## The CGA Agronomy Story

The Carolinas Golf Association was the first state/regional golf association to offer an agronomy service to its member clubs, starting in 1982, and currently is one of only three associations to do so. Perhaps more important is the fact that this critical service is free of charge to CGA member clubs, excluding expenses.

The cornerstone of the CGA's agronomy service is the staff. Dr. Carl Blake of Raleigh, N.C. visited CGA clubs for 15 years. In the process, he became a legend for his expertise and his sense of humor. Dr. Blake retired after the 1997 season, and the CGA agronomy service has not missed a beat.

Dr. Leon Lucas of Apex, NC became the CGA's second staff agronomist in 1998 and hit the turf running. "This has been a whole lot of fun," Dr. Lucas said. "I enjoy visiting clubs and working with superintendents, their staffs and club members." Dr. Lucas retired from the CGA in 2014 after 17 years of dedicated service.

Beginning in 2015 Bill Anderson became the third CGA agronomist. "This is a great opportunity for me to do some positive work in the turfgrass industry," said Anderson. "I hope I can bring some experience as well as some new ideas to the program."

A 40 year superintendent at Carmel Country Club (Charlotte, NC), Anderson received his Bachelor of Science degree in Crop Science and Turfgrass Management from Michigan State University and was an Evans Scholar. The Evans Scholarship program is one of the most respected programs of its kind in the country and was created in 1930 by the amateur golfer 'Chick' Evans. As golf course



superintendent at Carmel Country Club, Anderson helped develop two 18-hole championship golf courses including the driving ranges, practice tees and clubhouse grounds. His work also included the planning and management of two major renovations of the North and South Courses. Carmel Country Club also hosted the 2006 USGA Girls' Junior Championship.

Anderson is a member of the USGA Green Section Committee and is a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). He has served as President and Vice President of the North South Turfgrass Association and is a former board member of the Turfgrass Council of North Carolina. He has maintained Class A status as a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America since 1978. He also served as President and twoterm member of the Board of Directors for the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association. In 2008, he received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGCSA).