A Publication of the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association

2017 MEETING SITES

January 24th

Nutrient Management Plan Meeting @ Rutland C.C.

February 6th-10th

GCSAA Conference and Show Orlando, Florida

February 16th

Nor'Easter Ski Day

@ Killington Resort

March 6th-9th

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show Providence, RI

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THE VERMONT POLLINATOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE

By Ken Lallier

Managed and native pollinators are important to agriculture, they work on farms pollinating our fruit and vegetables crops. They also provide honey and other bee-related products, adding to Vermont's agricultural diversity. Nationally and globally, pollinators--such as bees, butterflies and other insects and small mammals, are under stress, and in some cases, in decline. In 2016, the Vermont legislature passed a bill (Act 83) creating a Pollinator Protection Committee. On this Committee, beekeepers, ecologists, government officials, researchers and the farming community are working together to conserve & improve pollinator health in Vermont.

POLLINATOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Terry Bradshaw - Tree Fruit and Viticulture Specialist, University of Vermont, Chair of the Pollinator Protection Committee

Katie Ballard - Ballard Acres Farm, Georgia, VT, Dir. of Research at W.H. Miner Institute

Eric Boire - Crop Production Services, Addison, VT, Pres. of Vermont Tree Fruit Growers

Chris Conant - Claussen's Greenhouses, Colchester, Vermont

Ross Conrad - Dancing Bee Gardens, Middlebury, VT. Member of Vermont & Addison County Beekeepers Associations and a regular contributor to Bee Culture.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Brown - Treasurer

Dear VTGCSA members,

When I was asked to be on the board of directors for the Vermont Golf Course Superintendents I was apprehensive as I was not sure how I would fit in with all the big name professionals. I had been attending meetings and functions sponsored by the VGCSA since the 80's so I knew plenty of people in the industry but again I was unsure about my presence on the board. I eventually accepted the invitation and for three years I have served on the board of directors as Treasurer.

As an owner, my experience in the industry comes from wearing many hats i.e. Superintendent, Proshop Manager, Membership Sales, Customer Service, Cook and Bartender. As such, I have seen this great golf business from multiple perspectives. Since I started in the business (1985) I have weathered the decrease in rounds, the steady increase of equipment, employee, and supply costs and the increased demands of keeping up with the everyday tasks of greenskeeping, soil, grass, and water maintenance. Being a part of the VGCSA has made me appreciate the hard work that the same volunteers have done for years making this association become a viable and integral part of the industry.

Over the past three years we have added some new faces to the board which has helped to execute our goals, create a usable and resourceful web site, increasing our meeting attendance, and implementing more education while at the same time keeping costs down for meeting attendees and creating an environment to catch up with others, share stories and ideas, and generally get a break from the everyday tasks.

With this said, I encourage everyone to make a point to commit to at least a few meetings each year as the comradery, education, and just getting together with a great group is well worth it.

Happy New Year

Jeff Brown, VtGCSA Treasurer West Bolton Golf Club

The Vermont Pollinator Protection Committee

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POLLINATOR PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Cary Giguere -

Agrichemical Program Manager and Chair of State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG)

John Hayden - The Farm Between, Jeffersonville VT Mike Palmer - French Hill Apiaries, St. Albans, VT. Member of the Vermont Beekeepers Assoc

Leif Richardson -

Research fellow, Gund Institute, UVM, and research associate with the Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Jane Sorensen - River Berry Farm, Fairfax, Vermont. Also owns Northeast Pollinator Plants

This committee has met several times since September 2016 and Kevin Komer, CGCS, has been in attendance as an invited guest to all the meetings. The Agency of Agriculture is spear heading the committee and have taken the following position on the subject. They recognize that there are risks and benefits to using Neonicotinoids in the Green industries of Vermont and have made the following recommendations;

- That the Secretary of Agriculture initiate a review of treated corn and soybean seed and the potential impacts to pollinators of their continued use.
- Enhance the apiculture program to increase inspections, pesticide certification & training programs, promote non-chemical mite management strategies and other training on hive management and native pollinator populations.
- Strengthen statutes about bumblebee and honey bee colony and queen importation to reduce the number of pests entering our managed and native pollinator populations.
- Improve tracking of pesticide sales & use along with concurrent environmental monitoring of hives, soil, & water to provide meaningful data to decision makers.
- Extend the life of the committee to provide time to draft the state's pollinator protection plan.
- Possibly take the Neonicotinoids out of the Homeowners hands by making these products restricted use.

From the Vermont Golf Industry perspective, we are not sure yet if the committee will propose an outright ban on

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JACOBSEN



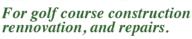


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The Vermont Pollinator Protection Committee

continued from page 3

the Neonicotinoids. There are some on the committee who would like nothing better than a ban on all pesticides. Regardless, our industry needs to answer the question of how a ban on Neonics would impact our industry and this should be pointed out to the committee in future meetings. Our Vermont Golf Industry lobbyist needs to stay in tune with this subject and it is critical that the golf industry maintain a lobbyist to monitor and help us defend the golf industry from this and other future potential issues.

It is important that the VtGCSA stay involved in the committee meetings with the next meeting being held on February 2nd. Kevin Komer, CGCS, will remain as our representative attending these meetings and he has recommended that in the future, the VtGCSA produce a BMP manual that would cover all pesticide usage on the golf course. A document like that would really help legislators understand how pesticides are used and illustrate the fact the we are professionals who are educated and highly protective of the environment. It is also important that our industry promote pollinator habitat on our golf courses to help the overall native pollinator populations throughout the state.

This issue is not going to go away and we need to participate in the discussion of potential solutions to the pollinator decline issues in our state















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VGA Golf Rounds Silent Auction

To be hosted on the VGA website during April/May 2017 to benefit the Vt. Golf Industry Lobby efforts

The Golf Industry Committee in Vermont (GIC) includes four associations involved in the business of golf in VT. (Vermont Golf Association, Vermont State Women's Golf Association, Vermont Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Vermont PGA).

The committee's mission is to be an active participant and voice for the over 65 Golf Courses in the State as it relates to any legislation that might affect their ability to help maintain a thriving entity for its members and golfers in VT.

For many years, the GIC the committee has employed a respected law firm as its lobbyist to monitor any legislation or potential changes to existing laws that could impact the Golf industry in Vermont. These could be associated with ground water, pesticides, land use, taxes, etc.

As a result of this lobbying effort we have been able to influence changes that would have adversely affected how you and your course operate. In 2016 alone Kevin Komer, CGCS, and Ken Lallier, CGCS, have testified 3 times at hearings/meetings in Montpelier on proposed legislation that could have potentially impacted the golf industry.

In the past, funding for the lobbyist has been supported by the Vermont Golf Association and Vermont State Women's Golf Association. This year the GIC is seeking additional ways to help fund the Lobbying effort and we are asking for the support of our member clubs. We are requesting each club donate a certificate of golf and carts for a foursome to be used in an on-line auction with all proceeds to be used to help support the funding for the GIC lobbying effort.

Having a voice at the table means we can be informed and have input on legislation that could affect how we in the Vermont Golf Industry do business. The GIC believes the importance of this lobbying effort is truly worthwhile and appreciates your support through this fund-raising effort.

We are hopeful this silent auction will be successful and something we can count on as an annual fund-raising event that will help in the overall financial effort both now and in the future. These efforts are critical for the GIC to be prepared to represent the Vermont Golf Industry on any challenging legislation that may come along in the future.





Details for this silent auction will follow, but the VtGCSA strongly supports this effort and the commitment to employ a lobbyist to help us fight any pending legislation that may effect the way we do business in Vermont. The VtGCSA would like to see 100% of Vermont Golf courses donate a foursome with carts towards this effort. Please push this request through whomever at your facility makes the decision to donate rounds of golf. This is extremely important and we need your support!



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Sports Turf Workshop

Tuesday, March 7

 1pm-3:30pm Safe Playing Surfaces with Minimum Pesticides

Trade Show Hours

Tuesday, March 7

4:30pm-7:30pm with reception

Wednesday, March 8 • 10am-5pm

Live Auction 4pm

Thursday, March 9 • 9am-12 noon

Educational Session Hours

Tuesday, March 7 • 1pm-4:30pm

USGA Session and Keynote

Wednesday, March 8 •

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GCSAA UPDATE

By Kevin Doyle - GCSAA Field Staff - Northeast Region

Typically, my newsletter offering is an article on one particular topic. I've covered a lot of topics through my tenure and have your newsletter editor and board to thank for the opportunity. Of the many outreaches I make and member needs that I address or forward, my newsletter input garners the most member feedback! Full disclosure: I have low standards. When I am told, "I see your mug everywhere," I take that as a compliment and add that to the "I like your newsletter input" column. While that might be a stretch, it is the column that is always full. I have gotten requests from members about topics, and have written about them, so if you have any topic you would like covered, please let me know and I will do my best. This particular issue is more of a rambling: some small topics that I have come across that might not warrant fullpage attention.

Researchers continue to deliver valuable information on turf types that can make a positive impact on our courses and environment. "Tolerant" and "resistant" are words that make pathologists worth their weight in gold, and get the immediate attention of superintendents. If sociologists could study how to make club members and golfers more tolerant and less resistant, we might have a good thing going! Superintendents in the region dealt with a very difficult 2016 turf season, and I take my hats off to you all, but overwhelmingly I am told that it was communication that got them through. The tools that were used may have been different, but the result was nearly always the same: the less water being used on the turf, the more communication it took to manage the important decision makers at the facility. Congratulations to those that did both well.

All politics are local. That is not an earth-shattering statement. But 2016 brought more and more political pressure, aimed at golf specifically, around the region. Water has been in the limelight, but nutrients, pollinators, and pesticide issues have been prevalent as well. Superintendents have worked to educate on each item across many fronts. Bob Searle in Maine, Ken Lallier, CGCS and Kevin Komer, CGCS in Vermont, Greg Cormier, CGCS and Peter Rappoccio, CGCS in Massachusetts, Jim Ritorto in Rhode Island, Peter Gorman and Scott Ramsay, CGCS in Connecticut and many more superintendents and valued vendors have worked hard to push back against regulations and legislation that would make our day-to-day jobs more difficult. Times have changed, and with that, so has our

role in the golf industry. We all need to be vigilant and advocate in support of our role as environmental stewards. For all of you that have gotten involved at any level, with efforts big or small, thank you.

Finally, I want to add this last note. It was something that was not in my original article but having heard this from another superintendent, I thought it relevant. Superintendents and many facilities graciously offer our peers in the profession the opportunity to play golf for free. This is a privilege, not a right; no facility is forced to do so. Our industry operates using a code of ethics. The GCSAA has them as part of membership and you attest to having read them when you join. Many local chapters maintain a code of ethics standard as well. Having to contact the host superintendent to alert them that you will be on the property is part of these codes. This does not put the host superintendent into a position to alter his daily routines, change management practices, or ensure that every putt a colleague makes go in. What it does do is offer the simple courtesy of alerting your host that you will be there. I have never heard that an outreach to a colleague has led to rose pedals being placed at the visitor's feet upon making their way to the first tee. What I have heard many times is the extreme frustration of a host in finding out that a colleague has been on property without notifying the host. Please consider this when making plans to visit another golf course. While the upside may be small, the downside could may make an impact on how you are viewed by your peers. Golf is a sport of integrity, ensure you keep yours intact.

Contact GCSAA Field Staff

Kevin Doyle kdoyle@gcsaa.org

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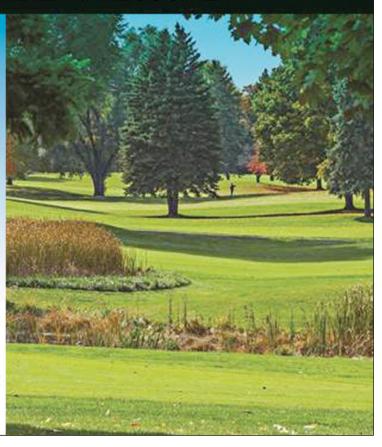
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GCSAA RESOURCES AND DEADLINES

you Get Cool Stuff from your Association Already:

GCSAA 2017 Member Engagement Opportunities

The GCSAA Board of Directors invites you to submit your name for consideration for a 2017 committee/task group service. Resources are located at http://www.golfindustryshow.com/attendee-resources/before-the-show.

All GIS registrations now open!

- Want the best housing choices, booking early will help
- Get the most desirable education seminars now, before they sell out
- The GCSAA Golf offerings had the most participants last year than the previous 4 years.....don't get left off the tee-sheet
- Go to http://www.golfindustryshow.com/hotel-travel to begin you journey to Orlando!

What's new at GIS 2017?

• The 2017 Golf Industry Show will feature more than 30 new GCSAA seminar and session opportunities, as well as exciting new features on the trade show floor, including an opening event, industry presentations, a "Get on Board with BMP" game and a bistro dining option. The following link will direct you to the New Education Track. http://www.golfindustryshow.com/gcsaa-education-conference/tracks/new-education

How Might Election 2017 Impact Golf?

Quarterly call: https://player.vimeo.com/video/191996394

Newsroom article: http://www.gcsaa.org/newsroom/news/gcsaa/2016/will-trump-administration-be-good-for-golf

Upcoming FREE webcasts: click on links below

Jan. 24: Fine Fescue as a Putting Surface

Jan. 26: <u>Carbon, Carbon Everywhere: How carbon</u> functions in your turgrass system

Feb. 1: Mobile Weed Manual - A Portable Resource

Feb. 23: Oxygen Acetylene Welding, Cutting and Brazing - equipment management series



Contact GCSAA Field Staff

Again, if I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

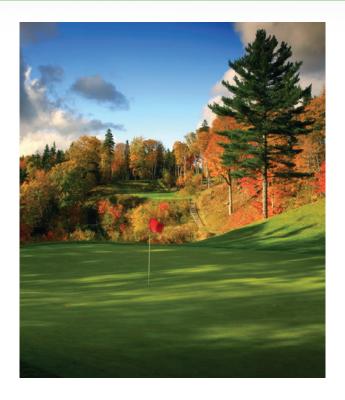
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MEMBER NEWS

New Members:

Welcome and congratulations to Frank Barcellow on becoming the new Superintendent at the Champlain C.C. We wish Frank all the best in his new endeavor and hope to see him at this year's meetings.

Bob Ward Memorial Scholarship:

Congratulations go out to Steve Parker, the Superintendent at Mountain View G.C. for being awarded a \$750.00 scholarship to attend the 2016/17 UMASS Winter school program. Good luck with your studies and we can't wait to read the article you will write for an upcoming newsletter!

Seeking Hosts for 2017 Meeting Sites:

We are always looking for new places to hold our meetings and would like to move them around the state as much as possible. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please let Chris Cowan or Joe Charbonneau know. They will make hosting a meeting easy for you. So if you have never hosted a meeting or have not done so in some time, please step up and help. You will be glad you did!

New England Superintendents Championship at The Quechee Club



Well folks, we have a good track record on our home turf having done well in the Green Mountain state in the past. This year Team Vermont came in a close second to the boys from the Cape. Everyone had fun (I hope) at The Lakeland Course at Quechee on what can only be described as a perfect fall day. Ken Lallier and Lakeland super Brett Bailey and staff put on a great show and everyone was

impressed with the course. Great job guys! The pro shop staff took care of all the scoring with one boo-boo and food and beverage was appreciated by all. We all look forward to next year's event to be hosted by the Cape boys. We'll be back for more!

When the Dust Settled

An apology from Tournament Corner; Team CAGCS got stiffed on a scoring error and NH was paid instead. Sorry Guys

Results

1st Place Cape Cod GCSA - 185 2nd Place VtGCSA - 181 3rd place CAGCS - 169 4th place GCSA of NE - 162

LONG DRIVE

Hole #7 Brian Smoot GCSA of Cape Cod Hole #11 Matt Lapinski GCSA of New England

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

CTP #4	Greg Misodoulakis	GCSA of NE
CTP #6	Brian Smoot	GCSA of Cape Cod
CTP #8	Mitchell Evans	VtGCSA
CTP #13	Mike Luccini	GCSA of NE
CTP #16	Garrett Whitney	GCSA of Cape Cod





The 2016 New England Superintendents' Championship and VtGCSA would like to thank our supporting commercial partners

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MEMBER NEWS

VTGCSA Trade Show Recap

The Vermont GCSA held their 2016 Trade Show at Woodstock Country Club on September 14th. Host Tim Stanwood and staff did an outstanding job providing a great venue once again. We had time in the morning to visit with vendors and then on to grub and golf. The food was good and the course was great. Other than a few minutes of a quick shower the event went off without a hitch. Thanks Tim for hosting once again.



Results

1st Gross - Bill Evans - Mitch Evans - 67 2nd Gross - Steve Lyon - Chris Cowan - 74 1st Net - Scott Watelet - Paul Blodorn - 60 2nd Net - Justin Loembruno - Cale Rathburn - 61 3rd Net - Tom Kimball - Alan Anderson - 62 4th Net - Jeff Brown - Wes Matnauy - 63

Long Drive

#8 Bill Evans #9 Steve Lyon - RETIRED

Closest to the Pin

#2 Mitch Evans #5 Rod Williams #7 Jim Gernander #11 Wes Matnauy #13 Rand Buroughs #15 Casey Rowley - RETIRED

2016 Annual Meeting Highlights



Rutland Country Club hosted our annual meeting on Wednesday October 4, 2016 and what a day we had. President Larry Keefe took the membership through the committee reports and discussed other association business and this year's election of board members went smoothly. After the meeting we had a nice lunch and then it was off to the links. What a gem we have in RCC. Host Karl Larson and his staff put on one hell of a show presenting us with some fine fall golf on one of the best tracks in the state. Thanks to Karl and pro Greg Nelson for a great day.

And when the dust settled...

The format was a Bramble and the scores explained why it's popular.

1st Gross on a match of cards went to the team of Nate Dyer, Dave Evans, Adam Gebo, and Tom Schaffer with a 62. Great round guys!

1st Net was Paul Jones, Matt Lapinski, Alden Maddocks, and Chris Strong with a score of 48.

2nd Net went to the team of Steve Parker, Morgan Rivers, Chris Saylor, and Howard Nosek with a score of 49. They may have even used 1 or 2 of Morgan's drives!

Congratulations to all. The drug testing has commenced!

SKILLS PRIZES

Closest to Pin #3 - Rocky Boscia Closest to Pin #5 - Steve Lyon Closest to Pin #12 - Larry Keefe Closest to Pin #15 - Tom Ayer Long Drive - Matt Lapinski

Thanks once again for another great year.

GCSAA DELEGATE REPORT

by Larry Keefe

Happy Holidays Everyone!! Here we are at the end of another busy Season and I wish you all a very Peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year.

I would like to take this time to share with you my experience as our representative to the Chapter Delegates. This being my first time, I felt a little intimidated with all the challenges, but it didn't take long for me to feel welcome after interacting with fellow superintendents and the staff of the GCSAA.

I have learned that there is more to the GCSAA than getting a monthly magazine as a member. The staff was exceptional, providing members with educational tools and support that is required to advance and protect us as Superintendents.

Those of you who are not GCSAA members, check it out, it might have more to offer than you think. I was very impressed. Go to their website, GCSAA.org for more information.

The following are key messages that were discussed at the delegate conference:

Dues Increase: The GCSA board is making a recommendation for the A B and C Membership dues to be increased by \$5.00.

Political Action Committee(PAC): GCSAA is investigating the possibility of resurrecting a GCSAA PAC to further its advocacy efforts on behalf of the membership and remain the leader in advocacy for the golf course industry. Staff will provide additional information to each chapter before years end to help gage the level of interest. (cmckeel@gcsaa.org)

Round 4 Research Option: The delegates celebrated the success of the top 4 Chapter fund raisers in the 2016 R4R Auction. Chapters are encouraged to initiate a "spokesman" to spearhead each Chapter. (mwright@gcsaa.org)

Member Engagement Through Committees and Task Groups: GCSAA is looking for volunteers for these Task Groups.

Membership Growth: GCSAA has a renewed focus on membership growth and value. We need your help at the local level as we are working to achieve a set goal of 20,000 members by 2020.

Department of Labor Overtime Rule: December 1 2016 was the deadline for the Overtime Pay Rule. See http://www.cqrcengage.com/gcsaa/Labor)

Best Management Practices(BMP) Planning Guide and Template: Delegates heard about GCSAA's 50 by 2020 BMP Initiative. This aims to have all 50 states with a golf centric BMP Program in place by 2020. Portions of the Planning Guide and online template will be unveiled at the National Conference.

Candidate Presentations and Breakouts: The candidates for the 2017 GCSAA Board of Directors gave presentations and hosted breakout rooms for the Delegates to ask questions.

If any questions go to GCSAA.org, click on Community and go to Chapter Leaders.

Respectfully submitted, Larry Keefe - Delegate



UPCOMING EVENT

NOR'EASTER SKI DAY - FEBRUARY 16TH



Well, everyone is likely getting ready for a peaceful holiday season with family and friends. As a lot of the skiers out there know, Killington just finished hosting the Women's World Cup event over Thanksgiving weekend and it was a huge success. Hopefully the Northeast will become a regular stop on the World Cup Tour for many years to come!

We were finally able to secure a date and rooms for the 2017 Nor'easter Ski Day! Last year was a rough snow year, so while the 2016 event had to be postponed, folks are rearing to go this winter. The 2017 Nor'easter Ski Day will be held on February 16th, a Thursday, at the Killington Ski Resort. Due to the popularity of the World Cup Event, lodging is filling up fast, so we encourage you all to call in for housing as soon as possible. Although the room blocks is available until January 31st, we're sure the rooms will sell out well before then.

For those who would like to bring their families or friends for the long weekend that follows Ski Day, Killington again has graciously agreed to honor the rates we have negotiated with them through the weekend until February 19th.

Anyone wishing to attend is asked to please pre-register by February 10, 2017.

Five years ago the Northeastern and Vermont GCSAs opened up their friendly rivalry to all the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Associations for a day of fun, racing and camaraderie at Killington Ski Resort in Vermont. Once again The Vermont and Northeastern GCSAs would like to cordially invite all of you and your guests to join in the great time and see if your association can take home The Nor'easter Cup! Whether you ski or not, we'd love to see you there!

Click Here for More Information and to Register

Attention Industry Partners

So you say you want to support the event: Many of you had signed up to support last year's event but due to the cancellation all sponsorships were refunded. Now we have to do it all over again.

This has become a hugely popular event for our industry folks during the off season and a great chance to spend some quality time. We would be greatly appreciative if you'd be interested in sponsoring this event. Please note there are 3 levels. The Silver and Gold levels will have 1 or 2 attendee fees paid for. Therefore, in registration under the "Fee" section please click the "Sponsor No charge" option and then under the "Additional Items & Services" section you can choose a sponsorship level.



INDUSTRY PARTNER PROGRAM

The VTGCSA is excited to announce the second year of the Industry Partnership Program with our associate members. This program is designed to streamline your decision-making process involved in advertising, sponsorship and participation in VTGSA events. We have listened to our valuable partners and have made a few changes to the levels: Platinum now includes 1 entry fee to all VTGCSA hosted events and Sliver now comes with a Trade Show Booth

a Trade Show Booth	•		
<u>"Platinum" Members</u>	\$2,850		
Premier Invitational	\$ 1,500		
Includes 4 entry fees	\$ 500		
Association Dues (3	\$ 450		
1 entry fee to all VTO	osted meeting	\$ 400	
Trade Show Booth	\$ 300		
General Mtgs Sponso	\$ 900		
Full Page Online Nev	\$ 1,400		
Constant Contact Ad	\$ 400		
Primary Sponsor We	S	\$ 300	
Total Value	\$6,150		
Gold" Members: Cost:			\$1,550
Secondary Invitational Sponsor			\$ 500
Includes 2 entry fees to Invitational			\$ 250
Association Dues (2 members incl.)			\$ 300
Trade Show Booth			\$ 300
General Mtgs Sponso	\$ 600		
Half Page Online Ne	\$ 800		
Secondary Website A	\$ 100		
Total Value	\$2,850		
"Silver" Members: Co	\$ 850		
Invitational Hole Sponsor			\$ 100
Association Dues (In	\$ 150		
Trade Show Booth	\$ 300		
General Mtg Sponso	\$ 500		
Quarter Page Online Newsletter Ad			\$ 500
Friends Website Listing			\$ 50
Total Value			\$1,600
A-La-Carte Menu:			
Dues (per person)	\$150	Trade Show Booth	\$300
Business Pg	\$200	Quarter Pg	\$500
Secondary Web Ad	\$100	Invit Hole Sponsor	\$100
Mtg Hole Sponsors	\$100	Display Ad	\$40
Primary Web Ad	\$300		

Contact

Jim Gernander, VtGCSA Executive Director 802-598-8453 or vtgcsa@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENT VTCGSA JANUARY 24TH MEETING

Join us at the Rutland Country Club on January 24,2017. Matt Woods will discuss the upcoming Nutrient Management Plan for 2017. He will instruct us with new guidelines and templates to use followed by a question and answer time.

Also, we will have Bradly Shaver PhD from Helena Chemicals discussing the importance of and the basics of developing fertilizer and pesticides programs.

Due to the generous support of VTGCSA Industry Partners this event is free of charge.

VT Dept of Ag and GCSAA Credits pending.

Click this link for Online Registration

Read More VTGCSA News

VTGCSAA.com

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