

Tee to Green

Official Newsletter
of the



March
2011



STGCSA members
to man
SHO practice areas
... again
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One man's visit
to the
GCSAA Tournament
and
Trade Show
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High Meadow Ranch—
great challenges
make for great fun
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20th Annual STGCSA Scholarship, Research & Development Tournament

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club, 37300 Golf Club Trail, Magnolia, TX 77355, Host Superintendent: Cody Spivey

Registration: 9:30 a.m. **Cost:** \$440 per team

Golf: 1 p.m. shotgun start, four-person scramble

Please RSVP by March 2 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.

Directions to High Meadow Ranch Golf, from Houston:

Traveling north (from the Houston area), go 7.5 miles north on Hwy. 249 past the intersection of FM 249 & FM 2920. (Note that 249 turns into 1774 as it narrows into a two-lane road about 1 mile before you reach High Meadow Ranch.). You'll see the large "Texas Size" sign at the entrance to High Meadow Ranch on the left. Proceed into the subdivision, turn right at the first cross street, follow for about two miles to the large entry sign for the golf course where you'll turn right. Proceed 1/4 mile to the entrance that will be on the left.

Coming Up Next!

April 4 - First Round, 2011 STGCSA Chapter Championship, Willow Creek Country Club

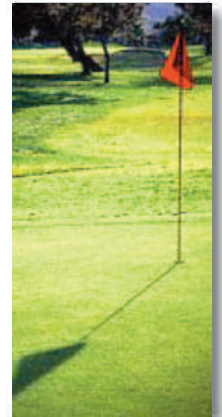


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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow! What a roller coaster ride of a winter we have had here in southeast Texas! This is one of the coldest years I can remember. Covering greens in 20 miles per hour winds and freezing rain is not something I want to do again soon, if ever. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for spring! Hopefully it will be here to stay very soon.

Speaking of spring, our 20th annual Scholarship, Research and Development Tournament is coming up very soon. There will be a live auction before the tournament, so I encourage everyone to come early! We are still looking for auction items to be donated, so if you have anything that you are willing to donate, please contact Marian Takushi (phone: 281-494-0094, e-mail: stgcsa@windstream.net).

Thanks in large part to the work our association and its members have put into the tournament, we have provided scholarships of over \$150,000 to 145 different students since 1999. That is something we should all be very proud of. The tournament and auction coming up on Mar. 8 will directly impact our ability to continue with our successful scholarship program. I encourage everyone to put a team together, or sign up as a single and we will find a team for you!

If you didn't attend the January meeting at Stephen F. Austin Golf Club, you missed out on a treat! Thanks and applause are in order for Doug Browne and the entire staff at Stephen F. for providing us a great meal and outstanding course conditions.

Brian Cloud, our new Field Staff Representative from the GCSAA, and his Florida counterpart, Ralph Dain, were there

to speak to us about the benefits of the new and expanding CGSAA field staff program. (The event was not eligible for education credits, but service credits have been awarded for those in attendance.) It turned out to be a great day and what a wonderful turnout— We had 95 attend the meeting and 80 stay for golf. I hope all of this year's events are as well attended.

The annual Texas AgriLife Extension Service "Pest Management for Golf and Sport Turf Systems" seminar was very successful again this year. Over 100 attendees were there for the seminar I'd like to thank Dr. Anthony Camerino for his hard work organizing this event every year.

With spring on the way so is the Shell Houston Open. I know George Manuel is looking for volunteers to help marshal the driving range again and you'll find more information about that elsewhere in this issue of *Tee to Green*. If you've never helped out with this before I encourage you to sign up. It's a great experience . . . just ask anyone who has been a part of it in the past.



Wade Warmes, CGCS

— Wade Warmes, CGCS

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Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Terry Gill, John Walker

GCSAA names Brian Cloud as South Central region field staff representative

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has selected Brian Cloud, chapter executive of the North Texas GCSA and owner of Cloud Golf Services, as the GCSAA field staff representative for the South Central region of the country (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana).

“Brian has been a tremendous asset for our members in North Texas for many years,” said GCSAA President James R. Fitzroy, CGCS. “He is a natural fit for this position in the South Central region as we expand our field staff program.”

To assist in the effort of serving members through chapters, GCSAA has continually added resources to facilitate an enhanced relationship between the association and its chapters, including the expansion of the GCSAA field staff program. Initially a pilot program designed to help chapters utilize GCSAA programs and services to a fuller extent, it received overwhelmingly positive feedback from chapters that participated in the program. Participating chapters reported greater connection with GCSAA, an enhanced ability to utilize GCSAA programs and services, and access to additional

resources to advance chapters in a strategic manner.

In expanding the field staff program, GCSAA divided its chapters into nine regions with plans to place a field staff representative in each. Having resident field staff resources on the ground will help chapters implement programs developed by GCSAA, and serve as a direct communication link back to GCSAA to share the successful practices chapters have implemented. The program is designed to be mutually beneficial for the association and its chapters.



Brian Cloud

Cloud, who has a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Texas A&M University (1985), got his start as an assistant golf course superintendent at The Northwood Club in Dallas, Texas, in 1985. He served as golf course superintendent at several Fort Worth area courses before taking an executive director position with the North Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and forming his own company around the same time. Cloud worked as a consultant for Arborcom Technologies from 2004-2009 as well.

Cloud was a GCSAA member all 18 years of his superintendent career and served on both the election and chapter relations committees for GCSAA. He held the GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent designation for 15 years and performed as a certification attester for GCSAA. Cloud is also a past member of the board of directors for both the Texas Turfgrass Association and the North Texas GCSA, serving as chapter president in 1999.



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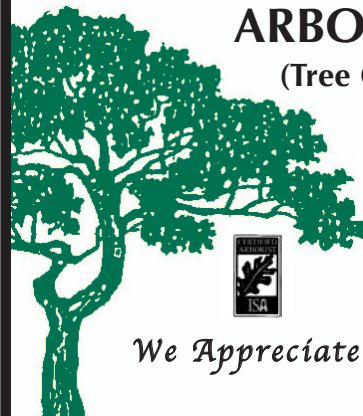


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We Appreciate Your Support

Shell Houston Open Volunteer Information

I want you to know there is something you can look forward to. It's almost time for the 2011 Shell Houston Open, which will take place the week of Mar. 28-Apr. 3. I've talked with Randy Samoff, SE (Superintendent Extraordinaire), and he's guaranteeing a great week of weather as well as fun times to kick off the spring of 2011.

As you know, we continue to have the prime date of the week before The Masters, and the field of golfers is spectacular, as many of the Tour's top players use the week leading up to the Masters as a warm-up for the year's first major.

The STGCSEA is once again (for our 9th consecutive year) recruiting volunteers to help marshal the practice areas used during tournament week.

The STGCSEA's participation in the tournament provides a great opportunity to raise the Chapter's public profile within the southeast Texas golf community— your help is needed to insure the STGCSEA puts its best foot forward. It's also a lot of fun, providing ample opportunity to rub elbows with some of the best golfers in the world as well as some of the best superintendents and affiliates in the universe!

Volunteers are asked to work at least two shifts— the earlier you sign up, the more likely you are to secure the shifts of your choice. As a volunteer donating his or her time to the event will receive the following items:

One "Basic Volunteer Uniform Package" at a deeply discounted price, including: men: shirt, jacket & baseball cap; women: shirt, jacket and visor or baseball cap; one official volunteer badge; four "good any day" Champions Pavilion tickets; complimentary lunch on days worked; complimentary volunteer parking; and one complimentary round of golf on the Tournament Course at Redstone Golf Club.

To volunteer your time and services, please go to the tournament web site (www.shellhoustonopen.com), click on the "Volunteer Info" link, and complete the required information. You may also choose to print out a registration form and mail it in. Photo identification badges are required of all people

working the practice areas because of our direct contact with the players.

If you have worked at the tournament in the past, your picture will be on file— you'll need to supply your user name and password to your photo can be retrieved. If you have not worked at the tournament in the past, you will be required to have your picture taken for your badge.

The STGCSEA will reimburse volunteers for half the cost (\$75) of their "uniform," and you will receive a bonus point for working!

If you have any questions, please contact George Manuel (281-556-8818), Terry Gill (713-778-3819) or Doug Browne (979-885-4833). Let's make a great showing for the STGCSEA this year and support our 2010 Superintendent of the Year Randy Samoff.

— George Manuel



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Haven trips to 'the show'

By Mark Haven

The annual GCSAA Tournament and Trade Show offers superintendents from around the country a chance to play golf and learn about the latest technology. This year, the GCSAA allowed me to miss the 20-degree degree weather at my home course and enjoy the balmy temperatures of Florida.

My week started with a practice round on the Champions Course at PGA National Resort, where the PGA is getting ready to host the Honda Classic. My four-some included Billy Lewis and Luther Tew from North Carolina and Tommy Robinson from Illinois. We practiced like the pros, hitting extra chips and bunker shots, taking extra putts, etc. Tommy and Luther finished in the top 20, while Billy and I, we had a good time. I take a little consolation that I finished tied with last year's

champion and good friend Adam Hess.

Friday was the mixer on the Palmer Course. I played with Brad Fryrear in the two-man best ball tournament. The highlight for me was winning the 'Most Accurate Drive' hole with a tee shot about 1/2 inch away from the line.

The tournament itself was a two-day affair. I was fortunate enough to play both days with Chuck McCaskill from north Texas. He's always a gentleman with a great game. A fantastic tee package, four days of golf on professional quality courses, and Florida's weather made it easy for me to enjoy the tournament, no matter the score.

Conference registration this year featured a new package deal with full conference access and three nights at the DoubleTree Resort Hotel. The overall cost was less than previous years when I stayed at less luxurious hotels. The staff and service was accommodating to all conference attendees.

The conference provided free classes and a chance to visit with friends from across the state and the country. It's also an opportunity to meet others from across the globe. I have had the pleasure of spending time with superintendents from Australia, Europe, and even the superintendent from the Old Course at St. Andrews.

At the Awards Ceremony, accomplishments of those who have been in the business for 40 or more years illustrate the changes we have seen over time. Nick Price received the "Old Tom Morris" award. He spoke about the changes in course conditions brought about by dedicated golf course superin-

continued on page 8



Mark Haven



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A family loss

The STGCSEA lost one of its elder statesmen on Jan. 4, when Charles Faubion succumbed to cancer after a 13-year fight.

Charles was born Oct. 13, 1940, in Valley Mills, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1964, having earned a degree in agronomy. He worked for the Texas Soil Conservation Service until entering the military and served a tour of duty in Thailand during the Viet Nam War.

Upon leaving the service, Charles joined the turf maintenance industry, working for his brother, Jim, during the construction of Porter Valley Country Club in California. He became an assistant superintendent at nearby Braemar Country Club in 1970. He relocated to Dallas in 1971 to become an assistant at Brookhaven Country Club, and in 1974, he moved to Houston to work on the construction of the Island Course at Kingwood Country Club. He was instrumental in the development of all four of that club's courses.

Charles served as director of agronomy at Kingwood until 1998; he also served as regional agronomist for the Southwestern division of Club Corp, and in 1998, became the company's regional construction superintendent. He continued to work throughout his battle with bone cancer.

Charles is survived by his wife, Sandy Faubion; children, Sean Bertin, Michelle Seagraves, Heather Ruff; grandchildren, Sarah Bertin, Bryce Bertin, Brett Bertin, Madison Seagraves, Jake Seagraves, Andie Seagraves, Kennedy Seagraves, McLaine Seagraves, Mikayla Ruff, Emily Grace Ruff and Kate Ruff; brothers and sister, James Faubion Jr., Lou Faubion Robinson and Terry Pat Faubion; numerous other relatives and a host of loving friends.

Charles' family requests donations in his memory be made to Multiple Myeloma Research at M.D. Anderson Hospital.




Charles Faubion

MEMBER MOVES

The new year brought plenty of activity for a number of STGCSEA members. *Jeff Jowell*, CGCS, is the new territory representative for Pennington Seed, and *Chris Webster*, former assistant superintendent at BraeBurn Country Club, is now a sales representative for BWI. *Harry Yewens* has taken on regional manager duties for Ag Turf Products.

Adam Hess, former assistant superintendent for Tour 18, Inc, at Augusta Pines Golf Club, has relocated to Oklahoma and is now the golf course superintendent at Tour 18 at Rose Creek Golf Club in Edmond.

The roster has expanded, too. *Brent Estes*, an assistant superintendent at Houston National Golf Club, led the way, joining the STGCSEA in early January. He was followed by seven more new members who joined later in January. They are: *Alex Hayden* and *Cole Shrock*, assistant superintendents at Quail Valley Golf Course; *Kevin Garrity*, assistant superintendent at The Woodlands Country Club's Player Course; *Ian Herman*, assistant superintendent at Miramont Country Club; *Mark Hutton*, golf course superintendent at The Deerwood Club; *Tim Huber*, golf course superintendent at The Club at Carlton Woods; and *John Henry Addison-Smith*, managing director of Unique Golf & Turf.



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Stephen F. Austin Golf Club

Golf Results
January 25, 2011

Gross

Doug Browne, Bobby Browne & Charlie Ford	58
Brian Buckner, Sean Wilson & Bret Barclay	64
Chris Webster, Wade Warms & Philip Littlefield	66

Net

Mitchell Elliott, Gary Hargrove & John Dailey	56.3
Ed Schultheis, Danny Atchison & Jeff Smith	58.6
Justin Shulse, Ralph Dain, Scott Sipes & Justin Brennan	59.0

Special Contests

Hole	Contest	Winner
#2	Closest-to-Pin	Scott Sipes
#17	Closest-to-Pin	Dennis Dickson
13+ Handicap	Long Drive	Scott Sipes
12.9 or less Handicap	Long Drive	Chris Webster

Embark Services website earns award

Embark Services, a landscaping and arbor care service provider located in Houston, Texas, has recently launched a new website designed to raise understanding of the arbor industry as well as inspire arbor stewardship with its clients.

This initiative, led by Embark Services President Jeff Schroeder, is using state-of-the-art, interactive web technologies to create an online community where visitors can deepen their knowledge of the arbor industry and how it is tied to their individual community.

The new website was recently named winner of the coveted "2010 TCIA Professional Communications Award" by the Tree Care Industry Association.

TCIA evaluated all entries on the overall appearance, content quality, adherence to ANSI and OSHA standards, and their success in achieving the company's marketing and communications goals. With almost 60 entries, TCIA was impressed with the website's dedication to arbor education and overall client ease of use.

Amy Tetreault, Marketing & PR Coordinator of TCIA, explains, "Embark Services website features much more information than the average tree care company's website. This website is a valuable resource for consumers looking for tree care information."

The Show

continued from page 6

tendents. The awards ceremony ended with a bagpipes procession to the reception.

When the Trade Show opened, Judy Rankin spoke about how dedicated superintendents have changed the game and brought expectations to new heights.

Then there was 180,000 square feet of turf industry and equipment innovations. The show provided ample time to visit with national representatives and network with fellow superintendents.

The conference ended with the election of delegates and the executive committee. Results are available on the GCSAA web site (www.gcsaa.org).

Throughout the Conference, there were signs that the economy and the game of golf are turning around and moving in the right direction. In spite of the reduced attendance this year, there was a general sense of optimism at both the tournament and show.

We are not alone in the fact that attendance at chapter meetings is down. I found that we are doing better than many and that other chapters want to know our secrets. Of course, there are no secrets. The founding members set up the STGC-SA with strong ideals and expectations that are carrying us through the tough times.



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High Meadow Ranch hosts again

A few words of advice are due those headed to High Meadow Ranch Golf Club for the 20th Annual STGCSA Scholarship Tournament— keep your tee shots in play, have your flatstick ready for a supreme test of skill, and get ready to have some fun.

High Meadow Ranch, designed by former PGA Tour professional David Ogrin and Tim Nugent, opened for play in 1999 and quickly garnered a reputation as a premier daily fee facility. The *Houston Chronicle*, in fact, named it the second best new course and fifth best public course in the area within a few months of its opening.

No small part of its charm is its location and environment. Thick forests of hardwoods and pines line most of the course, which plays up, down and along hillsides far from synonymous with Houston-area courses.

The par-72 course measures from 4,965 to 7,370 yards, depending on which of five sets of tees you play from— picking the set that best suits your skill level will go a long way toward how much “hard” and how much “fair” you are in for.

While the course is cut through thick forests, no residential property lies within 35 yards of a fairway and much of the undergrowth adjacent to the playing areas has been cleared away. Wandering into the woods doesn't necessarily mean a lost ball, but it likely means your following shot won't be toward a green.

The forests provide a primary defense, supplemented by almost 70 strategically placed sand bunkers and the terrain the course occupies. Flat lies are something of a rarity, and if you're not accustomed to the effects uneven lies can have, you'll get to spend at least a little time in the aforementioned forests. The bunkers range from smallish, pot affairs to a huge expanse of sand that crosses the 10th fairway, just out of range (Maybe?) of your tee shot.

Several creekbeds come into play as you make your way around the course, but there is only one pond at High Meadow Ranch, and it is in play on only one hole— par-4 #8, which many estimate as the course's most difficult hole.

Despite the reputation of #8, however, you need not fear High Meadow Ranch. Its fairways are generally spacious enough to accept all but the most hideous of shots.

The course features only two forced carries. The first comes on the par-3 11th, a mid-length affair where your tee ball must carry a sometimes boggy spread of natural habitat to an elevated green, and the second on the spectacular 18th, which would be a worthy exclamation point at the end of any course and a great way to end the day's work, provided you maintain your focus until the last putt has rattled home.

Of course, that's the challenge on every hole. The course's



Known as “Big Jack,” the par-5 second hole at High Meadow Ranch can play up to 558 yards long, but not many people test it at full strength.

greens provide a variety of pin placement options and three-putt opportunities abound.

While the challenges at High Meadow Ranch are great, so are the thrills. It may take more than one circuit around the course to become comfortable with its options, but once revealed, they provide the paths you'll need to play to your handicap. Just remember to keep your shots in play, get on the greens and then opt for cautious lags rather than fearless charges. And take time to enjoy your surroundings— they're part of what makes High Meadow Ranch fun to play

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Please Send resume's to Ryan Rosecrans, Golf Course Superintendent

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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). More complete details about many of the positions listed here can be found within the "Jobs" pages of www.stgcsa.org.

Advanced education

Congratulations to Russell Birkhimer and Charles Joachim, who were selected as two of 28 golf course superintendents to participate in the Syngenta Business Institute, sponsored by Syngenta in conjunction with Wake Forest University's graduate school of business and held last fall in Winston-Salem, N.C.

While agronomic expertise is critical to superintendent success, Syngenta recognized the need to provide superintendents with business management tools and worked with Wake Forest to develop a program that focused on business and financial management, human resource management, and negotiation skills.

Birkhimer and Joachim were selected from a talented pool of superintendents based on an application process that reviewed their educational background, industry achievements and an essay.

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2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 8

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
Scholarship Tournament
Host Superintendent: Cody Spivey

April 4

Willow Creek Country Club
First Round
Chapter Championship
Host Superintendent: Mike Rhoden

May 4

Lone Star GCSA Texas Cup
The Golf Club at Star Ranch - Hutto, Texas

May 9

Quail Valley Golf Course
Second Round
Chapter Championship
Host Superintendent: Jeff McCrory

June 6

Wildcat Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Ben Fultz

July 10-12

Texas Turfgrass Association
Conference & Show
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort - Bastrop

July 18

The Traditions at Texas A&M
Superintendent-Pro Tournament
Host Superintendent: Jesse Shulze

September 25-26

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club - Keller, Texas

October 11

Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club
Member/Guest Outing
Host Superintendent: Brian Buckner, CGCS

November 8

Ravens Nest Golf Club
2011 STGCSA Annual Meeting
Host Superintendent: David Gray

December 12-14

Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference
San Antonio Convention Center

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

Dues Due!

Your 2011 STGCSA membership dues must be paid by March 8 if your contact information, etc., is to be included in the 2011 STGCSA Membership Directory.

Membership renewal forms are available on-line at www.stgcsa.org.

Please call Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 if you have questions.

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