

Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

January/February
2008

The passing of a giant

L.W. “Sonny” Dubose passed away on Dec. 11, 2007, at the age of 91. With him goes the most important chapter in the history of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association— Dubose was the last living member of the STGCSA’s founding fathers.

The STGCSA sprang into existence on Dec. 16, 1958, the brainchild of Dubose, J.L. Jennings, Kenneth Flanders, Sid Cox, Donald White, Ervin Henderson and Lewis Nash, all of whom had a vision of what the golf course superintendent profession in southeast Texas needed and the realization that it would take teamwork to fulfill those needs.

They joined together at River Oaks Country Club to formalize the fledgling organization and began working to improve the profession and the business upon which it is focused. Today, a half-century later, the STGCSA has become a highly organized, professional operation that includes over 300 members, each of whom owes a debt of gratitude to Dubose and his comrades.

Born in Louisiana on June 29, 1916, Dubose entered the golf course maintenance business in 1940 as the superintendent at Westwood Country Club. He moved to Houston Country Club in 1942, and with the exception of a short stint at Braeburn Country Club, remained there for the next 40 years.

He worked for Gail’s Flags for several years following his retirement from Houston Country Club prior to starting his own company, Sonny Dubose Products, retiring from that business (his son, Larry, assumed the leadership role) in the mid-1990s.

For Dubose, retirement did not mean inactivity . . . he remained involved in the profession for the rest of his life (he attended every Texas Turfgrass Association conference until about four



L.W. “Sonny” Dubose
June 29, 1916—December 11, 2007

years ago, when his health forced him to forego attendance).

Dubose served eagerly and earned a number of honors during his career. He was the president of the Texas Turfgrass Association in 1960 and earned the TTA’s A.W. Crain Diamond Award in 1978.

He served three terms as president of the STGCSA in 1960, 1964-65 and 1971 and spent three years on the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Board of Directors. Dubose received the GCSAA’s Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Tom Leonard, STGCSA president in 1964, spent many personal and professional hours with Dubose, says of him, “His personality and his dedication to the business were what set Sonny apart. He was more like a big brother to me . . . he opened a lot of doors for me and our fellow superintendents.”

Dubose is survived by Evelyn, his wife of 66 years, and his son and daughter, Leon and Patsy, and their spouses, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Larry Dubose passed away in 1996.

Sonny Dubose is also survived by a wealth of friends and colleagues, all of who recognize his significance in their lives.

“If it wasn’t for Sonny, we may not have had such an organization (as the STGCSA,” says Leonard.

Accordingly, the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association is honoring its contributions with the creation of the “Sonny Dubose Superintendent of the Year” award (see Roger Goettsch’s “President’s Message” on page 2 for more details).

To his family, the membership of the STGCSA wishes to express its sympathies for his loss and its gratitude for the opportunity of having shared in Sonny’s life.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all my fellow South Texas Golf Course Association members. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have given me this opportunity to serve as our President and be a part of history. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the STGCSA. It's a special year, so let's all get involved and have fun this year celebrating this great milestone for our Chapter.

I'm rolling up my sleeves and getting to work helping to make STGCSA better at everything we set out to do. This is a great time to establish some new traditions, as I believe the saying, "Out with the old and in with the new," holds true.

We have an exciting year planned and many new ideas are being implemented thanks to our past president, Justin Shulse. I want to personally thank him for his hard work over the past year and look forward to working with him another year.

Also, for those who missed our annual Christmas Party this year, all I can say is you missed one memorable event. What a show . . . I mean what a "Who Show." The food was outstanding (Thanks, Bob Meyer) and the "Who Show" band was great. I am sure some of the photos from the party will surface very soon and I am certain we will be talking about it for years to come.

One of the "git-r-done" items on our list this year is now going to be unveiled. Sonny Dubose, as you probably know, passed away last month—we will all miss him very much.

He was very passionate about his work, as can be seen in his many accomplishments. He served on three different boards and was president of the Texas Turfgrass Association and STGCSA for

four years. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 2001.

He mentored many superintendents throughout the years and that character trait is something we feel should be recognized. Accordingly, I now have the privilege to announce the creation of the STGCSA "Sonny Dubose Superintendent of the Year" award.

It seems fitting and timely for our Chapter to begin celebrating, annually, the efforts of one of our members each year with an award that carries Sonny's name. One goal of what will be our highest honor will be to recognize an individual who displays the same high standards and character traits as Sonny Dubose.

Another goal will be to keep Sonny's name and contributions in our minds and hearts in appreciation of what he did for our profession, association and chapter. Details about the award will be unveiled very soon, so please make it a point to attend our first

continued on page 7



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Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

March Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2008

River Ridge Golf Club

Host Superintendent — Bret Barclay

Speaker:

Rachel Slocomb,

Texas Golf Association South Region

"Golf Course Rating and Handicaps"

Please RSVP by Feb. 29 by calling

Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094

or by e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net.

Registration: 9 a.m. **Lunch:** 11:30-12:30

Golf: After Lunch **Cost:** \$50

REMINDER:

You must arrive by 10:15 to play golf

Directions: From Houston:

Go west on I-10 to Sealy. Just past the Brazos River, take Exit 725 (Mlcak Road). Take a hard right and go east on the feeder road and follow it underneath I-10 as it U-turns to the west. Go left on Chew Road and left again on Brazos Oak Lane to the clubhouse.

Technicians ready for 2008

Just as the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association is ready to crank up its 2008 schedule of events, so, too, is the STGCSA Technicians Association.

The group elected its leadership for 2008 back in November. Lynn Lovett of Crown Colony Country Club and Dennis Cooksey of The Club at Carlton Woods (Fazio Course) were elected president and vice-president, respectively, and Angelo Notter of Pine Forest Country Club was chosen as the association's secretary/treasurer.

Serving on the group's Board of Directors this year are Cerillo Perez of Eagle Pointe Golf Club, Mike Hoffart of Augusta Pines Golf Club and Brookside Equipment representatives Terrance Kerrick and Raymond Bielamowicz. Robert Taylor is the Immediate Past President.

The leadership team (along with Roger Goettsch, CGCS, Lee Gravett, Willy Plowman and John Freeman) met in late January to set a path for 2008—the result includes three association meetings.

The first of those will take place on Mar. 11, hosted at The Club at Carlton Woods (Fazio Course) by Dennis Cooksey and Eric Bauer, the facility's director of agronomy. The meeting will focus on reel maintenance and reel grinding—guest speakers will be announced in the next issue of *Tee to Green*.

The other two meetings for 2008 are tentatively planned for July 29 and Dec. 2. Details about those two gatherings will be announced at a later date.

Annual dues for the STGCSA Technicians Association have been set at \$60; attending the meetings carries a cost of \$40. In an important change from last year, you must be a member of the STGCSA in order to attend the Technicians Association meetings.

In addition, it is imperative that attendees provide an RSVP for each meeting. The registration deadline for the first meeting of the year is Mar. 7—you should call Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 or e-mail her at stgcsa@windstream.net.

Membership Moves

Adam Hess has moved to Lufkin and is now an assistant superintendent at Crown Colony Country Club, and *Robert Fray* is now an assistant superintendent at The Wilderness Golf Club.

STGCSA Secretary/Treasurer *Willy Plowman* has taken a new position and is now the golf course superintendent at Willow Fork Country Club. *Shane Hayes* is the new golf course superintendent at Beaumont Country Club.

Phil Taylor is the new senior executive sales manager for Luber Brothers, Inc., and *Josh Ogden* is now a technical sales representative for Cleary Chemical Corporation. *Bo Phillips* is now a Regional Account Manager with Aqua-Aid, Inc.

Shawn Miles and *Carter Hinds* are now the golf course superintendent and assistant superintendent, respectively, at The Traditions Club at Texas A&M, and are the newest members of the STGCSA. Our welcome . . .

Auction!

The STGCSA's 2008 Live and Silent Auctions will take place in conjunction with our 2008 Scholarship Tournament on April 15 at Memorial Park Golf Course. Last year's Scholarship Tournament and auctions raised over \$15,000 for the STGCSA's Legacy Scholarship Fund, and we're hoping to top that amount this year.

If you have products or services you can donate for either auction, please contact Mark Haven at 979-862-8403 (office) or 979-224-0184 (cell), or Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 as soon as possible.

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Tournament Committee announces changes for 2008

The purposes of the year-long "Points System" used in conjunction with STGCSA Monthly Meetings and golf outings are to reward members for their participation in and contributions to STGCSA activities and outstanding play on the course.

The Chapter's Tournament Committee reviews the system periodically in an effort to provide an equitable distribution of points, and that's what has happened recently—the system has been adjusted for 2008.

Points for attending meetings and playing golf will be awarded as in the past. However, members who provide RSVPs for meetings (and attend the respective meeting) by noon on the Friday before each meeting will receive 25 bonus points. In addition, all members participating in the associated golf outing will receive a minimum of five (5) points.

As in the past, no points will be awarded at our Scholarship Tournament, Superintendent/Pro & Member/Member Tournament or our Astros game outing.

In addition to the above change in the "Points System," a new competition is being introduced to STGCSA golf events for this year. In short, its purpose is to qualify four superintendents as part of the STGCSA's representation at the 2008 Texas Trophy—all four will receive paid entry into the 2008 tournament (providing they have not otherwise qualified for paid entry into the Texas Trophy event).

The qualifiers will be determined through a "Long Drive" competition that will be held during the golf events at the March, May, June and July meetings. Two qualifying holes will be designated at each of those events, during which all superintendents will record their driving distance (within a designated grid) on both holes— golfers will be ranked on the basis of "Total Driving," computed by totaling their driving distance and driving accuracy (according to a formula used on the PGA Tour).

Hopefully, these changes will provide new incentive for our membership to attend more meetings and play in more of our golf outings. If you have any questions about the changes, please direct them to a member of our Tournament Committee (Chairman Mark Haven, Bret Barclay, Mark Baughman, Russell Tippie, Wade Warmes, Sean Wilson).

Complete Long Drive Qualifier and Top Ten Rules are available on the STGCSA web site (www.stgcsa.org).

For your information . . .

The STGCSA offers "facility" memberships for new members who work at a facility that may not be able to get a regular superintendent membership. Call the office or a Board member to get more information, but act quickly . . . all information that's to be included in the 2008 STGCSA Membership Directory must be submitted to the Chapter office by Mar. 11, 2008.

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409-737-9826

2nd Assistant Superintendent Position Available

Canongate at The Woodlands - Panther Trail
Contact: Ryan Rosecrans
281-863-1572, ext. 2365
E-mail: rrosecrans@canongategolf.com

Golf Course Superintendent Wanted

Magnolia Creek Golf Links
Contact: Justin Shulse
William Cole, Inc.
281-734-1508 • jshulse@williamcoleinc.com

Golf Course Superintendent Needed

Olmos Basin Golf Course - San Antonio
Please send resume to:
Rita Schenemann
E-mail: mgasa@sbcglobal.net • FAX: 210-228-0353

Senior Assistant Superintendent Wanted

The Republic Golf Club
Please e-mail resume to:
DonnyL@foresightgolf.net

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Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Raveneaux Country Club
Please contact Michael Finke, Golf Course Superintendent
281-320-6022 • msfinke@yahoo.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Spanish Oaks Golf Club — Bee Cave, Texas
Please contact
Mark Semm, Director of Golf Course Maintenance,,
at 512-533-2351

Two

Assistant Superintendent Positions Available

The Clubs of Kingwood
Contact: Bobby Egan, Director of Golf Course Maintenance
281-358-3232

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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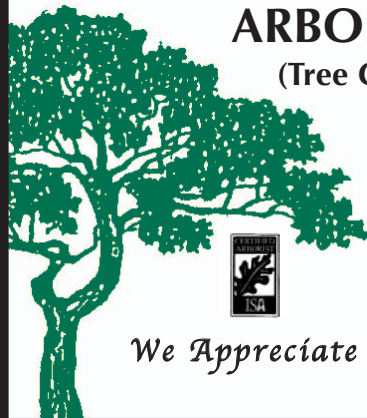
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USGA Regional Conference set for March

Lakeside Country Club will host a USGA Regional Conference on Thursday, Mar. 20, 2008. Subject matter for the conference has been designed for Green Committee members, course officials, suppliers and owners, golf professionals, club managers and golf course superintendents.

The gathering will be moderated by Dianne Overstreet of the USGA Regional Affairs Committee. Speakers will include: Jim Moore, Director of USGA Construction Education ("25 Years Worth of Ideas— Good & Bad"); Matt Pringle, USGA Senior Research Engineer ("USGA Turf Firmness Testing Device"); Rob Addington, Executive Director of the Texas Golf Association ("Texas Golf Economic Impact Study"); Ty McClellan, USGA Agronomist, Mid-Continent Region ("Things We Learned— A Year in Review"); Alli Jarrett, USGA Director of Regional Affairs ("2008 Changes to the Rules of Golf"); and Charles "Bud" White, USGA Director, Mid-Continent Region ("Putting Green Maintenance Extends Beyond the Green").

The cost of attending the gathering is \$50 (\$60 after Mar. 10), which includes all conference materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Attendance is limited to 120 people; business attire (coat and tie) is required. Attendees will receive Continuing Education Credit.

Registration forms and additional details may be accessed online at www.usga.org/register (event code USGA2008).

Please contact Alli Jarrett at 713-863-0832 if you have questions about the conference.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

meeting of 2008 (Mar. 3 at River Ridge Golf Club) and monitor our web site and *Tee to Green* carefully.

While I'm on the subject of our meetings, I also need to tell you that the cost of attending them is increasing to \$55 (per meeting) this year. The subject has been thoroughly discussed by your Board of Directors and the fact is that we lost money on too many meetings last year.

We haven't had an increase in quite a while and the slight increase will help keep us on the positive side of the ledger. That, in turn, will help keep our Chapter moving in a positive direction.

I want to give a note of thanks to Wade Warms on his great TDA Pesticide Education CEU class on January 3. The seminar has grown in attendance each year and continues to be the class of choice for our Chapter. I also want to announce a partnership with Texas A&M Extension Service for the 2009 class.

The STGCSA will be a partner in the event next year and will benefit financially—the proceeds will be donated back to one of our charities.

Thanks are also due Anthony Camerino of the Texas A&M Extension Service for his work on the class. We'll be working with Anthony extensively in the future and look forward to his contributions.

That's it for this month. Let's work hard and make 2008 our best year yet. See you at River Ridge.

— Roger Goetsch, CGCS

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2008 SOUTH TEXAS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Golf formats for each monthly meeting are available on the internet at www.stgcsa.org.

March 3 (Monday)

River Ridge GC
Host Superintendent - Bret Barclay

March 31-April 6

Shell Houston Open

April 15 (Tuesday)

Memorial Park GC
Scholarship Tournament
Host Superintendent - Jason Harsh

May 13

Lone Star Texas Cup
Briggs Ranch GC - San Antonio

May 20 (Tuesday)

The Woodlands CC
(Gary Player Course)
Host Superintendent -
Jason McConnell

June 10 (Tuesday)

Wildcat GC (Highlands Course)
Host Superintendent -
Don Hoos

July 14 (Monday)

Champions GC
Host Superintendent:
Charles Joachim

July 20-22

Texas Turfgrass Association
Summer Conference
Galveston

August 11 (Monday)

Superintendent/Pro Member/Member
Tournament
Braeburn CC
Host Superintendent - Terry Gill

September (23 or 25)

Astros Game Family Night

September (TBA)

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Victoria CC - Victoria

October 13-19

Administrative Small Business Classic
Augusta Pines Golf Club

October 20 (Monday)

Golfcrest CC
Host - Lee Gravett

November 11 (Tuesday)

Annual Meeting
The Houstonian CC
Host Superintendent -
James Edgemon

December 8-10

Texas Turfgrass Association
Conference & Trade Show
Fort Worth Convention Center

December (TBA)

Annual STGCSA
Awards Banquet and Ceremony

Dues due!

Membership fees for 2008 are now due. If you have any questions regarding your dues for 2008, please contact Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 or send her an e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net. Your dues must be paid by Mar. 11 for your information to be included in the 2008 STGCSA Membership Directory.


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