

# Tee to Green

Official Newsletter  
of the



April  
2011

## April Meeting to feature USGA Regional Conference



*Dr. David Chalmers*



*Ken Gorzycki*



*Alli Jarrett*



*Ty McClellan*

## Distinguished panel to address attendees

*page 6*



*Jim Moore*



*Bud White*



*Dr. David Zuberer*

## The benefit of compost

*page 4*

## How do you finance your equipment purchases

*page 5*



# April Meeting

## USGA Green Section Regional Conference

Monday, April 4, 2011

Willow Creek Golf Club, 24525 Northcrest Drive, Spring, TX 77389

Host Superintendent: Mike Rhoden

**Registration:** 7:30 a.m.    **Lunch:** 11:30-12:30    **Cost:** \$55 (\$15 for meeting and lunch only)

**Golf:** Four-Person Scramble After Lunch

Please RSVP by March 30 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).

### *Directions to Willow Creek Country Club, from Houston:*

- Take I-45 North and exit at Spring-Cypress Road. Move immediately into the right lane and continue north on frontage road until it u-turns under I-45.
- Follow the frontage road south to Spring Steubner Road. Turn right on Spring Steubner (just after you come out of the u-turn) and go 4.7 miles to Northcrest Drive.
- Turn right on Northcrest and go 2.5 miles to Willow Creek.

## Coming Up Next!

May 9 - Quail Valley Golf Course - 2011 Chapter Championship First Round

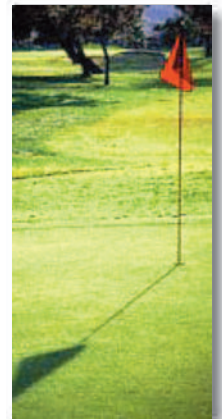


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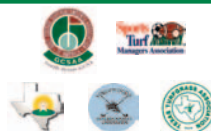
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is officially here! I don't know about you, but I've been ready for warmer weather for a while, and I am looking forward to longer days and more time for golf.

By the time this issue of Tee to Green hits your computer, we'll be very close to the opening round of the Shell Houston Open. Last month's issue of Tee to Green included mention of our participation in the area's PGA Tour event, and despite the late date, you can still sign up to be part of it. There's another mentioned on page XXX of this issue that includes contact info, so look there and get busy if you haven't already.

Just a few days after the SHO, we'll be hosting the USGA Regional Seminar at our April Meeting (the fourth at Willow Creek Country Club). I couldn't be more excited about what's truly a rare opportunity. There's more information about the meeting on pages 6 and 7 . . . have a look, pass it around your club and bring your officers with you to what should be an excellent gathering.

The opportunity to play host to the USGA meeting was, obviously, too good to pass up. Having said that, however, you should be aware that the decision forced a couple of important changes to our 2011 meeting schedule.

To be specific, the two rounds of our Chapter Championship has been moved back one month each. The April 4 meeting that's now hosting the USGA event was to be the date of the first round of the championship: there will still be golf after the meeting, but it will be more informal.

Our May 9 meeting at Quail Valley Golf Course will now include the first round of the Chapter Championship (rather

than the second), and our June 6 meeting at Wildcat Golf Club will be the date for the second (and final) round of the 2011 championship). Please check your calendars and make the appropriate changes.

I have a bittersweet bit of news to share with you. Chris Webster took a new job with BWI, making him ineligible to serve on the STGCSEA Board of Directors in the current capacity. I'm sad to see him go, but am happy for him and his new career move.

I am pleased to announce, however, that Brandon Crumpler of Southwyck Golf Club will be taking the vacated position. He is very energetic and ready to help the Board move the Chapter into the future.

One other very important note . . . I would like to thank everyone who attended the annual Scholarship Tournament. What a success! With the help of all the auction donors and bidders, we were able to raise over \$13,000 for our Legacy Scholarship program.

A special thanks to Cody Spivey and Casey Wade for hosting the event again. You guys do a wonderful job!

— Wade Warmes, CGCS



Wade Warmes, CGCS

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## Out of Bounds: Compost Happens

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Onsite composting may prove to be a profitable method to reduce the export of waste from your golf course. With increasing transportation costs and tipping fees, now may be the time to evaluate whether onsite composting is a viable option to make up decreasing maintenance budgets.

In addition to saving on disposal fees, composting will also decrease fertilizer usage associated with annual flower and perennial ornamental beds. From a regional sustainability perspective, utilizing your waste onsite reduces the pollution generated from transporting and handling the waste.

There is nothing magic or difficult about composting. Composting is simply a method of speeding up the natural decomposition of organic matter by carefully managing oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, and water. Given enough time, all organic matter will decay.

The key isn't to make the "perfect compost," but instead, to manage the compost so that the organic material breaks down at a rate that is acceptable for your facility's needs. Composting

is not onsite waste disposal, but an active management process.

If this is your first time to attempt composting, start small and use materials in proportions to what you commonly dispose of throughout the year. Adjust the proportions to maximize decomposition.

Your initial efforts should be to reduce your "regular" waste generation, not, for example, the material from a large annual tree pruning effort. Once you get the hang of it you can expand to include larger amounts of plant material, and eventually you will be able to manage the different amounts and types of plant material that accumulate throughout the year.

To achieve rapid breakdown of organic matter, focus your initial composting efforts on plant residues high in nitrogen. Composting occurs most rapidly if the C:N ratio is about 30:1.

Materials high in nitrogen include grass clippings and herbaceous plant materials. Materials low in nitrogen include evergreen leaves, twigs and small branches.

The key to rapid decomposition of these materials is to carefully balance the C:N ratio in favor of speedy break down. Very large branches are probably best utilized by chipping into mulch or moved off site. This will be discussed in a future article.

Other factors that can increase the speed of decomposition include:

- Increasing the surface area of the pile by shredding small branches and mowing leaves.
- Σ • Aerating the pile by periodically turning it.
- Σ • Maintaining moisture at about 50 percent.
- Σ • Maintain a minimum size of 3 X 3 to insure the pile can heat up.

The same factors that improve turfgrass growth— oxygen, nitrogen, water and aeration— also promote the composting process.

To read more about this subject please visit these websites:

<http://turf.lib.msu.edu/1990s/1994/940524.pdf>

<http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort/pubs/pubs/Backyard%20Composting.pdf>

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



*Dr. Anthony Camerino*

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## Financing Turf Equipment

By Brandon Cole

I have seen a lot of “trends” come and go when it comes to financial arrangements for purchasing golf course equipment during the past 14 years.

Securing equipment via lease or purchase is just one of the questions that has grown to include more options during that period. It’s a choice that varies from facility to facility and often depends largely upon the type of equipment under consideration. And the answer is not always cut and dried.

There are advantages and disadvantages to be considered on both sides of the discussion. I would estimate that some 80 percent of the facilities I work with lease at least some of their equipment, but it is not usual, even today, to come across those that are able to pay cash for their equipment or purchase it through a “Conditional Sales Contract.”

A Conditional Sales Contract (CSC) is a way to finance equipment over a period of time. By definition, then, this kind of arrangement is intended for use on equipment you intend to keep for a long period of time—you own the equipment at the end of term.

You should consider a CSC for any equipment you believe should last for at least eight to 10 years. Such items might include tractors, top dressers, reel or bedknife grinders and other primary machinery. You should keep in mind that 60 months is usually the longest term most finance companies offer for this type of equipment.

As mentioned above, the financing decision is a bit more complicated than it was a few years back, and so it is that many facilities have come to consider leasing such equipment. A “Fair Market Value Lease (FMV)” is a tool that has become popular in today’s market.

A lease is simply an agreement by a customer to pay a monthly rent to a seller for a specific amount of time for the right to use equipment during the term of the lease.

The customer does not own the equipment during the term of the lease (or at the end of it), but is responsible for insurance, maintenance and all other costs of ownership. In a typical lease, the customer will pay roughly 75 percent of the cost of the equipment, (plus interest), which results in a lower monthly payment.

The lower monthly payment is the attraction of a lease option, but you will not own the asset at the end of the term.

Generally speaking, three options become available at that point. You can then: (1) return the equipment to the seller and re-lease new; (2) purchase some or all of the leased equipment at fair market value; (3) exercise an option to continue the lease (usually for an additional 12 months).

There are tax advantages attached to both of these financing

continued on page 9



Brandon Cole

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The Lone Star GCSA Texas Cup will be held at The Golf Club at Star Ranch in Hutto, Texas, on Wednesday, May 4. Please monitor [www.lsgc-sa.org](http://www.lsgc-sa.org) for details during the next several weeks.

## STGCSA hosting 2011 USGA Regional Conference

Some things are set in stone. Most things aren't, thankfully, and so it is that the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association finds itself hosting a USGA Regional Conference at its April Meeting rather than conducting the first round of its Chapter Championship.

More on the latter later, but for now, the important detail is what's above and re-stated here— the STGCSA is hosting the 2011 USGA Regional Conference at Willow Creek Country Club on Apr. 4.

The change to the Chapter's meeting schedule came after Bud White, director of the Mid-Continent Region of the USGA Green Section, called STGCSA President Wade Warms with a question.

"He wanted to know if we wanted to host the event," said Warms. "and I don't think you should ever pass up an opportunity to work with the USGA, so I said yes."

"The North Texas GCSA and Central Texas GCSA have both hosted the event in the past, with excellent results," added Warms. "I think we can expect a similar outcome."

The conference (see next page) for the conference agenda) is chock full of noted golf course maintenance experts, and that's the primary reason for adjusting the schedule.

"The USGA always provides an outstanding group of speakers at its meetings," Warms said. "This gathering will be no exception and I think all those attending will reap significant benefits from being there."



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One benefit for members of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America members . . . they'll earn .3 education credits for their time. That's as opposed to the .1 credits offered at most STGCSA meetings.

That's triple the education for no extra cost (\$55 for STGC-SA members, including the meeting, lunch and golf and \$15 for those attending the meeting and lunch only). The meeting is open to anyone associated with the business and is an excellent opportunity for STGCSA members to help their employers and co-workers associate the Chapter with the business of golf. All members are invited to bring general managers, golf professionals, Greens Committee chairmen or any other appropriate facility official.

You'll need to act quickly if you haven't signed up— registration details can be found on page 2 of this issue of *Tee to Green* or on the [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org).

For future reference, the first round of the 2011 STGCSA Chapter Championship will now be played in conjunction with the May 9 meeting at Quail Valley Golf Course, and the second (and final) round will take place after the June 6 meeting at Wildcat Golf Club.

## 2011 USGA Regional Conference

Willow Creek Country Club

April 4, 2011

### Agenda & Schedule

- 7:30 Registration
- 8:30 *Welcome, Introduction*  
Bud White  
Director, Mid-Continent Region, USGA Green Section
- 8:40 *A 'New' Normal for Golf Course Maintenance*  
Ty McClellan  
Regional Agronomist, Mid-Continent Region,  
USGA Green Section
- 9:15 *Turfgrass Consumptive Water Use and ET Irrigation*  
Dr. David Chalmers  
Professor & State Extension Turfgrass Specialist  
Texas A&M University
- 9:45 *Water Issues and the TCEQ*  
Ken Gorzycki, CGCS  
Director of Agronomy, Horseshoe Bay Resort
- 10:15 BREAK
- 10:30 *Superintendents 'Rule' - Factors That Impact the Enjoyment of the Game*  
Alli Jarrett, Director  
Regional Affairs-South Region, USGA
- 11:00 *Firm & Fast- A Tough Sell to Golfers and Superintendents*  
Jim Moore  
Director, Construction Education, USGA Green Section
- 11:30 *Soil Microbiology and Myths*  
Dr. David Zuberer  
Professor and Soil Microbiologist, Texas A&M University
- 12:00 Q & A, Lunch
- 1:00 Golf

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From left to right, gross division winners Mike Rhoden, Mark Mattox, Robert Hill and Brian Ward of Willow Creek Country Club.



## STGCSA Scholarship Tournament

Golf Results — March 8, 2011

### Gross

Mike Rhoden, Brian Ward, Robert Hill, Mark Mattox	58
Chris Webster, Sean Wilson, Brian Buckner, Pat Johnston	59
Doug Browne, Bobby Browne, Charlie Ford, Steve Smith	59*
Jerret Wilbourn, Stephen Jurgella, Danny Vaughn, Mitch McDuffie	59*

\* scorecard playoff

### Net

James Sissom, Ryan Rosecrans, Allen Plagens, Jeremy Ice	52.87
Jesse Shulse, Justin Shulse, John Saffle, Bill Horton	54.11
Jerry Takushi, Richard Kane, Brandon Cole, George Cincotta	54.87
Bill Taylor, Nick Johnson, Kevin Hill, Patrick O'Neal	55.25

### Special Contests

Hole	Contest	Winner
#1	Closest 2nd Shot	Dan Vaughn
#2	Long Drive	Kevin Lyles
#3	Closest 2nd Shot	Ryan Rosecrans
#4	Most Accurate Tee Shot	Jimmy Wintes
#5	Closest-to-the-Pin	Stovy Bowlin
#6	Long Drive	Ricky Lyons
#7	Closest 2nd Shot	John Walker
#8	Closest 2nd Shot	John Stark
#9	Closest-to-the-Pin	Scott Cory
#10	Most Accurate Tee Shot	Charlie Rizzo
#11	Closest-to-the-Pin	Stovy Bowlin
#12	Closest 2nd Shot	Bob Cook
#13	Long Drive in Fairway	Steve Smith
#14	Closest 2nd Shot	John Walker
#15	Closest 2nd Shot	Mark Haven
#16	Closest-to-the-Pinn	Steve Smith
#17	Long Drive in Fairway	Russell Birkhimer
#18	Closest 2nd Shot	Mitchell Kiser

## You're invited . . .

In an effort to bring various members of the southern Texas golf community together to share ideas, education and camaraderie, the Southern Texas PGA is hosting a series of "Town Hall Golf Industry Breakfast Meetings" at facilities throughout the area.

A variety of topics are discussed during the meetings, to which all members of the STGCSA and other area golf organizations are invited. The next meeting in the southeast Texas region will take place Apr. 19 at Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club. A complete meeting schedule can be found at [www.stpga.com/townhallmeetings/](http://www.stpga.com/townhallmeetings/).



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**FINANCING EQUIPMENT**  
continued from page 5

options, but how they'll affect your situation depends on how your club is set up.

In some cases, for example, a CSC will allow you to write off the interest of your payment and take advantage of depreciation over a 10-year period (from date of purchase).

With a FMV lease or similar financial tool, your payments are treated as operating expenses rather than capital expenditures and are treated differently from a taxation standpoint. Needless to say, you will need to consult with your comptroller and/or a good tax accountant to find out what the best option is for you and your golf club.

Regardless of whether you choose to lease or buy, most of the commercial equipment you'll be working with carry a standard 2-year warranty, and you'll have the option of purchasing an extended warranty for the term of your loan or lease. That's a decision that might help lower your overall annual parts budget and one you may want to consider on a case-by-case basis.

I hope this helps clear up some questions that you might have about equipment financing options, but if not, please give me a call (Did you now can also lease or finance irrigation equipment).

*South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association Board of Directors member Brandon Cole is a Professional Turf Products Account Executive.*

**Quick reminder**

If you read last month's issue of *Tee to Green* or have visited the STGCSA web site recently, you already know that the Chapter is, for the ninth year in a row, setting up a team of volunteers to serve as marshals around the practice areas at Redstone Golf Club during the upcoming Shell Houston Open.

Houston's PGA Tour stop will be held the week of Mar. 28-Apr. 3 and you'll be reading this issue of our newsletter about the time the tournament is



ready to get under way, and that means you'll have to act quickly to be a part of the effort.

There's a full description of the registration process on the home page of [www.stgcsa.com](http://www.stgcsa.com), but if you make a late decision to sign up, your best bet may be to contact George Manuel (281-556-8818), Terry Gill (713-778-3819) or Doug Browne (979-885-4833).

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### Assistant Superintendent in Training

The Woodlands Country Club — Player Course  
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Ryan Rosecrans, Golf Course Superintendent  
Email: rrosecrans@thewoodlandscscc.com

### Assistant-In-Training

The Club at Carlton Woods  
Please send resume' to Eric Bauer, Director of Grounds  
The Club at Carlton Woods, 8750 Branch Crossing  
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Email: ebauer@thewoodlands.com

### Assistant Superintendent in Training

The Woodlands Country Club — Tournament Course  
Please Send resume's to  
Russell Birkhimer, Golf Course Superintendent  
Email: rbirkhimer@thewoodlandscscc.com

### Assistant Superintendent Needed

Hearthstone Country Club  
Please Send resume' to Ray McFarland,  
Golf Course Superintendent  
Email: ray.mcfarland@ourclub.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, 281-494-0094). More complete details about many of the positions listed here can be found within the "Jobs" pages of www.stgcsa.org.*

## MEMBER MOVES

The roster continues to grow. *Cody Skarpa* and *Grant Jones*, assistant superintendents at Bryan Municipal Golf Course and Golfcrest Country Club, respectively, are among the STGC-SA's newest members this month, as is *Mike Smith*, a sales representative for Professional Turf Products.

*Cody Newman*, golf course superintendent at Wedgewood Golf Club, and *Heath Lowery*, territory manager for Valent Professional Products, are also new members, as are *Doug Shamp*, special project director at River Ridge Golf Club, and *Clint Neely*, a sales representative for Agrium Advanced Technologies.

Jeff Sanders, a sales representative for New Earth Soils and Compost, and Joe Turner, golf course superintendent at Hermann Park Golf Course, are also new STGCSA members, at to all, we say, "Welcome!"

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## 2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### April 4

Willow Creek Country Club  
*USGA Green Section Regional Conference*  
Host Superintendent: Mike Rhoden

### May 4

Lone Star GCSA Texas Cup  
The Golf Club at Star Ranch - Hutto, Texas

### May 9

Quail Valley Golf Course  
*First Round Chapter Championship*  
Host Superintendent: Jeff McCrory

### June 6

Wildcat Golf Club  
*Second Round Chapter Championship*  
Host Superintendent: Ben Fultz

### July 10-12

Texas Turfgrass Association  
Conference & Show  
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort - Bastrop

### July 18

The Traditions at Texas A&M  
*Superintendent-Pro Tournament*  
Host Superintendent: Jesse Shulze

### September 25-26

Lone Star Texas Trophy  
Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club - Keller, Texas

### October 11

Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club  
*Member/Guest Outing*  
Host Superintendent: Brian Buckner, CGCS

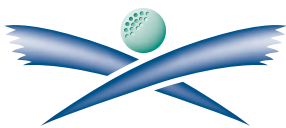
### November 8

Ravens Nest Golf Club  
*2011 STGCSA Annual Meeting*  
Host Superintendent: David Gray

### December 12-14

Texas Turfgrass Association  
Annual Conference  
San Antonio Convention Center

*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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