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January - February 2012

green

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Cover photo: Doug Lowe, CGCS from Greensboro Country Club in Greensboro, NC is the Carolinas GCSA's new president.

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Big Bang of 2011 SETS UP SUCCESS IN 2012



Melissa Davis and outgoing Carolinas GCSA president, John Davis, with the new "couple" Doug Lowe, CGCS and wife, Mandy.

The 2011 year ended on a bang with near record attendance at the annual Conference and Trade Show and rave reviews from those in attendance. Our staff, our board of directors and all our members are to be commended for making this association one of the most successful and rewarding associations in the industry. While history is something to be learned from and not forgotten I would like to focus on the future and the many things that are needed in 2012 and beyond to continue to keep this great association steering in the right direction.

Our past efforts in the area of government relations have proved paramount to our success with elected and appointed officials. I also believe our efforts in this arena have helped us gain a new respect from the various allied industry groups as well. With two of the best legislative counsels in the business now on our team in Chris Valauri (NC) and Charlie Rountree (SC), we are opening doors we once never thought possible.

This is our seventh year of active involvement in government relations and we are in a great position to continue with our message of golf's environmental stewardship, its significant role in local and state economies and the recreational and social outlets the game provides for individuals and families. And those are just a few of the many benefits golf has to offer.

The leadership of this association is fully committed to keeping a seat at the table and we only ask that when you are presented with the opportunity that you don't hesitate to get involved because our biggest strength lies in numbers and the commitment our constituency has for the game of golf.

Don't forget to participate in our Rounds4Research program this year. While there will be a few small changes, which we hope will make it easier on our staff as well as the end-user, it will be much the same program as in recent years. While this program has

raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in recent years to support our universities and their research efforts it is now more important than ever that we continue to demonstrate our support to state funded schools. Everyone knows steep budget cuts in recent years have made it tough for everyone and North Carolina State and Clemson have not been spared. Unified industry support goes a long way in demonstrating to our elected officials the real value these institutions bring to the citizens and industries within their respective states.

The last item I would like to highlight concerns our new database system and website. The staff is working hard on putting together the finishing touches to fully convert to the new system and roll out the new website by the end of January. This purchase required an investment of a little over \$40,000 but will deliver improved efficiencies and allow our staff to better serve the membership. Among many things included in this expenditure for the general membership will be a new website as well as same day receipts for events purchased online.

Lastly, I want to once again thank members for their trust in providing me with the incredible opportunity to serve as your president. I would like to thank John Davis for his expert leadership in 2011 and welcome Brian Powell, CGCS as your new secretary-treasurer. I also want to recognize and welcome our two newest board members, Adam Charles and Drew Ramsey. They will be assets for certain.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the winter meeting at Daniel Island Club in Charleston, SC at the end of January. ■

Douglas Lowe



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Close Vote Points to OUR REAL HEALTH



Victorious Carolinas GCSA non-playing captain, Tim Kreger, with Syngenta's Larry Feller and Steve Dorer, CGCS and Virginia GCSA captain, Eric Spurlock, after the 2011 Virlina Cup.

By Tim Kreger

There is no doubt we have a lot to be proud of at the Carolinas GCSA. Year after year our members provide some of the best conditioned golf courses in the country. Year after year our members lead the region in addressing the issues that challenge our industry. Year after year our members turn out for the largest regional event for superintendents in the nation. 2011 was no different and I thank each and every one of you for the commitment you continue to show to your profession and your association.

Elsewhere in this issue of Carolinas Green you will read all about the success of our 2011 Conference and Trade Show. You will see high numbers and happy faces all round. But I want to use this column to address something from Conference and Show that goes even deeper to the core of what this association stands for and it took place without the vast majority of you even being aware.

Let me set the scene a little. Each year, we hold our annual business meeting on the last day of the conference. This is where the association's financial performance is laid out and new officers and directors are elected. Generally, attendance runs at well below 10 percent of our roughly 1,800-strong membership. Incidentally, we are looking at bringing the meeting forward in future in the hope that it will be easier for more members to attend.

Fortunately, year after year the meeting is mostly a formality. Our financial health has remained strong despite the economy just as the nominations for leadership are always high caliber. That was true enough in 2011 with robust financial performance and the arrival of new directors Andrew Ramsey, from Cutter Creek Golf Club, and Adam Charles, from The Preserve at Verdae. Both men arrive with strong reputations and I look forward to working with them.

This past November though we had two other important items on the agenda. One was a dues increase and the other was a proposal to reduce the size of the board. Both generated considerable discussion in the weeks leading up to the annual meeting. And to be honest, a lot of people, myself included, expected to hear some heartfelt debate from the floor at the meeting.

As it turns out the dues increase passed without opposition. Reducing the size of the board, however, was voted down, narrowly. In fact, the vote was so close it took a recount to be absolutely sure of the numbers, which did include some proxy votes.

I assure you that the board talked long and hard before proposing fewer directors. Among the major reasons, in no

particular order, were that smaller groups can work more efficiently and with greater flexibility. Fewer directors would also be more cost effective for the association. The current size of the board can mean a director may have to serve a decade before reaching the office of president. That's an enormous ask on their time and on their families and their facilities.

As a paid employee of the Carolinas GCSA, I don't have any vote on any issue like this. But as executive director, I am paid to gather information and offer context to help your directors arrive at informed decisions. For what it's worth, I think everyone acknowledged there were multiple pros and cons to reducing the board from 13 to nine. But regardless of the result, from my perspective, the most significant outcome from the vote on the floor that day in Myrtle Beach was the simple fact that it happened.

Our new president, Doug Lowe, CGCS summed it up pretty well, I thought, in the minutes after the vote was counted. He was in favor of a smaller board, "But," he said "this is after all an association for the members and of the members and I appreciate everyone's input whatever the outcome today."

So life goes on. And in the Carolinas GCSA it goes on with everyone secure in the knowledge that their opinions matter and will be heard. Better still we remain secure in the knowledge that, regardless of this vote or any other or where anybody comes down on an issue, everyone is engaged for the right reason and that is the ultimate well-being of the organization for the benefit of the members.

There will be other issues. This particular one might come up again. And there will be other votes. But what is critical is that we retain our respect for each other and remain grateful that we have colleagues who care so much. Many institutions run out of steam and ultimately fail when success is taken for granted and complacency creeps in.

No one can be sure what hurdles may be ahead for the Carolinas GCSA but as long as we have a membership that remains engaged and willing to step forward, complacency won't be one of them. And that is something to be proud of. ■



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GET SMART

Or Get Out



Pat Jones

I'm finally sitting at home in chilly Ohio for what seems like the first time in months. It's my crazy time of year when I'm flying around the country meeting with suppliers to sell them lots of advertising, going on editorial junkets and, of course, attending the never-ending parade of regional turf conferences.

If there was an "opening day" for the turf show season, it would clearly be the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show. Let me offer my in-depth analysis of this year's event: It kicked butt and took names. You can read all the highlights elsewhere in this issue, but the bottom line was outstanding participation and revenues across the board, great show floor traffic and interaction on the show flow and really amazing educational offerings.

The success of this year's Myrtle Beach show is evidence of what happens when you have the following:

- An engaged membership that's motivated to get educated about new practices in the profession and new products in the business;
- Committed leaders who take their role as volunteer officials very seriously;
- Great organization by an innovative, tireless staff;
- Just a hint that the golf market is rebounding in the Carolinas.

Other regional shows are also faring a little better. I've taken shots at a few of them in the past, but from what I've seen and heard they're trending up a little too. Frankly, they may be tired of shrinking and they're actually trying harder to fix some of their problems. It's also likely that some of the folks who are not going to the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas are making a point of going to their local event instead.

Finally, the pressure many superintendents felt to stay at home and avoid being seen by ownership as "off partying" at a show might be easing now that the golf market has at least stabilized.

That brings me to the point of my humble contribution to this month's *Carolinas Green*: the state of our industry and what's likely to happen the next five years. Here it comes.

We are upside down in an overbuilt market competing for individual play instead of the corporate outings and tournaments that owners and banks foolishly thought would fuel the business forever. In the past 25 years, we increased our capacity (courses) by nearly 50 percent while sales (rounds) only increased 19 percent. Oops.

The natural market correction that should be happening – poorly performing

facilities going out of business and easing the supply-demand imbalance – isn't occurring because so many of them are tied up in permits, homeowners association covenants, bad loans or other stupid deals that were made 20 years ago to get them built. Even in the unlikely event they could find someone to buy the property and convert it to condos or retail, they can't sell it. Oops again.

Though the number of rounds played remains roughly flat from year to year, revenues do not. Discounting and online tee-time widgets like GolfNow.com are driving golf-related revenues down and non-play pro shop sales have gone bye-bye. Don't even get me started about F and B. I was at the Syngenta Business Institute recently with 30 superintendents from some great facilities around the country and I asked how many of their operations made money on the kitchen. Four hands went up. Triple oops.

That said, about 70 percent of all courses still report break-even or better on their balance sheets. Sure, some of that is the result of budget cutting or creative accounting, but that's not bad considering how many suppliers and analysts regard the golf market as being "in the crapper" right now.

In hindsight, there was sort of a gold rush mentality in the '90s that we all LOVED at the time. There were lots of new courses, lots of upwardly mobile jobs and lots of companies throwing money around blindly trying to stake their claim and hit the sales jackpot. Golf was hot and it was quite a party. Now the party's over and we're dealing with the mess that's left behind and a bad hangover.

(continued on page 8...)



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But here's the good news. I think this nasty, painful, throbbing hangover is finally enough to make us swear off the hard stuff and force golf to sober up and act like a real business. When we were all fat and happy, we could get away with half-assed management and marketing. It didn't matter because it seemed like there were always more suckers, er, customers, waiting in line to join the club or sitting in the parking lot at 5am hoping to grab a coveted tee time.

We could turn a blind eye to club managers or general managers that didn't have a clue about efficient operations or, worse yet, were helping themselves to a share of the profits. I am constantly amazed at the number of times a superintendent will tell me that financial incompetence or even outright embezzlement was simply a part of the "culture" of their facility.

And superintendents were not without blame either. Some grew comfortable

throwing money at turf problems and, too often, basic agronomy, common-sense fertility and good soil management were forgotten because expensive fixes were easier. Budgets for hand labor skyrocketed as we attempted to maintain tricked-up designs with ridiculous bunker complexes and greens that demanded walk-behind mowing.

In short, we got away with stuff that would have never flown if the sport wasn't booming. Now, we are re-learning how to run golf facilities responsibly and competitively. It's not easy ... but it kind of feels good. It's more fun to be smart and win in a tough environment than to simply be dumb and lucky in easy times.

So, with the beginning of 2012, it's also time for the beginning of a new era in golf ... an era of intelligent management. It's time to get smart or get out. Are you up to the challenge? ■

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Winter Meeting Invests in BRIGHTER FUTURES

By Trent Bouts

Men like Bill Anderson, CGCS and Butch Sheffield, CGCS have been “growing” superintendents as long as they’ve been growing grass. They see their role as something that reaches beyond the golf course. They recognize that the young people working for them are also working towards something and they nurture that ambition as they do their putting greens. It’s a trait common to many of the best in the history of the profession in the Carolinas.

A quick glance down the list of Carolinas GCSA past-presidents is proof enough. The two men cited above each mentored others who would later become presidents of the association. Sheffield himself took his lead from an early boss, the late Ed Dembnicki, who was president in the mid-’70s. The late “Whitie” Wright provided similar direction for Fred Biggers, CGCS and Don Garrett, CGCS. Randy Allen, CGCS taught his younger brother, Danny, who also rose to the office. Steve Hamilton, CGCS who is set to take the reins next year also worked for the senior Allen brother.

Instilling a sense of duty in the next generation might be one of the most under-rated yet far-reaching factors in the continued success of the Carolinas GCSA. And it’s not only true on the golf course side. There are many generational ties on the industry side too, where men like the late Paul Porter, Wayne Smith Sr. and Bob Hamrick taught younger people how to do well and do good at the same time by volunteering for local associations and seeing superintendents as people not just purchasers.

All of these men would be proud to know that the Carolinas GCSA is stepping up its commitment to the next generation with events such as this year’s annual winter meeting at the Daniel Island Club in Charleston, SC on the last two days of January. The golf component of the meeting will include two events, the regular superintendent-assistant four-ball competition and the first Carolinas GCSA assistant superintendent golf championship. Assistants will have to play out their ball on every hole with

the champion qualifying for a slot on this year’s team for the Virlina Cup.

The education program for this year’s meeting focuses on career fitness and will be taught by leading career trainer, Lyne Tumlinson, whose previous experience at GCSAA means she is well-versed in the particular issues facing superintendents and assistant superintendents. There will be a reception providing excellent networking opportunities for assistants that evening.

This follows a well-attended meeting during Conference and Show in Myrtle Beach, SC to formalize a committee of assistant superintendents to help better address the issues and aspirations of assistants. With a contraction across the breadth of the golf industry, assistant superintendents are dealing with a climate of fewer opportunities and longer terms in the deputy’s role. That presents a unique set of challenges as assistant superintendents try and coordinate parallel paths between their professional and personal lives. Starting a family on most assistant superintendent salaries can be challenging.

Around the same time as the winter meeting, the Carolinas GCSA will roll out a new web site. The site has been a long time in the making as technicians have worked to streamline the site’s compatibility with a new database system. The outcome of both projects should benefit members with easier online interaction with the association for event registration, payment and membership record maintenance. Another significant benefit will be a more efficient operation at the headquarters end of the process which helps offset rising costs in other areas.

In their prime, it’s hard to conceive the likes of Ed Dembnicki and “Whitie” Wright could have imagined the association they led maturing to the point it is today. But clearly they were certain of the value of investing in the next generation. That’s how potential is realized. That’s why events like the meeting at Daniel Island a few weeks from now is so important. ■

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Dr. Bert McCarty

Dr. Bert McCarty, Research and Extension Turf Specialist at Clemson University, will address any turf-related question in this column. Write to him c/o:

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By Bert McCarty

Putting the Heat ON WINTERKILL



Figure 1. Soil compaction is one of several contributing factors to low temperature kill as evident by the concentrated traffic pattern on the green's entrance.



Figure 2. Fortunately, low temperature injury to bermudagrass is not a yearly widespread problem in the Carolinas. Although low temperatures obviously contribute to this, other contributing parameters are shade, soil compaction, cultivar selection, low mowing heights and nutrient and soil moisture extremes.

Q Bermudagrass winterkill is a continual concern in my area. What are the latest management and cultivar updates to avoid or at least minimize the impact?

A Bermudagrass winterkill, or low temperature damage, occurs occasionally in the Carolinas and is often influenced by a combination of microenvironments and growing conditions prior to the event. Contributing factors to winter-kill include:

Low temperatures - Although an obvious contributor to winterkill, we rarely experience sufficiently low temperatures to cause massive damage by themselves. A combination of factors or events occurs to cause this damage. For example, in the laboratory, 50 percent death occurs from a range of 17F for Midlawn to about 22F for Arizona common. This growth chamber experiment did not, however, include contributions from imposed stresses or the potential insulating effect of the soil which normally allows lower temperatures before damage occurs.

Soil moisture - Either too wet or too dry is a major contributor to winterkill. Typically, in our area, most winterkill occurs when we have a warm spell in February and the bermudagrass starts to break dormancy. However, at that time, we experience windy, low humidity days which dry soils and plants. In turn, a cold snap arrives and the less turgid – dry - turf becomes more susceptible. This is especially true for turf on hill sides and northern facing slopes where the effects of desiccating winds are most damaging and the turf is naturally weak due to less sunlight intensity. Sandier soils typically are more prone to drying and have less buffering capacity against cold temperatures. Thus, more winterkill is typically seen on sandy soils as opposed to heavier soils like clay.

Very wet areas (e.g., standing water) are also prone to winterkill as these freeze over and cause cell walls to disrupt. Ice covers can eventually “smother” the turf from lack of soil oxygen and buildup of soil carbon dioxide.

Soil compaction and traffic - Soil compaction is another obvious contributor to winterkill as evident on entrance points of greens, tees and ends of cart paths (Figure 1). Compaction causes restricted root growth, standing water, or insufficient moisture entrance into the soil, all of which can contribute significantly to winterkill.

Shade - Shade is probably the biggest contributing factor to winterkill in addition to low temperatures (Figure 2). Bermudagrass in shade has fewer and weaker rhizomes which often determine how much winterkill a turf will endure. Tree-lined fairways, shaded tees and greens combine with soil compaction, low soil moisture from tree roots, as well as low temperature to cause the most damage.

Fall management - Mowing too low, insufficient potassium, excessive nitrogen, occurrence of spring dead spot, damaged or shortened roots from insects or nematodes and others are “X-factors” in winterkill. Of these, mowing too low is the most highly correlated to extensive damage.

Newly established plants - Many courses are switching from bentgrass to bermudagrass but are waiting until August or even September to sprig, resulting in immature grass with few rhizomes going into winter. If cooler than normal fall temperatures occur, succulent grass from nitrogen applications to “push” the grass often becomes more prone to subsequent low temperatures.

Cultivars - Differences do occur between various cultivars on their susceptibility to low temperature damage. In many cases, better low temperature tolerance is dependent on the amount and depth of rhizomes produced. As a general rule of thumb, seeded varieties, especially during their first year of establishment,

are more low temperature sensitive due to fewer rhizomes produced. Table 1 lists spring greenup (percentage) and visual quality ratings (1 = poor, 9 = excellent) for the NTEP fairway bermudagrass trial from Virginia where winterkill is a constant threat.



Figure 3. A major improvement in recent bermudagrass cultivar development is low temperature tolerance. Shown is low temperature tolerance comparison of Tifway bermudagrass (left) versus Midlawn bermudagrass (right).

Table 1. Spring greenup (percentage) and visual quality ratings (1 = poor, 9 = excellent) for the 2007 NTEP bermudagrass trial from Virginia Tech for spring 2010 and 2011 (note: only named entries are included).

Entry	Establishment Type	Greenup (4/20/10)	Greenup (6/9/10)	Quality (6/9/10)	Greenup (5/2/11)	Greenup (5/20/11)	Quality (5/20/11)
Midlawn	Vegetative	38	100	7	78	100	7
Yukon	Seeded	47	100	7	70	98	6
Northbridge	Vegetative	12	100	8	17	95	6
Patriot	Vegetative	11	100	8	5	83	5
Riviera	Seeded	22	100	6	10	58	4
Premier	Vegetative	13	100	8	10	45	4
Hollywood	Seeded	18	100	7	6	43	3
Latitude 36	Vegetative	13	100	8	8	40	3
Pyramid 2	Seeded	7	95	6	3	19	3
Tifway	Vegetative	3	93	6	0	16	2
Veracruz	Seeded	0	37	2	5	12	2
Gold Glove	Seeded	2	77	4	2	6	1
Sunspport	Seeded	2	62	3	2	5	1
Princess 77	Seeded	0	50	3	1	4	1
NuMex-Sahara	Seeded	0	60	4	0	2	1

Several things jump out in Table 1, the first being that 2009-10 wasn't as severe in low temperature damage as 2010-11. Thus, the second year is probably a better indicator of true winter survival of entries. Secondly, as stated previously, the seeded varieties overall are less winter hardy than vegetative ones, though exceptions always exist. Third, although still the standard for fairway and athletic field use in the southeast, Tifway is the least winter hardy of the vegetative varieties evaluated (Figure 3). This is a main reason why winterkill-susceptible areas like Oklahoma and Kansas are interested in developing better cold tolerant selections where aesthetics aren't the main criteria, rather, winter survival is. This is evident by the top five performing entries in Table 1 being developed in that region. Of course, aesthetics are still a major consideration in our area so this complicates choosing which grass to plant. Note, if a particular cultivar of interest isn't included in this evaluation it is because the company or person who released it chose not to participate in the trial.

Reference

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Chris Hartwiger



Patrick O'Brien



ALL STRESSED OUT

But Maybe There's Hope



1. Diamond zoysiagrass was sodded on the back right of this ultradwarf bermudagrass putting green due to extensive shade caused by a large tree. The Diamond has much better shade tolerance than an ultradwarf and putting quality has improved greatly in this area.



2. A small section of the clean up lap on this bentgrass putting green was resodded with an ultradwarf bermudagrass. The ultradwarf handles walking on and off traffic and mower stress in the clean up better and playing quality has improved greatly in this area.

Life on the road as an agronomist can be stressful at times. When we get worn down and stressed out near the end of the year, one of our favorite pastimes is to trade our soil probe for a set of golf clubs and play golf. In a few of our casual rounds of golf recently, we observed an emerging technique superintendents are using to deal with chronically stressed turf on putting greens. We call this process selective replacement.

These superintendents are foregoing the traditional model of using one turf species on the surface and are planting different turf species in areas that perform poorly year after year. This observation served as a great reminder that there is more than one way to meet an objective on a golf course. The remainder of this update will detail what we have seen, comment on how it's working and speculate about future applications.

Selective Replacement

Pictures 1 and 2 provide excellent examples of what we term selective replacement. In Picture 1, the back corner of an ultradwarf putting green has been replaced with Diamond zoysiagrass. Why? There is a large oak tree that cannot and will not be taken down. After multiple years battling the cycle of resod, decline, resod, decline, the superintendent decided to install a turf that is more tolerable to a shade environment. This portion of the putting green is now sustainable.

Picture 2 shows a creeping bentgrass putting green where a portion of the perimeter has been resodded with an ultradwarf bermudagrass. Why? The ultradwarf is better able to tolerate walking traffic and mower stress in the clean up cut. The result is an area on the perimeter that has sustainable turf and playability far superior to thin or dead bentgrass.

How is it Working?

It does not take golfers long to let course officials or superintendents know their opinion on different aspects of a golf course. While golfers may not have much expertise at all in agronomy, they will fill you in on certain basic precepts like, *"Grass on the greens is good, dirt on the greens is not good."* In a difficult golf economy where options are limited, the superintendents employing selective replacement are providing sustainable turf and eliminating unsightly and difficult-to-play-from dirt spots while meeting the expectations of golfers. At the

courses we have visited that have used selective replacement, these solutions are working well agronomically and are being accepted by golfers.

Is it for Everyone?

Selective replacement is not necessarily for everyone who struggles with weak turf. Usually there are solutions other than turf replacement that can be implemented to help improve an area that remains under chronic stress. Items such as increasing sunlight, managing traffic flow, mower type and set up, water management and more can all be addressed, too, in hopes of reducing turf stress.

The Future

We believe this technique will be adopted by superintendents throughout the region. Questions about how much selective replacement is acceptable before it becomes intrusive on overall playing quality will remain cloudy. Ultimately, questions of how much is too much will be answered at the local level as we move forward.

The bottom line is that creative superintendents stressed out about stressed out turf have taken advantage of newer developments in putting green grasses in the southeast. Selective replacement is yet another way that superintendents are working to improve golfing conditions. ■



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The regular Headliners column features media coverage of golf course maintenance issues and personalities, as part of an ongoing partnership with Syngenta Professional Products. The following column appeared in the *Brunswick Beacon* newspaper in Shallotte, NC.



Columnist Elsa Bonstein interviews Carolinas GCSA president, Doug Lowe, CGCS during Conference and Show week in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Superintendents Show

A GRAND SLAM SUCCESS

By Elsa Bonstein

The annual Conference and Trade Show of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association last week was a bases-loaded home run. In every aspect, by every measurement possible, the event was the best ever.

Each fall, golf course superintendents from the two Carolinas and surrounding states gather in Myrtle Beach for three days of meetings, seminars, continuing education classes, a golf tournament and a trade show. "We had more than 1,300 seats in our educational classes before the show even started," said Trent Bouts, editor of *Carolinas Green*, a bi-monthly magazine that the Carolinas GCSA publishes. "Most classes were filled this year. Our previous high was 1,281 in 2007."

Trent rattled off more amazing statistics as we chatted in the computer-filled room that serves as the behind-the-scenes hub of the conference at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. "We had 316 golfers in our tournament which took place at the Litchfield Country Club, the River Club and Willbrook Plantation Golf Club. The last time we filled the golf tournament was in 2006. The trade show sold out weeks ago. We had over 100,000 square feet of exhibits. Our Carolinas Night at Margaritaville at Broadway at the Beach had over 600 attendees."

I spoke with Doug Lowe, the newly-elected president of the Carolinas GCSA and he agreed with Trent that it was the best trade show ever. "Our national convention rotates around the

country and this year, it is in Las Vegas. It's expensive to fly out there, so many golf course superintendents decided to come here instead," he said. "We had 120 superintendents from outside the Carolinas, and several flew in from other countries. Myrtle Beach is a great destination for this group. There's golf, the beach, good restaurants and entertainment. The wide variety of classes we offer are on a par with what the national meeting has."

The classes offered at the convention are varied, from the technical to the mundane. Topics include Advanced Disease Identification and Management of Bermudagrass Greens, Turfgrass Foliar and Granular Fertilizer Programming, The Economics of Sprayer and Spreader Calibrations and Blogging and the Use of Social Media.

And you thought these guys just cut grass.

Besides being the new president of the Carolinas GCSA, Doug Lowe is the superintendent at the prestigious Greensboro County Club in Greensboro, NC. He has been on the board of directors of the Carolinas GCSA for seven years. I asked him about his plans for the next year.

"I will keep steering this good ship," he said. "It's a lot of work, but those of us on the board feel that by serving, we give back to golf. Because everyone gives back to the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association, we're the best in the United States."



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Products	Green Rate Per 1,000 SF
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Companion Biological Fungicide	4 fl oz Apply 1x per Month
Essential Plus Soil Amendment & Root Stimulator	3 fl oz Apply 2x per Month
"TKO" Phosphite 0-29-26 100% Phosphite	3 fl oz Apply 2x per Month
Micrel Total With Eight Chelated Micronutrients	3 fl oz Apply 2x per Month
Manganese Chelate 5% Organic Chelate	2 fl oz Apply 2x per Month



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The huge exhibit area at the convention center was filled with a dazzling array of mowers, irrigation equipment, tractors, utility carts, plants, sod, mulch, sprayers, aerators, moisture sensors and computers that allow superintendents to monitor soil moisture by satellite. There were booths for fertilizers and weed control, paving stones, organic pest control, turf schools and golf course design. It was fascinating.

I spoke with George Fisher, manager of customer relations for Smith Turf and Irrigation, one of the largest exhibitors there. His company is the biggest distributor for Toro in the world, covering the Carolinas, Tennessee, Virginia and Bermuda. He showed me the new Greensmaster eFlex 1800/2100 walk mower.

"This mower uses Lithium-Ion batteries and runs dead quiet," he proudly said. "It can cut up to nine greens on one charge." Imagine a silent mower! For those of us that live on golf courses and hear the noise of mowers early in the morning, this is good news. Greens are usually cut before play starts so in the summer, that is way before 6am. In addition, the Greensmaster eFlex does not use gasoline, so it's environmentally sound. Wow!

We talked about irrigation systems and George told me that irrigation systems are becoming high tech. Sensors in the soil measure moisture and temperature levels so sprinklers are only turned on when needed. The data goes directly to a computer, or iPhone or iPad, via a satellite link. Today a superintendent can control his watering practices from hundreds of miles away.

Despite its large size, Smith Turf and Irrigation is a hands-on company. "We call on our customers and trouble-shoot with them," George said. "It's hard for them to come to us with a problem, so we go to them."

Tim Kreger is the executive director of the Carolinas GCSA and he was more than delighted with the 2011 trade show. "It was a phenomenal week," he said, "and amazing in the light of this economy. The people in this business love their jobs, are true professionals and over the years, they have become like a brotherhood or fraternity. Many of them know each other from the agronomy or turf schools they attended on their way to becoming superintendents. They meet once a year here in Myrtle Beach and they all look forward to it." ■

CAROLINAS CLAIMS CUP

Despite Wind and Rain



The victorious Carolinas GCSA team of, back row, Tim Kreger, Billy Lewis, Steve Agazzi, Jim Knaffle, CGCS, Tory Thrall; front, Larry Feller, Matt Davis, O'Neil Crouch, Mark Miller, Will Pennell.

Despite heavy rain and winds gusting up to 40 miles per hour, the Carolinas defeated Virginia to win this Virlina Cup matches contested between golf course superintendents from both regions. Members of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association defeated their Virginia counterparts 9.5 to 6.5 in the two-day Ryder Cup-style event.

The team from the Virginia GCSA won the inaugural event last year but struggled away from their home turf this year. Matches were contested in the South Carolina Lowcountry at Chechessee Creek Club and Secession Golf Club where Carolinas GCSA director, Bill Kennedy, CGCS and president, John Davis, were respective hosts.

The Carolinas GCSA took a narrow early lead after the four-ball matches and never looked back through the foursomes and singles. The matches are presented in partnership between the two associations and Syngenta Professional Products to promote ties between the two regions allowing superintendents to expand their networks and share knowledge.

"This event has already become one of the highlights of the annual calendar for the members of both associations and we're very grateful for Syngenta's support in helping make it happen," says Carolinas GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger. "Of course the golf is a lot of fun but it's the rare chance it provides to build business relationships and networks in a social setting that is so valuable."



O'Neal Crouch and Billy Lewis tied their four-ball match.



Steve Agazzi and Matt Davis beat the rain and their opponents.

RESULTS -**DAY ONE, CHECHESSEE CREEK CLUB****Four-Ball Matches**

O'Neil Crouch - Billy Lewis (Carolinas) tied Andrew McCormick - Chester Guzek (Virginia)
 Steve Agazzi - Matt Davis (Carolinas) d. Jeff Snyder - Jeff Whitmire (Virginia) 4&3
 Matt Boyce - Matt Sobotka (Virginia) d. Mark Miller - Will Pennell (Carolinas) 1 up
 Troy Thrall - Jim Knaffle (Carolinas) d. Mark Vaughn - Dick Fisher (Virginia) 4&3

Carolinas GCSA leads 2.5 to 1.5 after Four-Ball Matches.

Foursomes Matches

Dick Fisher - Mark Vaughn (Virginia) d. Mark Miller (Carolinas) 6&5
 Chester Guzek - Andrew McCormick (Virginia) d. - Jim Knaffle (Carolinas) 1 up
 Troy Thrall - Steve Agazzi (Carolinas) d. Jeff Snyder Whitmire (Virginia) 3&1
 Will Pennell - O'Neil Crouch (Carolinas) d. Matt Sobotka (Virginia) 2&1

Foursome Matches Tied 2-2

Carolinas GCSA Leads 4.5 to 3.5

DAY TWO, SECESSION GOLF CLUB**Singles Matches**

Matt Sobotka (Virginia) d. Will Pennell (Carolinas) 3&2
 Jeff Snyder (Virginia) d. Mark Miller (Carolinas) 3&2
 Matt Davis (Carolinas) d. Mark Vaughn (Virginia) 4&3
 Jim Knaffle (Carolinas) d. Dick Fisher (Virginia) 6&5
 O'Neil Crouch (Carolinas) d. Andrew McCormick (Virginia) 4&3
 Troy Thrall (Carolinas) d. Matt Boyce (Virginia) 7&6
 Billy Lewis (Carolinas) d. Chester Guzek (Virginia) 2&1
 Jeff Whitmire (Virginia) d. Steve Agazzi (Carolinas) 3&2

Carolinas GCSA wins Singles Matches 5 to 3

Carolinas GCSA wins Virgina Cup 9.5 to 6.5

CAROLINAS GCSA PLAYERS AND THEIR COURSES:

Steve Agazzi – Turtle Point Golf Course, Kiawah, SC; O'Neil Crouch – Old Town Club, Winston-Salem, NC; Matt Davis – Boscobel Golf Club, Pendleton, SC; Jim Knaffle, CGCS –International Club of Myrtle Beach, Myrtle Beach, SC; Billy Lewis – Dormie Club, West End, NC; Mark Miller – Methodist University Golf Club, Fayetteville, NC; Will Pennell – Brushy Mountain Golf Club, Taylorsville, NC; Troy Thrall –Charwood Golf Club, West Columbia, SC; Tim Kreger, non-playing captain – Carolinas GCSA, Liberty, SC.



Steve Agazzi leads the parade towards a Carolinas GCSA victory.



Jim Knaffle, CGCS pipes one down the fairway.



MARK STODDARD, CGCS

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Keep 'Em Coming

Show Numbers Roll On and On

By Trent Bouts

For several years, golf industry numbers have reflected declines across many fields as the global recession took hold but the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association has once again managed to buck that trend. The 1,800-member association enjoyed excellent support for its annual Conference and Trade Show in Myrtle Beach, SC last fall with gross revenues of almost \$600,000, the second-highest in the event's nearly 50-year history. Trade show exhibit space was sold out.

"We are extremely grateful for the continued support of our members and our industry partners," says the association's new president, Doug Lowe, CGCS from Greensboro Country Club in Greensboro, NC. "We know everyone has experienced budget cuts of some kind in recent years. For superintendents and vendors to continue to invest their precious resources in this event is concrete proof of the value it delivers."

The Carolinas GCSA set a new benchmark in the category of education seats sold during the three-day conference. In all, 1,364 seminar seats were filled easily beating the previous mark of 1,281 set pre-recession in 2007. Lowe says the quality of presenters was the biggest draw with speakers from the Carolinas and across the country brought in with the help of a partnership with Syngenta Professional Products.

Another important number that continues to grow is that of superintendents attending from outside North and South Carolina. More than 120 superintendents and assistant superintendents were among about 2,000 people at this year's event.

"Obviously the golf industry is much wider than the Carolinas but hopefully the success we enjoyed is at least a sign of positive things ahead for the industry," Lowe says. "Clearly it demonstrates a degree of confidence in our region and that's something I think our members – both superintendents and vendors – can take some pride in because their efforts underpin the health of the business."

Carolinan GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger, says the continued success of the show ensures that services and programs members rely on will also continue. "I am extremely grateful to the members for their support but also to all of our industry partners who have looked me in the eye, shaken my hand and said they want to be part of this event," he says. "It simply wouldn't happen without them and we're extremely fortunate to have people on the industry side who really do have this game and this association in their blood."

By the same token, Kreger says the association continues to wage a battle against the increasing cost of doing business, just as members find at their facilities. Accordingly, the association voted to increase membership dues at the annual meeting at the end of the conference. Dues for Class A and SM members rose by \$15 and by \$5 for Class C members. Affiliate member dues do not require a vote and increased by a similar percentage.

By contrast, a proposed bylaws change to reduce the size of the board of directors from 12 to nine was voted down by the narrowest of margins. Indeed the vote was retaken and counted several times to determine absolutely whether the vote was above or below the required two-thirds of voting members present.

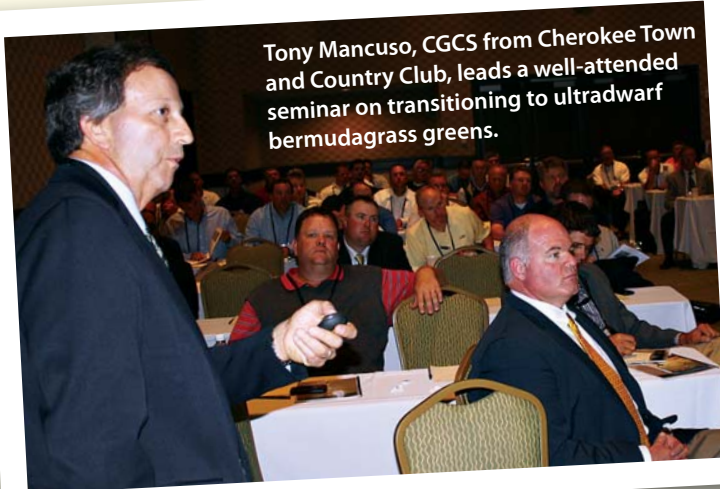
That outcome meant room for new directors after Paul Brandenburg, CGCS from Furman University Golf Course in Greenville, SC and David Jacob, CGCS from Benvenue Country Club in Rocky Mount, NC decided to not seek re-election. They were replaced by Adam Charles, from The Preserve at Verdae in Greenville, SC and Drew Ramsey, from Cutter Creek Golf Club in Snow Hill, NC. A third director will need to be appointed by president, Lowe, with the approval of the board, to fill the remaining year of the term for Brian Powell, CGCS from Old Chatham Golf Club in Durham, NC who became secretary-treasurer. Jeff Connell, from Fort Jackson Golf Club in Columbia, SC left the board after his term as past-president expired.



Some of the crowd at a meeting to establish the Carolinas GCSA's first formal Assistant Superintendents Committee.



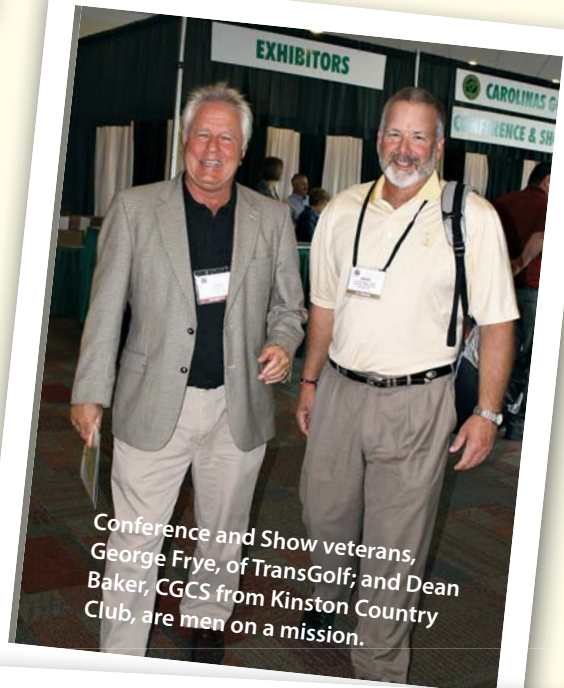
Sandhills Community College landed victory in the 2011 Student Turf Bowl. Winning team members were back row, Declan Freswick, Bud Hare, Brady Hale, Alex Sears, Brandon Smith. Front row, Brandon McKenzie, Lash Hairston, Tim Phelan.



Tony Mancuso, CGCS from Cherokee Town and Country Club, leads a well-attended seminar on transitioning to ultradwarf bermudagrass greens.



Distinguished Service Award winner, Charles M. "Chuck" Borman, and his wife, Carolyn



Conference and Show veterans, George Frye, of TransGolf; and Dean Baker, CGCS from Kinston Country Club, are men on a mission.



Carolinas GCSA past-presidents, Don Garrett, CGCS from the Walker Course at Clemson University; and Fred Biggers, CGCS from Wintergreen Resort; find a quiet spot to catch up.



In other key outcomes from the Conference and Show:

- Jim Knaffle, CGCS from the International Club of Myrtle Beach, won his first Carolinas GCSA superintendent golf championship, presented in partnership with Smith Turf and Irrigation and Toro, shooting a par round of 72 at the River Club, with 315 golfers competing, the second highest field on record.
- Charles M. "Chuck" Borman, CAE received the association's Distinguished Service Award for his efforts on behalf of the association and the industry in general during a decade-long term as Carolinas GCSA executive director.
- Marty Stephenson, from Colonial Country Club in Thomasville, NC won \$5,000 as the major prize winner in the 27-Hole Challenge, presented in partnership with John Deere, which carried more than \$13,000 worth of giveaways.
- More than 20 people attended a meeting to establish an Assistant Superintendents Committee that will help the Carolinas GCSA better focus resources for assistant superintendents and allow assistants to better coordinate networking among colleagues.
- More than 600 people attended the annual Carolinas Night at the Beach celebration, presented in partnership with Tri-State Pump and Controls.
- Ken Mangum, CGCS from Atlanta Athletic Club, and host superintendent of the 2011 PGA Championship was key note speaker thanks to a partnership with *Golfdom* magazine.
- *Golf Course Industry* magazine produced three issues of an online newspaper during the conference.
- Mike Willey, from Raleigh, NC won the annual sporting clays championship presented in partnership with Bayer Environmental Science.

Trade Show



Dan Winters, from Mimosa Hills Country Club in Morganton, NC takes his turn during the Smith Turf and Irrigation and Toro bean bag toss, which cost a dollar to enter but carried a 42-inch flat screen television as the prize. Keeping close watch in the background, from left, are STI's Steve Smith, Jay Gaskins and Les Holbert. Proceeds went to the Bennett-Maples Scholarship fund.



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Megan Fehl and Suzanne Wayne, of Healthy Ponds; with Clay DuBose, CGCS from Tradition Golf Club.



Michael Shoun, from Raleigh Country Club; Les Bailey, CGCS of Tri-State Pump and Controls; Billy Cole Jr., from Raleigh Country Club; and Daniel Knight, from Sedgfield Country Club.



Scott Cochran, from Ballantyne Country Club; hears from Glenn Musser, of TurfTime Equipment; with Jim Barnes, also from Ballantyne Country Club.



Tom Grundy, from Cross Creek Plantation; Bobby Wall, of JRM; and Paul Conaway, from Cross Creek Plantation; take a close look at some of the equipment on the trade show floor.

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GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

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Carolinan GCSA superintendent golf champion, Jim Knaffle, CGCS from the International Club of Myrtle Beach, with the perpetual trophy and Steve Smith, from Smith Turf and Irrigation.

Championship Flight A – Medal Play

Gross:

- 1 – Jim Knaffle, CGCS International Club 72
- 2 – Steven Agazzi, Kiawah Island – Turtle Point 75
- 3 – J. T. Hoffman, Agrium Advanced Technologies 77

Net:

- 1 – Kevin Thompkins, True Blue Plantation 71
- 2 – Josh Henson, Three Pines Country Club 72
- 3 – Charles Sheffield, Croasdaile Country Club 74

Championship Flight B – Medal Play

Gross:

- 1 – Terry Burchfield, Timberlake Country Club 79
- 2 – Jay Harrison, Beau Rivage Golf and Resort 81
- 3 – Josh Scruggs, Charlotte Country Club 82

Net:

- 1 – Paul Nichols, White Pines Golf Course 65
- 2 – Tim Davis, Cabarrus Country Club 72
- 3 – Bob Warner, CGCS Whispering Pines Golf Course 73

Senior Division – Medal Play

- 1 Gross – Don Tew, Ocean Isle Beach 80

- 1 Net – Paul Waycaster, Linville Land Harbor Golf Club 72*

Four Ball Flight A

Gross:

- 1 – Chris Berrier, Pilot Knob Park - Jay Reins, CGCS Green Resource 72*
- 2 – O'Neil Crouch, Old Town Club - Anthony Durham, Old Town Club 72
- 3 – Dean Bedenbaugh, Ponderosa Country Club - Scott Crouch, Mid Carolina Club 73*

Net:

- 1 – Adam Charles, The Preserve at Verdae - Kyle Traynham, Willow Creek Golf Club 63
- 2 – Patrick Wake, Palmetto Dunes Resort - Scott Martin, CGCS Corbin Turf Supply 64*
- 3 – Chris Futral, River Landing Country Club - Steve Sprouse, River Landing Country Club 64

Four Ball Flight B

Gross:

- 1 – Steven Dockery, Methodist University Golf Course - Ryan Hull, Methodist University Golf Course 71
- 2 – Derek Oglesby, Corbin Turf Supply - Jeff Lloyd, Bartram Trail Golf Course 73
- 3 – Tom Metzger, Sea Pines Country Club - David DeGeorge, DeGeorge Turf Solutions 75*

Net:

- 1 – Marty Bahen, Smith Turf and Irrigation - Jim Heinze, The Toro Company 62
- 2 – Greg Clontz, Pine Mountain Golf Course - Michael Clontz, Pine Mountain Golf Course 63
- 3 – Gary Humphrey, Oak Island Golf and Country Club - David Smith, Green Resource 64

Four Ball Flight C

Gross:

- 1 – Damon Thomas, Grande Dunes Members Club - Jon Stewart, Grande Dunes Members Club 75*
- 2 – Kenneth Stines, Laurel Ridge Country Club - Eric Long, Laurel Ridge Country Club 75
- 3 – Kevin Robinson, CGCS Pinehurst Resort - Keith Osterman, Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club 77

Net:

- 1 – Joe York, North Ridge Country Club - Andy McMahan, North Ridge Country Club 62
- 2 – Alan Smith, High Meadows Golf and Country Club - John Roberts, Atlanta Athletic Club 63*
- 3 – Eric Jackson, Red Fox Country Club - Aubrey Hines, John Deere Golf 63

Captain's Choice Flight A

- 1 Gross – Jeff Holliday, CGCS Salisbury Country Club; Scott Mauldin, CGCS The Foundry Golf Club; Tommy Adams, Helena Chemical Company; Dan Taylor, CGCS Independence Golf Club 61

- 1 Net – Mat Monaco, The Members Club at St. James; Bert Totten, The Founders Club at St. James; Brian Kearns, The Highlands Course at Primland; Jeremy Ferden, Northstone Country Club 51.91

Captain's Choice Flight B

- 1 Gross – Russell Hill, Grandover Resort; Ken Russell, Green Resource; James Williard, Grandover Resort; Ryan Sudano, Grandover Resort 66



Affiliate champion J.T. Hoffmann, of Agrium Advanced Technologies, receives his trophy from outgoing Carolinas GCSA president, John Davis.



Carolinas GCSA incoming president, Doug Lowe, CGCS with golf championship host superintendents, Barry "Digger" Barthelman, CGCS from the River Club; Max Morgan, CGCS on behalf of Kenny Giles at Willbrook Plantation; and David Hughes, from Litchfield Country Club.

PROXIMITY WINNERS

RIVER CLUB

Closest to the Pin

No. 3 – Terry Burchfield, Timberlake Country Club
No. 8 – Aubrey Hines, John Deere Golf
No. 14 – Brian Wiseman, Berkeley Hall Club – Kiawah Island Resort Getaway
No. 17 – Josh Scruggs, Charlotte Country Club

Long Drive

Gary Dacus, Rolling Green Golf Club – Pinehurst Resort Getaway

WILLBROOK PLANTATION

Closest to the Pin

No. 4 – Will Pennell, Brushy Mountain Golf Club
No. 6 – Russell Montgomery, Revels Turf and Tractor
No. 12 – Jonathan Wright, Harbour Town Golf Links
No. 17 – Tyler Goff, Myers Park Country Club – Pinehurst Resort Getaway

Long Drive

Matt Taylor, Atlanta Athletic Club - Grove Park Inn Getaway

LITCHFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

Closest to the Pin

No. 4 – Tyson Helsel, The Landings Club
No. 7 – Bert Totten, The Members Club at St. James
No. 12 – Roger Olmstead, Reedy Creek Golf Course
No. 17 – Dan Winters, Mimosa Hills Country Club – Grove Park Inn Getaway

Long Drive

Steve Neuliep, CGCS The Chattooga Club – Kiawah Island Resort Getaway



ADAM P. CHARLES
The Preserve at Verdae
Greenville, SC

Age: 34

Family: Wife, Amanda. Daughters Lucy 7, Caroline 6 and Olivia eight months.

Education: Bachelor of Science from Clemson University.

Prior volunteer professional service: Current vice-president of the Upstate Turfgrass Association. Joined that board four years ago.

Mentors and major influences on career: "Will Holroyd at Musgrove Mill Golf Club has been the biggest influence. But I also learned a lot working for Don Garrett, CGCS at the Walker Course at Clemson, Jeff Connell and Chuck Green when they were at Florence Country Club, Randy Long at Thornblade and Joe Kennedy, CGCS at what was then the Legends Club of Tennessee."



ANDREW S. RAMSEY
Cutter Creek Golf Club
Snow Hill, NC

Age: 35

Family: Wife, Bethany. Daughter, Sidney 6; son, Ben 3.

Education: Associate Degree in Turfgrass from North Carolina State University.

Prior volunteer professional service: Six years on Eastern North Carolina Turfgrass Association board of directors including the last two years as president.

Handicap: 5

Mentors and major influences on career: "Ross Fowler, director of golf at UNC Finley, Brian Powell, CGCS at Old Chatham Golf Club, David Dalton when he was at MacGregor Downs Country Club, and Kevin Smith, CGCS at Bryan Park Golf Course. And my wife, Bethany."



2011 CONFERENCE AND SHOW

CAROLINAS NIGHT



Todd Lawrence, CGCS from TPC at Wakefield Plantation; Lee Butler, from NC State University; Nicklaus Lentz, from Raleigh Golf Association; and Brian Green, from Morehead City Country Club.



Dave Wanta and Sharon DeWolfe, both with Jacobsen; and Tripp Cobb, from Tri-State Pump and Controls.



Carolinas GCSA director, Jeremy Boone, CGCS from Sequoyah National Golf Club; golf writer and former superintendent, Steven Tingle; with Kelly Boone.



Andrew Wampler, of Southern Ag.; GCSAA director, Bill Maynard, CGCS; and Gregory Roman, of Valent Professional Products.



Camilla and Matt Bilheimer, of Environmental Solutions; with Chris Mahoney, from High Vista Country Club, and wife, Jen.



Josh York, from Deep Springs Country Club; and Steven Griffith, from The Hasentree Club.



Peter Gerdon, from Grandfather Golf and Country Club; trades tales with Greg Clontz, from Pine Mountain Golf Course; and Carolinas GCSA staffers Kim Clark and Melissa Smith.



Brett Sullivan, from Highland Country Club; Matthew Carver, from Brushy Mountain Golf Club; Mike Rowe, from The Club at Longview; and Wayne O'Neill, from Gates Four Country Club.

27-HOLE CHALLENGE

Presented in partnership with John Deere Golf and Revels Turf and Tractor, Greenville Turf and Tractor and ShowTurf.

SUPERINTENDENT CHALLENGE

\$5000 Cash

Marty Stephenson, Colonial Country Club

iPad

Dan Saber, CGCS Pawleys Plantation
David Johnson, CGCS High Point Country Club
Jim Knaffle, CGCS International Club of Myrtle Beach
Max Morgan, CGCS Myrtle Beach National
Drew Ramsey, Cutter Creek Golf Club
Todd Lawrence, CGCS Wakefield Plantation
Bill Berst, C.T. Myers Golf Course

Scotty Cameron Putter

Charles Sheffield, Croasdaile Country Club
Gary Dacus, Rolling Green Country Club
Bruce Martin, Tanglewood Park
Timothy Lee, Cape Fear Country Club

iPod Touch

Brian Brown, Wrenwoods Golf Course
Gene Scarborough, Santee-Cooper Resort
Brice London, RiverTowne Country Club
Kevin Morgan, Crescent Pointe Golf Club

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT CHALLENGE

iPad

Jason Conner, Blackmoor Golf Club

iPod Touch

Eric Starr, Myrtle Beach National
Drayton Simpson, The Dunes Golf and Beach Club



27-Hole Challenge winner, Marty Stephenson, from Colonial Country Club, proudly displays his \$5,000 check surrounded by presenting partners from John Deere, Lon Fleming, Turner Revels and Al Hicks.



Turner Revels and Lon Fleming with assistant superintendent challenge winner, Jason Conner, from Blackmoor Golf Club, and Al Hicks.



Mike Willey won his first Carolinas GCSA sporting clays championship.

Sporting Clays

Presented in partnership with Bayer Environmental Science.

High Overall

Michael Willey, Arysta LifeScience 93

Runner-up

Scott Heath, Southern Wayne Country Club 89

First Flight

Brian Blanton, Forest City Municipal Golf Course 87

Second Flight

Buckley Brockmann, Washington Yacht and Country Club 75

Third Flight

Rodd Price, Carolina Green Sod 70

Fourth Flight

Ryan Hough, Carolina Fresh Farms 61

Fifth Flight

Michael Owen, DuPont Professional Products 47

National Association WORKS ON GIVING VALUE

By Bill Kennedy, CGCS

It was good to see many familiar faces among the 100 delegates attending GCSAA's 19th annual chapter delegates meeting this past fall. The other delegates and I split time between the headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas and the Kansas City airport. Delegates came from all over the country with roughly one-third of the group being first-timers. It was my second trip to the meeting on behalf of the Carolinas GCSA.

The meeting was very positive and the take home message was that GCSAA is providing its members some tremendous value. These values include the expansion of the field staff program, a new website, a 10-year review of the member standards and a long list of services provided by the GCSAA staff.

The field staff program divides the country into nine regions and is designed to provide a greater link between the association and its chapters. Four of the nine regions are currently staffed and there were to be an additional two staffed by the end of 2011. Our region, the southeast region, includes the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi. We are scheduled to be staffed by the end of 2012 with all regions represented by the end of 2013. Some of the services provided include strategic planning, advocacy, membership growth and allied association relations.

The GCSAA has completely redesigned the website and with the exception of some small technical problems everything is up and running. The website includes a new job board which is free to all members. There is also a new self-assessment tool available to members. There is an expanded social media presence as well as online forums to encourage more member communication. The site also offers online IPM planning, conference and show information, government relations action alerts and access to related websites. I recommend you give the site a visit and check it out.

The GCSAA board of directors has received complaints about our membership standards and the professional development

initiative (PDI). The overall feeling was that obtaining certification and retaining Class A status may have become too difficult. The board has established the member standards advisory group to revisit the decisions made 10 years ago. The group is an 11-member panel including certified golf course superintendents, Class A superintendents, superintendent members and Class C members.

The group is working completely independent of the board and will make their recommendation as soon as possible. In immediate response to the complaints, GCSAA is now offering webcast with CEU's free of charge to all members. In addition, any member is now eligible for certification as soon as they obtain Class A status.

I have touched on the major points of the meeting but in addition there are a few other benefits of membership I feel deserve noting. GCSAA has given us a voice on government and public relations. The association has purchased air-time on the Golf Channel to promote our image and help its viewers realize the value of superintendents in this industry. The association has partnered with our allied industries and put in place a plan to grow golf during the next decade. There has also been an emphasis on making travel and education as affordable as possible at the Golf Industry Show.

I am honored to be your chapter delegate and I hope the information provided is helpful. The delegates meeting consists of a very engaged group of GCSAA members and the dialogue is candid. I strongly suggest each of you use the GCSAA resources available and give feedback. GCSAA staff and board of directors are dedicated to proving the value of the association. I look forward to returning next year.

- Bill Kennedy is certified golf course superintendent at Chechessee Creek Club in Okatie, SC. ■



Bill Kennedy

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PALMETTO



From left, Jim Huntoon, Drayton Simpson, Scott Grumman, Matt Schrader, Scott Fretz, Kevin Thompkins, Jon Stewart and Dan Saber, CGCS with Habitat for Humanity's Gail Olive and a check for \$2,500.

We could not have asked for a better way to cap off our year. With temperatures in the 70s and a great turn-out, we had a great day of fellowship and golf at the Dunes Golf and Beach Club. I would like to thank Steve Hamilton, CGCS, Drayton Simpson, Dennis Nichol, PGA and their staff for providing a wonderful facility for our end-of-year cook out. We would also like to thank Jennifer Seevers, with Geoponics, for her efforts in collecting all the toys and providing the dinner table set-up and center-piece decorations.

With great appreciation to our sponsors, we would like to thank Coastal Floratine, Harrell's Fertilizers and Nash Oil for sponsoring the golf. Our prize package was sponsored by Carolina Sand and Geoponics. Beverage cart was sponsored by National Golf Graphics. Our format for this event was a Texas scramble using two thirds of each player's handicap. Gross winners were Jim Knaffle, CGCS, Jeff Johnson, Craig Shreiner and Joe Kobylarz. Net winners were Mike Bankert, Jon Stewart, Keith Sarvis and Jeff Fitcher. Closest to the pin: No. 9, Matt Schrader; No. 12, Dallas Chappell.

We would also like to thank Revels Turf and Tractor, Smith Turf and Irrigation and Vereens for providing the food after golf. With this being a free event for current Piedmont GCSA members, we always ask for everyone to bring a Toys for Tots donation. We collected over four boxes of donations for a truly wonderful cause. Thanks again to everyone for their donations.

We also gave out two \$500 scholarships this year. Our recipients for 2011 were: Grady Grumman, son of Scott Grumman, and John Shaver, son of John Shaver. Both fathers were on hand to receive the scholarship checks. We hope that they can put these funds to good use in furthering their sons' education. Once again we gave \$2,500 to Habitat for Humanity continuing our long history of support for this wonderful charity.

Thanks to all of our vendor sponsors for helping us have such a great year in 2011. We look forward to a great year in 2012.

- Kevin Thompkins, True Blue Plantation (843) 235-0900.

NORTH-SOUTH

Happy New Year! For the second time our annual Christmas Party was at Chimas Brazilian Steakhouse in downtown Charlotte, NC in December. Thanks to all who attended. It was an enjoyable evening and we ate too much.

Congratulations to Sarah Gilmore, daughter of Kenny Gilmore, on winning the 2011 North-South Turfgrass Association scholarship. We wish her every success in her studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. Go Tar-Heels.

Thanks to Stonebridge Golf Club in Monroe, NC for hosting our last outing of 2011, the annual members tournament. Superintendent, Jake Stewart, and his assistant, Grant Hinson, did a phenomenal job and had the course in excellent shape. We played a two ball-best ball format as usual. Dave Dettmer, CGCS of John Deere Golf, and Daryl Ewing, from Carolina Lakes Golf Club, emerged victorious in the gross division with a fine round of 66.

Daryl pulled off a double by being elected as a director at the annual business meeting earlier in the day. Kevin Lutz, from Carmel Country Club was also elected. Many thanks to Allen McCurry, of Agri-Business Technologies, and Jay Reins, CGCS of Green Resource, who ran but were narrowly beaten. It's a credit to our association that we had four candidates willing to serve for two open positions. The new board of directors for 2012 is: Chris Fortnum, president; Eric Dusa, past-president; Matthew Wharton, vice-president; Jason Bradley, treasurer; Rick Henderson, secretary; directors, Scott Kennon, CGCS; Scott Cook; Kevin Lutz; Daryl Ewing.

With these fine gentlemen serving I am confident our association will have a successful 2012 "in spite" of my presidency. Our contact information is at the Carolinas GCSA website under the North-South TA tab. We encourage members to contact us with thoughts and concerns.

Please plan to attend our education day in February. Details will be e-mailed soon. Last but not least we would like to thank all our sponsors for their support in 2011. We could not operate without you. - Chris Fortnum, Raintree Country Club (704) 543-9467.

EASTERN NC

Hoping everyone had a safe and happy holiday and I am personally looking forward to the New Year. I would like to thank Josh Stutts, Bill Jones and Stanley Elliott, CGCS for all of their hard work and dedication for the past two years as former board members. I would also like to give a special thank you to Drew Ramsey as our out-going president. We appreciate your commitment and service. I'm sure Drew will provide excellent service in his new role as a director with the Carolinas GCSA.

Coming onto our board are Andy Ipock, Roger Olmstead, Jonathan Richardson and Brian Green as vice-president. I look forward to working with the board and serving the Eastern North Carolina Turfgrass Association members. Our annual pesticide meeting is in February at Wayne Community College. We'll have great speakers and you will be able to pick up some valuable pesticide points and CEUs. Hope to see you there.

- Richard Williams, Falling Creek Country Club (252) 522-4967.

SANDHILLS

Before I chronicle the fall events for the Sandhills Golf Course Superintendents Association, I would like to thank Morgan Stephenson on behalf of our entire membership. Morgan has truly been an invaluable asset, contributing to the growth of the Sandhills GCSA and his tireless efforts will be missed. Thanks Morgan for all you have done for us.

The onset of fall gave us time to reacquaint ourselves with our Sandhills GCSA brethren and membership. Our first opportunity to reunite took place during the always wildly popular "Skeet and Greet" session at Sandhills Turf Farm. As usual, Mark Harris and his staff treated the association to another great day of marksmanship, golf, good food and great companionship. Mark and his crew also handed out an assortment of tremendous raffle items including five pallets of sod and Carolina Panthers tickets. Thanks again Mark, for a great time and

your continued support of our association.

Another thing as welcome as the first frost was the annual occurrence of the assistant and crew member tournament at Seven Lakes Country Club with host superintendent Scott Clawson. The tournament was highlighted by pristine conditions, slick greens and the legendary putting contest. The aforementioned contest featured a duel between two of the area's premier ball rollers, Josh Weston and Nathan Lung. After a tit-for-tat battle, that saw both men take the lead at some point, the putt-off ended in a draw. Thanks again to Scott and his staff for a wonderful day and beautiful golf course.

The last event of our "Fall Brawl" was the heavily attended and well sponsored fundraiser at Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club. Keith Osterman and his crew provided us with immaculate conditions at the classic Gene Hamm layout. The captain's choice tournament finished with two ►

TRIANGLE

The Triangle Turfgrass Association hopes everyone in the Carolinas has had a very safe and enjoyable holiday season. It won't be long before we are back into a full golf schedule along with our agronomic practices in providing the finest conditions we are capable of. As we jump into 2012, we would like to recognize and thank some very special individuals that helped us finish off our 2011 season.



Triangle TA champion golfer, Ron Hall, and trophy.

Congratulations to Ron Hall from Divots Inc. on winning our annual golf championship at Bentwinds Country Club. The host superintendent, Keith Roberson, provided outstanding conditions as he does for his entire membership throughout the year.

Thank you to Bob Young, CGCS with Carolina Country Club for hosting our annual Christmas party. It was and will continue to be an excellent tradition. The Triangle TA is looking forward to our annual pesticide conference held at Prestonwood Country Club in February.

I want to thank all of our membership, vendors and industry partners for supporting the association on a local and state wide level. A special thank you to past and present Triangle TA members for all of their time and effort. It will be my privilege and pleasure to represent the Triangle TA as president for 2012. I wish everyone a healthy and lucrative 2012.

- Joe York, North Ridge Country Club (919) 669-1852.



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championship teams, Divots Inc. - low gross, and Revels Turf and Tractor and Beacon Ridge - low net. Kurt Osterman continued his annual mastery of the long drive contest while John Jeffries and Dean Allgeyer took home closest to the pin honors. This is the second event Keith and his crew has hosted and the already-great golf course just keeps getting better. Great job Keith. The association would also like to thank all of our great vendors and members who donated gifts and their time to make the fundraiser a success.

By the time this is published, the annual Eastern Turf Equipment and Syngenta fellowship breakfast and raffle at Mid Pines Resort was to have taken place. Adam Ancherico and Dave Fruchte, CGCS always host a wonderful event and the association is grateful for the opportunity to tag along.

Lastly, the association is proud to announce the recipients of our annual scholarship and essay contest. Tim Phelan and Walter Hare were selected from a great group of applicants. Great job guys, and best of luck in the future.
- Randy Hilburn, *Whispering Woods Golf Club* (910) 690-5178.

COASTAL PLAINS

One year down, one more to go. I had a very enjoyable first year as president and I am looking forward to another. We had some very successful events this past year. We played the Midlands TA and Lowcountry GCSA in chapter challenges. It was the first time we had a chapter challenge with the Midlands in a couple of years but it was good to play those guys again. I hope we can keep it up again this year. It was the first time since 2006

that the Coastal Plains GCSA took the cup from the Low-country guys and we don't plan on giving it back anytime soon.

I would like to encourage everyone once again to pay your dues for the upcoming year as soon as possible. We have some really good events planned for the year and would like the participation level to be higher than last. I would also like to encourage more assistant superintendents to participate in events. February will be our first event of the year at Turtle Point on Kiawah Island.

I would also like to thank all of our vendors for their support throughout the year and encourage them to keep supporting the association. Thank you for all the support as president this year and look forward to another year. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

- Nick Price, *Seabrook Island Club* (843) 768-7546.

PIEDMONT

Early December we held our annual business and social meeting at Forest Oaks Country Club in Greensboro. We elected a new board of directors and unwound from a long but overall successful season. Our turn out for the event was great with about 50 people gathering for good food and fun. The elections went off without a hitch and the new board was voted in unanimously:

President, Brent Gentel, Starmount Forest Country Club; vice-president, Chris DeVane, Forsyth Country Club; secretary, Scott Fallon, Bermuda Run Country Club; treasurer, Jeff Corn, Smith Turf and Irrigation; directors - David Johnson, CGCS High Point Country Club; Ryan Sudano, Grandover Resort; Gary Stafford, Cardinal Chemical; ►

UPSTATE



Upstate TA president, Kyle Traynham; golf champion, Jeff Stover; and host superintendent, Craig Harris.



Craig Harris, senior champion Steve Currie and Kyle Traynham.

Our fourth annual Upstate Turfgrass Association oyster roast at the Embassy Suites and The Preserve at Verdae in Greenville, SC in December was our most successful yet with over 50 attendees. New Carolinas GCSA director, Adam Charles, was our host at Verdae and everyone agrees this is a great place for a great event. We want to publicly thank Larry Feller and Syngenta for donating the shrimp boil supplies, not to mention Larry's culinary skills. We would also like to thank new sponsor Dixie Tire and T. J. Walsh for donating the oysters for this year's event.

We also hosted our first vendor appreciation lunch in December, at Tommy's Ham House in downtown Greenville. Our board reached out to as many of our past sponsors as possible and hosted a lunch at one of Greenville's famous southern cuisine restaurants. This lunch went over quite well with our industry partners and we are hoping to continue it in the future.

Congratulations to Jeff Stover, From Summersett Golf Club on winning our annual championship at Greenville Country Club's Chanticleer course this past fall. Jeff shot a great round of 79 in terrible weather. Our senior champion was Steve Currie, from Willow Creek Golf Club. Craig Harris and Chuck Connolly were excellent host superintendents for the event. Our annual meeting and lunch was held at the Riverside course.

Our board of directors is excited about 2012; we have a full slate of educational meetings, golf outings, and social events that our whole association should enjoy.

- Paul Brandenburg, *CGCS Furman University Golf Course* (864) 294-2060.

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Matt Ayer, Forest Oaks Country Club; tournament director, Russell Hill, Grandover Resort; past-president, Keith Wood, Sedgefield Country Club.

We also had a great time and the social atmosphere was as happy as I had seen it in years. As I looked around the room all night I was overwhelmed with the laughter and smiles that I saw from everyone there. We just went through a brutal growing season yet everyone seemed happy; or maybe just relieved that the winter was here.

Probably the best story of the night came when we raffled off gift cards for participating in events throughout the year. We had one member of our association participate in every single event and before we started the raffle, we mentioned this as his chances of winning were better than anyone else's. When the name of Peter Ash, from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, was drawn, the room erupted in applause and cheers as we all had hoped that he would win. He took home a \$250 gift card from Best Buy and Brooks Turner, from Greensboro Country Club, won a \$750 gift card from Best Buy.

As we begin a new year, please be on the lookout for dues notices. They should be arriving in your mailboxes mid-January. Also please visit our web site at www.pgcsa.net and follow us on Facebook at Piedmont GCSA to get the latest. The new board is already working hard to get the 2012 schedule ironed out and will be looking to all of you to participate in the all the events we have planned.

- Brent Gentel, Starmount Forest Country Club (336) 292-9723.

LOWCOUNTRY

It was another good growing season and year in the Lowcountry. Even though the economic situation has not been the greatest our membership levels have stayed up and our sponsors have hung in with their support. Thanks to all of our members for attending our events and helping make things a success in 2011.

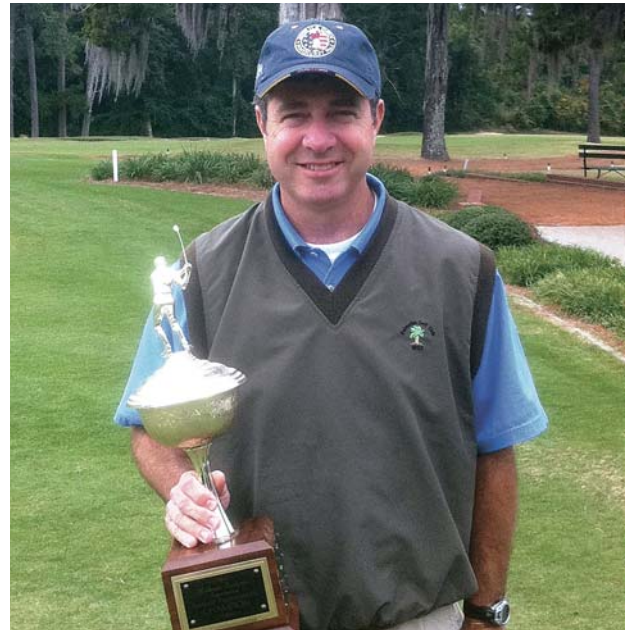
We had our season ending event early December at Savannah Golf Club. Thanks, to Mike Carn and the entire staff both inside and outside for hosting such a great event. It is our best-attended event and I know everyone looks forward to it each and every year. Gross division winners were Matt Fitzpatrick, Chris Houdak, Adam Leskle and Ryan Leskle. Carey Stoffel, Tony Nimmer, Bill Hirschert and Mark Vogler won the net division with Brian Bowles, Seth Zeigler, Don Fletcher and Terry Lenox finishing second. Russ Zamostney won the long drive and Chris Houdak, Tonny Nimmer, Stave Biduad and Brian Bowles all won closest to the pin prizes.

Be on the lookout for news of an educational event at Hampton Hall Club on January 11.

We would like to thank our sponsors for 2011: Diamond - Coastal Florantine Inc., Precision Laboratories, ShowTurf; Gold - John Deere Landscapes, Nimmer Turf, Smith Turf and Irrigation, Vereens, Taylors Quality Landscape Supply. Silver - Simmons Irrigation, Bayer, Tri-State Pump and Controls.

- Rick Barnes, Hidden Cypress Golf Club (843) 705-4076.

MIDLANDS



Midlands TA champion golfer, Rhett Baker.

Congratulations to the 2011 Midlands Turfgrass Association champion golfer, Rhett Baker. Rhett successfully defended his title on Halloween at his course, Palmetto Golf Club in Aiken, SC. Rhett managed to survive a "scary" day where three- and four-putts were common. Local knowledge of Palmetto's slick greens proved to be very helpful.

Our year-end party was held at Ponderosa Country Club in Batesburg. It is always fun visiting Ponderosa. Dean Bedenbaugh and his crew may be just as talented cooking as they are cutting grass. The weather worked out perfectly for an afternoon scramble captained by long-time Midlands TA member Squirrel Schultz.

The only bad part of the day was that it marked the end of an era ... my presidency. Unfortunately, the board - who jokingly referred to me as "Obama" - felt that one term was enough. It is my hope that I was at least able to provide "some change you can believe in" before exiting the stage. It is my privilege to pass the honor of the presidency to Spring Valley's Chris McKenzie. Jim Young, of Columbia Country Club, will take over as vice-president with Clark Cox and Sam Friar returning as board members.

We would like to thank past-president, Troy Thrall, from Charwood Country Club, and board members Scott Crouch, from Mid Carolina Golf Club, and Sandy Smith, from Golden Hills Golf Club, for their service. With their departure we welcome three new board members in Mark Swygert, from Lexington Country Club, Jeff Gattis, from Houndslake Golf Club, and Robert Rogers, of Golf Agronomics.

- Rob Daniel, CGCS Members Club at Woodcreek Farms (803) 865-8785.



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GREEN START ACADEMY PROVIDES EDUCATION



Susana Milla-Lewis, PhD, left, tells Green Start Academy attendees about the turfgrass breeding program at North Carolina State's turfgrass field laboratory.

Assistant superintendents from across the continent came together to network, attend roundtables and participate in professional development sessions with industry leaders at the annual Green Start Academy. The 2011 academy was hosted at Bayer CropScience's Technical Training Center in Clayton, NC and North Carolina State University's Turfgrass Field Laboratory.

Attendees also learned about John Deere Golf and Bayer CropSciences' roles in the golf industry, and top trends and issues shaping the golf industry today. There were a number of attendees from North and South Carolina among the 50 assistant superintendents invited, including:

Michael Gore, The Reserve Club at St. James Plantation, Southport, NC
 Christian Drake, Highlands Country Club, Highlands, NC
 Eric Long, Laurel Ridge Country Club, Waynesville, NC
 Matthew MacAskill, Blowing Rock Country Club, Blowing Rock, NC
 Rodney Robbins, Pinehurst No. 8, Pinehurst, NC
 Ryan McLeod, Crowfield Golf and Country Club, Goose Creek, SC.

The three-day event presented assistant superintendents with opportunity for learning, networking and growth, leaving many inspired and equipped with valuable insight to take back to their home courses.

A sampling from a long list of speakers included Bob Farren, CGCS from Pinehurst Resort; Pat Finlen, CGCS from The Olympic Club in San Francisco; Henry DeLozier, of Global Golf Advisors; Paul Grogan, CGCS from TPC Deere Run; Stan Zontek, USGA Green Section; Greg Lyman, The Environmental Institute for Golf.

ROBERTSON NOW WITH BUY SOD



John Robertson

Buy Sod Corporation announces that John Robertson has accepted the position of regional sales manager for the company's golf and sports turf market segments.

Robertson will be responsible for sales and marketing to the golf and sports turf markets in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. He will also manage the company's wholesale landscape business in Virginia.

Robertson graduated from Campbell University in Buies Creek, NC with a degree in Business Administration and North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC with a degree in Turfgrass Management. Prior to accepting this position, he served as a territory and regional sales manager in sod distribution, golf-residential-commercial irrigation and as an assistant golf course superintendent. He has 20 years of experience in the turfgrass industry. He can be reached at (804) 337-0703 or at jrobertson@buysod.com.

REES JONES TOASTS CARMEL REDESIGN

Carmel Country Club celebrated the redesign of its South Course in the fall with a visit from golf course architect, Rees Jones. Jones played the course during a media day to introduce the course which reopened back in March.

Carmel's director of greens and grounds, Bill Anderson, CGCS says, "We built a beautifully designed course with exceptional drainage and irrigation that will enhance playing conditions for many years to come." The new South Course plays at 7,503 yards from championship tees.

The course was originally designed by Ellis Maples in 1964 and is one of two 18-hole courses at Carmel, a private country club founded in 1947. After several cosmetic refurbishments by Rees Jones over the years, club leadership determined it was time to completely redesign

the course. They hired Rees Jones and through the club's 2010 president, Ted Barnes, gave him "carte blanche to build the best course possible."

Carmel added 88 new members in 2011 and new course was cited as a significant factor in that success.

FOND FAREWELL



The Nationwide Tour championship week was dedicated to the memory of Gary McBride.

PGA Tour officials won some friends at Daniel Island Club in Charleston, SC last fall during the Nationwide Tour Championship. The championship was a bitter sweet event for certified golf course superintendent and Carolinas GCSA past-president, Michael Fabrizio. Once again it was a chance to showcase their work on national television but for the first time they would be doing so without head equipment technician, Gary McBride. McBride died in August but his memory was honored with a dedication on an electronic scoreboard.

"I thought it was pretty cool what the PGA Tour did in Gary's memory," Fabrizio says.

E-VERIFY NOW FOR ALL IN SC

Amendments to the "South Carolina Illegal Immigration and Reform Act" require all employers to enroll in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system beginning January 1, 2012. The law now requires employers to verify the legal status of all new employees through E-Verify within three business days. Failure to enroll in and use E-Verify to verify new hires will result in probation for the employer or suspension or revocation of the employer's business licenses.

In addition to completing and maintaining the federal employment eligibility verification form, more commonly known as the Form I-9, all South Carolina employers must within three business days after employing a new employee, verify the employee's work authorization through the E-Verify federal work authorization program. Employers may no longer confirm a new employee's employment authorization with a driver's license or state identification card.

E-Verify is a free Internet-based system maintained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. E-Verify compares the information an employee provides on Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, against millions of government records maintained by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social

Security Administration. The database generally provides results in three to five seconds. If the information matches, the employee is eligible to work in the United States. If there's a mismatch, E-Verify will alert the employer and the employee will be allowed to work while he or she resolves the problem.

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (LLR) is charged with investigating complaints and conducting random audits of private employers to assure compliance.

To enroll in E-Verify, go to www.dhs.gov/e-verify.

ROB MACKIE WINS EMPLOYEE OF YEAR



Rob Mackie, left, with his employee of the year trophy and Dunes West general manager, Rich Rankin.

Rob Mackie, golf course superintendent at Dunes West Golf Club in Charleston, SC is the Charleston Golf Course Owners Association's employee of the year for 2011. ►

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Mackie is in his 10th year at Dunes West and received glowing praise from the club's general manager, Rich Rankin, in the letter nominating him for the award.

Rankin praised Mackie's work ethic which he described as "second to none." He also praised Mackie's "care and attention to detail" which he said was apparent to all golfers during a round. In particular, Rankin cited Mackie's success in delivering "exceptional playing conditions" while meeting the dual goals of lowering costs and improving environmental stewardship.

"One of his greatest assets is his outward appearance of calmness and togetherness he portrays in the face of adversity," Rankin wrote. "He does not get rattled and this ability serves him well. While faced with a crisis he is able to rally his staff and keep them calm and focused while solving problems.

"Rob has shown over the years to be a leader and teacher of his craft. He has created a positive working environment while developing maintenance practices that continually evolve to create improved playing conditions year in and year out at Dunes West."

TURFGRASS SERVICE ENTERS 30TH YEAR



Dr. Leon Lucas

The Carolinas Golf Association's turfgrass service enters its 30th year and marked the fact with a letter to clubs and courses in the region. The letter from the association's agronomist, Dr. Leon Lucas, cites various reasons for employing what he describes as "a very affordable" service. Lucas, a past winner of the Carolinas GCSA Distinguished Service Award, says the service generally entails a two-to-six hour visit with the golf course superintendent and other course officials. "I then make realistic evaluations and recommendations for that course and their budget," he wrote. "My visits are followed with written reports on the discussed turf-related problems."

Lucas became the CGA agronomist in 1998 after finishing his tenure as professor in plant pathology at North Carolina State University. There he succeeded long-time friend and colleague, Dr. Carl Blake, who also won the Carolinas GCSA Distinguished Service Award. Now Lucas visits about 100 clubs and courses each year.

"Why would you want the service?" he asked in his letter. "The last two winters and summers are a good reason. Often a visit is requested because of a serious turfgrass problem or perhaps because of a communication barrier that exists at the club. We realize that many times the superintendent is providing the best turf conditions possible with the resources that are available. It seems that a letter from a third party explaining the situation helps to solve some of these problems."

Lucas pointed out that the CGA agronomy service was separate from the USGA Green Section's turfgrass advisory service. "We are not attempting to compete with each other," he wrote. "Instead we offer two viable options from which to choose."

To speak with Leon Lucas about the CGA turfgrass service, call (919) 779-3241 or (919) 604-4813. He can be reached by email at leon.lucas@carolinascgolf.org.

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■ Our Cup Runneth Over ... the Edge of the Fairway

Some of the most talented players among golf course superintendents from the Carolinas GCSA and the Virginia GCSA compete each year in the Virlina Cup. But even the best have bad moments. Please note that names of those pictured have been withheld to protect the innocent. Clearly they suffered enough.



■ Don't Cry for Me ...

Carolinas GCSA members have a reputation for excellence which is why men like Butch Sheffield, CGCS from North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh was invited to speak at a conference in Japan the other year. Recently, another Carolinas GCSA past-president, Jeff Connell, from Fort Jackson Golf Club in Columbia, SC was invited to speak to golf course superintendents in Argentina.

We can't vouch for how much anyone learned from his presentation but we know they got a laugh at least. Included amongst the hard science and real world results were a few light-hearted moments to help keep the audience attentive. The levity included a photo from a pre-renovation tournament at Vesper Country Club in Tyngsboro, MA where the golf course superintendent sunk coolers full of beer into greens for a course-closing tournament (see photo). Connell also included photos of some miracle products of his own devising, which is to say he's created the labels but the products themselves are still some way off (see photos).

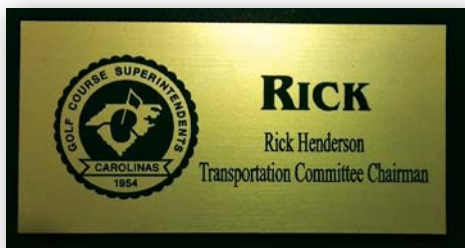


Golfers enjoy a cold beverage during a tournament before these greens were torn up for renovation.



Read 'em and weep. Jeff Connell developed the labels for these miracle products but unfortunately the products don't exist.

Taxi Anyone?



Rick Henderson and a close-up of the badge he wore so proudly.

Rick Henderson, from Skybrook Golf Club in Huntersville, NC can take a laugh and even keep a joke going at his own expense. You may recall Henderson was the subject of a case of mistaken identity earlier this year as Carolinas golf industry leaders met in the foyer of a Raleigh hotel before heading to NC Golf Day festivities. He is a member of the Carolinas GCSA's government relations committee but when Chuck Borman saw him approach that day, he thought Henderson was the bus driver. Which explains why Henderson proudly paraded around the convention center during Conference and Show recently with a name badge and the title "Transportation Committee Chairman."

Proud as Punch I

There's no doubting the honor Chuck Borman felt in accepting the Distinguished Service Award during Conference and Show in November but the crystal wasn't his only source of pride that week. Shortly before, his granddaughter Allea Hawkins, 16, of Hendersonville, NC finished runner-up in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 1A/2A women's golf championships at Longleaf Golf and Country Club in Southern Pines. With rounds of 77 and 81 on a 5,800-yard layout, she finished just one shot back of the winner and helped the Hendersonville High School girls finish fifth in their first outing at the championships.

Proud as Punch 2



Ron Hall with grandson, Dalton Mauldin, after the youngster's hole-in-one.

Ron Hall still hits the ball well enough these days to draw some grumbles when he strides up to the senior tees. In fact he was a big winner in the Triangle Turfgrass Association's championship recently. But Hall, from Carolina Lakes Golf Course, and owner of Divots Inc., was glad to be upstaged recently by grandson, Dalton Mauldin, during a round before Conference and Show. Playing True Blue Plantation alongside his grandfather and Carolinas GCSA past-president, Joel Ratcliff, CGCS Dalton, 12, showed up the old guys with a birdie on the par four 13th then an ace with an eight-iron on the par three 14th.

Broke Back Fallin'

Longtime Carolinas GCSA member, Johnny Burns, CGCS from Carolina Country Club in Spartanburg, SC is back at work after a nasty fall. Burns was working on the roof of a lean-to at home when it opened up beneath him, dumping him head and shoulders first on the ground 12 feet below. Burns broke his L1 and L4 vertebrae and spent the next 10 weeks in a brace.

He was back at work part-time within two weeks and soon resumed full duties. As of late November his biggest frustration was still not being able to play golf. Doctors say that will have to wait until spring. Still Burns knows he was lucky and his many friends in golf are glad he was too.

Too Sexy for My Voice

Here's one award that wasn't given out at Conference and Show but we are more than happy to announce here. The winner of the "Sexiest Voice in the Carolinas GCSA"



Russell "Dulcet Tones" Hill

for 2011 goes to Russell Hill, golf course superintendent at Grandover Resort in Greensboro, NC. Hill's title, which does not come with a trophy, was determined after one of his many phone calls to the Carolinas GCSA offices. One staffer - not Tim Kreger by the way - hung up the phone, sighed, and declared Hill the winner of a contest no one else in the office new existed. Congratulations Russell!

Move Over Arnie

Will be interesting to see how Gary Dacus performs with the new Scotty Cameron putter he won in the 27-Hole Challenge at Conference and Show in November. It's the first new one he's owned since getting his beloved Arnold Palmer putter as an 18-year-old. Given that Dacus is now 50, the issue might be not whether he likes the new club but whether he can bring himself to bag the old one.

There Today ...

Kudos to Jason Higingbottom with Harrell's Fertilizers for his keen eye spotting a familiar face in the crowd during one *Today* show telecast earlier this year. Higingbottom spied Carolinas GCSA local association coordinator, Kim Clark, waving a Happy Birthday placard. Clark was in New York with daughter, Kimberly, as part of a special 16th birthday trip. Higingbottom was surprised to see Clark but not as surprised as she was when he called a few days later to say he'd seen her on national television. If only she'd turned that sign around a few times so millions could have seen the message on the other side promoting Rounds4Research.com.

SYMPATHIES FOR HARMON FAMILY

Members of the Carolinas GCSA extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Roger Lee Harmon, 69, who died November 29, 2011, at HCR Manor Care, in Pinehurst, NC. Harmon worked many years as a golf course superintendent and most recently worked as a civilian with the U.S. Army. Born July 4, 1942, in Ahoskie, to the late Anne Lee Holland and Lynwood Harmon, he is survived by two sons, Chad Harmon and wife, Ingrid, of Garner, and Chris Harmon and wife, Barbara, of Myrtle Beach, SC; grandsons Alexander, Benjamin and David Harmon; brother Gene Harmon and wife, Marsha, of Pinehurst; nieces Shelley and Cindy; and nephew, Tommy. He was predeceased by his wife, Diane Harmon.

Online condolences may be made at www.bolesfuneralhome.com.

OUR FRIENDS

Martin J. Acker, CGCS, formerly with Whispering Woods Golf Club, Whispering Pines, NC is now at Longleaf Golf and Country Club, Southern Pines, NC.

David C. Bentley, CGCS, formerly with Innsbrook Golf and Marina, Merry Hill, NC is now superintendent at Scotch Hall Preserve, Merry Hill, NC.

Christopher Bezgela, formerly with Keith Hills Golf Club, Buies Creek, NC is now assistant superintendent at Chicora Country Club, Dunn, NC.

Allison Butler, formerly with Quail Creek Golf Club, Conway, SC is now superintendent at The Hackler Course at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC.

Richard D. Kalb, formerly with Legacy Golf Links, Aberdeen, NC is now assistant superintendent at Dormie Club, West End, NC.

Jaime Matthews, has been promoted to superintendent at Wexford Plantation Golf Club, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Aaron D. Nolan, formerly with Sun City Carolina Lakes Golf Course, Lancaster, SC is now with Westport Golf Club, Denver, NC.


Marc Petrus, formerly with Phoenix Environmental Care, Valdosta, GA is now with Innovative Turf Services, Rockville, VA.

Dean Sparks, has been promoted to superintendent at TPC at Piper Glen, Charlotte, NC.

Christopher D. Reid, formerly with Ocean Point Golf Links - Fripp Island, Beaufort, SC is now assistant superintendent at Greensboro Country Club, Greensboro, NC.

Brook P. Vickery, formerly with Avestra Golf Management, Pinehurst, NC is now with Golf Club of Southern Pines, Pinehurst, NC.

Joel Whitley, formerly with Wilderness Trail Golf Resort and Spa, Banner Elk, NC is now superintendent at Mountain Glen Golf Club, Newland, NC.



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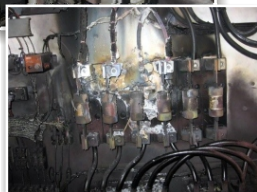
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