

TEE TO GREEN

January/February 2012

The Official Publication of the South Texas
Golf Course Superintendents Association



2012 Begins With A lot of Changes!!

As we start off a new year, a lot of changes are in store for our organization.

The first being the newsletter. As Most of you know, Steve Hunter has been the publisher of Tee To Green for many years and has done a fantastic job and we thank him for all his hard work for the organization. In order to cut back on costs, the newsletter will now be published “in-house” by Marian Takushi. With a new publisher and new look, we hope you will find it more informational and useful. Most pictures and vendor’s advertisements are linked directly to their website. Just a click of your mouse can navigate you to just about anywhere you might need to travel on the web to find useful information regarding the turf industry.

The second is the meeting schedule for this year. With the economy still fluctuating, the Board of Directors thought it might be beneficial to our members to lessen the time spent away from work and courses by lowering the number of meetings per year. You will notice there is no meeting scheduled for March, August or November in 2012. The Pesticide Licensing meeting will continue to stay in January. The Chapter Championship will only consist of one round instead of two rounds and we will continue to have our annual Scholarship Tournament and Auction as well as the Superintendent/Pro—Member/Member Tournament. We hope you enjoy the new look and the new schedule for 2012 and would encourage any and all feedback (good and bad!). Just email stgcsa@windstream.net, and let us know what you think!

Meeting Schedule

Pest Management for Golf & Sports
Turf Systems (Open to Public)

January 5—Pesticide Renewal

January 24-Stephen F Austin GC Registration begins at 9 am

[Google Map to SFA Golf Course](#)

April 9-High Meadow Ranch GC
Scholarship Tournament Registration begins at 9:30 am

[Google Map to High Meadow Ranch](#)

May 16-Blackhorse GC
Chapter Championship Registration begins at 9 am

[Google Map to Blackhorse GC](#)

June 11-Galveston CC

July 16-Redstone GC
Supt/Pro Tournament

October 15-Memorial Park GC
Annual Meeting

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

President's Message

By: Mark Haven



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May your life be filled with good health and prosperity this year and for many to come.

It is this time of year that we often reflect on our life and make a commitment to do better. It may be as simple as a few seconds to take a deep breath and then back to the grind, or for some it may be a long list of resolutions. My goal for our organization this year is to effectively communicate the work, reasoning, and decisions of your board of directors and to address concerns quickly and objectively. We have reduced the overall number of regular meetings to 4 plus the Scholarship Tournament and the Superintendent/Pro Tournament, but we also have and will schedule a number of educational events such as the Pest Management Seminar on January 5th. The hope is that each of you will be able to budget both time and money to attend more of the regular meetings and that the educational events will cater to specific needs you may have, such as continuing education credit.

Our first meeting of the year at Stephen F Austin Golf Course will again allow you to bring a potential new member, general manager or greens committee chairman, or your supervisor to show them the value of attending your association meetings. Bud White will be talking about the drought, something all of us felt and expect to deal with the coming year. Your guest will be our guest for the meeting, lunch, and golf.

From my soap box, please be aware that your participation is the only way we can keep this organization strong. Ways you can contribute include: hosting a meeting, serving on a committee, sponsoring rounds of golf, hunting trips, fishing trips, or other product for the scholarship tournament, or just by being present. Whether or not you agree with the Woody Allen quote, "80% of success in life is just showing up." You can't make a difference if you do not participate. Make it your goal to make us all stronger by being part of the group. Feel free to contact me anytime you have questions, concerns, and especially compliments. I don't promise to make you happy, but I do promise to give your concerns my full attention.

Valuable resources

When you have the chance, please take a minute to visit the Green Section's portal at <http://gsportal.usga.org> to find information regarding upcoming live webcasts and links to recordings of dozens of previously-delivered webcasts, and announcements of upcoming USGA Green Section activities, education conferences, and meetings.

Would you like to see the digital Record issues you missed? Or, maybe you heard about an article or video in a previous update. All of the issues are stored in one convenient location— the Green Section Record Archive at <https://gsportal.usga.org/gsr/default.aspx>. Take a look, even if you don't know what you've missed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Clark Webb is the new Sales Rep for Shemin Nurseries, Inc. You can reach him at cwebb@shemin.net

David Tennant—Sales Representative for E-Z-Go, a Division of Textron. You can reach David at: dtennant@textron.com

Ted Crews is the owner of Crews Service Company (stump removal)

Reach Ted at crewsted@hotmail.com

If you have moved locations or have new contact information, please email: stgcsa@windstream.net

JOB POSTINGS

Job Openings are listed for free! Just email the specifics to: stgcsa@windstream.net

[Superintendent /Intern Positions](#)

[Affiliate Positions](#)

[Technician Positions](#)



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Dr. Anthony Camerino



Pesticides General Permit: Am I Regulated?

Who is required to obtain permit coverage, who qualifies for general permit TXG870000, and who must obtain authorization through an individual permit.

You are required to obtain permit coverage if you discharge biological pesticide or chemical pesticide that leaves a residue in water when such applications are made into, over, or near waters of the United States.

[Click Here for all types of Permits](#)



OUT OF BOUNDS by Dr. Anthony Camerino

Tree Decline and Drought

“Tree decline” is a term used to describe a non-specific loss of vigor in a tree. The loss of vigor makes the trees more susceptible to pests, diseases, droughts, physical injury, etc. Usually multiple stress factors come together to cause the death of a tree. During a drought, trees do not produce as much carbohydrates because their stomates are closed, therefore CO₂ uptake is reduced, and as a result photosynthesis shuts down. The reduction in photosynthesis can inhibit a tree’s ability to maintain existing root system integrity. A tree that loses functional root mass will need more water than if the drought had not occurred. Given the drought of 2011, and the associated root loss, we can expect to continue to see trees decline in 2012.

While the amount of water that is available to water trees in out of play areas is limited, there are some things that can be done to prevent damage to root systems.

1. Protect the root system from direct injury. Tree roots extend well beyond the drip line and are largely just below the surface. The limited root depth common in our

area is due to the natural properties of our heavy clay soils, site maintenance practices, and to a limited extent historical irrigation management practices.

2. Prevent soil compaction. Compaction not only prevents water infiltration, but also oxygen. The root area should be off limits to all forms of traffic. For areas that must incur traffic, consider adding a layer of mulch to minimize soil compaction.

3. Irrigate deeply and from the drip line out. If you are going to try and preserve some trees consider prioritizing which trees to water. Adding insufficient amounts of water evenly over all trees will likely not benefit any of the trees on your golf course.

4. Consider thinning overly dense areas. By reducing the number of trees in an area you are preserving soil moisture and nutrients for the remaining trees.

Pesticides

On October 31, 2011, EPA issued a final NPDES Pesticide General Permit (PGP) for point source discharges from the application of pesticides to waters of the United States. This action was in response to a 2009 decision by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (National Cotton Council, et al. v. EPA) in which the court vacated EPA's [2006 Final Rule on Aquatic Pesticides](#) and found that point source discharges of biological pesticides, and chemical pesticides that leave a residue, into waters of the U.S. were pollutants under the Clean Water Act (CWA). As a result of the court's decision, NPDES permits are generally required for these types of discharges as of October 31, 2011. While the permit requirements must be met as of October 31, Operators will be covered automatically under the PGP without submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) for any discharges before January 12, 2012. To continue coverage after January 12, 2012, those Operators who are required to submit NOIs will need to do so at least 10 days (or 30 days for discharges to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Listed Resources of Concern) prior to January 12. For the first 120 days that the permit is in effect, EPA will focus on providing compliance assistance and education of the permit requirements, rather than on enforcement actions.



The Agency's final PGP covers Operators that apply pesticides that result in discharges from the following use patterns: (1) mosquito and other flying insect pest control; (2) weed and algae control; (3) animal pest control; and (4) forest canopy pest control. The permit requires permittees to minimize pesticide discharges through the use of pest management measures and monitor for and report any adverse incidents. Some permittees are also required to submit NOIs prior to beginning to discharge and implement integrated pest management (IPM)-like practices. Record-keeping and reporting requirements will provide valuable information to EPA and the public regarding where, when, and how much pesticides are being discharged to waters of the U.S. Pesticide application use patterns not covered by EPA's Pesticide General Permit may need to obtain coverage under an individual permit or alternative general permit if they result in point source discharges to waters of the U.S.

This general permit will provide coverage for discharges in the areas where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority, which include six states (Alaska, Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Oklahoma), Washington, D.C., most U.S. territories and Indian country lands, and many federal facilities (for details, click here [\(PDF\)](#) (5 pp, 239K)). In the remaining 44 states (and the Virgin Islands), the states are authorized to develop and issue the NPDES pesticide permits.

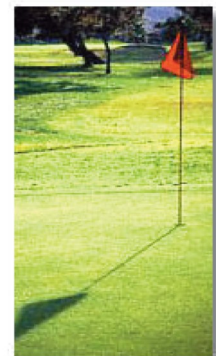
[EPA's Final Pesticide General Permit and Related Documents](#)



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If you'd like to write an article for Tee To Green, please email your article with pictures to: stgcsa@windstream.net

Any ideas/comments or suggestions are welcome! Let us know what you think!

STGCSA Board of Directors,

Linda and I would like to thank you for the generous scholarship donations you made to our sons Zachary and Hunter. These scholarships are appreciated and put to great use. Hunter is at the University of Texas and is studying to be an attorney while Zach is at Texas Chiropractic College. These generous scholarships are helping them reach their dreams and potential.




We would also like to thank you for the past scholarships granted to our other son Reagan who is now in his 4th year at University of Houston Optometry College. He is already looking forward to his own practice and the STGCSA has played an important role in his ability to reach that goal.

Last, we would like to thank you for the diligent and underappreciated work the board does each year with the meetings and scholarship tournament. Without these efforts there would be no association or dollars to help expand the education of our young people. The scholarship recipients are living proof of the care and effort the board puts forth.



THANKS SO MUCH!! Sincerely, Brent and Linda Ratcliff

2012 Board of Directors

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It's Time To Renew!

You can renew your dues online at www.stgcsa.org...fill out the renewal form and ask for an invoice or pay by credit card. Dues must be in by January 31st for your information to be included in the 2012 membership directory.

The directory will have a fresh new look this year!

Valuable Resources

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USGA Changes Rules for Golf in 2012



Changes in the Rules – which for the first time have been designed, published and presented jointly by golf's governing bodies – include exonerating a player from penalty if it is known their ball was moved by the wind after address.

Following an exhaustive, four-year review of golf's 34 playing Rules, nine principal Rules have been amended to improve clarity and ensure penalties are proportionate. Significant changes include:

Ball Moving After Address (Rule 18-2b). A new exception is added which exonerates the player from penalty if their ball moves after it has been addressed when it is known or virtually certain that they did not cause the ball to move. For example, if it is a gust of wind that moves the ball after it has been addressed, there is no penalty and the ball is played from its new position.

[Click Here for Full Article and Downloads/Video](#)

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Technician's Table: by David Pipich

When asked to make a contribution to the STGCSA newsletter, I gladly accepted.

I'm the Turf Equipment Mechanic here at Timber Creek Golf Club in Friendswood, TX. I'm fortunate to work here at TC. Our owners have no involvement in daily operations and Andy gives us the freedom to do our jobs without much intervention. Several employees have been here since opening day in 2001.

I grew up in the industrial northeast in the '60s. This was a time and a place it was perfectly ok to have lofty blue collar dreams. My Dad was a Machinist and fixed everything around our house himself. It's no wonder I became interested in mechanics at a young age. Of course now I blame my parents for not forcing me into higher education.

On a personal note, I've been married 21 years (I should mention this includes three wives). I get jabbed about this often, but my response is always the same, "variety is the spice of life". My daughter is 22 and she'll be graduating from college in the spring. It was imperative she get an education as she has no mechanical aptitude whatsoever. My wife Susan is a teacher in Houston ISD.

I "stumbled" into this business 11 years ago. I've always been a casual golfer but had no clue it took so much equipment to maintain a golf course. Before I got involved in the golf business, I was a Fleet Mechanic for many years with FedEx. There was a short time in between, during my mid-life crisis, that I tried car sales with Sterling McCall Toyota. Considering my Automotive and Fleet experience, I thought it would be a natural transition; much like David Puddy did on Seinfeld. You see, I'm a great sales person. I just don't work in sales. Frankly, most of the people I worked with were a little weird. Everyone had the same beard and haircut. It was pretty creepy. Ultimately, I think it was the 12 hour Saturdays that did me in.

People I meet often ask me what I do for a living. I tell them, and of course the standard reply is "Oh you fix golf carts huh?" Yeah, something like that. Mechanics who are reading this already know the ensuing conversation gets pretty clumsy. It's difficult for the average person to link golf with a shop full of specialized equipment, so you get a lot of blank stares. Here at TC, we call it the "Possum Look". That would be an inside joke.

Those of you who know me know I like my job and do it with great joy and enthusiasm. I feel lucky to have it, but I must say I can't think of a single reason to encourage a young, clear thinking and sober individual to become a mechanic. There's just too many other ways to make a living.



TIMBER CREEK
Golf Club

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Jerry Takushi



Jerry Takushi was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii where his family still resides and he enjoys visiting often.

Jerry Takushi has been a long time figure at STGCSA. A member for 31 years, he started his career at the Air Force Base in Little Rock, Arkansas. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1978. After marrying and having 3 children, he took a position in Memphis, Tennessee at Colonial Country Club, home of the Danny Thomas Memphis Classic. Soon after, he moved his family to Houston for his 21 year stint at Houston Country Club. In 1998 he married for a second time to Marian and had another son.

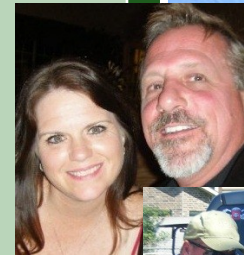
In his off time, Jerry enjoys fishing, golfing, traveling and watching his youngest, Blake, play baseball. Jerry has been the superintendent at Westwood Golf Club for the past 7 years.



Jeff Smith

I love my job! When Marian asked me if I would write an article for her new Vendor Profile segment, I said "Heck Ya". I didn't have any idea what I'd write, but I love my job, and I love being STGCSA member. I enjoy visiting other chapters' meetings, but South Texas is the best. I think it's the best because so many members participate. Whether that's showing up for meetings or serving on the board. I was proud to serve on the board as Vendor Rep. I love our industry. I started as a "lawn jockey" at Barefoot Grass. Even though I was pushing a spreader and pulling a hose, I fell in love with it, the freedom of working outside. From there I went to work for LESCO and enjoyed the time there and learned a lot. I joined Parkway Research and STGCSA in June 1999. I am proud to be with both for 13 years this coming June. Brandt purchased Parkway in 2002 and kept the best products and ideas while bringing so much more with them. I enjoy bringing new products and ideas to the market and Brandt allows us to do that. I love this industry and I see members I have known and worked with for 20 years that do as well. I have met a lot of great people and made many friends.

Speaking of 20 years I am also lucky enough to be married to my best friend!! My wife Misty is my rock, supporting me unconditionally, keeping me focused, and always there to help. Misty and I have 4 children, Janelle 24, Casey 18, Colin 17 & Sara 15. Misty and I also became grandparents this year when Janelle had a baby, Everett, in August. I enjoy golf, riding motorcycles, hunting with my children and making my wife and kids laugh. I love my family!! I love my job!!



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GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Brent Ratcliff

It's hard to believe it has been almost 25 years! It seems like yesterday I was working at Harpool Seed Company in Denton Texas while going to college at the University of North Texas. I graduated in 1983 and Harpool offered me a sales position in Houston working with retail feed stores and nursery's. It seemed to be a perfect opportunity! I think my starting salary was about \$14,000 a year!!

After moving back to my hometown of Friendswood and marrying my high school sweetheart in 1984, Linda and I started working on a family. We now have 4 wonderful children, Reagan, A&M class of '08, Zach, A&M class of '11, Hunter is a sophomore at the University of Texas and Kelly is a sophomore at Friendswood High School. My daughter in law, Kacey, is having our first grandchild this spring. IT'S A BOY!!

In 1988 the entrepreneurial spirit hit and the golf industry was starting to take off. Seed and Turf was my first venture. We started in the back of Riedell Feed Store off of Campbell Road and I-10. It was tough going competing with the likes of Tom Leonard and Dean Botlinger but somehow we made it work and in 1990 we changed our name to Turfco and got a real warehouse!!

From 1995 to today there have been a few company names, Turf Industries, Innovative Turf Supply and now AmeriTurf. But, one thing they all have in common is the great people I have met and worked with over the years!! I would also like to thank all of our customers who stuck it out with me through all of the transitions over the years!

During my years of membership with the South Texas and Gulf Coast Superintendents Associations, I have had the opportunity to work as the vendor representative for both associations. I encourage all the vendors to get involved. Even the small contributions add up to good things over the years.

I would also like to remember the great Harvey Rose. He was one of my first customers when he was at Clear Lake Golf Course and became a great friend and fishing partner. He passed away this spring and he is missed every day!!



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Doug Browne
Superintendent of The Year 2011
 Stephen F. Austin Golf Club
 Host of the January 24th meeting



Superintendent of The Year 2011 ~ Doug Browne

Doug Browne was born in Houston in 1963 and grew up in Katy until 1975 when Billy Browne (his dad) took over the GM/Pro position at Stephen F. Austin Golf Club. Doug graduated from Sealy High in 1981 where he played on the 1978AA State Championship Football team with Eric Dickerson. He also played in the 3A State Golf Championship in 1981 and on the college golf team at Texas College in 1984. After college he spent 1 year as the Pro/Supt. at Valley Lodge CC, 6 months as the assistant at Panarama, 2 years as the assistant at Golfcrest CC and 1 year at Clear Creek GC. He started at SFA in July 1989. His brother, Bob, is the GM/Pro at SFA now that his dad retired. A true family love of the course that sets in the middle of a pecan tree grove.

Doug is married to Rhonda and has two girls, Hannah (21) and Phoebe (16). He served on the STGCSA Board of Directors three times including his stint as president most recently in 2006. He is currently on the Lone Star Board and will continue this year as president. Doug Browne is STGCSA's 2011 Superintendent of the Year. Congratulations, Doug!

Stephen F. Austin Golf Club's front 9 was built in 1953 and the back 9 in 1971. Erosion has taken a toll on the course as well as the clubhouse and pool since it was built along the Brazos River. The land it sites on was leased from the state for 50 years for one dollar. In 1998 the state asked the SFA Golf Association to purchase the land and they did for \$225,000. Since then, the SFAGA has rebuilt holes, closed the pool and added new practice greens. SFA's wildlife is truly beautiful and the grounds amazing. The Browne family is truly gracious and welcoming every year when STGCSA comes for their first meeting. Thank you to the Browne family for having us again this January 24 th, 2012 in order to start off a great New Year!

Bud White to Speak at January Meeting

Bud White, Mid-Continent Director of the USGA Greens Section, will be our educator January 24th at Stephen F. Austin. Bud has been speaking to our group once a year on a regular basis. His topic this year is:

The drought of 2010-2011. The drought of 2010-2011 is not over and not forecasted to be over this winter/spring. What does that mean for superintendents now, this winter, next year. What should the management strategies be for rationed water and turf health, tree health, playability? How should we best educate our golfers? What can we expect during the growing season next year if the drought persists? Valuable information for all agronomists. GCSAA CEU's are available at this meeting.

Something you may not have known about Bud:

Known on their family voice mail as "The White House", Bud White and family moved from Athens, GA to Carrollton, TX ten years ago. Both Bud and his wife Karen (Lone Star GCSA Exec. Director), have been USGA staffers not only for the past 10 years, but Bud previously served the USGA as Southeastern Director of the Green Section prior to Pat O'Brien, current USGA SE Director. Karen was Executive Director of the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association for 13 years prior to their move to Texas. Before this, she typed an unfathomable number of reports for Bud as the SE Administrative Assistant for the USGA Green Section, and is still does so today for him in the Mid-Continent Region. Bud and Karen have 2 beautiful daughters, Brittany (25) and Shae (14). The family enjoys water skiing, air shows, movies, and visiting family back in North Carolina. Bud's current hobby is restoring a 1955 Ford F-100 and trying not to drive it through the neighbor's fence again!



Karen White (Executive Director of Lone Star GCSA), daughters Shae and Brittany, and Bud White

Keep your email updated by contacting the office at:

stgcsa@windstream.net

2012 Golf Industry Show and Education Conference

Las Vegas—Feb. 27-March 2, 2012

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The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for owners and operators of golf facilities and golf course management professionals. Featuring the largest exhibit floor in the industry, the event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, equipment managers, owners/operators, general managers, chief operating officers, and architects and builders.

[Access a list of exhibitors here.](#)

In addition, get information on 2012 GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic set for Palm Springs on Feb. 24-26, 2012.

[Lone Star GCSA Receptions Information](#) (February 29—Las Vegas Hilton, 7-10 pm)



Golf Industry Show and Education Conferences

February - March 2012

Mon 27	Tue 28	Wed 29	Thu 1	Fri 2
GCSAA & NGCOA Education Conf.	GCSAA & NGCOA Education Conf.	Golf Industry Show	Golf Industry Show	GCSAA & NGCOA Education Conf.

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 Hannah Browne
 Cassie Cincotta
 Lauren Drabing
 Leigh Drabing
 Katherine Freeman
 Shawn Freeman
 Gabriel Gillock



Joseph Haven
 Sarah Johnston
 Zachary Ratcliff
 Hunter Ratcliff
 Dawhn Rhoden
 Dylan Rhoden
 Sadie Snider
 Presley Wilson

In Photo: Wade Warms, Katherine Freeman ,Dylan Rhoden, Dawhn Rhoden, Joseph Haven, Shawn Freeman, Ben Fultz Bottom Row: Legacy Scholarship Winner, Presley Wilson, Sarah Johnston, Cassie Cincotta, Noah Baughman sitting in for Caroline Baughman

December Awards Banquet Photos

Cole's Country in Cypress— Supt. of The Year 2011: Doug Browne



GCSAA_{tv}

Did You Know.....

GCSAA TV is the product of a joint partnership between the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and EPIC Creative. GCSAA.TV brings you professionally produced video content designed to educate, enlighten and entertain. In addition to extensive daily coverage launched February 5, 2009, GCSAA.TV takes viewers behind the scenes at major golf tournaments, spotlights the latest university research, offers first-hand tips from the industry's environmental leaders, goes inside some of the nation's most innovative golf operations, and offers special features on your professional association, its history and the work it does each day for its members.

Here are just a few of the "shorts" on GCSAA>tv

A look at Superintendents' Carts all over the US! Submit what's in YOUR cart!!

Superintendents share the strangest things they have ever seen on their golf courses.

Local Knowledge: Using Pickup trucks instead of utility vehicles



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**Schedule: 2012**

Wednesday, Feb. 22	Saturday, Feb. 25
Practice rounds	National Championship Round 1 (8 am tee times)
Thursday, Feb. 23	Golf Classic Round 1 (8 a.m. shotgun start)
Practice rounds	The 19th Hole (3 - 6 pm)
Welcoming Reception (6 - 8 pm)	Sunday, Feb. 26
Friday, Feb. 24	National Championship Round 2 (8 am tee times)
Four-Ball Mixer (8 am)	Golf Classic Round 2 (8 am shotgun start)
The 19th Hole (3 - 6 pm)	The 19th Hole (3 - 5 pm)

Golf courses: our planet's environmental sanctuaries

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Have you ever looked at those lush golf courses in your community and wondered how much water and how many chemicals were used to make them look so beautiful? You say to yourself, "Golf courses can't possibly be good for the environment, right?"

Well, take another look. You'll see that golf courses are a lot friendlier to Mother Nature than most people realize. A well-managed golf course provides substantial ecological and community benefits.

"The game of golf is a release for many," says Greg Lyman, GCSAA's director of environmental programs. "But I think more and more people are recognizing the value of well-maintained golf courses. The facilities not only offer recreation, but also provide an environmental sanctuary to numerous plant and animal species. I would guess most don't realize the cleansing effect golf courses have on air and water, which filters through local communities. Superintendents have long known the benefit of golf courses, now others are learning our little secret."

After all, golf courses provide community green spaces that offer not just recreational opportunities for people, but key sanctuaries and habitat for wildlife. The trees and turfgrass produce vast amounts of oxygen while cleansing the air of pollution and cooling the atmosphere. The golf course also provides a recreational place for non-golf activities, such as jogging, walking and bird watching, with some restriction.

Healthy turfgrass is an excellent filter that traps pollutants, preventing them from reaching groundwater supplies. And golf courses can actually serve as catch basins for residential and industrial runoff. In fact, golf courses are effective disposal sites for effluent wastewater.

The water used on a golf course can be an excellent investment in both economic and environmental terms. Many courses use recycled water as a part of their irrigation practices. When effectively irrigate

ed, healthy turf provides numerous environmental benefits.

As a result of computerized irrigation systems and improved turfgrass varieties, courses now use less water efficiently to achieve the same level of conditioning. Continuing research will provide even more "low-water" turfgrass varieties in the future.

Creating a golf course also is a good way to reclaim and restore an environmentally damaged site, like a landfill.

Environmentalists are sometimes at odds with golf courses, citing their use of pesticides, impact on water and soil quality, and the amount of water wasted in irrigation. But university and government studies indicate that properly applied pesticides and fertilizers do not leach into groundwater in amounts to cause risk. And modern turfgrass management practices greatly reduce the potential runoff.

In addition, no golf course superintendent worth his or her mulch would cover an entire course with pesticides and fertilizers. Most of the property often consists of natural areas with little maintenance. These areas include diverse varieties of native plants and trees.

Golf course superintendents take their relationship with Mother Nature very seriously. The vast majority has two- or four-year college degrees in agronomy, horticulture or related fields. They enter the profession because they love nature and the outdoors. And surveys have shown they give high priority to management practices that have a positive impact on the environment.



Justify The Expense and Time Away to Attend The Golf Industry Show

Realize the Return on Investment

Find out what products and services your facility plans to purchase soon, and calculate the amount of money you could save by researching these products onsite and capitalizing on show-only discounts.

Reduce Your Financial Commitment

Check the registration section of the conference brochure to see if you qualify for any of the lower rates or discounts.

Cover All Concerns

Ensure your supervisor knows that you have all of your responsibilities covered at the facility in your absence by creating a detailed work schedule.

Focus on the Facility

Share these opportunities for career and facility advancement with your supervisor, and take a few minutes to find out what your supervisor's expectations are as well.

Share Your Success

Offer to prepare and deliver a short presentation to your colleagues and supervisor to share what you learned so that others at the facility will reap the benefits of your attendance, too.

[Click here](#) for a detailed list and customizable letter to present to your supervisor about attending the Golf Industry Show.

DO YOU KNOW THIS ASSISTANT?

Howdy fellow STGCSA members,

I am currently employed as an Assistant Superintendent by ValleyCrest Golf Course Maintenance at Quail Valley Golf Course in Missouri City, under the guidance of Superintendent Jeff McCrory. I have been here for about two months, entrusted with the responsibility of improving the conditions of the La Quinta course. I am proud to be a part of the ValleyCrest family and have nothing but positive thoughts about my position here moving forward.

My career began in Waco at Ridgewood Country Club. I worked on the crew part time while attending the Golf Course Maintenance program at Texas State Technical College. Now, for any of you who know Dan Wegand, CGCS, you can imagine my first experience on a golf course maintenance crew. With that said, I am very grateful to have worked for Dan for two years. He taught me the fundamentals of golf course maintenance, and how to apply the knowledge I was gaining at TSTC.

Upon graduating TSTC, I took the Assistant Superintendent's position at Galveston Country Club working for Jeff Smelser, CGCS. As we all know, Jeff tells you like it is. So, he laid out his expectations right away and told me I will be ready to be a Golf Course Superintendent in two years. He taught me how to develop a keen eye for detail and great organizational skills. Plus, with all the renovations after hurricane Ike, constant irrigation issues, and high level of maintenance, I really felt ready to become a Superintendent.

After the two years at Galveston CC, like Jeff said I would, I took a Superintendent's position at Cypress Lakes Golf Club in Cypress. I soon realized how much work and dedication is needed to be a successful Superintendent with a minimal budget. The year and a half I was there before the foreclosure, taught me many lessons about the golf business. It was an experience I will never forget.

I look forward to becoming even more involved in our association. Not only for the notoriety, but more importantly to build and grow relationships with our members.

My name is Josh Ferguson



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www.ctgcsa.org

Lone Star GCSA (Karen White)-972.307.8162 www.lsgcsa.org

North Texas GCSA (Lori Goodrich)- 817.377.4552 www.ntgcsa.org

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Texas Turf Grass Association (Shirley Duble)-979.690.2201
www.texasturf.com

South Texas GCSA (Marian Takushi) - 281.494.0094 www.stgcsa.org

GCSAA webcasts now FREE to all members



GCSAA is adding more value to membership with the announcement that webcasts are now free of charge to all members. Webcasts will be available at no cost to members with no limitations on quantity for both live and on demand education events. Nonmembers will continue to be charged \$60 for access to live and on demand webcasts . Some of the topics include: Agronomy, Business, Communication, Environmental and Leadership.

Click here for a full list of FREE webcasts:

<http://www.gcsaa.org/Newsroom/News/GCSAA/GCSAA-webcasts-now-free-for-members.aspx>

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It took me seventeen years to get three thousand hits in baseball. I did it in one afternoon on the golf course. ~ Hank Aaron

The Drought Of The Lower Mid-Continent—June 2011

By: Bud White, Director, of Mid-Continent Region USGA



L) The putting greens at Champions Club are still in quality condition with careful management of water allocations while allowing the fairways and roughs to go more off-color. (R) Golf cart traffic must be managed even more carefully when the turf is drought stressed. Golfers must do their part by heeding ropes and directional signage

Most of Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico are suffering an incredibly severe drought. Many areas are at record drought levels, and some parts of west Texas have not received measurable rain since October 2010. Superintendents in Houston have recorded only four inches of rain to-date this year (2011), when normally they would be at 16 – 19 inches.

This has created significant problems for superintendents -- not just drought concerns, but other problems that dovetail into drought issues. These include:

- Rapid total salts and sodium build-up
- The significant cost of water purchases
- The challenge of monitoring water allocations for June, July, and August instead of just August as is usually the case

Firm and fast conditions have been brought by the drought, whether or not the superintendents or golfers are ready. A picture at the Champions Club (Houston, TX) is a perfect example of significant browning in golf course fairways and roughs, while the greens are maintained in high-quality condition. Superintendent Charles Joachim, CGCS, has a tremendous handle on dealing with these issues and has planned ahead for unrelenting heat and drought for the rest of the summer. Charles is taking the approach of providing only enough water in fairways and roughs to maintain survivability of bermudagrass and trees. He has purchased many water bags for trees, and has two people dedicated to filling these bags to protect the trees as best possible without using overhead irrigation.

For the most part, the greens and the tees are in top-quality playing condition. Although aesthetics are greatly affected by the severe drought, playing conditions are not. This is exactly what proper water management entails. Not only is Charles keeping water costs down as much as possible while maintaining turf survival and preventing turf loss, he is still providing a golf course with tremendous playability. At the same time, he is proactively dealing with future water availability should the drought persist.

Water cost is certainly a factor, but so is managing water availability so that the supply is adequate in late July and August if the drought persists. In addition, a superintendent must manage the salt issues by using gypsum applications and flushing. This has to be a careful balance of heavy watering and flushing on as infrequent a basis as possible to maintain turf health.

Golf cart tracks make a substantial negative impact on the already-stressed turf. To prevent additional turf loss, cart restrictions are an even more important program when the turf is in significant drought stress. This program is handled differently by every golf course, depending on their situation, but must be considered by all.

If you would like more information about a Turf Advisory Service visit, do not hesitate to contact either of the Mid-Continent regional offices: Ty McClellan at tmcclellan@usga.org or (630) 340-5853 or Bud White at budwhite@usga.org or (972) 662-1138.