

# Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter  
**GCSAA**  
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

March  
2009

## Terry Gill, 2008 STGCSA Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year

When founding South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association member L.W. "Sonny" DuBose passed away on Dec. 11, 2007, members of the STGCSA began to consider a lasting means through which his memory could be honored.

The STGCSA was founded in 1958, the brainchild of DuBose and six of his fellow superintendents, all of whom believed the area's golf course superintendents needed to be organized in order to advance their colleagues and profession.

In June 2008, the STGCSA announced the establishment of the Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year Award to honor DuBose, and to recognize significant achievements and contributions by an STGCSA member on an annual basis.

Terry Gill, golf course superintendent at BraeBurn Country Club and president of the STGCSA in 2003, was selected as the recipient of the first award and received formal presentation of it during the STGCSA's 2008 Christmas Party at River Oaks Country Club in December.

*"I first met Sonny Dubose in 1988 when we were building Bay Oaks Country Club," said Gill. "I quickly realized that Sonny was a great individual and a very special superintendent. He had spent his entire life working and helping to make this a better and more honored profession. He was someone I learned to have a great admiration for. Visiting with Sonny at the course or at some convention or seminar was always the highlight of my day."*

Nominations for the award were sought throughout last summer, from STGCSA members and a variety of people in leadership positions within the southeast Texas golf industry. Gill was one of three members whose recommendation was presented to the membership of the STGCSA by the Nominating Committee for a final vote during the Chapter's 2008 Annual Meeting, held last November at The Houstonian Golf & Country Club.



*"When I began my career as an assistant in 1988 at Bay Oaks Country Club, where I spent 12 years before moving to BraeBurn Country Club. I had no idea just how rewarding it would become," said Gill of his career. "Growing up on a farm in north Texas, I had an appreciation for the land and what it takes to grow a quality product. Along the way I also found a great love and appreciation for the game of golf. So it was only natural to go to work on a golf course."*

Gill has only worked at only two facilities during his career— Bay Oaks and BraeBurn— unusual during a time in which many people switch employers with regularity and many employers seek short-term cost-cutting solutions over long-term commitment to consistency.

One of the reasons for his success is that Gill, having tried a number of different career paths (from being a cowboy on the professional rodeo circuit to pipe drafting in chemical plants to owning a retail plant nursery and landscaping business) set his sights on becoming a true professional in an industry close to his heart. Once involved in the golf course maintenance industry, Gill dedicated himself completely to filling the needs of his employers.

They, in turn, have rewarded him with almost unsurpassed loyalty, recognizing that there is little he won't do to provide their golfers with the kind of golf course they expect to play throughout each year.

*"I can honestly say the last 20-plus years have been the greatest time of my life," said Gill. "I have had the privilege of serving the STGCSA as a Board member and as an officer, and I have served on several national committees and worked on some very worthwhile projects. I have met hundreds of superintendents, vendors, and contractors who all have one goal in mind—to make golf courses the best they can be."*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where, pray tell, is the rain? We've had really mild winter temperatures this year. That's the good news.

The less good news is that we have had hardly any rain to speak of . . . year to date, I've recorded only .9 inch of the wet stuff at Golfcrest, and I'm betting you haven't had much more.

According to data on weatherman Tim Heller's blog on [www.abc13.com](http://www.abc13.com), posted on Jan. 22, the Houston area's last "good" soaking came way back on Nov. 12, 2008, when 1.73 inches entered the books. Heller goes on to say the records show less than half an inch fell on Houston during the first three weeks of January, making it the fifth driest January on record. The Galveston area has gotten even less and was in the throes of its third driest January when the report was posted.

What's more, not much more has fallen since then and much of southeast Texas now carries the U.S. Drought Monitor's "severe" or "abnormally dry" designation. Things are even tougher for our friends over in central Texas, an area covered in deep, dark maroon on the Drought Monitor's map (<http://drought.unl.edu/DM/MONITOR.HTML>) to indicate "exceptional" drought conditions.

On the bright side, no winter rain means less poa, and you know Mother Nature will correct the situation sooner or later. Let's hope she does it sooner . . . and gently!



Lee Gravett

The 2009 STGCSA Scholarship tournament is just around the corner (Apr. 14 at High Meadow Ranch), and I hope you've settled on a team and signed up to play. There are more details on the entry form on page 6 of this issue of *Tee to Green*, and on our web site ([www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org)), but just in case, we'll open registration at 9:30 a.m. on the 14th, with our live auction slated to start at 10 a.m. followed by the shotgun start that will be the tournament.

The two most important steps you can take right now are to fill out the entry form and get your team signed up (the field is limited to the first 36 paid teams) and, if you have something you can donate to the auction, call John Freeman (713-818-8638) or Mark Haven (979-845-1925) to make arrangements. All auction items need to be registered by Friday,

Apr. 10.

Rounds of golf, equipment, product, services . . . all are good ideas that draw plenty of bids during the auction, but keep an open mind when you're deciding what to donate. Anything you can provide will be appreciated and will help us continue building our scholarship funds.

Another reminder—the PGA Tour comes to Houston the week of Mar. 30 through Apr. 5, when Redstone Golf Club will be

continued on page 8



### President

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e-mail: [srhunter@mindspring.com](mailto:srhunter@mindspring.com)

### Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

## March Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2009

The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament Course)

Host Superintendent — Russell Birkhimer

### Speaker:

Patrick O'Day, O'Day Drilling Company  
"Irrigation Pumps and Pump Maintenance"

Please RSVP by Mar. 6 by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094, by e-mail at [stgcsa@windstream.net](mailto:stgcsa@windstream.net) or through the direct link on the "Upcoming Events" page of [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org).

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

**Golf:** After Lunch

(Pick Your Partner — 2-Person Best Ball)

**Cost:** \$55

### REMINDER:

*You must arrive by 10:15 to play golf*

**Directions:** From I-45 North, take the Rayford/Sawdust exit. Go left on Sawdust Road, which will turn into Grogan's Mill. Then go right on South Millbend. The clubhouse is on the left, approximately .2 miles after the turn.

## Goettsch relocates

Roger Goettsch, CGCS, is relocating to Austin. Goettsch, who had served on the STGCSA Board of Directors and as a Chapter officer for the past seven years, has taken on duties as the golf course superintendent at Barton Creek Resort.

Goettsch plans to serve out the year as the Immediate Past President of the STGCSA.

## Membership Moves

Just a reminder . . . if you want your membership included in the 2009 STGCSA Membership Directory, you need to renew your membership by Mar. 9, when the Chapter will gather at The Woodlands Country Club's Tournament Course for its first meeting of the year.

You can do it via e-mail (stgcsa@windstream.net) or online within the "Members" section of [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org). And, of course, you can call Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 with any questions.

Several new enrollees have already joined the Chapter roster for this year. They are: *Baxter Smith*, assistant superintendent at Bear Creek Golf World; *Jeff McCrory*, golf course superintendent at Quail Valley Country Club; *Benjamin Fultz*, golf course superintendent at Wildcat Golf Club; *Chris Coleman*, a sales representative with Horizon Distributors; and *Robert Lao* of R&K Services.

In addition, *Phil Taylor* has joined the Brookside Equipment team as a sales manager.



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## Out of Bounds:

# Manage weeds in bedding plants successfully

*By Dr. Anthony Camerino*

Strategically placed mass plantings of annual color can greatly enhance the aesthetic appeal of your golf course, especially if you are dealing with a limited landscaping budget. To get the biggest bang for your buck, consider mass planting colorful annuals at the clubhouse entrance, tees, and other high visibility areas.

Now that March has arrived, your warm season annuals can be planted! Hopefully you started preparing your planting site before now, but if you didn't there is still time.

Incorporate about 3 inches of compost, peat or other aged organic material into the planting bed. If you have composted grass clippings and other landscape waste, this might be a great use for the material. Incorporating one or two pounds of a 10-10-10 controlled-release fertilizer per 100 square feet should be sufficient and provide season long fertility. To address specific nutrition needs, a soil test should be performed. If your planting site is poorly drained, make sure the bed is raised at least 6 to 8 inches.

Purchasing annuals in cell packs (plastic flats) is cost effective, but the plants are small. Smaller plants take long to cover bare ground, and, as a result, weed competition can be a problem. Annual plants in larger 4-inch containers can be a good compromise between price and size.

If light and air circulation is sufficient, the most challenging aspect of managing annuals is weed control. Hand weeding is effective, but labor intensive. Mulch is helpful, but often not completely effective. Other weed management options include the use of post-emergent herbicides before planting and pre-emergent herbicides after planting.

By employing the "stale seed bed" technique you can eliminate many weeds before you even plant. All you need to do is prepare the planting bed as mentioned above, irrigate regularly and wait two or three weeks. Much of the disturbed weed seed and other propagules will have germinated by then, and you can then spray the weeds with an effective broad spectrum post-emergent herbicide (e.g., glyphosate).

When planting your annuals, you should try not to disturb the soil more than absolutely necessary, as the disturbance will stimulate more weed seeds to germinate. After planting, apply a pre-emergent herbicide labeled specifically for the annuals planted, irrigate if indicated by the label, and then mulch.

If you have a specific species of weed that is a problem every year, it may be wise to select an effective pre-emergent herbicide and then choose the well-adapted annuals listed on that product's label.

For planting bed and plant selection information, please visit:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/ed/MG/MG31900.pdf>

For pre-emergent herbicide selection visit:  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/ed/WG/WG05800.pdf>

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

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# 18th Annual STGCSA Scholarship,



## Research & Development Tournament

The 18th Annual STGCSA  
Scholarship, Research & Deveopment Tournament  
will be held:

**Tuesday, April 14, 2009**

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club — Magnolia

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.

**All proceeds to benefit,  
the STGCSA Scholarship, Research & Development Endowment**

### **Format: Four-Person Scramble**

*All teams must include at least one member of the  
South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association  
and may include no more than one club professional.*

- Team handicap equals the sum of the team's individual handicaps divided by 8.
- For a complete rule sheet, details and a full schedule, please visit [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org).
  - Contest on Every Hole
  - Lunch and Dinner
  - Golf and Golf Cart
  - Range Balls
  - Two beverage coupons
  - Gross & Net Prizes
- Be Sure you check out the great auction and silent auction items for you and your club.

### **ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 10, 2009**

Mail entry form and fee (make checks payable to South Texas G.C.S.A.) to:  
STGCSA, Annual Scholarship, Research & Development Tournament,  
P.O. Box 571923, Houston, Texas 77257-1923

ENTRY FEE - \$500 per team (includes golf cart, range balls, dinner and sand players pool)

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Amateur: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Amateur: \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who's doing what (and how you can help)

The work of the STGCSEA may take a break now and then, but it never really ends. The bulk of that work often falls on the same shoulders, but you can help.

Each of the committees within the STGCSEA Board of Directors is listed below (chairman first). If you can help with the efforts of any of those committees, please contact the appropriate BOD member to discuss the committee's needs.

You can be sure your help will be greatly appreciated. It is often said that service is its own reward . . . now is your chance to serve your Chapter and your fellow professionals and help the STGCSEA be all it can be.

### Education & Scholarships

Wade Warms, Blayne Sparks

### Government Relations

Steven Chernosky, Mark Haven

### Meetings:

Willy Plowman

### Tournaments

Mark Haven, Mark Baughman,  
Kevin Borowski,  
Russell Birkhimer, Sean Wilson

### Public Relations

Russell Birkhimer,  
Brandon Cole

### Membership

Blayne Sparks, Sean Wilson

### Historical

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Steven Chernosky

### Information Services

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## Be a part of it!

The STGCSA will be providing marshals on the practice range at Redstone Golf Club during the 2009 Shell Houston Open.

If you can help, you can register online at the tournament's web site, [www.shellhoustonopen.org](http://www.shellhoustonopen.org), within the "Volunteer Info" link, but please contact Doug Browne (281-799-5946), Terry Gill (281-455-1770) or George Manuel (832-435-1645) about your plans, too. You may register online at [www.shellhoustonopen.org](http://www.shellhoustonopen.org) within the "Volunteer Info" link. The STGCSA will reimburse half the cost of your "uniform" for the event.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 2

hosting the 2009 Shell Houston Open. As you read in *Tee to Green* last month, we'll once again be providing marshals for the club's practice areas. Additional details can be found below and on our web site. If you can fit in a day or two to help, please do so. I promise you'll have fun.

One more reminder. If you can, please provide an early RSVP for our monthly meetings. You can do it on line now, and it really helps us plan and budget when we know how many people will be attending a given meeting. And, while you're thinking about the meetings, please remember to dress professionally (no cut-offs or jeans, please) when you attend.

See you at The Woodlands.

— Lee Gravett

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FAX: 254-694-7127  
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### Head Golf Course Mechanic Wanted

Beaumont Country Club

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E-Mail: [shanehunterhayes@yahoo.com](mailto:shanehunterhayes@yahoo.com)

### Mechanic Position Open

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Please contact:  
Shawn Reynolds, Golf Course Superintendent  
Ross Rogers Golf Course  
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### Assistant Superintendent Needed

Amarillo Country Club

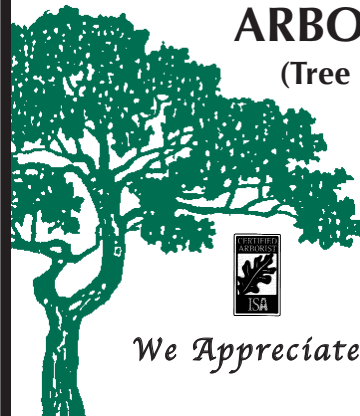
Please contact:  
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Amarillo Country Club  
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E-Mail: [heutzenroeder@hotmail.com](mailto:heutzenroeder@hotmail.com)

The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) or FAX (281-395-9547) 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](mailto:stgcsa@windstream.net), 281-494-0094).

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## Excerpts from his nomination . . .

“Terry Gill is a man of service. Terry has graciously given to his industry by serving on your various associations in a variety of capacities. Terry has tirelessly given his time and expertise to his fellow superintendents and was recently appointed to the USGA Advisory Committee. Terry has give to his members and fellow staff by leading over four million dollars in club improvements over the past three years at BraeBurn, not to mention his heroic efforts in the recovery from Hurricane Ike.

Terry is a humble man. He has not once boasted of the accomplishments and recognition he has received through his associations. Terry has never met a stranger, and as you know once meeting him, he is remembered as “one of the good ones.” Terry is a man of few words; he lets his actions do his talking.”

We cannot think of a better man to receive this inaugural award. The service, the character and the humility of Terry Gill deserves a special recognition. Terry Gill is an incredible superintendent, a leader in his field.”

<i>Sam Anderson</i> President Board of Directors	<i>Mike Thompson</i> Chairman Greens Committee	<i>Dan Olson</i> General Manager
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**BraeBurn Country Club**

### TERRY GILL

continued from page 1

Gill has been a member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the STGCSA for 21 years. He was a member of the Chapter’s Board of Directors in 1999 and 2000. He held the office of Secretary in 2001, advancing to Vice-President for 2002 and then President for 2003. After serving in the role of Immediate Past President in 2004, Gill cycled off the Board but remains active within the Chapter.

*“I would like to personally thank Roger Goettsch and the STGCSA Board for creating this award in Sonny’s name,” Gill said. “This award could have gone to any one of a number of very deserving superintendents. For me to be the first recipient and to receive it at River Oaks Country Club during our 50th anniversary year made it even more special. It is truly the highlight of my career.”*



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# 2009

## SOUTH TEXAS GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### March 9

The Woodlands CC  
Tournament Course

*Host Superintendent: Russell Birkhimer*  
Pick Your Partner, 2-Person Best Ball

### April 14

2009 Scholarship Tournament  
High Meadow Ranch GC

*Host Superintendent: Cody Spivey*  
Four-Person Scramble

### May 18

The Wilderness GC

*Host Superintendent: Blayne Sparks*  
Chapter Championship,  
First Round

### 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  
Bastrop

### 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 Golf GCSA  
Texas Trophy Tournament  
Memorial Park GC

*Host Superintendent: Jason Harsh*

### September 14

Memorial Park GC

*Host Superintendent: Jason Harsh*

### October 12

La Toretta 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](http://www.stgcsa.org).*



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