

Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

July/August
2010

Borowski to the rescue

Every now and again, stuff happens. Such was the case with the scheduling for the 2010 STGCSA Superintendent/Pro and Member/Member tournament, originally scheduled for August at Raveneaux Country Club.

For reasons beyond the Chapter leadership's control, that schedule had to be thrown out the window. The problem quickly became where and when to hold the tournament, which is one of the most important events on the STGCSA schedule.

Just as quickly, Kevin Borowski rode to the rescue—the tournament was rescheduled for July 19 at Houston Country Club.

"I've always wanted to host a golf outing at HCC," said Borowski, an STGCSA Board member since 2008 and the golf course superintendent at the club. "We've hosted the Christmas Party before, but never golf . . . when I found out about the problem with the original schedule, I thought there might be an opportunity to host the Superintendent/Pro if for no other reason than it's a cooperative effort between the STGCSA and the Southern Texas PGA."

"I took the idea to my general manager, and I was pretty excited when he said yes," added Borowski, "and I hope all our members are looking forward to playing our course."

Good stuff doesn't usually happen. Instead, it happens because good people make it happen. That's Borowski's style.

Born in Woodville, Texas, 40 years ago, Borowski has been on the path that has led him to golf course superintendent duties since he was a college student. He began working on the staffs at Woodlands Hills Country Club and Piney Woods Country Club while he was a student at Stephen F. Austin University (he mixed in some summer refinery work in Port Arthur, too).

He had received a scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show and went to college with plans of majoring in agriculture, but he had started playing golf at the age of 18 and that changed his plans.

"I grew up working on ranches and I knew I wanted to work outside," said Borowski. "I liked golf and one thing led to another."

The "another" was a change in majors, and Borowski ended up

graduating from college in 1992, earning a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in agronomy and horticulture.

His first job out of college was an assistant superintendent at Austin's Barton Creek Resort. His superintendent on that job was an Ohio native, who, when he relocated back to the northlands, invited Borowski to join him at Shaker Run Golf Club, one of the most respected public facilities in the Buckeye State.

A couple of years later, though, Borowski was ready to return to Texas, and he did, going to work for Charlie Rizzo at Bear Creek Golf World. Just a year later, American Golf, the operators of Bear Creek, decided Borowski was ready for his own facility and moved him to Riverside Golf Club in Arlington, Texas . . . Borowski had his first assignment as a facility's lead superintendent.

He enjoyed it, but at the same time, he had a desire to return to the private side of golf. That meant a potentially career-changing decision, and he accepted an assistant superintendent at Dallas' Northwood Club to meet his desires."

"It was a big step, but that's what I wanted to do," Borowski said. It paid off when he was hired as the golf course superintendent at Shreveport Country Club in Louisiana in 1999. Three years later, in 2002, he made another move, this time to Houston for the top spot at Houston Country Club.

Active in the STGCSA ever since, Borowski made another choice in 2008 . . . to run for the STGCSA's Board of Directors. He was elected and is now in his second year as a Board member.

"I wanted to be more involved," he said of his service to the Chapter. "We have a great organization, but I know it takes involved people to keep things moving."



Kevin Borowski

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Raindrops, as B.J. Thomas sang back in 1969, keep falling on my head. More importantly, they keep falling on my golf course and nothin's worrying me.

Summer is here in full swing and I don't have to tell you how hot the second half of June was. While the rain created a bit of extra work in my neck of the woods, I'm pretty glad to see it and I hope you got some, too. We might be begging for it in a few weeks, and besides, I'm never gonna stop the rain by complainin'.

In fact, I don't see any reason to complain about much of anything. If you received (and read) my June 18 note, you know why. Things are, as they say, going swimmingly. To rehash that note a bit, we had a great meeting last month at Riverbend Country Club. I don't know how many of our members were as impressed with the club and with the job George Cincotta and company have done to keep their golf course in prime condition, but I'm going to guess everyone in attendance came away just as giddy as I was.

As you know, your officers and Board of Directors has worked diligently to upgrade the quality of our educational offerings for our monthly meetings, and I've got to say that Steve Kammerer of Syngenta Lawn & Garden and his presentation about "Diseases that affect Bermudagrass" filled our needs and desires completely.

Our thanks go out to Steve and to Bart Fox, who helped secure him for our meeting, for their professionalism and their support of our organization. If you'd like to know more about the topics covered in the presentation, you might want to get on your computer and go to <http://turf.ufl.edu/rapiddiag.shtml>. You'll find a "Rapid

Turfgrass Diagnostic Service" there, and it just might save you a little time and a little aggravation, too.

And onward, into the future, we go. I know you're getting geared up for our 2010 Superintendent/Pro and Member/Member tournament even as we speak. And if you're not, why aren't you?

The tournament is one of our biggest events of every year and it is always fun. You'll find the details about the tournament on the enclosed entry form and a bit more in the front page article about Kevin Borowski, who stepped up and saved the day for us when things went awry with the tournament's original date and location.

It's mentioned in the article about Kevin, but we've never had a monthly meeting at Houston Country Club before, and that makes the event extra special. Find yourself a partner and get entered—the date is July 19 and the entry deadline is July 16. Those dates will be here well before you know it and if you wait, you may miss out on the chance to play one of the area's most prestigious golf courses.

The schedule rearrangement had another affect, too. We had originally planned to skip July on our 2010 Monthly Meeting schedule. The idea was to take a break when many of our members go on vacation and when the heat sometimes keeps attendance for our golf outings down. Instead, we held a meeting in January, and we'll now be skipping August. We'll also be taking the month of September off, so the Supertintendent/Pro tournament will be our last gathering until October.

That's a big break, but September always includes the annual Texas Trophy tournament. It's often tough for our members to take off for two events, so we thought we'd free up the time for those who want to play in the statewide tournament to do without a conflict with one of our meetings. That means, I hope, that we'll have a good turnout for the Texas Trophy and with any luck, we'll win that thing for the second year in a row.

We'll swing back into action on October 11, when Dennis Klene and Evergreen Point Golf Course host our meeting for that month. Our golf outing at that meeting will be a Member/Guest event, so please start planning your guest so he or she has plenty of time to make arrangements.

In the mean time, you should monitor www.stgcsa.org periodically, just to make sure you're up to date should anything of immediate importance happen between now and the next issue of *Tee to Green* (there won't be a separate August issue—the September issue will be mailed out during August). And, of course, we'll send e-mails periodically just to make sure we're all kept up to date.



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— Willy Plowman

25th Texas Trophy coming up

The STGCSA isn't having a meeting in September, and that means you've got plenty of time to play in the 2010 Texas Trophy tournament, to be hosted by the Central Texas GCSA on Sept. 19-21 at Horseshoe Bay Resort.

In case you've forgotten, the STGCSA hosted the 2009 event and dominated the proceedings at Memorial Park Golf Course.

A STGCSA team consisting of Joe Anderson, Mark Haven, Bret Barclay, Chris Webster, Danny Atchison and Adam Hess won the Chapter competition, while Webster (Championship Gross), Anderson (Championship Net), Cody Marchand (First Flight Net), Jason Harsh (Second Flight Gross), Johnny Walker (Second Flight Net) and Jeff Jowell (Affiliate Flight Gross) won their respective flights.

The 2010 event will mark the 25th year of Texas Trophy competition, so please make sure you're on hand for the celebration. Registration will begin on Sunday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m., followed by a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start on Horseshoe Bay's Apple Rock Course, which will also host the Tuesday, Sept. 21, round. Golf on Monday, Sept. 20, will be on the resort's Ram Rock Course.

You'll soon be receiving complete tournament details via e-mail; you should also monitor www.lsgcsa.org for announcements about the tournament.

Membership Moves

Lee Gravett, immediate past president of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, has taken a new position and is now the area's representative for Gail's Flags

Sonny Plagens, formerly an assistant superintendent at Lake Windcrest Golf Club, is now the golf course superintendent at Canongate at Panther Trails. *Scott Terry* has relocated from Crown Colony Country Club to become golf course superintendent at Pine Forest Country Club.

Shannon Donaway is the new golf course superintendent at Weston Lakes Country Club. *Chris Gillespy* is now working in sales for Turf Materials, Inc.



2010 STGCSA Legacy Scholarships

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 2010 STGCSA Legacy Scholarship. Applications will be available at the Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member tournament and can be found on www.stgcsa.org.

The deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 1, 2010.

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

2010 Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member Tournament

Monday, July 19, 2010

Houston Country Club
One Potomac Drive,
Houston, Texas 77057

Host Superintendent:
Kevin Borowski

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Shotgun Start: 10:30 a.m.

Dinner: Following Golf

Entry Fee: \$275 per team

Entry Deadline:

July 16, 2010

An entry form is included in this issue of *Tee to Green*. The entry form is also available on www.stgcsa.org or by calling Marian Takushi (281-494-0094). All entries (including mailed) and payments must be received by July 16, 2010.

**Directions to
Houston Country Club:**

From Loop 610 West between I-10 and Hwy. 59:
Go west on Woodway Dr. approximately 2.3 miles
and then go north (right) on Potomac Dr. to club.

**No Meetings
in August or September—
No Tee to Green for August.**

**The September issue
of Tee to Green
will arrive in August.**

**Please monitor
www.stgcsa.org
for important updates**

MAKE YOUR NOMINATION!



Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year Award

Nomination forms are available
at www.stgcsa.org.

Please take time to help one of your
fellow golf course superintendents
receive the recognition he deserves.

The nominations deadline is
Sept. 30, 2010.

It's Hot! Be Safe and Healthy

It's easy to take your health and safety for granted, but you work in an industry that requires you to be outside for extended periods of time. That means you can be exposed to extreme conditions, and if you don't take steps to prepare for them or the conditions they can create, you might find yourself or a member of your staff indoors for an extended time . . . in a hospital.

The following information was taken from the National Weather Service's Storm Singals newsletter, available at www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx. Please read it and use the information to safeguard yourself and your staff from heat problems.

If a Heat Wave Is Predicted or Happening

- Slow down. Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- Stay indoors as much as possible. If air conditioning is not available, stay on the lowest floor, out of the sunshine. Try to go to a public building with air conditioning each day for several hours. Remember, electric fans do not cool the air, but they do help sweat evaporate, which cools your body.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy.
- Drink plenty of water regularly and often. Your body needs water to keep cool.
- Drink plenty of fluids even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Water is the safest liquid to drink during heat emergencies. Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine in them. They can make you feel good briefly, but make the heat's effects on your body worse. This is especially true about beer, which dehydrates the body.
- Eat small meals and eat more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein, which increase metabolic heat. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.

Signals of Heat Emergencies

- Heat exhaustion: Cool, moist, pale, or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea or vomiting; dizziness; and exhaustion. Body temperature will be near normal.

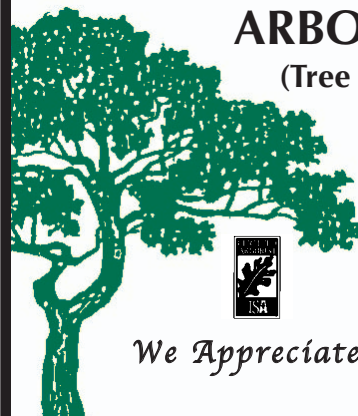
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Out of Bounds: Palm Trees for Houston



By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Last winter, Mother Nature reaffirmed that Houston is indeed in a subtropical climate. The affects of cold temperatures were very obvious on palm trees all over the greater Houston area.

Palm tree species that suffered especially included pigmy date palms (*Phoenix roebelenii*), queen palms (*Syagrus roman-zoffiana*), Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) and wild date palms (*Phoenix sylvestris*).

Those palms should probably be planted only in the warmest areas of coastal Texas, since they can only tolerate temperatures in the mid to lower 20s.

If you have any of those trees on your course that died this past winter, consider replacing them with these common, more cold-hardy palms:

Large (over 25 feet):

- Cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) – Cold hardy to 10 degrees, tolerant of a wide range of soil moisture conditions, transplants easily from naturally occurring field stands.
- California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) – cold hardy to 12 degrees, looks very similar to Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), cold hardy to 22 degrees. The trunk of this species is much larger. Often hybridizes with *W. robusta*.
- Chinese fan palm (*Livistona chinensis*) – cold hardy to 18 degrees, similar in appearance to Mexican fan palm, but more cold hardy and slower growing.
- Date palm (*Phoenix canariensis* and *Phoenix dactylifera*) – both species are cold hardy to 19 degrees; other date palm species are only cold hardy to the mid 20s. These massive trees look best when planted in an open landscape or with a large building as a backdrop.

Medium (up to 25 feet):

- European fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) – cold hardy to 16 degrees, clumping (multi-trunked) spreading growth habit, good choice if a clump of small trees is desired.
- Pindo palm (*Butia capitata*) – cold hardy to 14 degrees, slow growing, silvery blue-green foliage; most cold hardy of the feather-leaf palms.

Small (less than 20 feet):

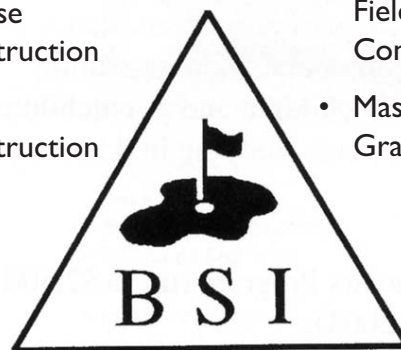
- Needle palm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*) – cold hardy to 5 degrees, low growing mounding shrub-like palm; probably the most cold hardy palm that is widely available.
- Saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) – cold hardy to 18 degrees, low growing dense shrub-like growth habit; great for use as a visual barriers.
- Windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*) – cold hardy to 10 degrees, small solitary fan palm that looks best when planted in groups.

To read more about this subject, please visit this website:
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep359>

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

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IT'S HOT!

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- Heat stroke: Hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing. Body temperature can be very high— as high as 105 degrees. If the person was sweating from heavy work or exercise, skin may be wet; otherwise, it will feel dry.

Treatment of Heat Emergencies

- Heat cramps: Get the person to a cooler place and have him or her rest in a comfortable position. Lightly stretch the affected muscle and replenish fluids. Give a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes. Do not give liquids with alcohol or caffeine in them, as they can make conditions worse.
- Heat exhaustion: Get the person out of the heat and into a cooler place. Remove or loosen tight clothing and apply cool, wet cloths, such as towels or sheets. If the person is conscious, give cool water to drink. Make sure the person drinks slowly. Give a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes. Do not give liquids that contain alcohol or caffeine. Let the victim rest in a comfortable position, and watch carefully for changes in his or her condition.
- Heat stroke: Heat stroke is a life-threatening situation. Help is needed fast. Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. Move the person to a cooler place. Quickly cool the body. Immerse victim in a cool bath, or wrap wet sheets around the body and fan it. Watch for signals of breathing problems. Keep the person lying down and continue to cool the body any way you can. If the victim refuses water or is vomiting or there are changes in the level of consciousness, do not give anything to eat or drink.

June Meeting

Riverbend Country Club Golf Results

136

Doug Browne, Danny Atchison,
Jerry Takushi, Chris Teaffiller

139

Harry Yewens, Mark Baughman,
Johnny Walker, Cheyenne Herring

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Josh Ferguson, Jack Hargrove, Jeff Smith

SPECIAL CONTESTS

<u>Hole</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Winner</u>
#1	Long Drive	Pat Neuendorff
#1	Long Drive	Josh Ogden
#4	Closest-to-Pin	Mark Haven
#7	Closest-to-Pin	Mike Nuzzo
#14	Closest-to-Pin	Johnny Walker
#17	Closest-to-Pin	Gary Hargrove

BULLETIN BOARD

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Tapatio Springs Golf Resort & Conference Center — Boerne
Please send resume´ and cover letter to:
Matt Anderson, Golf Course Superintendent
Tapatio Springs Golf Resort & Conference Center
314 Blue Heron Dr., Boerne, TX 78006
E-mail: manderson@kempersports.com

Assistant Superintendent Wanted

South Shore Harbour Country Club
Please send resumes´ to Chris Hartman
at chartman@canogategolf.com

Assistant in Training Needed

The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament Course)
Please contact Russell Birkhimer at 281-814-5752
or send resume´ to: rbirkhimer@thewoodlandsc.com

Jacobsen Technician Wanted

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For more information, please contact
Lawan Petty (918-779-7700 or lawanpetty@luber.com) or
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Assistant Superintendent Needed

Tour 18 Golf Course
Please contact Todd Stephens, CGCS, at:
Phone: 7113-253-1043 • E-mail: tstephens@palmergolf.com

Superintendent Wanted

Swanson Golf Center
6224 Theall Rd., Houston, TX 77066
Please contact Matt Swanson at 281-814-5752

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6200 College Ave., Snyder, TX 79549-9502

*The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all
STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927)
before the 5th 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).*

KEVIN BOROWSKI

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Borowski points to the content of the Chapter's monthly meetings as an aspect in which he's seen great improvement since joining the Board.

"The move to better education at the meetings is the most important thing I've seen happen," he said. "The officers and Board members have worked very hard to offer better quality speakers and a wider variety of topics for the meetings, and I think that is paying off for our members. I think you'll see us continue in that direction into the future."

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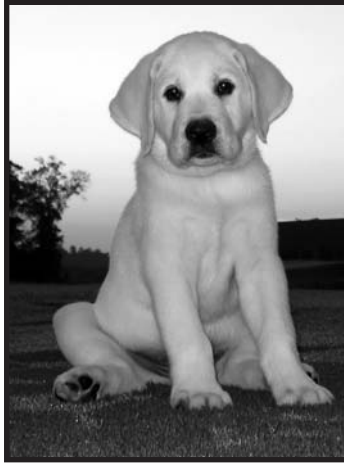
Entries are being accepted for LebanonTurf's 2011 Dog Days of Golf Calendar and Dog of the Year contest and you can enter a picture of your golf course canine companion today.

If selected for the calendar, your dog will also have a chance to be crowned 2011 Dog of the Year, garnering a \$3,000 prize for your affiliated chapter and \$500 prize for you.

LebanonTurf's 2011 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be delivered to your doorstep with the November issue of *Golf Course Management* magazine.

Don't delay— entries will be accepted through Aug. 2, 2010.

Submit your entry at
www.gcsaa.org/dogcalendar;
or email a
high resolution photo to
lebturfdogcalendar@gcsaa.org.



Nick Johnson, the golf course superintendent at The Woodlands Country Club's Player Course, submitted a photo of his dog, Hogan, for LebanonTurf's 2007 Dog Days of Golf Calendar. Hogan was one of 15 dogs featured in the calendar.

2010 STGCSA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 19

Superintendent/Pro
or Member/Member Tournament
Houston Country Club
Host Superintendent: Kevin Borowski

July 25-27

Texas Turfgrass Association
Summer Conference
Corpus Christi

September 19-21

LSGCSA Texas Trophy Tournament
Horseshoe Bay Resort - Horseshoe Bay

October 11

Member-Guest
Evergreen Point Golf Course
Host Superintendent: Dennis Klene

November 8

STGCSA Annual Meeting
Braeburn Country Club
Host Superintendent: Terry Gill

November 29 - December 1

Texas Turfgrass Association
Annual Conference
Fort Worth

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



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