

Tee to Green

Official Newsletter
of the



May
2011

**Urban Wildlife Management
and Planning Conference—
Bob Cook to provide address
about planning, acting
and communicating
see page 6**

**Jeff McCrory
at your service
see page 5**

**Terry Gill's impact extends
beyond the Chapter
see page 4**



May Meeting

First Round Chapter Championship

Monday, May 9, 2011

Quail Valley Golf Course, 2880 La Quinta Drive, Missouri City, Texas 77459

Host Superintendent: Jeff McCrory

Registration: 8:30 a.m. **Lunch:** 11:30-12:30 **Cost:** \$55

Meeting Speaker: Chris Smith (Aquatic & Industrial Education Specialist)

Golf: Stroke Play (following lunch)

Please RSVP by May 4 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 Quail Valley Golf Course:

- From Hwy. 59 (Southwest Freeway), take the exit toward Corporate Dr/US-90/Stafford/Sugar Land
- Merge onto Frontage Rd/Southwest Fwy. Sharp left to merge onto US-90 Alt E, and then a slight right at Farm to Market 1092 S/Murphy Rd/Stafford-Dewalt Rd.
- Go 2.5 miles and then turn left at Cartwright Rd/Farm-To-Market Rd 3345 E. Go .9 miles and turn right at La Quinta Dr. Go .4 miles to the clubhouse.

Coming Up Next!

June 6 - Wildcat Golf Club - 2011 Chapter Championship Second Round



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm writing my President's Message for this month in a less than stellar mood. The morning of April 18, I received notice that my time as golf course superintendent at The Golf Club at Cinco Ranch had come to an end.

I'd be lying if I didn't say I was (and am) upset and disappointed. I had worked at Cinco Ranch for over a decade and I think I did an exemplary job for that facility. Cinco Ranch has done pretty well during a time in which many golf courses haven't . . . it's fairways and greens have remained pretty full despite a significant downturn in the economy and stagnation within the golf industry.

I don't think that would be the case if the course hadn't offered excellent playing conditions the great majority of the time.

I'm not going to burn any bridges by going into the details of how my situation developed, but it almost goes without saying that I felt I was being forced to play with a short hand in recent months and that was very unfortunate. My time there has come to an end and I'll be looking forward to whatever path fate and God has in store for me. I also wish the best to whoever fills the empty shoes at Cinco.

But enough about my situation and Cinco Ranch, and on to the business of the STGCSA. We had a great meeting last month at Willow Creek. Having it in conjunction with the USGA's Regional Conference was a real bonus for our members, I think (and that's what I heard). Many thanks are due all the folks from the USGA for making that possible, but in particular, I want to thank Mike Rhoden and the entire staff at

Willow Creek Country Club. Success with an event like ours is truly a team effort, and the team of professionals at Willow Creek deserves a large dose of our gratitude for the job they did.

Another team deserves our thanks, and that's the group of our members and their friends who took part in the STGCSA's work as marshals during the 2011 Shell Houston Open. Our presence at the region's biggest golf event always produces a hearty helping of good will within our community. This year was no exception, and needless to say, the group's leaders— George Manuel, Terry Gill and Doug Browne— get a special and very fond pat on the back for the work they did to get the effort organized. Again, professionalism is the key, and those guys are as professional as they come.

We're headed into a busy season now, and I hope I'll be seeing you at all our upcoming events. Our Chapter Championship will take place in conjunction with our next two meetings (May 9 at Quail Valley and June 6 at Wildcat), and that's always an exciting affair. And, if you haven't already started making your plans, our annual Superintendent/Pro tournament is on the calendar July 18 at The Traditions at Texas A&M. Sign up, and let's play some golf!

Wade Warmes, CGCS



— Wade Warmes, CGCS

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Doug Browne, Terry Gill, John Walker

Lucky Guy(s)

What a great tournament we had this year. The 2011 Shell Houston Open is one I'll never forget, and I want to extend thanks to all those who gave their time to our work marshalling Redstone Golf Club's practice areas during the tournament. Our presence at the tournament is great for our Chapter and our profession, plus it's fun and you'll never know what will happen while you're there. Take the case of the little story that follows.

Last year, Ken McDonald, the head golf professional at BraeBurn Country Club asked Terry Gill for a favor. McDonald is a collector of golf memorabilia, much of which he uses for donations to various charities to help in fundraising efforts.

He gave Terry, who happens to be the "co-captain" of the Shell Houston Open's "Open Range Warriors," a flag from the 2006 Masters and asked him to have Phil Mickelson sign it.

Knowing it was for a good cause and always one to say yes, Terry took the flag with him to the Shell Houston Open. As almost anyone would be, Terry was a little uncomfortable about asking Mickelson for his autograph—he was practicing hard and Terry didn't want to bother him. He waited for the right opportunity, but when Mickelson missed the cut, Terry figured he was out of luck and he'd have to try again in 2011.

Or not. As luck would have it, after he had signed his scorecard and finished speaking to the media, Phil decided to go to the practice green to work on his putting before heading to Augusta for the Masters.

Most of the fans and golfers had already left for the afternoon round and the practice area was pretty empty. After Mickelson had finished stroking a few putts, he walked right by our tent, and Terry was presented with a rare opportunity to ask for his signature.

I heard Phil say, "Sure. I can't stop here, but just keep walking with me and I'll sign it for you."

Which is exactly what Terry did, and he got the autograph. The rest is in the history books. Phil left that afternoon, and the next week, opened the Masters with a 67 and went on to win by 3 shots. But the story doesn't end there.

Last Fall, Terry once again headed up the STGCSEA's driving range volunteers, that time for the Administristaff Small Business Classic, and once again, McDonald asked him to get something autographed. This time, it was a great picture of Fred Couples and Mickelson walking down a fairway together, both smiling with an arm draped across the other's shoulders. It really is a great picture.

McDonald asked Terry to get Couples' signature on it. While the Champions Tour is a bit more relaxed than the PGA Tour, marshals are still encouraged to not bother the golfers with autograph requests. Again, Terry searched for the "right time," but when Freddy shot a 71 and was in the middle of the pack, the "right time" seemed unlikely.

Once again, though, divine intervention presented an opportune moment. Terry acted and Couples graciously agreed to sign the picture. He went on to shoot scores of 65 and 63 in the last two rounds and won by 7 shots.

Maybe it was just a coincidence that Mickelson and Couples went on to victory after meeting up with Terry. Then again, maybe not.

Mickelson waited until the last moment to commit to the 2011 Shell Houston Open, but in the end, he couldn't resist. Thanks to the great conditions produced by Randy Samoff, Tim Phillips and their crew, many PGA Tour professionals make it a point to play in the Shell Houston Open to warm up for the Masters.

Mickelson has fallen into that category for the past couple of years, and when McDonald heard that he was returning to Houston, he again asked his friend and favorite golf course superintendent to get his autograph . . . he wanted to add Mickelson's signature to the picture Couples had signed.

The first and second rounds went by without the proper moment. Mickelson had opened with a 70, matched it on Friday morning and then headed for the locker room. As it hap-

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A service mindset

The hints don't come any stronger. Working as a law enforcement officer in north Texas,

Jeff McCrory was shot and stabbed in the line of duty.

If McCrory himself wasn't completely convinced that a career change was in order, his family was there to make sure he saw the light. In spite of his desire to serve as a peace officer, he did.

"Obviously, it was a complete career change," said McCrory in what might be the understatement of the year. "I had to go get educated to head in a new direction."

The Fort Worth native's brother is the head golf professional at Lake Kiowa Country Club in north Texas, and played a big role in McCrory's repurposing.

"I wanted to be a pro and a superintendent," said McCrory. "I wanted to work at a resort somewhere and I figured being both would make that easier."

He had earned an applied science degree from Cook County College (now known as North Central Texas College) in



Jeff McCrory

Gainesville in an earlier life, and headed to the Waco campus of Texas State Technical College for more; he graduated with a degree in agronomy. While he also enrolled in and completed about two-thirds of the PGA of America's Professional Golf Management Program, the turf maintenance industry claimed his attention—he joined the business in 2000 and has been part of it ever since.

McCrory, now 49 years old, worked as an assistant superintendent at Southwyck Golf Club and Lake Windcrest Golf Club before Don Hoos hired him as an assistant superintendent at Wildcat Golf Club. It wasn't long before ValleyCrest Landscape Companies, operators of Wildcat, acquired management rights to the ailing Quail Valley Country Club, and in 2008, McCrory was promoted to golf course superintendent for that facility.

Quail Valley has undergone a continuing repurposing project of his own with McCrory at the head of its maintenance operations. He was the grow-in superintendent for the renovation of the facility's El Dorado Course and will serve in a similar role for its La Quinta Course when it undergoes reconstruction. That will happen when the renovation of Quail Valley's clubhouse is completed (in 2012).

As if that isn't enough, McCrory made the decision last year to take a more active role in STGCSA operations, making his

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Bob Cook to address 2011 Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference



Bob Cook

Not so terribly long ago, maintaining a golf course was an easier proposition. Once the turf was in place, you watered it, mowed it and used a variety of chemicals to help it flourish. Very few people looked over your shoulder so long as the conditions met the needs of the clientele.

That's not the case any more. Once you get past the economics of the process, you've still got to deal with a variety of governmental agencies and lobbies that

require a vast amount of information about what you are doing with the available resources, not to mention when, how and why you are doing it, all with an eye toward "protecting the environment."

That's not necessarily a bad thing, and it can even be a good thing, but it does require additional time and work on your part.

During that time not so terribly long ago, water and chemicals were applied freely as need arose. With no resistance offered from any quarter, planning amounted to purchasing and applying. The perception amongst a segment of the population, within and without the golf community, is that little has changed.

At least in part, that perception lies on the back of the golf course superintendent, and the challenge of changing it resides in the same place.

Bob Cook, golf course superintendent at Walden on Lake Houston Country Club and a member of the industry for 30

years, will address just that subject in a presentation at the 2011 Urban Wildlife Management and Planning Conference, which will be held May 22-25 in Austin.

Cook's presentation, entitled "Environmental Planning and Your Golf Course," is the product of three years he spent working as a Florida-based environmental consultant for Williamsburg Environmental Group.

"We surveyed a number of courses to earmark the environmental problems or permits operators might face and need during construction projects," said Cook, "and the presentation grew from that process."

Cook first presented the program during the 2009 GCSAA Education Conference in New Orleans.

"We all use fertilizers, chemicals and water . . . it's part of our nature," said Cook, "and we actually map and plan the process every day. "The perception is that we just use it without planning, but the reality, hopefully, is that we use all these materials with the environment in mind. We just need to document our procedures and then let people know what we've done in that regard."

The idea is that the more the general public (and lobbies and regulatory agencies) know about how much care golf course superintendents take to minimize the impact of their practices on the environment, the more respect superintendents will enjoy.

"Perception is important. We want people to know we're responsible professionals, and what we do is science-based rather than random," Cook said. "We work to educate ourselves and we're good at what we do. We just don't do a very





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good job of telling our facility operators and the public about it.”

That's where Cook and his presentation come in, providing details about formalizing your processes, documenting them and communicating them through the proper channels.

In addition to Cook's presentation, the conference will include presentations about ecological and economic value in urban design; planning for the inclusion or exclusion of urban wildlife; challenges in urban wildlife management, research, and education; urban ecosystem research; and implementation of innovative strategies for co-existing with wildlife in urban settings.

Complete details about the conference and registration information can be found on the internet at www.urban-wildlife2011.tpwd.state.tx.us/. The cost of attending is \$275 prior to May 1, and \$375 after that date.

MEMBER MOVES

It's a new world for *Josh Ferguson*, who left his position at Cypress Lakes Golf Club and is now a Product Support Manager for Unique Golf & Turf.

Steven Stulce and *Tony Pfaff*, Texas Aggregate & Base Materials president/owner and company consultant, respectively, are now on the STGCSA membership roster.

So, too, are *Jake Burnside* of Burnside Services, Inc., and *Trevor Taylor*, assistant superintendent at The Woodlands Country Club's Palmer Course.

JEFF MCCRORY

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first run at becoming a member of the Chapter's Board of Directors. It was a successful run, too . . . he's been on the Board since last November and is serving as a member of the Board's important Membership Committee.

"I wanted to meet more of my fellow superintendents and do something to help them and the Chapter," said McCrory of his decision. "It makes me feel like I'm doing something instead of just taking advantage of the association."

And that, of course, is the nature of service. Some things never change.



"The only thing constant with environmental regulations and permitting is change."

— Bob Cook

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Who are those guys?

The year was 1999, and we were all on the edge of our seat, waiting for the calendar to flip and destroy us with the Y2K millenium bug.

The impeaching of President Clinton was behind us, tragedy struck at Colorado's Columbine High School and at Texas A&M University, multiple shootings at the former and the collapse of the bonfire at the latter.

It was a landmark year for the STGCSA. The Chapter's membership had chosen to redirect the STGCSA into a bright future, a future that began, for all intents and purposes, at the 1999 STGCSA Annual Meeting.

The photo above was taken at that meeting and includes a



number of the Chapter's leaders during that time.

Hopefully (despite the less than ideal quality of the picture), you'll be able to pick out the individuals shown.

Just in case, they are, from left to right, STGCSA Board member Mike Rhoden, Terry Gill, President Mike Sandburg, Board members Steven Wood, Todd Stephens and Warren Howard, Secretary/Treasurer George Cincotta, Vice-President George Manuel, Bob Cook, Board members Randy Dayton and Carl Tolbert, and Harvey Rose.

Thanks!!!



**WILLOW CREEK
GOLF CLUB**

The STGCSA and its membership wishes to extend its gratitude to the staff at Willow Creek Golf Club, and especially to Mike Rhoden, golf course superintendent, for hosting the Chapter's April Meeting and the USGA Regional Conference.

The hospitality and professionalism displayed by the club's staff was instrumental to a highly-successful gathering, and did not go unnoticed.

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If you have a youngster who will be attending college this fall, be sure he or she applies for a 2011 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, 2011. Act soon and make sure the STGCSA has the chance to help with your child's education.



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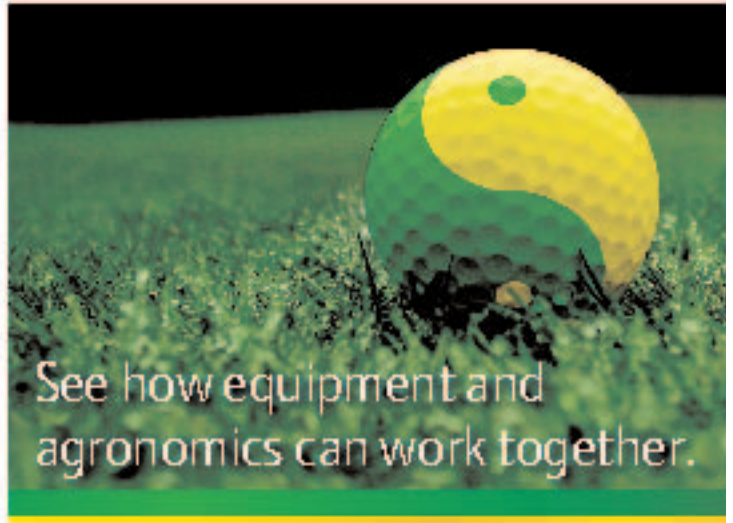


Freeman honored

During the 2011 Golf Industry Show, John Deere Golf recognized John Freeman of Brookside Equipment with the honor for "Outstanding Sales Achievement."

Freeman was one of 18 salespeople within the U.S. and Canada who received the award. Selections were based on nominations received from distributor principals or sales managers. The nominations were then reviewed by the entire sales team.

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 281-802-3441

Texas Trophy rescheduled



Just in case you've already made your plans to play (or even if you haven't), the dates and location for the 2011 Texas Trophy have been changed.

The tournament will now be held Sept. 18-19 at The Golf Club at Fossil Creek. Mark your calendars accordingly.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Golf Course Superintendent Wanted

The Golf Club at Cinco Ranch
Please send resume to Cindy Kristek, Director of Recruiting
E-Mail: ckristek@eaglegolf.com

Golf Course Superintendent Position Available

Wedgewood Golf Course
Please send resume to Cindy Kristek, Director of Recruiting
E-Mail: ckristek@eaglegolf.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Hearthstone Country Club
Please send resume to: Ray McFarland, Golf Course Superintendent
7615 Ameswood Dr., Houston, Texas 77095
E-mail: ray.mcfarland@ourclub.com • FAX: 281-463-4584

Assistant Superintendent Wanted

The Club at Carlton Woods
Please send resume to Eric Bauer, Director of Grounds
The Club at Carlton Woods, 8750 Branch Crossing
The Woodlands, TX 77382
Phone: 281-863-5890 • Fax: 281-863-5896
Email: ebauer@thewoodlands.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

The Deerwood Club
Please e-mail resume to Mark Hutton, CGCS
E-mail: Mark.Hutton@ourclub.com.

Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Fallen Oak Golf Club — Biloxi, Mississippi
Please contact: Matthew D. Hughes, Director of Grounds
Fallen Oak Golf Club, 24400 hwy. 15 North, Saucier, MS 39574
E-mail: mhughes@beaurivage.com

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Assistant-In-Training

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The Club at Carlton Woods, 8750 Branch Crossing
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Email: ebauer@thewoodlands.com

Second Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Corpus Christi Country Club
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Assistant Superintendent Needed

Southwyck Golf Club
Please contact Brandon Crumpler
E-mail: bcrumpler@centurygolf.com

Equipment Technician Position Open

Lake Windcrest Golf Club
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E-mail: rblalock@canongategolf.com

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.



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2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 4

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

May 9

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

June 6

Wildcat Golf Club
Second Round Chapter Championship
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 Shulse

August 8

Sand Hill Farm Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Brian Johnson

IMPORTANT! DATE CHANGE!

September 18-19

Lone Star Texas Trophy
The Golf Club at Fossil Creek — Fort Worth

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
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For additional details about each monthly meeting and golf outing, please visit the
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LUCKY GUY(S)

continued from page 4

pened, Terry had worked the morning shift with our team of marshals. As he headed to lunch, he told me he was leaving the picture under a table. I suggested maybe it would be a better idea to take it with him, as we'd had a couple of things go missing earlier in the week.

Terry grabbed the photo and headed out for an hour or two. When he came back, another golfer asked him for a ride to the clubhouse, and off they went.

After dropping the player off, Terry turned to return to the range and happened to see Mickelson walking out of the clubhouse. He couldn't believe his good fortune, but he didn't hesitate . . . Mickelson gladly signed the photo.

The next day, he posted a third-round 63 and followed it with a Sunday score of 65 to win the Shell Houston Open, his 39th victory, by 3 shots.

My question is, who are the lucky ones in this story? Is it Terry and Ken for getting the Tour professionals' autographs, or is it Mickelson and Couples for their helpings of the magic touch of Terry Gill?

I'll let you decide . . . I know what my answer is.

In either case, thanks again if you were part of this year's Shell Houston Open team. I'm already looking forward to next year.

— George B. Manuel

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