

# Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter  
**GCSAA**  
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

April  
2010

## National Championships!

### Adam Hess wins the big one

#### Alan Hess and Johnny Walker win their flights

Winning a national championship isn't easy. Just ask someone who thought he would and had the talent to win . . . Sam Snead or Phil Mickelson might have an opinion. Snead never won a U.S. Open; Mickelson hasn't so far.

Or just ask Adam Hess. Of course, his thoughts might be a little different. Hess, quoted in a Feb. 24 Houston Chronicle article, said "I haven't played competitive golf since high school . . . my expectations were just to play good golf."

He did a little better than that, defeating Tim Scott with a par on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to win the 2010 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America National Championship. It was the first time Hess, the youngest golfer ever to win the tournament, had entered the championship.

Hess, an assistant superintendent at Gleannloch Pines Golf Club, and Scott, golf course superintendent at Stony Creek Golf Course in Illinois, finished regulation play in the 36-hole tournament on the Greg Norman Course at PGA West in La Quinta, Calif., knotted at 1-over-par 145.

Hess was three shots off the pace heading into the final round and stumbled early in the final round, suffering a double bogey and bogey before settling in for a string of 11 consecutive pars to close out his round. Scott posted a final round 69 to force the playoff but took a bogey to Hess' par on the first extra hole, and Hess, 26 years old, had the national title.

"I just got into a good zone to get back into it," Hess said of his rally from the troubles of his first few holes in the final round, "but I was glad the playoff just went one hole. I was worried if it went any farther, he might nip me."

"It took me a couple of hours to realize I'd won," said Hess, who began playing golf at the age of 6. "It's really the only serious tournament I've ever won. It's a good feeling."

Adam Hess is, of course, the son of long time South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association member Alan Hess, who

was on hand to witness his son's triumph. Or at least part of it.

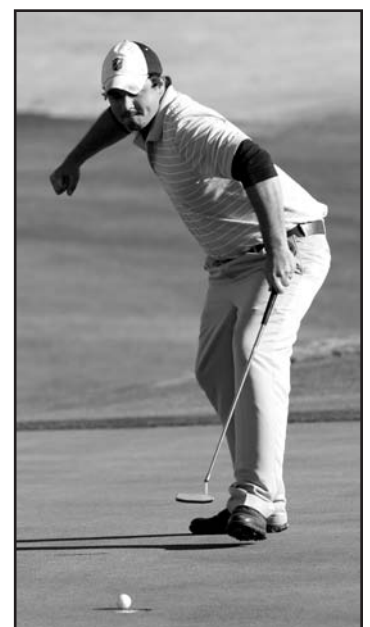
The elder Hess missed the first 16 holes of Adam's final round, having teed off two hours earlier in his quest to win the tournament's "Classic Senior II Gross" flight, which he did.

Entering his final round with a 2-stroke lead, Alan Hess also started the final day slow but played the final seven holes at The Golf Resort at Indian Wells in two strokes under par (including an eagle on his 16th hole). But his excitement was all about Adam.

"I went over to watch Adam as soon as I could," said the proud father. "When I got there, I didn't think he was even close, based on what I had heard, but then he got pars

continued on page 4

Adam Hess with the national championship trophy (top) and celebrating the putt that put him into the playoff.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have a confession to make. Just about a week before our 2010 Scholarship Tournament, I was worried. Despite the fact that our early 2010 meetings had attracted excellent turnouts, I was worried because few teams had been entered into the Scholarship Tournament and few items had been donated for the auction activities that accompany it. I should have known better.

Now, as I write my newsletter column a week after the tournament, I realize I had nothing to worry about. The members of the STGCSA and the vendors that support the Chapter came through with shining colors.

There are more details about the tournament to be found elsewhere in this issue of *Tee to Green*, so I'm going to limit what I say about it in this space to my (and our) "thank yous."

The tournament attracted 34 teams. To all who played, I say thanks for being part of our biggest fundraising event of the year.

To all the vendors and members that donated items to the auctions and to those who bid on those items, I say thanks for supporting our cause.

To our host, Cody Spivey, and the staff at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club, I say thanks for being so willing and so eager, and for making our tournament so special.

In fact, to everyone who played a role in the tournament, in whatever capacity, I say thanks. We raised something around \$12,000 for the STGCSA Legacy Scholarship fund. That is the reason for the tournament's existence, and you are the reason we've been able to help so many students with their quests for

higher education during the past decade or so, and the reason we'll be able to help many more in the future.

Believe it or not, though, we've got another big event coming up. Our April 13 meeting at Southwyck Golf Club will mark the occasion of the first round of our 2010 Chapter Championship (the second and final round will be held at Blackhorse Golf Club on May 4).

I know you'll want to play in that and compete for the title of Champion of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

There are a couple of other causes that need your participation over the next few weeks.

One is our annual marshalling effort at the Shell Houston Open. Thankfully, a number of our members have already signed up to work the practice areas of Redstone Golf Club during the tournament, but we still need a few volunteers to round out our team. We've become one of the most reliable groups to work at Houston's PGA Tour stop and we want to continue building that reputation.

If you can find the time to be a part of our squad of marshals, you can call Doug Browne (979-885-4833), George Manual (281-556-8818) or Terry Gill (713-778-3819) to make arrangement, or visit the tournament's volunteer web page ([www.shell-houstonopen.com/Vol-Register.cfm](http://www.shell-houstonopen.com/Vol-Register.cfm)) to sign up.

You've received (hopefully) at least one e-mail about the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association's "Rounds4Research" project by now. In case you haven't, a brief overview . . . the project involves securing the donation of at least one tee time (foursome) for a public auction that will be held via the internet (at [www.rounds4research.com](http://www.rounds4research.com)) from April 7 through April 21.

Your Board members have been actively pursuing those donations (as have those in Texas' other Chapters), and as of mid-March, at least 64 Texas courses had made donations. The project, created by the Carolinas GCSA, raised over \$55,000 for research by turfgrass programs at various universities last year. All the funds raised through Texans' role in this year's function will be donated to research projects at Texas universities and colleges . . . please make sure your facility is part of the program and that your golfers are aware of the auction.

One other note of interest for this month, especially for our members who are enrolled in the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's certification. Vice-President Wade Warms, CGCS, is now our Chapter's certification liaison with the GCSAA. He'll head up the team that performs facility inspections as the final step in the certification process. As you know, Wade is one of our best, so you also know you'll get a fair (and thorough) inspection when your turn comes.

See you at Southwyck.



Willy Plowman



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Willy Plowman

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### Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Steve Chernosky, George Manuel

— Willy Plowman

## ***Out of Bounds:*** **The El Niño-Southern Oscillation phenomenon— what does it mean for Houston weather?**

*By Dr. Anthony Camerino*

While most of us were battling the record heat and drought back in July 2009, who would have thought this winter would have been so cool and wet?

An El Niño was declared July 9, 2009, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and those of us familiar with this phenomenon might have been a little less surprised about the sudden change in weather. By late September the drought was broken when regular rainfall and cool weather set in.

The result. Our grasses grew little in the summer, winter annual weeds arrived early, and brown patch was more severe than usual. The conditions did not provide much of a growing season this past year.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a term used to describe changes in surface temperatures of waters in the eastern Pacific near the equator and the associated changes in barometric pressure and wind patterns throughout the tropical regions of the Pacific Ocean. How does ENSO influence Houston's weather?

The surface water temperatures influence the position of the jet stream over North America, which, in turn, influences weather fronts during fall, winter and early spring.

Basically, we get more numerous and stronger cold fronts passing through Houston when under the influence of an ENSO. These effects typically start in October and can continue until the following May.

ENSO changes may be classified into three categories:

continued on page 7



Dr. Anthony Camerino

## **Membership Moves**

*Jared Bonar* has changed facilities and is now an assistant superintendent at Pine Forest Country Club. *Clinton Garrett* is a new assistant superintendent at Champions Golf Club.

Three new members have joined the STGCSA . . . *Chris Hopper* is the superintendent at Blaketree National Golf Club, *Rusty Orgeron* is the golf course superintendent at La Toreetta Lake Resort, and *Bradley Snodgrass* is the new territory manager for Anderson's Inc.

*Rob Throne* is now the project superintendent at Aguaterra Golf.

## **APRIL MEETING** **Chapter Championship** **First Round**

**Tuesday, April 13, 2010**

Southwyck Golf Club  
2901 Clubhouse Dr., Pearland, TX 77584  
Host Superintendent — Brandon Crumpler

**Registration:** 8:30 a.m.

**Lunch:** 11:30-12:30

**Meeting Topic:**

"Skin Cancer: Reduce Your Risk"

Mark Bailey, M.A.

Presented by MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Golf:** After Lunch **Cost:** \$55

Please RSVP by April 9 by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094, by e-mail at [stgcsa@windstream.net](mailto:stgcsa@windstream.net) or through the direct link on the "Upcoming Events" page of [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org).

### **REMINDER:**

*You must arrive by 9:45 a.m. to play golf*

### **Directions**

#### **to Southwyck Golf Club:**

From downtown:

Take 288 south to the Pearland exit.

Turn left onto FM 518.

Turn right onto County Road 94.

Turn left onto Southwyck Parkway.

Go through one stop sign and take your next right into the club.

### **Coming Up Next!**

**May 4**

Second Round

Chapter Championship

Blackhorse Golf Club

*Host Superintendent: Johnny Walker*

*Speaker:*

Gary Brooks

Bayer Environmental Science

## Hess renews professional certification

Alan D. Hess, CGCS, director of course maintenance at Augusta Pines Golf Club, Spring, Texas, has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Hess has been at Augusta Pines Golf Club since 1994. A 30-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 1986. Approximately 1,800 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold "CGCS" status.

To qualify for GCSAA's new competency-based certification program, a candidate must have at least three years experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet post-secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points.

Maintaining certified status requires renewal every five years after the initial date of certification. To fulfill certification renewal requirements, a candidate must participate in 150 hours of continuing education and professional development.

According to GCSAA CEO Mark Woodward, CGCS, "Twenty-five percent of GCSAA's Class A members have elected to earn the highest level of recognition through the professional designation "CGCS" by completion of the GCSAA Certification Program.



Adam and Alan Hess with the GCSAA National Championship trophy

### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

continued from page 1

on 17 and 18. As soon as that happened, everyone started yelling, "Playoff! Playoff!"

And the rest, as they say, is history. Better yet, the father-son duo weren't the only STGCSA members to take victories in this year's GCSAA National Championship.

Johnny Walker, the recipient of the STGCSA's 2009 Sonny DuBose Memorial Superintendent of the Year Award, won the tournament's "Classic VI Gross" flight. That's three wins for STGCSA members in one event, making the 2010 GCSAA National Championship one for the record books, at least in the southeast Texas' neck of the woods.

And it makes next year's tournament, which will be held in and around Orlando, Fla., something to anticipate.

"I think I'll be feeling a little more pressure next year," said Adam Hess, who earned a five-year exemption into the field of the prestigious Trans-Mississippi Championship for winning the GCSAA national tournament, of defending his title, "but I'm looking forward to it."




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## 2010 South Texas GCSA Scholarship Tournament

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club  
*Final Results*

### Gross

58

Cody Spivey, Matt Luna, Danny Vaughn, Brad Griffin

60

Ray McFarland, Tommy Wolfenberger, Dub Sharrett, Matt Tyrrell

61

Mike Rhoden, Brian Ward, Mark Mattox, Blake Roberts

61

Mark Haven, Rick Kahlich, Don Lewis, Drew McMillen

### Net

53.1

Bill Taylor, Chris Hartman, Pat O'Neal, Nick Johnson

54.9

Paul Tessman, Pat Neuendorff, Scott Anderson, Mark Cohorn

55.1

Brandon Cole, Eric Glover, Justin Lonan, Chris Paul

56.7

Wade Warmes, Chris Teafatiller, Jimmy Krupa, Will Requardt

### SPECIAL CONTESTS

Hole	Contest	Winner
1	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Darren Whitney
2	Long Drive	Jerret Wilbourn
3	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Don Lewis
4	Most Accurate Tee Shot	Carl Tolbert
5	Closest-to-Pin	Danny Atchison
6	Long Drive	Matt Van Buren
7	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Wade Warmes
8	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Bob Cook
9	Closest-to-Pin	Matt Tyrrell
10	Most Accurate Tee Shot	Jared Bonar
11	Closest-to-Pin	Bill Freeman
12	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Morris Johnson
13	Long Drive	Thomas Brown
14	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Chris Hartman
15	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Steve Smith
16	Closest-to-Pin	David Downey
17	Long Drive	Ryan Rosecrans
18	Closest-to-Pin, 2nd shot	Doug Browne

"There is an old saying: if a man comes home with sand in his cuffs and cockleburs in his pants, don't ask him what he shot."

— Sam Snead

### STGCSA Member E-mail Update

If you have changed your e-mail address within the past year, please contact Marian Takushi at [stgcsa@windstream.net](mailto:stgcsa@windstream.net) to provide an update.

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### First Assistant Superintendent Needed

The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament Course)  
Please contact: Russell Birkhimer, Golf Course Superintendent  
The Woodlands Country Club  
Phone: 281-863-1567, ext. 3  
E-mail: [rbirkhimer@canongategolf.com](mailto:rbirkhimer@canongategolf.com)

### Head Technician Wanted

Rayburn Country Resort - Brookeland, Texas  
Please contact: Scott Dotson, Golf Course Superintendent  
Rayburn Country Resort  
7615 Ameswood Dr., Houston, Texas 77095  
Phone: 409-273-0021 • E-mail: [sdotson@jas.net](mailto:sdotson@jas.net)

### Assistant Superintendent Wanted

The Woodlands Country Club (Arnold Palmer Course)  
Please send resume' to: Jason McConnell  
The Woodlands Country Club  
9310 Cochran's Crossing, The Woodlands, TX 77381  
FAX: 281-367-9070 • E-mail: [jmccConnell@thewoodlands.com](mailto:jmccConnell@thewoodlands.com)

### Spray Technician/Assistant Superintendent Trainee Needed

University of Texas Golf Club — Austin  
Please send resume' to: Rich Cope  
The University of Texas Golf Club  
3100 University Club Drive, Austin, TX 78732  
E-mail: [rich.cope@utgolfclub.com](mailto:rich.cope@utgolfclub.com)

### Summer Intern Needed

Golfcrest Country Club  
Candidates must be enrolled in a two- or four-year Turfgrass Management Program.  
Please send resume' to:  
Carter Hindes, Golf Course Superintendent  
Golfcrest Country Club  
2801 Country Club Dr., Pearland, TX 77581  
Fax: 281-485-3867 • Email: [chindes@golfcrestcountryclub.com](mailto:chindes@golfcrestcountryclub.com)

*The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) before the 5th 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](mailto:stgcsa@windstream.net), 281-494-0094).*

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## THANK YOU!

Each of the companies and individuals listed below made a generous contribution to the auctions and raffle associated with the 2010 STGCSA Scholarship Tournament.

Thanks to their support, over \$12,000 was raised for the STGCSA's Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Our gratitude runs deep.

Able/Infosat Communications • Brandt/Advan  
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 Sandcarved Awards • Stephen F. Austin Golf Club  
 Syngenta • Terry Gill • Texas A&M Golf Course  
 Timber Creek Golf Club • Walden on Lake Conroe Country Club  
 The Wilderness Golf Club  
 The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament Course)

## Recognition for Bowlin

The Irrigation Association announced in February that Dr. Stovy L. Bowlin of Bowlin Consulting has passed the final required IA Certification Examination to become a Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) within the Golf Course Specialty.

He is also a Certified Golf Irrigation Auditor and a Licensed Texas Irrigator. The CID program is a rigorous, nationally recognized, four-step program combining irrigation-related work experience, education and 3 written examinations covering general irrigation subjects and specialty areas.



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## El Niño

continued from page 3

- 1) El Niño – temperatures in Pacific are higher than normal— expect cool wet weather.
- 2) Neutral - temperatures in Pacific are normal— average weather.
- 3) La Niña - temperatures in Pacific are lower than normal— expect warm drier weather.

Typically, the El Niño returns every two to five years. The strength of the El Niño event varies in intensity, so the next El Niño might not produce such strong deviations from “normal conditions,” but weather conditions will be wetter and cooler than normal.

During an El Niño period, you might want to adjust fall and spring chemical inputs (e.g. fertilizers, pre-emergent herbicides, and fungicides) to reflect the cooler temperatures arriving early into fall and persisting later into spring.

To read more about this subject  
 and monitor the ENSO,  
 please visit this website:

[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml)

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

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## Be a part of it!

The STGCSA will be providing marshals on the practice range at Redstone Golf Club during the 2010 Shell Houston Open.

If you can help, you can register online at the tournament's web site, [www.shell-houstonopen.org](http://www.shell-houstonopen.org).

within the "Volunteer Info" link, but please contact Doug Browne (979-885-4833), George Manual (281-556-8818) or Terry Gill (713-778-3819) about your plans, too.

Don't forget that the STGCSA will reimburse half the cost of your "uniform" for the event.



## 2010 SOUTH TEXAS GCSA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### April 13

First Round Chapter Championship  
Southwyck Golf Club  
*Host Superintendent: Brandon Crumpler*

### May 4

Second Round Chapter Championship  
Blackhorse Golf Club  
*Host Superintendent: Johnny Walker*

### May 10

LSGCSA Texas Cup Tournament  
Twin Rivers Golf Club (Waco)

### June 14

Riverbend Country Club  
*Host Superintendent: George Cincotta*

### July 25-27

Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference  
Corpus Christi

### August 2

Superintendent/Pro Tournament  
Raveneaux Country Club  
*Host Superintendent: Lee Keim*

### September 19-21

LSGCSA Texas Trophy Tournament  
Horseshoe Bay Resort (Horseshoe Bay)

### October 11

Evergreen Point Golf Course  
*Host Superintendent: Dennis Klene*

### November 8

Annual Meeting  
Braeburn Country Club  
*Host Superintendent: Terry Gill*

### November 29 - December 1

Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference  
Fort Worth

## Hot Button

Check out the new Government Relations link on [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org). You'll find information about a number of issues pertinent to the golf course maintenance industry.

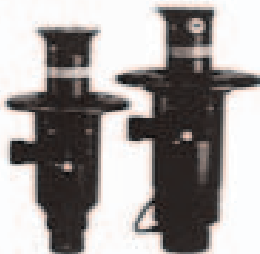
For additional details about each monthly meeting and golf outing, please visit the "Upcoming Events" page of [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org).



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