

Atlantic Update

February 2026

The Atlantic area had their annual Christmas lunches, and they were well attended as always. It is great to get together at the end of the season and share stories as we head into some downtime. We are just weeks away from the Atlantic Turfgrass Conference and Trade Show. This show always has a great line up of speakers, a busy trade show and a well attended banquet. The event takes place from February 10-12, at The Weston Hotel, in Halifax.

Many Superintendents had bunker renos on the go this fall and we did some tee work here at Chester. Emerson Coulter, at Ken Wo Golf Club, had a green reconstruction project this fall and we look forward to seeing the finished product in the spring.

Geoffery Hay, former Assistant at Oakfield Golf and Country Club, made the move to Head Superintendent at Ashburn Golf Club (Old Course) and just completed his first full season there.

The Atlantic area saw winter come early but then things opened back up in most areas with warm rains through Christmas. That has now since changed and winter has set in hard here. There is some good snow cover to buffer the extremely low temperatures but there is some concern about a small ice layer under that snow.

There are a couple of things we are trying out here at Chester that I will share. One thing we do is we have two major staff events. At previous clubs we would always have the traditional end of the year staff party. One problem with that is most of our student workforce is all gone. Our GM, Alex, started a late August staff golf day and party. The club closes at 3:00 in late August (crazy I know) and the staff plays a nine-hole shotgun at 5:00. After golf we have some food and some laughs. It has really helped the students feel like part of the team here at Chester. Our other event is at Christmas time so most of the students are home for Christmas. Once again making them feel like part of the team.

The other thing we are trying is we bought a hydraulic hose crimper, some hose, and some fittings and we are going to start making our own hoses. We had a lot that were scheduled to be replaced so the investment made sense. The success on this one is TBD.

Matt Blackburn, AGS

Atlantic Director