

## **OFFICE OF DIRECTOR**



H. SCOTT GRIFFITH
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA GOLF COURSE
ATHENS, GEORGIA

## GCSAA **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

### **PERSONAL DATA**

Name: Mr. H. Scott Griffith Title: Director of Agronomy

Club / Course: University of Georgia Golf Course Home: 1260 Crabapple Cir

Number of Holes: 18 City: Watkinsville

Type of Course: University/Public State: GA

**Zip:** 30677-4125

Primary Phone: (706)621-2369 Business Phone: (706)369-5739

Responsibilities: As the Director of Agronomy at the University of Georgia Golf Course, it is my responsibility to maintain and be the steward of the land for 240 acres. Responsibilities include daily and longterm planning, agronomic oversight and finances operationally and capital. The course has 18 holes, 15-acre driving range, 4-acre golf team practice facility and 2 clubhouses. My staff consists of 1 Superintendent, 1 Assistant Superintendent, 1 Spray/Irrigation Tech, 1 Equipment Manager, 1 Assistant Equipment Manager, 1 Full-Time Operator and up to 30 student employees. Student employees work less than 20 hours per week. Most student employees work 2 to 3 days a week. I work with UGA Turfgrass students to provide them with a place to learn and aid them in obtaining internships. I also work with UGA researchers and grad students of all kinds by providing them with opportunities to conduct research to which is a part of the mission of the club.

Responsible to: General Manager

### **EDUCATIONAL DATA**

Institution	City	State	Degree Date	Major
Gwinnett Technical Institute	Lawrenceville	GA	6/13/2000	Assoc Degree Turf/Plant or 2 yr cert

### **EMPLOYMENT DATA**

Employer	Title of Position	Start Date	End Date
University of Georgia Golf Course	Director of Agronomy	9/1/2022	
University of Georgia Golf Course	Golf Course Superintendent	12/26/2006	8/30/2022
Atlanta Athletic Club	Golf Course Supt.	6/1/2002	12/25/2006

#### CIVIC PARTICIPATION

I have been and continue to be a coach or an assistant coach for all of my children's sports activities.

### **GCSAA ACTIVITIES**

Committee	Position	Start Date	End Date
2022 Chapter Delegate Meeting	GCSAA Board of Directors Candidate	9/15/2022	10/27/2022
2021 Chapter Delegates Meeting	Chapter Delegate	9/22/2021	10/22/2021
Certification Committee	Volunteer	3/1/2021	2/28/2022

2020 Chapter Delegates Meeting	Chapter Delegate	9/24/2020	11/1/2020
Certification Committee	Volunteer	3/1/2020	2/28/2021
Grassroots Ambassadors		10/1/2014	
Conference Education Task Group	Member Superintendent	3/2/2013	3/1/2014

### **LOCAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES**

Chapter	Position	Start Date	End Date
Georgia GCSA	PDI Representative	1/18/2022	
Georgia GCSA	Voting Delegate	1/4/2022	
Georgia GCSA	Chapter Delegate	8/17/2021	9/1/2022
Georgia GCSA	Voting Delegate	12/7/2020	1/3/2022
Georgia GCSA	Chapter Delegate	6/25/2020	8/16/2021
Georgia GCSA	Immediate Past President	11/4/2019	12/1/2021
Georgia GCSA	President	12/4/2017	11/4/2019
Georgia GCSA	Vice-president	11/16/2015	12/4/2017
Georgia GCSA	Treasurer	11/4/2013	11/16/2015
Georgia GCSA	Director	10/25/2010	11/4/2013

### **ALLIED ASSOCIATION DATA**

Name	Position	Start Date	End Date
GSGA Georgia Golf Hall of Fame Committee	Board Member	11-04-2019	12-1-21
Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation	Trustee	11-16-15	Current
Georgia State Golf Association Moncrief Scholarship Committee	Board Member	04-04-14	Current

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Only Class A superintendents whose classification truly reflects their current employment are eligible for office in GCSAA.

#### **500 WORD STATEMENT**

It is an honor and privilege to be nominated by the Georgia chapter to run for a board of director position with the GCSAA. I have a passion for making an effort to help others within our wonderful associations and for the game of golf. I would like to continue that effort on a national level. I have served my local chapter for the last 12 years by holding every leadership position for at least 2-year terms on each. I am thankful for the time spent serving the Georgia chapter which helped me grow in so many ways. Serving a chapter with 700+ members comes with pressure but I consider pressure to be a privilege.

During my time with the Georgia chapter, I was able to accomplish some important goals. I spearheaded and chaired the committee that created Water Quality BMP's prior to the GCSAA template implementation. This involved collaborating with water quality specialist with the University of Georgia to create a very technical manual. Once the GCSAA template was introduced, I chaired the committee that reviewed, revised and published the Georgia BMP's. I continue to work and help members with their facility adoption. I have been a speaker at the Georgia Golf Environmental conference on three separate occasions for which I discussed BMP's each time. I have been to D.C. to lobby for golf on multiple occasions with the Georgia Allied Golf Council and have also volunteered at National Golf Day.

To be honored by your peers or employer is always something special. I was fortunate to receive the Georgia Environmental Leaders in Golf award for my efforts with the BMP's over the years. I also received the Georgia GCSA President's award for my efforts in creating and hosting a golf tournament that raises money for legacy scholarships. The tournament is going into its 14th year and has raised close to \$200,000. I have been inducted into the University of Georgia's Circle of Excellence.

If you have made it this far reading this, I want to thank you for taking the time to do so. While I have more to tell, I did not want to miss the chance to talk about my family. My wife Kim and I have been married for 25 wonderful years. There is no greater blessing in life than having a partner that makes you a better person on a daily basis and Kim does just that. Kim and I have two amazing children, Jack 11 and Addison 18. I could not be more proud of them and I am thankful for everyday that I get to spend with them.

In closing, I want you to know that I am here to work and get things done. I absolutely love being a Golf Course Superintendent and everything that the GCSAA stands for. Giving back gives me great pleasure and I am excited about the opportunity to continue to serve. I am asking for your support as I start this 2nd journey. Thank you.

DATE	10/7/2022 9:44:04 AM	SIGNATURE:	
SUBMITTED:			



#### PRESIDENT

CHRIS STEIGELMAN, CGCS The Landings Club Savannah, GA (912) 695-7243

October 6, 2022

# VICE PRESIDENT TIM BUSEK

St Ives Country Club Johns Creek, GA (770) 623-8213

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

LYDELL MACK, CGCS Big Canoe Golf Club Jasper, GA (706) 268-3319

### It is my profound bonor to

PAST PRESIDENT SCOTT GRIFFITH University of Georgia Golf Course Athens, GA (706) 425-3246

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RHETT BAKER Ohoopee Match Club Cobbtown, GA (912) 684-2603

### HOYT ELLSPERMANN

Reynolds Lake Oconee—The Creek Club Greensboro, GA (706) 467-1530

#### BRANDON HAYES

Reynolds Lake Oconee—Great Waters Greensboro, GA (706) 467-4041

### MARK HAYES

Marietta Country Club Kennesaw, GA (770) 426-8946

#### ASA HIGH Frederica Golf Club St. Simons Island, GA (912) 634-6255

SCOTT SLEMP Piedmont Driving Club Atlanta, GA (404) 875-2566

JASON THARP, CGCS Glen Arven Country Club Thomasville, GA (912) 227-0053

> BRAD TREMMIER RiverPines Golf Alpharetta, GA (770) 442-1457

GCSAA Nominating Committee Chairman c/o Shelia Finney, Senior Director, Member Programs 1421 Research Drive Lawrence, KS 66049

Dear Nominating Committee Chairperson,

It is my profound honor to nominate Scott Griffith as a candidate for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America board of directors. Scott embodies what is best in our profession at every level he has engaged in, and he has been thoroughly engaged locally, regionally and nationally.

Now in his 16<sup>th</sup> year at the University of Georgia Golf Course in Athens, and his 25<sup>th</sup> in the profession, he is an excellent agronomist. But as his resume shows, and as I have seen first-hand, he is every bit as effective as a leader, strategically and motivationally. Just as importantly, and as befits a superintendent at the home of the Bulldogs, everything he starts he sees through to the finish line.

There may be no better example of that than his own career path. Scott started as a laborer at Newnan Country Club after responding to a newspaper advertisement in the mid-'90s and fell in love with the golf course. To get his turf degree, three times a week he made a nearly three-hour round trip to and from Lawrenceville where his tutors included the legendary Palmer Maples, Jr. CGCS. Later, he would complete two renovation projects at Atlanta Athletic Club under Ken Mangum, CGCS.

As an active member of our assistant superintendent committee, Scott was involved in the business of the Georgia GCSA almost from the start. In 2010, he was elected to our own board of directors and served continuously, moving through the various committees and offices, serving as president in 2018 and 2019.

He received our rarely bestowed President's Award in 2015 for establishing the Bulldog Classic, a showpiece event on our annual calendar, that has raised close to \$200,000 for our Legacy Scholarship program. Last year, he won our Environmental Leader in Golf Award for his tireless efforts championing our BMP efforts in Georgia.

I don't use the word "tireless" for show. Scott led efforts to complete Water Quality BMPs for Georgia superintendents nearly a decade ago now. Working with the Georgia EPD and members of the Governor's Water Councils, he produced these BMPs at a critical time for golf and its access to water in the state. He was just as effective taking the lead in us collaborating with UGA scientists and regulators in producing our own golf course management BMPs using the GCSAA template.

Typically for Scott, he wanted to do more with BMPs. As a trustee of the Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation, he continues to be an active spokesperson for golf, golf course superintendents and environmental stewardship speaking about BMPs at events such as the annual Georgia Environmental Conference, the largest gathering of environmental power brokers in the state.

In 2018, he took the same passion to Washington, DC – independent of National Golf Day – brokering a lobbying effort that included representatives of the Georgia Allied Golf Council, Georgia State Golf Association and Georgia PGA Section, to highlight not only BMPs but golf's impact on tourism and its benefit as greenspace for communities.

Multiple times, he has delivered the same positive drumbeat to our own legislature during Golf Day at the Capitol. One year, he collaborated to bring University of Georgia scientists to Georgia Golf Day, promoting their programs in research and demonstrating how new grasses are more drought tolerant and use less inputs.

At the same time, he led from the top, Scott also led by example, literally getting his hands in the dirt to help create sports fields for boys in the state foster care system, introducing pollinator plots on his golf course and speaking to veterans through The Warrior Alliance and Operation Double Eagle. That latter volunteer effort is particularly close to Scott's heart, having served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.

Much of that collective contribution is mirrored in Scott's involvement at the national level where he is a member of the Certification Committee, has been the Georgia GCSA's chapter delegate for the past three years and is a long-serving Grassroots Ambassador making numerous visits to National Golf Day. It is indicative of Scott's drive and dedication to professional growth that attesting for his own certification is scheduled for October 13.

For all that, it is the character of the man that makes the largest impression on people who know Scott. He and Kim, his wife of 25 years, have two thriving children and he is universally respected by his peers and employees alike. He is a man who knows and has experienced every role on a golf course maintenance operation, literally from the lowest place on the totem pole up.

Clearly, Scott commands the work ethic essential to the success of any superintendent and, critically for a GCSAA board member, he has shown time and again that he knows how to lead people and achieve results away from the golf course. I close with a quote from another past president of the Georgia GCSA, Mike Brown, then at The Standard Club in Atlanta, who said in 2014: "When you put 20 or so people in a room at a committee meeting there are always two or three who generate most of the ideas and drive most of the discussion. Scott is always one of those guys."

I would be happy at any time to provide any more information you may require. Thank you for work on behalf of GCSAA and our profession.

Sincerely,

Chris Steigelman, CGCS President, Georgia GCSA

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