

TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



GCSAA Board of Directors Candidate and STGCSA member, Johnny Walker with STGCSA President, Sean Wilson, CGCS at GCSAA Delegates Meeting

Meeting Schedule

November 12—14

Texas Turfgrass Conference
Dallas Sheraton

November 18—Annual Meeting

Sweetwater Country Club

December 15 (Sunday) - Holiday Reception and Scholarship Awards

Brae Burn Country Club

January 8, 2014—Pesticide

Renewal Class at Bear Creek

January 21, 2014

Stephen F Austin GC

February 3-6, 2014

Golf Industry Show

March 25, 2014

Tour 18

April 29, 2014

Scholarship Tournament

High Meadow Ranch GC

Register Now for Any Meeting!

Annual Meeting Agenda

The annual meeting at Sweetwater Country Club will have several new items on the agenda. Not only will the 2014 Board of Directors be voted in, but the past presidents award and the presidents coat will be presented as well. The nominations for the Sonny DuBose award will be read but the winner will be announced at the January meeting at Stephen F Austin. Send your nominations to the office or hand them to a Board Member. Affiliates are also welcome to nominate for this award.

Save the date:

TTA in Dallas is November 12 thru 14th, the annual STGCSA Christmas Event on December 15th, as well as the Pesticide renewal class at Bear Creek on January 8th and our popular “bring a club manager guest for free—or a potential new member meeting” at Stephen F. Austin on January 21st. This meeting will also have GCSAA CEU Education Points and the Sonny DuBose Award will be presented at this meeting as well!

February 5th is the Lone Star Reception at the Rosen Centre Orlando and March 25th, Todd Stephens, CGCS will be hosting a meeting followed by the Annual Scholarship Tournament at Cody Spivey’s place (High Meadow Ranch GC)!

Hope to see you at all the events!

Get to Know Host Superintendent, Michael Finke

For someone to suggest that I was born into this industry, would not be lying. My grandfather spent numerous years of his life mowing fairways at Blue Bonnet Country Club in Navasota, TX, and of course almost everyone knows of my father, Larry Finke's, great career at Walden on Lake Conroe.



I can still remember every Friday evening asking my father if I could go into work with him on Saturday morning. It didn't matter that I had to wake up at 5 a.m.; I just wanted to be out there on the course with him. It's funny how things don't change much as we get older and our children ask us the same questions each Friday night. It looks like I might have another agronomist in the making.

Besides the point that I could set up a job board before I was 10 years old, I really didn't get into this industry until half way through college. I was influenced by some great people in the industry including: Larry Finke, Terry Gill, Don Cole, Tom Leonard, Stan Wreyford, and Paul Simmons. Each one of these people helped me get to where I am today.

I have been the Head Superintendent at Sweetwater Country Club for 4 years, and also a Regional Superintendent for Century Golf for the past 2 years. As a Regional Superintendent, I have the privilege to work with great superintendents in Texas and the Northeast. Being able to see different parts of the country, has allowed me to expand my knowledge of this industry.

I of course, I could not be able to do what I do without the support that I have at home. I have my wonderful wife, Jaclyn, who I have the honor of being married to for just over 10 years. We have 2 beautiful children, Grant, who is 8, and, Madelyn, who is 6. They keep us very busy with sports, gymnastics and numerous other activities. We have lived in Magnolia for the past 4 years.



Built in the early 1980's, at a time when Sugar Land was beginning to emerge as a premier suburb of Houston, Sweetwater Country Club was first made famous by the vision and commitment focused on providing a new home for the Ladies Professional Golf Association. Designed by architect Roger Packard, Sweetwater opened its first 9-holes in late 1982 with the title task of challenging players' abilities ranging from the dedicated golf members and guests to LPGA Tour professionals. Host to the LPGA Hall of Fame Golf Classic in 1984 & 1985, Sweetwater welcomed Nancy Lopez and Amy Alcott as champions who endured near U.S. Open course conditions along with the sweltering heat of early July each year.

Proud of the history and heritage before it, Sweetwater Country Club now lives on as a formidable test in golf for the firmly established family community culture of Sugar Land and the surrounding Houston area. Two 18-hole courses (Pecan and Cypress) continue to offer a diverse challenge to golfers of all levels. On our Pecan Course, players will experience lengthy holes of relatively open play; susceptible to the ever present Texas winds and at a turn begins winding through majestic pecan groves with the tranquility of aged Spanish moss. Those who would rather play a shorter test



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Sweetwater Country Club

November 18, 2013

Host Superintendent: Michael Finke

Registration begins at 9 am

Annual Meeting/Voting: 10-11

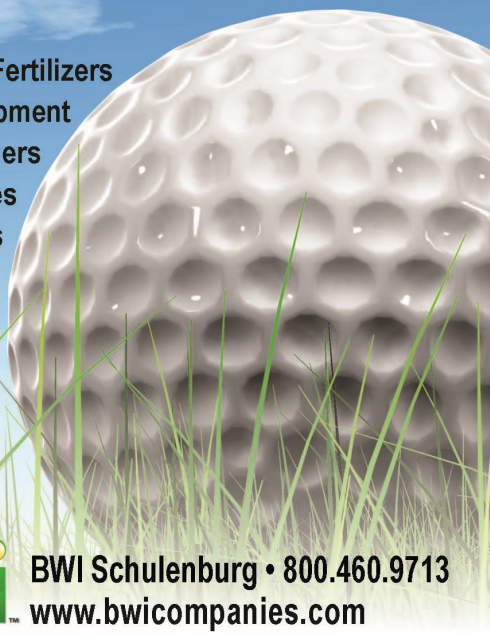
Lunch: 11-12

Golf: 12:30 (Must arrive by 10:15 to golf)

Register at: www.stgcsa.org

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Sterling Country Club at Houston National—Golf Results and Photos

Thank you, Steven Chernosky and staff for a great meeting!



GROSS

First Place	Chris Webster/Brian Johnson	66
Second Place	Brian Buckner/Ed Martinez	70
Third Place	(scorecard playoff) Mark Haven/Joseph Haven	72



NET

First Place	Kevin Graf/Kevin Brown	59
Second Place	Jr. Schuette/Mark Baughman	61
Third Place	Kent Knowles/Bill Abetz	62



President's Message



Our annual meeting is just a few weeks away. I would like to ask for everyone to make every effort to be in attendance for this meeting. This is the time we select our Board of Directors and Executive Officers for the association. Associations in all different industries struggle to stay afloat. Ours is no different. Johnny Walker and myself attended the GCSAA Chapter Delegate meeting at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS a few weeks ago. Much of the talk at meetings like this centers around how to increase membership and member participation, just as we do in our monthly STGCSA board meetings and just as you probably do in your staff meetings at your clubs. So how do we do that? We look for new ideas for meeting venues, different or important educational opportunities, and new tournament formats. As many different things we can come up with to get people involved. Do they all work? Absolutely not. But all we can do is keep trying. The main thing is we need all of your help. Come to the meetings and bring your ideas to us. Be vocal and be involved. If you would like to host an event let us know.

New ideas are important, but what I think is more important is the networking and fellowship. Being able to talk with other superintendents and vendors is where I believe the real value of membership is found. So just a well-attended meeting has a wealth of knowledge to be found regardless of the topic of the speaker.

I can tell you from attending the Chapter Delegate meeting the last five years, our association is one of the strongest and most well run chapters in the country. Even in these down times STGCSA has continued to prosper. Membership is doing well and we continue to offer scholarship money to all that apply and are eligible.

I look forward to seeing a lot of people at the meeting. Come out and vote for next years' leadership and this years' recipient of the "Sonny".

Sean Wilson, CGCS



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Golf Has A Great Story to Tell

Below are some interesting facts to support the Golf Industry:

Golf only uses 0.5% of the total water used in the US or Texas.

Compared to all agricultural crops, Golf generates:

8 X the revenue per acre foot (AF) of water used

6.4 X the revenue per acre of land used.

The Economic Impact of Golf in Texas is:

\$7.4B estimated total impact - (\$195B in the US)

Provides 98,859 jobs – (2M in the US)

Supports \$2.4B in wages – (\$61B in the US)

Contributes to significant social, recreational, economic, environmental, entertainment, wellness and community benefits.

Clubs and HOAs have replaced the City Parks and Recreation departments in many suburban communities without the support of tax dollars.

Golf has a long history of charitable events and fund raisers, both professionally and locally.

Golf has a well-documented history of protecting the environment and our natural resources through:

Water Conservation, Water Quality , Protection, Wildlife, Habitat and Many Other Stewardship Initiatives



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golf industry show

Golf Industry Show Housing Now Open

February 1-3: GCSAA Golf Championship

February 3-6: Education Conference



Lone Star Reception

February 5th (Wednesday)

The Rosen Centre—Orlando, FL

7-10 pm-RSVP at lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org

(this helps us order enough food!)

Be part of the future.
 Donate a round today.

With Rounds 4 Research online auctions, you can support the future of the game by donating a round of golf. Funds raised will help address a critical shortage of resources for turfgrass research.

Auction dates:
 June 6-16, 2013
 August 1-11, 2013

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In the South Central region, five of the ten affiliated chapter participated in the 2013 auctions and raised \$4,829 in golf round sales. These funds will be utilized to support region specific turfgrass research, education, advocacy and scholarship. All chapters were successful in introducing the program to their members and facilities and are strongly considering participation in the 2014 effort.

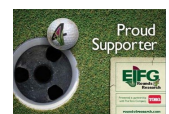
Specifically, the South Texas GCSA was able to collect 9 round donations and sold the majority of those rounds in the June auction. The chapter is in the process of determining the best use for the funds raised - \$1,022. The chapter encourages members to provide any feedback or suggestions regarding the program.

Please email stgcsa@stgcsa.org if you can donate a round today!!!



Show your support for Research!

Start donating your rounds4research golf for 2014 by contacting stgcsa@stgcsa.org



If you would like to be featured in Tee To Green, please email a short biography along with 3-4 photos for our section, "Member Profiles"



Johnny Walker will run for 2014 Board of Directors - GCSAA

The end of this year is getting closer and during this time we start making plans for next year. I have been doing a lot of planning myself over the last several weeks, not only for the end of this year, but for next year as well. One decision I had to make was about a possible campaign to re-run for GCSAA Board of Directors. Although I have had some pretty major changes in my life recently, many people in our state and around the country have encouraged me to try again. I am honored to announce that with the support of South Texas and Lone Star GCSA's, I have been nominated as a candidate again this year and I am on the campaign trail as you read this. Thanks again for your encouragement and support.

JOHNNY WALKER
Director of Golf Course Maintenance
Bentwater Yacht & Country Club



Congratulations to Jeff Smelser, CGCS

Superintendent and STGCSA Board Member, Jeff Smelser, CGCS of Galveston Country Club was selected as one of the 20 golf course superintendents to participate in a unique educational experience (an innovative professional business development program developed specifically for the industry) at the Syngenta Business Institute at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem N. Carolina in December.



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Texas Turf Grass Association (Shirley Duble)-979.690.2201
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Golfdom Insider

What should an internship pay?

By Curt Harler | August 19, 2013

If you are like many of us in this business, an internship opened the doors to your current career. Were you well paid? Or were you paid in experience and contacts?

According to a recent lawsuit, the latter is not enough. Superintendents need to be aware of the latest legal decision on internships.

Remember the recent movie "Black Swan" starring Mila Kunis and Natalie Portman? In 2011, a group of students were offered internships as production assistants on the movie filmed by Fox Searchlight Pictures. They got a ton of experience but they did not earn minimum wage.

That's a no-no, said a federal judge in New York City in mid-June. The judge ruled that Fox Searchlight violated both federal and state minimum wage laws when it filmed "Black Swan" and did not give the kids a full paycheck at the end of the week.

While the movie revolves around a ballet dancer, it really is a dark psychological study of someone on their way up (or down).

For turf students, unpaid or underpaid intern work is not uncommon on golf courses... or in the halls of academia, either. Whether the students should be seen as adults making a rational investment in their careers or as hapless dupes being soaked for free labor is up for debate.

How do you see it? Email us at sjones@northcoastmedia.net.

GCSAA releases new mobile app



Keep up with GCSAA news, social media, GCM, GCSAA TV in the palm of your hand

GCSAA has produced a new mobile app to help you stay connected with GCSAA.

The new app consolidates GCSAA's news feeds, social media, GCSAA TV, GCM and basic association information from the GCSAA website. In addition, the app can send notifications to those who have downloaded it. It is available for both iPhone and Android users.

This is the first of several mobile products that will be added in the upcoming months. Utilizing information from surveys and feedback from member committees, products will be rolled out to assist members in advancing their careers and assisting them in their jobs.

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TESTING YOUR SOIL

How to Collect and Send Samples

T. L. Provin and J. L. Pitt*

Soil tests can be used to estimate the kinds and amounts of soil nutrients available to plants. They also can be used as aids in determining fertilizer needs. Properly conducted soil sampling and testing can be cost-effective indicators of the types and amounts of fertilizer and lime needed to improve crop yield. The effects of adding a fertilizer often depend on the level of nutrients already present in the soil (Fig. 1). If a soil is very low in a particular nutrient, yield will probably be increased if that nutrient is added. By comparison, if the soil has high initial nutrient levels, fertilization will result in little, if any, increase in yield.

There are three steps involved in obtaining a soil test:

- 1) Obtain sample bags and instructions,
- 2) Collect composite samples,
- 3) Select the proper test, and complete the information sheet and mail to the Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory at 345 Heep Center, College Station, TX77843-2474. Contact the lab at (409) 845-4816, FAX(409) 845-5958, or at the Web site <http://soiltesting.tamu.edu> for additional information.

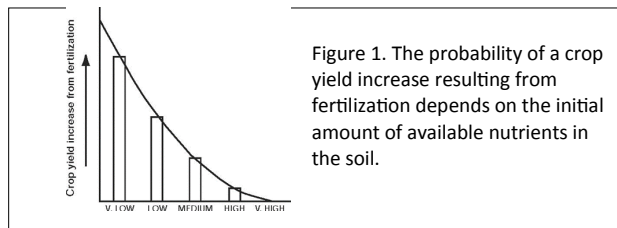


Figure 1. The probability of a crop yield increase resulting from fertilization depends on the initial amount of available nutrients in the soil.

Obtain sample bags and instructions

County Extension offices provide soil sample bags, sampling instructions and information sheets for mailing samples to the Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Sample bags provided by the Extension service hold a sufficient amount of soil for use in most soil tests. Fill the sample bag or other suitable container with approximately 1 pint of a composite soil sample. Any suitable container can be used for the sample, but it is important to complete the information sheet and follow the instructions for collecting and mailing samples.

Collect composite samples.

The objective in sampling is to obtain small composited samples of soil that represent the entire area to be fertilized or limed. This composited sample is comprised of 10 to 15 cores or slices of soil from the sampling area.

To sample a field or pasture, make a map that identifies each area in the field where subsamples were taken (Fig.2). Fields or tracts of land with differences in past cropping, fertilization, liming, soil types or land use will require several composite samples. The field identification map should be used each time samples are collected from that field to compare results over time. Factors that will affect results include sampling tools, number of subsamples, depth of sampling, and soil compaction and moisture. Sampling tools Several tools can be used to collect samples (Fig. 3).The choice depends on soil conditions and sampling depth. The selected tool must be able to cut a slice or core through the desired layer of soil as illustrated in Figure 4.The objective is to obtain a cross section of the plow layer or layer being subsampled.

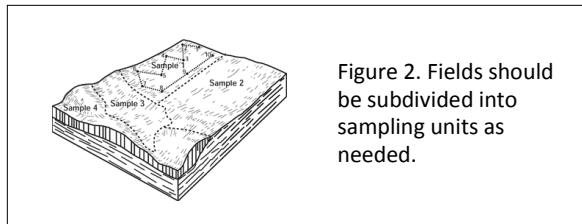


Figure 2. Fields should be subdivided into sampling units as needed.

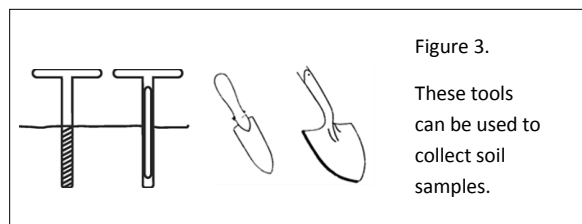


Figure 3. These tools can be used to collect soil samples.

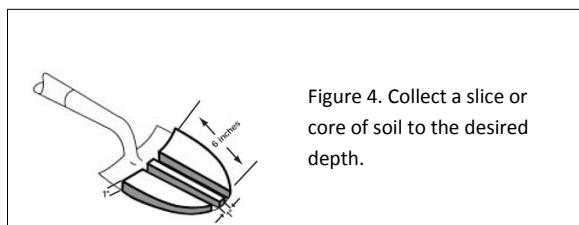


Figure 4. Collect a slice or core of soil to the desired depth.

(continued on page 13)

(continued from page 12)

Number of samples-In fields up to 40 acres, collect at least 10 to 15 cores or slices of soil per composite sample. Composite samples should represent the smallest acreage that can be fertilized or limed independently of the remaining field or acreage. The development of precision agriculture has allowed some producers and fertilizer suppliers to manage soil fertility levels on 1- to 3-acre parcels. In small gardens and lawns, five to six cores may be adequate. Because soils are variable, it is important to obtain enough subsample to ensure representative composite sample. A greater number of cores makes the sample more representative of the field. Unusual problem areas should be omitted or sampled separately. To properly diagnose the causes of poor crop production, collect separate composite samples from the good and poor growth areas. Do not include soil from the row where a fertilizer band has been applied.

Depth of sample-Traditionally, soil samples are collected to a depth of 6 inches. This depth is measured from the soil surface after non-decomposed plant materials are pushed aside. This sampling depth can be significantly altered based on tillage or fertilization practices. Stratification (accumulation at the surface) of phosphorus and lime from prior surface applications can dramatically alter soil test data. Stratification is of particular concern in reduced tillage and no irrigated fields that receive limited rainfall. In these instances, subsurface sampling depths may vary from 2 to 8 inches or 3 to 9 inches below the surface. Also, deviations from the traditional 6-inch sampling depth may be required if fertilizer has been placed deeper in the soil.

Deep rooted perennial crops can require deeper subsurface sampling. The slow movement of most plant nutrients prevents any dramatic manipulation of subsurface nutrient levels, however sampling data can be useful to assess pH or salinity problems. When sampling perennial sod crops, sample to a depth of 4 inches. Discard the surface 1/2 inch of soil before mixing the subsamples. Use this sampling method in all established lawns, golf greens and similar turf applications. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) requires extensive soil sampling for some land uses. Individuals sampling soil for TNRCC compliance should follow TNRCC protocols and directions.

Select the proper test-Several different soil tests are available at the Extension Soil, Water, and Forage Testing Laboratory. These include tests for routine nutrients, micronutrients, boron, detailed salinity, lime requirement, texture and organic matter. After taking the soil sample, select the appropriate test to obtain the desired information.

The routine test determines the soil pH, salinity, nitrates($\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$), and levels of the primary nutrients (P - phosphorus, K - potassium, Ca - calcium, Mg - magnesium, Na -sodium, and S - sulfur) available to plants. The routine test will provide the basic N-P-K fertilizer recommendation for selected crops. This test meets most application needs.

The micronutrient test estimates the levels of zinc (Zn), iron (Fe), manganese (Mn) and copper (Cu) in the soil that are available to plants. Conduct this test for specialty crops, in soils with high pH on which corn or sorghum is being grown, or to provide general guidelines for troubleshooting deficiencies. The boron test determines the level of water extractable boron (B) in the soil. Conduct the test where clover, alfalfa or other legumes are grown on sandy soils or when soils are being irrigated and water quality is of concern.

The detailed salinity test uses a saturated paste extract to measure the pH, electrical conductivity and water soluble levels of the major cations in the soil. From these levels, the Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR) is calculated. Conduct this test when water quality is of concern; in soils in the western part of the state where the rate of evaporation or transpiration exceeds the rainfall; when previous soil tests have shown an increase in sodium or salinity; or in areas where brine and salt water spills have occurred. Some TNRCC permits also may require a detailed salinity test. The lime requirement determines the amount of lime needed to raise the soil pH to a desired level. This determination is needed on very acidic ($\text{pH} < 5.2$) or acidic soils ($\text{pH} < 6$) where alfalfa or other legumes are grown.

Texture and organic matter are specialty tests for specific applications. The texture determines the amount of sand, silt and clay in the soil. This test may be requested when installing a septic system. The organic matter may be requested for general information. Both tests often are requested for environmental or research purposes. The information form, obtained from the county Extension office, requests information about soil conditions, acreage sampled, past cropping, fertilization and an estimate of the expected yield. All information is important in relating soil test results to suggested fertilization and liming. The expected yield is an indication of intended management, past production levels and local environmental factors that control yields. Uncontrolled production factors such as nematodes and disease should be considered in estimating a yield goal or expected yield. In areas where samples are collected from problem fields, the condition of plants should be described along with observations that would aid in relating soil test results to the problem. Soil samples should not be stored for long periods of time prior to shipping to the laboratory. The levels of nitrate-nitrogen in the soil may change if the samples are stored wet. In addition, the nitrate-nitrogen data from properly dried samples may be of little value if environmental conditions and plant growth have altered levels in the soil. Air drying samples in the shade on clean brown paper is strongly recommended. Do not oven dry the samples because high drying temperatures can alter test results. Instructions for mailing are provided with the sampling instructions. The fee for each sample should be noted and payment should accompany the samples. The information sheet and payment should be attached to the sample package. Between 5 and 7 days are required to obtain results for routine analyses from the laboratory. In-depth analyses of samples require additional testing and processing time. Therefore, it is important to conduct sampling early in the season. This will ensure that test results are available in time to make necessary fertilizer and lime applications.