

Tee to Green



August
2009

Nominations for 2009 Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year now being accepted

When Terry Gill was elected as the recipient of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association's inaugural Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year Award last year, no one was surprised.

Gill has a long record of service to the facilities for which he has worked, to the industry in which he works, and to the association in which he has played such a prominent role. Given that, the award achieved the purposes for which it was established . . . to honor both the award's namesake and a superintendent member who has made significant and continual contributions to the industry and the Chapter.

And now it's time to pick a second honoree. The process began in late July, when letters soliciting nominations were sent to the general managers and head golf professionals at golf facilities throughout the Chapter's geographical territory, and, where appropriate, to the chairmen of Greens Committees.

You may consider this article your notice, as well. Any STGCSA member in good standing may submit a nomination. Please keep in mind, however, that all eligible nominees must be STGCSA members in good standing, have been members of the STGCSA for a minimum of five consecutive years and must not have previously won the award.

The process following nominations will also follow a pattern similar to that established in 2008. Nominations must be submitted by Sept. 30, 2009. The STGCSA's Public Relations Committee, led by Co-Chairmen Russell Birkhimer and Brandon Cole, will then review the nominations, select a set of finalists and then visit each finalist's facility for a tour and an interview. The information gained from those visits and the respective nominations letters will then be presented to the STGCSA's members during the Chapter's Annual Meeting, set for Nov. 9 at Willow Fork Country Club.

The members will then vote for their choice as the recipient of the 2009 Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year Award, and the honor will be announced during a presentation ceremony at the

2009 STGCSA Awards Banquet and Awards Ceremony at Golfcrest Country Club on Dec. 11.

The facility visits by the Nominations Committee are new additions to the process.

"Obviously, it's very likely we'll be very familiar with the nominees," said Birkhimer of the new step. "Even so, we felt like on-site interviews and evaluations would enhance our ability to select finalists who uphold the finest traditions of our profession and organization."

"This is the only award our Chapter bestows on one of its members," Birkhimer said, "and it deserves our respectful attention. "I think the recipient, and for that matter, anyone who is nominated, should feel very honored. The selection can be sure that he has the respect of the people and organization he works for and his peers appreciate the effort he expends to be the best superintendent he can be."

The deadline is here

If you have a youngster who will be attending college this fall, be sure he or she applies for a 2009 STGCSA Legacy Scholarship.

Applications will be available at all the STGCSA's monthly meetings

through August. The deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 1, 2009.

Act soon and make sure the STGCSA has the chance to help with your child's education.



2008
Legacy Scholarships

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where is that noise you hear coming from? Easy. The buzz is being generated by the crescendo of activity you and your fellow STGCSA members are undertaking right now.

If there is a busy time on our schedule, it's right now. One function after another, and there are plenty of things waiting in the wings. Here's a quick rundown (with an emphasis on "quick.") All these events have been mentioned in previous issues of Tee to Green, and details about them can be found on our web site.)

First up is the golf tournament for Shell Houston Open volunteers at Redstone Golf Club on Aug. 12. You'll need to hustle to sign up for it (and you must have been a tournament volunteer, of course), but it will be worth your effort, I think.

Second is our annual Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member tournament. As was the case last month, an entry form has been included with Tee to Green. The tournament will be held at the Club at Falcon Point on Aug. 25. Get your team together and act now . . . again, this is always a fun event, something you won't want to miss.

The Lone Star Texas Trophy will be held Sept. 13-15 at Memorial Park Golf Course. We're hosting and we want to have a strong presence at the event, so be sure you're part of it. Our September monthly meeting will be held on Sept. 14, also at Memorial Park, which should make it easy for you to take part in both activities.

Another very important (if you've got college age youngsters) deadline is fast approaching. It's Sept. 1, the deadline for submit-

ting applications for 2009 STGCSA Legacy Scholarships. It's easy to wait too long to send an application in (they can be found on our web site and we'll have them available at the Superintendent/Pro event), and there is almost always someone who waits too long. That means it's a good time for a fair warning . . . Sept. 1 is a "hard" deadline. Applications submitted after that will not be considered.

We've set the date and location for our annual Christmas Party, Awards Banquet and Ceremony. It will take place at my club (Golfcrest Country Club) on the evening of Dec. 11. As of right now, it will feature a "Casino Night" for entertainment, and that ought to be at least a bit of fun, so mark your calendar and plan accordingly.

A new addition to our schedule of events (and indeed, to the Houston area's slate of golf tournaments) is the LPGA Tour Championship, which will take place Nov. 19-22 at The Houstonian Golf and Country Club.

We've established a strong record of service to the region's major golf tournaments, and accordingly, we've been asked to provide marshals for the new LPGA tournament. The event marks the return of the LPGA tournament to the Houston area, so we want to put our best foot forward and help make it a success. Details will be forthcoming over the next couple of months, but we're going to need your help. If you've been part of the group that's worked at past Shell Houston Opens or Administaff Small Busi-

continued on page 4



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Director of Communications

Steve Hunter

Phone: 281-395-4927 • FAX: 281-395-6293

e-mail: srhunter@mindspring.com

Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

2009 Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member Tournament

Monday, August 25, 2009

The Club at Falcon Point
24503 Falcon Point Dr., Katy, TX 77494
Host Superintendent — Sean Wilson

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

Dinner: Following golf **Entry Fee:** \$275 per team

Entry Deadline: Aug. 21, 2009

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 I-10 (Katy Freeway). One exit west of the Grand Parkway, go south on Katy Fort Bend Road to the T-intersection. Go left on Kingsland/Katy Fort Bend Road and then right on Falcon Point Drive to the club, which will be on the right.

2009 Environmental Golf Course Management Field Day coming up

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, in conjunction with its partners, the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, will host its 2009 Environmental Golf Course Management Field Day at The Clubs of Kingwood on September 28.

The program will begin with registration at 7:30 a.m., with Dr. Anthony Camerino of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Harris County Office providing opening remarks at 7:45 a.m.

A tour of the host club's golf courses will follow. Attendees will be informed about the process facilities must follow to become certified in the Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

The tour will last approximately three hours, and following a lunch break, the conference will resume with a 12:15 p.m. address by John Thomas of Wildseed Farms. Thomas will address methods for "Establishing Wildflowers in Bermudagrass Roughs."

Keith Crenshaw of Texas Parks and Wildlife will provide a discussion of "Developing Wildlife Inventories for the Houston Area" beginning at 1:15 p.m. His presentation will be followed by a break, with Dr. David Chalmers of Texas AgriLife Extension Service describing the benefits of "Using ET-based Irrigation and Web-based Weather Systems for Water Conservation" in a 2:15 p.m. presentation.

Dr. Carol Brouwer, also from the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will lead the day's final gathering beginning at 3 p.m. and will talk about "Quick and Easy Display Development Using Powerpoint." Activities are expected to wrap up at 3:30.

Golf Course Superintendents of America Association Continuing Education Units will be available to members in attendance. The size of the audience will be limited to the first 50 registrants; the cost is \$30.

Registration can be accomplished through the STGCSA office—complete details and a registration link can be found on the Chapter web site on the "Upcoming Events" page. You may call Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 for more information.

STGCSA ready to host 2009 Texas Trophy

The South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and Golf Course Superintendent Jason Harsh will host the 2009 Texas Trophy tournament Sept. 13-15 at Memorial Park Golf Course.

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. 2, 2009.

In addition to golf and other festivities, Bud White of the USGA Mid-Continent Green Section will lead a GCSAA-Accredited Educational Program at 11 a.m. on Sept. 14. The cost for the educational program is \$30 and RSVPs (through the STGCSA office, 281-494-0094, stgcsa@windstream.net) are required.

Complete details are available on the Lone Star GCSA web site at www.lsgcsa.org.

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2009 ELGA applications now available

Applications for the 2009 GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards are now available on the GCSAA web site at www.gcsaa.org/community/awards/elga.aspx.

The ELGAs, presented in partnership with Syngenta and Rain Bird, Golf Division, recognize golf course superintendents and golf courses for their commitment to environmental stewardship. The deadline for applications is Oct. 18, 2009.

Applicants are judged on five areas: Resource Conservation, Water Quality Management, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife/Habitat Management and Education/Outreach.

National winners will be determined from the top public, private, resort and international applicants. From the national winners, an overall winner will be announced. In addition, Chapter and Merit prizes are also awarded.

All ELGA winners receive:

- Recognition in *Golf Digest* and GCSAA publications
- Recognition at the 2010 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego.
- An invitation for the winner's employer to attend the recognition activities in San Diego.
- A personalized trophy or certificate of achievement
- National, regional and local publicity

For more information about the ELGAs, contact Greg Lyman, GCSAA's director, environmental programs, at glyman@gcsaa.org or at 800-472-7878, ext. 3625.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 2

ness Classics, you know how it works and you know that it's fun, so please add this effort to your schedule.

That, my friends is a lot of activity, and I haven't even mentioned our last two meetings of the year (on Oct. 13 at The Golf Club at Cinco Ranch and Nov. 9 at Willow Fork Country Club). I know you'll be on hand for those gatherings, but I want to take a few lines to ask you to consider another step.

With the year beginning to draw to a close, we're approaching our annual elections. They'll be held at our Annual Meeting (at Willow Fork), and I want to ask you to consider running for a position on our Board of Directors.

All the activities I've mentioned above (and all those that have preceded them) take a lot of work by just a few people. Specifically, those people are our Board members, officers and Marian Takushi, our executive director.

We need you to be a part of the efforts, either as a new Board member or as a committee member. Over the course of the next several weeks, we'll be contacting prospective candidates about the elections, and we'd like to include your name on our list.

Serving takes some time and work, but I think it's very rewarding. And I know that without qualified people in those positions, our Chapter will suffer. Please think about being a candidate. It can be your way of giving back to your Chapter, your profession and the game from which we all earn our livings.

— Lee Gravett

Out of Bounds: **Urban coyotes on golf courses**

By Dr. Anthony Camerino & Brittany Melancon

The coyote, *Canis latrans*, is a small, gray to buff-colored canine weighing an average of 25 to 40 pounds. The coyote has large erect ears, a bushy tail tipped with black markings, and yellow eyes with black pupils.

They breed from mid-January to early March and have a gestation period of 63 to 65 days. A litter size of five to seven pups is average. Unlike domesticated dogs and wolves that run with their tails pointed upward, coyotes run with their tails pointed downward. Foxes typically run with their tails parallel to the ground.

Coyotes can be found almost anywhere in Texas. Human contact with coyotes has increased with the expanding range of the coyote.

The coyote's expanding range is due to decreasing wolf populations and increasing human development. Coyotes are adaptable animals that feed on a range of animals and vegetable matter. They are primarily nocturnal animals.

Texas Parks and Wildlife has a no nuisance coyote control program, but you can contact one of the agency's urban wildlife biologists for expertise and advice managing this animal. The local Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Wildlife Biologists can be contacted at 281-456-7029.

In general, trapping a single nuisance coyote may provide a temporarily solution, but the real solution is to take actions to limit human contact with the animal.

To discourage urban coyotes from specific areas on your golf course areas:

- Never feed coyotes.
- Elevate bird feeders.
- Do not place food (e.g. cat food) or water for wildlife on the ground. Coyotes will be attracted to the food as well as the animals that feed on the provided food and water.
- Tightly cover and secure all garbage containers.
- Secure and cover compost piles and do not place bones, meat or fat in compost piles.
- Use noisemaking devices.

For more on this subject, please see these Texas Parks and Wildlife publications online at:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/nuisance/coyote/>

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/coyote/>

Dr. Anthony Camerino is a Commercial Horticulture Agent and Brittany Melancon is a summer intern with the Harris County Office of Texas AgriLife Extension.

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E-mail: chartman@canongategolf.com
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at Waterwood National Country Club (979-777-0169)

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Please contact Dennis Koop
Telephone: 214-289-1260 • E-mail: k-seven@msn.com

Assistant Superintendent Wanted

The Bandit Golf Club — New Braunfels
Send resume to: Michael Thomas
The Bandit Golf Club, 6019 FM 725
New Braunfels, TX 78130
or e-mail to: michael@foresightgolf.net

Second Assistant Wanted

The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament Course)
Send resume to: rbirkhimer@canongategolf.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Plum Creek Golf Club — Kyle
Send resume to: Ryan Roach, Golf Course Superintendent
Plum Creek Golf Club, P.O. Box 1089, Kyle TX 78640
E-mail: ryan.pcg@verizon.net

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).



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July Golf Results

Elkins Lake Country Club - Powerball Scramble

58

Sean Wilson, Danny Atchison, Jeff Smith, Mike Rhoden

59

Jared Bonar, Pat Neuendorff, Tom Werner, Wayne Stanton

60*

Stan Ludwick, Rickey Palacios, Chris Mrosko, David Gray

60

Timmy Brent, Blayne Sparks, Phil Taylor, Gary Hargrove
* won scorecard playoff

Special Contest Winners

Long Drive (#2 Ravines) — Timmy Brent

Long Drive (#7 Hills) — Stovy Bowlin

Closest-to-Hole (#2 Hills) — Paul Tessman

Closest-to-Hole (#4 Hills) — Russell Birkhimer

Closest-to-Hole (#3 Ravines) — Phil Taylor

Closest-to-Hole (#7 Ravines) — Teddy Martin

2009 Points Lists

(Top 10s through July)

Superintendents

Danny Atchison	592.00
Mike Rhoden	571.50
Justin Lonon	569.50
Jared Bonar	564.00
Sean Wilson	562.00
Steven Chernosky	559.00
Tom Werner	556.00
Ray McFarland	553.00
Gary Hargrove	551.00
Jerry Huntsman	550.50

Affiliates

Stan Ludwick	595.00
Brandon Cole	589.00
Ed Schultheis	583.00
Pat Neuendorff	583.00
Jeff Smith	578.50
Mike James	572.00
Jack Hargrove	566.50
Mark Baughman	548.00
Phil Taylor	540.00
Eric Glover	535.50

Membership Moves

You can put out the welcome mat for a pair of new STGCSA members. *Alonzo Gongora*, a field technician for Brookside Equipment Sales, Inc., and *Aquiles Ricky Palacios*, Co-owner of Professional Golf Services, joined the roster last month.



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2009 SOUTH TEXAS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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 13

The Golf Club at Cinco Ranch
Host Superintendent:
Wade Warms CGCS
Modified Stableford Gross/Net

November 9

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

December 11

Annual
Awards Banquet
and Ceremony
Golfcrest CC
Host Superintendent:
Lee Gravett

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

Are you going to San Diego?

With 2009 half gone, it's high time to start planning for next year. Keeping that thought in mind, the 2010 Golf Industry Show and Education Conference will be held Feb. 8-12 in San Diego.

The GCSAA Education Conference will be held Feb. 8, 9, and 12, and will be preceded by the GCSAA Golf Championship Feb. 5-7. The Golf Industry show will take place Feb. 10-11. Complete details are available on the internet at <http://www.golfindustryshow.com/>.

2010 EGR Awards nomination form now available

The nomination form for the 2010 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Awards (EGR Awards) is now available and can be found in the MyCommunity section of GCSAA Online.

Hard copies of the form can be requested from GCSAA at 800-472-7878. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 15, 2009.

The EGR Awards recognize and honor outstanding individual and chapter efforts in government relations. The GCSAA Government Relations Committee will select EGR Awards recipients later this fall.

For more information, contact Chava McKeel, senior manager, information and public policy, at (800) 472-7878, ext. 3619 or cmmckeel@gcsaa.org.



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