

# Tee to Green

November/December  
2008

## Elections highlight 2008 STGCSA Annual Meeting

Come December 25, it's entirely possible that Mother Nature will find nothing more than a lump of coal underneath her Christmas tree . . . the Weather Lady hasn't been particularly well behaved this year.

If Hurricane Ike wasn't enough, she decided to rain out the second round of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, which was scheduled to take place following the STGCSA's 2008 Annual Meeting at The Houstonian Golf and Country Club. Even worse, she waited until the competitors had played a few holes before fulfilling the warning of the morning's clouds, letting everyone believe there was a chance to finish the round.



Lee Gravett

But that doesn't mean the tournament wasn't a success, and congratulations are in order. The tournament's first round was played at Golfcrest Country Club in October, during which Mark Haven carded a round of 75, a score that stood up for victory

in the tournament's Championship Flight and for the crown of 2008 STGCSA Chapter Champion (turn to page 6 for more results).

The Annual Meeting marked, of course, the election of the Chapter's leadership team for 2009.

Lee Gravett, who has spent much of the past decade serving on the STGCSA Board, was elected President. Willy Plowman and Wade Warmes, CGCS, were elected Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer, respectively. Immediate Past President Roger Goetsch, CGCS, will round out the executive panel.

Five new Board members were elected, four superintendents and one affiliate.

Russell Birkhimer, Kevin Borowski, Steven Chernosky and Blayne Sparks filled the first category. Birkhimer, Chernosky and Sparks will serve two-year terms, and Borowski will serve one

year, filling out the slot vacated when an employment change resulted in Russell Tippie, elected last year, resigning from the Board.

Brandon Cole was elected to the vacant Affiliate Member position and will serve on the Board for the next two years.

Those gentlemen will be joined by returning Board members Mark Haven, Sean Wilson, CGCS, and Mark Baughman to form the Chapter's leadership team for the upcoming year.

The attendees at the Annual Meeting also voted on a couple of other "matters." One was a set of five changes to the Chapter's by-laws, all generally addressing membership classification and status, the Chapter's mission and its leadership. All the changes were approved, and will appear in the next publication of the by-laws.

The members also voted on the Chapter's inaugural Sonny Dubose Memorial Superintendent of the Year Award. Four nominees . . . Justin Shulse, Doug Browne, Terry Gill and Johnny Walker . . . were presented to the attendees. The results of the voting will be announced at the STGCSA's 2008 Christmas Party, Dec. 4 at River Oaks Country Club.

So to will the recipient of the Chapter's 2008 Memorial Scholarship. A list of 14 recipients of \$1,000 Legacy Scholarships was read during the Annual Meeting; the name of the recipient of the \$2,000 Memorial Scholarship will be announced during the



Willy Plowman



Wade Warmes, CGCS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is Thanksgiving time and with it, another year is about to pass into history. That said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the STGCSA for their continued support throughout the year.

Our members and their dedication to our profession and our association are what make our Chapter great. Our members' loyalty makes our Chapter one of the best organizations in the country.

I also wish to thank the 2008 Board of Directors, who have been there for me throughout the year, continually helping me improve our association. We have accomplished a great deal this year and I want to express my gratitude to each Board member for their hard work this, the 50th year of existence for the STGCSA.

I also wish to sincerely thank Marian Takushi and Steve Hunter for the dedication they have shown throughout this year (as well as many past years). It goes without saying that our association could not be what it is without their hard work and I, for one, am indebted to both of them.

We have accomplished many things this year, and I want to take a little space to highlight some of the highlights. In 2008, we have:

- Awarded 20 Legacy Scholarships in one year to STGCSA members' children, a new record in that arena.
- Brought back our Match Play golf format for our members.
- Inaugurated the Sonny Dubose Memorial Superintendent of the Year Award.
- Changed our Chapter's by-laws to allow Assistant Superinten-

dents to join the Board of Directors in a limited capacity.

- Adjusted our definition of "Inactive" status so members experiencing unexpected hardships can maintain their memberships for one year.
- Improved the STGCSA web site (to continue) to enhance the way we do business online.
- Inaugurated the Long Drive contest, rewarding winners with the chance to attend the Texas Trophy.
- Improved our Top Ten points system.
- Improved our interaction with vendors through an annual summit meeting to allow better communication and participation levels on both sides of our membership with the goal to improve sponsor package programs and maximize sponsorship opportunities in our newsletter, on our web site and at our meetings.
- Conducted a Membership Survey that will help with continued improvement in how we conduct business.
- Gained a partnership with Texas A&M Extension to host our annual Pesticide CEU seminar on an annual basis, with a percentage of the proceeds feeding back to STGCSA.
- Awarded an "Honorary Membership" to Jackie Burke to honor

continued on page 4



### President

Roger Goettsch, CGCS

### Vice-President

Lee Gravett

### Secretary/Treasurer

Willy Plowman

### Immediate Past President

Justin Shulse

### Board of Directors

Bret Barclay	Mark Haven
Mark Baughman	Ed Schultheis
Chris Smith	Russell Tippie
Wade Warms, CGCS	Sean Wilson, CGCS

### Executive Secretary

Marian Takushi

P.O. Box 571923 • Houston, Texas 77257-1923  
 Phone: 281-494-0094 • FAX: 281-494-0094  
 e-mail: stgcsa@windstream.net

### Director of Communications

Steve Hunter

Phone: 281-395-4927 • FAX: 281-395-6293  
 e-mail: srhunter@mindspring.com

### Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

## Christmas Party!

Thursday, December 4, 2008

River Oaks Country Club

6:30-7:30 p.m. — Welcome Reception

7:30 p.m. — Dinner

Following Dinner:

Entertainment by:

**"The Grateful Geezers"**

### Plus:

Dinner, Legacy Scholarship Presentations,  
 New Officer and Board Member Induction  
 and Points Competition Recognition

Dress: Coat & Tie

Cost: \$85 per couple (\$42.50 for singles)

Please RSVP by Nov. 28 by calling Marian Takushi  
 at 281-494-0094 or by e-mail at  
 stgcsa@windstream.net.

**Directions:** From Loop 610 West - go east on  
 Westheimer to River Oaks Blvd. Turn left (north)  
 on River Oaks Blvd. and follow to clubhouse.

## Scholarship winners announced

The South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association has stepped up for higher education once again, awarding Legacy Scholarships to 14 students for 2009.

The total scholarship funds disbursed this time around will be \$15,000; 13 of the selected scholarship recipients will receive \$1,000, while one student will receive the Chapter's 2009 Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$2,000. The recipient of the Memorial Scholarship will be announced during the STGCSA's 2008 Christmas Party at River Oaks Country Club in December, when all of the scholarship recipients will be presented to the Chapter members in attendance.

With the disbursement of the most recent scholarship funds, the STGCSA will have provided \$114,800 to a total of 102 students since the association's 1999 reorganization of its scholarship efforts.

"Crossing the \$100,000 mark in scholarship funds awarded marks another milestone for our program, and I know all of our members are proud of the work we do to help youngsters secure their college educations," said Wade Warms, a Certified Golf Course Superintendent at the Golf Club at Cinco Ranch and the chairman of the STGCSA Scholarship Committee. "We reorganized our scholarship program in order to be able to help as many deserving students as possible, and our efforts remain focused on that goal."

The purpose of the STGCSA Legacy Scholarship program is to offer educational aid to the dependent children of STGSA members and affiliate members. The selection criteria for the scholarships includes status as a full-time student, academic background and extracurricular activities.

### 2008

#### STGCSA Legacy Scholarship Recipients

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Parent-Member/Affiliation</u>
Tony Cincotta	George Cincotta, Riverbend Country Club
Johnny Dailey	John Dailey, Arbor Care, Inc.
Lauren Drabing	Dodd Drabing, Professional Turf Products
Shawn Freeman	John Freeman, Brookside Equipment
Rebecca Freeman	John Freeman, Brookside Equipment
Jaris Goettsch	Roger Goettsch
Nick Hess	Alan Hess, Augusta Pines Golf Club
Stephan Hess	Alan Hess, Augusta Pines Golf Club
Catherine Myrick	David Myrick, The Wilderness Golf Club
Dawn Rhoden	Mike Rhoden, Willow Creek Country Club
Christine Poshtakohi	Pete Poshtakohi, Atascocita Country Club
Reagan Ratcliff	Brent Ratcliff, Innovative Turf Supply
Zachary Ratcliff	Brent Ratcliff, Innovative Turf Supply
Justin Wood	Michael Wood, South Shore Harbour CC

## Membership Moves

The STGCSA welcome mat is out for a quintet of new members. Those new on the STGCSA roster are: *Michael Reilly*, turf equipment technician at Moody Gardens Golf Club; *Kyle Kelley*, assistant superintendent at Kingwood Country Club; *Rod Hurza*, a new sales representative for Helena Chemical Company; and *Kevin Cooper* and *Scott Toler*, golf course superintendent and assistant superintendent, respectively, at Lochinvar Golf Club.



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## TTA Winter Conference set

The 2008 Texas Turfgrass Association Conference and Show will take place Dec. 8-10 at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

Activities will get underway with a golf tournament at Hawks Creek Golf Course at 11 a.m. on Dec. 7. The show itself will begin with the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association Breakfast, featuring an address from Bud White, Director of the Mid-Continent Region of the USGA Green Section, focusing on "What I've Seen This Year . . ."

Conference registration will begin at 8 a.m. on Dec. 8 and the day will include Pesticide Applicator Training Sessions, the organization's Annual Business Meeting and General Session. Presentations regarding the industry's economic outlook, tree risk assessment and bermudagrass breeding will be included in the latter.

Exhibits will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 6.

The conference will resume Dec. 9 at 8 a.m., with a schedule that includes additional Pesticide Applicator Training and Business Management seminars, and separate series of gatherings focusing on golf course maintenance related topics and sports turf subjects.

The third day of the conference will also begin at 8 a.m. and will feature more Pesticide Applicator presentations and another golf course maintenance session.

Continuing Education Units will be available to those attending the conference. For more information, including cost and registration details, please visit [www.texasurf.com](http://www.texasurf.com).



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## Education!

The Texas A&M University Turf Program has scheduled two continuing educational opportunities for early 2009.

### 5th Annual Turfgrass Ecology and Management Short Course

January 26-30

The Donald L. Houston Center at Texas A&M University  
<http://grass.tamu.edu>

Registration deadline: Jan. 13, 2009

### 1st Urban Agrichemical Applicators School

February 18-20

Texas A&M University

<http://agrchemical.tamu.edu>

Registration deadline: Feb. 4, 2009

For additional information, please contact  
Dr. David Chalmers ([dchalmers@tamu.edu](mailto:dchalmers@tamu.edu)) or Vickie  
Marriot at 979-845-0884 ([vmarriott@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:vmarriott@ag.tamu.edu)).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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his accomplishments and his support to the superintendents in our Chapter.

I hope you share in my pride in our accomplishments this year. The improvements and enhancements they will provide will help us move into our second half-century with more than a little positive momentum. The end result will be a better association from which we, our facilities and our golfers, can benefit from. Thanks to all who participated and I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

I hope to have the opportunity to shake your hand at our annual Christmas Party (details can be found in the box on page 2) so I can say "thank you" in person, for the chance you gave me to serve our association and for your support of our efforts.

— Roger Goettsch, CGCS

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## ANNUAL MEETING

continued from page 1

Christmas Party.

The conclusion of the Chapter Championship also concluded the race for the top spots on the STGCSA's 2008 Points Lists. The Top 10s can be found below— each member of those lists will receiving their “earnings” at the Christmas Party.

### 2008 South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association Points Lists Final Results

Superintendents		Affiliates	
Mark Haven	883.00	Jeff Jowell	870.00
Wade Warmes	849.00	Pat Johnston	856.00
Richard Kane	848.50	Kent Knowles	855.50
Glen Noska	844.00	Mike James	846.50
Sean Wilson	840.00	Stan Ludwick	843.50
Bret Barclay	834.50	Alan Lee	841.00
Chris Teaftiller	831.00	Jeff Smith	833.00
Gary Hargrove	828.50	Pat Neuendorff	819.00
Ray McFarland	828.00	Mark Baughman	802.50
Roger Goettsch	827.00	Brandon Cole	789.50



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# 2008 South Texas GCSA Chapter Championship

**Overall Champion**  
Mark Haven

## Championship Flight

Mark Haven	75
Stan Ludwick	76
Bret Barclay	79
Brian Buckner	79
Jeff Jowell	81

## First Flight

Pat Johnston	82 *
Kent Knowles	82
Richard Kane	83
Mark Baughman	85
Brent Ratcliff	85

\* won scorecard playoff

## Second Flight

Jerry Takushi	86
Lee Gravett	90
Cody Marchand	92
Kevin Royse	94
Johnny Walker	95

## Third Flight (net)

Mitch Elliott	72
Chris Teaftiller	73
Charles Joachim	74
Alan Lee	74
Tom Lytle	75

## Special Contests

### Golfcrest Country Club

Hole	Contest	Winner
#5	Closest-to-Pin	Charles Joachim
#8	Coses-to-Pin	Lee Gravett
#10	Longest Drive	Jeff Jowell
#12	Closest-to-Pin	Bob Ducote
#14	Longest Drive	Bob Ducote
#16	Closest-to-Pin	Roger Goettsch

### The Houstonian Golf & Country Club

Hole	Contest	Winner
#3	Longest Drive	Ray McFarland
#4	Closest-to-Pin	George Cincotta
#8	Closest-to-Pin	Jeff Jowell
#15	Closest-to-Pin	Jerry Takushi
#18	Long Drive	Lee Gravett

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## Service Pins earned, and presented

For 35 members of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, 2008 marked a milestone, and they were recognized during the 2008 STGCSA Annual Meeting. Those in attendance were presented with service pins in recognition of their years of service to the golf course maintenance industry and their membership in the STGCSA.

Those celebrating anniversaries of their membership in the Chapter (in five year increments) are:

### 10 Years

Jeff Blume	Tom Brandon	Brandon Cole
Gary Hargrove	Chris Pitts	John Sewell
Justin Shulse	Leadner Schutte	Jeff Smith
Cody Spivey		Tim Supak

### 15 Years

Mark Haven	Travis Klosterboer	Pete Poshtakohi
Lauro Villareal		Steve Yarotsky

### 20 Years

Kevin Bryant	Andy Coz	Terry Gill
David Myrick	Ed Rinehart	Carl Tolbert

### 25 Years

John Dailey	Arthur Milberger
Michael Wood, CGCS	

### 35 Years

Arnold Bruns

## It's that time again!

Membership fees for 2009 are now due.

If you have any questions regarding your dues for 2009, please contact Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 or send her an e-mail at [stgcsa@windstream.net](mailto:stgcsa@windstream.net).

Your dues must be paid by Mar. 1, 2009, for your information to be included in the 2009 STGCSA Membership Directory.

A downloadable 2009 Membership Application is available within the "Members" section of [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org).

### For your information . . .

The STGCSA offers "facility" memberships for new members who work at a facility that may not be able to get a regular superintendent membership. Call the office or a Board member to get more information, but act quickly . . .

all information that's to be included in the 2009 STGCSA Membership Directory must be submitted to the Chapter office by Mar. 1, 2009.

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Please contact:

Kathy McElroy, Administrative Assistant

Telephone: 281-459-7855

E-Mail: [kmcelroy@redstonegolfclub.com](mailto:kmcelroy@redstonegolfclub.com)

**Golf Course Manager/Superintendent**

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Please contact: Cindy Hulme, President, BVGC

Telephone: 254-675-3580

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*The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) or FAX (281-395-9547) 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](mailto:stgcsa@windstream.net), 281-494-0094).*



## **Out of Bounds: Restoring trees after the storm**

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Immediately after a major storm event, it is obvious that fallen trees and debris need to be removed from the in-play areas of your golf course. What is not always as obvious is determining whether the standing but damaged trees should be removed or saved.

A golf course is considered a highly managed landscape. As such, there is a higher level of liability than for other green spaces such as natural park areas, walking trails, and campgrounds. Due to the potential liability, removing hazard trees should be a priority. A certified arborist may be needed to determine which trees are structurally safe and which are likely to fail in the near future.

Determining when a potentially hazardous tree should be removed or saved can be a difficult decision. The following are some general guidelines to help determine whether to remove or save a medium to mature, storm-damaged tree.

Consider removing the tree if:

- The lower trunk is cracked or broken.
- A large stem has split from the tree.
- Major roots are severed or broken.
- The tree is leaning towards a target.
- Large limbs are broken.

### **Technicians to meet in December**

The STGCSA Technicians Association will hold its final meeting of 2008 on Dec. 2 at the Luber Brothers, Inc., facility at 15375 East Vantage Parkway (just west of Aldine Westfield Rd. and north of the Sam Houston Tollway in north Houston).

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the meeting will get underway at 9.

The gathering will feature the association's election of officers for 2009 and a presentation about grinding technology led by guest speaker Jeff Buchco of Neary Technologies. Lunch will follow the meeting.

If you are planning to attend, please provide an RSVP to Angelo Notter (713-828-7473) or Marian Takushi (281-494-0094) by Nov. 28.

Consider saving the tree if:

- Canopy defoliation has occurred without significant limb damage.
- Only small limbs are broken or dead.
- Large limbs are broken in decay-resistant tree species (e.g. live oak).
- The leaning or falling tree is small.

If the decision is made to save a tree, it is critical that proper pruning cuts are made to prevent further injury to the tree. Proper pruning of a large branch is a three-step process.

First, make an under cut about 12 inches from where the final cut will be made. This cut should penetrate about 1/3 to 1/2 the branch diameter. The second cut, made further out on the branch, removes the weight of the limb before the final cut; it is made by cutting through the branch completely. The third and final cut removes the stub that is left. This cut should be made just to the outside of the branch collar.

To read more about restoring trees after a storm event, please visit this website:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP29100.pdf>

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

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### 2009 Golf Industry Show Volunteer Habitat for Humanity Project

If you would like to give something back to the people of New Orleans, here's your chance to make a big difference.

The partnering associations of the Golf Industry Show are teaming up with Habitat for Humanity to host a series of special work days before the trade show opens to help build homes in some of New Orleans' most devastated areas. No experience is necessary, and all the equipment and supplies are provided. Your time and energy can help make the dreams come true for several families in a big way.

The work days will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3, and Wednesday, Feb. 4, from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

All volunteers will be placed in teams of 15 to work on homes within a particular area. The Golf Industry Show will provide transportation from the New Orleans Morial Convention Center, lunch at the work sites, and plenty of outdoor necessities such as water and sunscreen. Project t-shirts will be provided to show your team spirit and build camaraderie with your peers.

If you'd like to participate in this first-ever volunteer project, you can sign up through any of the education conferences presented by GCSAA, NGCOA or CMAA. Participation requires a \$25 registration fee.

For more information, please visit  
[www.golfindustryshow.com/2009/buildahouse.asp](http://www.golfindustryshow.com/2009/buildahouse.asp).

## 2008 SOUTH TEXAS GCSA EVENTS

### December 4 (Thursday)

Annual Awards Banquet and Ceremony

River Oaks CC

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### December 8-10

TTA Annual Conference & Trade Show

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