

Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

July
2008

"Work hard, save your money and try not to compromise your integrity. Superintendents are employees, not prisoners. There must be a balance between your personal life and work."

Pick up the garbage, mow the grass and don't fight with the customers.

Remember, you are only as good as your greens this morning and you are just a spray mix away from disaster."
— Charles Joachim, CGCS

Joachim makes it happen . . . with a little luck

There's just not much room for debate . . . Champions Golf Club has a pedigree that's unmatched in the Houston, and maybe even in all of Texas. It has hosted a U.S. Open, the Ryder Cup Matches, a U.S. Amateur Championship, a U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship, a handful of PGA Tour Championships, a few Houston Opens (then called the Champions International) and more.

Champions opened in the then-remote forests of north Houston way back in 1957, a year before the founding of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association. Charles Joachim, CGCS, has been there for the last 23 years.

A 1971 graduate of Texas A&M University, where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Joachim in the business since day one. He earned his first head golf course superintendent position in 1972, when he took on that role at Westwood Shores Country Club, then under construction in Trinity. The property was part of a golf-related real estate empire being built by developer Bruce Belin. Joachim worked at a number of Belin's properties over the ensuing years of a career that included stops at The Woodlands (Joachim helped build the first course at The Woodlands) and a brief stint in Las Vegas.

And then along came Champions. Joachim says simply, "They were looking for somebody, and I was just lucky enough to get the job."

Right. And Tiger Woods wins major championships because he's

"lucky enough" to beat everyone else.

Such prizes rarely find their ways to people through luck. By the time Joachim found his way to Champions, he had already established a reputation for hard work and dedication to his cause. His approach to his responsibilities is simple, and, in all likelihood, understated.

"We just try to put out a good effort," says the 59-year-old West Columbia native. "We try to make the course better than it was the day before."

It's a philosophy that works. If it didn't Joachim would not have remained at a club like Champions for so long. Within the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, only Larry Finke at Walden on Lake Conroe Country Club and Charles Faubion, CGCS, at Kingwood Country Club have remained in one position as long as Joachim.

But Joachim is not willing to credit himself for his longevity. He directs the attention toward Jackie Burke Jr., one of Champions' founders (along with Jimmy Demaret) and still a fixture at the club.

"Jackie Burke. Mr. Burke is a good person and he treats his people so well," says Joachim when asked why he's been able to remain at the club for so long. Good enough.

Just as he's dedicated to his job, Joachim dedicated a good portion of his career to advancing his profession. He joined the STGCSA shortly after taking the Westwood Shores

Things change . . .

"Maintenance has intensified a lot. Golfers demand much more and the cost of maintenance has gone up maybe 10 times," says Charles Joachim of the biggest changes he's seen in his 37-year career.

A striking example of the increased intensity and demands (and therefore costs) can be found around greens.

In 1969, the year Champions Golf Club hosted the U.S. Open, Joachim says everyday mowing heights for Champions' greens was 1/4-inch. The greens were mowed to 3/16-inch for the tournament.

Joachim says Champions' greens are now mowed at 1/8-inch (or less) every day.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Seems that the weather has been the big conversation winner this month, thanks to the driest conditions we have seen in Houston in a long while. I guess Houston can be called "West Texas" this year with the high winds and lack of rain, but at least we are not working in our bunkers quite so much and that's a good thing.

I am sure, however, that things will change quite soon. In the mean time, I've at least been getting some much needed work completed on Redstone Golf Club's Tournament Course without interruptions from chronic wet weather.

I wish to thank all the folks at Wildcat Golf Club and Donald Hoos, the club's golf course superintendent last for all the hospitality during our meeting last month . . . great food and great golf, too. Thankfully, the gathering turned out to be one of the coolest June events I have ever played in Houston, thanks to the rain event that cooled us off (It never completely dries out in Houston, does it?).

The Highlands Course was fun to play and the education was very informative. Thanks go out to Wade Warms and "Skeeter" with ING for helping us with some of our key financial decisions.

Two items worth mentioning FYI are the Texas Turfgrass Summer Conference in Galveston, July 20-22, and the STGCSA technicians group that their next meeting is scheduled for July 29 at Kingwood Country Club. This should be another informative meeting, so please RSVP (Marian Takushi, 281-494-0094) for that when the time comes.

I am very excited about our next meeting at Champions Golf

Club on Monday, July 14. I'm betting all our members will want to be on hand for the meeting and the golf.

In case you haven't heard, Jackie Burke will be the featured speaker at our meeting. It will be a rare treat to hear one of Champions' co-founders (along with Jimmy Demaret) speak about his career in golf and this history of Champions. I'm sure his presentation will be both entertaining and informative, and you

can be sure, I think, that Mr. Burke will spend a portion of his time on the importance to golf of golf course superintendents.

Meeting and playing golf at Champions is a special opportunity, so we should all treat this outing with the respect it deserves. Please dress appropriately and professionally for the meeting and the golf.

While I'm on the subject of Champions, I want to thank

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July Meeting

Monday, July 14, 2008

Champions Golf Club

Host Superintendent — Charles Joachim, CGCS

Please RSVP by July 11 by calling

Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094

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

Speaker: Jackie Burke, Jr.

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

Golf: After Lunch **Cost:** \$55

Reminders:

— You must arrive by 10:15 to play golf.

— You may bring a non-member guest to one STGCSA Monthly Meeting per year (only).

Directions:

North of FM 1960, between I-45 and FM 249:

Go east on FM 1960 from FM 249 (or west from I-45).

Follow FM 1960 approximately .6 mile to the next

stoplight, Champions Drive. Turn left and proceed

north on Champions, through the three-way stop

(Bermuda Dunes), and the clubhouse is on the right.

Make your plans

The Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston will host the 2008 Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference on July 20-22. Registration information and forms may be secured by visiting www.texasturf.com or by calling the Texas Turfgrass Association at 979-690-2201.

JOACHIM

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position, and, other than his stint in Las Vegas, he has remained a member ever since.

He served several years on the Chapter's Board of Directors and as an officer— Joachim was president of the STGCSA in 1979 and 1980. He was one of the first members to obtain Certified Golf Course Superintendent status from the Golf Course Superintendents Association (in 1988).

Meeting and playing at Champions is a special opportunity, and Joachim expended extra effort to make it happen for the members of the STGCSA, who will be "lucky enough" to test their golfing skills on the club's Cypress Creek Course following their July meeting.

"Special," in fact, doesn't begin to describe it. "Unique" might be more appropriate. Charles Joachim deserves the same description.

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Out of Bounds: Pesticide residue exposure to golfers

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Some members of the general public view golf courses negatively due to the misconception that excessive amounts of pesticides are applied to turfgrass areas. Pesticide use is a necessary part of turfgrass maintenance. Proper use of pesticides ensures the course is aesthetically appealing and meets the golfer's expectations for playability.

Research shows that pesticides, when applied appropriately to golf courses, have little potential to cause harm to people or the environment. Despite this research, you may still be faced with a situation where an extremely concerned golfer wants to know what you are doing to keep golfers safe from pesticide residues. Management practices that minimize pesticide residue exposure to golfers include:

- Maximizing the time between pesticide application and the first tee time.
- Irrigating in pesticide applications when appropriate.
- Minimizing pesticide application rates.
- Choosing the least toxic pesticide first.
- Avoiding the treatment of the entire course on the same day.
- Spot treating pest problems.

The parts of the body most likely to come in contact with pesticide residues are the lower legs, forearms, and hands. Those body areas are often uncovered during a golf outing. Golfers can limit pesticide residue exposure by:

- Wearing pants (instead of shorts), long sleeve shirts, gloves, etc.
- Washing hands and face before eating.
- Cleaning golf equipment after play.

If you would like to read an article on this topic or share it with a golfer, the following article reviews past research and also presents newer data on pesticide residue exposure to golfers:

Putnam and Clark. 2004. Managing Pesticide Exposure from Turfgrass. USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online. Vol 3. Number 21.

The article is available online at: <http://usgatero.msu.edu/>.

Rest assured, when pesticides are used according to label directions, research shows that playing golf does not expose a person to unsafe levels of pesticide residues.

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



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Technicians Meeting

The STGCSA Technicians Association will meet on July 29 at Kingwood Country Club. Please RSVP to Marian Takushi by July 25 if you plan to attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Charles Joachim, CGCS, in advance for the extra effort to make the meeting happen.

As planned, the South Texas Board of Directors has continued pursuing improvements and continues to face challenges with getting a new website for our association. I feel this can be a very useful tool to help our members do their jobs just a little bit better.

It will be our continued quest to fulfill this goal in the near future. I welcome any and all feedback towards the goal of improving what we have now and look forward to making this a success.

Thank you and see you soon.

— Roger Goetsch, CGCS

For our future and your kids.

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

Applications will be available at all the STGCSA's monthly meetings through August and online at www.stgcsa.org. The deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 1, 2008.

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



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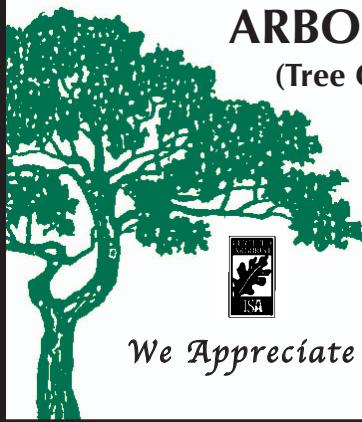
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Hole-in-One!

Mike Rhoden, golf course superintendent at Willow Creek Country Club and a past member of the STGCSA Board of Directors, is now part of a semi-exclusive club—he has scored a hole-in-one.

Rhoden made the shot on June 2 on the course at Grand Pines at Bentwater, scoring the one-timer on the course's seventh hole with a 7-iron shot of 145 yards.

"This was my first one. The way I play it will probably be my last," said Rhoden.

Maybe not . . .

BULLETIN BOARD

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South Padre Island Development & Golf Club

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Aaron Carson, Horticulture Superintendent
E-Mail: aaron@spigolf.com • FAX: 956-943-2070

First Assistant Superintendent Wanted

The Woodlands Country Club — Palmer Course

Please contact:

Jason McConnell

Telephone: 281-863-1483 • FAX: 281-367-9070

E-mail: jmcconnell@thewoodlandscc.com

Second Assistant/Irrigation Technician Needed

Magnolia Creek Golf Links

Please contact:

Chris Hartman:

Telephone: 281-557-0555

E-mail: chartman@canongategolf.com

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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Jeff Jowell, Wade Warms, Mike James, Mike Cline	59
Jeff Smelser, David Myrick, Kent Knowles, Jesse Shulse	60
Stan Ludwick, Todd Stephens, Richard Kane, Jeff Smith	61
Doug Browne, Roger Goetttsch, Steve Vaughn, Alan Lee	62

SPECIAL CONTESTS

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

2008 Points Lists

(Top 10s through Wildcat Golf Club)

Superintendents

	Affiliates
Wade Warms	431.00
Russell Tippie	422.50
Mark Haven	422.50
Glen Noska	421.50
Sean Wilson	420.00
Brian Buckner	417.50
Chris Webster	415.50
Steve Vaughn	415.00
Richard Kane	415.00
Brian Woolard	414.50

	Affiliates
Alan Lee	430.00
Kent Knowles	427.00
Mike James	426.5
Jeff Jowell	426.00
Rick Tygret	424.5
Jeff Smith	411.00
Pat Neuendorff	411.00
Pat Johnston	406.5
Stan Ludwick	404.00
David Myrick	399.00

Membership Moves

Billy Weeks is the new golf course superintendent the Creekside Course at The Club at Carlton Woods. *James Harkin* is now an assistant superintendent at Augusta Pines Golf Club.

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2008 STGCSA EVENTS

July 14 (Monday)

Champions GC

Host Superintendent:
Charles Joachim, CGCS

July 20-22

Texas Turfgrass Association
Summer Conference
Galveston

August 11 (Monday)

Superintendent/Pro &
Member/Member Tournament
Braeburn CC
Host Superintendent:
Terry Gill

September 21-23

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Victoria CC • Victoria

September (TBA)

Astros Game
Family Night

October 13-19

Administaff
Small Business Classic
The Woodlands Country Club
East Course

October 20 (Monday)

Golfcrest CC

Host Superintendent:
Lee Gravett

November 11 (Tuesday)

STGCSA

Annual Meeting
The Houstonian CC
Host Superintendent:
James Edgemon

December 4 (Tuesday)

Annual Awards Banquet
and Ceremony
River Oaks CC

Host Superintendent:
Morris Johnson

December 8-10

TTA Annual Conference &
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