

Tee to GREEN



July
2009

The heat is on!

You don't need to check a calendar to be reminded it's summer . . . all you need to do is go outside.

Temperatures in southeast Texas have climbed into extreme ranges, relatively speaking, especially for this early in the summer. The temperature in Houston on June 24 hit a record-setting 104. The "feels like" temperature was measured at 108, and more was predicted, prompting various government agencies to begin issuing heat alerts.

If the pattern holds, the area is in for a long, hot summer, and

that means you need to take extra precautions to protect your health (and that of your staff members).

The information below was drawn from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention web site (www.bt.cdc.gov) and provides steps you can take to beat the heat. Some of the suggestions included deal more with your personal habits than your professional activities, but you should take the hints whenever possible. It's for your own good.

The best defense is prevention. Here are some prevention tips:

- Drink more fluids (nonalcoholic), regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Warning: If your doctor generally limits the amount of fluid you drink or has you on water pills, ask him how much you should drink while the weather is hot.
 - Don't drink liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid. Also, avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps.
 - Stay indoors and, if at all possible, stay in an air-conditioned place. If your home does not have air conditioning, go to the shopping mall or public library—even a few hours spent in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler when you go back into the heat. Call your local health department to see if there are any heat-relief shelters in your area.
 - Electric fans may provide comfort, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath, or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.
 - Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
 - NEVER leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.
 - Although any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others. Check regularly on:
 - Infants and young children
 - People aged 65 or older
 - People who have a mental illness
 - Those who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure.
 - Visit adults at risk at least twice a day and closely watch them for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Infants and young children, of course, need more frequent watching.
- If you must be out in the heat:***
- Limit your outdoor activity to morning and evening hours.
 - Cut down on exercise. If you must exercise, drink two to four glasses of cool, nonalcoholic fluids each hour. A sports beverage can replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat. Warning: If you are on a low-salt diet, talk with your doctor before drinking a sports beverage. Remember the warning in the first "tip" (above), too.
 - Try to rest often in shady areas.
 - Protect yourself from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat (also keeps you cooler) and sunglasses and by putting on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher (the most effective products say "broad spectrum" or "UVA/UVB protection" on their labels).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you sense a recurring theme to my columns this year, you should. Our weather has done nothing to help our jobs over the past nine months or so, and it's getting tiresome.

Starting around the time Hurricane Ike hit, we've faced one challenge after another. For the past few months, it's be drought, flood and now drought again. According to an entry on weatherman Tim Heller's blog on KTRK's web site, we had only a third of an inch of rain in May, with the last heavy rains coming in the form of the Apr. 27-28 flooding downpours. That means it has been, for all intents and purposes, two months since we've had any help from the sky, and things are getting serious.

How serious? Just ask your fellow superintendents. I'm betting just about everyone has already taken steps to battle the drought. I'd also bet you'd like to hear what your colleagues are doing, so how about this— if you've taken special steps to deal with the drought, how about taking a few moments to jot your story down and send it to Steve Hunter (srhunter@mindspring.com) so he can work something up for our next newsletter. You can call him if you'd prefer (at 281-395-4927). I'm sure everyone would like to know how their colleagues are dealing with the situation (and you might like to hear what other superintendents are doing as well).

• • • •

We've reached the halfway point of 2009, but don't think that means our schedule is winding down. It's not. There are at least five upcoming events that I'm hoping you can take part in.

The first, of course, is our July meeting. We're heading north

for the get together, to Elkins Lake Country Club, and we'll be hosted by golf course superintendent Jerry Huntsman for what I'm sure will be an excellent get-together.

Ross Ekstein of DuPont Professionals will be the featured speaker. He'll discuss nature's best picnic pirates, otherwise known as ants. Most importantly, he'll be talking about how to control them, something we can always use more information about.

The second is the 2009 Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference, which will take place July 12-14 at Hyatt Lost Pines

Resort near Bastrop. The conference is always a valuable source of information, so I'm sure you'll want to attend. Last month's issue of *Tee to Green* included an article with a few details about the conference; if you need more, visit the TTA website at www.texas-turf.com.

Third and fourth on the list are two golf tournaments. The first

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July Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2009

Elkins Lake Country Club
282 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, TX 77340
Host Superintendent — James Huntsman

Please RSVP by July 17 by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094, by e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net or through the direct link on the "Upcoming Events" page of www.stgcsa.org.

Speaker: Ross Eckstein,
DuPont Professional Products

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

Golf: After Lunch

Cost: \$55

REMINDER:

You must arrive by 10:15 to play golf

Directions: From Houston, go north on I-45 to Huntsville. As you approach Huntsville, exit to the right (Exit 112) and then turn left on the southbound access road. Then turn right into Elkins Lake on Augusta Dr./Greenbriar St. Turn right at Cherry Hills Dr., right on Broadmoor Dr., and right on Elkins Lake to the club.

Membership Moves

A hearty "Welcome Back" goes out to *Russ Banning*, who has rejoined the STGCSA after taking the Director of Grounds Maintenance at the North Harris campus of Lone Star College.

Joining the Chapter for the first time last month were *Justin Brennan*, who will work in sales for E-Z-Go, and; *Riley Maxey*, an assistant superintendent at Miramont Country Club.

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 2009 STGCSA Legacy Scholarship.

Applications will be available at all the STGCSA's monthly meetings through August. The deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 1, 2009.

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 2

is the Shell Houston Open Volunteer Tournament, to be held Aug. 12 on the Tournament Course at Redstone Golf Club. As with the TTA conference, the Redstone event has been covered in a previous issue of *Tee to Green*, and the "Upcoming Events" section of our website (www.stgcsa.org) has a summary of the details, too.

If you were part of our marshalling effort during the 2009 Shell Houston Open, you're eligible to play, but be sure you provide an RSVP to Redstone superintendent Randy Samoff (rsamoff@redstonegolfclub.com) by Aug. 1.

The second golf tournament of August will take place on the 25th, when we'll hold our annual Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member tournament at The Club at Falcon Point. It's always a popular event, so get your team together and get your entry fee to Marian Takushi as soon as possible. There's an entry form included with this issue of *Tee to Green*, and it will be available on our web site, too.

Same thing for the 2009 Texas Trophy tournament. It doesn't happen until Sept. 13-15, when we (led by superintendent Jason Harsh) will host the event at Memorial Park Golf Course. We'll provide more details in upcoming issues of *Tee to Green* and on our website, but for now, you should start putting your team together. And you should practice, practice practice, too. We need an STGCSA team to win, especially since the tournament is being played on our turf.

In case you didn't realize it, our September meeting will be held in conjunction with the Texas Trophy. It will be on September 14, also at Memorial Park, so you can kill at least two birds with one stone. Again, watch our website and *Tee to Green* for details. Keep in mind that you'll need to RSVP for our meeting with Marian, but you'll need to sign up for the Texas Trophy through Karen White and the Lone Star GCSA (www.lsgcsa.org).

•••••

There you have it . . . a busy summer loaded with activities for our organization. And that's what it's all about, isn't it?

Before I close, I want to take a few lines to say congratulations to the guys who came out on top of our 2009 STGCSA Chapter Championship. Stan Ludwick won the Championship Flight, and can be called "Champion Golfer of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association" for the next year.

Richard Kane beat Danny Atchison in a scorecard playoff for the top spot in the tournament's First Flight, and Brandon Crumpler won the Second Flight. Third Flight top honors went to Brandon Cole. There are a few more results on page 7, and I'm sure all those who played want to extend their appreciation to Jared Bonar, host of our meeting at Cypress Lakes and the championship's second round, and to Blayne Sparks, host of the first round at The Wilderness Golf Club.

We were made more than welcome at both clubs, and we appreciate the work of all those involved.

— Lee Gravett

*"Any idea that the upkeep of a course
is a simple matter has
probably by now been dissipated."*

— Tom Simpson and H.N. Wethered



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Out of Bounds: Getting Control of Aquatic Weeds

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Ask a group of golf course superintendents what their worst weed problems are, and it's pretty unlikely you'll hear about algae, duckweed, water lettuce, or hydrilla. From a turfgrass manager's perspective, aquatic weeds are only a problem when people start to complain about them.

Aquatic weeds are not just aesthetically unattractive, but they can also clog irrigation infrastructure, promote eutrophication of water bodies (leading to fish kills and unpleasant odors), or are non-native plant species that exclude native vegetation.

Aquatic weeds can even contribute to nutrient loading of water bodies remote from your golf course. Research in Florida has shown that substantial amounts of phosphorus can move from agricultural areas to natural areas when aquatic weeds take up water enriched by fertilizer run-off in irrigation canals and then float downstream.

The phosphorus literally floats away in the biomass of the plant to be later released when the plant dies and decomposes. If the floating weeds were not present, the phosphorus would likely settle to the bottom of the irrigation canal and become bound in the soil lining the bottom and sides of the canal.

Managing aquatic weeds is not easy and requires persistence. Attempting to discuss the management of all aquatic weeds in southeast Texas is beyond the scope of this article. In general, a good management plan would be to first identify the weed, then consider non-chemical management options, and finally, chemical options.

Fortunately, there is an excellent resource developed by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. The web-based resource assists with plant identification and presents management options for specific weeds.

Use of the identification tool is straightforward and does not require the user to be a plant taxonomist. All you have to do is determine if the weed is emergent, submerged, floating, or an algae. Once a choice is made, a list of plants is presented. By



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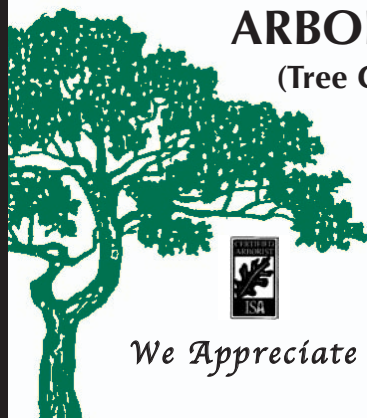
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Nominations open for 2010 Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award (DSA).

The award, first presented in 1932 and annually since 1975, honors individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course management profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration, and may be regional in nature.

Winner(s) will be recognized at the 2010 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego.

All nominations and letters of support must be submitted by Friday, Aug. 21. Nominees cannot have received this award in the preceding 10 years.

Nomination information is available on the GCSAA web site at www.gcsaa.org. Questions about nominations may be addressed to Eileen Bangalan, executive operations administrator, GCSAA at ebangalan@gcsaa.org.

AQUATIC WEEDS

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clicking your suspected weed you can view many detailed color photographs and line drawings. After determining which plant is your problem species you can then click on the "management options" link and read about a variety of control options.

To utilize the web-based resource please visit:
<http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/>

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

BULLETIN BOARD

Second Assistant Wanted

The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament Course)

Send resume´ to: rbrkhimer@canongategolf.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Plum Creek Golf Club — Kyle

Send resume´ to: Ryan Roach, Golf Course Superintendent

Plum Creek Golf Club

P.O. Box 1089, Kyle TX 78640

E-mail: ryan.pcg@verizon.net

Golf Course Superintendent Wanted

Paducah Country Club

Send resume´ to: mbranch@speednet.com or contact

Michael (806-346-3102) or Dirk (806-346-3583)

The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) before the 10th of each month to include your job listings, etc., in the following two issues of Tee to Green.

To include your job posting on the STGCSA web site, contact Marian Takushi (stgcsa@windstream.net, 281-494-0094).

2009 STGCSA Chapter Championship

The Wilderness Golf Club and Cypress Lakes Golf Club

Final Results (Top 5 each flight)

Championship Flight

Stan Ludwick	147
Jeff Jowell	151
Justin Lonon	152
Mark Haven	158
Jared Bonar	158

Second Flight

Brandon Crumpler	173
Glen Noska	177
Jack Hargrove	178
Johnny Walker	179
Kevin Royse	185

First Flight

Richard Kane	163 *
Danny Atchison	163
Mike James	165
Dennis Dickson	174
Mark Baughman	176

* won scorecard playoff

Third Flight (Net)

Brandon Cole	127
Ed Schultheis	131
Jeff Smith	142
Ray McFarland	143
Willy Plowman	145

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Stan Ludwick

PAST WINNERS

2002	Mike Yarotsky	2006	Doug Ashley
2003	Travis Klosterboer	2007	Joe Anderson
2004	Mark Haven	2008	Mark Haven
2005	Alan Hess		

Thank You!

The members of the South Texas GCSA wish to express their gratitude to all those companies and individuals who provide sponsorships for our operations.

Special Contests

Long Drive

Hole	Winner
#8	Phil Taylor
#14	Pat Neuendorff

Closest to the Pin

Hole	Winner
#7	Kevin Royse
#4	Toddly 'D' Malone
# 17	Cheyenne Herring
# 11	Chris Webster

2009 Points Lists

(Top 10s through June)

Superintendents

Richard Kane	454.00
Brandon Crumpler	450.00
Danny Atchison	447.00
Glen Noska	436.50
Justin Lonon	433.00
Brian Bruckner	427.00
Mike Rhoden	426.60
Jared Bonar	420.00
Steve Chernosky	419.50
Johnny Walker	418.00

Affiliates

Brandon Cole	454.00
Stan Ludwick	452.00
Ed Schultheis	445.00
Jeff Jowell	442.00
Pat Neuendorff	439.00
Mike James	435.50
Jeff Smith	433.50
Jack Hargrove	430.00
Dennis Dickson	428.50
Kent Knowles	425.00

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2009 SOUTH TEXAS GCSA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 12-14

Texas Turfgrass Association
2009 Summer Conference
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort

July 20

Elkins Lake CC
Host Superintendent:
James Huntsman
Power Ball Scramble

August 25

Superintendent/Pro Tournament
The Club at Falcon Point
Host Superintendent:
Sean Wilson, CGCS

September 13-15

Lone Star GCSA
Texas Trophy Tournament
Memorial Park GC
Host Superintendent:
Jason Harsh

September 14

Memorial Park GC
Host Superintendent:
Jason Harsh

October 13

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

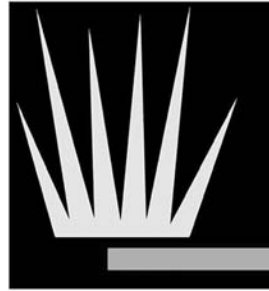
November 9

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

December TBA

Annual Awards Banquet
and Ceremony

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



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