10,000. Other grants ranged from \$2,000 to \$7,500.

"We are proud to be among the first handful of chapters to make our BMP manual a reality," Carolinas GCSA executive director Tim Kreger says. "We committed considerable resources to make it happen and this grant helps offset some of those costs. We are very grateful to GCSAA."

All applications were reviewed by a grant task group composed of GCSAA members. GCSAA recommends the use of agronomic and environmental BMPs for all golf course operations. BMPs are broad-based and encompass management of turfgrass, landscape, environmental resources, buildings and operations.

"Best management practices are key to successful golf course operations and they also provide a solid foundation for advocating on behalf of superintendents and the golf industry," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans says. "GCSAA has significantly increased funding to this program to help our chapters start or enhance their BMP programs."

"Best management practices will help us demonstrate that golf courses can deliver benefits to everyone in a community," says Cal Roth, senior vice-president of agronomy at the PGA Tour. "This also represents a longstanding commitment to environmental excellence at our own TPC courses."

GCSAA launched the grant program in 2014 to assist in developing new BMP guides, updating existing guides or for verification programs. The priority goal of the program is to have all 50 states offer established BMPs by 2020.

Tine Open Tees Off on May 1

The 6th annual JRM Tine Open to support the benevolent fund of the Turf Equipment Technicians Association of the Carolinas is at Bermuda Run Country Club in Bermuda Run, NC on May 1. Organizers are calling for entries in the captain's choice event at Bermuda Run's East course which begins with a shotgun start at noon. Host golf course superintendent is Scott Fallon once

again. Last year's tournament resulted in a \$4,000 donation to TETAC. Fees are \$220 for a team of four or \$60 per individual. To register email Laura Hefner at laura.hefner@jrmonline.com.

Neuliep Attends Syngenta Class



Steve Neuliep, CGCS with Syngenta's Stephanie Schwenke.

Steven Neuliep, CGCS from Etowah Valley Golf and Resort in Etowah, NC was one of 26 superintendents across the country to graduate from the Syngenta Business Institute. The institute is a professional development program for golf course superintendents hosted by Syngenta and the Wake Forest University School of Business in Winston-Salem, NC.

"We offer this program to 26 superintendents as a commitment to our customers and their development in the industry," says Stephanie Schwenke, Syngenta's golf market manager. "At the Syngenta Business Institute, we focus on the business aspect of superintendents' responsibilities, rather than agronomics, and really work to hone their skills in leadership and management, which is just as important as managing turf quality."

During the three-day program, participants studied financial and human resources management, negotiation skills, communications techniques, managing generational differences and more. Classes were led by professors from the School of Business at Wake Forest University, who provided ideas and tools to assist superintendents in their daily management and long-term planning.

Neuliep was selected from a talented pool of superintendents across the country based on an application process that reviewed their educational background, professional achievements and an essay explaining why they should be selected for the program.

Daniel Knight Joins Vereens



Daniel Knight

Daniel Knight has joined Vereens Turf Products as regional sales representative in central North Carolina and southwestern Virginia. In this new role, Knight will support all Vereens customers in these regions. He brings over 20 years of experience in the turf industry at various positions in and around Greensboro, NC and most recently at Sedgefield Country Club's Dye Course with McConnell Golf.

"Daniel's extensive experience as a turfgrass manager and his familiarity with the issues our customers face along with the solutions we can offer make him an outstanding addition to the Vereens organization," says director of sales and operations Mike Johnson.

Knight can be reached at (336) 312-5306 or dknight@vereens.com.

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Ron Hall, Sr.

Make-A-Wish Makes Dream Come True



BASF's Willie Pennington and grandson Khamari Campbell are teaming up in their own battles against cancer.

overwhelming moment for him and his son.

"It probably meant the world to him," Terek Campbell told ABC affiliate WTVD-TV. "He won't ever forget this; me neither; we both will never forget this." Khamari and his family also got to watch the Warriors take on the New York Knicks thanks to Make-A-Wish. The community has started a GoFundMe page to help with Khamari's brave battle and Vereen's Turf Products is also raising money to help. For more information contact Mike Johnson at mjohnson@vereens.com.

Clemson Field Day Set for Pee Dee

This year's Clemson Turfgrass Field Day is at the Pee Dee Research and Education Center in Florence, SC on April 18. The field day runs from 8am to 12pm where scientists from the main campus will present their work through posters and demonstrations and participation from graduate students. The program is presented in partnership with the Midlands GCSA and Palmetto GCSA.

"It is very informal but I think also very informative," Clemson's Dr. Bruce Martin says. "The past few field days at the Pee Dee Center have been in April since that is a very good time to view trials from bermudagrass greens and perhaps winter weed control trials."

Hollar Tournament Set for April 26



Catawba Valley turf faculty member David Clanton with 2016 scholarship recipients Danny Bales, Denny Triche and Justin Lail, and fellow turf faculty member Jimmy Abernathy.

Golf industry professionals will gather for this year's Guy Hollar Memorial Golf Tournament at Rock Barn Country Club and Spa in Conover, NC on April 26. The tournament celebrates the life and legacy of the late Guy Hollar while raising scholarship money to assist turfgrass students at Catawba Valley Community College.

A 1972 alumnus of the college's turfgrass program, Hollar served for many years as superintendent of Rock Barn Golf Course and mentored many individuals in the turf profession before his untimely death in 2008. For information and to register contact Mary Reynolds, Catawba Valley college's alumni association director at (828) 327-7000, ext. 4387 or via mreynolds@cvcc.edu.

Old Chatham Earns Senior Amateur

Carolinas GCSA past-president Brian Powell, CGCS will be host superintendent for the 2019 U.S. Senior Amateur Championship at Old Chatham Golf Club in Durham, NC. The USGA announced the news recently.

Designed in 2001 by Rees Jones, who has renovated seven U.S. Open courses, Old Chatham sits on 400 acres of protected pine woodlands on the northeast shore of Jordan Lake. Jones completed a course enhancement project in 2012 that added undulations to six greens, as well as nine new bunkers and 45,000 native North American grass plants.

Founded by a small group of North Carolina businessmen that included former USGA president Jim Hyler and University of North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith, Old Chatham has hosted several state and regional events, including the 2009 North Carolina Amateur and the 2014 North Carolina Mid-Amateur. The club is also a frequent host of USGA qualifying events.

"The future slate of host sites for the Senior Amateur is a testament to the strength of this championship, its players and the history of the courses on which it has been conducted," says Stuart Francis, USGA championship committee chairman.

The U.S. Senior Amateur is open to amateur golfers who have reached age 55 on or before the start of the championship and who have a handicap index not exceeding 7.4. The championship features 36 holes of stroke play before the field is cut to the low 64 scorers for match play.

Two USGA championships will be contested in the Carolinas this year. The U.S. Amateur Four-Ball will be hosted by Pinehurst Resort and Country Club in Pinehurst, NC and The Dunes Golf and Golf Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, SC will host the U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball. Both championships run May 27 to 31.

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Wharton Back With BIGGA Recognition



Carolinians GCSA director Matthew Wharton, CGCS recently traveled to England to receive his Master Greenkeeper certificate from the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association. Wharton, from Carolina Golf Club in Charlotte, NC was recognized on stage at The Royal Hall during BIGGA's annual conference in Harrogate.

"Overall the entire trip was a very humbling and emotional experience," Wharton

BIGGA chairman Les Howkins, MG presents Matthew Wharton, CGCS with his Master Greenkeeper certificate.

wrote on his blog, The Greenkeeper. "The award will forever serve as a constant reminder to never be complacent and strive for more." On his return, Wharton was recognized once again with a standing ovation at Carolina Golf Club's annual meeting.

Wharton is now one of just 70 golf course maintenance professionals in the world with the Master Greenkeeper designation, despite its introduction more than 25 years ago. Candidates must earn a minimum of 200 career development credits, which are awarded for a range of formal and informal education and training and for years of greenkeeping experience.

To progress to the next two stages, applicants must be a course manager, head greenkeeper or superintendent and have at least 10 years of experience. They must have three years of experience working as a head greenkeeper, course manager or superintendent and have spent two years in that role on their current golf course.

The next stage involves an inspection of the golf course during the growing season during which all aspects of course management are assessed. The final stage comprises two, three-hour examinations, a case study and a technical paper. Held twice a year, the examinations are written and marked by a panel of assessors and both examinations must be passed for the certificate to be achieved.

Rounds 4 Research: It's Time to Donate



The clock is ticking on time to register donations for this year's Rounds 4 Research auction to raise money for turfgrass research. The Carolinians GCSA continues to lead the way raising the most money of any GCSAA affiliated chapter year after year. But executive director Tim Kreger reminds members that the number of Carolinians donations in recent years remains less than 20 percent of the potential number from the region.

"We have close to 900 facilities across North and South Carolina," he says. "Some have been with us since the start donating a tee-time every year and we are extremely grateful. But we still are nowhere near our potential. If every course donated just one foursome we would be raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for research right here instead of tens of thousands."

Rounds 4 Research was pioneered by the Carolinians GCSA and soon grew to embrace participation from other states such as Georgia, Virginia and Texas. It proved so successful that the auction was taken over by GCSAA through the Environmental Institute for Golf several years ago.

Members looking to donate for this year's auction that runs May 1 to May 7 can go to www.eifg.org or click on the link on the Carolinians GCSA home page at www.caroliniasgcsa.org. "We hope folks will donate early because that gives more time for bidders to create their "shopping list" and generate excitement," Kreger says. "The donation process takes just a few minutes but the benefits of the research donations help pay for will last for years."

Carolinians Calling For New Scholars

The Carolinians GCSA is calling all scholars in readiness for the 2017 Bennett-Maples Scholarships. The association gave out a record \$16,000 in aid for aspiring children and grandchildren of members last year. Candidates for this year's awards must have their applications postmarked by May 1 - no exceptions.

Scholarship applicants must be a child or a legal guardian grandchild of a current superintendent or assistant superintendent member. The Bennett-Maples Scholarship honors Grant Bennett and Henson Maples, who helped found the Carolinians GCSA at Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, NC in 1954.

Customarily the association awards 15 scholarships worth \$1,000 each but a donation from the Blue Ridge Turfgrass Association made a 16th scholarship possible last year. Application forms and information are available at www.caroliniasgcsa.org.

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Tuesday Carolinas Hour
TRI-STATE PUMP & CONTROL

Wednesday Fellowship Breakfast
CORBIN TURF SUPPLY
NEW LIFE TURF

Wednesday General Session
On Site Communications
RADIOS FOR GOLF
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CLASS C - Assistant Superintendent

Charles E. Aubry, East Lake Golf Club, Atlanta, GA

Brandon T. Clark, Berkeley Hall Club, Bluffton, SC

Gregory Tyler Guy, Myers Park Country Club, Charlotte, NC

Matthew Hession, Birkdale Golf Club, Huntersville, NC

Stewart R. Laver, Berkeley Hall Club, Bluffton, SC

Christopher L. Minor, The Carolina Country Club, Spartanburg, SC

Tripp Morrow, Meadowbrook Golf Course, Rutherfordton, NC

Martin R. Paulini, Litchfield Country Club, Pawleys Island, SC

Mike Simons, Augusta Country Club, Augusta, GA

Jordan M. Spitler, Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, GA

Jonathan N. Turner, Daniel Island Club, Charleston, SC

Mark Wallace, Stoney Creek Golf Club, Whitsett, NC

Matthew D. Williams, Forest Lake Club, Columbia, SC

CLASS AS - Associate

Russell W. Ambrose, Quail Hollow Club, Charlotte, NC

Chris Cameron, Berkeley Hall Club, Bluffton, SC

Juan C. Maldonado, Berkeley Hall Club, Bluffton, SC

CLASS S - Student

Austin Chariker, Dunes Golf and Beach Club, Conway, SC

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Will Neisler, Oakland Plantation Turf Farm, Council, NC

Brian Thompson, BASF, Apex, NC

Allen Weed, Greenville Turf and Tractor, Chapin, SC

CLASS AF - Affiliate Member

Ron Pote, Byo-Gon, Charleston, SC

OUR FRIENDS

Danny S. McAlister, CGCS is now golf course superintendent at the City of Anderson, Anderson, SC.

Aaron W. Daganhardt is now assistant golf course superintendent at Blowing Rock Country Club, Blowing Rock, NC.

Harold G. Davis, formerly golf course superintendent at Waterway Hills Golf Club in Myrtle Beach, SC is now golf course superintendent at Aberdeen Country Club in Longs, SC.

Joseph R. Davis, formerly golf course superintendent at Sunset Country Club in Moultrie, GA is now golf course superintendent at Orangeburg Country Club, Orangeburg, SC.

Christopher L. DeVane, formerly golf course superintendent at Forsyth Country Club in Winston-Salem, NC, is now golf course superintendent at the Country Club of Lexington in Lexington, SC.

Mark E. Swygert, formerly golf course superintendent at the Country Club of Lexington in Lexington, SC, is now golf course superintendent at Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken, SC.

WITH SYMPATHIES

Robert Floyd "Big Daddy" Benson Sr.

The Carolinas GCSA extends sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Robert Floyd "Big Daddy" Benson Sr., 89, of Mocksville, NC who died December 28, 2016. A Carolinas GCSA member since 1978, Benson designed and built the first golf course in Davie County, Twin Cedars Golf Course, which opened in June, 1967. He was instrumental in Davie High School developing a golf program and his three children went on to play major roles in the team's considerable success. From 1968 through 1987, a span of 20 years, Davie finished first in the North Piedmont Conference 11 times and second place eight times. The only year it did not finish first or second during that time was 1986.

Benson was born November 10, 1927, in Davie County to the late William Floyd and Vera Augusta Livengood Benson. He was a member of Victory Baptist Church in Cooleemee and owner-operator of Benson Electric and was a veteran of the U. S. Navy having served in World War II. He was inducted into the Davie County Sports Hall of Fame in 2015.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Nell Allen Benson; a son, James Gregory Benson; and a daughter, Deborah Denise Worden. Survivors include his partner, Peggy Wallace; his children, Bobbie Mullis (Tony) and Robin Benson (Cindy), all of Mocksville; four grandchildren, Tonya Mullis, Seth Worden (Darlene), Palmer Benson and Nolan Benson; and three great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be sent to Camp Manna Ministries, c/o Stan Riddle, 243 Gibson Way, Mocksville, NC 27028; Davie Advocacy Center, 261 S. Main St., Mocksville, NC 27028; or Victory Baptist Church Building Fund, PO Box 686, Cooleemee, NC 27014.

William Augustine "Augie" Endebrock

The Carolinas GCSA extends sincere sympathies to the family and friends of William Augustine "Augie" Endebrock who died in Hampton, SC on December 4, 2016 aged 70. Born on January 5, 1946, to William Augustine Endebrock Sr. and Kathleen White Endebrock, Augie became president of the Endebrock White Company and diversified it to include the construction of roads, parking lots, golf cart paths and other paving applications nationwide.

In addition to Roni Starr Trevallion, his wife of nearly 33 years, he leaves behind two children, Tiffany Lynn Matern (Mark) of Yorktown and Brock Endebrock (Kelly) of Hayes; their mother, Deborah Atkinson Stembler (Bill) of Yorktown; grandchildren Cain, Ayden, Hannah and Lindsay; his sister Billie Dean (Albert) of Barhamsville; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Bobby Gene Downs

The Carolinas GCSA extends sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Bobby Gene Downs, age 67, who died January 2, 2017. Downs had been employed at Maggie Valley Resort and Country Club in Maggie Valley, NC as golf course superintendent and had also worked at Hilton Inn Golf Course in Asheville, NC.

He was born July 28, 1949 in Catawba County and lived in

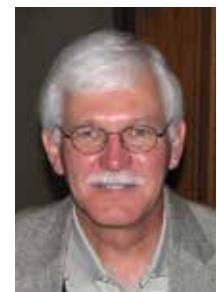
Haywood County all of his life. He was known for his great love of children and animals. He was an avid fisherman and loved the outdoors. He often volunteered at The Open Door Ministries in Waynesville, NC.

Downs was preceded in death by his father, Horace Devoe Downs; and his loving companion of 28 years, Joyce Littrell. Surviving are his mother, Georgia Edith Putnam Downs, of Waynesville; a daughter, Sharon Downs, of Waynesville, and Laura Downs Spann, of Hickory; a grandchild, Miranda Dawn Amos; sisters, Vivia Worley, of Clyde, Ruth Stamey, of Clyde, Debbie Lunsford, of Asheville, and Vickie O'Kelley, of Waynesville; brothers, Marvin Downs of Waynesville, Johnny Downs, of Asheville, Horace Junior Downs, of Waynesville, and Edward Lee Downs, of Waynesville; many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Memorials may be made to The Open Door Ministries in Waynesville, 32 Commerce Street, Waynesville, NC 28786.

Robert "Bob" Grant Marschner

The Carolinas GCSA extends sincere sympathies to the family and friends of Robert "Bob" Grant Marschner, 67, of Mount Pleasant, SC who died December 29, 2016. Marschner retired from Agri-Business Technologies in 2013 and was a Carolinas GCSA member for many years. He died peacefully surrounded by his wife, Sally, and daughters, Ashley and Whitney.



Bob Marschner

Marschner was born August 1, 1949 in Kenosha, WI to Gilbert Richard and Vera Evelyn (Victorson) Marschner. Both preceded him in death. He attended Elkhart High School where he was on the golf team and graduated with (National Scholastic) honors in 1967. He attended Purdue University for one year and then went to Indiana University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Economics in 1971. He then went on to earn a Master's of Business Administration degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison in December, 1972.

In retirement, Marschner enjoyed golf, traveling, volunteering and spending time with his family. He was a very active grandfather to Brayden and Grady, teaching them life's lessons and passing on his love of golf. He will be remembered for his passion of life, sense of humor, and love for his wife, daughters, and grandsons, of whom he was so proud.

Survivors include: his wife Sally (Jaeger) daughters Ashley Harig (Thom) of Glen Burnie, MD; Whitney Armstrong (Tony) of Charleston, SC; grandchildren, Brayden Obrecht-Armstrong, Grady Harig; sister-in-law Ann Jaeger of Paoli, PA; sisters Lynn Gardella (Joe) of Kingwood, TX, Joan Rendl of Alexandria, VA; nieces Nancy Barbour of Denver, CO; Lori Barbour of Thornton, CO; and nephew Todd Barbour, of Thornton, CO. He is also survived by an aunt, uncles, and cousins of the Friend, Victorson, Barter, Brennen, and Schneider families.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Hospice of Charleston, 676 Wando Park Blvd, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464.

Biggers Big Award



Three rousing cheers for Carolinas GCSA past-president Fred Biggers, CGCS, left, on receiving the Virginia GCSA's Distinguished Service Award. Biggers has been superintendent at Wintergreen Green Resort in Nellysford, VA since 1999 but he has never forgotten his roots. A Clemson graduate who led the Carolinas GCSA in 1991, he is a fixture at Conference and Show each November and never misses the annual past-presidents dinner.

His time in the Carolinas included stints at Alamance Country Club in Burlington, NC and Greenville Country Club in Greenville, SC. But his first job out of college was at Pinehurst Resort paying \$3.25 an hour. He joined the Carolinas GCSA board in 1982 and helped establish the South Carolina Turfgrass Foundation in 1992. He has been a member of the Virginia Turfgrass Foundation Board of Directors since 2000 and was elected to a four-year term as president in 2005.

Bedtime Stories

Smith Turf and Irrigation's Steve Smith, right, seems to have discovered a secret sleep potion for 16-month-old grandson, Charlie Brush, who is the son of Smith's daughter Jessica, who works for the company in Nashville, TN. He picks up the November-December issue of Carolinas Green from 2013 and reads the feature story. It just so happens that's the one about George Fisher, the long time STI legend who won the Distinguished Service Award that year. "It's Charlie's favorite bedtime story," Smith told Fisher in a message. "Puts him out in two minutes every time!"



Mangum's Move

The Carolinas will become home to another heavyweight of the golf course maintenance profession this fall. Ken Mangum, CGCS, right, who hosted multiple major championships as director of golf courses and grounds at Atlanta Athletic Club will move to Bluffton, SC. He is building a house at Palmetto Bluff where May River Club is located.



During a 27-year stint at Atlanta Athletic Club, Mangum hosted the 1990 U.S. Women's Open, the 2001 PGA Championship, the 2002 U.S. Junior Amateur, the 2011 PGA Championship and the 2014 U.S. Amateur. He now runs his own consulting service, Ken Mangum Golf Course Consulting.

Birdies Galore

When someone yells "Duck" on a golf course they don't always mean "Fore!" In the case of Carolinas GCSA executive director Tim Kreger, right, and Clemson University golf coach Larry Penley, far right, they just might be pointing out a favorite bird. The two were recently in a party that clearly landed their fair share of birdies.



Tricky Read

Kids participating with The First Tee of Greater Charleston have a lot to look forward to with a new putting green set to open this summer. But as lead coach Wayne Nance demonstrates, right, a few things need



to be smoothed out before then. The project based at Patriots Point Golf Links in Mt. Pleasant is being steered by golf course superintendent Alan Fitzpatrick. See story page 22.

Road Warrior

There's barely a square yard of highway in the Southeast that Pat O'Brien hasn't driven over - multiple times - in his long career with the USGA Green Section. You'd think a guy might get sick of traveling at some point. But not so in Pat's case and especially not when his beloved Pittsburgh Steelers are concerned. In January, Pat made the 878-mile trek from his home in Macon, GA to Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, MO for the AFC Divisional playoff game. That's his photography, above. The good news is that Steelers won a close one, thanks to a record six field goals. Even better news, we think, is that this time Pat flew!



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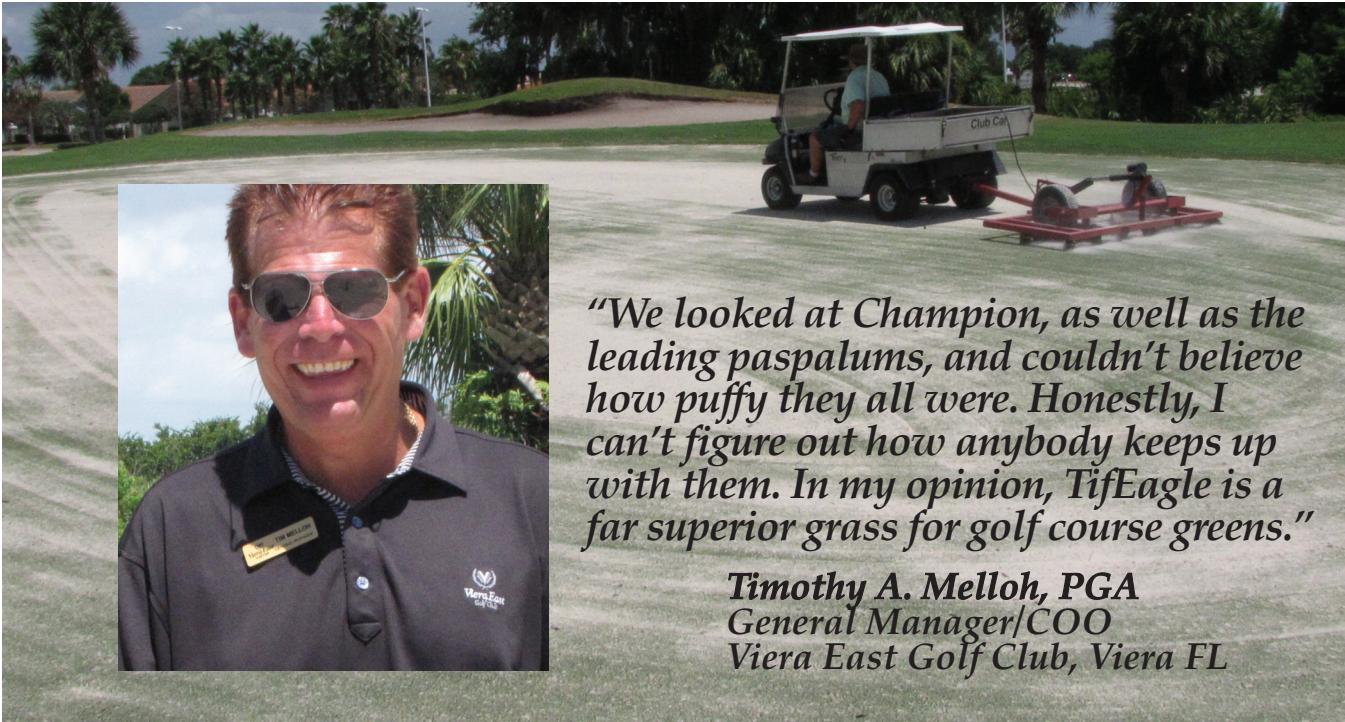
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Timothy A. Melloh, PGA
General Manager/COO
Viera East Golf Club, Viera FL

"We looked at Champion, as well as the leading paspalums, and couldn't believe how puffy they all were. Honestly, I can't figure out how anybody keeps up with them. In my opinion, TifEagle is a far superior grass for golf course greens."

You'll find TifEagle Bermudagrass on the picturesque 18-hole championship golf course at Viera East Golf Club in Viera FL. Located just south of Cocoa Beach and in close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian and Banana Rivers, this Joe Lee design features lush, rolling fairways, crystal clear lakes, spectacular white sand bunkers, and swaying palm trees. Thirty-one-year veteran Tim Melloh (PGA), General Manager and COO, is responsible for this prestigious course in the heart of an upscale Community Development District. It was Tim who made the decision to go with TifEagle. "When I was the Director of Golf at FSU, we replaced our old 1960's TifGreen 328 with



TifEagle. We redesigned all of our bunkers, tees and greens. We basically just blew everything up and started over. So when I came here I already had 11 years of experience with TifEagle and talked the Board into replacing our Emerald Dwarf. It was horrible. We did a no-till TifEagle conversion and were open for play in 54 days." Take a lesson from Tim Melloh. Whether you're renovating your existing greens or planning a brand new facility, insist on the best. Specify certified TifEagle Bermudagrass by name. You can sod it, sprig it or even no-till it under the right conditions - just like Tim. For more information and a list of TifEagle growers, visit us at www.tifeagle.com. Or call 706 552-4525.



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