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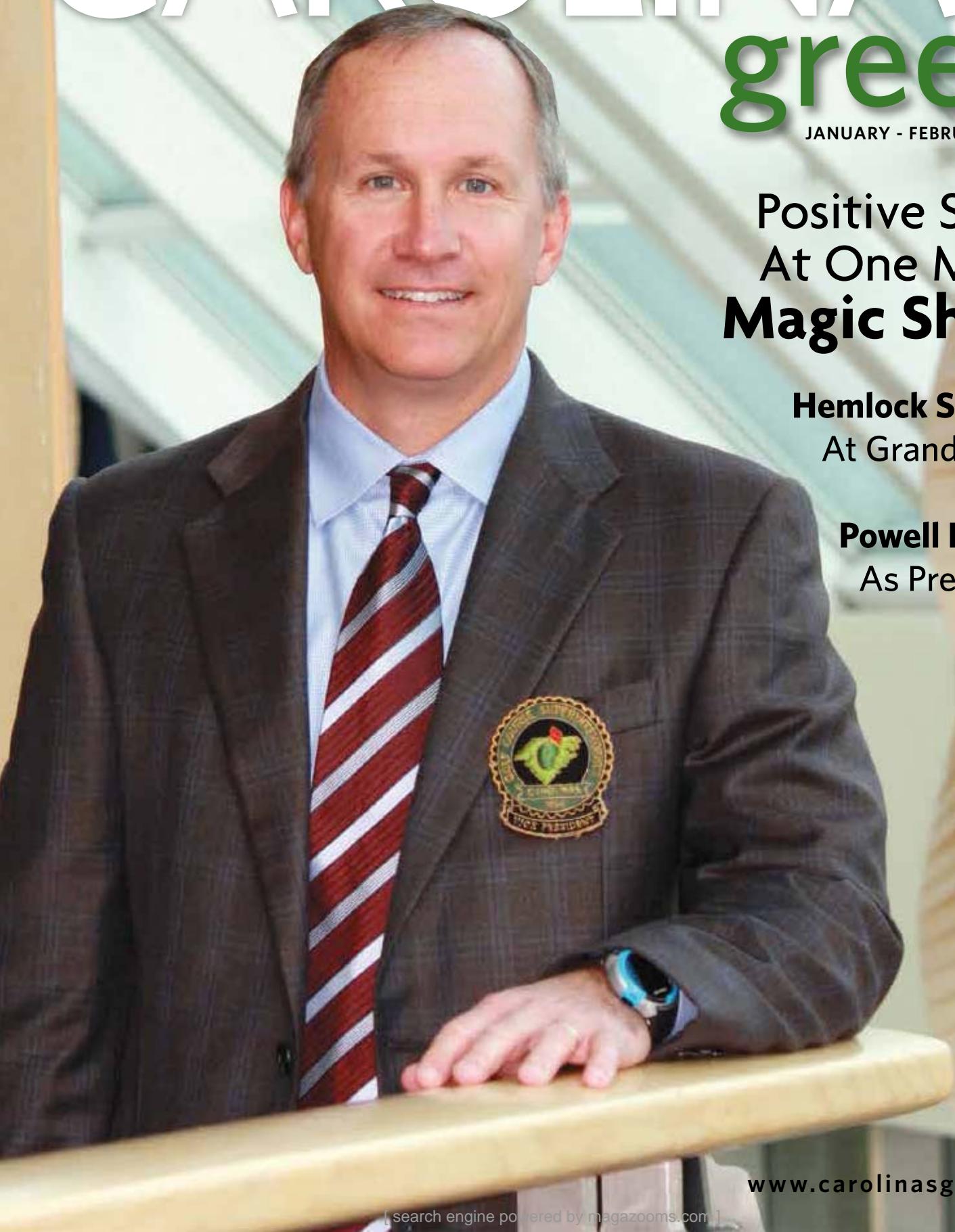
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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2014

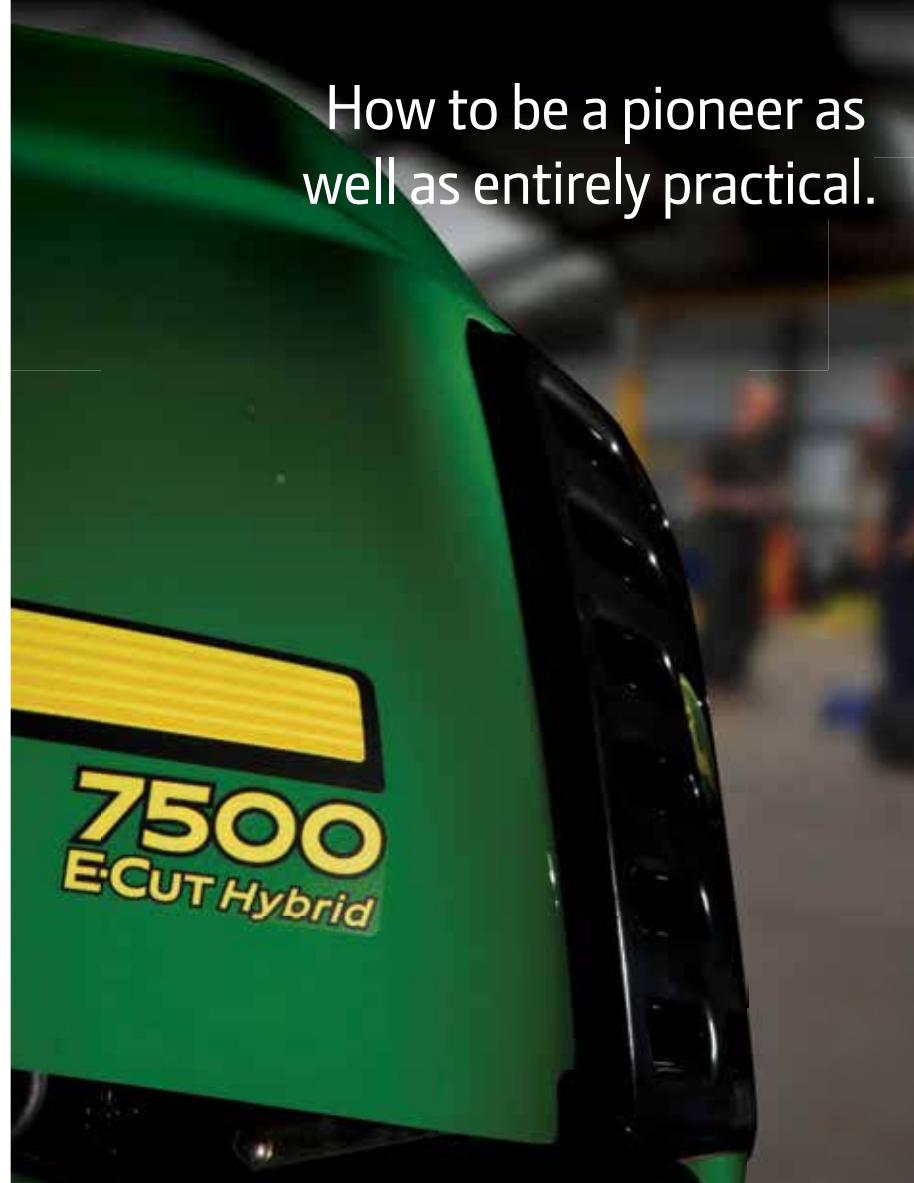
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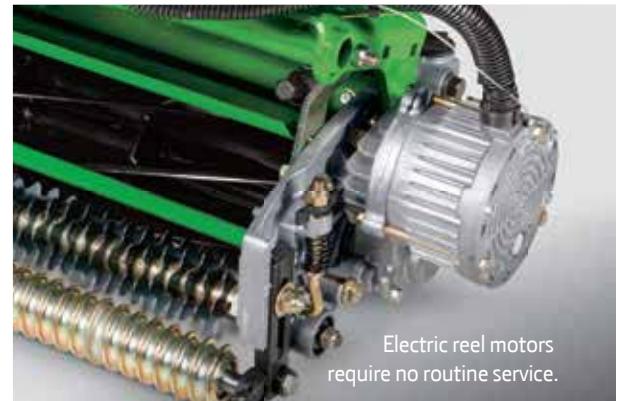
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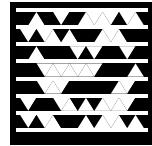
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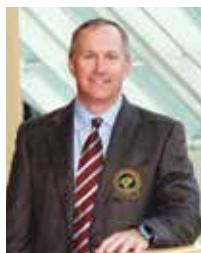
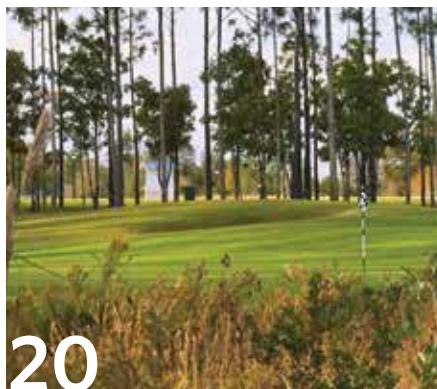
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Cover photo:
Brian Powell, CGCS from
Old Chatham Golf Club
will lead the Carolinas
GCSA in 2014.

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Are we Letting Technology Wag the Tail of Our Dog



New Carolinas GCSA president, Brian Powell, CGCS spent some quality time with GCSAA chief executive officer, Rhett Evans, during Conference and Show in Myrtle Beach, SC.

A text, a like on Facebook, an email, a tweet, an Instagram, a mention. Whatever happened to a simple 'Hello?' In our world of social media the Kardashians are a big story. Anything that generates a splash often counts for more than substance.

I'm not really certain why but I find it hard to believe that Walter Cronkite would have been caught dead giving an update on the evening news about what a Kardashian was wearing. How about a tweet from Peter Jennings on what Lady Gaga had to say about Madonna?

As I write this, the top news of the day is that the former Ugliest Dog Award winner has died. The poor pooch has been mentioned on CNN, FOX News, the Associated Press, the BBC and of course the online news service. I remember my dog getting run over by my neighbor when I was a little kid. It was horrible. I had no one to play fetch with and my "best friend" was gone.

I thought I loved my cocker spaniel poodle mix but maybe not, given today's standards. Who would have thought that while I was scratching his back and keeping the ticks and fleas off him, I was doing him a disservice without plastering him all over his own Facebook account,

a twitter feed, Instagram "selfies" and a blog. What was I thinking? How could I have been so heartless?

"When did contemplation, lengthy discovery and due diligence become outdated?"

Technology is great, unbelievably so in a lot of cases and certainly when it is used wisely. But I fear that all too often it's the technology using us, rather than the other way around. You could say we're letting the tail wag our dog. We post, send, transmit and transfer too much material and information because it's so easy to do it, even when it's not always the most efficient thing to do.

Have you ever opened email just a few hours after it was sent to a group of people? Invariably, by then, you discover multiple comments and follow up emails and also learn that the issue behind the original email is now long decided. Your input wasn't necessary after all but you still had to wade through all that email

traffic to find that out. Sometimes that's time wasted.

When did contemplation, lengthy discovery and due diligence become outdated? A quick decision may indeed be the best one and our social media technology provides the stage for rapid feedback. But sometimes a little time has a way of really honing ideas that seemed to be sharp when they first were created.

One example of a great idea that has benefited from astute use of technology is our Conference and Show. The show just finished yet another record setting year and continues to grow. Not bad for a show that's had a couple of decades of tweaks and revisions by the current and past boards of directors. Sometimes we have gotten it right and sometimes we haven't, but rest assured your board of directors and association staff wants to get it right and we will continue to examine and contemplate what we can do to improve it and all our association functions.

For the past few years we have used technology to survey attendees and have made a number of changes to the program as a result. Moving the venue for Carolinas Night in November was one and what a great decision that proved to be. But we have been careful to mix that technological feedback with some serious face-to-face discussions in planning meetings.

We might not have been as swift as some associations to immerse ourselves deeply in the social media world. But we are heading in that direction and being very deliberate about it. It's where everything is heading. We look forward to making technology work most efficiently for you and your association. It likely will take some tweaking as we fine tune how social media can serve members. But at least you know you won't have to look at any photos of my dog online. ■

2014 New Year's Resolutions

- Start the year right - call Corbin Turf Supply !!!
- Trouble shoot my sprayer..need new parts ??
- Have a new set of logo flags on my shelf before the current set is ragged.
- Go to the Golf Industry Show in Orlando.
- Stop over-reacting to the suggestions of my Greens Chairman.
- Find a great dog for the grounds staff.



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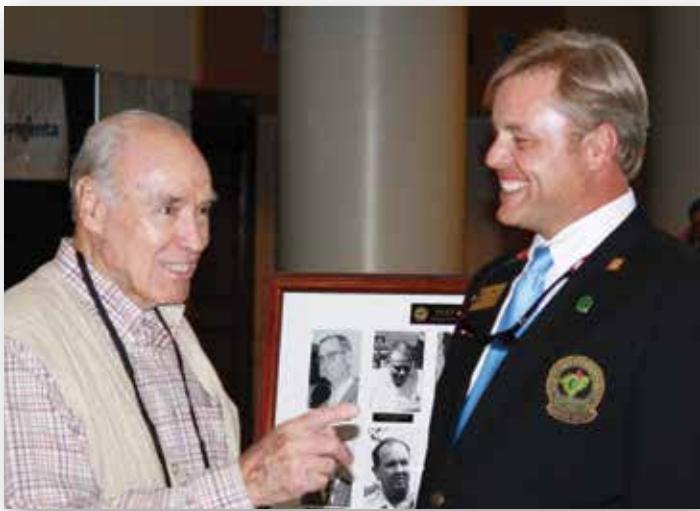
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Your Show is much Greater Than the Sum of its Parts



Industry legend Palmer Maples, Jr. CGCS shares a fond memory with Carolinas GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger, at Conference and Show.

Aristotle would be proud of us! He was the first to observe that sometimes the "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." If anything proves that it is the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show. Because of the synergy generated by so many moving parts, small and large from near and far, we have an event that is second to none outside the Golf Industry Show.

I want to personally thank all superintendents, assistant superintendents, spray technicians, turf equipment technicians all other golf course maintenance staff personnel for making the time to come and support their association.

Just as sincerely, I also want to thank all exhibitors who gave their time and their resources to come and support our association while getting the opportunity to see more than 1,100 qualified buyers over a two-day period.

Every element of the event is important but I do want to make special mention of those industry partners who invested above and beyond for the betterment of the superintendent profession.

The 327 golfers playing on Monday, received tee gifts, trophies, beer on

course, etc thanks to the support of Smith Turf and Irrigation and The Toro Company. While the golfers were missing putts, Bayer partnered with us and Back Woods Quail Club to produce a great sporting clays event with more than 60 participants.

"Thanks to every single part in the sum that was another spectacular event."

Also on Monday, we had 260-plus people in seminars which then rolled into another 1,000 in seminars on Tuesday, all possible thanks to Syngenta's generous support. Harrells provided refreshments at every break during the week and also left koozies for you to take home. The Tuesday seminar lunch was pretty darned good too, thanks to Golf Agronomics and Quali-Pro who provide the lunch partnership.

Special thoughts go out to this next partner who recently suffered a personal loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with Penny McPherson. Our greenery around

the show hall would never look so good without the support of McPhersons Greenhouses.

After a huge trade show opening on Tuesday, we headed to new venues for Carolinas Night. Over a great dinner at Revolutions, people had a chance to get together and view pictures of friends from throughout the year, then party into the wee hours at Crocodile Rocks with its dueling pianos. Thanks to our friends at Tri-State Pump and Controls and Jacobsen who make this extra special night possible.

Bo Barefoot and Precision Laboratories presented the Turf Bowl and Bo did a great job once again as moderator. Congratulations to Horry-Georgetown Technical College on their win.

Green Resource offered their support as welcoming partners and also provided a gift to all attendees, as they have for several years now. Sincere thanks to the Green Resource team for helping hit the right note at the start of what became the biggest of 51 shows so far.

Danny Allen made repeat appearance as speaker at the fellowship breakfast. This special start to Wednesday is only possible due to the increased support of Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply and NewLife Turf. Sincere thanks for starting our day so right.

Our general sessions partners, Radios for Golf, not only helped provide great speakers but also gave away a set of radios won by the lucky Paul Brandenburg, CGCS from Furman University Golf Course.

As for Wednesday's trade show, there is usually a lot going on that day with guys wrapping up 27-Hole Challenge entries, to folks making some deals. Then there's the issue of feeding over 1,200 people. We couldn't do that without the support of Coastal Floratine and Phoenix UPI, who helped provide a great meal before the drawings.

Of course that 27-Hole Challenge only exists thanks to Revels Turf and Tractor, Greenville Turf and Tractor and ShowTurf, the team of John Deere distributors that put together \$12,500 worth of prizes. Twenty lucky entrants won prizes but we all benefit from the buzz the contest generates.

On Wednesday night we paid special tribute to our Distinguished Service Award winners with a dinner at The Dunes Golf and Beach Club. There were 10 DSA winners present including our latest, George Fisher. It was a fitting tribute thanks to partnership support from J. K. Morrow and Knox Fertilizer Company.

No one had to pay the City of Myrtle Beach \$3 to park their vehicle at the convention center thanks to four

companies who made the parking lot rent free for our show. Thanks to Pickseed, Cardinal Chemicals, John Deere Landscapes and Carolina Fresh Farms. Similarly some folks were able to check their stock quotes and enter education points at no cost at the Cyber Café, thanks to Turf Max Turf Screen and Sunbelt Rentals.

Finally, the ladies that work for you on your association staff are phenomenal. I want to thank them also, in print for all to see, that I am so very proud of this team for their efforts. Thanks to every single part in the sum that was another spectacular event. ■



Carolinas Calendar

January 27-28

Winter Meeting

Bulls Bay Golf Club, Awendaw, SC
Host: Ken Ohlinger

February 5

Carolinas Night

at the Golf Industry Show
Millers Ale House, Orlando, FL

March 24-25

USGA Regional Conference

Pinehurst Resort - No. 8, Pinehurst, NC
Host: Jeff Hill, CGCS

May 5

New North-South Challenge

Myers Park Country Club, Charlotte, NC
Host: Scott Kennon, CGCS

September 28-29

Fall Meeting

Linville Ridge Golf Club, Linville, NC
Host: Steve Sheets

November 17-19

Conference and Show

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Giving Thanks for Your Show, Your People and My Pecan Pie



Pat Jones

As I write this, it's just past Thanksgiving. The turkey's grown cold and the stuffing is long gone. There's a runny plate of cranberry jelly sitting in the fridge and the last of the pecan pie is desiccating on the counter in the kitchen.

The feast is over, but the reason for the season - gratitude - never ends.

The same is true of the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show. The event is a memory now, but the things that happened there and the reason it exists bear some remembrance...and some gratitude. So, here's my list of things I'm grateful for about the Big Show in Myrtle and the organization that hosts it.

Myrtle Beach: There's something cool and welcoming about being in a beach town in the off-season. There's zero sense of urgency as you sit at giant intersections waiting five minutes for the light to turn with no other cars around. The people at 7-Eleven are genuinely glad to see you (or anyone not robbing them) when you walk in. And, most of all, the people at the host Sheraton Convention Center hotel are cool. What's really impressive is how little that place changes. They have the same promotional signs in the elevators

they've had for a decade and Phil, the ageless bartender of M-Bar, greets me like a long-lost brother every year. (And he remembers to stock up on the non-alcoholic beer for me too.) I'm grateful for the "sameness" and hospitality we get there every year.

Golf Championship: I love getting to play bad golf with fun people on good golf courses and the Carolinas GCSA Championship is one of my favorite events. It's a big tourney - 330 folks signed up - but it feels small, friendly and cozy. The real fun for us this year was flying the Official GCI Drone+GoPro around the golf course and filming the action. That video is now posted on the *Golf Course Industry* site (just search "drone"). Loved the golf courses at Barefoot! I'm grateful that no one has kicked me off the course yet for excessively sucky golf.

The Yankee Factor: I was delighted to immediately bump into my friends and fellow Ohioans Paul B. Latshaw, of Muirfield Village Country Club, and Joe Encisco, of Turf Ventures. Paul said they'd heard a lot about the conference and just decided to do a road trip to check it out, have some fun and pick up some warm-season education for a change. New Jersey's own Chris Carson (who's about as Yankee as they come) also came down to be on our panel for Wednesday's Brain Storm 2013 discussion. I was very grateful to not be the only one from up North this year!

Palmer Maples: I was thrilled to bump into Palmer Maples, Jr. CGCS early in the week and catch up with a man who is truly an industry legend. I met Palmer long before I was in the turf business when he moved his family up to Lawrence, KS in the 1970s to help jumpstart the GCSAA education program. Palmer's son Chuck and I were both pulling guards on high school football team. It was because of my friendship with the Maples family that I

decided to call GCSAA one day in 1986 and ask if they had any writing jobs open. They did...and I'm forever grateful to Palmer for providing the spark that started my career.

"I'm very, very grateful to be the Crazy Old Uncle of the extended Carolinas GCSA family."

Old Friends: I'm going to get in big trouble here for failing to mention all of the 200-plus old friends that I talked with in Myrtle, but I have to give a shout out to Bob Farren, CGCS. Truly one of the nicest guys I know. He's fixin' to host two majors and he's cool as a cucumber (maybe because Kevin Robinson's doing all the real work?) and, as always, focused on helping others and being a great member of the turf community. I'm super grateful to have friends like Bob.

New Stuff: One of the coolest things about the Carolinas Trade Show versus the national show is getting sneak previews of new stuff before the official unveilings at the GIS. One great example: Marcus Thigpen and his GPS-driven, data-gathering NuTec spray units. It's not an overstatement to say that this kind of technology - others are bringing similar ideas to market - has the potential to revolutionize our business. The emerging concept of "precision turf management" - using data and mapping to manage inputs - doesn't eliminate the "art" from greenkeeping but it does make it even more of a science. I'm grateful for any new technology that will help us continue to play golf on natural grass 100 years from now.

(continued on page 8...)



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Tim and Team: I adore working with Tim, Chuck, Trent, Angie, Cindy, Melissa and Kim. They make it look easy to host a gathering for a couple thousand folks. And they have fun. I'm very, very grateful to be the Crazy Old Uncle of the extended Carolinas GCSA family.

Committed Local Support: You have no idea how great it is to have Smith Turf and Irrigation, Revels Turf and Tractor and Tri-State Pump and Controls supporting your association. I promise I'll focus on other great local companies next year but let me just say that these three iron dealers fight like cats and dogs for your business all year but during show week they all have the same goal: supporting you. And they are fantastic people. I'm grateful to know them.

Growing National Connections: For years, I'd been surprised that more of the industry's national leadership didn't come to Myrtle Beach. After all, it's the second largest golf-turf show in the nation and so many

companies are based in the Carolinas. The past couple of years, that's been changing and more corporate folks are coming down to see the event for themselves. I know that Patty DiMucci, Bayer's new turf marketing manager, was blown away by what she saw and learned in a few days in Myrtle. It was also cool that Rhett Evans, CEO of GCSAA, made the pilgrimage to visit and check in with his largest affiliated chapter. Good trend there. I'm grateful that your "little show" now has an impressive national footprint.

In short, I'm genuinely grateful to be a part of the best regional event in our market. But, more importantly I want to thank all of you for continuing to make me part of the family. I'm also grateful to be done with this column because I hear that last crummy piece of yummy pecan pie calling my name. ■

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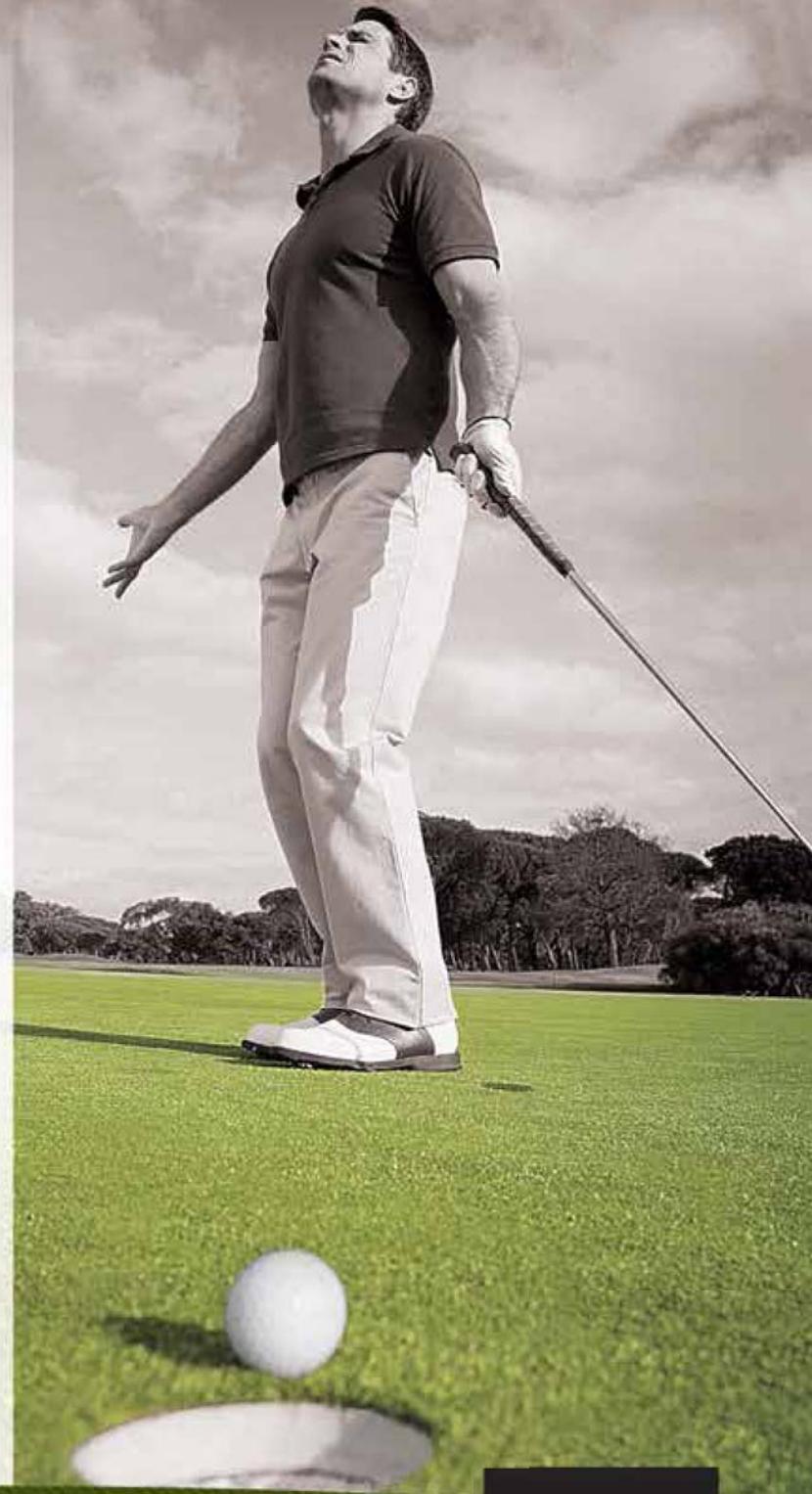
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Going that Extra Half Hour on the Road to Success



Some of the most influential people in the history of the association gathered at the first annual dinner honoring Distinguished Serve Award winners at Conference and Show: George Thompson, CGCS 2000, Bill Anderson, CGCS 2008, Leon Lucas 2007, Butch Sheffield, CGCS 2003, George Fisher 2013, Palmer Maples, Jr. 2001, Randy Allen, CGCS 2006, Pat O'Brien 2009, Bob Bell 2005, Chuck Borman 2011.

More than 2,000 people attended Conference and Show over three days in Myrtle Beach. But by the time Pat O'Brien stood to deliver the final presentation, there were only 43 left in the room. The last slot on the schedule is a killer for any presenter at any conference longer than a single day. People get tired and can also feel overloaded with information.

After everything that goes on at the beach - golf, seminars, trade show, Carolinas Night, all the ancillary social get-togethers - it's any wonder that people are keen to get on the road as soon as they can. What probably compounds things in Pat O'Brien's case is that he's, well, Pat O'Brien. The guy is so well known and so prolific in his presence, on golf courses, in print and various other avenues, that it must be tempting for people to think he can't possibly have anything new to say.

I don't know nearly enough about what golf course superintendents do or what O'Brien, the USGA Green Section's southeast region director, offered in his presentation to say whether there were any grand revelations or even a gold nugget or two. But I talk to enough smart people who are extremely successful in this business to know there was at least one big lesson to be learned in that last

half hour. And, with all due respect to Pat O'Brien, it didn't come from the podium so much as it did the audience.

"You can't expect to do better than everyone else if you do what everyone else does."

Of those 43 people, two were past-presidents of GCSAA. Another seven were past-presidents of the Carolinas GCSA. Eleven more were either current or past board members of the Carolinas GCSA or other regional GCSAA chapters. There were at least three current presidents of local associations within the Carolinas. One was the superintendent host of an annual PGA Tour stop. Another hosted the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship earlier in the year.

By my count, 25 of those 43 listening to O'Brien could very reasonably be considered leaders in their profession. It was hardly coincidence.

These were people who are already successful at what they do listening to someone they already know and hear from

regularly, as they have done for years on end. There was no guarantee they would hear anything they hadn't heard or read before. Yet their presence alone was proof positive of some advice that was delivered time and again during the previous panel presentation. Those lapping up O'Brien's every word were clearly prepared to go that extra mile - or in this case, that extra half hour - to give themselves every possible chance to get even better at their profession.

As one of the most successful superintendents in the country told me recently, "You can't expect to do better than everyone else if you do what everyone else does."

A 26th person in the room late that Wednesday afternoon was Billy Bagwell, superintendent at Callawassie Island Club in Okatie, SC. Some of you may remember from an earlier issue of *Carolinas Green* that Bagwell took over the club's 27 holes in 2010 at the tender age of 24. Clearly the club had identified him as a young man with some passion and dedication, not to mention some ability. As one of those in the room for O'Brien's talk, he is just as clearly prepared to do more to do better.

Of course there are many, many highly successful superintendents in the Carolinas who weren't in the audience. I'm not suggesting that failing to attend every possible minute of education means anyone is a lesser superintendent as a result. But I am saying the make-up of the audience that day was instructive. Success can be achieved by many means but very rarely by accident.

The only thing I marveled at more that afternoon was O'Brien's irrepressible energy and enthusiasm. He had to be tired too. Yet you would never have known it has he delivered his pearls on fairway painting and regularly drew laughter along the way. Maybe he was inspired by the faces staring up at him. After all, he was speaking to some of the best in the business. ■

Eight Years Later Golf Rolls On



Chris Valauri

It was in mid-December eight years ago when Chuck Borman called to offer me the opportunity to advocate and lobby on behalf of the Carolinas GCSA. Our very first order of business was to meet ASAP with the key players in the Water Resources Division of the Department of Environment and Natural Environmental Resources to seek relief from proposed draconian regulations related to drought default measures. The meeting took place the week before Christmas.

I think it's safe to say the session was a first on many levels. When our delegation arrived at the conference room the body language was more than a little stiff. The department officials, although pleasant enough, had a look on their faces as though Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid had arrived and the safe on the train was about to be hijacked.

By the end of the session - not surprisingly - tensions had eased and everyone discovered we had far more in common than expected. Our concerns were rooted in a deep sense of fairness and legitimate concern for the financial well-being of the golf industry. This was

a first in many subsequent interactions. A genuine sense of trust and respect developed which carries over to today. When the dust settled, a compromise agreement satisfactory to all parties was reached. The process worked.

While the political circumstances and players have shifted over the years, we have maintained a steady and growing presence through three Governors and numerous partisan realignments in the General Assembly. We have approached our advocacy with the consistent message that golf makes significant contributions to the economic, social and environmental quality of life in the Carolinas. We have done our best to take a page from the old Anheuser Busch advertising slogan that "making friends is our business."

Today, we have a Governor in Pat McCrory who not only enjoys teeing it up as often as his schedule allows but also features golf in North Carolina as a component in his overall economic development strategy to recruit new business. A reflection of that message is our current relationship with DENR which is positive and productive. During our most recent engagement, the department attitude was more along the lines of "how can we be helpful to the golf community?" It's far more about cooperation than it is about confrontation.

When we sponsored NC Golf Day back in May, DENR Secretary John Skvarla arranged his calendar to join us when the Governor signed the golf proclamation in the Capitol. His presence, along with representatives from the Commerce Department demonstrates a commitment to the business of golf. What a difference eight years makes.

Early December, I attended the quarterly meeting of the NC Travel and Tourism

Board which was chaired by Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. A great deal of time was devoted to plans for the twin U.S. Opens at Pinehurst No. 2 next summer. She referred to it as a "prime-time double-header."

"It's far more about cooperation than it is about confrontation."

Secretary Decker reported that there will actually be a satellite office for the Governor - along with other members of the Cabinet - to work from in Pinehurst during the Opens. It will serve as a base to interact with a wide range of global businesses in the hopes of luring economic development and corporate relocations. In addition, the Commerce Department has been working extensively with focus groups to develop a new NC brand, along the lines of Michigan's "Pure Michigan" campaign, which will be unveiled in conjunction with the Opens.

Not only will NC be center of the global stage next summer but golf and its importance to the state will be the catalyst and a large part of the message. What a difference eight years makes. We have much to look forward to in 2014. ■

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

Chinese Carry Out III: Managing Thatch, Worms and Dollar Spot



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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Recently, the International Turfgrass Conference met in Beijing, China. The following abstracts from this meeting are the third in a series summarizing research I thought would be of interest for members of the Carolinas GCSA.

The Effect of Combination Dew Removal and Curative Fungicide Treatments on Dollar Spot Disease of Creeping Bentgrass (KY). Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) is commonly used on golf course greens, tees and fairways in cool-humid regions. It is plagued by

numerous fungal diseases, one of which is dollar spot disease caused by *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*. Dollar spot occurs frequently throughout the growing season requiring bi-weekly fungicide applications for complete control. The objective of this study was to investigate if dew removal would aid in reducing the number of fungicide applications needed to maintain dollar spot below a threshold level.

In this study, a combination of mowing three times a week and dragging by hose the remaining four days to remove dew was used in an attempt to reduce disease severity. The main effect of this combination treatment was not significant ($p>0.05$) and did not reduce the number of fungicide applications compared to mowing three days per week. However, dollar spot was managed curatively with significantly fewer fungicide applications compared to a preventative fungicide program when a disease threshold was used. The use of a disease threshold and curative fungicide applications may therefore reduce the number of fungicide applications needed in a year to maintain low levels of dollar spot severity on creeping bentgrass.

Topdressing Sand Particle Shape and Incorporation Effects on Anthracnose Severity of an Annual Bluegrass Putting Green (NJ). Sand topdressing is a common practice on putting green turf and has been suspected to enhance anthracnose disease caused by the fungus *Colletotrichum cereale*. A field trial was conducted to evaluate topdressing incorporation method (none, vibratory rolling, soft bristled brush and stiff bristled brush) and sand shape (none, round and sub-angular) effects on anthracnose severity of a *Poa annua* L. f. *reptans* (Hausskn) T. Koyama turf in 2006 and 2007. The trial was conducted as a split-plot design arranged in a 4 x 3 factorial with incorporation method as the main plot factor and sand shape as the subplot factor on a *P. annua* turf mowed at 0.125-inch (3.2 mm). Topdressing was applied at

1 ft³/1000 ft² (0.3 L m⁻²) every 14 days from June 27 June to September 13, 2006 and May 14 to September 27, 2007. Sand shape was the only significant source of variation in both years.

None of the topdressing incorporation methods affected anthracnose severity. Both sand shapes initially increased disease severity four to 14 percent compared to non-topdressed turf in July 2006; however, continued topdressing with sub-angular and round sand reduced anthracnose eight to 29 percent and seven to 29 percent, respectively, during August and September of 2006 and 2007 compared to the non-sand treatment. Anthracnose was less severe in plots topdressed with sub-angular sand than round sand in July, 2006 and July through September, 2007. This trial supports the findings of previous topdressing and verticutting trials which indicate that subtle wounding or bruising associated with routine cultural practices is not a significant factor affecting anthracnose severity.

Influence of Sand Topdressing on Thatch Decomposition of Two Bermudagrass Species (MS). Methods to control thatch layers in mature turfgrasses have relied on sand-topdressing and/or mechanical removal. Mechanical removal of thatch through vertical mowing and aerification is effective but disruptive to playing surfaces compared to sand topdressing. As a result, many turfgrass managers have opted to implement sand-topdressing regimens as their primary method for reducing thatch buildup.

This research was conducted to 1) determine the effect of cultivar on thatch decomposition and 2) examine the effect of sand topdressing on thatch microenvironment and decomposition. Sand topdressing treatments consisting of sterilized or non-sterilized sand applied at 0.16-inch (0.4 cm) 14 d-1 or as a single application at 0.94-inch (2.4 cm) to one hybrid bermudagrass, Tifway [*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers. x *C. transvaalensis*



Much research is being conducted trying to develop more ecological products and testing methods to determine the needs of such products. Excellent means of keeping abreast of such developments are reading publications like the *Carolinas Green* magazine, attending the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show, and participating in various turfgrass field days, above.

Burtt-Davy] and one interspecific hybrid Celebration (*Cynodon dactylon* L. Pers.) in 2008 and 2009.

At the initiation of the experiment, Celebration had twice the thatch layer of Tifway. The only treatment that reduced thatch was sand applied every 14 days which reduced thatch 21 to 34 percent and 20 to 30 percent for Tifway and Celebration, respectively. In contrast, a single sand topdressing application and controls did not decrease thatch of either bermudagrass cultivar. Routine sand applications increased thatch relative humidity (RH) compared to controls. Laboratory experiments examining the effect of temperature, 20 C and 30 C, and RH (80, 90, 95, >99 percent) on Tifway and Celebration thatch decomposition showed increasing temperature and RH resulted in 189 to 397 percent greater microbial degradation. Failure to provide adequate moisture reduced microbial activity and led to declines of 170 to 243 percent decomposition when thatch was subjected to cyclic drying. Because thatch tissue composition and response

to changes in temperature and RH were similar between cultivars, newer more vigorous bermudagrass cultivars such as Celebration may require more frequent sand topdressing regimens in conjunction with mechanical removal for acceptable thatch control.

Managing Excessive Earthworm Casting on Golf Courses and Sport Fields (KY). Excessive earthworm casting causes serious problems for turfgrass managers trying to maintain quality playing surfaces. A few species of European origin, mainly *Aporrectodea* spp. and *L. terrestris* (Lumbricidae), cause most of casting problems in Great Britain and continental Europe, North America, New Zealand and probably Australia, whereas *Amythias* spp. (Megascolecidae) are important casting culprits in Korea, China and Japan, and sporadically in the United States. Edaphic, climatic and cultural factors affecting earthworm abundance and casting on particular sites were discussed and historical approaches for reducing earthworm casts were reviewed.

Cultural methods provide at best only partial control, and some; e.g., soil acidification or prolonged clipping removal, can be detrimental to turf. Chemical pesticides for earthworm control have been restricted or banned. In the 1890s, British greenkeeper Peter Lees pioneered a method so effective that it was a mainstay for reducing earthworm casts on golf courses for more than 50 years. It involved applying mowrah meal, made from seeds of the tree *Bassia latifolia*, followed by irrigation. Natural saponins in the mowrah meal irritated earthworms' mucus membranes, expelling them to the surface where they then were physically removed. Tea seed meal, a saponin-rich by-product of tea oil manufacture, recently was shown to be similarly effective, and an organic fertilizer containing it is available in the U.S. Targeted use of granular or liquid products with natural plant saponins has potential for reducing casting to tolerable levels while conserving the agronomic benefits provided by a moderate earthworm population.

Effect of Shoot Density on the Recuperative Potential of Creeping Bentgrass Cultivars (IA). Recently developed cultivars of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.) possess higher shoot densities. The increased shoot densities allow these cultivars to better resist invasion from annual bluegrass but little data exists regarding differences in the recuperative potential among cultivars of creeping bentgrass. The objectives of this research were to determine the effects of shoot density on the recuperative potential among cultivars of creeping bentgrass. The recuperative potential of 23 cultivars of creeping bentgrass and a single cultivar of colonial bentgrass were evaluated in 2009 and 2010 by creating simulated divots and allowing the cultivars to recover via stolon growth. The cultivars were maintained under conditions designed to mimic a golf course fairway and divot recovery was

(continued on page 14 ...)

evaluated semiweekly by using digital image analysis techniques.

In 2009, all cultivars had divot recovery rates statistically similar with Penncross although improved cultivars did exhibit greater shoot densities. In 2010, the cultivars SR 1150, T-1 and Kingpin had divot recovery rates significantly slower compared with Penncross. Shoot density was inversely proportional to divot recovery rate suggesting that a greater number of shoots may hinder the ability to recuperate from injury. Stability analysis indicated that the cultivars Alpha, Crenshaw, LS-44, Penn A-4, Penncross, Pennlinks II, Putter and Southshore exhibited consistent, above average lateral spread across the two years in this study. The increased shoot density of newer cultivars may slow the recuperative potential of creeping bentgrass and should be considered when selecting cultivars for specific use areas.

Core Aeration Programs and Sand Topdressing Improve Creeping Bentgrass Fairways (IA, ND). The practicality of including topdressing and core aeration in turfgrass management program for large areas such as golf fairways has not been fully addressed. The objectives of this study were to determine the effects of topdressing (rate and application timing) and hollow tine cultivation (HTC) on soil physical properties on two golf course fairways. The topdressing treatments were: 1) 0.25-inch (6.4 mm) topdressing in the fall, 2) 0.125-inch (3.2 mm) topdressing in the spring and fall for an annual rate of 0.25-inch (6.4 mm), and 3) an untreated control.

The six HTC treatments were: 1) spring 1HTC, 2) spring 2HTC, 3) fall 1HTC, 4) fall 2HTC, 5) spring 1HTC/fall 1HTC and 6) an untreated control. This two-year field study was conducted at Ames, IA, and Fargo, ND on established creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.). Topdressing treatments decreased soil bulk density at IA site on all dates of

measurement ranging from 0.05 to 0.08 g cm⁻³. The effect of topdressing was not consistent at ND site. The HTC treatments that did not include a fall application increased soil bulk density by 0.06 g cm⁻³ compared to the control at the end of study at IA site. All HTC treatments decreased soil bulk density compared to the control at ND site ranging from 0.02 to 0.06 g cm⁻³. Water infiltration rates were increased by topdressing but not by HTC. Soil saturated water conductivity at 0.114-inch (2.9 cm) below the surface was increased by HTC. Therefore, to improve soil water movement, both topdressing and core aeration are necessary and the results may vary by soil texture.

Investigating Lightweight Rolling Thresholds for Putting Green Quality and Performance (MI). Rolling of putting greens is a cultural practice that many golf course superintendents employ to increase putting green speed (ball roll distance). The benefits of rolling have been investigated for decades, however, little is known about the effects of high-frequency rolling (more than once daily) on turfgrass quality and performance.

A study was designed to determine thresholds at which rolling frequency negatively affected turfgrass quality, water infiltration and the point of diminishing returns for ball roll distance or disease suppression. Five rolling frequencies: no rolling and rolled one (1x), two (2x), four (4x) and eight (8x) times day⁻¹, were evaluated over six-week periods at two locations (native sandy loam soil and a sand-based USGA root zone).

As rolling frequency increased from 1x to 2x day⁻¹, ball roll distance increased significantly on 11 of 12 total rating dates. In addition, putting green quality remained above minimum acceptable quality throughout the study in plots rolled up to 2x day⁻¹ but declined significantly when rolled 4x and 8x day⁻¹. Dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* F.T. Bennett) ratings in the native soil were significantly

lower in turf rolled eight times per day. No significant differences in water infiltration among treatments were observed on the native loam soil site.

Conversely, water infiltration significantly decreased as rolling frequency increased on the sand-based site; however infiltration rates for all treatments remained >7.9 in/hr (20 cm hr⁻¹). The results of this study indicate that rolling up to 2x day⁻¹ may be useful in providing discernible increases in green speed without adversely affecting turf quality. However, beyond this point (> 2x day⁻¹), reductions in turfgrass quality and insignificant increases in green speed may negate the benefits of the practice.

Zoysiagrass Cultivar Responses under a Linear Gradient Irrigation System (FL).

Information regarding irrigation requirements and performance of zoysiagrass (*Zoysia* spp.) cultivars is valuable for turfgrass cultivar selection by consumers and researchers. A Linear Gradient Irrigation System (LGIS) provides a relatively efficient way to measure cultivar responses to variable moisture regimes. Ten commercially available cultivars - Cavalier, PristineFlora, Zeon, Zorro (*Z. matrella*); Emerald (*Z. japonica* × *Z. matrella* (L.) Merr. var. *pacifica* Goudswaard); and El Toro, Empire, Jamur, Palisades and UltimateFlora (*Z. japonica*) were evaluated during annually occurring dry periods in 2009, 2010 and 2011 for visual ratings of turf quality, color and density; and canopy reflectance measured using a CM 1000 chlorophyll meter. LGIS offered an irrigation gradient ranging from 0 to ~12 percent of reference evapotranspiration (ETO). *Z. japonica* cultivars (except UltimateFlora) performed better than *Z. matrella* cultivars under severe drought (0 to ~25.2 percent of ETO). A slight reduction in quality in response to 120 percent ETO irrigation level for all *Z. japonica* entries and most *Z. matrella* entries (except PristineFlora) was found, indicating the adverse effects of over irrigating zoysiagrass. ■



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Plugging Gaps in the Challenge of New Hole Locations in Winter



Patrick O'Brien



Chris Hartwiger



GREEN SECTION
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Nobody likes old hole plugs on putting greens. They are visually distracting and may alter the roll of the ball during a putt. During winter months in the Southeast, ultradwarf bermudagrass growth slows down or enters dormancy while the time it takes for an old hole plug to heal increases. Frequent hole changing in the winter months can lead to large amounts of visible old hole plugs in late winter. Can anything be done?

Golf course superintendent Kyle Brown at the Pinehurst Resort has discovered an innovative solution that not only addresses this concern, but reduces the time spent changing holes on ultradwarf putting greens in the winter. The solution involves the use of three holes with liners (i.e. cups) during the winter season at each putting green. The flagsticks are rotated on a regular basis to spread out golfer traffic and enhance golfer satisfaction through changing the course's setup.

Here is a brief summary of the key points on this idea for winter hole management on ultradwarf putting greens:

- Cut three or more holes on each putting green, depending on the size of the green. Seek input from the golf committee or golf professional on the best locations.
- After inserting the hole liner into each hole, also place a plastic ring at the top of each hole to help stabilize the plants and soil. Rings are available from

several manufacturers and each ring costs less than \$2.

- Cover holes not in use with a rubber plug available from most golf supply companies. These green rubber plugs blend into the green surface and costs are less than \$10 per plug.



Kyle Brown

Last winter, Kyle Brown implemented this program at Pinehurst No. 1 and results met expectations. In summary:

- Somewhere between 50 and 100 golfers per day played on the course, or up to 3,000 per month during the winter resort season.
- All hole locations held up well, and holes were only moved when wear patterns compromised the quality of the putting surface around the hole.
- Mowing and brushing operations done periodically didn't cause any damage to the recycled rubber plugs or the hole integrity over holes not in use.
- Golfers have not complained about this program or the hole locations.
- Golfers have not had issues with the rubber plugs or plastic rings.
- Golfers complimented the staff on the lack of any old hole plugs.

Stay tuned for more information on this idea as a future "How It's Done" video is being produced.

For those wondering about what happens should your ball be on the putting green



Rubber plugs are used to cap holes that are not in play.

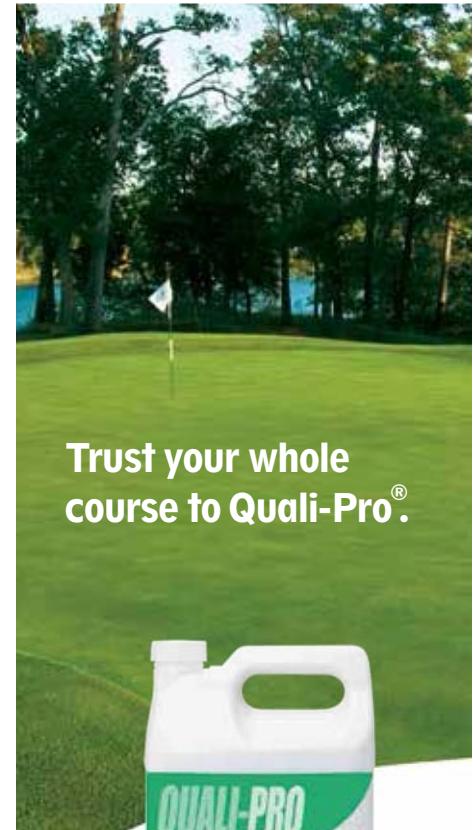
and the rubber plug is on the line of your putt, the Rules of Golf cover this situation. Since this is a hole made by a greenkeeper, it meets the Definition of Ground Under Repair. You could choose to play your ball as it lies, but you also have the option to take relief. Rule 25-1b(iii) provides guidance on how to take relief if desired.

25-1b (iii) On the Putting Green: If the ball lies on the putting green, the player must lift the ball and place it, without penalty, at the nearest point of relief that is not in a hazard or, if complete relief is impossible, at the nearest position to where it lay that affords maximum available relief from the condition, but not nearer the hole and not in a hazard. The nearest point of relief or maximum available relief may be off the putting green.

To ensure the best cooperation from players, the committee should let players know the reason the covers are being used. From a Rules perspective, the committee should make it clear to players that these holes are ground under repair and recommend that the hole covers should not be removed. ■

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Myrtle Beach Area Courses Finding New Ways to Achieve Winter Green

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 in the Myrtle Beach Sun-News during Conference and Show.



syngenta

Grand Strand golf course operators have always assumed green is the color of choice for visiting golfers in the winter and early spring. It's the reason courses have gone through the expense of overseeding for decades with cool-weather grasses - *poa trivialis* on greens and ryegrass on tees and fairways - while warm-weather bermudagrass is dormant.

In increasing numbers, course operators and superintendents are becoming more and more comfortable with another way to achieve being green. The proliferation of fine-bladed ultradwarf bermudas on greens on the Strand over the past decade also brought about the policy of coloring dormant bermuda greens rather than overseeding.

Behind the lead of Brunswick Plantation superintendent Rob Vaughan, that trend is working its way down fairways. Brunswick Plantation was the first Strand course to color fairways green in 2010, and at least seven other area public-access courses are coloring fairways this winter.

"We put ryegrass down to give it definition and color, because everybody wants it green," Vaughan said. "We can do the same thing with colorants or pigments, and instead of being on ryegrass say nine months out of the year and bermuda three, I can now be on bermuda 10 months and

Rob Vaughan and Jennifer Seevers traveled to Bowden, GA to help a superintendent at a municipal facility trying fairway paint for the first time.



colorants two, under a normal situation. In February, I'll be mowing bermudagrass again."

The result of coloring for players is firmer, faster course conditions, particularly during the fall golf season when watering of seeding is avoided, and the coldest months when the bermuda is in full dormancy. "The USGA is pushing a fast, hard, firm golf course, and ryegrass just can't deliver," Vaughan said.

Fairway coloring was among the topics broached at the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center from Monday through Wednesday.

The only things overseeded at Brunswick Plantation are tee boxes because the ryegrass can handle the heavy traffic on a confined area better than dormant bermuda. Vaughan wanted to experiment with coloring on fairways on nine of Brunswick Plantation's 27 holes in 2010, but owner Mason Anderson took a chance by opting to do every hole.

Jennifer Seevers of the Geoponics Corporation, which sells organic fertilizers, took coloring samples from Vaughan and co-developed an organic coloring product called Endurant. She helped Vaughan change applications and variables on each hole to fully study the

product's effectiveness. "We did 27 holes 27 different ways," Seevers said. "Every hole was an experiment."

Vaughan received the same amount of money as if he were overseeding. "We went all in," Vaughan said. "It took me awhile to dial things in with nozzles, pressures, rates, etc., but after about the 25th hole we got it dialed in."

Older coloring agents had a tendency to fade to a blue color, leaving a Smurf turf, but the new Geoponic product co-developed by Seevers remains green through its fading. "As soon as it hit the ground I said, 'This is a home run. This is it,'" Vaughan said.

The heavy watering of ryegrass in the fall creates soft and wet conditions and often results in cart path-only policies during the fall season. Coloring also avoids a transition period throughout the spring in which reviving bermuda has to compete with dying ryegrass for supremacy.

"There are some economic factors involved, but it's overall general turf appearance and health, and not having to go through the transition in the spring," Vaughan said. "I like it because I know what I've got year-round. Nothing is covered up, and you can keep your property weed-free easier."

Courses on the Strand opting to color

fairways this year using Geponics products include Caledonia Golf and Fish Club for the second consecutive year, International Club of Myrtle Beach, Crown Park, Brick Landing, Carolina National and private courses DeBordieu and Wachesaw Plantation. Black Bear and Burning Ridge are coloring fairways with a different product brand.

"It's catching on," Vaughan said. "You just have to get the golfer educated."

The USGA Green Section's Southeast region director, Pat O'Brien, projects that within five years as few as a handful of courses in resort areas like Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head will overseed fairways.

A number of courses in Virginia and North Carolina are also coloring fairways this winter, including Pinehurst No. 2 in Pinehurst, NC which will host the U.S.

men's and women's opens on consecutive weeks in June. Pinehurst Resort operators opted to bypass overseeding after analyzing the winter conditions at Brunswick Plantation.

The Geponics Endurant TE Turf Enhancer pigment recommended for actively growing bermuda and Endurant Turf colorant recommended for dormant bermuda are both organic and won't harm turf. In addition to being able to bypass transition periods, Vaughan said the green coloring stimulates bermuda growth in winter months because it absorbs the sun's heat. Vaughan did a temperature study on a 50-degree day in February 2010 and found his painted greens were 68 degrees an inch below the surface, the painted fairways were 62 degrees and the brown dormant rough was below 50 degrees.

Vaughan sees few negatives to coloring, though courses with a lot of play may be concerned the turf will get too beat up during its dormancy, and as the winter progresses greens tend to get faster and fairway lies tend to get tighter.

Coloring is cost-effective, and will likely become more so in coming years because of the rising cost of ryegrass seed, which increased 15 percent to more than \$1 per pound this year and is expected to increase another 15 percent or so next year. Farmers in the west are growing less ryegrass seed, which has to be transported to the east coast.

"I can buy enough pigment to color the golf course cheaper than I can overseed, then the savings on fuel, water, electricity, labor, machinery and fertilizer is unbelievable," Vaughan said. ■

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The Man with the Magic Wand

By Jim Hughes

Conrad Broussard Keeps It Rolling at St. James Plantation

For most superintendents, 18 holes is a full day's work. If you're Conrad Broussard of St. James Plantation, that doesn't even get you to lunch. The numbers tell the story of Broussard's daily challenge: four courses, 81 holes, four different varieties of grass, 550 possible pin placements, 70 acres of ponds, 200 acres of protected wetlands and over 10 miles of fairways. Not to mention a small army of highly-spoiled members who've come to rely on Broussard's unflagging pursuit of perfection.

Broussard is director of agronomics at St. James Plantation, a 6,000-acre community near Southport on North Carolina's southeastern coast. In layman's terms, his job is to make sure the golf experience at St. James is always above par. To do it right, he oversees a staff of four superintendents, a half-dozen assistant superintendents, 60 full-time workers and an annual budget of nearly \$4 million.

Founded in 1991, St. James has been built on the three pillars of second-home and retirement community success – a private beach club, a full-service marina and resort, quality golf. The latter has been Broussard's domain for the last 17 years.

He joined the St. James team in 1996 after earning a degree in turf management from Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Myrtle Beach, SC. His first job was assistant superintendent at the newly-opened Players Club at St. James. A couple of years later, he was promoted to superintendent of that course, then assumed his present position when Troon Golf took over golf operations in 2006.

Broussard arrived just as St. James began a torrid growth spurt. Since he's been there, the community has seen a four-fold increase in population – from 900 residents to over 4,000 – while golf membership has tripled – from 500 to more than 1,700. For 22 straight years, it's been the number one selling community on the Carolina coast.



Conrad Broussard

Golf has been a major driver of that growth. Three 18-hole courses were open for play when Broussard got there. The Founders Club by P.B. Dye came on line in 1991, The Members Club by Hale Irwin two years later, and The Players Club by Tim Cate three years after that. Since then, the community has added 27 more holes –The Reserve Club by Nicklaus Design in 2006 and a nine-hole addition to The Members Club in 2004. All told, the four courses generate 170,000 rounds a year – more than any other private golf community in North Carolina.

"The challenge of doing that many rounds and keeping all four courses in great condition all year around, I don't know how he does it," says Dave Kjome, director of golf at St. James Plantation. "He has to have a magic wand."

Broussard has carried on a love affair with golf for most of his 50 years. He grew up in West Texas dreaming of a career on the PGA Tour. He was good enough to play on the Texas Tech golf team, but after a few rounds with Steve Elkington, he realized he lacked the game to play professionally. After a brief stint in retail, he and his wife Tonya moved to Myrtle Beach. They've been married 20 years and have two teen-aged daughters.

Broussard is a man in constant motion. When he's not poring over budgets, price-shopping online for the new generation of green pesticides and fertilizers or ordering a shipment of carp from Georgia to keep his ponds free of algae, he's out on property, making sure the fairways and greens at St. James Plantation live up to his high standards.

"I try to see as much as I can every day," he says. "The courses are almost always packed by 9 o'clock so we have to run double tee times just about every morning. I have to get up early and hustle to see everything I need to see. Obviously I can't check on all 81 holes every day, so I try to rotate nines and holes during the week to get a good feel for what we need to take care of."

Perhaps the biggest challenge, Broussard says, is keeping the membership informed about course conditions and maintenance schedules, especially the greens. "With four different grasses, our greens are always peaking at different times of the year," he explains. "Our bentgrass starts peaking in March, then struggles in the heat, and comes back strong in the fall. The bermudagrass really peaks starting in May and running through September.

"We put MiniVerde at The Players Club a couple of years ago, and it's worked out really well. We're considering putting it on at least one more course in the next year or so. I think that's the trend all over the South. It's going to be increasingly rare to see bentgrass greens down here."

Keeping 81 holes in mint condition keeps Broussard running, but he wouldn't have it any other way. "I'd probably be bored to tears if I had to go back to just an 18-hole course," he says. ■

- Jim Hughes is a freelance golf writer.



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Navigating the SEA OF SALINITY



By Dara Park and Sarah White

There are variety of instruments that measure EC / TDS: (a) the older "pocket" EC meters are a little larger (not pocket-friendly) than newer styles (b). Both (a) and (b) measure not only EC/TDS but pH and temperature as well. More expensive and bulkier units © and (d) measure specific conductivity accounting for barometric pressure, as well as allow the user to save data on the hand-held portion of the unit. Some units also allow other parameters to be measured simultaneously and are programmable to record data at a specified time frequency. For example (d) measures depth, temperature, specific conductivity, dissolved oxygen, redox potential and pH.

PART ONE: MEASUREMENTS

Let's start off by defining salinity. Salinity is a measure of the salts dissolved in water or a soil. In the Carolinas, the main source of salinity is tied to the coastal regions where irrigation water sources may be (i) tidally influenced surface water bodies, (ii) the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, and or (iii) wells polluted with salts from salt water intrusion. In areas of western North Carolina, the use of salt deicers to melt snow off of roads may also influence irrigation water.

Measuring salinity is also important for golf courses that use treated effluent as an irrigation source. Finally, the lack of salinity is also an indicator of water sources that do not have enough salts in them - also known as pure water - a problem for some inland regions of the Carolinas.

After reading this article you will be able to easily navigate the sea of salinity units that are commonly used. If want more information on why you should monitor salinity, see "Sports Turf Industry, May, 2012 pg.32".

Before we get into the many reporting units for salinity, it is important to understand how salinity is typically measured.

MEASURING SALINITY

In the past, refractometers were used to measure salinity. Refractometers measure the change of direction or bending of the light as it passes from air to water. Refractometers measure salinity in units of parts per thousand (ppt) and/or parts per million (ppm). While

still used, precise refractometers come with a hefty price tag. Furthermore, they are not automated, thus cannot be deployed to continuously determine salinity levels, which leaves us with the following two techniques commonly used to measure salinity:

1. The first method, measuring TDS directly, can only be performed in a laboratory and is generally the method by which laboratories report your salinity value. To measure TDS, a specific volume of sample is weighed, filtered through a 2 micrometer (μm) sieve to remove any particulate, gently dried until all water has evaporated and the remaining salts/solids in the sample weighed. The dry weight of salts remaining divided by the original weight of the evaporated sample tells us the sample salinity. Obviously, the limitation of this method is that it has to be performed in a laboratory. Depending on your situation, the salinity of your soil or water source may have already changed by the time the test can be performed. Thus, the following method is the most practical.

2. The second involves using a conductivity meter to measure the electrical conductivity (EC) of a solution in the field. The electrical conductivity of a solution is a measure of the total dissolved solids (TDS) within the solution. These dissolved solids are generally made up of inorganic and organic compounds that have passed through a $2\mu\text{m}$ sieve. TDS is typically a measure of the concentration of salts that have dissociated (split) in the water to form both positively (cations) and negatively (anions) charged ions.

The idea behind using EC as a measure for salinity is that the more salts present, the more electricity conducted and the higher the EC reading. Because conductivity increases with temperature, you may sometimes hear the term specific conductance rather than EC. Specific conductance is the same as EC, but the values are normalized to a temperature of 77F. Don't let this confuse you, most EC meters account for temperature.

If your golf course is on the coast and the irrigation water is susceptible to fluctuating salinity with tides, then continuously monitoring salinity may be the best tool in your toolbox for developing an irrigation schedule. Measuring EC is ideal in this instance. An EC meter can be deployed and continuously measure, store and transmit - for an extra fee of course - salinity data. Want to know more? Contact one of the authors for additional information.

REPORTING SALINITY

How does TDS relate to EC and what can both measurements tell us about the salinity of a given water sample?

Salinity is discussed with many different units. It is common to see salinity expressed as a concentration (from the direct TDS measures) – such as 35g dissolved salt/kg sea

water = 35ppt (parts per thousand) = 35,000ppm (parts per million) = 3.5 percent. For irrigation purposes, many labs report salinity as TDS. Values below 500ppm are generally not of any concern, while values between 500-2,000ppm are considered an "increasing" concern and should be monitored, and greater than 2,000ppm are considered a severe problem.

To get a TDS or concentration measure of salinity, you have to submit an irrigation sample to an analytical laboratory and wait for results. If you need a more immediate measure of irrigation water salinity in the field, using a conductance meter to measure EC is an accurate and inexpensive method, once the meter is purchased. While there is no exact relationship between EC and TDS, there is an approximate relationship. In water with a higher proportion of sodium chloride (water typical to coastal regions of the Carolinas) to get to ppm multiply the dS/m reading by 550; for other water sources (like hydroponics solutions) multiply the dS/m reading by 670 or 700 to convert to ppm.

EC is generally reported in deciSiemens/meter (dS/m), milliSiemens/cm (mS/cm), or millimhos per centimeter (mmhos/cm), which are numerically equivalent to each other. Here is a piece of trivia for you: as mentioned above, EC is a measurement of conductivity that is commonly measured in mmhos/cm. The opposite of conductivity is resistivity, which is measured in ohms. Ohms spelled backwards is mhos! When using an EC meter to determine relative salt levels, the recommended EC range of irrigation water is generally 0.75 – 3.0 dS/m for general irrigation purposes. If concentrations are less than 0.5 dS/m or greater than 3.0 dS/m then severe problems can occur.

The accompanying table is the perfect size to put in your wallet. Do so then you will be able to convert reported salinity units to those you are familiar with anytime, anywhere.

Look for Beacon 2: Salinity Ranges for Different Water Sources, in the next issue of Carolinas Green. ■

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

Salinity Conversion Table

μ = micro, m = milli

$1 \mu\text{mhos}/\text{cm} = 1 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$

$1000 \mu\text{S}/\text{cm} = 1 \text{mmhos}/\text{cm} = 1 \text{mS}/\text{cm} = 1 \text{dS}/\text{m}$

$\text{ppt} = \text{part per thousand}, \text{ppm} = \text{part per million}$

$1 \text{g}/\text{kg} = 1 \text{ppt} = 10,000 \text{ ppm} = 1.0\%$

$\text{ppm} = \text{dS}/\text{m} \times 550$ (water with high proportion NaCl)

$\text{ppm} = \text{dS}/\text{m} \times 700$ (hydroponic solutions, other salts dominant)

Special Section: 2013 Conference and Show

Members Moved By Show Success



By Trent Bouts

Two weeks after the last exhibitor hauled a crate out of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center congratulatory messages were still rolling into the Carolinas GCSA headquarters in Liberty, SC. The 2013 Conference and Trade Show set multiple new highs in terms of hard numbers but it was the anecdotal evidence suggesting "record" member satisfaction that resonated loudest with association leadership.

"The outpouring of membership support has been nothing short of phenomenal," Carolinas GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger, says. "I don't know what it is or why it is but for some reason the number of phone calls, emails and other messages we've received since the show has been amazing. When it's after thanksgiving and members are still taking the time to say thank you to their staff for a great show, well, that says we got a lot of things right."

The numbers certainly suggest that is the case. Gross revenues in excess of \$650,000 were the highest ever. Partnership income nudged the \$100,000 mark for the first time. The total of 1,326 seats was just one shy of the all-time record. Coincidentally, the golf championship field of 327 was also a single participant short of the record.

"We had more qualified buyers on the trade show floor than we have had since 2006," Kreger says. "Couple all of those numbers with the fun people had at events like the new venue for Carolinas Night at the Beach and it's hard to find fault. But that's not to say there aren't some things that can't be improved upon. I really appreciate that folks are prepared to share constructive criticism as well as praise. That's how we get better. But overall, I think this was a special event for a lot of people."

GCSAA chief executive officer, Rhett Evans, attended the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show for the first time and spoke with the board

Immediate past-president, Steve Hamilton, CGCS received the traditional gavel from new president, Brian Powell, CGCS.



of directors at their meeting on the eve of the conference. "I'm a strong believer in the value of community, and I think that value is clearly demonstrated at events such as the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show," Evans says. "In my view, events that bring together peers - superintendents, educators, exhibitors - not only benefit the individuals that take the time to participate, they also strengthen the golf industry as a whole, and I think that was evident in Myrtle Beach."

"I was encouraged by the continued evidence of a strengthening golf economy that I witnessed in the Carolinas, and I believe that momentum will carry forward through the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. All of the indicators that we monitor at a national level have been very positive in regards to Orlando, and much like the Carolinas event, we are seeing increased demand for exhibit space, attendee registration, hotel bookings and tournament participation. Momentum is definitely a good thing, and such a positive week in Myrtle Beach definitely created that momentum."

Certainly, it was a special event for individuals like Matthew Wharton, from Carolina Golf Club, who won his first superintendent golf championship, and David Jacobs, CGCS from Benvenue Country Club, who won the \$5,000 grand prize in the 27-Hole Challenge. But it's hard to imagine it being more special for anyone than George Fisher, who received the Distinguished Service Award to a standing ovation.

Fisher accepted the award after a moving tribute by former colleague at Smith Turf and Irrigation, Todd Armstrong. Armstrong spoke of Fisher's positive influence on countless individuals like him, citing lessons his mentor shared like: "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Armstrong closed with the question of how an industry should rightfully thank "someone like George Fisher?" The answer was simple, he said: "Do something for somebody."

The following members also received plaques marking their recently achieved Class AA status which bestows honorary membership to the association. To qualify,

Matthew Wharton stands tall as the 2013 superintendent golf champion.





Special Section: 2013 Conference and Show

individuals must have been a Carolinas GCSA member a minimum of 25 years and been a golf course superintendent for at least 20 years: Randy Allen, CGCS, William Boyd, Keith Chester, CGCS, Gene Crews, George Frye, John Gay, Duff Mahon, Fred Meda, Steve Womble, CGCS.

Members elected Brian Powell, CGCS from Old Chatham Golf Club in Durham, NC as their new president, taking over from Steve Hamilton, CGCS from The Dunes Golf and Beach Club in Myrtle Beach. Bill Kennedy, CGCS from Chechessee Creek Club in Okatie, SC is the new vice-president, and David Lee, from Hope Valley Country Club in Durham, NC was elected secretary-treasurer. Members also elected Chris DeVane, from Forsyth Country Club in Winston-Salem, NC to the board of directors.

Smith Turf and Irrigation and the Toro Company were presenting partners for the golf championship won by Wharton. Wharton won after a scorecard playoff against 2011 champion Jim Knaffle, CGCS from the International Club of Myrtle Beach. Both shot rounds of 79 on Barefoot Resort's testing Fazio course, which was one of three courses used for the event.

About 600 people attended the annual Carolinas Night at the Beach celebration presented in partnership with Tri-State Pump and Control and Jacobsen. The crowd alternated between two adjacent night clubs at Broadway at the Beach but made the loudest noise cheering some guest appearances on stage, including a spectacular drum solo by Jacobsen's Dave Wanta.

David Jacobs' win in the 27-Hole Challenge came thanks to a long-standing partnership with John Deere Golf, Revels Turf and Tractor, Greenville Turf and Tractor and ShowTurf. His was among \$12,500 in prizes for golf course superintendents and assistant superintendents.

Randy Mangum, of Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply, won the annual sporting clays championship contested by more than 60 shooters and presented in partnership with Bayer Crop Science.

A team from Horry-Georgetown Technical College won the Student TurfBowl, presented in partnership with Precision Labs, for a second year in a row. A full list of partnership providers appears on page 50.

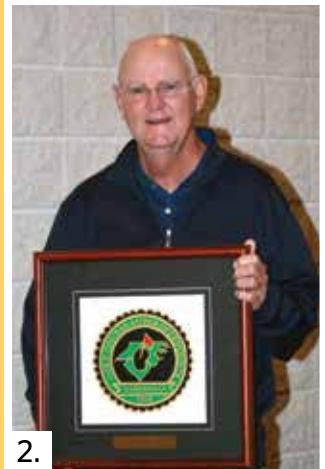
"The record support from our industry partners in terms of booth sales and event partnerships is obviously outstanding for our association but hopefully it also reflects an upward trend across the golf industry," Kreger says. "Golf still has a lot of work to do but it is extremely heartening to know that so many companies remain loyal to our association and that some new ones are in a position to join them in that support. That has to be seen as a positive sign." ■



George Fisher with his Distinguished Service Award.



1.



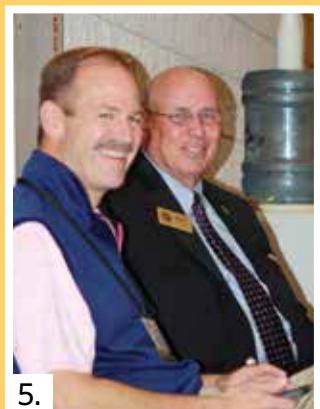
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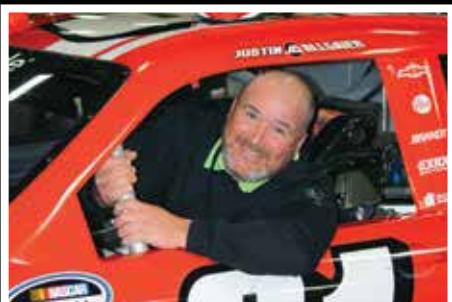
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6.



1. New honorary members, standing, Randy Allen, CGCS, George Frye, Duff Sloan; seated, Steve Womble, CGCS, Keith Chester, CGCS, John Gay. **2.** With plaque, Gene Crews.
3. Pam Jones, of NuTec Soil stamps a 27-Hole Challenge card for Wil Sutton, from Emerald Golf Club.
4. Lance Allen, from Woodfin Ridge Golf Club, chats with old college buddy Jeff Love, from Long Bay Golf Club.
5. Pat Jones, of *Golf Course Industry* magazine, and Carolinas GCSA finance officer, Chuck Borman, trade water cooler tales.
6. Guy Davis and Keith Sarvis, both from Waterway Hills Golf Club.



It's not quite Circ du Soleil but Charles Sheffield, from Croasdale Country Club, still did well to fit himself behind the wheel of No. 31 in the Brandt Consolidated booth.



2103 Carolinas GCSA Golf Championship



Smith Turf and Irrigation president, Steve Smith, with superintendent golf champion, Matthew Wharton, and Darren Redetzke, Toro's vice-president of commercial business.

Superintendent Champion: Matthew Wharton

Affiliate Champion: Paul Jett, CGCS

Championship Flight A

Gross

1 - 78 Paul Jett, CGCS Cardinal Chemical
2 - 79* Jim Knaffle, CGCS International Club of Myrtle Beach
3 - 80 Rhett Baker, Palmetto Golf Club

Net

1 - 77* Matthew Wharton, Carolina Golf Club
2 - 77 Rich Abraham, Eagles Nest Golf Club
3 - 80 Steve Agazzi, Kiawah Island Resort - Turtle Point

Championship Flight B

Gross

1 - 84 Larry Almond, Mountain Brook Golf Course
2 - 86 Erik Guinther, Roaring Gap Club
3 - 87 Tom Taylor, Tradition Golf Club

Net

1 - 78 Cordie Morgan, Milliken
2 - 79* Jerry Ross, Ocean Creek Golf Club
3 - 79 Ryan Dehlinger, Harbour Town Golf Links

Senior Division

Gross

1 - 72 Jay Reins, CGCS Green Resource

Net

1 - 67 Steve Sheets, Linville Ridge Golf Club

Four-Ball Flight A

Gross

1 - 68 Craig Haire, Ameriturf/Neptune Solutions
Dale Miller, Redox
2 - 69 Kyle Brown, Pinehurst Resort
Jim Wilson, Agrium Direct Solutions
3 - 70 Chris Hartwiger, USGA Green Section
Pat O'Brien, USGA Green Section

Net

1 - 62* Todd Kirkely, Oak Hills Golf Club
Ken Rosefield, Oak Hills Golf Club

2 - 62 Johnny Baker, Meadowbrook Golf Course
Jeff Stover, Greenville Country Club (SC)
3 - 63 Chris Futral, River Landing Country Club
Steve Sprouse, River Landing Country Club

Four-Ball Flight B

Gross

1 - 64 Ned Mullis, Howard Fertilizer and Chemical Company
Jonathan Wright, Harbour Town Golf Links
2 - 73 Fred Edwards, Tryon Country Club
Aubrey Hines, Howard Fertilizer and Chemical Company
3 - 75 Kyle Johnson, Berkeley Hall Club
Max Jordan, Hampton Hall Club

Net

1 - 57 Cam Copley, Nufarm Turf and Ornamental
Butch Sheffield, CGCS North Ridge Country Club
2 - 63 Lance Allen, Woodfin Ridge Golf Club
Randy Allen, CGCS Modern Turf
3 - 65* Harold Burns, CGCS Country Club of Spartanburg
Rob Hamrick, Golf Agronomics

Four-Ball Flight C

Gross

1 - 78* Sam Friar, Members Club at Woodcreek and Wildewood
Derek Oglesby, Corbin Turf and Ornamental Supply
2 - 78 Tim Davis, Cabarrus Country Club
Andy Foil, Eagle Chase Golf Club
3 - 79 Barry Rewis, The Club at Longview
Eric Jackson, Rick Gosnell Enterprises

Net

1 - 62 Kevin Lutz, Carmel Country Club
Steven Neuliep, CGCS Silver Fox Golf Club
2 - 63 Eric Martin, The Cliffs at Mountain Park
Pete Kincaid, Greenville Turf and Tractor
3 - 65 Andy Ipock, The Country Club of the Crystal Coast
Patrick McAnaw, The Country Club of the Crystal Coas

Captain's Choice Flight A

Gross

1 - 58 Mike Bankert, Myrtlewood Golf Club
Matt Schrader, Harrell's Fertilizers
James Huntoon, The Heritage Golf Club
Damon Ryba, Indigo Creek Golf Club

Net

1 - 51.99 Merett Alexander, NG Turf
John Lavelle, Diamond Creek Golf Club
Mark Rogers, Vereens Turf Products
Andy Yoder, Diamond Creek Golf Club

Captain's Choice Flight B

Gross

1 - 61 Jeff Johnson, Corbin Turf and Ornamental
Bryan Curtis, Corbin Turf and Ornamental
Dan Winters, Mimosa Hills Golf Club
Brent Ward, Bald Mountain Country Club

Net

1 - 52.43 Russell Hill, Grandover Resort
Greg Williard, Grandover Resort
Ryan Sudano, Grandover Resort
Ken Russell, Green Resource

*Won on scorecard play-off

Proximity Contests

Each winner received \$350 cash from TCF Equipment Finance and PNC Equipment Finance.

Fazio Course

Long Drive

No. 5: Rhett Baker, Palmetto Golf Club
No.12: Brett Whitson, Grande Dunes Resort Course

Closest to the Pin

No.6: Jim Knaffle, CGCS International Club
No.16: Mike Bankert, Myrtlewood Golf Club



1.



2.



3.

Love Course

Long Drive

No.5: Ryan Lambeth, Crooke Tree Golf Course
No.13: John Pridgen, Thistle Golf Club

Closest to the Pin

No.3: Johnny Baker, Meadowbrook Golf Course
No.11: Greg Austin, Revels Turf and Tractor

Norman Course

Long Drive

No.5: Eric Martin, The Cliffs at Mountain Park
No.12: Sam Friar, Members Club at Woodcreek and Wildewood

Closest to the Pin

No.3: Steven Neuliep, CGCS Silver Fox Golf Club
No.10: Kevin Lutz, Carmel Country Club

Pictured to the right: **1.** Picture perfect: Golfers enjoyed spectacular weather and course conditions at Barefoot Resort. **2.** Rob Hamrick, of Golf Agronomics; Harold Burns, CGCS from the Country Club of Spartanburg; Richard Colyer, of Golf Agronomics; and Robert Arrington, from Catawba Country Club. **3.** GCSAA's new field staff representative Ron Wright presents a plaque of appreciation to golf championship host superintendents John Hughes, director of golf course maintenance; Shane Carrick, Norman Course; and Alan Lucas, Fazio Course. Absent Jaman Spake, Love Course.

Step by step: Matthew Wharton's winning swing.





2013 Conference and Show

Carolinians Night



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. Just some of the crowd at Carolinians Night. **2.** Steven Dockery, CGCS from Methodist University Golf Course, takes a break from the party on a "seat" provided co-presenters Jacobsen. **3.** Gary Dacus, from Rolling Green Golf Club, and wife, Gay. **4.** Buckley Brockmann, from Washington Yacht and Country Club; Austin Allison, from Timberlake Golf Club; Chris Parham, from Greenville Country Club (NC); Jake Day, from Falling Creek Country Club; and Jeff Gaylor, from Ayden Golf and Country Club. **5.** Jim Douglas, of Turf Dynamics; Jeff Stover, from Greenville Country Club, SC; and Eric Jackson, of Rick Gosnell Enterprises. **6.** Bert McCarty, of Clemson University; Tobey Wagner, of Sod Solutions; and Grady Miller, of North Carolina State University.

Turf Bowl



Horry-Georgetown Goes Back-to-Back

Horry-Georgetown Technical College successfully defended its title as Carolinas GCSA Student TurfBowl champions at Conference and Show. The victory secured the \$700 first prize ahead of 10 other teams representing six different schools including Clemson University, North Carolina State University, Sandhills Community College, Piedmont Community College and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. The TurfBowl was presented in partnership with Precision Labs and was moderated by Precision Labs' Bo Barefoot.

Horry-Georgetown's winning team of Daniel Smith, Sam Adams, Bradley Stokes and Dan Wooley, with Bo Barefoot, of Precision Labs.

27-Hole Challenge

Grand Prize: \$5,000

David Jacob, CGCS Benvenue Country Club

iPads valued at \$700

Michael Hayes, Linville Land Harbor Golf Club
Pete Gerdon, Grandfather Golf and Country Club
Dan Saber, CGCS Pawleys Plantation
Kevin Lutz, Carmel Country Club
Ed McClafferty, Carmel Country Club
Billy Lewis, Dormie Club
Don Garrett, CGCS Walker Course at Clemson

Scotty Cameron Putters valued at \$279

Kyle Bibler, CGCS The Golf Club at Briar's Creek
Stephen Wilson, Pinehurst Resort
Steven Donahue, Heron Point Golf Club

Engle Coolers valued at \$260

Nick Bisanz, Heritage Golf Club
Jay Noyes, Blackmoor Golf Club
John Parrish, Devils Ridge Golf Club

Assistant Superintendents

Grand Prize: iPad valued at \$700

Robert Steck, Pine Lakes International Country Club

Scotty Cameron Putter valued at \$279

Scott Brown, Surf Golf and Beach Club

Engle Cooler valued at \$260

Adam Sanders, Cape Fear Country Club



Turner Revels, of Revels Turf and Tractor; Lon Fleming, of Greenville Turf and Tractor; and Brian Bowles, of ShowTurf; with lucky grand prize winner, David Jacob, CGCS from Benvenue Country Club.



Robert Steck, from Pine Lakes International Country Club, won the main prize in the assistant superintendent challenge.

Sporting Clays

High Overall

91 Randy Mangum, Corbin Turf and Ornamental

First Flight

1 - 90 Chad Price, Carolina Green Sod
2 - 85 James Duke, Cardinal Chemicals

Second Flight

1 - 67* Robby Watts, The Country Club of Asheville
2 - 67* Ryan Hough, Carolina Fresh Farms

Third Flight

1 - 48 Jason Gore, The Founders Club at St. James
2 - 46* Jimmy Barker, Dataw Island Club

*won on countback



Corbin Turf and Ornamental's Randy Mangum won the annual sporting clays championship for the second year in a row at Back Woods Quail Club in Georgetown, SC. Mangum matched his tally of 91 from 2012 to finish atop a field of 60 shooters in the event presented in partnership with Bayer Crop Science. Mangum is pictured with his trophy above alongside Trey Warnock, of Bayer; Jason Gore, from the Founders Club at St. James; Jimmy Barker, from Dataw Island Club; Robby Watts, from the Country Club of Asheville; and Chad Price, of Carolina Green Sod.



2013 Conference and Show

Show Diary

The First-Timer

Scott Steiner, 25
Assistant Superintendent
The Cliffs at Keowee Springs, Six Mile, SC



Scott Steiner on the trade show floor for the first time.

"This was my first time at the show and it was a lot bigger than I thought it would be. It was much more of a production. The amount of people there was amazing. I caught up with a lot of people I thought would be there but also a lot I didn't expect to see, guys I'd known from school, or worked with on internships and different places since.

"I really enjoyed the class I took and definitely learned a few things. The trade show was great. I enjoyed mingling and seeing a few things I hadn't seen before. It was all very professional. The golf tournament was a great opportunity to see people outside the work environment where everything was a bit more relaxed.

"I'm not sure that I have a lot to compare it to because I haven't been to the Golf Industry Show but I can't wait to go back to the Carolinas Show. It was a great experience."

The Veteran

Brent Myers, 56
Sales Representative
Sterling Sand, Gaston, SC



Brent Myers after golf at his 25th Conference and Show.

"It was my 25th Carolinas show. My first was when I was a student at Horry-Georgetown and I've kept going when I was an assistant at Columbia Country Club and then when I was a superintendent at Mid Carolina Club and Hidden Valley Golf Course. I've been going every year and it just keeps getting bigger and better.

"I still get excited when it comes around. It's so good seeing old friends. The camaraderie is pretty special and I always run into someone I haven't seen in a while. Never fails.

"I think of the Carolinas pretty well as a version of the national show. The education is outstanding and there is so much else that you also get at the national show but it's so much more affordable, which is great for the smaller clubs that maybe can't afford to send their guys to the national. Talking with other vendors, I know they love it too."



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Photo of Raleigh Country Club, A McConnell Golf Property.
Ranked #1 in The Triangle by 2013 NC Golf Panel.

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Grandfather Golf and Country Club has succeeded in protecting its 1100-forested acres from the dreaded hemlock woolly adelgid. Success is evident in the abundance of hemlocks thriving on the property, such as these giants lining the fairway.

SAVING A GIANT

STEP BY STEP AT GRANDFATHER

by Kate Cahow

It's a slightly overcast day on the greens of Grandfather Golf and Country Club in the highlands of North Carolina. Dramatic silver-tinged clouds frame the iconic Grandfather Mountain as a backdrop to the scene. In the lush forest surrounding the property, there's no sign of the devastation left in the wake of a notorious insect pest that's wreaking havoc on hemlock stands up and down the east coast – and for good reason. From the vantage point of the 7th hole on the club's championship course, golf course superintendent Peter Gerdon tells the story of "saving a giant."



Pete Gerdon

"We have a tremendous number of hemlocks on this property, and literally thousands of them are comparable in size to these on either side of the 7th hole," Gerdon says, gesturing toward two magnificent specimens of one of the region's keystone tree species – each towering nearly 70-feet high. "Hemlocks contribute so much to our environment here. If we were to lose this tree species, what else might we lose? What kind of trickle-down effect would such a loss have on the biology of the creeks and wildlife? What would such a loss do to the forest?"

The loss Gerdon refers to stems from the threat posed to hemlocks in the eastern U.S. by an aphid-like insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid. Its common name refers to the insect's resemblance to tiny tufts of cotton clinging to hemlock needles. The adelgid weakens and, unless interrupted and controlled, kills hemlocks by feeding on the sap of tender hemlock shoots. It has been destroying eastern and Carolina hemlock populations up and down the eastern seaboard for nearly three decades.

Gerdon, along with the support of his staff, club management, club members and local entomologist Dr. Richard McDonald, has led the charge against the adelgid for the past 12 years, employing chemicals for the short term, but focusing on the long-term benefits of biological predators. The sweet success of their efforts is evident in an abundance of hemlocks thriving on the club's 1100 acres and even miles beyond its borders.

"We're excited to be on the cutting edge of a very successful approach to the problem," Gerdon says. "We've allocated a lot of funding and resources to save our hemlocks, and as a golf course superintendent, I feel fortunate that our membership has chosen to be proactive in saving this giant."

In the fall of 2002, Gerdon noticed a white, waxy substance on hemlock trees on the course and surrounding property. Avery County's cooperative extension service identified samples as hemlock woolly adelgid. It was the first verified outbreak of the pest in Avery County. A native to China, Japan, Taiwan and the U.S. Pacific Northwest, the hemlock woolly adelgid was accidentally introduced into the eastern U.S. in the early 1950s in shipments of weeping hemlocks from Japan.

"By the time the adelgid was recognized as an aggressive pest, it was already in outbreak stage up and down the east coast," says McDonald, owner of Symbiont Biological Control and Pest Management. He's been involved with control efforts since 1999. Hemlocks play an integral role in the health and stability of mountain ecosystems – like those at Grandfather – by providing habitat for wildlife and botanical diversity, McDonald explains. Their willowy, shade-producing branches help maintain cool mountain streams that are home to trout, other native fish and a wide variety of aquatic life.

So the logical answer to Gerdon's question, "What kind of trickle-down effect would such a loss have on the biology

of the creeks and wildlife?" is that it would be devastating. The U.S. Forest Service has warned of an ecological disaster comparable to the chestnut blight, which eliminated chestnut trees from the Southern Appalachians and radically changed the forests of the southeast in the mid-1900s.

Once Gerdon and the club's former general manager Norris Clifton became aware of the dangers of the adelgid infestation, they took aggressive action. And wisely, they never gave up hope. They attended a meeting on the adelgid and potential control methods at Appalachian State University in August, 2002. Entomologists from Virginia Tech were present to discuss a predatory beetle – *Laricobius nigrinus* (Ln) – they were lab rearing for adelgid control. At that point, nobody in the industry knew Ln and the hemlock woolly adelgid were both native to the U.S. Pacific Northwest. This discovery soon became the game changer.

ADELGID SIGNS



ADELGID SIGNS: Signs of hemlock woolly adelgid infestation are clearly visible. Photo courtesy of Dr. Richard McDonald.

Gerdon and Clifton settled on using chemicals to stem the tide of the club's infestation until lab-reared Ln beetles were available in sufficient number. "We knew we'd experience a high mortality rate on our trees if we didn't act quickly," Gerdon says. "We just had to figure out how to control chemically without adverse effects on the environment."

In spring 2003, they began treatment on the 18-hole championship and executive golf courses, then incorporated other areas of the 1100-acre property, including member residences. On both courses they applied Kioritz soil injections of Merit in two concentric rings around the hemlocks. Near the lake and waterways they secured a 100-foot buffer around trees to be treated, then inserted capsules



with Merit and a micronutrient package earmarked for hemlocks into holes drilled in the trees. From 2003 to 2007, a four-man crew applied the treatments from early spring into fall.

"The process was extremely labor intensive and expensive, and involved thousands and thousands of trees. Our guys frequently had to crawl through rhododendrons to reach the trees. But it was well worth the effort," Gerdon says. "Treating chemically made our trees less susceptible to adelgid stress for the short term, and likely gave us three to five years of control before we began working with the biological control predators."

In 2006, the U.S. Forest Service discovered through DNA analysis that the hemlock woolly adelgid was native to the Pacific Northwest where it poses no threat to hemlocks because it is kept in check by a natural system of insects. But none of those natural predators were present in the east. Once adelgid infestation spreads to 45 percent of a tree's needles, the tree begins to decline, making this the ecological threshold for taking action.

"We're attempting to recreate that balance here by introducing the adelgid's natural predators, and we've identified Ln as one of the best," McDonald says. "When present, this beetle lowers the infestation rate on hemlocks well below the threshold, enabling them to re-grow normally."

In 2008, McDonald and Gerdon received support from the club's board of directors to collect Ln beetles in the Pacific Northwest for introduction to their property. Over the past five years, they've collected about 14,000 Ln for release at more than 40 sites on club grounds, making the club the largest Ln release site on the east coast.

A second HWA predator, *Scymnus coniferarum* (Scw) – a small black and gold ladybeetle that also feeds on the adelgid – was discovered in the Pacific Northwest by McDonald and a U.S. Forest Service researcher in 2006. This summer-active beetle is a natural complement to the winter-active Ln, creating an aggressive tag team. Both Ln and Scw have been approved for release on the east coast by the state of North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The work done at Grandfather Golf and Country Club shows how a biologically-based pest management program for hemlocks is practical and effective for large-scale acreage. McDonald calls the program a "shining success for the High Country."

"Because Pete, Norris, members and their board of

Gerdon and Dr. Richard McDonald's efforts at GGCC show that a biologically based pest management program for hemlocks is practical and effective for large-scale acreage.

directors were willing to take a chance on this until-now unproven pest management approach, Grandfather Golf and Country Club's 1100 acres are lush with healthy hemlocks," McDonald said.

"And they've saved not only their own hemlocks, they're helping to save and protect the entire region's hemlock ecosystem."

Today Ln can be found in a 20-mile ring around Grandfather Mountain. Its presence is a primary factor in the health and re-growth of hemlocks in the watershed of three river systems that have their headwaters on Grandfather Mountain: The New, the Watauga and the Catawba rivers.

As for Gerdon and his list of 'What ifs?' "The answers are all around us," he says with a sweeping gesture. "Wild beetle insectaries on this property continue to expand, and we are saving hemlocks. I invite anyone who's interested to come visit us and I'll show you what we've done here, and then I'll take you to places where the grey ghosts of hemlocks blight the view, a sad reminder of what might have been." ■

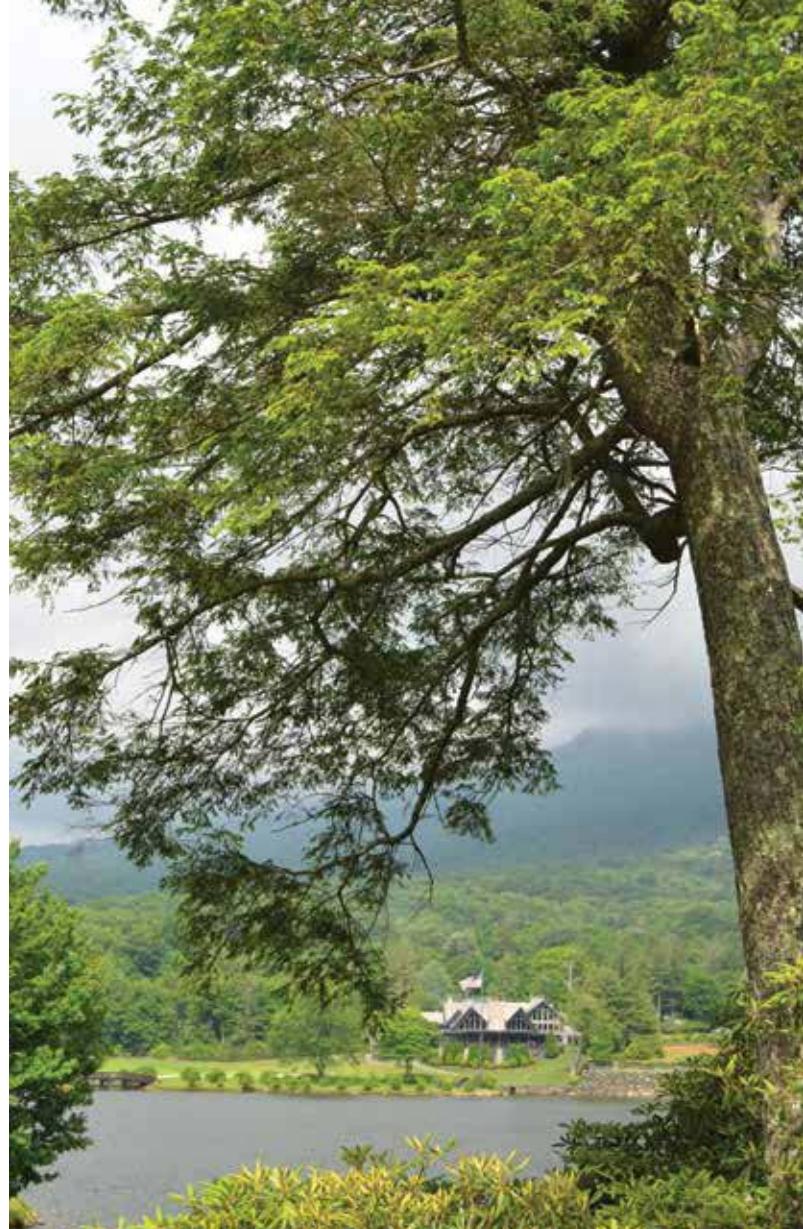


Laricobius nigrinus (Ln), a winter-active beetle, is the primary weapon in the battle to control the hemlock woolly adelgid. Ln larvae hatch and feed on HWA eggs and crawlers, causing 90-percent or greater mortality of the pest. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.



Scymnus coniferarum (Scw), Ln's summer equivalent, completes the perfect tag team for aggressive HWA control. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service.

- *Kate Cahow is a freelance writer and photographer, and the wife of Dr. Richard McDonald, entomologist on the hemlock woolly adelgid biological control project at Grandfather Golf and Country Club.*



Bright green needles on the hemlock in the foreground indicate new growth, a sign of GGCC's success in controlling the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Hemlocks play a critical role in conserving mountain ecosystems; their branches supply much-needed shade to cool streams – home to trout, other native fish and a variety of aquatic life forms.



Winds of Change Blow Away Sense of Gloom and Doom



Bill Kennedy

Winds of change are winding their way through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and as your chapter delegate to the national association, I am happy to report that their general direction is positive. This was evident in the fact that GCSAA's chief executive officer, Rhett Evans, was a prominent presence at our Conference and Trade Show. His presence said a lot I think.

Rhett played in the golf championship, walked the trade show floor and made himself very available. He also spent some real quality time at our board of directors meeting on the night before the conference began. GCSAA's new southeast field representative Ron Wright was also at the conference and manned GCSAA's booth on the trade show floor.

The relationship between GCSAA and the Carolinas GCSA hasn't always been smooth sailing but Rhett's presence and his approach was very encouraging as both organizations work to find ways to be better at what we do for our members. His energy and openness reflected the tone of the annual chapter delegates meeting which I attended at national headquarters in Lawrence, KS in

the fall. For the first time in several years it felt like the atmosphere of gloom and doom had passed.

GCSAA reported a slight uptick in membership and I have to say the mood of the staff at GCSAA seemed similarly upbeat. I have to say how much I appreciated GCSAA's approach to the meeting this time around. Instead of delivering directives and declarations, there seemed to be genuine interest in hearing from the chapters. The focus was not so much on the current state of affairs, but more on the future of the association and the profession.

"We were intent on getting feedback on what the profession would look like in the future, targeting the range of 2020 to 2025," GCSAA president Patrick Finlen, CGCS, said afterwards. "It became obvious to the board through our discussions with those in the golf industry, including members, that the profession is experiencing rapid change. Superintendents are being asked to do more, and the tools and resources we use to do that job are changing. Just look at what is happening with technology. The game of golf may not be changing much, but how we manage it is."

To begin the process, attendees were shown a video featuring GCSAA members representing different membership classes, years of service, ownership structure and budget size. They were then asked to offer their thoughts on what the future would entail for members and how GCSAA might be of assistance. The video can be accessed on the GCSAA web site.

Extensive time was also spent in breakout sessions, addressing the following questions:

- Would it be advantageous for GCSAA to simplify or narrow membership classes?

- Should GCSAA enhance Class A standards?
- What would motivate a member to achieve Class A status?
- If changes are to be made, how quickly should implementation occur?

Finlen and Rhett Evans briefed delegates on various programs and services, noting the 2014 GCSAA business plan would continue to focus on the following priorities:

- Enhance technology to allow GCSAA to better serve members and provide them with tools that provide on-course solutions;
- Complete the implementation of the field staff program and the extension of member services to regions and chapters;
- Dedicate additional resources to advocating on behalf of members to golfers, employers and policymakers;
- Enhance education programming and evaluate membership classifications to remain relevant in the marketplace;
- Explore means to increase revenues through traditional and non-traditional sources;
- Continue to be prudent in exploring and implementing programs and services that expand GCSAA's contribution to growing the game worldwide.

Delegates also had the opportunity to hear from those members running for national office and to participate in small breakout sessions to learn more about candidate platforms and philosophies. ■

-Bill Kennedy is certified golf course superintendent at Chechessee Creek Club in Okatie, SC and Carolinas GCSA vice-president and chapter delegate to GCSAA.

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Eastern NC

The fall of the year normally allows all of us in the golf maintenance industry a chance to catch up with our colleagues. Members of the Eastern NC Turfgrass Association had two great opportunities to do that in November. On November 6, many of us had the privilege to travel to Bald Head Island Club and compete for the Coastal Cup against members from the Cape Fear GCSA. Although we did not come out on top, everyone had a great time competing and enjoyed playing an immaculate golf course prepared by Steen Wansley and his staff. A special thanks goes to Steen and the board of the Cape Fear GCSA for setting up this awesome event.

Many of our members traveled to Myrtle Beach for the annual Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show in mid-November. What an excellent event and great opportunity for affordable education. Thank you to the Carolinas CGCSA staff and the board members for making this a success. It was very enjoyable spending time with everyone at the social events and great to see David Jacob, CGCS from Benvenue Country Club take home \$5,000 as winner of the John Deere 27-Hole Challenge. It could not happen to a nicer person. That makes two years in a row that an Eastern NCTA member has won the \$5,000 as Dean Baker, from Kinston Country Club won 2012.

On December 5, we came together at The State Club and Lonnie Poole Golf Course for the annual membership meeting. Out-going board members Andy Irock, from Country Club of the Crystal Coast; Jonathan Richardson, of Coastal Floratine; and Roger Olmstead, from Reedy Creek Golf Course; were honored and presented with plaques of appreciation for their service. Anthony Whitehead, of Whitehead Golf and Turf, was also presented with a plaque of appreciation and a special gift for his 18 years of service as sergeant at arms.

Stanley Elliott, CGCS from Cypress Landing Golf Club, was elected as the new president and Buckley Brockmann, from Washington Yacht and Country Club, was elected as the new vice-president. James Duke, of Cardinal Chemical Company, became the new sergeant at arms and the new board members elected for two-year terms were Austin Allison, from Timberlake Golf Club; Dean Baker, from Kinston Country Club; and Jim Hoffman, from River Bend Country Club.

We are extremely fortunate to have outstanding support from all of our sponsors. 2013 was an outstanding year for the association and we would like to thank you all and encourage all of our members to support companies that help make the Eastern NCTA and our industry so successful. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and has a Happy New Year.

*Brian Green, Lonnie Poole Golf Course
(919) 828-7820*

Midlands



Scott Crouch, from Mid Carolina Club, won the Midlands TA golf championship in 2013.

It is hard to believe another year has passed us by. We are all another year older and wiser I'm sure. Time flies when you are having fun, as they say. In our profession, we have a luxury that most people do not have, loving our time at the work place and everything that comes with the job.

We have to love what we do to keep coming back for more each and every year, especially with times of budgets decreasing and expectations increasing. It goes to show how well we, as professionals, strive for greatness in everything we do. I believe that was evident with the turnout at last year's Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show.

Here in the Midlands, I felt this past year we had some good events and speakers. From our first meeting in March at the River Club all the way until our last meeting at Ponderosa Country Club. Many thanks go out to all host superintendents, speakers and attendees. It is a group effort for any chapter and meeting to be successful and we would not be if it was not for you.

Also I would be remiss if I did not thank all of our sponsors for the past year. It is your partnership that enables us to do everything we as a local association can do for our members and the community. I truly feel it is the vendor support that makes our associations, on all levels, as successful as they are.

As we closed the year out in 2013, we had our Midlands Turfgrass Association championship at Columbia Country Club. I want to thank Jim Young and his staff for an excellent day on the course. With all the wind we had prior to our outing, they did a remarkable job getting the course ready.

We had three flights, all based on handicap, in which the net score would be the deciding factor. I felt this format would give all those in the championship flight, 0-8 handicap, a chance of winning. After it was settled on the course, Scott Crouch, from Mid Carolina Club, was victorious with a net score of 72.

Congratulations to Scott for being the 2013 Midlands TA champion. Other winners included; first flight - Chris Simon; second flight - Robert Rogers; vendor champion - Brent Myers.

Thank you to all the members of the Midlands TA and sponsors. I hope you all have a great 2014.

Sam Friar, The Members Club at Woodcreek and Wildewood (803) 239-0286.

Sandhills

First, I would like to say thank you to Randy Hilburn for his outstanding leadership over the past two years. Randy, has set the bar very high and I hope I don't mess things up.

Over the last couple of months of 2013 we had several events, starting off with the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show which, as always, was a huge success. The girls - Angie, Cindy, Kim and Melissa - outdid themselves again, while babysitting Tim along the way! Smith Turf and Irrigation did an outstanding job hosting the golf championship. Tri-State Pump and Controls changed things up this year by hosting the Carolinas Night at Crocodile Rocks and everyone had a blast singing the night away. Revels Turf and Tractor and the John Deere folks once again closed the show with a bang with the 27-Hole Challenge and our very own Billy Lewis, from the Dormie Club, walked away with a new iPad.

Ron Hall, of Divots Inc., hosted his annual Hall fall Invitational at his own Carolina Lakes Golf Club. This event is always a bunch of fun and the course was in excellent condition.

Next, early December we hosted our annual fundraiser golf tournament at Long Leaf Golf and Country Club, hosted by Martin Acker, CGCS. Thanks to all of our loyal members and vendors for their support of this event. Shortly after the fundraiser, several of our own - Keith Osterman, Ron Kelly, David Bowbliss

and Randy Hilburn - participated as guest bartenders at O'Donnell's Pub in Southern Pines to benefit The Empty Stocking Fund of the Sandhills. The tips they received that night went to buy presents for needy children, so if you see any of them be sure to tell them thanks!

Lastly, I would like to thank Adam Ancherico, from Eastern Turf Equipment and Steve Dorer, CGCS of Syngenta, for hosting their annual Christmas party at Mid Pines Resort. Everyone had a great time of fellowship, food and prizes. The only disappointment was that Scott Clawson didn't win the extra-large candy cane that he wanted. Then everyone had an opportunity to play David Fruchte's recently renovated Mid Pines course, which was amazing. He and his staff deserve a round of applause for their hard work.

On behalf of the members of the Sandhills GCSA, I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Steve Dockery, Methodist University Golf Club (910) 723-4908.

North-South

The North-South Turfgrass Association conducted its annual business meeting and board elections in conjunction with our annual member-member golf tournament at Northstone Country Club this past fall. Host superintendent, Darrin Spiers, CGCS provided the members with a beautiful day and even better playing conditions. Tyler Herman, of Smith Turf and Irrigation, and his partner Jesse Cigary, of the Peninsula Club, were able to dethrone two-time defending champions Daryl Ewing and Dave Dettmer, CGCS.

The North-South TA would like to thank the sponsors of this event: gold sponsor, Arboguard Tree Specialists; silver, Greenville Turf and Tractor and John Deere Golf.

The election results were as follows: president, Jason Bradley, River Hills Country Club; vice-president, Rick Henderson, Skybrook Golf Club; secretary-treasurer, Daryl Ewing, Carolina Lakes Golf Club. Tyler Goff, Myers Park Country Club, and Chris Simon, Harrell's, were elected to serve a two-year term on our board of directors



Tyler Herman and Jesse Cigary with their prizes after winning the member-member tournament at Northstone Club.

with Barry Rewis, The Club at Longview, and Scott McArthur, Cleveland County Country Club, who have a one-year term remaining.

The annual holiday party was held at the Center City Marriott in early December. The event was sponsored by Pat McHugh, CGCS of North Carolina Turf Support. We had a large number of members along with significant others attend this wonderful event to close out another successful year.

Our 2013 scholarship winner was Joanne McDanel, daughter of Greg McDanel, CGCS from Rolling Hills Country Club. Joanne will attend Charleston Southern University. We wish Joanne much success in her future endeavors and we hope this scholarship will help her achieve her future goals.

The North-South TA is already filling the calendar with events for 2014. We will continue to hold many of our annual events such as our research tournament, stroke play championship, member-member event, corn hole tournament and family night, which will be at the new Charlotte Knights baseball stadium located in uptown Charlotte.

Additionally, we are exploring a few new events to complete our 2014 calendar so please be on the lookout for our newsletters and continue to check the Carolinas GCSA webpage for updates.

Finally, on behalf of the North-South TA board and the membership, I would like to thank Matthew Wharton, from Carolina Golf Club, for volunteering his service over the past five years and especially this past year as our president. I would also like to congratulate Matthew on winning the Carolinas GCSA superintendent golf championship at the Conference and Trade Show this past November.

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

Upstate

It's hard to believe another year has come and almost gone here for the Upstate Turfgrass Association although it was another great year for us. Speaking for our board of directors, I want to say thanks to both our members and our very generous sponsors who allowed us to have a great year filled with good meetings, great golf and multiple opportunities to network and learn from each other at our educational opportunities. We had 22 corporate sponsors this year and we are thankful to them all for another great year.

Our final golf meeting of the year was held mid-October at another great venue, The Cliffs at Keowee Falls. We would like to thank host superintendent Jim Evans and the Cliffs staff for hosting us. We held a soggy two-man competition that was won by the teams of Steve Currie and Bob Land and also Mark Rogers and Steve Neuliep, CGCS. Congratulations to those guys.

Our October meeting also saw us hold our annual business meeting where we elected officers and directors for the association in 2014. I was unable to avoid being elected again and will serve as president for one last year in 2014. David Greene, from the Hejaz Shrine Club, will serve as vice-president, and trusty Alan Corbin, of Corbin Turf and Ornamental, remains our secretary-treasurer in perpetuity.

The rest of our board is Kyle Traynham, Willow Creek; Chuck Connolly, Greenville Country Club; Adam Charles, The Preserve at Verdae; Pate Kincaid, Greenville Turf and Tractor; Mills Grant, Carolina Fresh Farms; Josh Sawyer, Keowee Key Country Club; and Josh Henson, Three Pines Country Club.

Our final event of 2013 was our annual oyster roast and sponsor appreciation lunch, early December, with both events to be held at the Preserve at Verdae. At these events, we also collected canned

goods to support the North Greenville Food Crisis Ministries. Going forward in 2014, we will be looking for other ways to give back in the Upstate to those who are less fortunate than us. We look forward to a great 2014.

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

Low Country

Since the last article we held our fifth annual Christmas tournament at Savannah Lakes Golf Club. We would like to send a special thank you to the Mike Carn and his staff for preparing the conditions on the course. We want to thank the head professional and his staff for organizing the tournament. We will have the results in the next issue of the *Carolinas Green*.

We would like to send special thanks to all vendors for joining our association again this year. We hope to see you guys again. We are working on planning events for 2014, so please make sure you check your e-mails for all upcoming events in the Low Country. We are looking forward to seeing all of you this year at events.

It was nice to see everyone at the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Trade Show in Myrtle Beach. It is important that you guys support our local chapter so we can do our part for the Carolinas GCSA. We ask everybody to please give the Carolinas GCSA your e-mail addresses so we can e-mail you all upcoming events when you register for your annual dues.

Also this year, the board wants to remind you to try to remember to help out Rounds4Research. As we all know, it helps out the future and present problems we have in our industry. We hope you guys have a successful 2014. See you soon.

Scott Denny, Argent Lakes Course, Sun City (843) 705-4076.

Cape Fear

As I write this from my cozy warm office, the Cape Fear region is covered in a blanket of thick frost. This is only our second heavy frost of the season, but it is a sign that winter is upon us. We can finally relax a little, because the busy spring season will be here before we know it.

The last couple of months have been a lot of fun for the Cape Fear GCSA. In October, we had a group of 55 for a meeting, lunch and golf at St James Plantation. Sam Green gave an awesome talk on wetting agents and the use of soil moisture meters. Thanks Sam.

The first week in November, 48 of us from the Cape Fear GCSA and Eastern NCTA traveled over to Bald Head Island for our annual Coastal Cup match. Team Cape Fear prevailed – again – 20.5 to 16.5. It was a great time, as always. Thank you to Steen Wansley and the entire staff at Bald Head for hosting us.

I can't speak for everyone, but for me the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show in Myrtle Beach is always one of the best weeks of the year and this year was no different. Great education, excellent events, golf and trade show. Of course, seeing and catching up with those people you only see once a year is the best part. I'm looking forward to next year already.

The 6th annual Mike Claffey scholarship golf tournament and oyster roast was mid-December at Cape Fear National Golf Club. Thank you to Paul Hughes and the entire staff at Cape Fear National for hosting us again this year. This was the final event of the year for our association and my final event as president.

I want to thank Matt Martin and the board of directors for all the time and energy they put into making the Cape Fear GCSA what it is. I also want to thank our sponsors that make it all possible: Arysta Life Science, Cardinal Chemical, Coastal Floratine, Green Resource, Harrell's, Modern Turf, Precision Labs, Revels Turf and Tractor, Smith Turf and

Irrigation, Springer Eubank Oil, Syngenta, Vereens Turf Products, Aqua-Aid, Bayer, Howards Fertilizer, Eastern Turf Equipment, Nutra Turf, Quali-Pro, Regal and Simmons Irrigation.

I hope everyone had happy holidays.

Grayson Grainger, The Players Club at St. James (910) 253-9267.

Blue Ridge



The list of the Blue Ridge TA's generous sponsors in 2013.

I hope everyone had wonderful holidays and a happy new year. I would like to start by thanking all of our sponsors for 2013. Without you the Blue Ridge Turfgrass Association would not be possible. I would also like to personally thank the entire board that continued to work hard and grow the Blue Ridge TA: Robert Arrington, Catawba Country Club; Erik Guinther, Roaring Gap Club; Bo Miller, Southern Ag.; Mike Mizelle, CGCS Oakwoods Country Club; Jeremy Hardin, Glen Oaks Country Club; Nick Raby, Oak Valley Golf Club; Chris Berrier, Pilot Knob Park; Chad Wyrick, River Oaks Golf Club; Anthony Durham, Old Town Club, and Brandon Ingle, Sage Valley Golf Club. The Blue Ridge TA officially became an organization in February, 2012. Meetings



Founding president, Matt Carver, and Zoysia, aka "Zoey."

and preparation started a lot sooner, but with commitment and dedication it became official. Being a part of the founding committee was a great learning experience and I've been honored to serve as president for the past two years.

Within this time, we've developed a great membership base and an outstanding sponsorship base. We also provided a great networking environment, continuing education and scholarship opportunities.

I challenge the future boards to grow this list and improve these goals so we can continue to develop our industry.

I cannot stress enough how fortunate I feel to have served the Blue Ridge TA. I will continue to support the organization to my fullest. I'm excited to see what the future holds with hopes of it being a continuously successful association.

Last, but not least, I would like to sincerely thank the entire Carolinas GCSA staff, with special emphasis on Tim Kreger, Kim Clark and Trent Bouts. These are the behind-the-scenes people that make it happen every day.

Thank you all for supporting us.

Matt Carver, Brushy Mountain Golf Club (336) 408-2128.

Coastal Plains



Golf champion, Steve Agazzi, is congratulated by Coastal Plains GCSA president, Brian Brown, after the championship at Snee Farm Country Club.

Congratulations to Steve Agazzi, from the Turtle Point course at Kiawah Island Resort, on winning our superintendent golf championship in 2013. Steve was a clear winner at Snee Farm Country Club with a great round of 72. Scott Martin, CGCS of Corbin Turf and Ornamental, won the vendor division. Our thanks to Brent Bagwell and his staff for the excellent course conditions they presented on what was an ideal day for golf.

We head into 2014 with our board and our dues structure unchanged. The current board has one more year to serve.

On behalf of the members I really want to make a point of thanking the industry partners who make so much of what we do possible. They are great companies with great people to do business with.

Super sponsors: Green Resource, Corbin Turf and Ornamental, Bartlett Tree Experts, Harrell's, Bayer.

Corporate VIPs: Revels Turf and Tractor, Smith Turf and Irrigation, Syngenta, Coastal Floratine.

I wish everyone well for the year ahead.

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

Palmetto



Palmetto GCSA president, Dan Saber, CGCS presents a check for \$2,500 to Habitat for Humanity's Gail Olive.

Early December the Palmetto GCSA held our annual year-end cookout at Blackmoor Golf Club. Special thanks to golf course superintendent Jay Noyes and general manager Bob Zuercher, CGCS for hosting. The day began with golf on a beautiful 70-degree day. The golf format was a Texas scramble, with two best-ball net scoring. The groups comprised of three-man teams divided equally based on individual handicaps.

First place honors went to Max Morgan, CGCS, Gary Humphrey and Brandon Tyler with a team score of 115. Second were Chris Seymour, Ned Brown and Tyler Brown with a team score of 123. Finally, four closest to the pin prizes were awarded. Mitchell Evans won on No. 4, Max Morgan won on No. 15 and Bob Warbutton doubled up taking both the No. 2 and No. 17 prizes. Special thanks to the following sponsors for assisting in the golf portion of this event: golf - Coastal Floratine, S & R Turf and Estate Management Services; prize package - Davisson Golf and Palmetto Pump Services; beverage cart - Phoenix Environmental Care.

Following golf, the cookout began with gracious donations from Smith Turf and Irrigation, Revels Turf and Tractor

and Vereens Turf Products. On behalf of our membership, a very special and sincere thank you to the owners and supporting staff members for supplying and preparing the following food items: Smith Turf and Irrigation - pulled pork and side items prepared by Steve Miller and Jay Johnson; Revels Turf and Tractor - baked chicken and side items prepared by Turner Revels, Rankin Armstrong and Russell Montgomery; Vereens Turf Products - steamed oysters prepared by James Jackson.

After dinner, the board of directors had the opportunity to donate funds to charity from our annual fundraiser event this past July where we raised \$5,000. Habitat for Humanity of Horry County and Tara Hall Home for Boys of Georgetown County each received checks in the amount of \$2,500. Executive director of Habitat for Humanity, Gail Olive, and Tara Hall Home for Boys board member, Jim Dumm, were present to receive our donations and both spoke to our group about their organizations.

In addition to our annual financial donations, we also collected nearly 100 new toys for our 7th annual Toys for Tots drive. Keenan Walsh, of Toys for Tots Horry County, was on hand to accept

our donations. Special thanks to Jennifer Seevers, of Geponics Corp., for assisting in the Toys for Tots drive again this year. It was Jennifer's idea seven years ago to include a toy drive with our yearend cookout. Once again Jennifer conducted a raffle drawing at the time all toys were presented, giving out fresh hams and gift cards to lucky members who donated toys. This truly was a special event and great way to end a very successful 2013.

As this information goes to print, the board is preparing the 2014 meeting schedule. Our next meeting is in March at the Horry County Technical College, Myrtle Beach Campus. This will be an educational meeting conducted by the Carolinas GCSA in conjunction with the Palmetto GCSA. GCSAA and pesticide certification points will be available.

As always, a great thank you to all of our 2013 platinum and gold vendor partners. Our association would not be successful without your continued support.

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Green Speaks to French Colleagues

Chuck Green, from Sage Valley Golf Club, in Aiken, SC is one of the latest in a growing list of Carolinas GCSA past-presidents to hit the international speaking circuit. Green traveled to France shortly after the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show in November to speak at the annual AGREF (French greenkeepers) conference in Paris. Green detailed the evolution of Sage Valley with a concentration on the club's commitment to water conservation.

Green traveled with several companions from the Carolinas including Mark Sywgert, from the Country Club of Lexington; Rhett Baker, from Palmetto Golf Club; and Jacobsen's Kevin

Stinnett. "The trip, although short, went real well," Green says. "And it was fun to see that part of the world. Funny, the government there dictates you can only work 217 days a year and no employee is allowed more than 40 hours of overtime in a year. Wow, can you imagine."

Green says the AGREF conference is similar in size to the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show. Several years ago, another past-president, Butch Sheffield, CGCS from North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh, NC spoke at a conference of Japanese golf course superintendents.



One Day Here Rhett Baker, Kevin Stinnett, Chuck Green and Mark Sywgert were all smiles at the Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show in November.



Next Day Here But they were just as excited to be at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in Paris very soon after. This time that's Baker on the left, with French translator and superintendent, Romain Basque, and Green, Sywgert and Stinnett.

Another Knaffle Emerges in Golf



Smith Knaffle and proud dad, Jim.

Smith Knaffle, daughter of Carolinas GCSA member, Jim Knaffle, CGCS from the International Club of Myrtle Beach, is building a promising start to her golf career. Smith, a 12-year-old seventh grader, shot consecutive rounds of 76 to finish sixth in the South Carolina Class AAA girls state golf championship in the fall. As a top 10 finisher that was enough to earn her all-state honors.

"I've had really good scores all season and this just topped it off," Knaffle said after the championship. "I definitely exceeded my expectations for this week. I felt a little bit [of pressure] ... it's just pressure you put on yourself to put up a good number. I feel like I perform good under pressure."

David Wells Joins Bayer



David Wells

CropScience. Wells will lead Bayer's presence in the golf market segment with a focus on all current and future products, services, equipment and programs. He will be based in Raleigh, NC.

In his new role, Wells will focus on golf segment-specific portfolio management and integrated campaigns. He will also serve as industry liaison between Bayer and key golf industry associations.

In his most recent roles, Wells helped drive sales for industry manufacturers, managing both sales and agronomic teams. Previously, Wells served as a golf course superintendent for more than five years – in Australia, Hawaii, and San Diego – and as an assistant superintendent in Tucson and New Zealand. Wells also served for more than 14 years as a senior agronomist and turf industry consultant for the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute, where he supported turf maintenance and construction on both warm- and cool-season turf across New Zealand, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Kreger Receives Service Award

Carolinas GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger, was honored this past fall with a special presentation from the Carolinas Club Foundation. He received an Outstanding Service plaque for his work on the foundation's board. The award presentation was in conjunction with the Carolinas Chapter of the Club Managers

Association of America's annual meeting at Ballantyne Country Club in Charlotte, NC.

Kreger was appointed to the club foundation board in 2011 for a three-year term and was the first non-chapter member to join the board. "His contributions and insights have been invaluable," says Corinne Grimaldi, managing director of the Carolinas chapter of CMAA. "We are happy that with the completion and acknowledgement of his first term, Tim has graciously agreed to serve a second term for the next three years."

The Carolinas Club Foundation was formed in 2005 as the charitable arm of the Carolinas chapter of the CMAA. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the foundation's purpose is to financially support the professional development of club management through education, training and research initiatives.

Jacobsen Brings Haggas on Board



Josh Haggas

Jacobsen recently added Josh Haggas to its sales team as national accounts manager. Haggas, who will be based in Charlotte, NC comes to Jacobsen from Textron-owned

E-Z-GO, where he spent nearly a decade as a sales representative. Prior to his tenure at E-Z-GO, Haggas served as a distribution sales representative for Club Car selling utility vehicles.

Haggas has a bachelor's degree in marketing management from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and was drafted by the New York Mets Major League Baseball team in 1992. He will be responsible for serving multi-course owners and management companies across the U.S. and Canada. Part of his initial task list will be building relationships with customers in the Carolinas.

Anderson Retires After 40 Years



Bill Anderson, CGCS

Carolinas GCSA past-president and Distinguished Service Award winner, Bill Anderson, CGCS has called an end to a career that stands as a rare feat in the

world of golf course maintenance. It's enough that Anderson spent 40 years in the profession but nothing short of remarkable that they were all invested in the one facility, Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, NC.

Anderson announced his retirement in a letter to club members that read:

"After 40 years of service to Carmel Country Club, it is with mixed feelings and a full heart that I announce my retirement as your director of greens and grounds effective December 31, 2013.

Very few golf course superintendents remain at one club for their entire career, and I feel fortunate that Carmel and I were able to grow together over the decades. I am very proud of Carmel's accomplishments and the efforts made by members and staff alike for the benefit and success of our golf program.

In 1973, when my wife Catherine and I moved here, we did not expect to spend a long time in North Carolina. Many of you may have had similar experiences in your own careers. However, like the city of Charlotte itself, Carmel has always been focused on growth and the pursuit of excellence. By offering me constant challenges and the rewards of helping create an exceptional golf facility, Carmel Country Club became my second home for all these years. I believe that together we have accomplished a great deal.

I would like to acknowledge the strong contributions made by my staff. I have deep respect for their commitment,

efforts and abilities. The relationships I have built with fellow staff members and industry colleagues throughout my tenure at Carmel have been strong, long-lasting and are deeply appreciated. I also value the friendships and professional relationships I've enjoyed with so many of you over the years. This is a club with deeply involved members, and I respect your passion and pursuit of excellent golf.

While I look forward to the years to come, I will miss Carmel and continue to treasure the time we have spent together. Thank you for 40 excellent years."

Berkeley Hall Earns Award

Berkeley Hall Golf Club in Bluffton, SC was honored by the Professional Grounds Management Society at its annual Green Star Awards ceremony in Louisville, KY in the fall. The Green Star Awards program brings national recognition to grounds maintained with a high degree of excellence, complimenting other national landscape award programs that recognize outstanding landscape design and construction.

Berkeley Hall is a 36-hole facility which has been under the care of director of golf courses and grounds, Danny Malone, CGCS since 2003. The club was the only award recipient in the golf course category.

Grobusky on Veterans List

Robert Grobusky, from Blue Ridge Golf Center in Walhalla, SC was an omission from the list of Carolinas GCSA members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces which appeared in the November-December issue of *Carolinas Green*. Grobusky served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971. He joins the list of nearly 70 veterans in the Carolinas GCSA who submitted their names for the feature recognizing their service to help commemorate Veterans Day in 2013.

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The Carolinas GCSA greatly appreciates the support of the following companies and their representatives for their support of the Superintendent Image Campaign in 2013.

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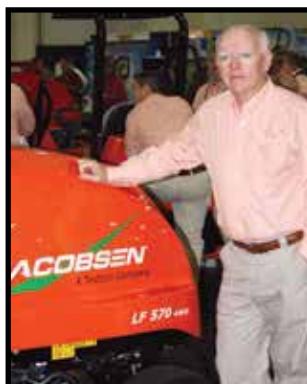
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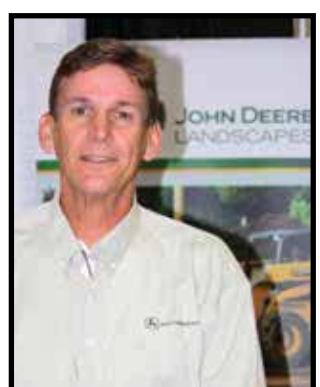
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Gold Club, not pictured: Winston Clark, Clark Plant Nutrients

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Monday Golf Championship
SMITH TURF & IRRIGATION
THE TORO COMPANY
PNC EQUIPMENT FINANCE
TCF EQUIPMENT FINANCE

Monday and Tuesday Seminar
Education
SYNGENTA

Tuesday Seminar Luncheon
GOLF AGRONOMICS
QUALI-PRO

Exhibit Hall Plant Designs
MCPHERSON GREENHOUSES

Tuesday Carolinas Night at the Beach
TRI-STATE PUMP & CONTROL

Wednesday Fellowship Breakfast
CORBIN TURF SUPPLY
NEW LIFE TURF

Wednesday General Session
On Site Communications
RADIOS FOR GOLF
VERTEX STANDARD

Sporting Clay Event
BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Wednesday Buffet Luncheon
COASTAL FLORATINE, INC.
PHOENIX ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

27-Hole Challenge
JOHN DEERE GOLF
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CLASS A - Superintendent

Fred W. Edwards, Tryon Country Club, Tryon, NC
Mark Hopkins, Southwick Golf Course, Graham, NC
Kenneth B. Lee, Belfair Plantation, Bluffton, SC
Alan J. Lucas, Barefoot Resort Golf Club, Atlantic Beach, SC
Doug Walter, Bright's Creek Golf Club, Mill Spring, NC
Allen D. Whittle, The Dye Club at Barefoot Resort, North Myrtle Beach, SC

CLASS SM - Superintendent

Richard Tadd Brown, Berkeley Country Club, Moncks Corner, SC
Benjamin Tyler Deitz, Rock Barn Golf and Spa, Conover, NC
Lee B. Dempster, Belfair Plantation, Bluffton, SC
Bobby Holden, Green Valley Country Club, Greenville, SC
Ryan D. McClannon, Charlotte Golf Links, Charlotte, NC
Mark W. Mitchell, Secession Golf Club, Beaufort, SC
Ollie K. Purnell, Roxboro Country Club, Roxboro, NC

CLASS C - Assistant Superintendent

Riley Boyette, The Golf Club at Briar's Creek, Johns Island, SC
Frank L. Cahn, The Cliffs at Keowee Falls, Salem, SC
William A. Diers, Blowing Rock Country Club, Blowing Rock, NC
Kevin M. Dreibelbis, Club at Mediterra, Naples, FL
Mitchell J. Evans, Dunes Golf and Beach Club, Myrtle Beach, SC
Michael J. Fouweather, Sequoyah National Golf Course, Whittier, NC
James I. Hartzler, Old Edwards Club, Highlands, NC
Brandon L. Holden, Green Valley Country Club, Greenville, SC
Tyler Scott Johanson, Belfair Plantation, Bluffton, SC
Joshua Paul Krigbaum, Bright's Creek Golf Club, Mill Spring, NC
Mathieu LeCompte, Governors Club, Chapel Hill, NC
Matthew G. Long, Haig Point Club, Hilton Head Island, SC
Ben McCurry, Charlotte Country Club, Charlotte, NC
William B. Morris, Prestonwood Country Club, Cary, NC
Kenneth Neu, Blackmoor Golf Club, Murrells Inlet, SC
Mitchell B. Ogle, Colleton River Plantation Club, Bluffton, SC
Cale W. Priddy, Old Edwards Club, Highlands, NC
Kenneth A. Ray, Haig Point Club, Hilton Head Island, SC
Alex Rhodes, The Landings Club, Savannah, GA
William C. Rogers, Haig Point Club, Hilton Head Island, SC
Corey Sasser, Timberlake Golf Club, Clinton, NC
Ian Schlather, Elyria Country Club, Elyria, OH
Richard Stafford, Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC
Will V. Wilson, Rock Barn Golf and Spa, Conover, NC
Matthew T. Wise, Sun City Hidden Cypress Golf Club, Bluffton, SC

CLASS ED - Educator

Benjamin W. Pease, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Steven Lommel, NC State University, Raleigh, NC

CLASS S - Student

Joe Conner, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Conway, SC
Daniel Dygowski, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC
James Fleming, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Conway, SC
Taylor Griffin, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Conway, SC
Justin Hall, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC
Clay Hartwell, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Conway, SC
Jeffrey A. Hillwig, Thistle Golf Club, Sunset Beach, NC
Clifton E. Mauney, Catawba Valley Community College, Hickory, NC
Cody McCarn, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CLASS S - Student, cont.

James R. McGinnis, Founders Club at St. James Plantation, Southport, NC
Jeremy Smith, Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, NC
Daniel Smith, Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Conway, SC

CLASS AF - Affiliate

Merett Alexander, North Georgia Turf Inc., Whitesburg, GA
Mel Fogg, Green Blade Turf Maintenance, Kannapolis, NC
Scott Givens, Deep South Services LLC, Ruffin, SC
Justin Watts, Select Source, Inc., Gilbert, SC

CLASS AFCORP - Individual Corporate Member

Bruce Barton, Smith Turf and Irrigation, Charlotte, NC
Steven R. Carroll, BASF Corporation, Fuquay-Varina, NC
Kyle Lancaster, Cardinal Chemicals, Kinston, NC
Joe Lara, BASF Corporation, Research Triangle Park, NC
Kirk Lovan, Smith Turf and Irrigation, Charlotte, NC

CLASS AFCORP1 - Corporate Member

Jason W. Worley, Vermeer Southeast, Savannah, GA

OUR FRIENDS

David K. Bibler, is now assistant superintendent at Greensboro Country Club, Greensboro, NC.

Wayne Coble, formerly with River Landing Country Club, Wallace, NC is now superintendent at Beau Rivage Golf and Resort, Wilmington, NC.

Bo Cooper, formerly with Moore Farms, Lake City, SC is now superintendent at Country Club of South Carolina, Florence, SC.

Chris Crawford, has been promoted from assistant superintendent to superintendent at Sun City Hilton Head - Okatie Creek, Bluffton, SC.

Jonathan D. Franck, formerly with Bald Head Island Club, Bald Head Island, NC is now assistant superintendent at Lockwood Folly Country Club, Supply, NC.

Michael Heckman, formerly with Moss Creek Owners Assoc./PTM, Hilton Head Island, SC is now assistant superintendent at Long Cove Club, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Brian S. Hicks, former golf course superintendent with Ocean Ridge Plantation, Ocean Isle Beach, NC is now golf course superintendent at Carolina Shores Golf Club, Calabash, NC.

Corey J. Hraczo, has been promoted from assistant superintendent to superintendent at Badin Inn Resort and Club, Badin, NC.

Todd B. Holt, is now superintendent at Taberna Country Club, New Bern, NC.

Jim Jackson, formerly with Agrium Advanced Technologies, Winston Salem, NC is now sales manager with Carolina Eastern Pamplico, Pamplico, SC.

Logan H. Nesbitt, has been promoted from assistant superintendent to superintendent at Laurel Ridge Country Club, Waynesville, NC.

Kyle Oakes, former assistant superintendent at Wilson Country Club, Wilson, NC is now superintendent at Birchwood Country Club, Mill Spring, NC.

John Parrish, former superintendent at Devils Ridge Golf Club, Holly Springs, NC is now superintendent at Lochmere Golf Club, Cary, NC.

Chad Prest, former assistant superintendent at Old Chatham Golf Club, Durham, NC is now superintendent at The Cliffs at Keowee Vineyards, Sunset, SC.

Scott Sparks, has been promoted from assistant superintendent to superintendent at Wolf Laurel Country Club, Mars Hill, NC.

Brett Sullivan, former assistant superintendent at Prestonwood Country Club, Cary, NC is now assistant superintendent at Florence Country Club, Florence, SC.

Wilson Sutton, former assistant superintendent at Kinston Country Club, Kinston, NC is now assistant superintendent at Emerald Golf Club, New Bern, NC.



Duck Calls

Duck Dynasty's Willie Robertson was in the Carolinas recently playing golf with baseball legend Ozzie Smith. Ozzie brought his golf partner by an E-Z-Go facility in Augusta, GA to check out their hunting vehicles. That's when Willie met someone really famous, Will Ford, recently wed son-in-law

of Carolinas GCSA education coordinator, Cindy Baldwin. To be clear, that's Willie on the left and Will on the right, and Cindy's probably very happy it's not the other way around.

Flower Power

Your staff at the Carolinas GCSA headquarters in Liberty, SC is proud to work for you and your association. They believe in the work you do and the integrity you bring to the golf course and the golf industry every day. But they also know how much you appreciate what they do for you because you do such a good job of letting them know. It comes with a thank you at the end of a phone call, or on an email, or with a big smile at Conference and Show. Sometimes it comes in a different form. Recently the Blue Ridge Turfgrass Association sent flowers and chocolates to local association coordinator, Kim Clark and an anonymous member sent flowers to the entire staff. *You guys are good!*



Coming Undone

It's a good thing Danny Allen dresses better than his golf clubs. Allen, a Carolinas GCSA past-president and current board member from Camden Country Club in Camden, SC was spotted at the annual fall mountain meeting wielding a piece of history, a fairway wood that looked like it might have been used by Old Tom Morris himself. We won't go so far as to say



whether Danny's play with the club was as loose as the binding on it. We'll let the frown on his face tell that story.

Cash Flow Reversal

Industry partner support is one of the pillars of the Carolinas GCSA. So when the money flows the other way, we think that's news, and it's why Turner Revels is laughing so hard. Revels and partner Rankin Armstrong, also with Revels Turf and Tractor, were wrapping up a round at the South Carolina Golf Course Owners Association's annual meeting at Seabrook Island

Club's Ocean Winds course. That's Armstrong collecting a wad of bills from Carolinas GCSA president, Steve Hamilton, CGCS whose partnership with Carolinas GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger, came up short on the day.



Working Appetite

Talk about living, breathing and eating your work. Scott Kennon, CGCS from Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, NC got his food and foes mixed up recently when completing his Member Profile for the Carolinas GCSA web site. Under favorite food, Kennon, a Carolinas GCSA director, typed: "Kung Pao chicken." For the record, and for those without an appetite for Chinese cuisine, it should be Pao.

Sheets of Snow

The message from Carolinas GCSA past-president, Steve Sheets, popped up in the email of Carolinas GCSA executive director, Tim Kreger: "We have a tee time at noon for you!" Kreger's instant thought process as he reached to open the message was along the lines of "Hmmm, we're in good shape here, maybe I can make that." Then he saw the photo and more detail: "No. 18 green. It's 21 degrees." That was October 25 and the first snowfall of the season at Linville Ridge Golf Club in Linville, NC.





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