

Tee to Green

June
2009

What about manufactured sand?

By Bud White

We all know the high priority American golfers place on bunkers today and that golf courses strive for bunker perfection. Or, as the term goes, “consistency.”

I refer you to my article in the March/April 2009 issue of *Green Section Record*. The article dealt with the word “consistency,” and was written as a tool to give to golfers and post in locker rooms to help players understand that the term “consistency” is not the proper word as applied to achieving quality bunker conditions.

One of the new topics in the search for “the perfect bunker” is the use of manufactured bunker sand, which is simply a crushed rock product that is much more angular and thus produces a firmer and more uniform surface when properly graded.

Manufactured sands are developed when coarse sand or rock is processed in a mechanical crusher. These units are very expensive and the production is slow. Their availability is still limited and the cost of sand is driven up because of the slow production. Generally speaking, the manufactured sands are usually about twice as expensive as mined sand, and that does not include shipping costs.

It is very difficult to tell the difference between manufactured sand and mined sand upon visual inspection, as both are angular and sharp edged (as compared to river sand, in which the particles are more smooth and round).

Manufactured sands are not only angular but have a very wide particle distribution curve. These characteristics help the sand firm up very quickly in the field and thus produce the firmer and more uniform surfaces golfers tend to prefer. Plants having the manufactured sand capability can screen the coarse and fine materials out to produce a properly blended, uniform distribution, creating very positive playing and management conditions.

Using manufactured sand does not necessarily mean the performance will necessarily be perfect. It is important from the buyer’s standpoint to perform your due diligence in sampling and

An excellent description of the factors is found in a *USGA Green Section Record* article by Jim Moore. It is titled, “How to Select the Best Sand for Your Bunkers,” and can be found in the January/February 1998 issue of the publication and is online at

www.usga.org/turf/articles/construction/bunkers/select_best_sand.html.

It is important to have any selected sands tested at an accredited A2LA soils lab. A list of those labs can be found in the back of various *Record* issues, or online at:

www.usga.org/turf/course_construction/physical_soil_testing.html.

testing to make sure you understand the product’s characteristics and performance.

This is best done by sending a sample to an accredited lab for analysis (as should be done with any bunker sand). It is also important to keep in mind that manufactured sand, like any other sand, will not be well-liked by a percentage of golfers, returning you to the vicious cycle of proper sand selection to meet the desires of the golfers.

There is no right or wrong decision, of course. It is simply a matter of preference, and that is exactly why there has been such debate on proper sand selection. If golfers would simply take lessons from a golf pro to learn how to play out of bunkers, their tendency to place blame on bunker conditions would be greatly reduced.

It is frustrating for me (and I know for all superintendents) to hear perfectly maintained bunkers criticized as being of poor quality or “inconsistent.”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish Mother Nature would figure out what she wants to do. We have torrential downpours and floods one week and then we can't get any rain the next four or five weeks. Fluttering from deluge to drought and then back again makes our job much tougher than it would be if someone could convince her to try a normal pattern for even just a little while.

And now is as good a time to start as any, I think. I know I could sure use a bit of rain right now, but please . . . please . . . could it come an inch or two at a time, with four or five days of sunny skies in between.

That would be very nice, thank you. And just in case you're actually listening, Ma, I'm asking nicely.

In between the recent deluges (remember, I asked nicely, and I'm just saying . . .), we played the first round of our annual Chapter Championship last month. You can find some of the results on page 7 of this issue of *Tee to Green*.

If you didn't make it to The Wilderness to take part, you missed a good meeting. Our gratitude goes out to Blayne Sparks and the staff at The Wilderness for making us so very welcome, and to Bud White for a very informative presentation about how to stretch our budgets during the current economic downturn.

Thanks, too, to Bob Meyer and Frank Bittner of Precise Control, who provided lunch and sausage wraps during the round of golf. The lunch and wraps were very tasty, indeed.

As you'll see in the box below, our June Meeting and the occasion of the second (and final) round of our 2009 Chapter Champi-

onship will take place June 15 at Cypress Lakes Golf Club.

I know all the members who are competing in the golf tournament will be on hand, but if you're not in that category, you can still come out and attend the meeting.

While I'm on the subject of upcoming events, I want to remind everyone that the STGCSA (and superintendent Jason Harsh) will be hosting the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association Texas Trophy tournament at Memorial Park Golf Course on Sept. 13-15. We want to put our best foot forward for this event (and we want a STGCSA team to win), so please start making your plans to be a part of it.

The tournament offers you a great chance to network and visit with our colleagues from around the state, and it is always a great deal of fun. There will be a mixer on Sunday, Sept. 13, followed by the tournament (two rounds, one each on Monday and Tuesday).

And just for good measure, the STGCSA's September Monthly continued on page 5



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June Meeting

Final Round, Chapter Championship

Monday, June 15, 2009

Cypress Lakes Golf Club

Host Superintendent — Jared Bonar

Please RSVP by June 12 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.

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, take Hwy. 290 West toward Austin. Exit at Spring Cypress Road and stay on the feeder past the Spring Cypress and Cypress Rosehill intersections. About 1/4 mile past the intersection you will take a right on Cypress Chase Blvd. Follow that road all the way to the end. The golf course is located on the left side

TTA Summer Conference set for July

The 2009 Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference is coming up July 12-14 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop.

The gathering will commence on Sunday, July 12, with registration beginning and exhibitions opening at 11 a.m. A pair of presentations about "Water Issues and Turfgrass" by Calvin Finch, SAWS, and "Skills Required to Become a Licensed Irrigator" by Dr. Hennen Cummings of Tarleton State University will take place at 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., respectively. Dr. Richard White of Texas A&M University will speak about "Irrigation Water Requirements of Texas Landscapes" at 3:45 p.m.

Exhibits will re-open at 7 a.m. on Monday, July 13, and the day's activities will kick off with two presentations at 8 a.m. Dr. Richard Duble and Mark Hall of Texas A&M will lead a CPTM session focused on "Everything You Need to Know to Become a Certified Professional Turf Manager," and Dr. James McAfee of Texas AgriLife Extension will speak about the "10 Most Common Mistakes on Sports Fields."

James Moore of the USGA will provide a "10 Dumbest Things Golfers Do and Say" presentation at 9 a.m., followed by Dr. Duble's offerings about "Mathematic Models For Turfgrass Operations" at 11 a.m.

Another seminar about Turfgrass Mathematics led Mark Hall and Dr. Duble by will follow lunch at 1:30 p.m. A CPTM Exam

will be offered at 3:30 p.m.— the gathering's golf tournament will start at 1:30 p.m. on the resort's Wolfdancer Golf Club course.

Exhibitions will re-open again at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, and the morning's activities will include four presentations.

Dr. Frank Hons of Texas A&M will speak on the subject of "Nutrient Management; A Basic Guide for Professional Turfgrass Managers" at 8 a.m. "Composts, Organics and Biologicals; A Scientific Perspective" will be the focus of a presentation by Texas A&M's Dr. David Zuberer at 9 a.m., and Dr. Mike Kenna, director of USGA Green Section Research, will follow with a 10 a.m. discussion titled "Water, Water Everywhere, and Not a Drop to Spare."

Perry Cervantes of the Texas Department of Agriculture will close the gathering with an 11 a.m. discussion of "Laws and Regulations."

Special rates at the resort are available to conference attendees who make their reservations by June 12 . . . you can accomplish that at 512-308-1234 or 800-233-1234.

You can obtain complete details about the TTA Summer Conference and a registration form on the association's web site at www.texasturf.com.

You may also call the Association at 979-690-2201 or 800-830-8873.

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Out of Bounds: Controlling the invasive Chinese Tallow

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Many golf courses in the Houston area have at least a few Chinese Tallow, *Triadica sebiferum*, trees in their out-of-play areas. We know the trees are there and we know we should remove them, but there just never seems to be the time, labor, or budget.

As we ignore the problem, the trees grow in size and number. As the trees grow in size and number so does the effort that will be required to manage the problem.

A small Chinese Tallow tree (less than 35 feet tall) is easily recognized by its distinctive small leaves that are rounded at the base and tapered to a slender point. Small yellow flowers borne on 8-inch spikes appear during the spring.

The Texas Administrative Code (Title 4, Part 1, Chapter 19) lists the Chinese Tallow as an invasive plant. This invasive tree species out-competes native vegetation for resources (e.g. space, light, water, etc.). As native plants are displaced, so too is the wildlife that depends on the vegetation. If left unmanaged, an area can develop into a monoculture of Chinese Tallow trees.

The most practical means for controlling Chinese Tallow trees on golf courses is with the use of herbicides. Effective herbicides for Chinese Tallow contain triclopyr (e.g. Garlon 3A Ultra, Pathfinder II, Brush-B-Gon) or imazapyr (e.g. Arsenal). Multiple application methods are possible and are listed below:

- Foliar applications can be made from late spring to early fall while the plant is actively growing.
- Basal applications are effective for young sapling size trees. The tree should be treated at least one foot in length and on two sides of the trunk. The herbicide should be mixed with a basal oil or diesel. Some herbicides are ready-to-use for basal applications and do not require mixing (e.g. Pathfinder II).
- Freshly cut stems and trunks can be treated any time of the year assuming temperatures are warm enough that the herbicide will not freeze upon application.
- For very large trees the "hack and squirt" method is probably the easiest. Horizontal cuts should be made around the tree. This method can be conducted anytime except March and April.

To read more about Chinese Tallow tree control with herbicides visit these websites:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR251>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AG148>

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR133>

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



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Something you might enjoy

Michael Patrick Shiels, a Michigan-based author, collaborated with more than 100 golf course architects to create "Secrets of the Great Golf Course Architects," which was released last fall by Sky Horse Publishing.

The book features personal, first-hand career stories and hand-drawn sketches and renderings and is an effort of many members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

You can order the book through the American Society of Golf Course Architects (go to www.asgca.org and look on the "Publications" page or call 262-786-5960.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 2

Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Texas Trophy— it will be held at Memorial Park on Monday, Sept. 14. We've scheduled it that way so everyone can kill two birds with one stone, so, again, please plan accordingly.

We'll provide more details about those two events and more (our July meeting, the July 12-14 Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference, and our annual Superintendent/Pro Tournament) in upcoming issues of *Tee to Green*. It's going to be a busy summer, and I think we'll all find it to be just as productive as it will be busy.

— Lee Gravett

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Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Quail Valley Golf Course

Please contact: Jeff McCrory
713-373-6747

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).

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.

MANUFACTURED SAND

continued from page1

That said, there are seven factors to be evaluated in the bunker sand selection process. They are:

- Particle size
- Particle shape.
- Chemical reaction in hardness.
- Infiltration rate
- Color.
- Crusting potential
- Overall playing quality.

Manufactured sand has shown greater resistance to wind erosion even as it dries, and that is especially helpful in our part of the country. Manufactured sands do bring a new twist to considering bunker sand materials for golf courses. In general, they have been excellent performing materials, but it is still critical to have them properly tested to make sure the particle distribution will meet your performance criteria.

If you have questions about your bunker sand or if I can be of help in any way, please feel free to contact me at any time at budwhite@usga.org or 972-662-1138.

Bud White is the director of the Mid-Continent Region of the USGA Green Section.

"There is no individual who has bigger impact on any U.S. Open than the golf course superintendent."

– Mike Davis, USGA director of rules and competitions



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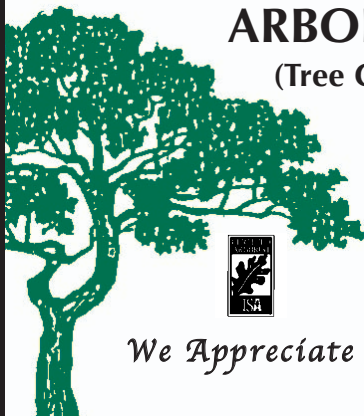
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2009 STGCSA Chapter Championship

The Wilderness Golf Club

*First Round Results
(Top 10 and ties each flight)*

Championship Flight

Stan Ludwick	72
Jeff Jowell	76
Jared Bonar	77
Justin Lonan	78
Brett Barclay	78
Steven Chernosky	79
Scott Terry	79
Mark Haven	81
Mitch Kiser	82
Brian Buckner	83

First Flight

Danny Atchison	79
Richard Kane	80
Pat Nuendorff	84
Robert Fray	84
Dennis Dickson	85
Blayne Sparks	85
Kent Knowles	85
Mike James	86
Brent Ratcliff	86
Lee Gravett	90
Wade Warmes	90

Second Flight

Brandon Crumpler	86
Charles Joachim	86
Jack Hargrove	90
Cody Marchand	91
Johnny Walker	91
Patrick O'Day	92
Glen Noska	93
Eric Glover	93
Jerry Takushi	96
Kevin Royse	97
Bud White	97

Third Flight (Net)

Brandon Cole	58
Lauro Villareal	63
Ed Schulthies	69
Ray McFarland	70
Jerry Huntsman	73
Ernie Francois	73
Mike Rhoden	75
Jeff Smith	75
Willy Plowman	76
Todd Stephens	77

Special Contests

Closest-to-the-pin

#4 — Brandon Cole	#8 — Robert Fray
#13 — Lauro Villareal	#13 (E-Z-Go) — Richard Kane
#16 — Blayne Sparks	

Long Drive

9 — Justin Lonan
#18 — Patrick O'Day

Volunteer golf outing scheduled

If you were one of the STGCSA's volunteers at this year's Shell Houston Open, you've got a treat coming up.

Redstone Golf Club will host a special golf outing for all STGCSA members who volunteered the time for this year's tournament—the event will take place on Redstone's Tournament Course on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 8 a.m.

The club will serve participants a continental breakfast and a barbecue/burger lunch with a round of golf squeezed in between.

All you need to do to play in the event is provide Randy Samoff (Redstone's golf course superintendent, of course) with an RSVP by Aug. 1, and then show up on Aug. 12 for a day of fun.

"We look forward to the event and hope everyone can make it out so we can show our appreciation for their efforts. Any more info needed just let me know," says Samoff.

Samoff can (and should) be reached at 281-459-7879 or rsamoff@redstonegolfclub.com.

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2009 STGCSA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

June 15

Cypress Lakes GC
Host Superintendent:
Jared Bonar
Chapter Championship,
Second Round

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 12

La Toreta Del Lago
Host Superintendent:
Todd Martin
Modified Stableford Gross/Net

November 9

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

December TBA

Annual Awards Banquet
and Ceremony

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



2008 Legacy Scholarships

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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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