

TEE TO GREEN

July/August 2012

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



“Superintendent of the Year”

It’s time again to collect nominations for our annual Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year Award. This year will mark our fifth time STGCSA has honored one of its members. Last year’s winner Doug Browne, from Steven F. Austin said “This is the best award I have ever received, and I am deeply honored” also adding “because the award is voted on by my peers, it means the most to me”.

The nomination process has begun. Any General Manager, Greens Committee Chairman, Facility owner(s), Head Golf Professionals, or fellow STGCSA members can submit a nomination. There is a list of where and to whom the letters will be sent on the STGCSA website. Check your name and address.. If you have changes, please get those to Marian by July 15th. All eligible nominees must be a STGCSA member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years and cannot have won the award previously. I would encourage all STGCSA members to let us know of any personal changes in your organization in the past 12 months in order for our nomination letters be mailed to the appropriate person. I would also encourage those of you nominated in past years, but haven’t won, to resubmit a letter.

Posted on the home page of the Chapter web site (www.stgcsa.org), is a nomination form. The deadline for submitting a nomination will be Sept. 30, 2012. Nomination letters will be read to the members at our annual meeting. The members will then vote for their choice as the recipient of the 2012 award, and the honor announced during a presentation ceremony at the 2012 STGCSA Awards Banquet and Awards Ceremony in December.



Meeting Schedule

July 30-Redstone GC
Supt/Pro Tournament

Host: Randy Samoff

[Google Map to Redstone GC](#)

August 28, 2012—GCSAA/STGCSA Strategic Planning Session (Open to all members)

The Club at Falcon Point

8-5 No Cost-Lunch Included

October 15-Brae Burn Country Club
Annual Meeting

Host: Terry Gill

[Map to Brae Burn Country Club](#)

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

President's Message

By: Mark Haven



First let me thank Jeff Smelser and his crew as well as all those who came down to Galveston for the June meeting. Jeff had the course in great shape. The meeting was well attended and the education timely for many.

Time is flying. It just doesn't seem like it should be July already. If you haven't signed up for the Superintendent/Pro, Member/Member tournament you need to do so soon. We will be playing the Member course at Redstone. It is one of my favorite courses and it will be a real treat. Please note that we have moved the date to July 30th to make room for the TTA Summer Conference in Galveston.

We have also set the time, date, and location for the strategic plan exercise. We will be at Falcon Point on August 28 beginning at 8:00 a.m. There will be no charge for anyone attending and lunch will be included. Though I am sure you will learn something, this is not an education event. If you come, please plan to stay the full 8 hours and expect to participate. We will be creating the road map for the future of our organization. This is your chance to help shape our future.

We have had some good rains recently, but I know not everyone has had enough. We all know that even if we have good moisture now we will see a dry spell again and probably sooner than we want. The Lone Star GCSA has been working with the Texas Water Development Board to make sure we have an accurate BMP (best management practices) document with them. Water use will only become a bigger political issue and we are working hard to stay in front of it.

GCSAA has made some progress towards getting the NPDES issue resolved. It is still in Congress but we hope to have that repealed by the end of the summer.

Finally, it is already time to think about the end of the year. Scholarship forms are on the web site. Superintendent of the Year information and nomination forms will be out soon. General Managers, Pros, Green Committee Chairmen all can nominate their superintendent. But it sure would be nice to see a few nominations from our members. Nominations are welcome from vendors as well as fellow superintendents. The end of the year also means election of board members. Contact Wade Warms if you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board.

As always, I want to say thank you to those who have offered assistance and guidance. Don't hesitate to let me know how we can better serve you. mhaven@rec.tamu.edu @bcsgreenkeeper cell 979-224-0184

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

June 11, 2012 Golf Results and Photos

Galveston Country Club

Thank you, Jeff Smelser and staff for a great meeting!

1st

135 - scorecard playoff
B. Riley, S. Donnaway, C. Webb, S. Sipes

2nd—135

J. Smelser, P. Johnston, A. Coz, G. Hargrove

3rd—136

B. Johnson, C. Rizzo, J. Ferguson, K. White

4th—137

J. Ruple, B. Fultz, B. Dickerson, B. Cole

5th—138

D. Browne, W. Warms, J. Takushi, J. Hargrove

6th—139

C. Pitts, B. Abetz, D. Bowman, B. North

6th—139

J. Jowell, K. Knowles, C. Spivey, E. Glover

CTP #8

Cody Spivey

CTP #17

Scott Miller

LD #1

Bill Abetz

LD #14

Ben Dickerson

8th—140

T. Homemeyer, T. Diorio, B. Ratcliff, J. Diorio

9th—141

M. Haven, B. Cloud, J. Walker, C. Joachim

10th—142

S. Wilson, R. Kane, P. Tessman, C. Neely

10th—142

D. Miller, J. McCrory, L. Gravett, D. Wilagnowski

10th—150

S. Miller, M. Baughman, B. Sparks, K. Brown

12th—159

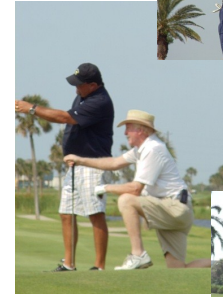
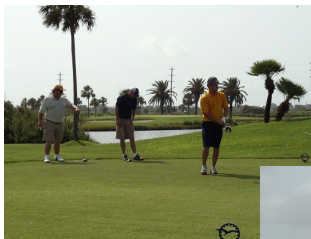
S. Yarotsky, P. Taylor, J. Ogden, E. Gallup

13th—159

J. Haven, C. Skarpa, C. Garrett, C. Mrosko

14th— 163

J. Haven, C. Skarpa, C. Garrett, C. Mrosko



Scholarship Applications are on the website!

Deadline for new scholarship applications is September 1, 2013

Don't forget.....

all applications must be sent with an OFFICIAL, SEALED transcript and 1 Page Autobiography



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If selected for the calendar, your dog will also have a chance to be crowned 2013 Dog of the Year, garnering a \$3,000 prize for your affiliated chapter, a \$500 prize for your local humane society and a \$500 prize for you. Everyone who submits a photo will receive a gift from [LebanonTurf](#).

Entries are being accepted now through Aug. 1, 2012.

[Click here for full details](#)

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GCSAA's live education webinars are 90 minutes and take place at the computer of your choice. Our webinars use [Citrix's GoToWebinar software](#), which must be downloaded before your session. We also recommend you use a microphone, but you can ask questions and participate using the text chat feature.

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[Ten Simple Tips for the Environment](#)

Randy Samoff

Superintendent

Redstone Golf Club

Host of the July 30, 2012

Superintendent/Pro—Member/Member Tournament

**The Spirit of The Game lives here.**

Redstone Golf Club is a relatively new club (opened in 2002) with a rich golf history, located on the site of former El Dorado Country Club. Redstone is located just 16 miles from downtown Houston, and five miles from George Bush International Airport, in natural wooded terrain surrounded by wetlands, lakes, and native wildlife. The Member Course, which was the first course opened in December 2002, is private and was designed by Jacobsen Hardy Golf Design. The Member Course hosted the Shell Houston Open from 2003 – 2005 and is the current host of the PGA Tour Q-School (2nd stage). The second course, the Tournament Course, was designed by Rees Jones in 2005 and is open to the public. It is the current host of the Shell Houston Open and has been since 2006.

The Head Golf Course Superintendent for all 36 holes at Redstone is Randy Samoff. A native Texan and Houstonian, Randy has been at Redstone since early 2004, brought on at the beginning stages of the construction for the Tournament Course. For the first few years, he was dedicated mainly to the Tournament Course, and in 2008 took over the entire operation. He has been involved with the preparation for the Shell Houston Open as an assistant and superintendent for 12 years now, with 9 events at Redstone and another 3 when the event was at The Woodlands. He is extremely passionate about Redstone and doing everything he can to make it the best public facility around and the best conditioned golf course on the Tour. A graduate of Texas A&M in 1999, Randy's previous course experience before coming to Redstone was at The Woodlands, where he worked for 5 years in various roles. Spending time as an assistant at all of the courses there, he worked on the renovation/construction of 63 holes, working on everything from greens renovation, to total course reconstruction and grow in. Randy's Assistants on each course at Redstone are Thomas Brown – Tournament Course and Paul Lanfear – Member Course, both graduates of Texas A&M and native Texans. Randy was named the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association Superintendent of the Year by his peers in 2010.



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"TECHNICIAN'S TABLE"

Turk's Tips.....Never leave home without your volt-ohm meter By Joe Turk, Turf Assist

I am often asked "What technical tool should my irrigation technician carry on his cart to troubleshoot valves?" I always answer, "a volt-ohm meter, AKA multi-meter."

A volt-ohm meter has several features that take the guess work out of diagnosing electrical shorts in golf course irrigation wiring. I know some guys will argue that there are several manual methods to diagnose solenoid operation, low-voltage valve wire, and communication cable. While these methods can get the job done they can leave an irrigation technician stumped if he or she doesn't solve the problem.



Inexpensive meters can be purchased at any home improvement center for as low as \$10 or as much as \$350. I use a digital auto-ranging type meter that has VAC, VDC, OHM and Diode test features. Analog meters work just as well and in some cases are the preferred type.

Learning how to use a meter may seem daunting at first, but with time technicians will come to appreciate the advantages and wonder how they ever got along without it.

There are several sources you can use to help you learn how to use one of these meters. Find out if your local irrigation supplier has irrigation training or talk to your local irrigation sales rep about stopping by to demo the latest VIH golf rotors while spending a few minutes showing you how to test a solenoid on the demo. Most golf course mechanics have a meter and can pass on some user knowledge as well. Don't forget about YouTube.com where you can watch instructional videos on just about anything.

If I neglect to have my meter for a job (of course I always have my meter) I can pick one up at the local hardware store for as little as \$10. An inexpensive analog meter can save the day.

Oh, I almost forgot to mention: Don't forget to check the meter's batteries periodically unless you want to start pulling your hair out... you'll see what I mean.

-- Joe Turk is a golf course irrigation specialist based in San Diego. If you have any questions for Turk, he can be reached at Joe@turfassist.com or via his website at www.turfassist.com.

Article From: Golfdom's Inside Irrigation: Seth Jones, Editor-in-Chief

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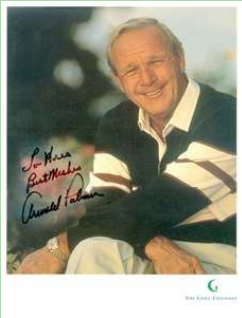
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The most rewarding things you do in life are often the ones that look like they cannot be done.
~ Arnold Palmer

Welcome New Members!

- Nancy Bowman—Sales, Pumps, Motors and Controls
- Tony Diorio—Assistant Superintendent, Galveston CC
- Tommy Homeyer—Head Foreman and Ben Dickerson—Asst. Supt. at Bryan Municipal GC
- Derrick Wells—Superintendent at Raveneaux GC

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JUNE/JULY MEETING SPONSOR:



Twenty Years of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses

Jim Sluiter, Staff Ecologist/Program Manager: Audubon International

In 1991 Audubon International launched an educational program—the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ACSP)—designed to help golf course superintendents and managers serve as good stewards of the environment. With assistance from the United States Golf Association (USGA) and other experts within the golf industry, education and certification components of the program were developed to highlight environmental stewardship and outreach opportunities resulting from golf course management. Program certification areas are comprised of six categories: Environmental Planning, Wildlife and Habitat Management, Chemical Use Reduction and Safety, Water Conservation, Water Quality Management, and Outreach and Education. As enrollment and support of the program began to gather steam within the industry, it became quickly apparent that many notable environmental gains were being made by golf courses across the United States and abroad.

Now twenty years later, the program is an award-winning education and certification program that promotes ecologically-sound land management and conservation of natural resources on golf courses. “The concept is simple: Give people the right reasons to take environmental stewardship seriously, along with tools, information, and incentives for action, and they will embrace their responsibility to nature,” states Joellen Lampman, ACSP Program Director.

The vast majority of “veteran” ACSP members have retained their program status over the years, and many more continue to join the program for \$200 in annual membership dues and work towards certification in each program component. Golf properties in South Texas that have completed the certification process and have been designated as “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries” include Lakeside Country Club and Hearthstone Country Club in Houston, Newport Dunes Golf Club in Port Aransas, Padre Isles Country Club in Corpus Christi, as well as the Fazio Course and Nicklaus Course at The Club at Carlton Woods in The Woodlands.

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ACSP for Golf Courses, Audubon International distributed member surveys to capture data regarding stewardship trends and environmental successes from program members around the world. These latest metrics gathered show continued impressive ecological and financial gains realized by vast segments of the golf industry by diverse properties in all geographical regions.

Today, more than 2,000 golf courses in 36 countries participate in the program. More than 80% of those enrolled have developed an environmental plan to guide management of the golf course and over 800 have achieved certification for their outstanding best practices. Environmental performance and improvement on golf courses is the critical measure of success for the ACSP. Through surveys and database management, program staff has continued to work to find the most efficient ways to measure the programs’ effects on water, wildlife, and other natural resources on golf courses.

Survey results revealed other notable environmental successes as well:

69% of ACSP respondents reduced pesticide costs and 94% reducing pesticide use. Additionally, 95% of respondents used pesticides with lower toxicity levels. Fertilizer costs have also been reduced by 66% of respondents, and fuel costs by 44%, decreasing operation overhead.

Efforts to address Habitat Management have been equally effective, with 89% choosing native plants when landscaping, as compared to 49% before joining the program. Likewise, the average percentage of pond shoreline naturalized, since joining the program, increased over 40%, creating more habitat.

61% of respondents removed turfgrass from the golf course property at an average of 18 acres of turfgrass. While 53% are transitioning to fuel efficient vehicles, only 13% were looking at this before joining the program. Even more dramatically, 78% are transitioning to renewable energy sources, compared to 3% before joining the program. In today’s economic climate, with soaring fuel costs, these projects are going to positively influence the bottom line. Over 46% have reduced electricity costs and 44% have reduced fuel costs since joining since joining. Interestingly, 23% were unsure as to whether there were cost savings or not, indicating a need for better environmental accounting.

When examining Water efforts, 68% of courses who responded had improved their irrigation system or the way that water was applied to the site. As a result, these golf courses saved an estimated two million gallons of water per year per course since joining the ACSP. Likewise, 88% of golf course managers and superintendents have increased mowing heights along the water’s edge to slow and filter runoff since joining the program. Additionally, 91% of respondents have implemented primary and secondary spill containment systems.

Finally, all of these strides were taken without compromising the quality of the game itself. Nearly 100% of courses surveyed reported increased or maintained golf quality and satisfaction.

Golf courses offer a unique open space in the human landscape for wildlife to exist and thrive. Ongoing stewardship actions lead to habitat and natural resource protection, as well as a reduction in the overall impact of golf management practices. Both the increase in wildlife habitat areas and the reduction in water use are positive signs of environmental stewardship in action. Continued use of best management practices will benefit the environment and avoid decreases in turf quality. (continued on page 10)



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Twenty Years of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses continued from page 8....

In the end, if a golf course and its staff work towards certification in the ACSP, there will be environmental improvement at that property. With a half million acres enrolled in the program the cumulative effect of these property improvements for the ecosystems in which they operate can be significant. Certification of golf courses is a way to recognize those golf courses that not only have made a commitment to protecting and preserving the environment, but also have done so through projects and best management practices, and have documented those results.

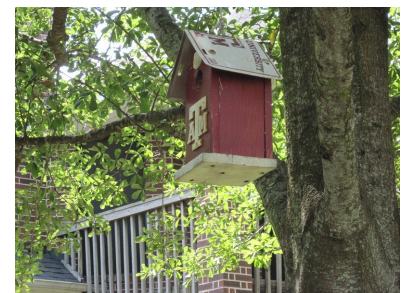
Twenty years of working cooperatively has resulted in exceptional environmental management of individual golf courses, as well as improved awareness, education, and best practices industry-wide. The work of Audubon International has proven that individuals do have an impact that can be channeled into positive environmental stewardship. And, while it is useful to look back over the past two decades of actions and results, there is also a great deal of work remaining. Audubon International is continually committed to playing a role for positive environmental change in golf—through education, cooperation, and on-the-ground action and results.



"TX Kingwood CC Wildflowers Lake #2 After": Kingwood Country Club (Kingwood, TX) was certified in the ACSP for Golf Courses in 2002 and has completed several projects that have enhanced wildlife habitat on the golf course while providing improved aesthetics and reduced annual maintenance costs.



"Camp Carlton Kids": The Club at Carlton Woods (The Woodlands, TX) has involved children in outreach and education stewardship projects through their "Camp Carlton" summer program. The Club's Fazio Course was certified in 2009, followed by the Nicklaus Course in 2010.



"Hearthstone CC Nestboxes": Hearthstone Country Club (Houston, TX) was designated as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" in 2012 and has installed a variety of nestboxes for Wood Ducks, Owls, Purple Martins and bird species on the golf course.



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Meet New Member, Julie Pospech: Market Specialist at FMC Professional Solutions



Julie is a native to Texas and grew up on the infamous "King Ranch" near Kingsville, TX. She has a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness from Texas A&M University, and her experience includes sales and marketing positions for Dow AgroSciences LLC, in addition to her new role as Market Specialist for FMC's Turf and Ornamental Business. Julie joined FMC in April of 2011 and is responsible for the technical and sales components of FMC's golf, lawn care, and ornamental segments covering the South Central US (including Texas). Much of her time in the field is devoted to launching new products, developing protocols and conducting field trials, and working closely with customers to understand market needs. Julie currently lives and works out of the Bryan/College Station area and enjoys fishing and a good game of dominos in her free time. For more information, please visit www.fmcprosolutions.com.



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Spring 2012

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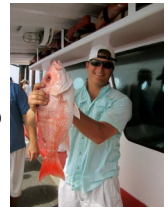
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Assistant Profile....Do you know this Assistant?

My name is Cody Skarpa and I would like to relate my circle of education and experience while growing up in Cypress Texas. When I was old enough to get my driver's license I started working at Jersey Meadows golf course in their outside services department. I followed that job with an outside services position with Houston National golf club which lead me to a position with black Horse Golf club working in their outside services department. After working at Black Horse for a while I became acquainted with Johnny Walker the Superintendent at Black Horse. I became interested in the work that Johnny's department did on the golf course. I asked if he could tell me about all facets of maintenance that his department performed, and he responded that he would rather show me then tell me. I transferred to the maintenance department at Black Horse and after a few short weeks my epiphany happened. After a few months of doing just about everything a person could do in golf course maintenance, I decided Aggieland was where I needed to be. With Johnny's assistance I was enrolled at Texas A&M University studying Turf Grass Management in the Agronomy Department fulfilling two wants of my life. I was finally the aggie that I always wanted to be and getting a degree to start my career in golf course maintenance. After I graduated from A&M in 2010 I took a job as an assistant superintendent of Bryan Municipal golf course working with Dennis Wilganowski in Bryan/College Station. A year later an opportunity presented itself for me to complete my circle and move back to Cypress to become the Assistant Superintendent at Black Horse golf club. No telling which direction Johnny will send me next...In my free time I like to go fishing or hunting, and when the fish aren't biting on the lake or bay I like to be be skiing, wakeboarding or surfing. Any other time im either working on something of some kind or just hanging out with friends and family.



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Compressed timeframe to reduce time away from golf facility

GCSAA announces change in 2013 golf championship, education conference schedule

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced that it will condense the schedule for the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic and the GCSAA Education Conference beginning next year in San Diego.

The move comes as a result of surveys and feedback from members, chapters and industry participants. The new schedule was played back to various internal groups with significant support for the change. Respondents have indicated in recent years that although the two-day mid-week trade show format is desirable, the length of the tournament and the conference was a deterrent in attending all or part of the activities.

The golf tournament will begin with the four-ball competition Sunday, Feb. 3, with the golf classic and national championship being conducted Monday-Tuesday, Feb. 4-5. A new event, likely featuring a scramble or shamble format, will be conducted Monday, Feb. 4, for those not participating in the classic or the national championship. The Sunday, Feb. 3 four-ball is a stand-alone event and does not require participation in the new Monday activity or the classic/national championship. In recent years, the four-ball was held on Friday, with the classic and national championship conducted Saturday and Sunday.

As for the education conference, activities will conclude on Friday, Feb. 8.

“The sentiment from those surveyed over the past few years has grown that the event is just too long for those who want to attend,” GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans said. “The new schedule came after getting strong feedback and carefully deliberating the change. We know that we cannot satisfy everyone’s needs in total. But we believe this to be the best solution for the majority of attendees.

“The new golf event will provide two days of golf for those who have enjoyed it in the past, but also want to attend Tuesday seminars. For those who will play in the classic and national championship, we will continue to monitor their education needs and desires. We will continue to offer education Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. This decision is not cast in stone. We will pay close attention to how our members are affected.”

The San Diego Convention Center will host the education events and the Golf Industry Show. The golf events will be in the San Diego metropolitan region as well with host courses to be determined.

“There is no better professional development experience for the GCSAA member than the combination of the golf tournament, conference and trade show,” Evans said. “The networking, information gathering and purchase decisions can be made with great efficiency. We owe it to our members to explore a means to make it easier to experience.”

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Environmental Institute for Golf to launch national golf course research program this fall

Noting a critical shortage of funding for agronomic research, the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) announced today it will roll out a national campaign this fall aimed at generating resources to address that need and help to ensure golf's future.



The program is actually an expansion of the highly successful Rounds 4 Research campaign that was created by the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association in 2009 and has generated nearly \$350,000 in three years. Funds are generated by securing donated rounds of golf (defined as a foursome) by facilities and then made available to the public through an online auction. In 2010, the Carolinas GCSA expanded its effort by conducting auctions for golf course superintendent chapters in Virginia, Georgia and Texas. Proceeds were directed to universities in those states for the purpose of conducting turfgrass research.

Significant demand by other affiliated chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) led the Carolinas GCSA to seek out an organization that could administer the project nationally. Organizers say taking the model beyond a handful of states and offering it nationally could go a long way to plugging a recent drain on funds for research which helps protect the health and vitality of the \$76 billion industry. The EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA that fosters the sustainable management of golf facilities. [\(Read the full article here\)](#)



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