

Tee to Green



August
2008

It's time to take water issues seriously

By Bud White

Water for irrigation is in the headlines like never before. Some areas of the country such as the Southeast, where water availability has been of little concern in the past, have been under extremely tight conditions in the last few years.

Recycled water is and will be the irrigation source for golf courses in the future. Unfortunately, many Texas facilities seem to take water issues too lightly, and that is a serious mistake.

Earlier this year, I sent out the results of the Texas recycled water survey in Texas compiled by Dr. Richard Dixon at Texas State University. If you have not yet received a copy, please contact Dr. Dixon at rd11@txstate.edu for a copy— it is a very informative study.

Here is a link (www.golfbusiness.com/pageview.asp?doc=1914) to another very informative article about golf course water use and the perceptions of many in this country. Within the industry, we know our water use efficiency and capabilities. We also know that water use can be reduced without any detriment to playing conditions.

However (and this is a huge “however”), golfers do not tolerate poor color. Many of the same people, unfortunately, are in the same group who agree that water reduction is important— they just don't want the consequences of reductions.

It is largely our responsibility to educate golfers about golf course water use efficiency and ability to reduce irrigation without detriment to turf health or playability— only color. Golf is not played on color!

Moreover, water that is recycled, reclaimed, gray, or effluent, or whatever you want to call it, is not a negative. It is our irrigation source for the future. Those courses that are investigating its use should move forward with this decision. One day it may be their only option.

Irrigation system design and upgrading is yet another area where

golfer education is badly needed. When water restrictions are headlined, talk of installing a new irrigation system seems ludicrous to many. Just the opposite is true, but again, our industry does not do a good job explaining this necessity to boards or owners. A greater number of irrigation heads and an efficient, energy-use pump station saves water, by a significant margin in most cases.

However, more heads and a very high price tag make discussions of upgrading to a new irrigation systems sound foolish to some when talk of scaled back water use is often part of the same conversation.

On another disturbing note . . . fertilizer prices are still increasing at a rate experts did not anticipate four months ago, and it's not just because of nitrogen. Here's another web site you can visit (<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/015200805270921.htm>) to shed some light on what's going on globally with fertilizer prices and availability. This might be helpful information to share with club officials about the reasons why fertilizer budgets will have to be adjusted.

Please take some time to read these articles. Think about the future of irrigation for your golf course. Make a presentation at your next board or green committee meeting to provide an update about your current irrigation system. Hopefully, it will sound a wake-up call.

Support of reduced water use has to be embraced by the golfers. Understanding how water reductions are implemented and what impact they will have on your golf course will be the first step in that direction.

If I can be of help with this issue to you or your association, please do not hesitate to call.

*Bud White is the Director of the
Mid-Continent Region of the USGA Green Section.*

*He may be reached
by telephone at 972-662-1138 or
by e-mail at budwhite@usga.org.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just in case anyone needs reminding, the number of golfers who have experienced the pleasure of playing at Champions Golf Club is pretty small. With that in mind, I want to express my special thanks to Charles Joachim, CGCS, and Jesse Shulse for putting on such a great event for us last month.

Champions' Cypress Creek Course was in fantastic condition and the amenities and hospitality were first class all the way. It was an experience that will be hard to beat . . . if we didn't set a record for attendance, we were definitely very close to setting one.

It was a special occasion as well for Jackie Burke, to whom we presented an Honorary Membership to our Chapter in recognition of all he has done for the golf business in Houston.

My very special thanks go out to him for hosting the STGCSA with such style and graciousness. If you were at the meeting, you know Mr. Burke has been a bit under the weather lately. On behalf of our Chapter and its members, I wish to extend a sincere "get well soon" to Jackie . . . we all hope he is feeling much better.

I also wish to give particular thanks to Steve Elkington. The winner of 10 PGA Tour events (including the 1995 PGA Championship) and Champions' member stepped up at the last moment to speak at our meeting, and we truly appreciate him taking time from his busy schedule to speak to our group. I don't know when we were last treated to an address from a PGA Tour professional, but I do know it's about as rare as the opportunity to play golf at Champions, and we're very appreciative for the experience.

Our annual Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member is coming up fast (it's on Aug. 11) and it will take place at another of the Houston area's most historic venues . . . BraeBurn Country Club August 11, 2008. If you haven't done so already, please get your team together and RSVP in— it should be another very well-attended meeting.

I am sure Terry Gill has been hard at work getting the course in top shape for this annual championship. With newly remodeled greens and fairways, the course should prove to be fun and challenging, as always, so don't miss out.

Looking into the future, I see a challenging road ahead. With the economy slowing down, budgets will be getting tighter than ever and we all need to do our part to keep our Association strong.

I wish to extend my thanks to our Affiliate Members as well as Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and all STGCSA

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2008 Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member Tournament

Monday, August 11, 2008

BraeBurn Country Club

Host Superintendent — Terry Gill

Registration: 9:30 a.m. **Shotgun Start:** 10:30 a.m.

Dinner: Following golf

Entry Fee: \$275 per team

Entry Deadline: Aug. 8, 2008

Entry forms were included in the July issue of Tee to Green. They are also available on www.stgcsa.org or by calling Marian Takushi (281-494-0094)

Directions:

From Hwy. 59 South (Southwest Freeway): Go south on Gessner and then left on Bissonnet. The entrance to BraeBurn Country Club will be on the right, approximately 1/2 mile from Gessner.

Out of Bounds:

Out of play areas can prevent pesticide and fertilizer movement

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

A typical golf club may cover 100 to 200 acres, but the actual areas in play are much smaller. An average 18-hole course has about three acres of putting greens, five acres of tees and 30 acres of fairway.

The in-play areas typically receive most, if not all, of the fertilizer and pesticide inputs. That leaves about 70 to 170 acres with minimal inputs.

Educational efforts addressing nonpoint source pollution often focus on how the in-play areas are managed (e.g., application calibration, drift minimization), but it is important to note that the rough and out-of-play areas can also play an important role when considering how to prevent fertilizer and pesticide movement off-site.

Out-of-play areas can reduce the potential impact of pesticides and fertilizers in primarily two ways. First, the out-of-play areas can prevent fertilizer and pesticide movement by serving as a buffer between the application site and the sensitive areas of concern (e.g. streams, storm drains, wildlife area).

Those designated areas should essentially be areas where minimal (or no) fertilizer or pesticide applications are made. As a result, the chance of direct deposition of fertilizer or pesticide via drift or run-off into sensitive areas is almost eliminated.

Buffer areas can be anything from natural vegetation, mulched landscape plantings, or turf that is mowed at higher heights. If using turfgrass cut at a higher height, established buffer areas at least 25 feet wide and mowed at three inches should be effective.

A series of mowing heights (e.g., apron, then rough, then buffer) has been shown to be more

effective at preventing runoff than using a single buffer strip alone (see cited website below). Using plants that encourage wildlife in buffer strips will not only help prevent run off, but also encourage wildlife and increase aesthetic appeal.

The second method by which out-of-play areas reduce pollution risk is that they dilute fertilizers and break down pesticides to concentrations that are not thought to be of concern.

To break down pesticides and fertilizers, swales and retention areas can be used to temporarily store runoff. Catching runoff from

"The in-play areas typically receive most, if not all, of the fertilizer and pesticide inputs. That leaves about 70 to 170 acres with minimal inputs."

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EDUCATION: THE ULTIMATE R.O.I.

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Membership Moves

A South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association “Welcome back!” goes out to *Nick Inberg*, who is the new golf course superintendent at Longwood Golf Club and has rejoined the STGCSA.

The Chapter offers its welcome to seven new members. The new members are: *Mike Cline*, assistant superintendent at Kingwood Country Club; *Travis Cash*, the owner of Great Greens of America; Jon O’Donnell, division president of Heritage Links; *Collins Bean*, golf course superintendent at Cypresswood Golf Club; *Mike Nuzzo*, golf course architect; *Garvin Cooley*, head mechanic at The Wilderness Golf Club; and *Wesley Coots*, equipment manager at Redstone Golf Club.

OUT OF BOUNDS

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greens is especially important since this is where the majority of pesticides and fertilizers are applied.

If the construction of swales and retention areas is not possible, turfgrass mowed at higher heights will slow the velocity of runoff and, as a result, allow the runoff to percolate into the soil. Once the material is captured, fertilizers and pesticides are broken down through microbial degradation.

To read more about this subject, please visit these websites:

<http://usgatero.msu.edu/v04/n12.pdf>

www.usga.org/turf/green_section_record/2006/jan_feb/mowing.html

http://www.usga.org/turf/green_section_record/2005/jan_feb/Best.html

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/docs/nonpoint/glfbmp07.pdf>

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

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members who participate in our meetings each month. It is your partnership with us that keeps our focus alive.

Times are changing and every dollar spent is being counted with “global” being the buzzword . . . global warming, global economy, global knowledge global development, global gas prices . . . the “global” mentality seems to be ruling our lives.

It’s a wake- up call for all of us. I urge all members to make strong commitments and after making them, do your best to keep them. Build trust by keeping your commitments, and don’t overextend yourself by taking on so many tasks that you’ll have difficulty completing any of them.

It is far better to say “no” in a professional manner than to continually say “yes” and then fall short of your commitments and then be forced to explain why that happened.

I challenge all our members to step up or step down as you will to fulfill your goals into the future.

— Roger Goettsch, CGCS



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2008 Texas Trophy slated for Victoria

The West Texas GCSA will take the field as the defending champion of the team division and the STGCSA's own Mark Haven will defend his individual title when the Lone Star GCSA hosts the 2008 Texas Trophy at Victoria Country Club on Sept. 21-23.

Entry forms have been distributed and are available on the Lone Star GCSA web site (www.lsgcsa.org).

Entry fees are \$225 and include three rounds of golf and food. The entry deadline is Sept. 10, 2008.

In addition to prizes for the top teams and individuals, the LSGCSA will pay the entry fees to the 2009 GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic, scheduled for Feb. 1-3, 2009, in Gulf Shores, Alabama.

Questions about the tournament should be directed to Karen White at 972-307-8162.

GCSAA expands TGIF access

The most comprehensive index of turfgrass information in existence is now available at the touch of a button to all GCSAA Class A and Superintendent Members.

Through an agreement between the GCSAA and Michigan State University's Turfgrass Information Center, the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) can be accessed by Superintendent Members along with Class A members, who were given access in 2007. GCSAA Class A and Superintendent Members can enter the TGIF on the web at www.gcsaa.org/solutions/TGIF.aspx or by clicking on Solutions/Tools on the left-hand side of the www.gcsaa.org homepage and then clicking on Turfgrass Information File.

The TGIF is a computerized database that covers full scope of the turfgrass industry, including content from journals and magazines, research reports, conference proceedings, Extension bulletins, books and book chapters, technical reports, theses and dissertations, web documents, published Q-and-As, scanned golf course plans, and video interviews. In all the TGIF contains more than 130,000 records and continues to grow daily.

Subscriptions to the TGIF for individuals usually cost \$100 a year.



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Austin

Please send resume' to:

Rich D. Cope

The University of Texas Golf Club
3100 University Club Drive, Austin, TX 78732

E-Mail: rich.cope@utgolfclub.com

Golf Course Superintendent Wanted

Austin Country Club

Please FAX or E-mail resume' to:

Kopplin & Kuebler

Attn: Armen Suny

E-Mail: dickkopplin@aol.com

FAX: 480-443-9642

Horticulture Assistant Wanted

South Padre Island Development & Golf Club

Please send resume' to:

Aaron Carson, Horticulture Superintendent

E-Mail: aaron@spigolf.com

FAX: 956-943-2070

The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call (281-395-4927) or FAX (281-395-9547) Steve Hunter before the 10th of each month to include your job listings, etc., in the following two issues of Tee to Green. You may also contact Marian Takushi (stgcsa@windstream.net or 281-494-0094) to include your job posting on the STGCSA web site.



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Champions Golf Club Cypress Creek Course

Golf Results
1, 2, 3 Best Ball

Jeff Jowell, Andy Gillen, Steve Vaughn, Bo Phillips	142
Charles Joachim, Pat Johnston, Tom Werner, Jeff Blume	144
Russell Tippie, Richard Kane, Mitchell Kizer, P. Trejo	144
Timmy Brent, Bill Abetz, Jerry Takushi, Brandon Cole	147

SPECIAL CONTESTS

Hole	Contest	Winner
#3	Closest-to-Pin	Russell Tippie
#8	Closest-to-Pin	Sean Wilson
#10	Closest-to-Pin	Charles Joachim
#12	Long Drive	John Maloney
#15	Long Drive	Russell Tippie
#16	Closest-to-Pin	Alan Lee

2008 Points Lists

(Top 10s through Champions Golf Club)

Superintendents

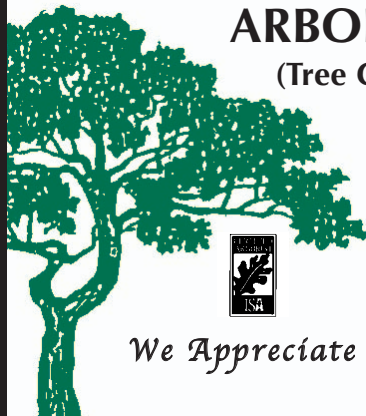
Wade Warmes	565.50	Jeff Jowell	571.00
Russell Tippie	565.50	Kent Knowles	561.50
Glen Noska	561.00	Rick Tygret	560.50
Steve Vaughn	560.00	Alan Lee	560.00
Sean Wilson	558.00	Mike James	559.00
Richard Kane	558.00	Jeff Smith	552.00
Mark Haven	553.00	Pat Johnston	550.50
Roger Goettsch	549.00	Pat Neuendorff	541.00
Gary Hargrove	545.50	Brandon Cole	539.50
Brian Woolard	544.50	David Myrick	538.50
Mike Rhoden	544.50	Stan Ludwick	538.50

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 to provide an update.

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2008 STGCSA EVENTS

August 11 (Monday)
 Superintendent/Pro &
 Member/Member
 Tournament
 Braeburn CC
Host Superintendent:
 Terry Gill

September 21-23
 Lone Star Texas Trophy
 Victoria CC • Victoria

September 25 (Thursday)
 Astros Game
 Family Night

October 13-19
 Administaff
 Small Business Classic
 The Woodlands CC
 East Course

October 20 (Monday)
 Golfcrest CC
Host Superintendent:
 Lee Gravett

November 11 (Tuesday)
 STGCSA
 Annual Meeting
 The Houstonian CC
Host Superintendent:
 Tom Werner

December 4 (Thursday)
 Annual
 Awards Banquet
 and Ceremony
 River Oaks CC
Host Superintendent:
 Morris Johnson

December 8-10
 TTA Annual Conference &
 Trade Show
 Fort Worth
 Convention Center
 Fort Worth

*Golf formats available
 on the internet at
www.stgcsa.org.*



2008 Legacy Scholarships

**For our future
and your kids.**

If you have a youngster who will be attending college this fall, be sure he or she applies for a 2008 STGCSA Legacy Scholarship.



Applications will be available at Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member Tournament and are also available on the STGCSA web site.

The deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 1, 2008.

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