

# TEE TO GREEN

June 2013

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf  
Course Superintendents Association



Miramont Country Club



## Meeting Schedule

June 11, 2013—Supt/Pro, Member/  
Member Tournament

Miramont Country Club

[Map to Miramont CC](#)

July 28, 2013 (Sunday)

Redstone GC

Member/Guest/Guest/Guest

(Guests do not have to be a member of  
STGCSA)

August TBA - Family Night at Constella-  
tion Field in Sugar Land

[Map to Constellation Field](#)

September 22-24 Lone Star Texas Tro-  
phy—Newport Dunes Golf Club

Port Aransas, TX

October 15, 2013—Sterling Country  
Club

[Map to Sterling CC](#)

November 18, 2013—Sweetwater  
Country Club—Annual Meeting

[Map to Sweetwater CC](#)

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

## Superintendent/Pro-Member/Member Tournament

With the next Rounds 4 Research auction just one week away, June 6-16, let golfers know that this is a great way to save on rounds of golf while raising money for turfgrass research. They can support the future of the game just by playing golf. Learn more at:

### Rounds 4 Research.

As summer begins, there is a lot planned for the second half of the year. June starts off with Miramont Country Club (Director of Grounds, Jon Snider and Superintendent Riley Maxey) hosting our ever popular Superintendent/Pro-Member/Member Tournament. Get your reservation in early as it is sure to fill up. Use the website forms to prepay for your entry and “extras” so you don’t have to wait in line. We have some great tee gifts this year donated by our president’s (Sean Wilson, CGCS) club members. A big thank you to Greg Garrison, PHD of Oil Testing & Consulting and Joe Gerik of Texas Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance.

July brings our first ever Member/Guest/Guest/Guest at Redstone Tournament Course. This will be held on a Sunday so you can bring friends and/or family. We will have silent auction items, like rounds of golf (if you are willing to donate a round for this function, please email [stgcsa@stgcsa.org](mailto:stgcsa@stgcsa.org)) for your guests to bid on. Only \$75 per person for this event! Sign up online now.

August will be a fun night for the whole family. We plan to have the picnic area at Constellation Field in Sugar Land for a Skeeter’s home game. There will be food, fun and of course.....baseball! And the best part of it all.....Professional Turf Products is sponsoring the event so the cost will be minimal for everyone!



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## Superintendent Wade Warmes catches a big one!

While fishing in Galveston West Bay with Affiliate members, Brent Ratcliff and Chris Mrosko, Wade Warmes, Superintendent at

Cypress Lakes Golf Club catches a Jack Fish. It took him 57 minutes to land this monster! It weighed about 30 pounds!

Send your photos to [stgcsa@stgcsa.org](mailto:stgcsa@stgcsa.org)



## Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award

Do you know someone who's made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the superintendent profession? Nominate him or her for GCSAA's Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. Individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter or a qualified golf association. Nominations are open through July 15.

[Submit a Nomination Form](#)

### Calling all dogs!

It's time to submit a pic of your golf course dog to be considered for LebanonTurf's 2014 Dog Days of Golf Calendar. Entries are being accepted now through Aug. 1. If selected, your dog will also have a chance to be crowned 2014 Dog of the Year, garnering \$3,000 for your chapter, \$500 for your local humane society and \$500 for you. Learn more details about how to submit a photo of your dog, tips on how to take the best photos, and more at: [www.gcsaa.org/dogcalendar](http://www.gcsaa.org/dogcalendar)





Director of Grounds: Jon Snider

## Miramont Country Club

Host: Jon Snider

Located in the heart of the Brazos Valley, 90 minutes from both Houston and Austin and just down the road from Texas A&M, Miramont is a private club in an exclusive residential development. Some find it hard to believe but hidden behind the massive European style clubhouse there really is a golf course at Miramont. Construction of the 22 hole, 200 acre Robert Trent Jones II design was completed in 2002, however the doors did not actually open until 2004. Miramont, which is Italian for "view from a grassy hill", is more of a rolling parkland setting than it is a hill. The



Supt. Riley Maxey



course can be enjoyed by golfers of any age or skill level with a multitude of tee and pin locations. Massive bunkers on three holes and heavily guarded greens make planning your shots essential in order to get on the green, once you get onto the green undulation and speed come into play. The course also contains two potentially drivable par fours if you're feeling lucky and the eighteenth can easily make or break a round. The playing surfaces consist of Tif-Sport tees, fairways, and roughs with Tif-Eagle putting greens. The back tees play around 7100 yards and play like two completely different courses depending on the direction of the wind.



## Kevin Campagna races in the Tour Divide to support Combat Veterans

Kevin is the son of Platinum Sponsor, Tony Campagna of Turf Materials. The Tour Divide starts on June 14th in Canada and follows a route through the Rocky Mountains that traces the continental divide to finish at the border of Mexico. In total, the race covers 2,745 miles and requires riders to climb more than 200,000 feet in elevation, equivalent to summiting Mount Everest seven times. Throughout the race, riders are required to go it alone. There can be no support crew to provide meals, water, bike repairs or any other assistance along the way. However, sponsors are allowed to pay for gear and other supplies before the race starts, support that is critical to any rider's success.

"The course will take me through some of the wildest terrain on the continent, places where bears and mountain lions are more common than people. The race is well known within the cycling community and well regarded by ultra-sport competitors. Completing it will be a tremendous feat and an opportunity to draw attention to an activity that can help other combat veterans. Ten years ago, as a Sgt in the United States Marine Corps, I served as a crew chief and gunner and saw combat as part of the initial invasion of Iraq. This June, I am using the leadership skills instilled in me by the Marines to overcome my own post-traumatic stress disorder as well as raise awareness for other combat veterans by competing in the hardest mountain bike race in the world: The Tour Divide," said Kevin.

[Donate to support Kevin Campagna in Tour Divide 2013](#)

### Follow Kevin

Track him during the race: [TD Tracker](#)

Listen to his call-in's: [MTBCast](#)

See pictures of his training and the race: [Instagram](#)

Stay up to date with training and preparations: Kevin's [TD Facebook](#) and his [Personal Facebook](#)

Track all his rides during training: [Strava App](#)



## ADA Golf Course Standards to Take Effect January 31, 2013

**Please Note:** Private Clubs are exempt from the following standards; however public facilities will need to be aware of the regulations set forth by the following standards.

The U.S. Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act creating the ADA Access Board to recommend standards of access for persons with a disability to golf courses. The guidelines were formalized and sent to the Department of Justice for enforcement purposes. Adoption of the guidelines by the Department of Justice was made in April 2012 but enforcement was delayed until January 31, 2013. These standards have not been challenged in a court of law as of now, but it may be expected that a body of law may follow as courses are cited and prosecuted.

Generally speaking, the ADA requires golf courses to meet specific standards. If the requirements are not "readily achievable" a safe harbor exists for non-compliance. To be exempted, a golf course would have to show that the cost of making its course accessible is beyond its financial means. (Publicly owned courses are not granted this safe harbor). All courses are required to make an accessibility study.

- The Department of Justice requirements include:
- A connected pathway from the parking lot, bag drop, clubhouse, pro shop, practice facilities, through the golf course, the toilet(s) and weather facilities
- A pathway at least 48" wide
- At least 1 practice station or 5% of the stations whichever is more
- At least 1 accessible entrance onto each putting green
- Access to a teeing ground on each hole (does not have to be forward tee)
- No requirement for bunker access at this time

All facilities must conduct access studies and determine what is and what is not in compliance with the law. This includes a review of physical structure compliance in regards to 1991 standards and the new 2010 standards. Classifications should be made as to each non-compliant condition and then a determination made between mandatory compliance and those subject to the "readily achievable" standard. For those determined not to be readily achievable, the facility should be prepared to defend this position on a cost/available resource basis.

Helpful Resources:

<http://www.accessgolf.org/resources/2012allianceowneroperator toolkit.pdf>

<http://www2.gcsaa.org/conference/education/2011-presentation-PDFs/ADA-Greenwell.pdf>

### Constellation Field



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~Quote of the Month~

*If you are caught on a golf course during a storm and are afraid of lightning, hold up a 1-iron. Not even God can hit a 1-iron.*

Lee Trevino

*From the President: Sean Wilson, CGCS*

*Shortly after sitting down to write this message, I received a phone call and was told to turn on the news. I then spent the rest of the day trying to get in touch with all my family and friends in Oklahoma. For the second time since I moved to Texas I watched in disbelief the television footage of the destruction in and around my hometown by a massive tornado. Thankfully everyone had escaped any major damage or injury, some by as little as a few blocks.*



*Later that day, I finally received a text back from a friend I was checking on. He was okay, but the golf course where he has been a superintendent for 13 years was destroyed. I can't imagine what it would be like to have the course you've spent so much time on almost gone in a matter of minutes. As bad as that would be it pales in comparison to what those who lost loved ones and especially children are going through. When a tragedy like this happens it quickly puts things into perspective. What is most important in your life? I know for me its family and friends. We all get wrapped up in the day to day stuff at the golf course and it's easy to forget sometimes what is really important.*

*Don't leave that vacation you've earned unused. Take the time off and spend time with friends and family, you'll be glad you did.*

*I look forward to seeing everyone next month at Miramont for the Super/Pro. We have some great tee prizes this year, so don't miss out. Sign up early.*

M. Sean Wilson, CGCS



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**Attention all Members!**

To all of you who golf at the  
monthly meetings and  
tournaments.....  
*-concerning all monies leftover  
from skins and prizes awarded  
at meetings -*



Starting in 2013, if you win money at a golf event, the money must be picked up within two meetings after the prize was won or the money will be donated to the scholarship fund. This change is due to the tournament committee having to keep up with winnings for extended periods of time, sometimes over a year. Winners are posted online within a few days of the event so you can determine if you have prizes waiting for you well before the next event.

Prize and skin money will not be mailed.

Thank you for your understanding!

Reminder: Guests are not eligible for prize money

Chapter Championship Golf Results  
 May 13, 2013 – Bay Oaks Country Club  
 Host: Kyle Brown



**CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT**

<b>First Place</b>	Braeden Riley	72
<b>Second Place</b>	Jeff Smelser (scorecard playoff)	75
<b>Third Place</b>	Tommy Homeyer	75
Other Scores	Mark Haven	77
	Stan Ludwick	77
	Doug Browne	78
	Chris Webster	80
	Sean Wilson	82
	Phil Taylor	83
	Travis Klosterboer	84

**FIRST FLIGHT**

<b>First Place</b>	Pat Johnston	82
<b>Second Place</b>	Jason Burgess	86
<b>Third Place</b>	Bill Abetz	89
Other Scores	Mark Baughman	92
	Blayne Sparks	93
	Clay Walker	84

**THIRD FLIGHT – NET SCORES**

<b>First Place</b>	Brandon Cole (scorecard playoff)	75
<b>Second Place</b>	Scott Sipes	75
<b>Third Place</b>	Jeff Smith (scorecard playoff)	76
Other Scores	Cody Spivey	76
	Kevin Royse	78
	Willy Plowman	79
	Charlie Rizzo	80
	Chris Mrosko	82
	Tom Brandon	83
	Mitch Elliott	84
	Gary Hargove	88
	Kyle Brown	96

**SECOND FLIGHT**

<b>First Place</b>	Kent Knowles	79
<b>Second Place</b>	Ben Dickerson (scorecard playoff)	84
<b>Third Place</b>	Tony Diorio	84
	Will McCullough	87
	Wade Warms	90
	Pat Neuendorff	92
	Brent Ratcliff	95
	Johnny Walker	97

**Proximity Contest**

**Closest to the Pin (0-12 hcp) – Tony Diorio**

**Closest to the Pin (13+ hcp) – Willy Plowman**

**Long Drive (0-12 hcp) – Kent Knowles**

**Long Drive (13+ hcp) – Jeff Smith**

**(See photos of all the winners on the results page of the website)**



Thank you to our photographer, Michelle Wilson!

Celebrity Guest: Clay Walker (second from left) with Charlie Rizzo, Pat Johnston and Jeff Smelser



Mark Haven, Braeden Riley, Doug Browne, Stan Ludwick



Phil Taylor, Chris Webster, Sean Wilson, Travis Klosterboer



Bill Abetz, Blayne Sparks, Jason Burgess, Mark Baughman



Chris Mrosko, Kyle Brown, Willy Plowman, Tom Brandon



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# GCSAA<sub>tv</sub>

GCSAA National Championship

GCSAA TV behind the scenes at the 2012 Golf Industry Show

Meet Jim Stuart, winner of GCM's 2012 -Most Valuable Technician award

Inside the Ropes: Pat Finlen, CGCS, discusses the volunteer program at the 2012 U.S. Open

## SAVE THE DATE

**TARO**  
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South Region/TARO meeting August 28th, 2013 - Sugar Creek CC

Go to [www.texascmaa.org](http://www.texascmaa.org) for registration and details or contact Sam Brewster at [sam@texascmaa.org](mailto:sam@texascmaa.org) or 214-871-9800

**Sugar Creek**  
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2013 Allied Association/Vendor Golf Tournament hosted by the South Region of the Texas CMAA Lone Star Chapter

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Monday, September 30, 2013—Pine Forest CC

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### Get to Know.....Mark Haven: STGCSA President 2012

Golf is my second sport just as golf is my second career. I learned to play tennis in high school and became pretty good at it in college, even spending a little time as an assistant pro for a country club in Corpus Christi. Working my way through college I started to find success in the restaurant industry. Since I wasn't real motivated in college I put that on hold for the next 15 years while I tried to be successful managing a variety of food establishments. My last stint was serving as one of the managers at Sbis Dining Center on campus at Texas A&M. During that time two unrelated life changes merged to reset my journey. I went from playing tennis every day and golf occasionally to becoming an avid golfer and met the woman who would become my wife. It was she who pointed out to me that while I was successful in my job, I was not happy. A mutual friend was married to a turf researcher at A&M and the three of them convinced me to return to college and get a degree in turf. I went to work for Bobby Holt at Briarcrest Country Club, went back to school, finished my degree, and soon found myself on the road to a new career. After graduation Bobby promoted me to Assistant and about 2 years later I accepted the job as Superintendent at the Texas A&M Golf Course. It's funny. As a restaurant manager I worked with a perishable product, managed staff and budget, and dealt with customers. As a golf course superintendent you work with a perishable product, manage staff and budget, and deal with customers. In both industries expectations from the customers are usually higher than they are willing to pay. But after spending 15 years looking out the window, wishing I could be outside, I have not once regretted the change. It's been 20 years since this second journey started. I count myself blessed to have a great wife, 2 great sons, a great job, and a chance to be part of this wonderful organization.

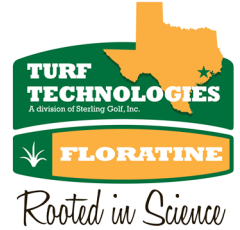
P.S. I don't recommend the 17 year plan for college.



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## THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A SOLID MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

*Golf course maintenance is often complex and confusing. How can the superintendent and course officials sort through maintenance issues and prioritize their investment of time and money?*

by R. A. (BOB) BRAME



The triplex tire mark depression shows how mowing equipment can affect putting surface quality and demonstrates the impact of

mowing height. The wheel mark depressions allow the grass to have more leaf tissue. This slight increase in mowing height

produces a fairly clean stand of bentgrass, while the majority of the putting surface is heavily in-

In a high tech world, it often is difficult to sort out golf course maintenance issues. A question often asked on Turf Advisory Service (TAS) visits is, "How do we prioritize our maintenance efforts? We understand your individual recommendations, but how does it all fit together?" This article provides a systematic approach for prioritizing golf course maintenance decisions.

First, it is important to understand the three major components in every maintenance decision: agronomics, economics, and politics. No operation is immune from these three ingredients. However, the importance of each will vary depending upon the personalities at the course and specific maintenance issues. Although it is important to consider individual details of these three categories, they tend to weave together and are impossible to separate.

Politics often can be offset by positive, proactive communication. An article published in the November/December 1996 *Green Section Record* elaborates on the importance of communication in golf course maintenance. When considering agronomics and economics, agronomics should be given the higher billing. Investing in a basic agronomic program pays dividends over the long run and leads to positive economics. This does not mean economics should be thrown to the wind, but agronomics is the vehicle that carries the real payload. Focus on solid agronomics, and when economic alternatives exist that do not compromise solid agronomic building blocks, cost savings can be safely considered.

So, what are the agronomic building blocks upon which a high-quality maintenance program should be built? There are four: **water management** (drainage/ aerification and irrigation), **growing environment** (sunlight and air movement), **mowing** (bench setting, type of mower, and sharpness), and **fertilization**. While these four agronomic building blocks can be applied to all playing surfaces, greens are the heart of any golf course maintenance program.



The microenvironment of this site has been improved by a combination of tree removal to improve morning sunlight penetration and installing a fan to maintain surface air movement.

**Water Management:** few years ago a survey of the Green Section staff identified *overwatering* as the most common agronomic pitfall in golf course maintenance. This is not surprising, given the many side issues<sup>6</sup> USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD that tie directly to overwatering. Turf health, playability, and operating costs are a few key factors that are directly connected to water management. The water management equation includes drainage and irrigation. Since aerification (any type) improves air, root, and water movement in the root zone, verification/drainage and irrigation should not be considered separately. The equation looks like this: **Water Management = drainage/aerification+ irrigation/rainfall**. Conceding there is little that can be done about rainfall, the importance of drainage/irrigation is brought into focus. There are two basic types of drainage: (1) surface runoff and (2) downward movement of water through the soil. Both are important, but positive surface runoff is vital and emphasizes the importance of proper design. The more directions water can run off green after a heavy rain, the better. Although it is possible to modify surface runoff after construction, this can be difficult and the results often are inconsistent. If a *bird bath* depression is present on a soil-based green, the possibility of installing a wide and very subtle surface runoff channel should be considered before taking the next obvious step - adding drainage. A subsurface drainage system, combined with positive surface runoff, achieves the best possible movement of water. It is true that a few courses have been able to install subsurface drainage lines in greens after construction and achieve improved water movement, but the best approach is to build in good drainage during construction. When poor surface runoff is combined with non-existent subsurface drainage, rebuilding should be considered along with the potential value of installing runoff swales and/ or drainage lines. The long-term improvement of turf health, playability, and maintenance costs may justify the cost of rebuilding.

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Since aerification improves internal water movement (in addition to other agronomic benefits), it should be viewed as a key maintenance tool. This is true despite the occasional outcry from golfers trying to putt on aerified greens. The frequency of aerification, type of equipment, and processing or removal of cores must be custom-fitted to a course's needs. Recognizing the importance of well-timed aerification, do not allow players to dictate maintenance timing. Any short-term inconvenience will return dividends over the long haul. Volumes have been written about golf course irrigation. The bottom-line focus should be to maintain ideal soil moisture conditions for the health of the turf. A high-quality irrigation system is an invaluable asset, and labor expense directed toward hand watering is money well spent. Regardless of how good an irrigation system may be, if the intent is to maintain ideal soil moisture conditions, hand watering will occasionally be necessary.

**Growing Environment:** The importance of positive air movement and direct sunlight to the health of the turf are often overlooked when prioritizing the investment of time and money to build an agronomically solid maintenance program. Yes, many people have heard that trees can cause sunlight and air movement problems, but course officials/owners often do not place enough weight on the negative impact that too many or badly placed trees can bring to agronomic conditioning. Try to provide the turf at least eight hours of direct sunlight each day, as early in the day as possible. Morning sunlight is the most important for the growth of healthy turf. Remember also to consider the changing angle of the sun with the passing seasons. There is absolutely nothing that can be done to counteract inadequate sunlight, short of opening up the growing environment through tree pruning or removal. Sunlight is necessary for the photosynthetic process. Air movement is needed to help dry and cool the surface. If trees and/or underbrush are blocking air movement, their presence should be viewed as a direct threat to turf health and the resulting course playability. Oscillating fans can be a very good investment when air movement needs to be improved. First, do any needed tree and/or underbrush removal and then consider oscillating fans as a supplement to further improve air circulation.

**Mowing:** This building block has three subcomponents- type of mower, blade sharpness, and bench setting. There are many greens mowers to choose from. The first decision is whether you want a triplex or walk-behind unit. Walk-behind units normally produce better quality of cut, with less stress on the turf. However, many courses continue to achieve acceptable results with triplex units. There are differences among mowers within each of the two major categories (triplex walkers), including such factors as weight, width, and type of mowing head. The types of rollers and blades, as well as their sharpness, also will impact mowing quality. It is very important to match the correct mowing equipment with course's needs. The bench setting, which affects the amount of leaf tissue available to absorb sunlight, obviously impacts plant health. Lower mowing heights may produce faster green speeds, but they weaken the plant and reduce turf dependability. Defining what is too low for healthy, dependable growth is related to the turf species and variety being maintained. There are limits to agronomically sound mowing heights and the resulting green speeds, despite cries from some golfers for faster and faster surfaces.

**Fertilization:** Fertilization is as important to the grass plant's health as how we eat is to ours. We have the luxury of choosing what we eat (some choose better than others), but a grass plant must live or die with what we provide. The first step is annual representative soil testing. Carefully monitoring soil chemistry, year after year, makes it possible to fine-tune fertilization treatments. Tissue testing, at this point, may confuse and unnecessarily complicate putting green fertilization. An article published in the March/April 1995 Green Section Record, titled "A Practical Approach to Putting Green Fertilization," provides a guide for fertilization in the north and central parts of the country. Plant feeding requirements vary with species, variety, location, soil chemistry, traffic, weather conditions, and other factors. Yet, proper fertilization is essential to plant health.

**Conclusion** A solid foundation in the areas of water management, growing environment, mowing, and fertilization enhances all other golf course maintenance efforts. Conversely, you cannot compensate for limitations in one or more of these areas by using fine-tuning strategies, which include pesticide application programs. Keep the focus. BOB BRAME is the Director of the Green Section's North Central Region. He is responsible for the administration of nine states and focuses his TAS visits in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

#### A Key for Prioritizing the Focus of a Golf Course Maintenance Program

- Putting surfaces are the most important areas on a golf course. The ranking of tees, fairways, bunkers, roughs, and other areas will vary.
- Consider the three main components of every maintenance decision: (1) agronomics, (2) economics, and (3) politics.
- Proactive, positive, creative communication helps offset politics. Invest as much time in communicating as agronomics.
- Solid agronomics safeguards long-term economics. With the focus on building an agronomically solid foundation, economic choices will be much clearer.
- Agronomically, invest your first dollar and all your best efforts in:
  1. Water Management (Drainage/Aerification and Irrigation),
  2. Growing Environment (Sunlight and Air Movement),
  3. Mowing (Type of Mower, Sharpness, and Bench Setting),
  4. Fertilization.

