

Tree to Green

May
2010

Out of Bounds: Shade Management

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Shade caused by trees can significantly affect turfgrass quality. Ultimately, the continuously shifting angle of the sun (due to the earth's tilt on its axis and its rotation) along with tree size and placement determine the shadow pattern.

You can plan better tree placement decisions by determining where shade will fall throughout the year.

One way to determine potential shade from a tree is to observe the area on key dates at different times during the year. The information can be used to develop a shade pattern map. The important dates to observe shading during 2010 are:

- Summer Solstice (June 21) — the longest day of the year when the sun is at its highest angle at any given time of day.
- Winter Solstice (December 21) — the shortest day of the year when the sun is at its lowest angle at any given time of day.
- Spring Equinox (March 20) and Fall Equinox — (September 22) – day and night are about equal. On these days the sun rises and sets at just about due east and west, respectively.

The actual dates vary a day or two in a given year due to leap years. During the summer (between the equinoxes) the sun rises in the northeast and sets in the northwest, with sun eventually being out of the south at some point during the day. The rest of the year the sun is out of the south the entire day. Observation is effective for evaluating existing problems, but doesn't help decisionmaking when new trees are to be planted.

If you are planning to install trees but do not want to have shade problems down the road, you can calculate shade length at a given time if you know the sun's angle that day and the mature height of a tree.

The formula is: Shadow length = (mature tree height) ÷ (TAN sun's elevation). This formula should be used during the morning, midday and afternoon on the day you are estimating shadow patterns. The calculation requires a "scientific calculator."

Key Tree Points to Remember

The following information has been excerpted from an article, "To Tree, or Not to Tree," from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

- Superintendents should closely monitor the health of trees.
- Trees filter dust, lower temperatures by creating shade and provide wildlife habitat.
- Trees compete with turf for the basic nutrients needed to flourish – oxygen, water and sunlight.
- Tree maintenance programs improve turf quality and enhance safety.
- Tree maintenance can be executed with the results being barely noticeable to even the keenest eye.

The NOAA website (<http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/grad/sol-calc/>) includes a formula you can use to determine the angle of the sun's elevation on a particular day.

Using the formula, you can input a day and time and you will be able to determine the sun's angle of elevation as well as the direction in which the shade will be cast. After getting an idea of the maximum size tree that is suited for an area, a list of potential trees can be developed.

Hopefully, by selecting trees whose mature height will not cast a shadow onto sensitive turfgrass areas, tree planting can become a positive experience for both turfgrass managers and club members.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We've made it past the first turn in 2010, and I'm still just as thrilled about the way things are going back in February and were just out of the new year's gates.

Our April Meeting at Southwyck Golf Club, for example, attracted another very nice turnout, continuing the trend we started at Stephen F. Austin three months ago. Attendance at the meeting was probably helped a bit by the first round of the 2010 STGCSA Chapter Championship, but the fact is that we had plenty of our members on hand, and that's the bottom line.

Our thanks go out to Brandon Crumpler and the entire staff at Southwyck for extending the welcome mat to us, and to Mark Bailey, M.A., of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, for his excellent presentation about skin cancer. That's a subject we should all be a bit concerned about (given the nature of our profession), and if the number and variety of questions directed to Bailey by the attendees, he had our full attention.

Our marshalling efforts during the Shell Houston Open were superb. In fact, I thought this year was one of our best ever on that job. I can't really put my finger on why I had that feeling, but I did, and I want to extend special thanks for George Manuel, Terry Gill and Doug Browne for their leadership, and to all our members who volunteered their time to our SHO cause.

I think it's safe to say we left a very favorable impression.

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We've been publishing *Tee to Green* in its current form for just over a decade. During the past several years, we've added a web

site to our informational services. Needless to say, we're always looking for ways to improve. That's what we're doing now, and we need your thoughts.

What we're considering now is the elimination of the print version of *Tee to Green*, possibly in favor of an expanded and improved web site and the addition of a monthly "e-newsletter."

I want to stress that no decisions about that step have been made, nor is there a timeframe set for making it. In fact, the May Board of Directors meeting will probably mark the first time it has made it to the table for extended discussions.

Ideally, however, we should make the decision within the next several months so we can use the last few months of 2010 to plan. If that is the case, we can probably introduce the new packages in January 2011.

There are several reasons for considering the change. First and foremost, it would seem that an ability to improve services and communications to and with our membership should be the priority. Delivering our newsletter via e-mail and our web site has at least three big benefits—the information will reach you in a more timely manner, the volume of information will not be limited by the constraints of paper and the cost will be lower.

Those benefits (and others) must be weighed against at least one potentially harmful effect. Information, whether it's presented in print or electronically, only has value when those for whom it is intended read it.

A print newsletter can be read whenever you like in whatever setting you prefer. Web sites and e-newsletters must be read on a computer screen. Of course, you can take the step of printing the pages yourself, but you're still going to have to go to your computer to access it. The question is, will you do that?

And that is what we need to know. I'm asking that sometime during the next several weeks, you take the time to voice your opinion. Call me or any of our board members and let us know what you think . . . do you prefer a print newsletter delivered to your mailbox, or would an electronic version suit your needs better?

"Your needs" is what's important, and we'll proceed, in large part, according to what we learn from our members.

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Just a note for your future consideration . . . you probably recall that we changed our meeting schedule for this year. There will be no monthly meeting in July (there will be no newsletter mailed for that month, either).

The meeting we had in January replaced the July gathering, a move we made to try to accommodate our members who go on vacation during the summer.

Just didn't want it to slip up on you.



Willy Plowman



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— Willy Plowman



2010 STGCSA Legacy Scholarships

For our future and your kids.



If you have a youngster who will be attending college this fall, be sure he or she applies for a 2010 STGCSA Legacy Scholarship. Applications will be available at all the STGCSA's monthly meetings through August and can be found on www.stgcsa.org.

The deadline for submitting an application is Sept. 1, 2010.

Act soon and make sure the STGCSA has the chance to help with your child's education.

Membership Moves

The STGCSA gained one new member last month, and a couple of gentlemen have rejoined the fold. *Kevin White*, sales manager at Luber Brothers, is the new member, and *Ricky Palacios*, co-owner of Professional Golf Services, and *Jeff McCrory*, golf course superintendent at Quail Valley Golf Course, are the returnees. Our welcome to all three.

Paul Tessman has taken a new position and is now the branch manager for Helena Chemical Company.

Our apologies

A little miscommunication led to a big omission from the list of contributors to the 2010 STGCSA Scholarship Tournament and auction. As it turned out, Rinehart Trucking donated the sand and gravel that formed part of the package donated by Hargrove Construction, and we failed to recognize their role in the contribution.

Our apologies for the confusion, and our thanks to Rinehart Trucking for the companies continuing support of the STGCSA.

MAY MEETING Chapter Championship Second Round

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Blackhorse Golf Club

12205 Fry Rd., Cypress, TX 77433

Host Superintendent — Johnny Walker

Registration: 8:30 a.m. Lunch: 11:30-12:30

Meeting Topic:

"Natural Insect Defense Systems"

Gary Brooks, Bayer Environmental Science

Golf: After Lunch Cost: \$55

Please RSVP by April 30 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.

REMINDER:

You must arrive by 9:45 a.m. to play golf

Directions

to Blackhorse Golf Club:

From Houston, take Hwy. 290 North off Loop 610. Go past Hwy. 6/FM 1960 and exit at Spring Cypress. Stay on the access road to Fry Road. Turn South (left) on Fry Road and go approximately one mile. Entrance will be the second entrance on your right.

Coming Up Next!

June 14

Riverbend Country Club

Host Superintendent: George Cincotta

Speaker:

Steve Kammerer, Syngenta



Rod Hruza

Phone: 210-323-2292

Email:

hruzar@helenachemical.com

Paul Tessman

Phone: 832-596-8532

Email:

TessmanP@helenachemical.com

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Sugar Creek Country Club
Please contact Chris Lineberger at:
Phone: 281-494-5728 • E-mail: clineberger@sugarcreekctexas.com

Assistant Superintendent Position Available

The Club at Carlton Woods (Fazio Course)
Please forward cover letter and resume to: lerobinson@thewoodlands.com
or apply on-line at www.thewoodlands.net

Second Assistant/Spray Technician Wanted

Canongate at Magnolia Creek & South Shore Harbour Country Club
Please contact: Brent Schilhab
Phone: 281-705-7861 • E-mail: bschilhab@canongategolf.com

Second Assistant Superintendent Needed

The Woodlands Country Club (Tournament Course)
Please contact: Russell Birkhimer, Golf Course Superintendent
The Woodlands Country Club
Phone: 281-863-1567, ext. 3 • E-mail: rbirkhimer@canongategolf.com

Head Technician Wanted

Rayburn Country Resort - Brookeland, Texas
Please contact: Scott Dotson, Golf Course Superintendent
Rayburn Country Resort, 7615 Ameswood Dr., Houston, Texas 77095
Phone: 409-273-0021 • E-mail: sdotson@jas.net

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).

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Texas Cup set for Twin Rivers

If you're up for a little road trip and a chance to represent the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, here's your chance . . . the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association will be holding its 5th Annual Texas Cup tournament will be held on Monday, May 10 at Twin Rivers Golf Club in Waco.

The entry fee for the two-person select drive tournament is \$150 per team if both golfers are LSGCSA members and \$200 for teams that consist of one member and one non-member.

Festivities will kick off with the opening of registration at 10 a.m. on May 10. Lunch will be served at 11:00 and play will begin with a 12 noon shotgun start. Players will gather following play for scoring and awards presentations at about 4:15 p.m.

The entry deadline is May 3. For more details, including a printable entry form, at www.lsgcsa.org, or by calling Karen White at 972-307-8162.

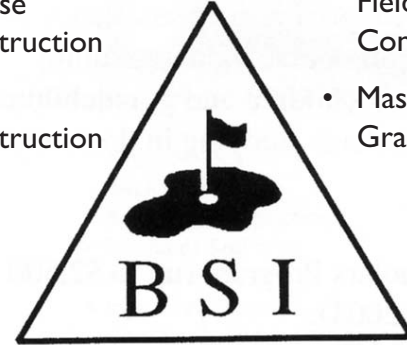
**The 2010
South Texas GCSA
Chapter Championship is underway!**



Results from the first round
are available at www.stgcsa.org.

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2010 STGCSA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 4

Second Round Chapter Championship
Blackhorse Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Johnny Walker

May 10

LSGCSA Texas Cup Tournament
Twin Rivers Golf Club (Waco)

June 14

Riverbend Country Club
Host Superintendent: George Cincotta

July 25-27

Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference
Corpus Christi

August 2

Superintendent/Pro Tournament
Raveneaux Country Club
Host Superintendent: Lee Keim

September 19-21

LSGCSA Texas Trophy Tournament
Horseshoe Bay Resort (Horseshoe Bay)

October 11

Evergreen Point Golf Course
Host Superintendent: Dennis Klene

November 8

Annual Meeting — Braeburn Country Club
Host Superintendent: Terry Gill

November 29 - December 1

Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference
Fort Worth

Turfgrass Management Practices Field Day set

Mark your calendar and make your plans to attend the 2010 Turfgrass Management Practices Field Day on May 25 at the Memorial Park Golf Course Maintenance Facility.

Conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and co-sponsored by the STGCSA, Brookside Equipment Sales Inc., Luber Brothers and Professional Turf Products, the session will focus on wetting agents and topdressing and will include presentations by Dr. Richard White and Dr. David Chalmers of Texas A&M University's Department of Soil and Crop Sciences as well as equipment demonstrations from the three co-sponsoring companies.

The program will begin with registration and lunch at 11:30 a.m. and will conclude by 3:30 p.m. GCSAA members attending will earn Continuing Education Units for their participation.

The cost of attending is \$10 for those pre-registering, or \$20 for those who pay at the door.

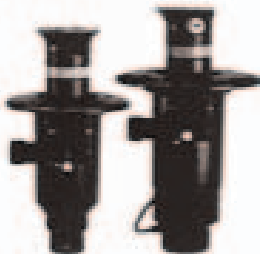
For registration information, please access the "Turfgrass Management Practices Field Day" on the STGCA web site (www.stgcsa.org). For additional information about the gathering, please contact Dr. Anthony Camerino at 281-855-5600 or via e-mail at awcamerino@ag.tau.edu.

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



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