

# TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Sterling Country Club

## Fall Has Arrived!

**It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. How time flies!**

There are three meetings to end the year, beginning this month with Sterling Country Club at Houston National on October 15th. Last Years' Superintendent of the year winner, Steven Chernosky will be hosting us.

Then, in November, our annual meeting at Sweetwater Country Club on the 18th, will be a busy day. This year, along with voting in the new board and going over the years' business accomplishments and reading the nominations for the Sonny DuBose Award (previously called the Superintendent of the Year Award), we will be handing out the past presidents award and tenure pins. This will allow for less time spent at the Christmas function handling business and more time to socialize and focus on the scholarship winners. Michael Finke is our host at Sweetwater CC.

The Christmas "Reception" has also been relocated on December 15th (Sunday) to BraeBurn Country Club. You can come any time between 6 and 9 pm. This year's concept is modeled after the Lone Star Reception at the convention each year which is such a successful event. Our president, Sean Wilson, is hoping this allows more people to attend and relieves the stress of having to stay for such a long time. There will be plenty of food and drink and you can dress "country club casual" for the event. If you haven't been to a function at Brae Burn, just ask anyone.....they always treat our chapter first class! Thank you, Terry Gill , for taking this on once again and welcoming us to your place! See you there! Cost for the event is \$35 per person.

### Meeting Schedule

October 15

Sterling Country Club  
[Map to Sterling CC](#)

November 12—14

[Texas Turfgrass Conference](#)  
Dallas Sheraton

November 18—Annual Meeting  
[Sweetwater Country Club](#)

December 15 (Sunday) - Holiday Reception and Scholarship Awards  
BraeBurn 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

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**Attention all Members!**

Starting in 2013, if you win money at a golf event, the money must be picked up within two meetings after the prize was won or the money will be donated to the scholarship fund. This change is due to the tournament committee having to keep up with winnings for extended periods of time, sometimes over a year. Winners are posted online within a few days of the event so you can determine if you have prizes waiting for you well before the next event.

Prize and skin money will not be mailed.  
 Thank you for your understanding!

Reminder: Guests are not eligible for prize money

**STERLING COUNTRY CLUB**

*Sterling Country Club at Houston National*

Host Superintendent: Steven Chernosky

Sterling Country Club was established in the Fall of 2011 located in Northwest Houston adjacent to Houston National Golf Club. The Club features an 18 hole private golf course along with an 18 hole public course. Sterling members have access to both Sterling CC and Houston National Golf Club courses. With 36 holes of Championship golf along with a beautiful 25,000 square foot clubhouse, Sterling Country Club boasts one of the best golf facilities in Houston. Sterling Country Club is laid out over 190 acres and the golf course stretches to nearly 7,800 yards from the Championship tees. Designed by Jeff Blume, Sterling features elevation changes and rolling hills unique to the Houston area. Blume known for designing beautiful yet challenging golf courses did not disappoint with his design of Sterling. With five sets of tees to choose from, players of all skill levels will be able to enjoy this great golf course.



Registration begins at 9 am October 15th  
 Educational Meeting: 10-11  
 Lunch: 11-12  
 Golf: 12:30 (Must arrive by 10:15 to golf)  
 Register at: [www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org)







**President's Message:**



The Lone Star GCSA Texas Trophy this year was hosted by Texas Gulf Coast GCSA at Newport Dunes in Port Aransas. Everyone had a great time, this was a great venue to bring your family or spouse. South Texas GCSA successfully defended the Trophy and it is ours for another year. Check the website for all the individual results.

Next year we are hosting the Texas Trophy and are working with Lone Star GCSA on finding the right location. Stay tuned for more information on this.

I enjoy attending the Texas Trophy, not just for the golf and competition but for the networking and camaraderie. It is a great time to get away from your own course after a long, difficult summer. When we have summers like this year, it is easy to get bogged down in the day to day struggles that we all have. If you make the effort to get away, spend some time with other superintendents and others in our industry, you might find that your problems aren't that bad and you're not the only one struggling. Hopefully you'll come back a better person and superintendent with a renewed spirit and pride in what you do. I know that is how it is for me. Despite the problems we all have, this is a great industry with a lot of great people.

Being involved with your local, state or national organization is a great way to get the people you work for and the people you work with, to see you as a professional and not just "a grass grower" (as we are so often thought of as). I will be attending the GCSAA Chapter Delegate meeting along with Johnny Walker; he is a candidate this year on the Board of Directors for GCSAA. This is another great event I look forward to during the year, for all the reasons I've already mentioned.

So in closing, get involved. Be a part of the solution and make a difference, you'll be glad you did. Hope to see you all at our next meeting at Sterling Country Club on October 15th.

M. Sean Wilson, CGCS



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## Nominations for The Sonny Dubose Award



Recognition is what the Sonny Dubose SOTY award is all about, letting someone know their hard work and dedication is appreciated. This year we are making some changes to the award. Anyone (superintendent or vendor) who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course management profession and the success of the STGCSA should be nominated. It will now be called The Sonny Dubose Award. Still, a superintendent who has had an outstanding year deserves to be and should be nominated for the award. By adding a distinguished service aspect to it, we will hopefully increase nominations and be able to recognize more of those deserving members. Contact any past winner of the award or a STGCSA board member to submit a nomination. Nominations will be read at the Annual meeting on November 18th at Sweetwater Country Club for the membership to vote on a winner for 2013.



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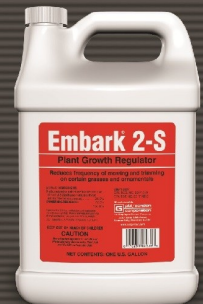
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September 17th Past Presidents Lunch

Thank you, George Cincotta and Riverbend Country Club for hosting this event.

An incredible job as always!



From Left to Right: Mike Caldwell, CGCS (1986/87), Charlie Rizzo (1990), Mark Monroe(1983/84), Willy Plowman (2010), Sue Warren (Guest), Stan Ludwick (Guest), Jim Holub (1962/1974), George Cincotta (2001), Terry Gill (2003), Mark Baughman (STGSA Board Member), Mark Haven (2012)



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## Current Research Projects for Golf Courses



### Physiology, Genetics and Breeding

The Nobel Prize-winning chemist Robert F. Curl of Rice University spoke for many of his colleagues in science when he proclaimed that the 20th century was "the century of physics and chemistry. But it is clear that the next century will be the century of biology." Seventeen projects are ushering biotechnology into turfgrass species, along with conventional plant breeding improvements bentgrass and bermudagrass. The goal is to reduce water and pesticide use in the long term. The USGA continues to collect and evaluate other promising grass species, such as seashore paspalum and inland saltgrass, which will allow poor quality water to be used in coastal and desert climates.

Project Title	University
<u>Buffalograss Breeding and Genetics</u>	University of Nebraska
<u>Development of a Shade-Tolerant Bermudagrass Cultivars Suitable for Fine Turf Use</u>	Oklahoma State University
<u>Improving Our Understanding of Salinity Tolerance in Perennial Ryegrass Through Transcriptome Analysis</u>	Rutgers University
<u>Development of Fine-Textured, Large Patch-Resistant Zoysiagrass Cultivars with Enhanced Cold Hardiness for the Transition Zone</u>	Texas A&M University
<u>Early Physiological Changes Associated in Cold Deacclimation of Annual bluegrass and Creeping bentgrass</u>	University of Massachusetts
<u>Development of seeded zoysiagrass cultivars with improved turf quality and high seed yields</u>	Texas A&M University
<u>Molecular Characterization of Chinch Bug Resistant Buffalograss</u>	University of Nebraska
<u>Characterization and Validation of Molecular Markers Linked to Heat and Drought Tolerance for Marker Assisted Selection of Stress-tolerant Creeping Bentgrass</u>	Rutgers University
<u>Evaluation of Curly Mesquite and Sprucetop Grama for Turfgrass Development</u>	University of Arizona
<u>Breeding and Evaluation of Kentucky Bluegrass, Tall Fescue, Perennial Ryegrass and Bentgrass for Turf</u>	Rutgers University
<u>Development of Seeded Turf-Type Saltgrass Variety</u>	Colorado State University
<u>Production and Maintenance of Triploid Interspecific Bermudagrass Hybrids for QTL Analysis</u>	University of Georgia
<u>Adaptation and Management of Fine Fescues for Golf Course Fairways</u>	University of Minnesota
<u>Genetic Improvement of Prairie Junegrass</u>	University of Minnesota
<u>Breeding and Evaluation of Turf Bermudagrass Varieties</u>	Oklahoma State University
Improved Understanding and Testing for Salinity Tolerance in Cool-Season Turfgrasses	Utah State University
Germplasm Improvement of Low-Input Fine Fescues	University of Minnesota



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## Improving shade resistance in bermudagrass

By Gregory E. Bell, Ph.D., Yanqi Wu, Ph.D., Dennis L. Martin, Ph.D., Justin Q. Moss, Ph.D. and Kyungioon Koh, M.S.

Superintendents know that bermudagrass is an important turfgrass on most golf courses in the South. It has excellent fine-turf characteristics that make it a popular grass for use on fairways, tees, roughs and putting greens. Bermudagrass has relatively good pest resistance, excellent recuperative potential and an aggressive growth habit.

Oklahoma State University (OSU) in cooperation with the United States Golf Association (USGA) and multiple industry partners has successfully released and commercialized cold-tolerant fine-turf bermudagrasses such as Yukon, Riviera and Patriot (Martin et al. 2007; Taliaferro et al., 2004), and most recently, Latitude 36' and Northbridge. The breeding of improved cold-tolerant bermudagrass cultivars continues at OSU. However, new experimental resources and personnel have led researchers to add improved drought resistance, low irrigation adaptation and shade resistance to their menu of important traits for new bermudagrasses.



Figure 1: The bermudagrass shade study at the Oklahoma State University Turfgrass Research Center, Stillwater, Okla., on September 29, 2009.

In 2009, OSU researchers embarked on a project to screen bermudagrass germplasm for shade resistance. We planted 45 experimental common bermudagrass selections gathered mostly from China, Africa and Australia and four commercially available cultivars — Celebration, Patriot, TifGrand and Tifton 10. The experimental selections were already known to be cold tolerant and good seed producers (Wu et al., 2006). We planted on two sites, one site providing a combination of vegetative and artificial shade, the other providing full sun. The turf was mowed at 2.0 inches to represent golf course rough, irrigated sufficiently to keep all selections green through the growing season, and fertilized at a rate of 1 lb. N per 1,000 sq. ft. per month.

On the shaded site, a combination of mature pines to the west, vines to the east and one (2009) or two (2010 and 2011) 10-ft. wide strips of 75-percent shade cloth overhead provided shade for an average of up to 67 percent of each day, depending on season and year (Fig. 1).

Visual ratings (ratings = 1–9; 9 = best) for turf quality were made for each plot biweekly during 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Turf quality also was rated using a sensor that measured Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), an objective measure of turf color and density (Bell et al., 2002; Bell and Xiong, 2008). Visual ratings were used in a comparative fashion to determine the best performing entries in shade and in full sun. Visual ratings and NDVI were used to measure shade resistance by comparing an entry's mean visual rating or NDVI in shade expressed as a percentage of its mean visual rating or NDVI in full sun [ $100 \times (\text{entry NDVI in full sun} - \text{entry NDVI in shade}) / \text{entry NDVI in full sun}$ ; larger = better].

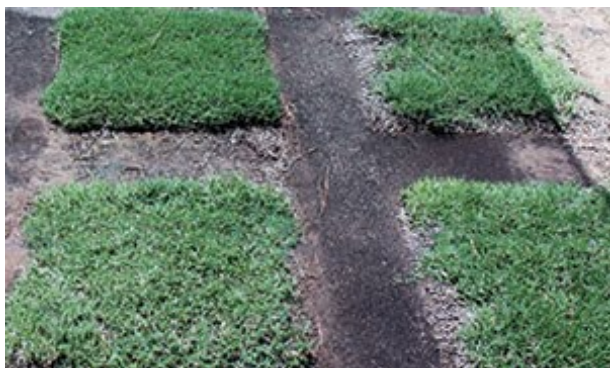


Figure 2: Patriot bermudagrass (upper left corner of photo) outperformed these three seeded experimental entries in shade. However, there were a few seeded experimental entries whose performance was equal to the commercially available cultivars.

(continued on page 12)



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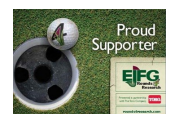


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### Shade results

Surprisingly, according to visual ratings, Patriot (mean ratings = 7.1, 7.8, 6.0, and 5.7 in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011, respectively) was the top-performing grass in shade for the first three seasons (Fig. 2). Patriot's strong performance in shade was not expected, since it did not perform exceptionally well in other shade studies (Trappe et al., 2011). Patriot may have superior visual quality in shade, but it also may have been the top performer in this study because it is uniquely adapted to the climate in Stillwater, Okla., where it was developed.

Tifton 10 (mean rating = 6.5) and Celebration (mean rating = 6.5) performed well in shade in 2008; Celebration (7.1), TifGrand (7.0) and Tifton 10 (6.6) in 2009; and Celebration (5.6) and TifGrand (5.6) in 2010. Celebration (6.4) was the top performing cultivar in shade in 2011, with Patriot (5.7) and TifGrand (5.7) close behind. Tifton 10 (5.2) was in the fourth statistical group in 2011. Many of the experimental selections also performed well in shade in at least two of four seasons.

### Full sun results

According to visual quality ratings, Patriot was the best performing cultivar in full sun for all four seasons (7.7, 8.7, 7.6, and 7.4 in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, respectively). TifGrand also performed well in all four seasons (7.4, 7.8, 7.3, and 6.7). Celebration (7.5, 7.0, and 7.0) and a few of the experimental entries demonstrated excellent performance in the final three seasons.

### Shade resistance

By comparing each bermudagrass in full sun with its counterpart in shade, we were able to estimate the shade resistance of each entry. The commercially available cultivars and experimental entries with exceptional fine-turf characteristics ranked high in shade resistance, but rankings differed between visual quality rating and NDVI. According to visual quality, Celebration (-11.3 percent) was the most shade resistant of the commercially available cultivars in the last three years of the study (2009–2010), followed by Tifton 10 (-15.4 percent) and TifGrand (16.0 percent). According to NDVI, TifGrand (-7.9 percent) was the most shade resistant, followed by Celebration (-8.1 percent) and Patriot (-8.4 percent). According to visual quality Patriot (-18.3 percent) had the poorest shade resistance of the commercially available cultivars, and according to NDVI, Tifton 10 (-10.2 percent) was the least shade resistant.

According to NDVI, the shade resistance of five of the experimental entries (-0.2 percent to -14.3 percent, depending on entry and year) was equal to or exceeded the shade resistance of the commercially available cultivars. Of these five experimental entries three also ranked high in shade resistance measured by visual rating. A few of the experimental entries demonstrated good shade resistance but had less than acceptable fine-turf qualities.

In 2012, we selected the best of the experimental entries for fine-turf qualities and shade resistance, followed by more crossing, which resulted in promising experimental seed-propagated lines that are undergoing additional investigation for shade tolerance and specific trait evaluation over the next several years.

We expect that the resultant progeny will demonstrate superior turf performance in internal as well as external testing, such as in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP). Excellent fine-turf characteristics, coupled with good seed yields, should allow the eventual release and commercialization of seeded bermudagrasses with improved shade resistance in the next few years.



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## Get to Know Vice President of STGCSA, Blayne Sparks



Every year around September, the smell of fall begins to creep into the air. Reminding those of us who enjoy the outdoors, that hunting season is just around the corner. But the first hunting season to get kicked off, is the one for large alligators in southern Louisiana.

Ever since I was a young boy, my father would take me into the swamps of the Atchafalaya Basin in search of the big lizards. Now some may think that this is a crazy way to spend a fall day, but like any other outdoor experience, it's not really what you're doing, but who you spend it with. I have been fortunate enough to spend many fall days enjoying my hobby, but more importantly, my father's company. However, bringing home a handsome paycheck at the end of the day doesn't hurt much, either.

The overall general process can be described quite simply as: tie a line to a tree branch, hang a big hook, put a piece of chicken on it, retrieve the line the next day and dispatch the animal. Sounds simple right... if it was only that easy! Now that is a good description, but it is much more complex than that. It's the subtle nuances that separate the good hunters from the great ones. My father happens to be one of those great ones and I am only aspiring, but I like to think that I am gaining on him.

In actuality, the process begins much earlier in the year than most would believe. The real hunt begins in May with the daunting search for territory to hunt these alligators. Which can go one of two ways; either by securing a lease or being fortunate enough to own property that has been determined by the LA Wildlife & Fisheries to be a suitable alligator habitat. Next, you have to apply for the alligator tags on that described property through the State of Louisiana. Once the legal portion has been satisfied, you can finally begin to gear up for the big hunt and believe me, there is nothing quite as rewarding as cruising the bayous and rivers of the deep swamp. It is easy to get lost in all of the natural beauty that the swamp provides, but you have to keep in mind that you are there for a purpose. As you are navigating the back bayous of the Atchafalaya swamp, you have to pay special attention to look for just the right overhanging tree that will supply both the strength and flexibility necessary to hold the animal you are in search of. After that special spot has been located, you attach a 1/8" creosote nylon twine to the branch tipped with a very large 12/0 hook. Weave the chicken leg quarter through the hook, disguising it as best as possible and suspend it about 18" to 24" above the water. Then, as many have said before, "Sit back and let the games begin".

Now it should be stated that alligator hunting at night is illegal in Louisiana, so all lines have to be set the day prior and all animals have to be removed during daylight hours exclusively. With that in mind, you are constantly under the gun to check your entire line set, which can number up to around 70 lines in total, and remove all alligators... and still make it to the seller before day's end. However, the real talent lies in getting the animal to the boat; because if there is something that the alligator can wrap itself around, it will.

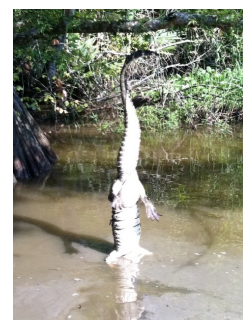
Once the animal finally emerges from the water, it's time for the "money shot" and believe me; it is nothing like what you see on "Swamp People". There is a small triangular spot located just behind the eyes on the flat part of the skull that is the intended point of entry. Now most would believe that a high caliber gun is necessary to kill one of these prehistoric creatures, but in actuality, it only takes a well placed round from a .22 caliber long rifle to accomplish the objective. After the animal has a chance to settle its' nerves, it is hauled into the boat (sometimes with the assistance of a winch) and tagged through the end of its' tapered tail. This tag will not only serve to identify the animal/ trapper, but will remain with the alligator all the way through the tanning process and ultimately as it is converted to leather products.



06/09/2010

Hopefully, this piece may have shed some light on not only the process of alligator hunting, but why I consider myself to be so lucky. I have had the opportunity to share this unique experience with great friends and the father that introduced me to my lifelong passion. He not only taught me to be respectful of all the gifts that nature has to bestow upon us; but more importantly, to remain mindful of good conservation practices. After all, if we didn't enjoy and appreciate the outdoors, we would likely have desk jobs somewhere other than a golf course.

*Blayne Sparks*





### It All Comes Together in Austin — Even the Fun!

We're bringing it all together at the 2013 Irrigation Show and Education Conference, Nov. 4 – 8, in Austin, Texas — even the fun. Our attendees are hardworking by nature, so we want to reward you with exciting opportunities to have fun at the conference and take advantage of a great city!

For a complete look at the conference schedule and networking opportunities, be sure to [download our 2013 Show Brochure](#) or visit our [events](#) page. Some of our social and networking highlights include:

#### **Celebrate Texas! Opening Night Party**

**Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

Our kick-off party is back again, but this year we've stepped it up a notch. First-season winner of NBC's "The Voice," Javier Colon, will headline our opening night party, Celebrate Texas! Join us at 7:30 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres before Colon takes the stage with his guitar at 8:30 p.m.

#### **International Reception**

**Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

IA will host an International Reception to bring together all of our international visitors for an evening of networking, conversation and celebration of efficient irrigation practices worldwide! The event is open to all international attendees.

#### **Closing Night Social – Old School Bar & Grill**

**Thursday, Nov. 7, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

We're ending our show with a bang on Austin's famous Sixth Street. Old School Bar & Grill is located right in the heart of Austin's music scene and is the place to be for a great burger, a cold beer and classic tunes. Say one last goodbye to your colleagues and join us at this special networking event. Reserve your ticket today! Tickets can be purchased on-site, but space is limited.

#### **Austin Attractions**

We'll be hanging out in the live music capital of the world for a few days, so why not take advantage of the scenery? Austin is home to over 250 live music venues, legendary barbecue joints, farm-to-table cuisine and urban hiking trails. [Click here](#) for your key to the city, which includes the inside scoop on all the best restaurants, shopping spots, shows and more!

## Upcoming Events



November 18, 2013

Annual Meeting

Sweetwater Country Club

Host: Michael Finke

10 am registration



December 15, 2013

Brae Burn Country Club

Christmas/Scholarship Awards Reception

6 pm—9 pm



Lone Star Texas Trophy 28th Annual Event—September 22-24

**Newport Dunes Golf Club—Golf Results and Photos**

**SOUTH TEXAS BRINGS HOME THE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW!! WAY TO GO GUYS!**

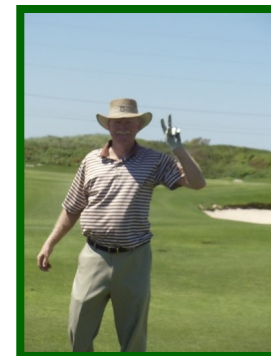
Thank you, John Zuniga and all the staff at Newport Dunes for hosting such a great event!



Congratulations, Stan Ludwick, on your hole-in-one!!!



Doug Browne, Sean Wilson, Johnny Walker



Gary Hargrove

**Championship Flight – Gross**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – AJ Pursley 145
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Brian Honea 146
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Alan Hess 148
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Ed Martinez 148

**Championship Flight – Net**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Monty Ashworth 138
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Doug Browne 141
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rogelio Denova 144
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Bill Hanna 145

**First Flight – Gross**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Todd Leist 158
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Randy Lynch 160
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Jamie Kizer 162
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Tem Miller 166

**First Flight – Net**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jeff Smelser 142
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jared Heine 144
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ken Knowles 145
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Ricky Heine 146

**Second Flight – Gross**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Chino Miramontes 170
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bill Freeman 171
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mike Chandler 175
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Aaron Schick 176

**Second Flight – Net**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Gary Hargrove 139
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul Lane 141
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Earl Snowden 143
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Jones 148

**Affiliate Flight – Gross**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Dale Miller 147
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bill Tanner 151
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Stan Ludwick 157
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Mike Mathis 160

**Affiliate Flight – Net**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Brent Ratcliff 139
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Trevor Ogden 143
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Terry Harris 145
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Carl Tolbert 147

For Mixer results, proximity results and other scores go to: [lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org](mailto:lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org)

# Fun Photos of the Texas Trophy 2013

