

Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

November
2010

Jay Riviere

October 1, 1933 - October 15, 2010

If you've played much golf in southeast Texas, the chances that you've played a course in which Jay Riviere had a hand are very good.

Riviere passed away Oct 15 in Hendersonville, N.C., at the age of 77. He was one of the most prolific golf course architect the Houston area has ever produced. According to his obituary in the Oct. 20 edition of the Houston Chronicle, Riviere "was responsible for designing, constructing and renovating approximately 75 courses, primarily in the Houston area, as well as others nationally and internationally."

It almost goes without saying then, that Riviere's interaction with the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and its members was frequent.

A case in point? "He always wanted me to call him Jay, but somehow I just couldn't do it. I was so fortunate to know him and he was a great friend and mentor to me," said Bret Barclay, golf course superintendent at River Ridge Golf Club, one of Riviere's later designs.

Riviere, a three-year letterman and member of Rice University's 1954 Southwest Conference championship football team, spent the early part of his career working in golf shops. He worked for Jimmy Demaret at the Concorde Hotel in New York (in 1956) and for Claude Harmon at Winged Foot Golf Club from 1957 to 1959.

He was also a competent player of the game—he won an Assistant Professional Championship and qualified for the 1959 U.S. Open while at Winged Foot.

His start in the golf course design business came when he worked as a construction supervisor for George Fazio during the 1964 construction of the Jackrabbit Course at Champions Golf Club. Within a few years, Riviere had provided his first solo project, the original 18 holes at Panorama Country Club in Conroe.

He teamed up with the late Dave Marr to form Riviere-Marr, Inc., in 1981, a partnership that led to many of the courses that sprung up across the Houston area during the mid- and late 1980s.

Barclay met Riviere in 1995, when the former was the golf

course superintendent at Memorial Park Golf Course and when Riviere was serving on the oversight committee that worked to restore the renowned municipal course to its former glory.

"I think he had a real appreciation for the people who got out on the course and made things happen," said Barclay.

"He was really in the superintendent's corner. He asked me to move to River Ridge and help bring the project to reality, and made sure that me and the golf professional worked as equals," Barclay added.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Bernard and Eloise Riviere; his children, Rebecca and husband, Dennis; Jay, who works with Ewing Irrigation and has been a member of the STGCSA, and wife, Alicia; and Nancy and husband, Brian. He also leaves five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

The family has asked that any donations be made to the Houston Parks Board (Attn: Becky, Houston Parks Board, Inc., 300 North Post Oak Lane, Houston, TX, 77024-5904). Donations will benefit the First Tee-Houston Junior Golf Program.

Another giant passes

Word came on Oct. 20, just as we were preparing to submit the November issue of *Tee to Green* to the printer, that Robert von Hagge had passed away on Oct. 16.

Like Jay Riviere, von Hagge was a prominent Houston-based golf course architect whose impact on the golf community was wide and deep.

Because of the timing, we were unable to include a complete history of von Hagge's contributions in this issue of our newsletter, but we will do so in the December issue.

In the mean time, suffice it to say that he, like Jay Riviere, will be missed, and the work he did to grow the game forever appreciated.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just when we thought it was safe to go back in the water . . . your officers and Board members spent quite a bit of time and effort recruiting candidates for the Board of Directors positions that will be available during our 2010 election. We succeeded in finding four willing, able and qualified gentlemen to take on the perils of office.

Unfortunately, one of them has been forced to withdraw from the election. Bob Cook sent us an e-mail on Oct. 14 indicating the situation at his facility had changed and that he would not be able to serve on the Board.

That's a shame, because we all felt Bob would have been an excellent candidate. He has a long history in the business and with the association that would have been invaluable to the incoming Board and the Chapter. Hopefully, we've just missed out for the time being and Bob will become available in the future.

For now, though, we've got enough candidates to fill the available spots on the Board—Blayne Sparks, who is running for re-election, Ben Flutz and Jeff McCrory for the superintendent positions, and Chris Gillespy for the Affiliate position.

What we'd like to find is members willing to be nominated from the floor during our Annual Meeting (Nov. 8 at BraeBurn Country Club). Frankly, it's a little bit troubling that we have to seek out candidates rather than having members offering to run for our Board.

That's not the case, and that seems to indicate we don't have too many members who are able to devote time to an organization

from which we all draw benefit.

This is not a new situation, but instead, is one that has been developing over the past several years. Back around the turn of the century, we seemed to have an abundance of leadership. I'm not going to mention any names here for fear of leaving some out, but you probably know who they were and are. They decided they wanted to see our organization improve and they worked to make it happen.

Our Legacy Scholarship program has its roots in those days. So does our newsletter and our involvement with the Shell Houston Open and the area's other professional tournaments. Our sponsorship of one of the Houston Golf Association's major junior tournaments began in those days. The continual and continuing efforts to upgrade our monthly meetings from simple golf gatherings to events that feature play and education began during that period.

I could go on and on, but I won't—I think you get the picture. We've managed to maintain much of our forward momentum, but we'll need our current members to pick up the mantle of leadership with dedicated effort similar to that demonstrated by our past leaders to maintain that momentum.

I should make one thing clear—I believe our current leadership is fully capable of carrying us into a bright future. What I'm talking about is our leadership once the current team has "cycled out" and the apparent lack of interest in leadership on the part of our general membership.

To help in that regard, we've opened the door to assistant superintendents who would like to be part of our Board of Directors. We've not done that in the past. Whether that was because we felt our Board should be comprised of more experienced members or for some other reason, I can't tell you, but I think the idea's time has come.

Electing an assistant superintendent to our Board will have at least a couple of positive benefits. One will be that we'll have to opportunity to hear fresh ideas from someone who is, in all likelihood, at the beginning of his (or her) career. Another is that we'll be developing the leadership instincts of a person who has most of his career in front of him, and hopefully, that will result in a long-term commitment to our Chapter.

As you can tell, this is a "soapbox issue" for me. I hope you'll take it in the spirit in which it is intended—a call for action to insure the future of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

My term as your president is mostly over now, and will come to a conclusion at this month's Annual Meeting. That in mind, I hope to see you there to thank you, in person, for giving me the opportunity to serve an organization that is so near and dear to my heart.



Willy Plowman



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Willy Plowman

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Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Terry Gill, Johnny Walker

— Willy Plowman

South Texas Chapter

GCSAA

November 8, 2010 • BraeBurn Country Club

Are Your Pumping Systems Legal?

A new policy put in place by the United States Army Corps of Engineers has forced many golf courses, municipal water supplies, homeowners, and others to re-evaluate their pump systems in order to avoid losing access to critical water sources.

This new statewide policy put into effect by the United States Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District bans the use of submersible pumps on all Corps' waterways. In addition, the policy went into effect immediately and stretches far beyond submersible pumps.

In late June of 2010, those persons holding permits to withdraw water from Corps' waterways received a personal letter outlining the details of this policy. The letter states that the utilization of submersible pumps in marine environments where swimmers and waders could be present is a safety hazard and therefore these types of pumps must be removed immediately.

It has been stated by Corps' personnel that any body of water governed by the Corps' is considered an area where swimmers or waders could be present.

In addition, the policy states, "Owners of existing water line structures currently utilizing a submersible pump are required to immediately remove the submersible pump, along with all electrical components from Federal property. The water pipeline itself, issued through the license is the only structure that will be allowed on Federal property."

Corps' personnel clarified this statement in a meeting with Twin Rivers Golf Club on July 15, and it can be interpreted as:

nothing can be on federal government property other than a pipeline itself, including banning not only the use of submersible pumps but any pumping device or structure located on Federal property. Therefore any type of pump (submersible, vertical turbine, centrifugal), structure, or electrical connection cannot be located on Federal property.

Twin Rivers Golf Club relies on the Middle Bosque River as our only source of water for irrigation. The new policy eliminates any feasible means of access to the river. As a result, I have spent the last couple of months searching for a solution, researching the policy, and discussing several options with the Corps of Engineers.

If you access water from a Corps of Engineers body of water, then you are more than likely affected in some way by this policy.

The purpose of this letter is to open the lines of communication between affected parties and help determine how many courses are dealing with this issue.

If you are affected by the policy or think that you might be please contact me at Twin Rivers Golf Club in Waco. I am trying to put together a mailing list of courses so that we can share information and ideas.

Thank you,

*Travis Moore, Golf Course Superintendent
Twin Rivers Golf Club, Waco, Texas
Email: Tmoore4106@yahoo.com
Cell: 254-744-5307*



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October Meeting

Evergreen Pointe Golf Club Golf Results

Low Gross

Mark Haven & Eric Gallup	73 *
Ed Schulthies & Lee Gravett	73 *
Mike Nuzzo & Travis Cash	73 *
* scorecard playoff	

Low Net

Kevin Brown & Adam Hess	52
Kenny Longoria & Ray McFarland	55 *
Eric Glover & Joel Washburn	55
* scorecard playoff	

SPECIAL CONTESTS

<u>Hole</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Winner</u>
#2	Closest-to-Hole	Richard Kane
#3	Long Drive	Tony Campagna
#8	Closest-to-Hole	John Dailey
#14	Closest-to-Hole	Johnny Walker
#16	Closest-to-Hole	Phil Taylor

ACE!

Long time STGCSA Affiliate Member Stan Ludwick, a sales account representative for ABLE/Infosat Communications and the winner of the 2009 STGCSA Chapter Championship, scored a hole-in-one last month during a Member/Guest tournament at Golfcrest Country Club.

Ludwick used a 7-iron to score the ace, his fourth overall but first at Golfcrest, from 145 yards on the club's eighth hole.

Our congratulations . . .



Stan Ludwick

A valuable resource for all, and it's free

When you have the chance, you may want to take a few minute to have a look at the Green Section's portal at <http://gsportal.usga.org> to find information about upcoming live webcasts and links to recordings of previously-delivered webcasts, and announcements of upcoming USGA Green Section activities, education conferences, and meetings.

BULLETIN BOARD

Assistant Superintendent Position Available

The Woodlands Country Club, Player Course
Please contact Ryan Rosecrans, Golf Course Superintendent
Telephone: 832-482-8920
Please send resume' to:
E-mail: rrosecrans@thewoodlandscscc.com

Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Beaumont Country Club
Please contact Shane Hayes, Golf Course Superintendent
The Wilderness Golf Course
5355 Pine Street, Beaumont, TX 77703
E-mail: shanehunterhayes@yahoo.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

The Wilderness Golf Course
Please contact Blayne C. Sparks, Golf Course Superintendent
The Wilderness Golf Course
501 Highway 332 West, Lake Jackson, TX 77566
Telephone: 979/ 798- 0888 • FAX: 979/ 798- 9301
E-mail: bsparks@kempersports.com

Equipment Technician Needed

WindRose Golf Club
Please contact: Bob Egan, Golf Course Superintendent
Office: 281-370-8900 • Cell: 281-330-9823

Equipment Manager Wanted

Evergreen Point Golf Course
Please contact: Dennis Klene, Jr., Golf Course Superintendent
Evergreen Point Golf Course
1530 Evergreen Point Rd., Baytown, TX 77523
E-mail: dennisklene@yahoo.com • Phone: 832-794-9966

Senior Assistant Superintendent Needed

The University of Texas Golf Club
Please send resume' with references to:
Rich D. Cope, The University of Texas Golf Club
2901 Old Course Drive, Austin, TX 78732
E-mail: rich.cope@utgolfclub.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Redstone Golf Club
Please contact: Kathy McElroy, Administrative Assistant
Redstone Golf Club, 5455 Wilson Road, Humble, Texas 77396
E-mail: kmcelroy@redstonegolfclub.com
Telephone: (281) 459-7855

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Sienna Plantation Golf Club
Please contact Kyle Scott, Golf Course Superintendent
One Waters Lake Blvd., Missouri City, TX 77459
Telephone: 281-779-0591 • Fax: 281-778-8002

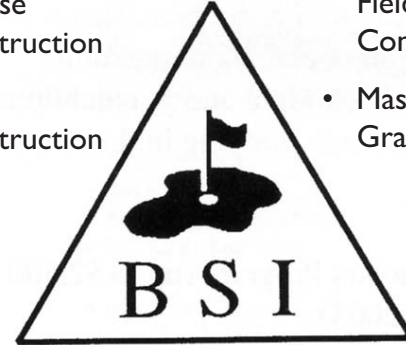
Jacobsen Technician Wanted

Luber Brothers (Houston)
For more information, please contact
Lawan Petty (918-779-7700 or lawanpetty@luber.com) or
Mike Nettles (972-249-7360 or mikenettles@luber.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).

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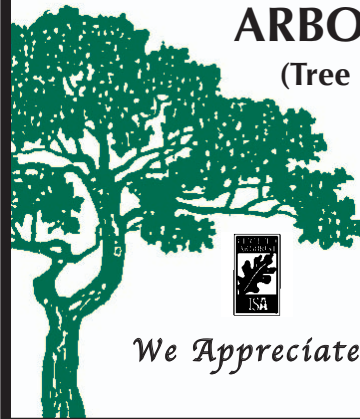
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2010 Awards Banquet and Ceremony

Friday, December 10, 2010

BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77074
Host Superintendent — Terry Gill

Cost: \$42.50 per person

Casino Night and Prizes!

Free Give Aways! Raffle Prizes!

Fabulous Dinner!

Please RSVP by December 7 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:

From the Southwest Freeway (U.S. 59) south, exit on Bissonnet to the east. Go approximately one mile to the club entrance on the right, or exit on Gessner and go south 1/2 mile and then left on Bissonnet 1/2 mile to club entrance.

SOUTH TEXAS GCSA UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8

STGCSA Annual Meeting
BraeBurn Country Club
Host Superintendent: Terry Gill

November 29 - December 1

Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference
Fort Worth

December 10

Christmas Party and Awards Ceremony
BraeBurn Country Club
Host Superintendent: Terry Gill

January 25

Stephen F. Austin Country Club
Host Superintendent: Doug Browne

March 8

2010 STGCSA Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Cody Spivey

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

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