

Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

April
2009

Putting green thatch and compaction management seminar set for May 6

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Harris County Office, in partnership with the STGCSA and Champions Golf Club, is offering an educational event that will focus on thatch and compaction management of putting greens on May 6 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Champions Golf Club.

Dr. Kurt Steinke, assistant professor of Turfgrass Ecology in the Texas A&M University Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, will lead off the gathering with an "update on evaluation of planet air equipment versus industry standard practices." Dr. David Chalmers, Texas A&M associate professor and State Extension Turfgrass Specialist, will follow with a discussion entitled, "Achieving objectives—canopy management versus organic matter accumulation versus compaction."

The event will conclude with a demonstration of turfgrass cultivation equipment. Local representatives from Brookside Equipment and Sales Inc., DryJect, Lubber Brothers, Planet Air, and Pro-

fessional Turfgrass Products will demonstrate different types of equipment on a practice green at Champions. A discussion will follow the demonstrations.

The meeting will provide a great opportunity to share experiences with your fellow superintendents, Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Steinke. And hear firsthand from company representatives about their experiences with the equipment and methods used to manage thatch and compaction.

The event is free, but the audience is limited to the first 40 RSVPs received by Dr. Anthony Camerino's secretary, Sheronda Bryant. She can be reached at 281-855-5611. There is a printable registration form on the Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Harris County Office web page at harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort/comevent.htm. Scroll down the page to find the information about the May 6 gathering.

Light refreshments will be served (thanks to the support of the equipment companies and the STGCSA).



Texas Cup tournament headed to Waco

The Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association's 2009 Texas Cup tournament is upon us . . . almost. This year's event will take place May 4 at Ridgewood Country Club in Waco.

The 18-hole tournament will feature two-person select drive competition. The entry deadline is Apr. 27.

The entry fee is \$150 per team, providing both golfers are members of the LSGCSA. For teams consisting of a member and a non-member guest, the entry fee is \$200. Affiliate members should check with the LSGCSA office to make sure their memberships have been renewed.

Registration will open at 10 a.m. the day of the tournament. Lunch will be served at 11 a.m., followed by a player's meeting at 11:50 and a Shotgun Start at 12 noon. Scoring and a social gathering will follow the conclusion of play at approximately 4:15 p.m.

The tournament offers gross and net prizes, based upon the number of entries. Mulligans will be available at \$10 per man, and an optional Skins game runs \$20 per team.

A printable entry form is available on the Lone Star GCSA web site (www.lsgcsa.org) through a link on the site's home page. If you have any questions about the tournament, please call Karen White at 972-307-8162 or e-mail her at lsgcsa@gmail.com.

The drive to Waco takes approximately 3 hours. From Houston, take Hwy. 290 north toward Austin and pick up Hwy. 6 in Hempstead. Go north through Bryan/College Station to Waco. As you approach Waco, exit Hwy. 6 at Loop 340 and go west for roughly 10 miles, past I-35. Exit at Bosque Blvd. and follow the access road through the stop light to Fish Pond Rd. Go right and watch for the club entrance to the left.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We finally got some much-needed rain . . . finally. Even better, it didn't rain on our first meeting of the year! To have gone so long with so little rain only to have had our March meeting rained on would have been a kick in the shin.

Even so, I'm sure we're all ready for more rain, given that we're still, as of late March, still several inches down on precipitation this year. That, of course, makes our courses hurt and our jobs a little harder, so let's hope we get some more rain in the coming weeks. I've got a feeling it's coming . . . it is Spring in Houston, isn't it?

The meeting at The Woodlands Country Club's Tournament Course went very well, if you hadn't heard. We enjoyed a very informative speaker— Mike O'Day of O'Day Drilling was *the man*, speaking about pump maintenance. There were 118 people in the audience, and he educated every single one of them. If you weren't among them, you missed a good presentation.

Our next meeting is our 18th Annual Scholarship Tournament, which will take place at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club. There was an entry form included in the March issue of *Tee to Green*, and there's another inserted in this issue. Please make plans to be a part of it (if you haven't already). The entry deadline is Apr. 10, so you'll need to act quickly. You can do it online if you'd like.

As of late March, we only had five teams signed up. We need more if we're to continue the kind of support our Legacy Scholarship fund has received in the past, and I know we want to do that.

If, by the way, you have something to donate to our auction

item please, notify John Freeman (713-943-7100), Mark Haven (979-845-1925), and or Marian (281-494-0094). Please let Marian know about any rounds of golf you can donate to our silent auction, too. We need to get those in as soon as possible so we can prepare properly.

• • • •

As you probably know already, one of our brothers, John Maloney, and his family suffered a terrible tragedy last month. You'll find more details about this on page 3, but I also wanted to mention it here.

John's 20-year-old daughter Allison was involved in traffic accident on Mar. 20 and passed away as a result of it.

Allison was a very beautiful young lady, always a very caring and giving soul. Her passing will create a void for her family and friends that only time can fill. However, there are five people whose lives will go on because of the generous donation of Allison's organs.

John is a proven superintendent, has been a loyal member of the Central or South Texas Supt. Association for his entire career and is a credit to our profession. As fate would have it, John is

continued on page 4



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Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

18th Annual STGCSA Scholarship, Research & Development Tournament

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club

Host Superintendent — Cody Spivey

Registration: 9:30 a.m. • Auction: 10 a.m.

Shotgun Start to Follow

Four-Person Scramble

Entry Deadline: April 10, 2009

Directions: Traveling north (from the Houston area), take Hwy. 249 and go 7.5 miles north of the intersection of 249 & FN 2920 (Note that 249 turns into 1774 as it narrows into a two-lane road about 1 mile before you reach High Meadow Ranch.). You'll see the large "Texas Size" sign at the entrance to High Meadow Ranch on the left. Proceed into the subdivision, turn right at the first cross street, follow for about two miles to the large entry sign for the golf course where you'll turn right. Proceed 1/4 mile to the entrance that will be on the left.

STGCSA family suffers a pair of losses

Allison Maloney

Long-time STGCSA member John Maloney and his family suffered a tragic loss on Mar. 21, when Allison Maloney died from injuries sustained in a traffic accident the previous evening. Allison was the eldest of the Maloney's three children.

According to a Mar. 23 article in *The Courier of Montgomery County*, Allison and a friend were on the way to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo the evening of Mar. 20 when their car was rear-ended near Texas 288 at Loop 610. Allison's friend escaped serious injury . . . Allison, who was a passenger in the car, was taken to Ben Taub General Hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 1:50 the following afternoon.

The driver of the Ford F-250 that struck the car also escaped serious injury.

Allison, a 2007 graduate of College Park High School in The Woodlands, was home on Spring Break from Texas State University, where she was studying childhood education as she worked



toward becoming a teacher.

She is survived by her mother and father, Carol and John, her 15-year-old sister, Kristina, and her 13-year-old brother, Tanner.

At least five of her organs were donated to patients to help them continue living.

Her family has asked that donations in Allison's memory be made to St. Vincent dePaul or a charity of their choice. Donations may also be made through STGCSA member Rene Nino (Attn: Allison Maloney Fund, 6 Marsh Millet Court, The Woodlands, TX 77380).

James Harvey "Chick" Plowman

The membership of the STGCSA wishes to extend its sympathies to Vice-President Willy Plowman and his family.

Plowman's father, James Harvey "Chick" Plowman, passed away in Hitchcock on Feb. 25. The elder Plowman was a pipefitter for over 40 years for Monsanto. He served in the National Guard and played professional baseball in the 1950s and '60s.

He is survived by his sons, Willy and Jaime, and their wives and children, as well as a brother, three sisters and their families.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made in the form of donations to the wonderful organization of A-Med Community Hospice, 8901 E. F. Lowry Expressway, Suite B, Texas City, TX 77591.

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STGCSA Technician's Association

The STGCSA Technicians Association's slate of activities is off and running . . . the first meeting of 2009 was held at Brookside Equipment Company's Hockley facility on Mar. 17.

Officers and the association's Board of Directors have been elected . . . the roster can be found below.

The group's goals are to "share knowledge to enhance technicians ability to assist golf course superintendents in equipment and facility maintenance," to help its members "provide the highest quality of equipment maintenance with available resources through continued education and sharing of best practices with peers," and to "increase shop efficiencies by quality practices."

Dues for the Technicians Association are \$60 annually. Members will also pay a fee of \$40 for each association meeting attended. You must be a member of the STGCSA in order to attend the Technicians Association meetings. Please contact Robert Taylor (281-863-1484) with questions about the group.

The next meeting of the STGCA Technicians Association will be July 7 at the Luber Brothers facility at 15375 E. Vantage Parkway in Houston.

Members should monitor *Tee to Green*, the Chapter web site (www.stgcsa.org) or the new Tech Association web site (www.stgcma.org) for announcements regarding future meeting dates and locations.

STGCSA Technicians Association 2009

Officers and Board of Directors

<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>
Angelo Notter Technician Pine Forest CC	Robert Taylor Equip. Maintenance The Woodlands CC	Terrence Kerrick Technician Brookside Equip.

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Mike Reilly

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Raymond Belilamowicz
Eric Glover
Dennis Klene

STGCSA

Board Representative

Brandon Cole

Membership Moves

Next time you see 'em, extend your welcome to four new members of the STGCSA.

Joining last month were *Stanley Kolbasinski*, a technician at Texas A&M, *Mike Archer*, construction superintendent at Sequoia Golf, *Kyle Scott*, assistant superintendent at Houston Country Club, and *David Etzler*, technical sales specialist at SePRO Corp.

On another note, long-time member *Leon DuBose* is now working in sales for Turfgrass Solutions and *Chris Webster* is now an assistant superintendent at BraeBurn Country Club.



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Out of Bounds: Feral hogs on golf courses

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

The feral hog found in Texas is the same species as the European domesticated hog, *Sus scrofa*. The difference is with each successive generation of feral hog populations, the preferred domesticated traits are diminished.

In addition, feral hogs, called Russian boars, were introduced into Texas in the 1930s. These introduced hogs have breed with existing feral hog population and further reduced domesticated traits. The result is a hog that has few of the desirable domesticated European hog traits.

The feral hog is found throughout almost all of Texas. The population is thought to exceed 1.5 million. These animals are largely nocturnal and most feeding occurs primarily during dusk.

In general, feral hogs prefer moist stream and drainage areas, but the animal can be found anywhere a food source is located. The animal feeds on plant and animal matter. Examples of food sources include tubers, roots, acorns, fruits, bulbs, crop plants, insects, snails, earthworms, eggs, young wildlife and dead animals.

The damage these animals cause to golf courses is largely related to their rooting feeding behavior as they look for food in turf-grass.

There is no season or limit for the taking of feral hog and it is not considered game animal. The animal can be taken by any legal means at anytime of the year, but a license and permission from a landowner is required to hunt the animal. Local ordinances may influence management options.

In a golf course setting, hunting with firearms may not be a viable option due to safety concerns and public perception. As a result, trapping and then killing the animal or exclusion through the use of fencing maybe the best option.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has a website with pictures that describes how to construct and utilize hog traps. The website is: <http://feralhog.tamu.edu/>.

Once the hogs are captured you might even be able to sell the animals to processor or host a hog roast at your facility. If your golf course is near natural unmanaged areas, trapping will only temporarily prevent the damaged caused by feral hogs. As a result, fencing that excludes feral hogs is often the most effective options

For more on this subject please read "The Feral Hog in Texas." This Texas Parks and Wildlife publication is available on-line at: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0195.pdf

Dr. Anthony Camerino is a Commercial Horticulture Agent with the Harris County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension.

"There are only two types of landowners in the state of Texas— those that have feral hogs and those that are about to have feral hogs."

— *Billy Higginbotham,
Texas Extension Cooperative*

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BULLETIN BOARD

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Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort
Lost Pines, Texas
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John C. Crall, Golf Course Superintendent
575 Hyatt Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, TX 786112
Telephone: 512-308-1583 • E-Mail: john.crall@hyatt.com

Second Assistant Superintendent Needed

Whispering Pines Golf Club
Please send resume's to:
Michael Dieckhoff, Golf Course Superintendent
Whispering Pines Golf Club
1532 Whispering Pines Dr., Trinity, TX 75862
E-Mail: mdieckhoff@whisperingpinesgolfclub.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

The Hills Country Club
Please send resume's to:
E-Mail: jason.gaudreau@ourclub.com

The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) before the 10th of each month to include your job listings, etc., in the following two issues of Tee to Green. To include your job posting on the STGCSA web site, contact Marian Takushi (stgcsa@windstream.net, 281-494-0094).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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currently between positions.

This situation allows us to exhibit one of the primary purposes of our organization—the support of fellow superintendents.

Our Board of Directors has donated \$1,000 to help John and his family through their situation. The Central Texas GCSA is also planning a donation, issuing a request that each of their members donate \$10 to provide additional assistance.

We're going set up a box at the Scholarship Tournament to accept your donation. The amount is up to you, but as you decide on your donation, please remember that your dollars are a symbol of our support and giving for a fellow superintendent and his family in need. The funds raised will be in addition to the \$1,000 already provided by the Chapter.

Please keep Allison and the Maloney family in your thoughts and prayers.

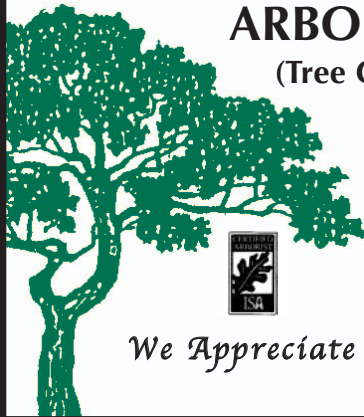
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Our May meeting will be held May 18 at The Wilderness Golf Club and Bud White will be our speaker, addressing the issue of golf course maintenance-cost savings versus cost cutting. See you there.

— Lee Gravett

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March Golf Results

The Woodlands Country Club
Tournament Course
Two-Person Best Ball

Low Gross

Brian Buckner & Dennis Dickson	71
Mitch Elliot & Cody Marchand	72
Stan Ludwick & Harry Yewens	73
Jeff Jowell & Sean Wilson	73

Low Net

Rob Throne & Kent Knowles	54
Richard Kane & Brandon Cole	55
Charles Joachim & Jesse Shulse	56
Mike Rhoden & Kevin Lyles	59

Special Contests

Hole	Contest	Winner
#3	Closest-to-Pin	Dennis Dickson
#5	Long Drive	Kevin Lyles
#8	Closest-to-Pin	Eric Glover
#11	Long Drive	Josh Zellar
#14	Closest-to-Pin	Nick Johnson
#16	Closest-to-Pin	Tom Werner

Skins

Gross		Net	
Hole	Winner	Hole	Winner
1	Collins Bean	2	Mitch Elliott
8	Eric Glover	3	Brandon Cole
10	Pat Johnston	8	Eric Glover
12	Brian Buckner	13	Charles Joachim
16	Nick Johnson	10	Pat Johnston
18	Josh Zellars	15	Mitch Elliott



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2009 SOUTH TEXAS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

April 14

2009 Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch GC
Host Superintendent:
Cody Spivey
Four-Person Scramble

May 4

Lone Star GCSA
Texas Cup
Ridgewood Country Club
Waco

May 18

The Wilderness GC
Host Superintendent: Blayne Sparks
Chapter Championship,
First Round

June 15

Cypress Lakes GC
Host Superintendent: Jared Bonar
Chapter Championship,
Second Round

July 12-14

Texas Turfgrass Association
2009 Summer Conference
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort
Bastrop

July 20

Elkins Lake CC
Host Superintendent:
James Huntsman
Power Ball Scramble

August 25

Superintendent/Pro Tournament
The Club at Falcon Point
Host Superintendent:
Sean Wilson, CGCS

September 13-15

Lone Star GCSA
Texas Trophy Tournament
Memorial Park GC
Host Superintendent:
Jason Harsh

September 14

Memorial Park GC
Host Superintendent: Jason Harsh

October 12

La Toretta Del Lago
Host Superintendent: Todd Martin
Modified Stableford Gross/Net

November 9

Willow Fork CC
Host Superintendent: Willy Plowman
Gross/Net Skins

December TBA

Annual
Awards Banquet and Ceremony

*For additional details about each
monthly meeting and golf outing,
please visit the
"Upcoming Events" page of
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