

Tee to Green

October
2008

There's an election coming!

There's an election or two coming up, just in case you need reminding. First up, of course, is the presidential election, on Tuesday, Nov. 4. That one will be sort of important, so here's hoping you take time to go vote.

And then there's the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association election, which will take place during the STGCSA Annual Meeting, Nov. 10 at The Houstonian Golf and Country Club.

Needless to say, it's an election that will be very important to the future of the Chapter.

Due to circumstances outside the organization, Russell Tippié has resigned his position on the Board of Directors with one year to go on his term. Wade Warms, CGCS, who has served on the Board for a number of years, is running for Secretary/Treasurer this time around, and three Board members—Bret Barclay, Chris Smith and Ed Schultheis—are cycling out after serving two-year terms.

That means there are a total of five Board positions to be determined, and that amounts to over half the membership on the Board of Directors. An important election, indeed.

Thankfully, those running for election this year are highly qualified to file the roles they seek. With Roger Goettsch, GGCS, moving into the Immediate Past President slot, sitting vice-president, Lee Gravett, is up for election as the STGCSA's president for 2009.

Willy Plowman, who has served as Secretary/Treasurer for 2008, is a candidate for the 2009 vice-president position, and, as mentioned above, Wade Warms is on the ballot for Secretary/Treasurer responsibilities.

Four of the available Board positions will be filled by superintendents—Kevin Borowski, Steve Chernosky, Russell Birkhimer and Blayne Sparks have thrown their names into the hat for those stations.

Barring write-in candidates, three of those four will fill a trio of two-year terms. The fourth slot is for the remainder of Tippié's term and will be filled by whichever candidate receives the fewest votes in the election.

The fifth spot to be filled on the Board is a two-year Affiliate Member position, and there are, again, four qualified candidates on the ballot—Brandon Cole, Kyle Graham, Jeffrey Jowell, CGCS, and Brent Ratcliff.

A few biographical details and qualifications for the candidates are listed on the insert included with this issue of *Tee to Green*. Please take a few moments to review them so you'll be prepared to vote when the election arrives. Each of the candidates will, of

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Down to the wire

With 2008 drawing to a close, so to are the races for the top 10s on the STGCSA's annual points competitions. With only the two rounds of the Chapter Championship remaining on this year's schedule, here is how the lists have shaped up.

2008 Points Lists (Top 10s through September)

Superintendents		Affiliates	
Wade Warms	565.50	Jeff Jowell	571.00
Russell Tippié	565.50	Kent Knowles	561.50
Glen Noska	561.00	Rick Tygret	560.50
Steve Vaughn	560.00	Alan Lee	560.00
Sean Wilson	558.00	Mike James	559.00
Richard Kane	558.00	Jeff Smith	552.00
Mark Haven	553.00	Pat Johnston	550.50
Roger Goettsch	549.00	Pat Neuendorf	541.00
Gary Hargrove	545.50	Brandon Cole	539.50
Brian Woolard	544.50	David Myrick	538.50
Mike Rhoden	544.50	Stan Ludwick	538.50

The final makeup of both lists will be determined following the second round of the Chapter Championship. Prizes for each member of the two lists will be presented at the STGCSA's Annual Awards Banquet and Ceremony (otherwise known as the Christmas Party) Dec. 4 at River Oaks Country Club.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The very first thing on my list of column topics this month is another thanks, this time to Terry Gill and Braeburn Country Club for hosting our 2nd Annual Past Presidents Luncheon (see photo on page 2).

Terry had the staff create another fine meal for everyone attending. There was a smaller turnout this year than last, but the importance of the event was very much the same, and I wish to thank those who attended for keeping with the strong tradition of camaraderie we share as a group.

I also want to thank those retired members for allowing us to share their thoughts and comments once again. Those gentlemen represent our heritage and history, and we're very grateful for their roles in our organization.

The second item I need to mention once more is the upcoming Administaff Small Business Classic, which will take place the week of Oct. 13-19.

Please don't forget to support our Chapter as a volunteer on the Driving Range if you can. The effort continues to be a good public relations move for us and does impact the public perception of our Chapter. In the long run, that will enable us to do more for our members . . . it's also a great way to give a little something back to the game of golf.

Third up, I would like to thank the members who are running for our Board of Directors this fall. Serving on the Board takes a huge commitment and cannot be taken for granted.

I am sure those elected will find their involvement to be reward-

ing, fun, challenging and very fulfilling in many ways.

To those who will be doing the electing, I suggest considering our election as you would the United States' general election. If you care about your future, you will get out and vote for the Presidential candidate that best suits your true feelings. On the other hand, if you don't care to vote, you're abdicating your responsibility and your opinions about current issues lose at least some of their credibility.

Serving on our Board of Directors is similar. Getting elected is only the first step. Actually doing something while in office will determine your impact on our organization and on our region's golf industry. I urge those who are elected to come prepared to make a difference that will improve our organization for its members and family members alike.

On a passing note, Hurricane Ike is still a couple of hundred miles offshore as I write this column. I hope everyone survives it with minimal problems. By the time you receive this issue of *Tee to Green*, the hurricane will have come and gone, and if you did suffer serious loss, and you are a GCSAA member, don't forget

continued on next page



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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

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Marian Takushi

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Director of Communications

Steve Hunter

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e-mail: srhunter@mindspring.com

Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Roger Goettsch, CGCS, George Manuel

October Meeting

Monday, October 20, 2008

Golfcrest Country Club

Host Superintendent — Lee Gravett

Please RSVP by October 17 by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 or by e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net.

Speaker: Jeff Blume

"Golf Course Architecture"

Registration: 9 a.m. **Lunch:** 11:30-12:30

Golf: After Lunch **Cost:** \$55

Reminders:

— You must arrive by 10:15 to play golf.

— You may bring a non-member guest to one STGCSA Monthly Meeting per year (only).

Directions:

From the Sam Houston Tollway South, between Hwy. 288 and I-45 (Gulf Freeway): Exit Pearland Parkway to stoplight (Broadway/FM 518). Turn left and drive to stoplight (Country Club Drive). Take a left and follow street to club.

ELECTION

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course, provide a brief address to the members in attendance at the Annual Meeting prior to the election, but your choices will be helped greatly if you make yourself familiar with them prior to the gathering.

As previously mentioned, write-in candidates for all the positions will be accepted from the floor during the Annual Meeting. If you've got someone in mind who is not on the ballot, you need to be prepared to make that nomination, as well.

After the business of the Annual Meeting is concluded, of course, the second and final round of the 2008 STGCSA Chapter Championship will be played (the first round will be played after the this month's meeting (Oct. 20 at Golfcrest Country Club).

Joe Anderson won the tournament last year and Doug Ashley won the preceding two years. With neither on the STGCSA membership roster for 2008, there will be a new champion crowned this time around, so hit the range, sharpen your game and come ready to play.

The word "come" may be the operative part of that sentence. With over half the Board open for new members, it's imperative that you attend the Annual Meeting and vote as you see fit. So please . . . make your plans and come help the STGCSA choose its leadership team for 2009. The new year will mark the first year of the STGCSA's second half-century. Let's get it off to a good start.



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A gathering of eagles

A number of STGCSA members gathered with the Chapter's former leaders on Aug. 27 at BraeBurn Country Club to exchange ideas and express appreciation to those who have led the STGCSA in years gone by. The Past Presidents in attendance were, from left to right: Charlie Rizzo (1990); Terry Gill (2203); Tom Leonard (1964); Mark Monroe (1983-84); Jims Holub (1974); Johnny Walker (1997); Doug Browne (2006); Michael Sandburg, CGCS (1999); Justin Shulse (2007); and Mark Caldwell, CGCS (1986-87).

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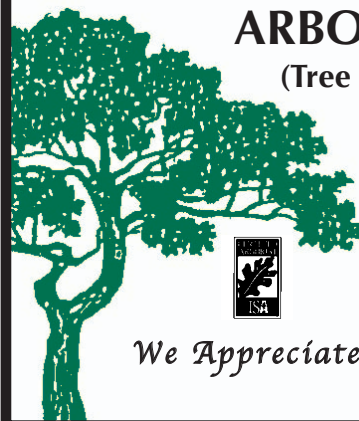
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TCEQ waste disposal days

Every once in a while, you probably end up with a few leftover items that cannot be disposed of through your regular garbage collection service.

With that in mind, you should keep in mind the Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collection Program, part of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The TCEQ is offering a series of collection days in October to help with your disposal needs.

One of those events, to be operated by County Extension Agent Brent Batchelor (979-245-4100, b-batchelor@tamu.edu) will take place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Oct. 28 at the Matagorda Country Fairgrounds in Bay City (400 West Fairgrounds Rd.).

The event is open to all Texas residents who apply pesticides or other agricultural chemicals for the production of agricultural products in Texas and who currently have banned or unwanted agricultural chemicals.

Products that can be disposed of at the gathering include most pesticides and herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, growth regulators, some containers, various mechanical fluids and lubricants and lead-acid batteries.

Materials not accepted include tires, fertilizers or nutrient materials that are neither hazardous nor contain pesticide admixtures and propane/butane gas cylinders larger than 20 gallons.

There is no cost for disposing of the accepted materials presented at the event.

If you cannot attend the Bay City event, there are two others that will take just outside the STGCSA boundaries (Oct. 23, Victoria Community Center, Victoria; Oct. 29, Fayette County Fairgrounds, La Grange).

To get complete details about the collection days, to monitor the schedule of future events, or for information regarding the safe handling and transportation of waste materials, please call the TCEQ at 512-239-3143 or visit the web page at:

www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/agwaste.html

Membership Moves

Mike Sargent, golf course superintendent at Columbia Lakes Resort, has joined the STGCSA, and to him we extend our welcome.



Bill Abetz, Jr.

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Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Redstone Golf Club

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Kathy McElroy, Administrative Assistant

Telephone: 281-459-7855

E-Mail: kmcelroy@redstonegolfclub.com

Golf Course Manager/Superintendent

Bosque Valley Golf Club (Meridian, Texas)

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E-Mail: chulme@gearench.com

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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, 281-494-0094) to include your job posting on the STGCSA web site.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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that you may apply for Emergency Relief from the GCSAA.

Relief is granted on a case-by-case basis, but I wanted to make sure that everyone knew of this great benefit of membership. You can go to the following web site for more information.

www.gcsaa.org/cm/content/modules/display_dynamic.html?params=MSwxMjJlLA

— Roger Goettsch, CGCS



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Out of Bounds: Triploid Grass Carp for pond weed control

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

The triploid grass carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, is a sterile vegetarian fish that can be used to control aquatic vegetation in ponds. The fish can only be used in areas where they are unlikely to escape into public waters.

The use of this fish may be a cost effective alternative to chemical herbicides, but that will depend on the vegetation that needs to be managed. For example, grass carp will eat hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), muskgrass (*Chara* spp.), and pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp.), but the fish are not an effective control for many types of filamentous algae.

The fish feed from the top down. Once all above ground plant tissue is consumed, the turbidity of the water may increase due to the fish looking for organic matter to eat in the pond's sediments. An additional possible negative consequence of introducing grass carp is that if excessive amounts of vegetation are removed, some wildlife species may be discouraged.

The suggested stocking rate is five per acre of water if less than 50 percent of the pond is covered by vegetation. Fish should be about 10-12 inches in length when introduced into the pond to avoid predation. For maximum effectiveness, a pond should be restocked every five to seven years. Younger fish are more active feeders. It is thought that most fish live at least 10 years.

Triploid grass carp are regulated by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Permits are obtained through the Inland Fisheries Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife. The application fee is \$15.00 plus \$2.00 for each fish you plan to purchase.

The fish can only be purchased from a Texas fish farmer that holds a valid exotic species permit. A list of permitted fish farmers will be provided with your approved permit.

In order to obtain a permit, you must be able to demonstrate that the fish will not escape. A Texas Parks and Wildlife official may need to visit your golf course to determine if there is a risk the fish may escape into public waters.

The application to stock triploid grass carp can be found at:
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdforms/media/pwd_241_t3200_application_stock_triploid_grass_carp.pdf

To read more about this subject please visit this website:
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/water/habitats/private_water/gcarp_intro.phtml

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FA/FA04300.pdf>

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



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2008 SOUTH TEXAS GCSA EVENTS

October 13-19

Administaff Small Business Classic
The Woodlands CC (East Course)

October 20 (Monday)

Golfcrest CC
Chapter Championship First Round
Host Superintendent: Lee Gravett

November 10 (Monday)

The Houstonian CC
STGCSA Annual Meeting
Chapter Championship Final Round
Host Superintendent: Tom Werner

December 4 (Thursday)

Annual Awards Banquet and Ceremony
River Oaks CC
Host Superintendent: Morris Johnson

December 8-10

TTA Annual Conference & Trade Show
Fort Worth Convention Center

*Golf formats available on the internet at
www.stgcsa.org.*

Environmental Field Day coming up

As mentioned in the May issue of *Tee to Green*, The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, in partnership with Audubon International, Lakeside Country Club, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, will conduct an Environmental Golf Course Management Field Day exercise at Lakeside Country Club in Houston on Oct. 27.

The event will feature a number of distinguished speakers. The topics covered will focus on how you can maximize the value of your golf course as an environmentally-friendly green space.

Those in attendance will also learn how to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses—the day's closing event will be a panel discussion hosted by a number of certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary golf course superintendents (Terry Hutcherson, CGCS; Kevin Lyles; Harvey Rose, CGCS; and Steve Vaughn), plus horticulturalists Deanna Berry of Kingwood Country Club and Dee Dee Hutcherson of Lakeside, and Jim Sluiter.

The cost of attending the meeting is \$75 and is payable through the STGCSA offices—a brochure about the meeting (including a registration form) can be found on the STGCSA's web site (www.stgcsa.org). You may also obtain a copy by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094.

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