

Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

May
2009

Carl Tolbert... an update and a reminder

When word that Carl Tolbert had been involved in an automobile accident several weeks ago trickled out, many members of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association were stopped in their tracks. It was tough news to absorb if you've been around long enough to recall the role Tolbert has played in the development of the Chapter.

Tolbert, 66 and a native of Temple, Texas, lost control of his truck near his home in High Meadow Ranch. Coming home from a Mar. 25 trip to a store, Tolbert said he came to a double-S curve where several accidents have taken place, hit a puddle of rainwater, and lost control. His truck hit the ditch alongside the road.

"I wasn't speeding or anything," said Tolbert. "I just hit a spot. The truck rolled. It's totaled . . . they had to take me out through the back of the cab."

Initial reports that Tolbert had suffered a broken back and neck turned out to be true, but thankfully, his spinal cord was not significantly damaged.

Tolbert endured surgery on Mar. 26 and was home within a few days.

"I was wearing my seatbelt, but my head hit the roof of the truck and I had third-degree burns from that," he said. "I still have some pain and numbness, but it could have been a lot worse."

Tolbert is already going through therapy that includes, amongst other things, a couple of daily walks around his neighborhood. He said his doctors estimate a recovery period of eight to 10 months.

He can't wait, of course, and was joking with STGCSEA Board member Mark Baughman by Mar. 30 that "he will be asking for strokes when he makes his comeback."

Tolbert has been a fixture within the Chapter since he joined the organization in 1988. A 1968 graduate of North Texas State University, he worked in the insurance industry from then until 1985, when he first joined the golf course maintenance business selling sand and gravel to golf courses in 1985. In 1988, he went to work for South Coast Energy, and then, in 1991, he joined the

staff at A.N. Rusche Distributing, a (Chevron) fuel distributor, where he worked until that company was sold in 2000.

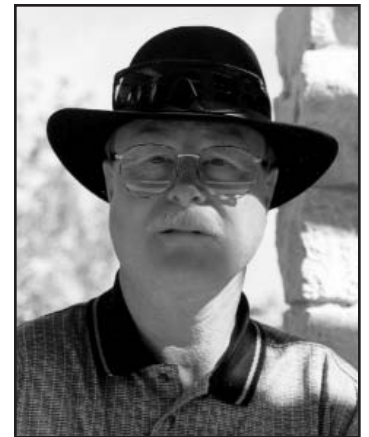
That's when he became part of the sales team at The Hurt Company, where he still works.

In 1997, then STGCSEA Board member and Tournament Committee Chairman Stephen Wood pulled Carl aside. Tolbert had been searching for a cause that would help the STGCSEA grow . . . Wood asked him if he wanted to chair the Tournament Committee; Carl said yes, Wood nominated him, and for the next eight years (through 2005), Tolbert was "the man" when it came to STGCSEA golf events.

His special focus was the Chapter's annual Scholarship Tournament.

"When I took over in 1997, there was \$4,000 in our Scholarship Fund," said Tolbert. "I had given \$1,000 to the fund every year while I was at A.N. Rusche. We had taken a survey of our members and knew that we had a large group of members' children ready for college over the next several

continued on page 6



Carl Tolbert in one of his trademark hats, and (below) with his wife, Colette



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Good news abounds! For starters, it rained. A lot. Maybe even too much in some areas, but in the end, the storms that blew through southeast Texas in mid-April brought gallons of much-needed moisture to the area. The drought may not be over (in our part of the state), but it's on its knees, to say the least.

And then there was the 2009 STGCSA Scholarship Tournament, the 18th annual edition of our biggest fundraising event. The returns are in (pretty much), and between the golf tournament and the live and silent auctions associated with it, we raised over \$20,000 for our Legacy Scholarship Fund this year. I say "pretty much" because the final accounting is not quite complete as I write this column. Based on what's left to figure in, I'm going to guess we actually raised a few thousand dollars more than that.

That's very significant, especially when you consider its proximity to the funds raised last year, when the economy was on the verge of taking its nosedive instead of flat on the ground as a result of it. And that's despite the fact that we didn't quite sell out the field this time around.

From all reports, the golfers who played in the tournament had a great time, but that's no surprise, considering the always-popular nature of the course at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club. As has been their habit, Cody Spivey and his staff did an outstanding job of hosting the tournament—the course could not have been better and the same can be said of the service and the hospitality.

We introduced a new twist to our fundraising activities during the tournament.

As you know, John Maloney's daughter, Allison, died in a traffic accident last month. The Chapter had previously given John \$1,000 to help defray the associated expenses. We asked that our members provide additional donations during the Scholarship Tournament and many responded very generously.

Brandon Marek, who won the "50-50" contest at the tournament, donated his half of the winnings to the "Maloney fund" (the other half went into our scholarship fund). Jeff Smith donated product to our auction, specifying the funds raised from it's sale be used to help John and his family. In addition, we put a "basket" out during registration and many of our members used it for their own personal donations.

All told, the STGCSA donated over \$3,000 to try to help the Maloney's through a very difficult stretch. Needless to say, nothing we could do can replace their loss, but John is a member of our family (just as all our members are)—all we can do is hope our contributions have helped a bit.



Lee Gravett

continued on next page



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Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

May Meeting

First Round, Chapter Championship

Monday, May 18, 2009

The Wilderness Golf Club

Host Superintendent — Blayne Sparks

Speaker:

Bud White

Director, Mid-Continent Region, USGA Green Section

Please RSVP by May 15 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, go south on Hwy. 288 to Lake Jackson. Exit Richwood (Hwy. 2004) and go west. Go right on Hwy. 332. Cross over Buffalo Camp Bayou, go 1/4 mile and The Wilderness will be the left.

continued from previous page

Incidentally, we will continue displaying the "basket" at all our future events. Our plan is to create a new fund. The revenues it attracts will be designated toward assisting our members who may find themselves in similar situations in the future.

As you may know, we have relocated our annual Chapter Championship (date wise) from the fall to the late Spring and early Summer. Hopefully, the date change will help us avoid the rains that have plagued the last two championships.

This year's tournament will begin at our May 18 meeting at The Wilderness Golf Club, with the second round slated for our June 15 meeting at Cypress Lakes Golf Club.

Tournament Committee Chairman Mark Haven won last year's championship by a single stroke over Stan Ludwick, and you know he'll be looking for a repeat. So, too, will First Flight winner Pat Johnston, Second Flight winner Jerry Takushi and Third Flight winner Mitch Elliott.

On the other hand, I can think of a couple hundred STGCSA members who will be trying to displace them. I bet you're one of them . . . I know I am.

As a special bonus, Bud White, director of the Mid-Continent Region of the USGA Green Section will be our guest speaker at The Wilderness. He's always interesting, so the May meeting will feature not only great golf, but a great speaker, as well.

See you there, I hope.

— Lee Gravett

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Thanks for all you do

The big tournament is over for this year, so I want to extend a big, "Thank You!" to all of the people involved in putting on the Shell Houston Open.

The tournament's success is not something achieved by only a few people— it takes much more than that and we are extremely lucky that we have such great support from the STGCSA.

Trust me when I say the many STGCSA members who volunteer their time, effort and professional knowledge to the tournament are appreciated by everyone involved in conducting the tournament. That includes the Redstone professional golf staff and everyone at the Houston Golf Association.



"... none is talked about more when it comes to how much they help in their given area than the STGCSA."

— Randy Samoff

There are volunteer groups assigned to each of our 18 holes and several other areas during the tournament, but none is talked about more when it comes to how much they help in their given area than the STGCSA.

In some cases, a group thanks might be appropriate, but I want to make sure all our members (and anyone else who reads our newsletter) knows who gave themselves to Houston's PGA Tour event and a little bit about what they did.

I'll start with *George Manuel*, *Terry Gill* and *Doug Browne*, who led the charge by coordinating the STGCSA's volunteers. That takes more time during the weeks leading up to the tournament than you might think, and those guys deserve a lot of credit for the work they do.

A sincere thanks goes out to the folks who provided lunch for our crew during the week— *Brandt Specialty Formulations* (*Jeff Smith*), *Rinehart Trucking* (*Sue Rinehart-Warren* and *Keith Watson*), *Bayer* (*Bob Ducote*), *Estes* (*Scott Anderson*, *Paul Tessman*, and *Pat Neuendorff*), *Syngenta* (*Bart Fox*), *PTP* (*Eric Glover*, *Brandon Cole*, *Dodd Drabing*, *Eddie Clark*) and *Precise Control* (*Bob Meyer*) and *Billy Cooper*.

Those friends took the time to provide some excellent food and refreshments to keep our guys going.

There was a behind-the-scenes group that also deserves our gratitude. They put in a lot of time on the details that often make the difference between success and failure, often without much notice.

The membership of that group includes *Kevin Brown* (*Pine Forest Country Club*), *Colt Phillips* (*Houstonian Golf and Country Club*), *Lauro Villarreal* (*ShadowHawk Golf Club*), *Cheyenne Herring* (*Blackhorse Golf Club*), *Russell Birkhimer* (*The Woodlands*), *Eric Glover* (*PTP*), *John Freeman* (*Brookside*), *Dan Wegand* (*Ridgewood Country Club*), *Jon Snider* (*Miramont Country*

18th Annual STGCSA Scholarship Tournament

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
Final Results

GROSS

56

Doug Browne, Bobby Browne, Steve Smith, Brad Burttschell

57

Cody Spivey, Casey Wade, Chris Anthony, Eddie Jester

57

Ray McFarland, Tommy Wolfenberger, Reid Pierce, Dub Sharrett

58

Jeff Dailey, Dennis Klene, Scott Dotson, Jason French

NET

52

David Myrick, George Manuel, Blayne Sparks, Mitch Kiser

52

Blake Kercheval, Aaron Czajka, Stacie Czajka, Rusty Denner

53

Josh Ogden, Rod Hruza, Branden Marek,
Jeff Jowell, Steve Chernosky

54

Mike Rhoden, Brian Ward, Mark Mattox, Blake Roberts

SPECIAL CONTESTS

Long Drive

Hole	Winner	Sponsor
#2	Lee Gravett	Embark Tree & Landscape
#6	Russell Birkhimer	AMC/Rainbird
#13	Josh Stanka	Estes, Inc.
#17	Stacie Czajka	Turf Specialties

Most Accurate Drive

Hole	Winner	Sponsor
#4	Chris Anthony	Luber Brothers
#10	Ryan Rosencrans	BWI Industries

Closest-to-the-Hole

Hole	Winner	Sponsor
#1	Mitch McDuffie	Brookside Equipment
#3	Jim Matthews	Helena Chemical
#5	Josh Ogden	Vermeer Equipment of Texas
#7	Tommy Wolfenberger	Arbor Care
#8	Scott Dotson	Bowlin Consulting
#9	Tommy Wolfenberger	Brandt Specialty Formulations
#11	Mark Mattox	Crop Production Serv.
#12	Jerret Wilborn	Dryject
#14	Chris Webster	John Deere Golf
#15	Jerret Wilborn	O'Day Drilling
#16	Blake Kercheval	Resource Laboratories
#18	Morris Johnson	Clear Creek Golf Course

The South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and its members extends appreciation to all the companies and individuals who chose to support our 18th Annual Scholarship tournament with their sponsorships. A special note of thanks is due The Hurt Company for its sponsorship of the Hole-In-One contest on #s 5, 9, 11 and 16, and to Rinehart Trucking for its sponsorship of the tournament's beverage service.

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Whispering Pines Golf Club

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Michael Dieckhoff, Golf Course Superintendent

Whispering Pines Golf Club

1532 Whispering Pines Dr., Trinity, TX 75862

E-Mail: mdieckhoff@whisperingpinesgolfclub.com

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

The newest members of the South Texas GCSA are *Miguel Sierra*, who is now an assistant superintendent at Eagle Pointe Golf Club, and *Paul Tucker*, an equipment technician at Walden on Lake Conroe Country Club.

CARL TOLBERT

continued from page 1

years, and we were going to have to do more if we were to be able to help them."

The bull's horns were just right for Tolbert's grip. He reorganized the tournament and spent a great many hours (every year) recruiting golfers and sponsors for the event.

"I just made sure the vendors understood how important the event and the scholarships are to the group," said Tolbert, "and how much the vendors themselves could benefit from participating in and supporting the tournament."

"When I left the committee in 2005, I think we had over \$120,000 in the Scholarship Fund, and we've been able to provide help for a large number of young students," said Tolbert. "That's my legacy to the STGCSA. I enjoyed doing it . . . it was fun and well worth the effort."

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SHELL HOUSTON OPEN

continued from page 4

Club), and Aggie Turf Club members *Jeff Kuder, Cody Newmann,* and *Cody Fisseler*.

A huge thank you also goes out to the guys who supported us with equipment and transportation for the week. That group includes the boys at PTP (*Eric Glover and Brandon Cole*), Brookside Equipment (*John Freeman*), *Russell Birkhimer*, and, of course, our in-house team of *Tom Werner and Johnny Walker*.

When the weather got a little crazy, those guys were able to move at a moment's notice and without a second thought, and their help was greatly appreciated.

I'm going to throw in a special note of thanks to Werner and Walker, who have been key components of the SHO operation for years. They do an outstanding job of keeping their own facilities in great shape even while they are supporting course preparations at Redstone with their equipment and manpower. They epitomize the idea of company teamwork.

The most important guys in the six months leading up to the tournament were

my two assistants and equipment manager — *Tim Phillips, Lance Ledet, and Wesley Coats*.

I'm not sure Tim or Lance knew what they were getting themselves into but they have put in countless hours planning and working to make the 2009 event as good as any before it.

And for all the mowing height changes, quadruple mowings, and broken parts we had to endure, Wesley was right there ready to help and get things perfect for the next day.

Our event seems to get bigger and better every year, thanks in large part to the many volunteers that take their time to help. We could not do it without them, and that may be especially true when it comes to the members of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

— *Randy Samoff*
Golf Course Superintendent, Redstone Golf Club

“There is no such thing as a misplaced bunker.

No matter where the bunker is situated,
it is the business of the player to avoid it.”

— *Donald Ross*



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2009 STGCSA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 4

Lone Star GCSA Texas Cup
Ridgewood Country Club — Waco

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 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.*

From John Maloney

My family and I would like to thank the entire STGCSA membership for your support during this past month.

I knew that this association is very special but since the tragedy it was confirmed many times over and in many different ways. This association is truly a "Family" and I am very proud to be a part of it! The love that you have shown us is so great that it can never be re-paid.

However I will sure give it try!

Thanks again and may God bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely with love,

John Maloney and Family

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