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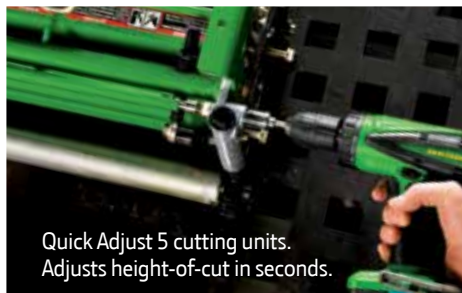
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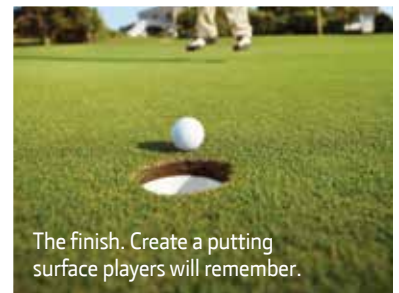
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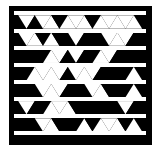
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# CAROLINAS green



**Cover photo:**  
 Matt Lovell, CGCS is master of the greens at Rumbling Bald and a guitar man on stage after hours.

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## The Carolinas GCSA Spirit is Worthy of our Diamond Year



Carolinas GCSA government relations counsel in North Carolina, Chris Valauri, and president, Brian Powell, CGCS talk with Adam Ancherico, of Eastern Turf Equipment, during a break in the annual USGA Green Section regional conference in Pinehurst, NC.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Carolinas GCSA. In a marriage, that would be marked as a diamond anniversary. Diamond comes from the Greek word *adamas* which means unconquerable and enduring. I think they are two words that certainly apply to the Carolinas GCSA at this point in our association's history. And we have a right to be proud of that.

We all know just how tough recent years have been. The recession was a brutal experience for many people across the globe, not just in the U.S. As a recreational activity, for most of the people who play our courses and belong to our clubs, golf was particularly hard hit. It wasn't just a case of trimming the fat. So many people had to cut so much from their family budgets that rounds and memberships fell to such an extent that courses closed. In some cases, they continue to do so.

Of course we've endured our share of that pain here in the Carolinas. As wonderful as the golf industry can be to belong to, it comes with no guarantees for

anyone. You can take a look at the cover photo from the January-February issue of *Carolinas Green* 10 years ago to see for yourself. After what was described as "phenomenal growth" at another successful Conference and Show, the cover shows 13 broadly smiling Carolinas GCSA board members. But if you look closely and do a little inventory, some interesting numbers begin to take shape.

Here is the most striking number, I think. Of those 13 men, only five are still golf course superintendents today. A sixth is a general manager but even counting him, that's more than half of the 2004 board of directors who are no longer in the profession this association was formed to promote. Only three of those remaining superintendents are still at the same facility and one of those courses seems likely to close before long.

Inside that issue of the magazine was a story headlined: "Turfgrass funding under microscope." It begins with the following sentence: "Golf course superintendents in the Carolinas are under increasing pressure to raise their hand in the future

of turfgrass research funding." The story details how the Governor in South Carolina was getting ready to cut the state budget by 40 percent and how the Carolinas GCSA donated \$7,500 to the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina to help keep government relations counsel Sam Lang present in Raleigh on behalf of the green industry.

So think about that for a moment. 10 years ago we knew turfgrass research funding was drying up on one side of the border and golf was in danger of losing its voice – which even then was only a shared one – in government matters on the other. Yet here we sit, a decade on, despite the major turmoil the industry has gone through, despite the major overhaul in personnel on our board and within our association, but in some ways we are stronger than ever.

We launched Rounds4Research that has now generated hundreds of thousands of dollars for golf turfgrass research. The program was so successful it has now gone national. Talk about raising our hand! We also have our own government relations counsel, purely for golf, not just in North Carolina but also in South Carolina. Talk about being part of the solution! The war for funding and to be heard in the halls of government will never be won and done. But we are in the arena and equipped for battle for years to come.

Those achievements, in addition to the continued "phenomenal" success of our Conference and Show, are a credit to many, many people in this association. So while the names and faces may change, I think we have every right in this anniversary year to celebrate the spirit of the Carolinas GCSA which continues to be as "unconquerable" and "enduring" as diamonds themselves. ■

*Brian Powell*



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## Life's Fortunes Often Dictated By a Very, Very Fine Line



The late and proud Chuck Tyner with one of his two daughters, Callie, who received a Bennett-Maples Scholarship last year.

Anyone who has kept up with the “funniest” stories section of our weekly member profiles on the Carolinas GCSA website knows that things go wrong on golf courses. Actually, if you are in the golf course maintenance profession you don’t need to read those tales to know that things go wrong. Your own experience likely taught you that a long time ago. Fortunately, most of the time we get to walk away from whatever happened and talk about it later.

But not always. Recently, I wrote a check to the family of a long-time Carolinas GCSA member who tragically lost his life working on the golf course. Charles “Chuck” Tyner died when the tractor he was driving overturned at Fox Creek Golf Course in Lydia, SC. The Darlington County coroner found that the tractor had a load of sand at a bunker when it flipped. A newspaper report stressed the coroner’s finding that the incident was “not caused by a health-related issue.”

The check to the Tyner family was from the Carolinas GCSA benevolence fund, which exists to support member families in times of loss, illness or other distress. Of course, no amount of money can compensate for the loss of a loved one. But hopefully there is some comfort in knowing that the Carolinas GCSA is part of the extended family of all our

members. In my time with the Carolinas GCSA I have written a number of checks from the benevolence fund but rarely in such tragic circumstances.

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*“It’s about staying away from that very, very fine line of whether we walk away or we don’t.”*

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The nature of Chuck Tyner’s passing left me with a thought that I have had trouble shaking off since. It seems there is a very, very fine line between a lot of those stories on the member profiles and paying the ultimate price. Many of those stories involve machinery tipping over or disappearing into a lake with the worst injury being little more than a bruised ego. How differently might some of those tales have ended had a split-second decision gone the other way?

On the whole, golf course maintenance is a very safe profession. But at the same time it is potentially very dangerous. With heavy machinery, cutting devices and chemicals involved, the stakes can quickly become very high. Fortunately, high quality training coupled with constantly improving

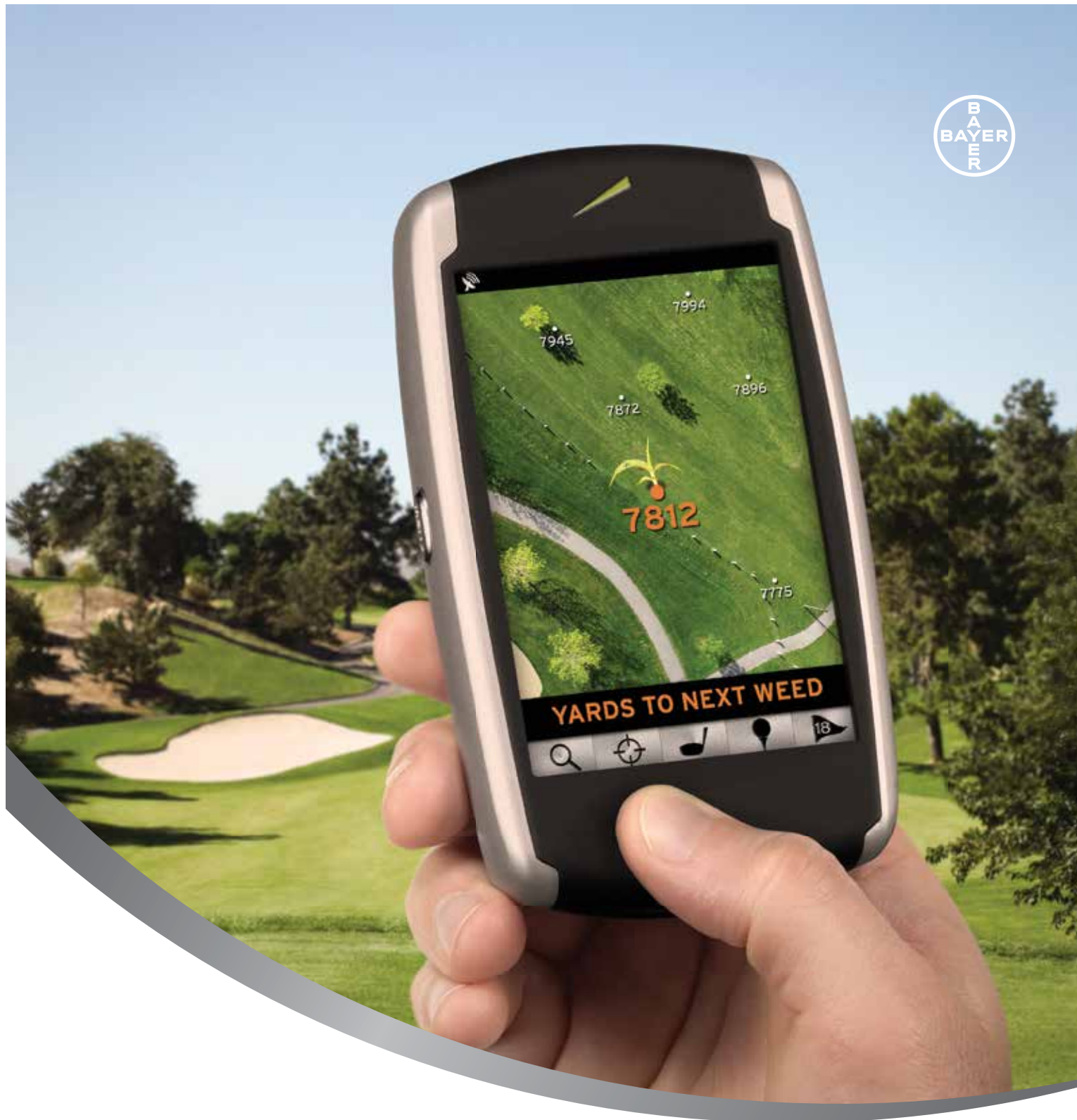
safety systems means the vast majority of activity on golf courses goes off without a hitch or when something does go wrong, the impact is minor.

Sadly there are exceptions. And that is what sticks with me, the fact that everything can be rolling along so smoothly one moment and then a tick of the clock later lives are changed forever. Accidents happen every day in every profession. We don’t have total control over anything. Consider the ill-fated Malaysian Airlines flight 370 for example. Think of all the safety systems in place there yet a massive piece of equipment and 239 people ostensibly disappeared.

All we can do is give ourselves the best possible chance of avoiding accidents in the first place. It’s about staying away from that very, very fine line of whether we walk away or we don’t.

Spring is a wonderful time in golf. The grass is growing again and golfers have their appetite back. Superintendents and their crews are busy keeping up. Demands are higher than ever to do more with less. That places pressure on everybody in all sorts of ways. We work more hours, try to be quicker at what we do, and so on. Superintendents, by nature, are problem solvers. They pride themselves on finding a way to get the job done, regardless of the obstacles.

I don’t know the circumstances that led to Chuck Tyner’s accident. But I do know that we mourn his loss and grieve for his family. In the weeks, months and years ahead, I urge everyone to remember just how fine that line can be. Please do all you can to make sure you and those you work with stay on the right side of it. ■



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# The Importance of Being Pinehurst



Pat Jones

It's been a generally crappy beginning to the 2014 golf season nationwide. Snow, ice, sleet, rain...you name it. It's been a particularly ugly few months here in Ohio but – hey – it's Cleveland and we get what we deserve.

The long awful winter made me particularly happy to be invited to speak at March's USGA Green Section regional conference at Pinehurst, NC. The weather wasn't perfect but at least it wasn't snowing.

I was genuinely honored, but also a little terrified, when Pat O'Brien invited me to deliver my "Very Candid State of the Industry" speech at this esteemed gathering. I was not terrified of doing the speech. I'll talk to anybody about anything anywhere. I was, however, terrified of saying something a little too candid that might get Pat and Chris in hot water with the nice folks in Far Hills, NJ who pay their salaries.

But, to my relief, the realistic views I tried to deliver about the health of our market seemed to be well-received and as of press time both Pat and Chris were still employed. Here are a few very candid highlights for those of you who could not attend:

We currently have about 15,500 courses in the U.S. – about 3,000 more than demand can justify, in my humble opinion. So, "flat is the new up" in an overbuilt market that is slowly correcting itself with a small net loss of about 150 courses annually. No one expects that to change substantially soon but, regionally, as the housing market bounces back, developers will start snatching up bankrupt and underperforming properties and remaining good operations will feel less discounting pressure.

It's noteworthy that about 8,500 courses (private clubs, resorts and high-end daily fees) account for about 80 percent of the spending in the golf and turf market and probably capture at least 75 percent of the revenue from golf, food and events. These are facilities with budgets of \$650,000 or more. The other 7,000 courses operate more modestly or on a shoestring.

Courses likely to thrive in today's market are those that have a defined "niche" that they market to aggressively, creative ideas and a good team-oriented management structure. Courses likely to fail are those doing nothing with managers working in silos. Most say they are waiting for the golf market to "come back." That ain't happening.

Pinehurst – the site of the meeting – is a perfect example of a facility that is rebranding itself proactively to establish a new image and attract new revenue. By taking the course back to the "old-school" look of 1943, the facility has a new, positive story to tell. Again, it's all about marketing!

We have to overcome a 30-percent drop in rounds among men ages 18-30. One of the challenges is the perception that golf "disconnects" them from the world. Marketing people refer to this phenomenon as FOMO – "Fear Of Missing Out." There may be an

opportunity to actively position your facility as "wired" to re-attract these players. (See my column in the March issue of *Golf Course Industry* for more on that topic.)

Precision Turf Management (PTM) is the next big thing in maintenance. The fundamental idea is to measure everything, gather as much data as possible and plug it into various types of GPS-driven application equipment and irrigation systems to deliver inputs with tremendous efficiency. This trend ties together nicely to the idea of changing golfer expectations (center-line maintenance at Pinehurst, for example) away from the wall-to-wall manicured look of years past.

The longer-term prospects for our industry boil down to one thing: water. In the decades ahead, water will become significantly more expensive and will essentially be rationed based on the value of the use. Golf must proactively establish that we deserve a fair share of water and simultaneously continue to find ways to use less and still be able to present the game on natural grass.

So, the takeaway from my presentation should be:

- The overall market is still flat but smart clubs are doing well by stealing market share from others.
- Successful facilities have to fill a clearly defined niche in their area and market the daylights out of their services.
- Good business practices and fundamental agronomic practices go hand-in-hand.
- Water is the key to our future.
- The superintendent is the critical player in the management structure who is best positioned to help facilities thrive in the new era ahead.

(continued on page 8...)



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Again, I was mostly happy to get through the speech without getting O'Brien fired for inviting me. A couple of other notes from the meeting:

I was fortunate to be paired with one of the Carolinas GCSA's government affairs counselors, Chris Valauri, from Raleigh, NC. Just one observation: you guys are lucky to have somebody that smart on your side. Good dude.

I was once again reminded how many major industry companies call the Carolinas home. Bayer, Syngenta, BASF, Deere, Jacobsen, Nufarm/Valent, STEC, JRM, Arysta, Milliken, Aqua Aid...the list goes on and on. You guys are home to great golf, but also a bunch of great companies. Amazing!

Very impressed to see the Carolinas GCSA launching the new e-newsletter, Facebook page and app. Welcome to the 21st century, y'all.

Last, but not least, thanks for the hospitality and best of luck to the team from Pinehurst as they get ready to do the impossible and host back-to-back U.S. Opens. What a showcase this will be for an awesome facility managed by a terrific team led by Bob Farren, CGCS and Kevin Robinson, CGCS. I'll see you there again in June.

One final thought about Pinehurst and this Open. If nothing else comes out of the event, the world will be watching and seeing a golf course that is a physical manifestation of the great things that can be done with fewer inputs and an open mind. Yes, it's a major championship - two of them, in fact - but it could also be another major victory for superintendents as we all strive to manage the expectations of players and evolve the game, and the profession, into a new era. ■

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Paul is also an accomplished golfer. He won the South Carolina individual 4A high school golf championship and, as a freshman, earned a place on the Clemson University golf team.



Though he enjoyed competitive golf, Paul chose to focus on his degree in Turfgrass Management. Today, his playing ability provides him with a deep understanding of what players expect with regards to course conditions and playability.

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## Nothing “Phishy” About Dual Opens after All

Stepping to the podium in the Oakley room of the Carolina Hotel Ben Kimball looked to be the very embodiment of the USGA. Clean shaven in dark-rimmed glasses beneath short dark hair immaculately side-parted and of course the blue blazer, he could have been a time-traveler from the '50s. He couldn't have exuded more 'old school' if he tried.

As director of the U.S. Women's Open, Kimball was to address more than 200 people at the annual USGA Green Section regional conference in March. I turned to one of them, Gene Scarborough, from Santee-Cooper Resort, and whispered something. I can't remember exactly what but I confess that “stuffed shirts” might have been in there somewhere.

More fool me. In no time, Kimball delivered a confession of his own, an abiding - and to me at least, completely unexpected - passion for the rock band Phish. Then over the course of his presentation he further revealed a self-deprecating wit, keen intelligence and heartfelt love of the game. The guy was really interesting. I'd been really wrong.

He backed it up later at lunch, where he talked more about being a Phish *phan* - with a lot longer hair, growing up in Aiken, SC and, as a nine-year-old, managing to get an autograph from Jack Nicklaus at the Masters. The guy was really interesting, again.

One of the first things Kimball did in his presentation was quote a line from a Phish song that he'd listened to for years. The line, he said, summarized what was ahead this June with the juxtaposition of the men's then women's U.S. Opens on Pinehurst No. 2. *“It's been perfectly planned, it's completely insane, it's a revolving cast, but it's the same old game.”*

I remember the moment I learned that Pinehurst was going to be the stage for what surely was one of the USGA's boldest moves since switching to colored napkins in the boardroom in Far Hills. (I don't know if they have actually done

so but it helps illustrate my point.) My immediate reaction was to think: Are they crazy!

Pinehurst has a record high of 107 degrees. No. 2 has bentgrass greens that need to roll at 12 or higher for a U.S. Open. Then you're going to play another Open on the same course less than a week later? There are countless club members across the country who hate hosting regular PGA Tour events because of the impact it has on their course. And that's one week not two. If it's punishingly hot or wet and humid in June, this is a double date that could - as those things sometimes do - leave the women in a really awkward spot.

It was 2009 and I was in Paul Jett's family room watching the Golf Channel. Jett was the certified golf course superintendent of No. 2 at the time and had hosted much-lauded U.S. Opens in 1999 and 2005. So he, of course, knew what was about to be announced over the airwaves but hadn't told me or the others in the room, including Carolinas GCSA executive director Tim Kreger.

We had played No. 2 earlier that day as Jett's guests as a thank you for the success of the first Rounds4Research auction. Jett was Carolinas GCSA president then and had invested countless hours and miles of his own getting that first auction off the ground because of what it could achieve on behalf of the industry.

Fast forward to 2014. Rounds4Research is now a national program and the buzz about the book-end U.S. Opens grows louder by the week. Jett is working for Cardinal Chemicals and so has no intimate involvement with either the auction or the Opens, which will run simultaneously in June. *“...it's a revolving cast but it's the same old game.”* Still, he should allow himself a moment to reflect and feel good about the hand he had in getting both to this point. That first auction was a hit, just like both previous Opens and success breeds success.



Ben Kimball

One of the speakers before Ben Kimball that day at the Carolina Hotel was Kevin Robinson, CGCS who has been responsible for No. 2 during and since its back-to-the-future renovation by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. He was part of a standing panel that included Pinehurst's director of grounds and golf course maintenance, Bob Farren, CGCS, and assistant superintendents Alan Owen and John Jeffreys.

Together they were as informative, interesting and entertaining as Kimball. They spoke with the ease and quiet confidence that comes with knowing your subject inside out. Robinson, who grew up in the mountains of western North Carolina, was superintendent at the No. 6 and 7 courses before moving to No. 2. When the USGA announced the twin Opens he thought the idea was “pretty cool.” I thought it was *“completely insane.”* But it's looking more and more like I was really wrong, again.

Regardless of what the weather brings, the fact of putting men and women on the same course to decide national champions guarantees unprecedented interest at a time when golf needs it more than ever. As Kimball says, the USGA is “treating this as one big event” and in that sense, and hopefully all others, *“It's been perfectly planned...”* ■

## Rotation, Rotation, Rotation: One Answer to Poa Resistance



Dr. Bert McCarty

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

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**Q:** I'm having an extremely difficult time controlling my Poa this year. My bermudagrass course doesn't typically go completely dormant, so what are my options?

**A:** We are unfortunately starting to experience herbicide resistant to several common turfgrass weeds. As mentioned in previous Turf Talk columns, known Poa population resistance to the sulfonylurea herbicides (Figure 1), the dinitroaniline herbicides, the triazines, and even to glyphosate does exist (Table 1). Currently, resistance is not widespread, rather, local in occurrence.

However, unless prudent measures are taken, this could change. The only practical means turfgrass managers can use to delay or prevent herbicide resistance is to tank-mix products with different mechanisms-of-action or rotate products with different mechanisms-of-action. For example, Poa annua resistance to the triazine herbicides has been modeled to occur after about nine years of continuous use (Figure 2).

However, if the triazines are used for two years and then a product with a different

mechanism-of-action product is used, resistance requires 45 years to occur. If the triazines are rotated every other year with another product, 60 years is now required for resistance to occur. If the triazines are used one year and then two subsequent years are rotated to other chemistries, 90 years will be required for resistance to occur.

Unfortunately, confusion exists on what herbicides and their mechanism-of-action can be selected to avoid resistance. Table 2 lists our currently available herbicides and their mechanism-of-action to help plan against this problem. The table is separated by pre-emergence and post-emergence timings and combinations thereof. The next column lists the mechanism-of-action of the various products while the active ingredient, and trade names, are listed in the last column.

For example, for pre-emergence herbicides, four mechanisms of action are currently available for turf use. Three of these only have one active ingredient in them while the mitotic inhibition category has six. Rotating among these six active ingredients, for example, does not avoid resistance. One would have to select another mechanism of action to avoid this. ■

Table 1. Known herbicide resistant plants in turfgrass situations. Currently, most resistance occurs in localized areas but is rapidly spreading.

| Plants   | Herbicide Resistance                                  |
|--|---|
| Poa annua  | dinitroanilines, glyphosate, sulfonylureas, triazines |
| Spurges  | sulfonylureas   |
| Nutsedges/kyllinga                                       | sulfonylureas   |
| Crabgrass  | fenoxaprop-ethyl                                      |
| Goosegrass   | oxadiazon   |
| Ryegrass, goosegrass, horseweed, johnsongrass, dayflower | glyphosate, others are suspected                      |

(continued on page 14 ...)

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Table 2. Listing of currently used herbicides in the turfgrass market based on their timing and mechanism-of-action. Rotating herbicides with different mechanisms of action is the most practical means to avoid herbicide resistant weeds in turf.

| Timing            | Mechanism of Action  | Active Ingredient (Trade Name Example)*  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Preemergence      | Cellulose biosynthesis inhibition                            | Indaziflam (Specticle)   |
|                   | Mitotic inhibition   | Benefin (Balan)<br>Dithiopyr (Dimension)<br>Oryzalin (Surflan)<br>Pendimethalin (Pendulum)<br>Prodiamine (Barricade)<br>Trifluralin (Treflan)  |
|                   | Lipid biosynthesis inhibition                                | Bensulide (Bensumec)   |
|                   | Protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPO) inhibition                  | Oxadiazon (Ronstar)  |
| Pre/Postemergence | Mitotic inhibition   | Dimethenamid (Tower)<br>Pronamide (Kerb)   |
|                   | Photosystem II inhibition                                    | Atrazine (Aatrex)<br>Metribuzin (Sencor)<br>Simazine (Princep)   |
|                   | Lipid biosynthesis inhibition                                | Ethofumesate (Prograss)  |
|                   | Protoporphyrinogen oxidase (PPO) inhibition                  | Flumioxazin (SureGuard)  |
| Postemergence     | Acetolactate synthase (ALS) inhibition                       | Bispyribac-sodium (Velocity)<br>Chlorsulfuron (Corsair)<br>Flazasulfuron (Katana)<br>Foramsulfuron (Revolver)<br>Imazaquin (Image)<br>Metsulfuron (Manor)<br>Rimsulfuron (TranXit)<br>Sulfosulfuron (Certainty)<br>Trifloxysulfuron (Monument) |
|                   | Carotenoid biosynthesis inhibition (HPPD inhibitors)         | Mesotrione (Tenacity)<br>Topramezone (Pylex)   |
|                   | Enolpyruvyl Shikimate-3 Phosphate (EPSP) synthase inhibition | Glyphosate (Roundup)   |
|                   | Glutamine synthetase inhibition                              | Glufosinate (Finale)   |

\*Additional trade names are available for many products.



Figure 1. Herbicide resistant weeds are an emerging problem for many turfgrass managers. Shown are susceptible and resistant *Poa annua* biotypes to the sulfonylurea herbicides. Notice some plants are turning yellow and dying while others are unaffected (photo courtesy of B. Cross).



Figure 2. Dr. Fred Yelverton at North Carolina State University and graduate students first documented triazine resistant *Poa annua* in North Carolina in the 1990s. Shown on the left is a resistant *Poa annua* population to four lbs ai/a of simazine (one to four times the normal rate) compared to a susceptible population on the right (photo courtesy of F. Yelverton).



# Is Augusta National The Perfect Course

*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 report appeared recently in Men's Journal magazine. While it does not feature any Carolinas GCSA superintendents, the issues and several of those quoted are close to home.*



syngenta



GCSAA board member Darren Davis from Olde Florida Golf Club will be a presenter at this year's Conference and Trade Show.



Chris Hartwiger is director of the USGA Green Section's course consulting service.

Every April, golf course superintendents brace themselves for the "Augusta Effect," an annual outbreak of complaints about slow greens and weeds and probing questions about fairway heights and Stimpmeter readings. After four days admiring the stunning beauty of Augusta National, golfers suddenly see their home courses as downright homely.

"The Masters, and other televised tournaments, often give the average golfer a false perception of what their home course should look and play like," says Darren Davis, who worked at Augusta National from 1990-91 and is now the course superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples. "During and after the Masters, green speed often becomes a major issue."

Like the tour pros who play it, Augusta National has spectacular natural gifts that have been subtly enhanced by technology and painstakingly groomed by a world-class staff. The Georgia climate and spring weather provide ideal growing conditions (the property was previously a plant nursery), and, thanks to an almost unlimited budget, the course is stunningly automated.

For example, a SubAir system of underground pipes and blowers feeds fresh air to roots and sucks excess moisture out of greens. The greenkeeping staff is also large and highly skilled, and, during Masters week, an army of outside superintendents volunteer in exchange for the chance to soak up the atmosphere and learn from the best in the business. Add to all this a far-flung membership that spares the course significant wear and tear, and you have the perfect recipe for unattainable perfection.

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***"...Pinehurst's return to its roots ... will result in even more awareness of the variety of aesthetics in the game today."***

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Which is not to say that Augusta National is doing anything wrong. By all accounts, it's doing a lot right. For example, the club has precise weather forecasting technology and irrigation

systems to minimize water waste, and the SubAir system keeps turf healthy, which decreases the need for fertilizers and other chemicals.

But for most courses, chasing the ultra-fast greens and HD-worthy turf of Augusta National will lead not only to inflated budgets but also to the overuse of fossil fuels, water, and chemicals.

According to estimates from a series of reports by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, U.S. golf courses used a combined total of 77 million gallons of gasoline and 50.4 million gallons of diesel fuel in 2008, and 2.08 billion gallons of irrigation water per day from 2003-2005. The industry has not historically tracked resource consumption, according to the GCSAA, so it's hard to assess trends. But any way you slice it, that's a lot of water and fuel.

Fortunately, Augusta's "tradition unlike any other" isn't golf's only tradition. The club was founded in 1933 by Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, but it's still a relative newbie when compared to St. Andrews, where the game has been played since the 15th century. Shades of brown are as

*(continued on page 16 ...)*

integral to the Old Course's aesthetic as the azaleas are to Augusta.

Both Augusta National and the Old Course fit their environments, and that seems to be the direction golf is headed. Chris Hartwiger, the director of the USGA's Course Consulting Service, points to the rise of rustic courses like Cabot Links in Nova Scotia and Streamsong in Florida as evidence that manicured is not the only way to go.

"The consumer is saying, 'Yes, in the right environment, I like rugged golf courses,'" Hartwiger said. "It doesn't have to be one or the other, but it's about being a good steward of the resources in that part of the country."

This summer, golf fans will watch both the men's and women's U.S. Opens at Pinehurst No. 2, which underwent a back-to-the-future restoration in 2010 and 2011 that replaced acres of irrigated turf with natural sandy areas and native grasses. Scott Hollister, editor in chief of Golf Course Management magazine and interim director of communications for the GCSAA, thinks Pinehurst's return "to its roots in the sandhills of North Carolina" will result in even more awareness of the variety of aesthetics in the game today.

But all this doesn't mean the Augusta Effect is dead. The sustainable, fit-the-terrain gospel of course architecture has not spread to all corners of the world. Geoff Shackelford, an influential golf journalist, course designer, and all-around links purist, thinks the Augusta Effect has become an export.

"The aesthetic of Augusta is still loved here, but not like it used to be," he says. "But around the world, those developing courses don't want a rustic link; they want something that looks like Augusta."

Hopefully those international fans will check out this year's U.S. Open as well as the Masters. If they do, they'll see that Augusta's beauty is not all the game has to offer. ■

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## Broussard's Award Draws Praise from Far and Wide



Jeff Spangler, Troon's senior vice-president of science and agronomy, with Conrad Broussard, and David Nicholls, vice-president of science and agronomy.

Conrad Broussard had no idea his name was about to be announced as Superintendent of the Year at Troon Golf Management's annual gala event in Scottsdale, AZ. He had attended before and knew what it meant to bask in at least some of the spotlight when his club, St. James Plantation in Southport, NC was named Troon's Facility of the Year 12 months earlier. But in front of nearly 400 people, hearing his name called for the highest honor on the agronomic side, well, that was something else again.

"I go each year and it's mainly educational and motivational," Broussard says. "But I will remember this one for sure. It was cool, quite an honor." Troon is the world's largest third party golf course and club management company with facilities in 32 states and 27 countries.

Broussard's win brought him a flood of tributes and congratulatory messages. "Year in and year out, our courses rank with the best on the Carolina coast in terms of conditioning and playability," Alan Deck, St. James's general manager, told the local newspaper. "Conrad

deserves the lion's share of the credit for that. Most superintendents only have 18 holes to take care of. Conrad's got 81. He might be the hardest-working man in golf."

A company press release announcing the 2013 award winners cited Broussard as "a respected leader whose friendly demeanor wins everyone over, while at the same time he is intensely focused on his work and making those around him better. He has a great can-do attitude and will always find a way to get the job done - and getting it done with less. Conrad also has the highest respect of the ownership, management and associates across the board."

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*"Most superintendents only have 18 holes to take care of. Conrad's got 81. He might be the hardest-working man in golf."*

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"It's been great to hear from so many people including folks I haven't heard from in a long time," Broussard says. "I've heard from members here including some who are not golfers and I have also heard from some of the owners which is nice."

Broussard paid tribute to his golf course management staff which includes a superintendent and two assistants at each of the four courses. "We have had the same superintendents in place for several years now and that stability really helps," he says. "It's been like that with our assistants too except for some guys moving on to bigger and better opportunities, which is what you want to see." Broussard also noted his appreciation for the role and support of Troon's senior agronomist Jeff Spangler.

Broussard grew up in West Texas, played golf on the Texas Tech golf team and flirted with the idea of a career on the PGA Tour. A few rounds with Steve Elkington convinced him that his future in golf didn't involve swinging a club. He attended Horry-Georgetown Technical College and graduated with a turfgrass management degree. He joined St. James Plantation in 1997 and now, as director of agronomy, oversees 81 holes across four courses, each of which is certified under the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. His terrain includes 1.5 miles of fairways, 10 acres of greens, 300 sand traps, 250 acres of protected wetlands and more than 70 hazards.

He is a member of the editorial board for *Golfdom* magazine and last year was one of two Carolinas GCSA members chosen to attend the Syngenta Business Institute in conjunction with Wake Forest University's graduate school of business. He joined the Carolinas GCSA in 2000 and has been a regular at Conference and Trade Show ever since. ■



## Warm Welcome for Showpiece Event With or Without Fire



Donald Ross laid out the golf course on rolling terrain at Myers Park Country Club.

Scott Kennon, CGCS is not the only person at Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, NC looking forward to hosting the Carolinas GCSA's first North vs. South challenge on May 5. Kennon, director of golf course operations, says the prospect of a playing visit from more than 80 golf course superintendents from across the region has also excited members at the club. "From the perspective of those folks who get to make the call whether to hand the golf course over for a day, they couldn't be happier to have this event here," he says. "My members are super-excited that so many people so intimately involved in the industry will get to enjoy the course."

Kennon says the North vs. South will be the biggest peer-participation event that he has hosted in his more than 20-year career. He expects to present ideal playing conditions for the 27-hole event presented in partnership with the golf industry's big three equipment manufacturers Jacobsen, John Deere and Toro through Tri-State Pump and Controls, Greenville Turf and Tractor,

Revels Turf and Tractor and Smith Turf and Irrigation.

But there were a few hours at the end of March when things weren't quite so certain. A fire broke out in a storage room at the clubhouse causing significant damage. Kennon says he was meeting his green committee chair at the golf course maintenance facility when word came over the radio of a fire at the clubhouse. The first communication was "fairly low-key," Kennon says. But as time went on, the radio chatter took on a greater sense of urgency.

"By the time my green committee chairman and I jumped in a cart to go and see what was going on there were helicopters overhead and seven fire trucks on property," he says. "The fire itself was pretty well contained but of course there's soot and smoke and water damage to a larger area." Kennon adds that the fire will not cause any disruption or change in the club's ability to host the North vs. South in first-class fashion.

The event will include three sets of nine-hole matches in each of a Texas scramble, captain's choice and four-ball format. Teams of two will play against a separate team of two in each match meaning every competitor and their partner will play against six different opponents during the day.

"I feel confident that this event will end up being one of the best events we've ever had," says Carolinas GCSA golf committee chairman, Rob Daniel, CGCS from RiverTowne Country Club in Mt. Pleasant, SC. "Everything we are doing is aimed at presenting a top-notch experience that members will go home extremely happy with."

Daniel says the goal of the state vs. state format is to build new professional relationships for Class A and Class SM members. "I don't know why but it seems that in most of our golf events, guys tend to play in groups with guys from their own state," he says. "In this event, over the course of the day, you will potentially come into extended contact with six, even seven, guys you might not have known before. When everybody in the field has that chance to get to make new contacts and get to know each other better that can only make our association a lot stronger. This is a fellowship event."

"We are absolutely thrilled to offer this new event to our superintendents and honored to the same degree by the buy-in of our industry partners," says Carolinas GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger. "We know there is pride on both sides of the border among our members just like there is pride at each of our industry partners in this event. To have everyone coming together to celebrate that is further proof of the collective commitment to the industry that exists in our part of the world." ■



by Matthew Wharton

# Wharton's Words Inform Club Members via Blog

*Matthew Wharton, golf course superintendent at Carolina Golf Club in Charlotte, NC, is one of a growing band of Carolinas GCSA members using blogs to keep golfers and members better informed. At press time, the Carolinas GCSA was researching avenues to provide social media education at this year's Conference and Trade Show in Myrtle Beach, SC from November 17-19. In the meantime, here is a sample of Wharton's online dialogue with his members.*

Late last year, I attended the past presidents dinner of Carolina Golf Club. I have been very fortunate to receive an invitation to this annual event each year since becoming superintendent at the club nearly a decade ago, and I always enjoy the stories about the club's

history. Anyway, this past year a microphone was passed around the room giving each person a chance to say a little something, or not. As the microphone made its way around the large table there were many great things said about Carolina Golf Club, its leadership (past and present), its membership, the golf course and the staff. When my turn came I simply passed the microphone on and an opportunity to say something meaningful and profound was momentarily lost. However, knowing I have the luxury of this forum and having had a few more days to reflect...

*Ahem (clears throat).*

*(continued on page 20 ...)*





Matthew Wharton

I was first introduced to the game of golf by my grandfather, John M. Hankins, Jr. Pap Pa (pronounced Pap Paw) as he is affectionately known is a veteran of World War II and a retired railroad man. He was a devoted husband for over 50 years to his late wife Margaret, and he still loves golf and fishing. He celebrated his 91st birthday in December.

A few years after my introduction to the game, my first-cousin and I each received junior sets of clubs for Christmas. That spring we took Pap Pa's riding mower and removed the pin used to control the mowing height on the floating deck. We scalped a large circle out in front of the house then used a garden trowel to dig a small hole. We placed an empty tin can in the hole for a cup and took turns deciding where the tee was located and the route you had to take to get to the green (you were not allowed to go over the house or Granny would kill you). When I look back on these times, I believe I was destined to be a golf course superintendent.

Fast forward several years to 1988. I am about a month shy of my 20th birthday and I get an offer to work at Lake Bonaventure Country Club in Castlewood, VA. Lake Bonaventure is a small, modest nine-hole private club formed in the late 1950's. Although I had played there on

a few occasions while growing up, this opportunity truly set me on a long, winding path that led to my current destination. Lake Bonaventure was designed by Alexander McKay (more on him later) but the truth is that during my tenure there, nobody, or at least nobody I knew, was aware of that fact. In fact, I never knew it until after I became superintendent of Carolina Golf Club in 2005.

Prior to coming to Carolina, I completed my undergraduate and graduate degrees at Virginia Tech. and then worked at two other golf courses, Augustine Golf Club in Stafford, VA and Swan Point Yacht and Country Club in Issaquah, WA. Augustine was designed in the early 1990's by Rick Jacobson, a former design associate of Jack Nicklaus. Augustine was Jacobson's first solo design in the U.S. and it is widely considered to be the grandfather of upscale, daily fee golf in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Swan Point was designed by Bob Cupp in the late 1980's and both courses really are good golf courses, and I enjoyed playing them, but something was missing. During those years, my wife Darless and I would travel when time allowed and play other courses in the region. We found most other public access courses were also modern era designs, and although most were very well maintained, they too were not the most pleasing to our palates.

In the spring of 2005, an opportunity to become the golf course superintendent of Carolina Golf Club became available. Darless and I traveled from Virginia to see the course and explore the possibility of relocating to Charlotte. During that first round at Carolina something clicked. I saw features that reminded me of Bonaventure, and the game I remembered so fondly from my early greenkeeping days came rushing back like a flood. It was this experience that prompted me to track down the original architect of Lake Bonaventure and ultimately discover Alex McKay and his history.

Alexander G. McKay was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1893. He learned golf at Cruden Bay Golf Club in Aberdeen and moved to the U.S. shortly after World War I. After bouncing around with several odd jobs he became the superintendent and golf professional for the city of Louisville, KY in 1926, caring for their city parks and golf courses. He remained in Louisville for 10 years before moving to Charleston, WV and designing Meadowbrook Country Club. He served as that club's first professional and superintendent, and remained there until after World War II. Following World War II, McKay became the golf professional and superintendent of Holston Hills Country Club in Knoxville, TN and became famous for successfully converting their bermudagrass greens to bentgrass. He remained at Holston Hills for a decade before becoming a full-time course architect and turf consultant.

Why is all that significant you ask. Anyone with any knowledge of Donald Ross knows Holston Hills is widely regarded in many circles as one of the top 10 golf courses ever designed by Donald Ross. Thus, it is only natural that someone entrusted with the care of a top 10 Donald Ross

design would incorporate Ross like features in design work of his own down the road. Thus, my love affair with Donald Ross was born! (Sidebar: Alex McKay is credited for having designed Statesville Country Club just up the road in 1962. He died in Nashville, TN in 1964 at the age of 71.)

Since arriving at Carolina I have had the pleasure of seeing first hand this small, modest, yet well-crafted layout transformed to a golf course which can hold its own with the finest of Ross designs. Over the years I have managed to enhance my Ross education by traveling and experiencing several other courses of his in the Carolinas: Grove Park Inn (Asheville), Mimosa Hills Country Club (Morganton), Roaring Gap Club (Sparta), Catawba Country Club (Newton), Charlotte Country Club, Myers Park Country Club, Country Club of Salisbury, Camden Country Club, Forsyth Country Club (Winston-Salem), Sedgefield Country Club (Greensboro), Pine Needles, Mid-Pines, Southern Pines Country Club and of course Pinehurst No. 2.

What I have discovered is how brilliant the man was and how he mastered the simple. There are no gimmicks on a Donald Ross golf course, the challenge is right there in front of you. His courses truly challenge the best players of the game, but are very playable and fun for the highest handicappers. I am constantly amazed how courses like Carolina, Southern Pines, Mid-Pines, Catawba, Mimosa Hills or Camden still have a high resistance to scoring when played from between 6,200 to 6,600 yards.

Ross courses are brilliantly routed with holes cleverly crafted along some of the most beautiful, natural topography I have ever seen. Being entrusted to care for Carolina Golf Club is an honor and a privilege, and I cannot think of any place else I would rather be... or play! (Voice of the late Paul Harvey, " ...and now you know the rest of the story.") Hey, I said it was long and winding!

Darless and I will be traveling tomorrow to Virginia to spend time with both our families. Although we both are looking forward to getting there and spending time with our loved-ones, we are already looking forward to getting back to Charlotte and to Carolina Golf Club, our home.

See you on the course.

*Information about Alexander G. McKay courtesy of "The Golf Course" by Geoffrey S. Cornish and Ronald E. Whitten, May 1985*

*- Matthew Wharton is a past-president of the North-South Turfgrass Association and reigning Carolinas GCSA superintendent golf champion. ■*

# WHY BLOG?

Like most superintendents, I have been communicating with my members for some time. First, it was a monthly contribution in the club's newsletter. This was an opportunity to educate, inform and tell my side of our story rather than have them overhear gossip in the golf shop or men's grill.

At Carolina, our printed newsletter succumbed to the digital age in early 2010. I was left with the ability to directly email our members when I needed to convey important information. At first this was cool because I now controlled the frequency (sometimes you need to get the word out sooner than the first of each month), but I wasn't content with the lack of features our club's software provided us. I wanted to incorporate pictures and communicate my message more effectively so, in late 2011, I switched to Blogger.

One quiet morning I sat in my office and logged onto blogspot.com and created my own blog page, The Greenkeeper. The service is free and very user friendly. They have many templates to choose from and you can personalize the space how you see fit.

Late last year I started using Twitter to communicate to my members more frequently and I recently added my Twitter feed to appear on my blog page. If there is something you want to do with Blogger and you can't figure out how, there is probably a YouTube video somewhere that can show you.

I still email my membership whenever I update The Greenkeeper to inform them new content is available, and I always provide a direct link to the blog page. Members email me directly with their feedback and I keep them all – the good and the bad. You know you must be doing something right when a member stops you on the course and asks, "Hey, when are you going to do another blog post? I really enjoy reading it."

*- Matthew Wharton*



# Navigating the SEA OF SALINITY

Dara M. Park and Sarah A. White

## PART III: MANAGING SALINITY ISSUES IN TURFGRASSES AND SOILS

In the last issue of *Carolinas Green*, part II of this series focused on where salts come from and what can cause their absence. In this article, the focus is on the problems that salts, and sodium specifically, pose for soil and plants.

### PLANTS

Low levels of salts, including Na, are not dangerous to most turfgrasses. But if salt levels accumulate in the root zone to high enough concentrations, it is difficult for turfgrasses to uptake water. This is because solutes (salts dissolved in water) *like* water, and want to hold on to it.

Think of the result as a tug-of-war game, in which at one end of the rope (water) you have plant roots and on the other end are salts. The more salts present, the more muscle at the salt end of the water rope. Furthermore, like many organisms, turfgrasses try to achieve a balance between the salt levels inside and outside their cells. If too much salt is outside the cell (or root), the area outside the cell has more potential to keep any water that is present and may actually “pull” water from the nearby root cell.

Thus, a turfgrass grown in salt affected soil or irrigated with saline water must exert more energy to extract water from the soil. This results in a type of water or drought stress and subsequently turfgrasses spend more energy trying to simply survive instead of on routine metabolic processes.

Besides the water or drought stress associated with high salts, ion toxicity - especially sodium (Na), chloride (Cl), bicarbonates (HCO<sub>3</sub>) and boron (B) - can also occur in certain turfgrasses. This occurs when the solutes are passively taken up with water and are concentrated in the plant. Ion toxicities are most evident in roots and leaves since they are the main points of entry for water to enter the plant.

Certain turfgrasses are more tolerant than others. For example, in general, warm season grasses such as bermudagrass and seashore paspalum are more tolerant than cool season grasses like bentgrass. How? Many warm season grasses have salt glands that secrete salts from leaves. Pretty cool, right?

When Na is the specific salt in either water or soil, plant uptake of Na increases, and Na can begin to block uptake of and displace calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) and potassium (K) within plant cells. When salinity (defined in the next section) levels in water are very low, supplemental Ca, Mg, and K may be needed for plant nutrition.

### SALTS AND SOIL STRUCTURE

Salinity is when acid-base pairs form from K, Ca, Mg, sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>), HCO<sub>3</sub>, Cl and Na. Fine soil particles such as silt and clay and organic matter flocculate - bind together - into aggregates in the presence of Ca and Mg ions from these pairs. Calcium and Mg dominated salinity improves soil porosity, increases soil stability and creates an optimum environment for root penetration and growth. This trend holds true with high salinity too. Thus, simply because salinity is high does not necessarily mean a negative change in soil structure.

However, if Na is the dominant ion contributing to the water salinity, it will displace Ca and Mg in soils (those primarily clay based, or with organic matter). Due to its single charge, Na does not “bridge” soil particles together. In fact, it has the quite opposite effect. The large ionic swarm and its appetite for water results in dispersion or spreading of soils. This results in individual soil particles plugging pore spaces and a reduction in total soil porosity. Sodium affected soils compact easily when dry too.

The end result? Poor water infiltration, air movement and root penetration. The reason only fine textured soils and soils with considerable organic matter are affected is because they have many negative binding sites (aka cation exchange capacity) with which salts can react. For this reason, the structure of sand-based root zones with low cation exchange capacity will minimally be affected by Na.

If irrigating with a water source with very low salinity (pure water), ions that are present on the cation exchange site will leave the soil colloid and dissolve into soil solution.

When this happens, there are fewer bridges keeping soil colloids flocculated or aggregated. The end result of pure water application to soils is dispersion of aggregates and loss of pore spaces, very similar to changes in soil structure resulting from high concentration of Na. Soils compact easily and the loss of pore space results in poor water infiltration, air movement and root penetration.

In this scenario too, soil texture and the amount of organic matter present are important factors determining the extent of damage that can occur. The finer the texture and more organic matter (thus greater CEC), the greater potential for dispersion. Coarse sands with low CECs are less affected.

## MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Both proactive and reactive management strategies can help you navigate any salt tempest. Monitoring both the salinity of your water source (EC) and the total dissolved salts (Ca, Mg, Cl, Na) within your soil are necessary to determine how to effectively manage a salinity issue, or prevent one from starting. If after you begin monitoring your water and soil, you determine that soil EC levels remain too high, whether due to water source, storm event or excessive fertilization, there are a few steps you can take to manage the problem and reduce the risk of turfgrass damage. It is important to keep in mind that native fairway soils will many times be different in texture and CEC than constructed root zones of tees and greens, so make sure to sample all areas separately.

**1. Grow salt tolerant grasses.** If the irrigation water supply is salty and investing in alternative treatment or dilution methods is not viable, consider growing only salt tolerant species.

**2. Apply a leaching requirement or reclamation requirement.** In a nutshell, increase your irrigation volume to make sure that water (and salts with it) is always draining past the rootzone. A leaching requirement is used when there is not a problem, but you are concerned that you may start to have one due to changing water quality, drought, etc. A reclamation requirement is used when there is already a build up of salt within the soil. There are many ways to calculate these requirements. Contact the authors if you need to determine one.

**3. Monitor soluble salt levels in the soil.** By monitoring soluble salt levels consistently you can adjust irrigation volumes to help compensate for higher salt levels, or decrease irrigation rates when salts have been flushed from the soil. Monitoring soluble salt levels also will determine if there is a Na problem. Increasing Ca and Mg in soils or saline water can reduce Na-induced particle dispersion and some of the more noticeable detrimental plant effects. See Part I about monitoring.

**4. Adjust fertilizer source and/or reduce fertilization rates.** If irrigation water contains excess soluble salts, send

a water sample to a soil-testing lab for an irrigation water analysis. This analysis will help to determine the ions that are readily available from the water source. Using this data, the nutrients supplied by the fertilizer can be reduced to account for those readily available from irrigation water. If adjusting fertilizer nutrient levels is not an option, simply lower the rate at which the turfgrass is fertilized, if possible, to reduce excess salt presence in substrate or soil. Especially for soluble fertilizers, since they directly contribute to higher salt levels, applying a lower rate with more frequency may also assist in ensuring that the soil is not overloaded with salt at any given time.

**5. Apply an amendment.** This is done only when either (a) the water source is pure, or (b) Na has been identified as the main salt constituent. The most common amendment used is gypsum. It can be applied in a granular form or injected in line into the irrigation water. Gypsum replaces Na with Ca. Other Ca sources work as well. If adequate Ca is available in the soil, applying acid to reduce the soil pH and release the Ca may be effective. Look for a future article focusing on amendments. Contact the authors if you need assistance on determining options.

**6. Blend "salty" water with clean water.** Whatever the source of high EC in water, if there is another source, whether municipal, pond, well, etc., that can be used to dilute the "salty" water, use it to decrease the salt levels and reduce plant stress attributed to high substrate EC. For most turfgrasses, the target is to reduce to  $\leq 2$  dS m<sup>-1</sup>. Contact the authors for additional help.

**7. Change to a different water source entirely.** If EC readings of current water are so high that it is not feasible to continue using a particular source, find an alternative source.

**8. Install a reverse osmosis system.** If no alternative or mixing source of water is available and growing turfgrasses at this particular location is critical, a reverse osmosis system may be the most viable method for producing quality water that can be used for irrigation purposes. These systems have improved greatly in the last few years; however, they tend to be expensive and the wastewater, a salt-rich brine, must be disposed of. With most reverse osmosis systems, once the water has been cleansed or desalinated, Ca and Mg are added back so the water is not too pure.

## SET YOUR SAILS

The salinity reduction strategies above can help reduce or alleviate salt stress, but keep in mind that each strategy is only as effective as the monitoring data from which you make your management decisions.

- Dara M. Park and Sarah A. White are with the School of Agricultural, Forest and Environmental Sciences at Clemson University, SC.





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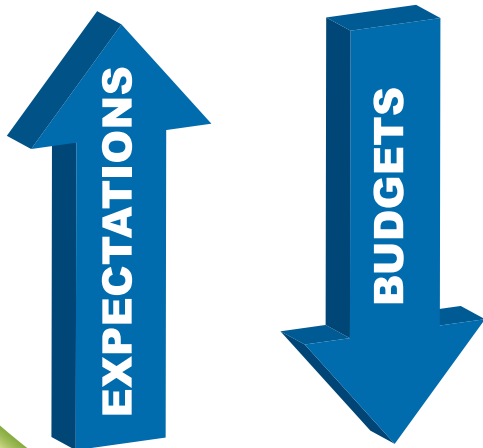
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# Looks are Likely to Matter On Double Date at No. 2

Kevin Robinson, CGCS  
will be the first superintendent to  
host men's and women's U.S. Opens  
on the same course, back-to-back.

**T**iger Woods won't be ready for the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2 in June and there may be a few million more American golfers who won't be ready either, although they probably don't know it yet. The new old-look No. 2 will appear nothing like the sea of green that hosted such great national championships in 1999 and 2005. A return to centerline irrigation should see frayed, browned out fairway edges fading into sandy tracts of wiregrass and low-growing native plants instead of four-inch bermudagrass rough.

That dramatic change in the rough areas has the potential to be as big of a talking point, if not bigger, than the fact that the men's Open will be followed, for the first time, by the women's Open on the same terrain just a week later. Attendees at the USGA Green Section regional conference in Pinehurst, NC in March heard more than once just how influential the new rough could be in June.

"The further you get away from the center line, the less predictable your lie will be," Kevin Robinson, CGCS at No. 2 said, adding that the number of irrigation heads has been slashed from about 1,150 to about 450, with nearly half of the remaining heads around the greens. The USGA's Ben Kimball, director of the U.S. Women's Open, concurred. "There's no telling what your lie will be like off the fairway," he said. "Players will have to worry more about what their ball does on the ground than what it does in the air."

More than 200 attendees heard that No. 2, regarded as Donald Ross's great masterpiece, will be at its best down the middle since the renovation by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. The further golfers stray they will find less color and conditioning. Something like 40 acres of maintained turf in rough areas is now gone, replaced by a lot of whatever nature throws up out of the sand. Fairways will be wider than for the past two Opens at No. 2 but they will be firmer and missing the middle will mean more run and more likelihood of ending up in trouble in those sandy areas.

"Play will be variable," USGA Green Section senior agronomist, Chris Hartwiger, told the audience, not just because of the variety of plant life but also because there will be "minimal" maintenance of footprints caused during play. "A player is not going to know the lie until he or she



gets to their ball. In previous Opens they pretty well knew what they were going to get (in the bermudagrass rough)."

This simpler, Spartan presentation is more economical to produce because it requires less labor and resources, including the critical piece that is water. Pinehurst's director of grounds and golf course maintenance, Bob Farren, CGCS told the audience that No. 2 now consumes 12 to 15 million gallons of water a year versus 55 million in its previous form. There will be only two heights of cut. "Putting greens and everything else," Kimball said.

When the renovated No. 2 reopened, Pinehurst principal Robert Dedman, Jr. declared the bold facelift as either "the smartest or dumbest" move the historic resort could make. The goal was to differentiate No. 2 and return the course to the kind of test and character that Ross first produced. Environmental and economic benefits from reduced maintenance were a result of the goal but not the primary mission.

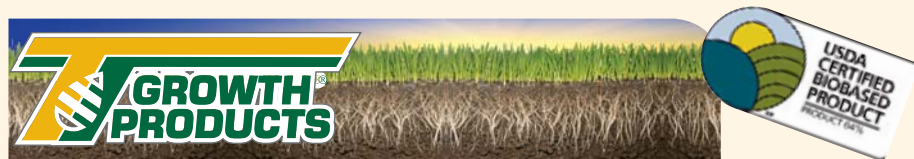
Still those outcomes are so significant in the eyes of senior industry leaders like Jim Hyler, that No. 2's back-to-the-future shift needs to be the "smartest move" and promoted as such, for the good of the game. Hyler, who lives a short drive from Pinehurst, used his tenure as USGA president to begin turning golf's traditional appetite for green on its head. More than any leader in U.S. golf before or since, he advocated a return to the game's roots of fast

and firm courses dismissing striped mowing patterns on a sea of green as mere cosmetics.

In a sense, this year's back-to-back opens will serve as a referendum on the American marketplace's appetite for firm, fast and play-it-as-you-find-it off the fairway. It will be the greatest litmus test yet on whether the market has an appetite for such change. Millions will watch to see which two champions are crowned in seven days in June. As importantly, for the future of the game, is the question of whether the golf course itself will be welcomed as a third winner, or rejected as an errant experiment.

Some of the most intriguing information during the day-long education session at Pinehurst centered on the juxtaposition of the best men and women golfers playing the same course just a few days apart. Men will play No. 2 at somewhere around 7,500 yards while women will play a course closer to 6,600 yards. Where possible, Kimball told the audience, "We want women hitting the same clubs from the same spots on the course as the men did. If men hit driver on a certain hole we will set it up for women to do the same. If men hit six iron into a green, we want women hitting six irons from the same spot."

More than 100 golfers competed in a tournament at Pinehurst's No. 8 course the day before and enjoyed outstanding course conditions thanks to the work of host superintendent, Jeff Hill, CGCS and his staff. ■



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# USGA Green Section regional conference in Pinehurst, NC in March

## Education Conference and Golf Tournament



Todd Biegger, CGCS from Crowfield Golf and Country Club, poses a question during the education conference as Ron Kelly, CGCS from the Country Club of North Carolina, Steve Sheets from Linville Ridge Golf Club, and Turner Revels, of Revels Turf and Tractor listen in.



Kevin Robinson, CGCS at Pinehurst No. 2 shares a light-hearted moment during a presentation with assistant golf course superintendent, Alan Owen.



USGA Green Section southeast region director, Patrick O'Brien.



Sam Friar, from The Members Club at Woodcreek and Wildewood, with Derek Oglesby, of Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply.



Jeff Hill with a plaque of appreciation for his efforts preparing Pinehurst No. 8 for the conference tournament.



Keith Thomas, from Sanford Golf Club.



Chris Pearson, of Green Resource.



Patrick Wake, from Palmetto Dunes Resort, with Jason Crawford, from Lockwood Folly Country Club.





Buddy Smith, of Modern Turf, prepares to drive.



Charles Wood, of John Deere Landscapes, in action.



Chris Noll, from Forest Creek Golf Club.

# USGA Green Section regional conference in Pinehurst, NC in March

## Education Conference and Golf Tournament

### First Flight

- Gross: 70** Jeff Whitmire, *The Williamsburg Club*  
Tim Kreger, *Carolinas GCSA*
- Net: 71-5-66** David Johnson, *CGCS High Point Country Club*  
Doug Lowe, *CGCS Greensboro Country Club*

### Second Flight

- Gross: 74** Matthew Carver, *Tri-State Pump and Control*  
Jay Reins, *CGCS Green Resource*
- Net: 75-9-66** Cordie Morgan, *Milliken*  
Craig Haire, *Ameriturf/Neptune Solutions*

### Third Flight

- Gross: 73** David DeGeorge, *DeGeorge Turf Solutions*  
Jay Gratton, *Spring Island Club*
- Net: 79-9-70** Al Hicks, *Jacobsen*  
Todd Biegger, *CGCS Crowfield Golf and Country Club*

### Fourth Flight

- Gross: 74** Daryl Ewing, *Carolina Lakes Golf Club*  
Rick Henderson, *Greenville Turf and Tractor*
- Net: 80-12-68** Sam Friar, *Members Club at Woodcreek and Wildewood*  
Derek Oglesby, *Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply*

### Fifth Flight

- Gross: 74** Kirk McKinney, *Champions Retreat Golf Club*  
Robert Padgett, *Champions Retreat Golf Club*
- Net: 75-9-66** Jim Kerns, *North Carolina State University*  
Lane Tredway, *Syngenta*

### Longest Drive

- No. 2:** Ryan Hull, *Methodist University Golf Course*  
**No. 11:** Tim Kreger, *Carolinas GCSA*

### Closest to the Pin

- No. 5:** Doug Lowe, *CGCS Greensboro Country Club*  
**No. 8:** Mike Layel, *Phoenix/UPI*  
**No. 13:** Paul Jett, *CGCS Cardinal Chemicals*  
**No. 15:** Matthew Wharton, *Carolina Golf Club*



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## Conference will Feature Return of the Holy Grail



David Lee



Carolinas GCSA education coordinator Cindy Baldwin, Dr. Jim Kerns and Dr. Charles Peacock from North Carolina State University, and Steve Agazzi, from Kiawah Island Resort's Turtle Point course at work planning this year's conference and trade show.

**M**ore than half of nearly 30 seminars at this year's Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show will be new to the schedule. One format and theme that will return in 2014 is the panel session "Search for Agronomy's Holy Grail." This year's panel will feature a new line-up of experts that includes University of Wisconsin's Dr. Doug Soldat whose expertise includes turfgrass, urban soils, nutrient management, water resources, soil testing and landscape irrigation.

Soldat will be joined on the panel by some of the biggest hitters in the turfgrass science business including Drs. Fred Yelverton and Rick Brandenburg from North Carolina State University and Clemson University's Dr. Bruce Martin who was a late withdrawal from last year's panel. Bo Barefoot, of Precision Laboratories, will moderate the panel.

Among new seminars for this year's conference and show at Myrtle Beach Convention Center from November 17 to 19 is one that examines the role of

"Today's Superintendent" as the "most valuable member of the management team." The seminar will be presented by Barbara Jodoin, chief executive officer of Capital Financing Alliance. Jodoin is a highly experienced and sought after educator who has received strong reviews for previous work at the conference and show.

While the education slate will offer a significant dose of agronomic content, one seminar in the works will focus squarely on the emerging potential of social media in the world of the golf course superintendent. That seminar is yet to be locked in but plans are to have *Golf Course Industry* magazine's publisher Pat Jones team up with GCSAA director Darren Davis from Olde Florida Golf Club. Jones is arguably the best-connected and best-informed monitor of all things golf course maintenance from the media side and Davis commands a strong social media presence and expertise.

The conference and show planning committee chaired by David Lee, from

Hope Valley Country Club, began work in earnest at a day-long meeting at Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, NC in March. Committee members spent time reviewing feedback from attendees at last year's event, the vast majority of which was enthusiastically positive.

"The response to the first Holy Grail panel was so strong we had no hesitation putting together a second version," Lee says. "I appreciate everyone who took the time to respond to the survey because the feedback is very helpful. There were one or two responses expressing concern that there was not enough new content on the seminar line up. But when we went back over the program, nearly half of the seminars offered last year were new.

"Still, it is true that is becoming increasingly difficult to find the bright, fresh new subject or presenter that people haven't encountered before. I actually think that is a tribute to previous planning committees because it means they haven't left any bases uncovered."

Among the new faces at this year's show will be Mike Huck, one of the industry's foremost independent golf course turfgrass, irrigation, water and soil management consultants. California-based Huck has more than 30 years of experience in the field that includes a period as an agronomist with the USGA Green Section and more than a decade as a superintendent managing facilities with recycled and saline water sources.

Other highlights among new seminars already confirmed for this year's conference include:

- A special presentation for assistant golf course superintendents aimed at furthering their professional development. This seminar will be presented by Chris Carson, golf course superintendent from Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, NJ. Carson was a speaker on the featured panel at the 2013 Conference and Trade Show.
- A seminar on drainage issues on the golf course presented by Darin Bevard, the USGA Green Section's Mid-Atlantic region director, and Troy Fink, CGCS from the Country Club of Virginia in Richmond, VA.
- Rick Latin, Professor of Plant Pathology at Purdue University will present on turfgrass fungicides. Latin is an expert in the field and author of the book "A Practical Guide to Turfgrass Fungicides." ■

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# ROCK N ROLL



**THE ROCK HE PLAYS ...**

by: Trent Bouts

Music runs so deep in Matt Lovell's veins it's hard to know which is his hobby - playing in a rock band after hours or growing grass for a living. His grandparents were musicians on the Tennessee Ernie Ford Show, popular in the '50s, with his grandmother on piano and his grandfather on drums. By the time he was in high school, Lovell was winding - or wobbling - his way down a similar path. At one point he was in a jazz ensemble and at another in a Kiss tribute band. He dreamed of becoming a music producer but he also knew he loved working outside.

Lovell, CGCS nurtured that love, or at least nourished it, earning pocket money as a cart boy at Lake Lure Municipal Golf Course in the mountains of western North Carolina. After high school he spent time on the golf course maintenance staff at Etowah Valley Country Club in nearby Hendersonville, NC where Terry Carling was golf course superintendent. The Todd family, which owned the club at the time, sent Lovell to Catawba Valley Community College to enhance his turfgrass skills.

Along the way, it occurred to Lovell that it wasn't just notes and chords that sang to him. So did the ground he worked on. "Oh, yeah. It was in my blood I believe. I knew I wanted it bad," he says. "I like to think I have a gift. That I can look at a piece of dirt in the rough, visualize what it can become and know how to make the changes that bring that into reality."

It's a good thing that Lovell has never been afraid of hard work, something his father, a former Texas Ranger, instilled in him, his three brothers and a sister. "I was working as a 13-year-old," he recalls. "My dad was always pushing me. He was a firm man and he believed in working hard and that no one was ever going to give you anything. There was never any lying around."

Today, via Lake Hickory Country Club in Hickory, NC and Cummings Cove Golf and Country Club in Hendersonville, where he grew in the course, Lovell is director of golf course and grounds maintenance at Rumbling Bald Resort back in Lake Lure. His construction experience won him the job with the early goal of rebuilding the greens at the resort's Bald Mountain course.

Between Bald Mountain and the resort's other course, Apple Valley, Lovell maintains 36 holes that generated a total of 82,000 rounds last year. If that kind of traffic



isn't enough to keep him busy, he also oversees a mobile landscape unit that maintains properties for the resort condominiums and 12 homeowner associations. He is currently in the midst of rebuilding all 84 bunkers across the two courses. And that's just his day job, which can occupy 60-plus hours a week in season.

Out of hours, Lovell plays guitar, lead and rhythm, with his band - Flashback Sally. Already they are scheduled to play 46 gigs this year. Generally, they start at 9pm, finishing their last set around 1am. You can add an hour's worth of set up on the front end of that and another 30 minutes for teardown at the end. Lovell is in the thick of it all since the vast majority of the band's equipment is his. Given that he starts at Rumbling Bald at 6am that can make for a very long day. Especially when you add travel time.

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**"IT DEFINITELY FEELS LIKE THE PERFECT BLEND TO ME. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED GROWING GRASS AND I GET TO PLAY MY MUSIC."**

**- MATT LOVELL**



# AND THE GREENS HE ROLLS



Still, he regards the band as less of a burden than the other half of a perfect balance in his life. "Music is a release for me," he says. "I can have a hard week at the golf course then when the music starts I can kind of get lost in it. It's a kind of escape." To help ensure that balance, the band only plays every other weekend. They practice every week but keep alternate weekends free for family time.

Flashback Sally is a five-piece band that covers hits by a wide range of artists from the likes of Janis Joplin to the Black Crowes. They also mix in some originals written by Lovell and his girlfriend and singer, Ketta Lynne aka Sally. Chris Archer, Drew Mullins and Rob Monteith complete the current line-up, the core of which has been together six years.

The band commands a regular performing circuit in the triangle from Lake Lure to Asheville, NC and down to Greenville in Upstate SC. Not so long

ago they secured a sponsorship from Fireball Whiskey after one of the company's agents happened to be in the crowd at a gig one night. But for Lovell the rewards are overwhelmingly in the music rather than in any money they make.

All of it almost disappeared in an instant at 3.05pm on January 13 two years ago shortly after Lovell left work. A drunk driver veered into Lovell's lane and the resultant collision totaled both vehicles. Lovell suffered the worst injuries of the two drivers. He spent a total of a week in hospital over different stays and another nine months in physical therapy. It could have been a lot worse had Lovell not been in his truck.

The woman who hit him survived largely unscathed and fled, quite literally, from the scene of the accident. She might still be running if Lovell's landscape superintendent, Andy Edwards, not been following Lovell from work.

Edwards sprinted after the woman eventually chasing her down in a cornfield.

Lovell missed some time from work and from his music but was back at both as soon as he possibly could be. The Les Pauls and Stratocasters that Lovell plays weigh about eight lbs which can become quite a load slung over your shoulders for four hours. So he had a friend manufacture a cradle to bear the weight of the guitars while Lovell stood behind them and played.

The cradle is now gone but some of the back issues linger. Still, Lovell maintains his grueling pace. Something he can only do, he says, because he is "surrounded by good people" on stage and on the golf course. Chief among his golf course allies is superintendent Brent Ward, who has been at Rumbling Bald for 18 years. Lovell's allies also include his many friends in the Western North Carolina Turfgrass Association, which he somehow managed to find enough time to serve not only as a director but also as a president.

Lovell is also grateful to the direction he gained in those early years from the likes of Carling and Richard McNabb, CGCS at Lake Hickory. Back then McNabb was one of only four Americans who had achieved Master Greenkeeper certification from the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

There was a time when Lovell toyed with the idea of becoming a general manager. But that thought, like his dreams of becoming a music producer, fell by the wayside and he doesn't feel like he's missing out on much in either regard. To the contrary. "To tell you the truth I'm pretty content," he says. "It definitely feels like the perfect blend to me. I've always loved growing grass and I get to play my music."

Some of the most successful superintendents in the business talk of the importance of maintaining a balanced life with interests outside of the golf course. Few are as passionate about what they do in and out of work as Matt Lovell. ■



## HEAR THE BAND

You can hear Matt Lovell's band with a quick visit to [www.reverbnation.com](http://www.reverbnation.com). You don't have to sign up or log in. Just search for Flashback Sally and take a listen.

**"I CAN HAVE A HARD WEEK AT THE GOLF COURSE THEN WHEN THE MUSIC STARTS I CAN KIND OF GET LOST IN IT. IT'S A KIND OF ESCAPE."**

**- MATT LOVELL**



## Triangle



Drs. Jim Kearns, Bruce Martin and Travis Gannon were among speakers at Prestonwood Country Club.



Carolinas GCSA president Brian Powell, CGCS and director David Jacob, CGCS

I would first like to thank Prestonwood Country Club and host superintendent David Dalton for hosting the Triangle Turfgrass Association again for our annual pesticide conference. I feel like it turned out to be one of our best ever. The food was wonderful. We were able to be in a bigger room this year which seemed to make everyone more comfortable.

The meeting started off with Carolinas GCSA president Brian Powell, CGCS bringing us up to date on current projects within the organization. He focused on Rounds4Research and how important it is to become involved. Next, we had Dr. Travis Gannon from North Carolina State University talk to us about new and past herbicides on the market.

Dr. Bruce Martin from Clemson University brought us up to date on fungicides. It was really wonderful of Dr. Martin to come up from Clemson considering the winter weather that was on the way. After lunch Dr. Leon Lucas spoke to us on things he had seen during his travels in 2013. As usual he did not disappoint. I'm always interested what Dr. Lucas has to say.

In our final segment in the afternoon

we had a round-table discussion. Three superintendents from bentgrass courses and three from ultradwarf courses were on the panel moderated by Dr. Jim Kerns from NC State. David Jacobs, CGCS from Benvenue Country Club, Grant Warren from Pine Hollow Golf Club and David Lee from Hope Valley Country Club, were on the ultradwarf side. Keith Roberson from Bentwinds Golf and Country Club, Brian Green from Lonnie Poole Golf Course and Butch Sheffield, CGCS from North Ridge Country Club were on the bentgrass side.

Dr. Kearns did a wonderful job as moderator asking questions from maintenance practices to the economic impacts brought on by switching to ultradwarf bermudagrasses. It definitely was one of the more interesting roundtables I have heard. The board of directors would like to thank all of our participants who took time away from work to make the pesticide conference a great one.

In April we were looking forward to our Bob Mashburn Scholarship fundraiser golf tournament at The Heritage Club in Wake Forest, NC. Nick Bisanz was to be our host superintendent for the shotgun

start with a Texas scramble format. Look for results in the next issue of Carolinas Green.

On May 18, we have our annual Durham Bulls family night sponsored by John Deere and Revels Turf and Tractor. The game starts at 5pm. We will meet at Tylers Taproom an hour before for beverages. This is a free event for association members and their families.

*Rodney Moss, River Ridge Golf Club  
(919) 906-2082.*

## Cape Fear

Like everyone across the Carolinas, we in the Cape Fear GCSA have been moving into full-swing in recent weeks as spring finally pushed winter into the background. We were also busy on an administrative level preparing for the annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference at Cape Fear Country Club in Wilmington, NC that was scheduled for late April. This event is always a highlight on our calendar and at press time all indications were that it would be once again.

There has been a good deal of talk about the PGA Tour's Wells Fargo Championship coming to our area at Eagle Point Golf Club in 2017. With the regular venue Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, NC getting ready for the PGA Championship that year, we are proud to know that the role of preparing the stage for the Wells Fargo will fall to Erik Greytok and his staff. We have every confidence that they will do our region proud.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a great golfing season and look forward to seeing our members at Legion Stadium on June 7 for the Wilmington Sharks' game against Morehead City.

*Keith Williams, Green Resource*  
(910) 622-6909.

## Midlands

The Midlands Turfgrass Association held our first meeting of 2014 early March at the Reserve Club at Woodside Plantation in Aiken, SC. Ezra Munn from the Clemson Department of Pesticide Regulation provided an update and review of pesticide regulations followed by a presentation about turfgrass certification provided by Sarah Adams from the Department of Plant Regulation. A big thank you goes to golf course superintendent Derek Floyd and staff for hosting and providing an excellent golf course despite dealing with the aftermath of a major ice storm two weeks prior.

At press time, we were looking forward to a field day held at the Pee Dee Research Center in Florence, SC where were to be joined by members of the Palmetto GCSA. Dr. Bruce Martin and Dr. J. C. Chong were to share results of disease and insect research respectively. Lunch and golf were to follow at Florence Country Club. Thanks to superintendent Dru Clark and staff for hosting the golf.

We are working to set up a family outing to the University of South Carolina versus Missouri baseball game on May 10. Plans for this event include a stadium tour, hamburgers and hotdogs prior to

the game and tickets. The board is also working to finalize details of a meeting at Wyboo Golf Club on June 9.

These dates are tentative so be sure to check the calendar periodically at [www.carolinasgcsa.org](http://www.carolinasgcsa.org) under the local associations tab.

*Clark Cox, University of South Carolina*  
(803) 777-7810.

## Sandhills

Finally, the warm weather has showed up! With the Masters behind us, the Sandhills GCSA is gearing up for back-to-back U. S. Open Championships. The Pinehurst gang have been preparing for this historic double since the last putt dropped in 2005. All of their hard work will be seen by the world and I'm sure when everything is said and done, the course will be the real winner.

During our last board meeting we decided to join Carolinas GCSA Local Association Administrative Support Program. First of all, I would like to thank Kim Clark for all of her help. She had to put up with me calling her every day and bugging her.

With assistance of our past-presidents, we set the officers and board of directors for 2014 - President, Steven Dockery, Methodist University Golf Club; vice-president, Keith Osterman, Beacon Ridge Golf and Country Club; secretary-treasurer, Craig Manning, Seven Lakes Golf and Country Club; directors, Chris Smith, Mid South Club; Randy Dallas, Bulk Aggregate Golf; Alan Owen, Pinehurst No. 2.

The officers and directors want to say thanks for all of our vendor support this year. This money will aid and assist our local association with our outings, charity projects, scholarships and more.

We kicked off our season with a two-man event at Scott Clawson's amazing Seven Lakes Golf and Country Club. He and his staff had the course in spectacular shape.

In May we plan a wonderful educational outing at the Sandhills Research Station. Travis Gannon from North Carolina State University is a great host and we look forward making this an annual event.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who helped ensure their course participated in Rounds4Research.

*Steven Dockery, Methodist University Golf Course, (910) 630-7604.*

## Palmetto

The Palmetto GCSA members enjoyed our Carolinas GCSA-sponsored education meeting in March. This meeting, presented in partnership with Syngenta, included a presentation from Dr. Jim Kerns from North Carolina State University who updated us on diseases and fungicides in the morning session. IN the afternoon we heard from Dr. Dara Park from Clemson University speaking about irrigation scheduling.

Our next meeting was to be at the Pee Dee Research Center with updates from Drs. Bruce Martin and J.C. Chong followed by golf at Florence Country Club. We were looking forward to this event and fellowship with members from the Midlands Turfgrass Association.

*Dan Saber, CGCS Litchfield Country Club*  
(843) 237-8780.

## North-South

It would appear that spring is finally here and we can put the long, cold winter of 2013-2014 behind us and grow some turfgrass. The North-South Turfgrass Association has been very busy, despite the cold weather, in preparation for an exciting 2014. First, I would like to thank Scott Kennon, CGCS at Myers Park Country Club along with his superintendent, Tyler Goff (also an North-South TA director), for hosting our annual educational meeting in March. Dr. Jim Kerns, from North Carolina



State University provided attendees with an excellent half-day seminar on demystifying turfgrass pathology. I would also like to thank Syngenta and the Carolinas GCSA for making this event possible year after year.

Late April we were to battle the Upstate and the Western North Carolina turfgrass associations in the annual Hamrick Cup golf match, played in honor of the late Bob Hamrick. The event was to be hosted by Kyle Traynham at Willow Creek Golf Club in Greer, SC. We at the North-South TA were looking forward to taking the cup away from the defending champions of the Upstate TA.

May will be a very busy month for the Carolinas GCSA and the North-South TA. Chris Deariso, from Quail Hollow will host the Wells Fargo Championship in the first week of the month. On May 5, the Carolinas GCSA has prepared an exciting golf match to take place at Myers Park Country Club. The event will pit superintendents from North Carolina against superintendents from South Carolina in what has been billed as the North vs. South.

on May 18, TPC at Piper Glenn and Michael Boucher will host the North-South TA's annual golf classic which is our annual captain's choice event that raises funds for Central Piedmont Community College's turfgrass program. Since 2012 we have donated over \$8,000 with an impressive \$5,000 donation being made in 2013.

We also have great events planned for June and July. On June 6, our annual corn hole championship is at the corporate offices for Jacobsen in Charlotte, NC and on July 18 our annual family night will be at the new ball park for the Charlotte Knights, which is located in uptown Charlotte.

*Jason Bradley, River Hills Country Club (803) 831-1210.*

## Eastern NC



Jim Hoffman, Peter Maybach and Brian Green catch up at River Bend Country Club.



Ronnie McGhee

We had a great meeting in early April. Thanks to Jim Hoffman and his staff at River Bend Country Club in New Bern, NC for hosting the event. Peter Maybach from M & M Consulting did an excellent job and we would like to thank him for coming. He talked about how water quality affects turfgrass.

The Eastern NCTA has so much to be thankful for. Between the support of our renewing sponsors for 2014, our new sponsors for 2014 and everyone that supported our recent fundraising tournament we are already having a great year. Our fundraising tournament sponsored by Cardinal Chemical takes place on May at Wedgewood Golf Course in Wilson, NC. Thanks to Daniel Lancaster and his staff for hosting us and I am sure they will have the course in great condition and let's not forget the grill master, Dale Edmonds, who always cooks up some excellent hot dogs and hamburgers.

In March, we lost a long time member, Ronnie McGhee. He was a loving husband and father; he was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and retired from the U.S. Postal Service. An avid golfer, he spent years employed at Green Hill Country Club in Louisburg, NC. Our prayers go out to his family.

On June 19, we head to Morehead City Country Club for a meeting hosted by William Toms. Rick Fletcher from NuFarm will speak on fungicide resistance and rotation. In July, we have a family night at a Wilson Tobs baseball game. This event will be hosted by Dale Edmonds on July 24 and will give us a great opportunity to relax and spend time with our families.

We would like to thank all of our 2014 sponsors and invite all of our members to our next few meetings. Please visit our website at [www.encta.org](http://www.encta.org) and our Facebook page for more dates and information on our 2014 schedule.

*Stanley Elliott, CGCS Cypress Landing Golf Club (252) 378-5743.*

## Low Country



Scott Denny, from Sun City Argent Lakes course, and J.D. Boyce, from Long Cove Club, at the reception desk.

The weather in the Low Country has been a little colder than usual. Even in late March, most of the guys on the golf course crew were still bundled up like it was January. One day it was 60 and sunny, then you woke up the next morning and it was below 40 degrees with a mild frost.

The Low Country GCSA committee has been busy planning many events for our members. We had our second event for the year which was our annual chapter championship at the Arthur Hills course at Palmetto Dunes on Hilton Head Island, SC. We had a good turn out, as always, with just around 30 players. The course was in great shape and we would like to thank Patrick Wake, Travis Woods, Matt Dungan and their staff for the great conditions.

Congrats to Cary Stoffel who took home first place in the vendors division with Allen Gerstner in second place. J.D. Boyce won in the superintendent division and Palmetto Dune's own Travis Woods was runner-up.

Our pro-superintendent tournament this year is on May 12 at Spring Island Club hosted by Jay Gratton and golf pro Bill Sampson. This event is always a great event and will be capped this year at the first 30 paid teams.



Competitors in the Low Country GCSA's annual chapter championship.

We also have our annual par three open going back to Crosswinds Par 3 course in Savannah, GA. This is always a great tournament where we can just kick back and have a little fun on the course and heckle our fellow golfers. Hope to see everyone at Crosswinds on June 18. Please remember to sign up and pay for all our events through the Carolinas GCSA web site, [www.cgcsa.org](http://www.cgcsa.org).

We do have some Low Country golf courses that have held some great events this spring. Long Cove Club held the annual Darius Ruker women's collegiate tournament, Callawassie Island held an E-Tour event and Wexford Plantation had their annual men's collegiate tournament. As always, Harbour Town Golf Links also held the PGA Tour's RBC Heritage in April. Jon Wright and his staff always have the course in great shape for this event. Great job to all of these courses and staffs for a job well done.

Please remember to sign up a pay for all our events through the Carolinas GCSA web site and also make sure your 2014 dues are up to date. We hope everyone has a great season with a great summer ahead.

*Nathan Stevely, Chechessee Creek Club  
(843) 247-7028.*

## Coastal Plains



Scott Martin, CGCS

The end of March finally brought warmer weather for our superintendent-pro or general manager meeting at the Links of Stono Ferry. Brad Miller, meteorologist with CBS Live 5 Weather, talked to the group about current trends in weather forecasting and life as a local weatherman. It was a very creative and informative presentation and many laughs were shared by all that attended. He also guaranteed a warm winter for 2014 so we will have to hold him to that prediction.

After the meeting the group of



superintendents and their GM or pro headed out to the course to see which local course would reign supreme for 2013. In the end, the boys from Wrenwoods Golf Course outlasted the field. I'd like to thank Mike Eargle and his staff for all the work they did in making the event run smoothly. As always, the course was in great shape and everyone had an equally great time.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone for joining up again this year. Our numbers for meetings have been good and we all know that that wouldn't be possible without the help of our vendors. Our Super Sponsors to date are Mitch Williams of Green Resource, Scott Martin of Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply, Matt Schrader of Harrell's and David Swanigan of Bayer. Our VIP Corporate Sponsors are Marty Bahen of Smith Turf and Irrigation, Larry Feller of Syngenta and Jeff Fitcher of Coastal Floratine.

If you happen to run across one of our sponsors, please make sure you let them know that you appreciate all that they do. Their sponsorship dollars allow us to reserve meeting spaces and provides lunches, golf and prizes at a minimal cost. More importantly, they are necessary in providing scholarship money and research dollars to our local universities. If you have a child attending college this fall, be sure to submit an application for this year's scholarship. This year's \$750-essay task is to briefly describe long- and short-term goals. For additional details please visit the Coastal Plains GCSA page on the Carolinas GCSA web site, [www.cgcsa.org](http://www.cgcsa.org).

*Brian Brown, Wrenwoods Golf Course  
(843) 963-1301.*

### Piedmont

As I write this, it is a balmy 80 degrees in early April in Winston-Salem, NC. Very nice indeed. I hope the warm weather made it to your part of the world also. I consider it to be some restitution for the crummy weather we experienced for the previous several months.

The Piedmont GCSA hosted a water wisdom seminar at Bryan Park in February. Dr. Charles Peacock from North Carolina State University and Harold Brady from the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources were our featured speakers. We thank them for their time and the useful information. As we all know, water is an issue near the forefront of our industry. For me the take home message was that, at least for now, state mandates regarding water usage are still on the horizon but not imminent. We need to continue to be good stewards of this resource and to be proactive in telling that story.

By the time you read this, we will have already hosted a new event. We are calling it "Shootin' at Shane's." It is ok, Shane's is a clay-target shooting range in Summerfield, NC. We are very excited about this event and look forward to bringing you the results in the next issue of Carolinas Green.

In May, we have our annual fundraiser tournament. Brent Gentel, superintendent at Starmount Forest Country Club, will host us on May 21. Tournament details include a four-man captain's choice with a 10am shotgun start, followed by lunch at 2.30pm and proximity prizes. Complete details and registration are available at [www.cgcsa.org](http://www.cgcsa.org) or by calling Kim Clark at (800) 476-4272. Please note the change of date for this very important tournament as we have traditionally held it in the fall. It promises to be a great event and we look forward to seeing you there.

We are putting the final touches on event schedule for the year so please visit our website at [www.pgcsa.net](http://www.pgcsa.net) to get all the information.

*Chris DeVane, Forsyth Country Club  
(336) 760-8191.*



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## Bob Rings the Bell On 40 Years at STI



Bob Bell

Bob Bell retired from Smith Turf and Irrigation in January after a distinguished 40-year career with the company. After being hired in 1973 as a commercial equipment (golf) territory manager for then E. J. Smith and Sons Co. in Charlotte, NC, Bell quickly put his talents to use, traveling the western North Carolina area and forging lifelong customers and friends in the golf and green industry.

Bell was recognized as their Salesman of the Year in 1977, 1979 and 1982, and also by the Toro Company, earning their prestigious Green Blazer Award in 1983. He was named commercial division sales manager and vice-president of Smith Turf and Irrigation in 1984.

He has had a very successful career with the company, overseeing the growth of their largest grossing sales division where they set many yearly sales plateaus and records. His division won the Toro Best in Commercial award in 1999 and continues to be one of the largest in their worldwide distributor network every year. They have also been recognized by many other vendors as their top performing distributor.

Bell was equally dedicated to the green industry, representing STI on many committees, foundations and associations -

- Member and past-president of the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina

- Turfgrass Council of North Carolina 1994 Outstanding Service Award
- Member of South Carolina Turfgrass Foundation
- South Carolina Turfgrass Foundation board member
- Past chairman and member of the Advisory Board for the Center for Turfgrass Environmental Research and Education - NCSU
- Carolinas GCSA member since 1974
- Carolinas GCSA Industry Advisory Committee Member
- Carolinas GCSA 2005 Distinguished Service Award

Bell's legacy with Smith Turf and Irrigation cannot be overstated. During his career, he helped to build and shape the company with a strong dedication to customers, vendors and colleagues that will be greatly missed but surely emulated.

Bell has been married to Linda since 1990 and together they have four children and six grandchildren. They will continue to reside in Mint Hill, NC after retirement and Bell will focus on his hobbies: hunting, fishing and boating.

- Ashley Barnikel, Smith Turf and Irrigation.

## New Staffer at Select Source

Select Source announces the addition of Lisa Alexander as customer engagement and marketing specialist. Alexander will be based in North Carolina. Her responsibilities include receiving, entering and fulfilling orders. She will serve as an extension of the field sales team while also coordinating marketing activities across the company.

Alexander has eight years of industry experience in customer service and support roles at several crop-protection companies. Most recently, she served as an account coordinator for a marketing and advertising agency with clients in the agriculture industry. She holds a bachelor's degree from Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, WV and can be reached at (877) 235-0043 or [customer.service@selectsourcelc.net](mailto:customer.service@selectsourcelc.net).

## Parker Shoun can Hear You Now

In 2004, the golf course maintenance industry rallied behind the family of one of their own. Parker Shoun, the son of Carolinas GCSA member Michael Shoun and wife, Holly, was two at the time and facing a lifetime of silence. He was born profoundly deaf but an appeal led by the Triangle Turfgrass Association based in Raleigh, NC raised nearly \$60,000 around

a raffle for a lawn tractor donated by John Deere. The money provided cochlear implant surgery that the Shoun family's health insurer refused to pay for.

Today, Parker Shoun is thriving and the family is working to ensure other children facing similar challenges can get the help their son benefited so much from. The Shouns are helping organize the second annual CASTLE golf tournament at Sedgefield Country Club's Dye Course, formerly Cardinal Country Club, in Greensboro, NC on May 12. CASTLE is the Center for Acquisition of Spoken Language Through Listening Enrichment, a highly specialized pre-school equipped to help hearing impaired children with severe speech and language delays. It is part of the UNC Hospital System.

"Last year we had some great sponsors from the golf course industry including Syngenta, Revels Turf and Tractor and McConnell Golf," Holly Shoun says. "It would be wonderful to see some more golf industry folks turn out for this cause that makes such a difference in the lives of so many children and their families."

For more information about CASTLE and to register, visit [www.SupportCASTLE.org](http://www.SupportCASTLE.org).

## Cliff Stewart Joins STEC

Cliff Stewart has joined Anderson, SC-based STEC Equipment. Stewart was an assistant at Green Valley Country Club in Greenville, SC in the late '90s through the early 2000s, and then took a superintendent position in Arizona.



Cliff Stewart

## Superintendents Back Foundation



The Carolinas GCSA team of Steve Hamilton, CCGS, Tim Kreger, David Lee and Brian Powell, CGCS.

The Carolinas GCSA once again supported the Carolinas Club Foundation by entering a team in the foundation's annual golf tournament at the Country Club of North Carolina. The Carolinas Club Foundation is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization committed to supporting and contributing to the development, growth and image of the club management industry. The foundation's mission is to raise funds to support the professional development of Carolinas club managers and student chapter members through education, training and research initiatives.

The Carolinas GCSA was represented by president Brian Powell, CGCS from Old Chatham Golf Club, past-president Steve Hamilton, CGCS from The Dunes Golf and Beach Club, secretary-treasurer David Lee from Hope Valley Country Club and executive director, Tim Kreger.

## 3rd Tine Open Draws Near

Bermuda Run Country Club in Bermuda Run, NC will host the third annual Tine Open to benefit the Turf Equipment Technicians Association of the Carolinas on May 12. Individuals can enter for \$50 or teams in the four-man captain's choice event can enter for \$190. The 12pm shotgun start features a ribs lunch at the turn. Proceeds will support TETAC members who need assistance with continuing education, medical situations and in times of loss. For more information and to enter, call (336) 354-1243 or email [sandra.mooneyham@jrmonline.com](mailto:sandra.mooneyham@jrmonline.com).



## OUR FRIENDS

**Joseph T. Brown**, former spray technician at Myers Park Country Club, Charlotte, NC is now assistant golf course superintendent at Callawassie Island Club, Okatie, SC.

**Jonathan S. Carrick** has been promoted to golf course superintendent at Barefoot Resort and Golf, North Myrtle Beach, SC.

**Matthew J. Carver**, former golf course superintendent at Brushy Mountain Golf Course, Taylorsville, NC is now with Tri-State Pump and Control, Inc., Liberty, SC.

**John H. Franklin, III**, has been promoted to golf course superintendent at Monticello Golf Club at Savannah Lakes Village, McCormick, SC.

**Tyler Goff** has been promoted to golf course superintendent at Myers Park Country Club, Charlotte, NC.

**Jeff M. Jones** has been promoted to assistant golf course superintendent at Masonboro Country Club, Wilmington, NC.

**David M. L'Italien**, former golf course superintendent at Forest Creek Golf Club, Pinehurst, NC is now sales representative at Eastern Turf Equipment, Fayetteville, NC.

**Zachary E. Ramey**, former assistant golf course superintendent at Thornblade Club, Greer, SC is now golf course superintendent at Holly Tree Country Club, Simpsonville, SC.

**Rob Valente**, former golf course superintendent at Eagle Ridge Golf Club, Summerfield, FL is now golf course superintendent at Pinecrest Golf Course, Bluffton, SC.

**Trey Warnock**, formerly with Bayer CropScience LP, Charlotte, NC is now director of turf sales and strategic account development at Howard Fertilizer and Chemical Company, Charlotte, NC



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Joan and Landon Miller with a portrait painted to mark Landon Miller's retirement.

### Goodbye to a Great Friend

A great friend of the Carolinas GCSA, Joan Carey Miller, 74, wife of the late Landon C. Miller, passed away on Tuesday, March 1, at her home in Clemson, SC. While Joan never mowed or aerified a green, she was a longtime contributor to the golf course superintendent profession through the support she gave her husband. Landon Miller served the association for 26 years as secretary and later as executive-secretary, performing most of his duties on top of a full-day's work with Clemson University's turfgrass and extension team.

It wasn't just that Joan Miller took care of the family home and two children while her husband invested "20 to 30 hours" after hours on Carolinas GCSA business each week, she often helped him too. In days long before the Internet, the Millers would work late collating, folding, stapling and addressing the Carolinas newsletter. Many more hours were devoted to keeping track of job and address changes for membership records.

It was important work in building the fabric of the association. "We were an organization but we were made up of people; people who needed to know each other if they were going to share information and support each other properly," Landon Miller said after his retirement. His wife's support was integral to his own success and that of his family. That is a truth well understood by many superintendents in the Carolinas GCSA.

One of the means used to keep members in touch with each other was this very column "Our Friends" which Miller launched decades ago. That the column still exists and is still widely read is a tribute to a tradition of community that the Millers believed in. "That column was one way to help people get to know each other, bring them together," Landon Miller said years ago. "There was nothing like it in any of the other industry publications of the time and I felt very honored when Carolinas Green retained the title after my retirement."

It is a privilege for the Carolinas GCSA to be able to honor the late Joan Miller in this platform her husband valued so dearly.

Joan Carey Miller was born in Mecklenburg County, NC, and was the daughter of the late James C. and Allie Mae Simpson Carey. She graduated from Daniel High School in 1958, was a graduate of Anderson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, retired from Redfern Health Center at Clemson University, a member of the Red Hat Society and a member of Clemson First Baptist Church.

Surviving are her son, Steven Landon Miller (Stacey); a daughter, Kimberly Miller Wilson (Russ); a brother, James C. Carey, Jr. (Marsha) all of Clemson; four grandchildren, Tyler and Emily Miller, Benjamin Wilson, and Priscilla Joyner.

Memorials may be made to: Friends of the SC Botanical Garden, PO Box 1889, Clemson, SC 29633 or Clemson First Baptist Church, 397 College Ave, Clemson, SC 29631.

### Our Deepest Sympathies

Members of the Carolinas GCSA extend their deepest sympathies to the family of Charles Raymond "Chuck" Tyner, golf course superintendent at Fox Creek Golf Course near Lydia, SC. Tyner, 51, died as the result of an accident on the golf course in March. Born in Hartsville, SC, he was a son of the late Charles Raymond Tyner. He was a member of Kelleytown Baptist Church and loved many things including Nascar racing, golf and all other sports; all of the Pirates of the Caribbean movies, as well as the Lord of the Rings Trilogy. He loved his job at the golf course and took great pride in his work. More than anything in this world, he loved his family and they loved him.

Surviving are his spouse, Susan M. Tyner of Hartsville, SC; daughters, Callie Marie Tyner and Abby Caroline Tyner; mother, Jacqueline Grantham Tyner; brother, Jeffery Todd Tyner; and sister, Angie Tyner Rivers.







The following companies deserve thanks for their generous support of the 2013 Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show in Myrtle Beach, SC.

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**Tuesday Seminar Luncheon**  
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TRI-STATE PUMP & CONTROL

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### CLASS A - Superintendent

**Joseph C. Haskins**, The Woodlands and Diamond Ridge Golf Club, MD  
**Brannon Goodrich**, Carmel Country Club, Charlotte, NC  
**Christopher J. Tierney**, Omni Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC

### CLASS SM - Superintendent

**Mark Duzenski**, Eagle Nest Golf Club, North Myrtle Beach, SC  
**Jared R. Nemitz**, The Peninsula Club, Cornelius, NC

### CLASS C - Assistant Superintendent

**Stirling G. Ambler**, Omni Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC  
**Travis Brown**, Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards, Sunset, SC  
**Brett W. Call**, Prestonwood Country Club, Cary, NC  
**William M. Coffey**, Ballantyne Country Club, Charlotte, SC  
**Peter Cormican**, Berkeley Hall Club, Bluffton, SC  
**Eric J. Graveen**, Carolina Trace Country Club, Sanford, NC  
**Matt A. Hunsucker**, Southern Pines Golf Club, Southern Pines, NC  
**Chris M. Jordan**, The Walker Course at Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
**Matthew G. Klein**, Champions Retreat Golf Club, Evans, GA  
**John C. Long**, Bentwinds Country Club, Fuquay-Varina, NC  
**Vaughn G. Mease, III**, Lake Hickory Country Club, Hickory, NC  
**James J. Nesbit**, Legends Golf Course, Myrtle Beach, SC  
**John R. Pridgen**, Carolina Trace Country Club, Sanford, NC  
**Randall T. Story**, The Members Club at Wildewood, Columbia, SC

### CLASS S - Student

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**Colton C. Jones**, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN

### CLASS AS - Associate

**Walter M. Elmore**, Proehlific Club at Forest Oaks Country Club, Greensboro, NC

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## A Dog and a Bone



Chris Noll is tough. The guy has run three marathons and was training for a fourth before suffering an injury that proves we all have our weak spots, if you know where to find them. In the case of Noll, golf course superintendent at Forest Creek Golf Club's North Course in Pinehurst, NC, it took his dog, a sweet-faced border collie called Sandy to sniff out his Achilles heel, or in this case, femur.

Noll and a crew member were out on the course with their dogs when the pair of pooches became more than a little boisterous. Chasing each other about – the dogs, not Noll and his workmate – they disappeared into the trees at one point. Then like a bullet out of a gun Noll's dog burst back into the clear but in the same split second crashed into his leg.

The blow stung Noll but as he tried to walk it off it became clear something was seriously amiss. Sure enough, ex-rays showed a break and he was on crutches for the next month with a broken leg. Man's best fiend!



## The Long and Winding Road

Life in the fast lane sometimes comes to a screeching halt. Bill Kennedy, CGCS from Chechessee Creek Club in Oaktie, SC has done more than his fair share of meeting hours and plane trips on behalf of the Carolinas GCSA, first as a chapter delegate to GCSAA, then as a board member and now as our vice-president. His latest trip to GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS for a leadership meeting was productive enough but the trip home was about as much fun as a hydraulic leak when you're mowing for the member-guest.

Kennedy was supposed to land in Savannah, GA about 8pm, jump in his truck and be home with his family soon after. He touched down in Charlotte, NC on schedule about 5:30pm but his connector was at first delayed because of strong winds and eventually canceled after 9pm. With a budget meeting the next day, Kennedy rented wheels and about 250 miles later crawled into bed around 2am. He was up a few hours later to take care of the golf course and then the budget meeting before eventually making the 90-minute round trip to collect his truck in Savannah.

## Just Good Friends

We don't really know the story behind the contributed photo, right, taken during the golf tournament before this year's USGA Green Section conference. And maybe it's better that way, who knows? But we can say for sure that neither Chris DeVane, a Carolinas GCSA director from Forsyth Country Club, on the left, and Todd Armstrong, of Smith Turf and Irrigation, can be accused of taking themselves too seriously.



## Into Every Life a Little Rain Must ...

You think Congress is divided! The rift in Washington is nothing compared to the split in the Carolinas GCSA board room after some bonding time on the golf course in advance of the USGA Green Section regional conference in Pinehurst, NC in March. Directors gathered at the Dormie Club to take some time away from the grind over their notebooks and have a little friendly competition on the course. A small wager was placed.

By the end of the day, several groups came in from their 18 holes soaked through because of a downpour that hit during the back nine. They found several other groups bone dry. Turns out the dry group abandoned play after nine because the sky looked so threatening. Trouble was that the "acting" golf committee chairman was in the dry group and he determined that the tournament would be reduced to nine holes. Bad enough that the guys who toughed out all 18 in the rain didn't win. Worse still that the "acting" golf committee chair – sitting nice and dry – did!



## Closing Quote Part I

USGA Green Section Southeastern Region director Pat O'Brien on the apparent exodus of attendees before his traditional closing presentation at the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show – "I guess I just ain't Natalie Gulbis am I?"

## Closing Quote Part II

Pinehurst No. 2 assistant superintendent John Jeffreys on his greatest fear going into historic back-to-back men's and women's U.S. Opens in June – "Having to spend two weeks with Patrick O'Brien!"





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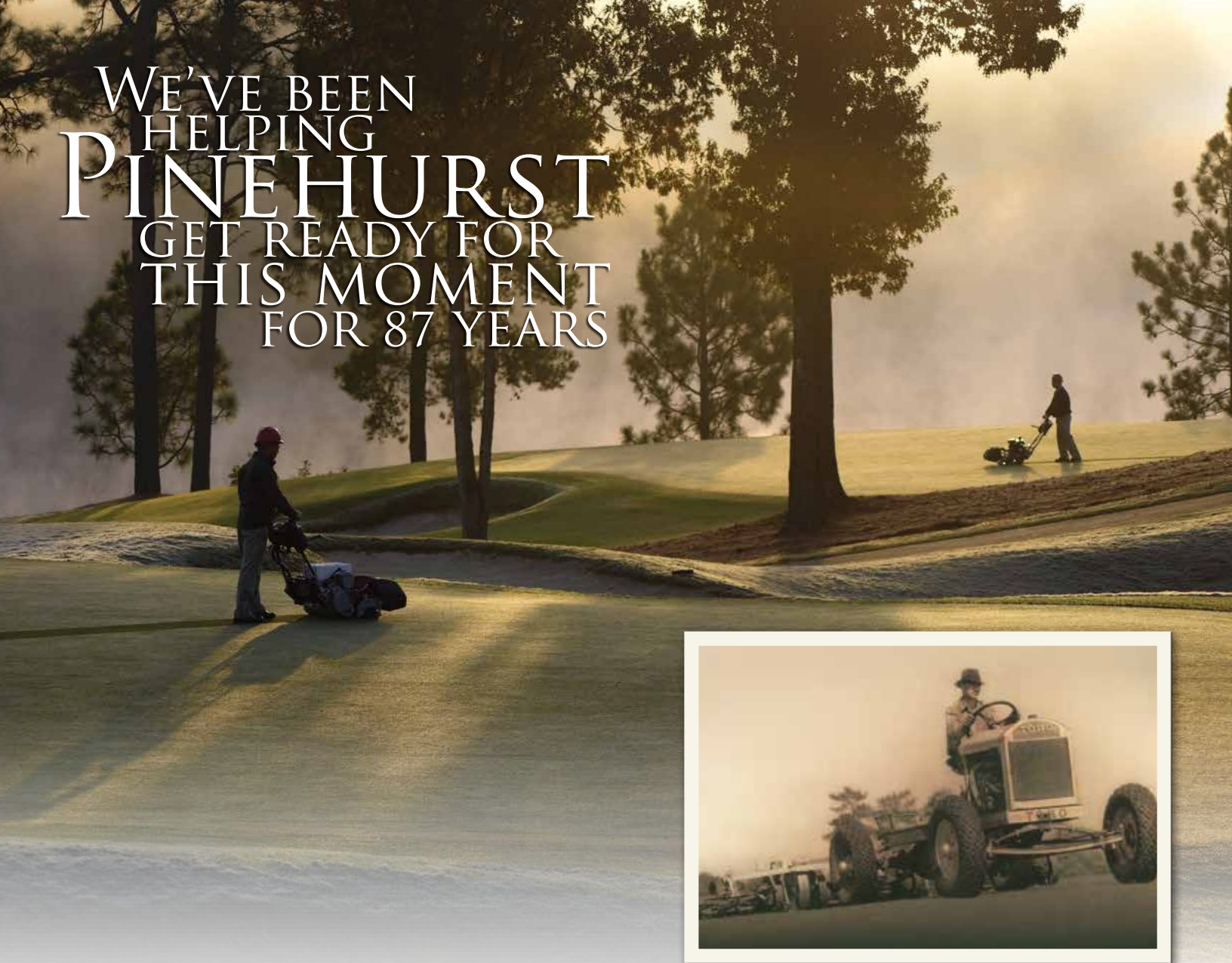


Photo courtesy of Tufts Archives, Given Memorial Library: Pinehurst No. 2, Circa 1935

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