

TEE TO GREEN

May 2012



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association

Blackhorse, here we come.....May 16th 2012

Wow! It's already May and the 16th is the date to mark on your calendar if you haven't already. Johnny Walker is expecting a full house at Blackhorse Golf Club because of the annual Chapter Championship brings in a full field. The Chapter Championship has in the past been a two month event, but went to a single event in 2011 due to the overall attendance at meetings falling below average. This year, the Board has decided to change it up a bit. Registration will begin bright and early at 7:30 am with an 8:30 shotgun start to follow. While lunch is being served after golf, there will be the regular education meeting so you can all collect those points for GCSAA. The speaker will be Dr. Rick Brandenburg. Dr. Brandenburg is head of the Entomology Department at North Carolina State. He is one of the premier turf entomologists in the world. This presentation will cover advanced topics on insect management in Turfgrass. Included in the presentation will be discussions of insect biology and ecology and the importance of this knowledge in using insecticides in the most cost effective and environmentally-friendly manner possible. New products will be discussed and their specific role in the management of fire ants, mole crickets, fall armyworms, white grubs and other Turfgrass insect pests. In addition, emerging insect pest problems will be presented and discussed in the context of changing turf management practices.

Meeting Schedule

May 16-Blackhorse GC
Chapter Championship Registration begins at 7:30 am for an 8:30 am shotgun start!

[Google Map to Blackhorse GC](#)

June 11-Galveston CC

[Google Map to Galveston CC](#)

July 16-Redstone GC

Supt/Pro Tournament

[Google Map to Redstone GC](#)

October 16—Royal Oaks Country Club
Annual Meeting

[Map to Royal Oaks CC](#)

December Awards Ceremony

Location and Date To Be Determined

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

President's Message

By: Mark Haven



It's time to hit the range and the practice green. The chapter championship is right around the corner. We'll be playing for it all in just one round this year at Blackhorse Golf Club the south course. The course is in fantastic shape and in my mind is just the right amount of difficult. Wide fairways and short rough mean you only have to avoid the bunkers and water and you can shoot a decent score. Please make a note of the fact that we will play golf first. We plan to shotgun start at 8:30 so get there early enough to register and warm up. We will have lunch, awards, and education after the round. Dr. Brandenburg will be discussing insects and some of the new control products available.

Make plans for a family weekend in Galveston. We are meeting at Galveston Country Club on Monday, June 11th. Final details are yet to be worked out but we hope to be able to make hotel rooms available for you and your family at a low rate Saturday and Sunday before the meeting. I don't see why we can't have a little family vacation fun and finish it off with some good golf and education. We have even thrown around the idea of a fishing tournament Sunday. More details will be coming soon.

During the last week of March the GCSAA Board of Directors had their quarterly meeting in San Antonio. The national conference and trade show will be in San Antonio in 2015. Several representatives from across the state were invited to a round table discussion and given an opportunity to discuss how the national organization could serve us better. Representing STGCSA were Doug Browne, John Walker, and myself. Topics included representation, political action, water and chemical issues, as well as service to the local chapters. There was a lot of discussion concerning the new EPA requirements and the help we received from Chava McKeel in minimizing its impact on us in Texas. Chava's primary responsibility with the GCSAA is government relations. We also agreed that making Brian Cloud our field representative is already making a difference and that he would be the avenue to better communication and a stronger tie between the local chapters and the national organization. One of the services that GCSAA is offering through Brian Cloud is strategic planning for the local chapters. We are working on a date in August where we will go through the strategic plan exercise. I am sure most of you have done something similar within your organization at some point. We by no means believe anything is broken, but we want to make sure we have a strong well thought out plan for the future. I anticipate that this exercise will be a 6 to 8 hour event. If you want to be involved please let me know.

Most importantly, I want to thank all those who helped make the Scholarship Tournament a success. This year we raised over \$23,000. That is the best we have done in several years. If I listed everyone who deserves a thank you I would lose my audience. We will have a list of donors later in the newsletter but I want to mention just a couple. Casey Wade and Cody Spivey and High Meadow Ranch provided a great facility with great food and service at a dirt cheap price. Bill Freeman did a wonderful job with the auction. Sue Rinehart and Jack Hargrove made sizable cash donations. And Marian keeps the board on their toes and is the thread that connects all of the little details. I know there are many more that deserve a personal thank you and I hope I didn't offend anyone by leaving them off the list. Everyone from those who donated or bought items to those who simply came and played were part of the puzzle that became a tremendously successful event. Thank you!

Finally, I want to say thank you to those who have offered assistance and guidance. I continue to receive the occasional compliment as well as some constructive criticism or suggestions. Don't hesitate to let me know how we can better serve you. mhaven@rec.tamu.edu @bcsgreenkeeper cell 979-224-0184

PEOPLE MAKE THE ENVIRONMENT: BY BOB COOK



Ray Lewis

A few weeks ago on ESPN'S E-60 the host described Ray Lewis as a person who **"CHANGES THE ENVIRONMENT"** not just the game. His presence, focus, preparation, education and years of being a **PROFES-SIONAL** make him a respected authority on what he does. It is what a superintendent is--educated, focused, prepared and professional with environmental issues.



Mike Singletary

Does he change your environmental outlook? He is focused and truly professional. Outside agencies are not likely to administer **"rigid commands"** to this individual. Why? Because he has their **RESPECT** and **BELIEF** that he is the "professional" he portrays. This professional football player has documentation and records that establish his value. His assessment has been determined by others to be sound and trustworthy. With documentation and continued education we can join the ranks of value with others that question many things we do. By sharing this focus and commitment it **will not go unnoticed.**



Al Gore

His education is over the top and a career that gets attention by just the mention of his name. The emphasis here is flip side of the coin for us. Some of the information coming from individuals that did not have all the facts can spiral and turn into red tape. We need to educate and communicate the issues that influence our lives. We need to get involved at every level available starting with the monthly newsletter, committee meeting, and professional association memberships. Fellow superintendents' focus, education, preparation and communication will move the first down markers. **PEOPLE MAKE THE ENVIRONMENT.**



Tree Hugger #1

This could be any superintendent in the country. His commitment to the environment is one of passion and preservation of the grounds he is responsible for.



Tree Hugger #2

This Guy or Gal could be that homeowner on #3 right next to the tee without any turf. Removal is not an option, passion and preservation at the next level. Plan "B" is next.

This article touches just how many people can influence the "environment" in all shapes and forms. The point being get involved or you influence nothing. We have a vested interested in the ENVIRONMENT .

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New Member: Dale Bowman of Pumps, Motors & Controls



I was born in East Texas in 1961 and raised on a small farm doing a lot of hunting and fishing. I learned at the age of 5 how to drive using a John Deere tractor in the hay field. After graduating and a little bit of college, I moved to Houston to see what the big city had to offer a small town country kid.

Here, I teamed up with a new innovator in the golf course irrigation industry, Carroll Childers. In 1981 I began engineering training on the designs of pumping stations and how they will play an important role in the life of a golf course. I was trained on the superintendent's needs, how to make sure the water was always available and how to do it in an efficient manner. Back then it was only relays and timers. As time went on, I installed on of the first computers in the pumping station controls in 1983 and displayed it at the national golf course show. Since then, pump station controls have evolved into what we see today as a lean, mostly green, pumping machine. As Mr. Childers retired, we created Pumps, Motors & Controls, Inc. to carry on his tradition of excellence and support for the thousands of pumping stations he has installed.

As a world traveler, I was immersed into an industry where the people, places, and pride was displayed prominently at all the golf courses around the world that I visited. Over 32 years later, I still enjoy the game, the people, the places, and the friendships I have made over the last 3 decades.

I am happily married to a beautiful woman, and between us we have six children. We enjoy the outdoors and riding our Harley Davidson.



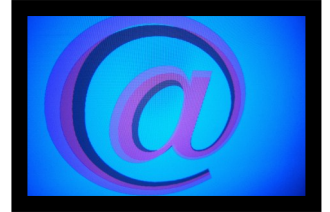
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TEE TO GREEN

Tee To Green can be forwarded to any person interested in receiving it!

Add your GM, Pro or Board of Directors to the mailing list by contacting the office with their full name and email address.



The Top 10 Characteristics of Today's Cutting Edge Golf Course Superintendent

By: R.A. "Bob" Brame, director, North Central Region and USGA Greens Section Record

The primary objectives behind defining a cutting-edge golf course superintendent are twofold: (1) to provide a tool for existing superintendents and those hoping to be superintendents, and (2) to provide a guide for courses to consider when looking for an individual to direct the maintenance of their primary asset. ([Click here for full article](#))

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. GIVER-volunteers and participates 9. GOLFER-plays golf regularly 8. LEARNER-learns new things 7. RESOURCE MANAGER-understands the value of the assets they are responsible for 6. SEEKS COUNSEL-admits to not having "all" the answers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. AGRONOMIST-Applies research-based practices 4. KNOWLEDGABLE/EXPERIENCED-informed and educated 3. GOOD COMMUNICATOR-good listening skills 2. PROFESSIONAL-well-mannered individual who makes those around him feel respected 1. PEOPLE PERSON/MANAGER-fair, consistent and patient |
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Thank you to all that volunteered at Redstone Golf Club
Great job, as always, Randy Samoff and crew!



George Manuel



Randy (in middle) and his two assistants after the trophy presentation at the Shell Houston Open. Notice huge smiles. Whew.....another fab year!



Willy Plowman, John Dailey, Jerry Huntsman, David Gray, Terry Gill, Mark Baughman



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Houston - Gulf Coast Signature Golf Courses

Golf courses in the Greater Houston Area have hosted the U.S. Open and Ryder Cup, so visitors and residents alike should expect nothing less than a stern challenge when teeing it up here. Golfer's Guide has selected the best of the bunch as the signature courses of the Houston Area. [See the full list.](#)



Johnny Walker

Superintendent, Blackhorse Golf Club
Host of the May 16th Chapter
Championship Tournament and
Meeting



I have been managing Golf Courses for 25 years. At the beginning of my career I had the opportunity to work for medium budget golf courses where prudence in spending became a very large asset to the success of the property. Learning to produce a quality golf course without the safety net of unlimited dollars gave me insight to the power of the dollar spent in the right places. High quality golf course conditions are my priority in everyday management and I have been successful in matching those conditions with the type of business each facility demanded. In 1998, I accepted employment with Redstone to become the Golf Course Superintendent at Shadow Hawk and the The Houstonian Country Clubs. Construction of the two properties was simultaneous. I started at the beginning of the construction process and continued through all phases which included drainage installation, irrigation installation, total grassing of both facilities, landscape installation and staffing. After 18 long months, we opened both facilities one week apart, on schedule and on budget. I continued my position as Golf Course Superintendent for five years. In 2004 I was given the opportunity by Redstone to manage another one of their golf properties, Blackhorse Golf Club. Since that time, I have been able to hone my skills as a Superintendent by incorporating the latest agronomic trends to produce a very budget oriented, quality conditioned property that has been financially successful for the last several years.

I received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University in Turfgrass Management in 1985. Along with plant science classes, a major part of my studies included soil science, engineering and chemistry. I had active leadership roles with student organizations which included being elected President of the Agronomy Society. I also was a member of the Texas A&M Soil Judging team for two years and placed 3rd in the National Student speech contest held at the Agronomy Society Convention in 1985. Upon graduation I accepted employment with Texas A&M University to manage the Turfgrass Research Facility under the supervision of Dr. James B. Beard. I was involved in all facets of research and engineering of projects while I continued my education in graduate school.



The number of shots taken by an opponent who is out of sight is equal to the square root of the sum of the number of curses heard plus the number of swishes. ~Michael Green, The Art of Coarse Golf, 1975



WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

By: Stanley J. Zontek
Director Mid Atlantic Region

Not every golf course has a good stand of grass every year and under every weather condition. Eventually, turf will be lost somewhere. The challenge is to effectively manage that turf loss curatively as well as preventatively.

Every golf course superintendent will lose grass at some point in his or her career. For that matter, no golf course superintendent is perfect; no budget is so complete as to allow everything to be in stock and available when a problem arises; no golf course has perfect soil; there is no perfect irrigation system or pure water for golf course irrigation; no perfect surface and subsurface drainage; and few have beneficial growing environments for turf, such as full sunlight and complete air circulation for every green, tee, and fairway. Not every golf course has the correct grass growing in the right places. Golf course superintendents are pretty good at what they do in this industry, but turf loss still occurs, sometimes in spite of the best efforts.

A certain amount of turfgrass management relies on luck, some good and some bad. For example, did your course receive that torrential downpour that dumped two inches of water in 30 minutes on the course, or did you miss that storm and don't have to worry about washed-out sand bunkers, wet wilt, scald and *Pythium*? There is an element of luck in everything associated with growing grass outdoors. Sometimes you are lucky and sometimes you are not. The skill of the superintendent or the strength of a budget (or even the best grasses) cannot overcome bad luck with weather.

[Read the rest of this article](#)



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A Quick Nine: Best Public Golf Courses in Texas

Full Article on Link By: T.J. Auclair, Interactive Producer (PGA.com)

Each week, the editors of PGA.com post a question on the PGA.com Facebook fan page to create a discussion for our, 'A Quick Nine,' feature. The best answers we receive from our readers are then used to write the story.

This time around, the spotlight is on Texas, the Lone Star State and the largest of the 48 contiguous United States. Don't worry; we realize everything is bigger in Texas -- including its place in the annals of golf history.

Two local courses that made the cut in this issue were Wildcat Golf Course, run by our own Board of Director, Ben Fultz and Tour 18 in Humble, run by Todd Stephens, GCSA.

See the full list by T. J. Auclair's readers, as well as comments about the courses at: [Best Golf Courses in Texas](#)



Todd Stephens, CGCS



Ben Fultz



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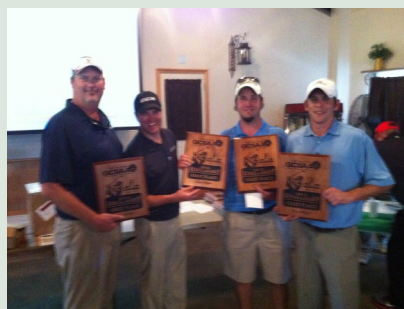
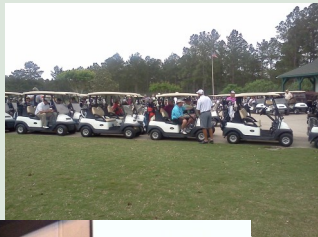


A HUGE THANK YOU

to Cody Spivey, Casey Wade and all the staff at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club for another successful Auction and Scholarship Tournament! We couldn't do it without you!!

~ The STGCSA Board of Directors (and Marian Takushi)

[Click Here for Golf Results](#)





Class of 1986 Certified Golf Course Superintendents who have successfully completed 5 renewal cycles totaling 25 years (photo provided by GCSAA)

Alan D. Hess, CGCS, MG Honored with other Certified Members

at Golf Industry Show Las Vegas

Several Certified Golf Course Superintendents Class of 1986 were recently honored at the Golf Industry Show at Celebrating Certification on Friday, March 2 at the Las Vegas Hotel and Casino (sponsored by Syngenta). Among them were two Texas Aggie Alumni Kieth Ihms, CGCS from the Country Club of Little Rock and Alan D. Hess, CGCS, MG from Augusta Pines Golf Club in Spring.

Kieth is fourth from top right and Alan is seated first from right.

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Encroachment/Contamination - Almost Inevitable in Bermudagrass Greens

By Bud White, Director, USGA Green Section

The battle of encroachment and/or contamination of bermudagrass greens has been ongoing since the days of hybrid bermudagrass putting greens. Tifgreen (328) and Tifdwarf were constantly invaded by common types and fairway type grasses. It is amazing how quickly these coarser textured grasses adapt to putting green cutting heights and continue to proliferate and spread.

Encroachment is a never ending battle



Encroachment begins immediately after planting as the collar grass, typically sodded, begins its aggressive lateral movement into the grow-in of the putting green sprigs. Pictured below is a Roundup band administered to the collar grass to impede stolon development into the putting surface during the establishment phase. It is easy to lose 6" to 12" of putting surface during the grow-in phase if edging is not carried out on the collar turf.

This is not to be confused with mutation of the grasses. Mutation is a natural occurring physiological change of the grass over time, and is actually how Tifdwarf, Champion and Mini Verde were developed. Tifdwarf was found as a natural mutation on a Tifgreen green at Florence Country Club in Florence, SC, in the 1960's, identified and selected by Monty Moncrief, a former USGA SE Green Section director.

Control

How does the contamination/encroachment process begin? Collar grasses are usually coarser type bermudagrasses, typically more aggressive than the putting surface grasses, often even at putting green height. Many have claimed collar grasses will not encroach into the ultradwarf bermudagrasses because of the extremely low cutting height, but anyone who has managed the ultradwarfs knows this is not the case. Edging existing collar grasses at the collar/putting green interface is a continuous battle that must be managed on a regular basis throughout the growing season—preferably weekly. This is the only way to start keeping the coarser collar bermudagrass in check. Bermudagrass invasion is predominately from stolons instead of rhizomes, so edging does not have to be very deep.

Proper management of this contamination/encroachment problem not only begins with edging at the time of planting, but also with a weekly program of roguing the greens to remove any off-type or coarse type bermudagrass spots. If superintendents and assistants will weekly rogue their putting greens during the growing season, it's amazing how clean and pure the hybrid bermudagrasses can be kept over a long period of time. Roguing is not necessary a difficult if done weekly but it is somewhat labor intensive. Ninety percent of

the roguing will occur in the first outer 5' to 6' edge of the putting green which will remain a constant since continued roguing prevents invasion towards the center of the putting greens.

Renovation

Successful renovation to eliminate contamination in putting green edges is usually accomplished by one of two ways:

Spray with a non-selective herbicide to kill everything in the contaminated area, then sod or sprig the areas after spraying OR

Fumigation of these areas prior to replanting to kill all the remaining turf and weeds.

Non-selective spraying of the contaminated areas has been successful but does require multiple applications of a combination of glyphosate and fusilade with the proper wait times between spraying. Research has recommended following the first application in two weeks with an application of ammonium sulfate, followed in ten days by a second application of the herbicide. One week after the second herbicide application, the renovation work can begin.



A glyphosate band on the collar prevents encroachment during new green grow-in

Additionally, this has to be done during the active growing season. An early spring renovation will not be successful because the bermudagrass is not growing actively enough to totally translocate the herbicide. It is also most successful to sod these areas versus sprig, as sodding smothers any rhizomes that may remain viable and minimizes the chance of reinvasion. However, fumigation gives the most complete kill of any existing material.

When correcting encroachment issues, it is also an excellent time to correct collar buildups and reestablish positive surface drainage off the putting surface, helping justify the cost.

Hopefully this brief overview will shed some light on the encroachment and contamination battle, which is an ongoing issue for every bermudagrass green. This same problem exists for any bentgrass putting green surrounded by a warm season grass, especially bermudagrass. The solution to minimize encroachment is easy, but it is labor intensive and therefore expensive because of the routine and regular edging required during the growing season.

If your club requires additional information or questions arise on this subject as you consider a renovation project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (972) 662-1138 or via email at budwhite@usga.org.

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- Brian Daniel-Technical Sales Rep. for Cleary Chemical*
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Correction in the 2012 Directory:

Please change Harry Yewens Phone to: 832-541-7340
 Morris Johnson is listed as a STGCSA Board member and it should be Brian Johnson



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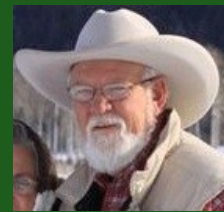
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Thank you to Bill Freeman for taking the time to come to our event. We couldn't do it without you!



Thank you to Cody Spivey and Casey Wade and all of their staff, once again! High Meadow Ranch always does it first class!

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