

Tee to Green

Official Newsletter
of the



October
2011

**Scotland Awaits!
And it's well worth
the trip**

page 6

**Blasts from
the Past**

see page 4



October Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club, 23230 Meadowbrook Farms Club Drive, Katy, TX 77494

Host Superintendent: Brian Buckner, CGCS

Registration: 9:00 a.m. **Meeting:** 10:00 a.m. **Lunch:** 11:00-11:45 **Cost:** \$55

Meeting Speaker:

Mike Ladd, General Sales Manager - DEF, Reladyne, LLC
The EPA and Diesel Exhaust Fluid

Please RSVP by October 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 to Meadowbrooks Farms Golf Club:

- Go South from I-10 or north from Westheimer on Grand Parkway to Fry Road.
 - Exit to Fry Road and go west 1.2 miles.
- Turn left on Meadowbrook Farms Club Drive to the club.

Coming Up Next!

2011 STGCSA Annual Meeting
November 8 — Raven Nest Golf Club

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm sure all of you know that Texas is in the midst of a devastating drought. It's affecting all of us, though I guess it's hurting some of us more than others.

In most areas, you can count the number of days we've had measurable rainfall in 2011 on the fingers of one hand; at last check, I think we're over 25 inches behind our normal precipitation rate for the year; 2011 is the driest year on record for Houston, the second driest for Galveston and the third driest for College Station.

Water restrictions have sprung up all across our area and wildfires have burned thousands of acres and destroyed hundreds of buildings. Record heat has accompanied the drought, driving golfers indoors and combining to kill trees, grass, and even weeds. If you've driven through the region recently, you know lakes are drying up and parts of the landscape have taken on the look of a desert.

And here's the bad news. The drought, according to projections on a map found on the National Weather Service web site (www.noaa.gov) and provided by the Climate Prediction Center, the drought can be expected to "persist or intensify" through the end of this year. There have been reports that conditions exist to carry the drought over into next year, as well. I know you've taken steps to preserve your water supplies (while the preserving is good) to prepare for those possibilities, and I think your fellow superintendents would be interesting in knowing what steps you've taken.

I think how the drought has affected you already would be equally interesting, so when you get the chance, would you

take a few moments to jot down a few notes about those subjects and send them to Steve Hunter (srhunter@mindspring.com). He'll take what you give him and develop the information into an article (or articles) for *Tee to Green* and our web site, and we'll all be able to learn from what you've done and are doing.

There is a trio of things coming up on the calendar I want to remind you of . . . our annual meeting and election, our Christmas Party, and membership renewals for 2012.

I'll touch on our October Meeting first. It's coming up Oct. 11 at Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club and will feature a presentation by Mike Ladd, general sales manager-DEF, for Reladyne and The Hurt Company. The presentation will be important, focusing on Environmental Protection Agency regulations that will take affect in the coming year. I know you'll want to be on hand to hear what Ladd has to say.

Our 2011 Annual Meeting will be just around the corner after our October Meeting and will feature our election of officers and several Board of Directors members for 2012 (and beyond). I know you know how important choosing our leaders is, so I know I can count of you to be at Ravens Nest Golf



Wade Warm, CGCS

continued on page 8

2011 South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association Officers, Board of Directors and Staff

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Wade Warm, CGCS

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Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Terry Gill, John Walker

BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Every once in a while, it's worth a look back to remember where we've been. I came across the pictures in the process of rearranging my office recently, and thought they were worth sharing.

— Steve Hunter



Carl Tolbert and Alan Hess (left), marshals at the 2004 Shell Houston Open. From left to right below, George Cincotta, Terry Gill, George Manuel and Michael Sandburg, gathered for the 2000 STGCSA Christmas Party at Houston Farm & Ranch Club.



Past STGCSA Presidents (left to right) Tom Leonard (1964), Rick Kehres (1998) and James Holub (1974).



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From the 2001 STGCSA Superintendent/Pro tournament: Left John Freeman and Carl Tolbert; below left, Doug and Bobby Browne; below, John Sewell and Tim Supak.



"The reason the Road Hole at St. Andrews is the most difficult par 4 in the world is that it was designed as a par 6."

— Ben Crenshaw

October speaker to address new regulations

In June 1993, the Environmental Protection Agency formatted a 25-year program prescribing new diesel fuel emission regulations be applied to all on- and off-road vehicles, marine vehicles, locomotives and ocean-going vessels.



Mike Ladd

The final phase of the program (addressing marine vehicles) does not go into effect until 2017, but the time is now upon us to enact the program's diesel exhaust fluid requirements for all new equipment put into service after Jan. 1, 2012 (see the box below for a complete timeline).

I am pleased to announce that Mike Ladd, General Sales Manager for diesel exhaust fluid (DEF) at The Hurt Company and RelaDyne Company will provide a formal presentation about the new regulations and DEF during the STGCSA's Oct. 11 meeting at Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club.

Please join us then and there to gain a complete understanding of the EPA mandate and how it will affect you and your operations.

— Carl Tolbert, *The Hurt Company*

EPA Diesel Fuel Emissions Timeline

Year	Vehicles Affected
2010 —	On-Road
2011 —	Off-Road
2012 —	Off-Road Interim Tier (Greater than 174 hp)
2014 —	Off-Road Tier 4 Final
2015 —	Locomotives
2016 —	C3 Ocean-going Vessels (over 130 kw) (Example: container ships, tankers, bulk carriers & cruise ships)
2017 —	C1 Marine

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A trip to the home of golf

By Terry Gill

I had the good fortune to travel to Scotland with my good friend (and fellow STGCSA member) Brent Ratcliff and our lovely wives recently. We were there for eight days and played six of Scotland's best golf courses, four of them considered among the top 100 courses in the world.

The venues were Carnoustie, Royal Troon, Turnberry and St. Andrews, where we played the Old Course, the Jubilee and Kingsbarn. In case you aren't familiar with Scotland's geography, Turnberry and Troon are on the west coast and the others on the east . . . Carnoustie is just north of St. Andrews.

Needless to say, playing some of the most famous courses in the "home of golf" is a thrill from a golfer's standpoint, and extremely interesting from the viewpoint of a golf course superintendent. Since returning from the trip, several of my colleagues have asked what the differences are between golf in America and golf in Scotland.

There are several.

From a golfing standpoint, it helps to remember that golf in Scotland is played today just as it has been played there for hundreds of years. Everybody either carries his (or her) own

bag or rents a caddie, the latter for several good reasons. One is that a good caddie can be very helpful in pointing out the best way to play a given hole or shot. Another is that a caddie will help you move along at a good pace—you're expected to complete your round in four hours or less, no kidding around.

There are by the way, very few occasions for weather delays on Scottish courses. Instead, you are expected to be prepared to play through whatever rain and wind might come your way.

Most courses in Scotland are built as the lay of the land dictates. The older courses, of course, almost sprang to life on their own, and even now, very little dirt is moved (relative to what's done in the U.S.) when a golf course is built.

Tees are generally built at ground level, fairways are shaped naturally to allow for good drainage (the result can be a variety of uneven lies), most bunkers are small, quite deep, and designed to penalize wayward shots. Some bunkers are main-



A bagpiper welcomes a cloudy morning at Turnberry, with the 18th green of the Ailsa Course, the clubhouse and the Irish Sea in the background.



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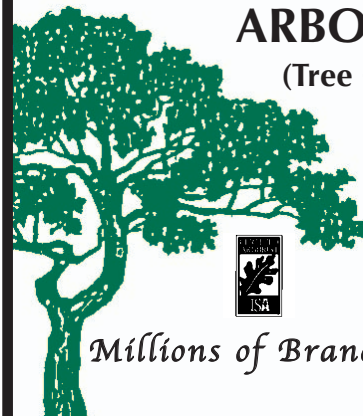
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Scottish golf weather accompanied us at Carnoustie (on the 18th green (left)), but we were prepared. Any golf course superintendent visiting St. Andrews must make a pilgrimage to the graves of Old Tom Morris (foreground) and Young Tom Morris (right), to be found in the cemetery adjacent to the St. Andrews Cathedral, just a few hundred yards from the Old Course's 18th green. Another highlight of such a trip is stopping on the Swilcan Bridge, which crosses the Swilcan Burn on the Old Course's 18th hole, and pausing for a photo as Brent Ratcliff did during their visit (front cover).

tained, while others are not—no bunker liners, no artificial drainage, generally speaking.

Like the tees, most greens are

built at ground level or just above, and are mostly covered in fine fescues and ryegrasses native to the soil in which they grow. The Scots do not put a lot of thought into green speed, instead focusing on good conditions and smooth rolls. I saw no postings of green speeds at all, and, for better or worse, the only folks on the courses who talk about speed are American.

“Speed” signs aren't the only things missing . . . Scottish courses are Spartan affairs, a reflection of the individual and independent nature of the game. Signage of any kind is rare, as are water fountains or the like, golf cars and paths, restrooms, landscaping and flowerbeds. The courses are meant to be walked and played, not ridden and gardened.

That doesn't mean they're not attractive. Most of the best courses occupy “links” land, meaning they're adjacent to the seas (the Celtic or Irish Sea on the west coast, the North Sea on the east). Those bodies of water (You won't find many ponds on Scottish courses, just “burns,” otherwise known as

creeks), the natural flora and the rolling hills provide the aesthetic beauty of the courses.

This was my first trip to Scotland, by the way, but I've been to Ireland a couple of times . . . I found the courses in Scotland to be much flatter and easier to walk than in Ireland, where they build many on sand dunes 50 or 100 feet above the ocean. Keep in mind, though, that other parts of Scotland may provide exceptions to my experience.

Those are the highlights of the differences between golf here
continued on page 8



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And the 2011 Texas Trophy goes to . . .

The Central Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association took the top spot in 2011 Texas Trophy competition, posting a total of 451-472--923 at The Golf Club at Fossil Creek in Fort Worth for a 7-stroke edge over the North Texas GCSA.

The West Texas Chapter took third place with a score of 468-491--959, and the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association formed the rear guard at 478-504--985.

Travis Klosterboer posted the best finish amongst the STGCSA members who made the trip, winning the tournament's Affiliate (Gross) division with a score of 152.

Alan Hess, finished in second-place tie (at 154) in the Championship Flight (Gross) group and won a scorecard playoff for second place honors. Kevin Yanity carded a score of 146 and finished second in the Championship Flight (Net) division.

Terry Gill finished in a second-place tie in the Second Flight (Gross) division and won a scorecard playoff for runnerup honors

Hess and Yanity will both receive paid entry into the 2012 GCSAA National Championship as a result of their Texas Trophy play..

MEMBER MOVES

Flying solo this month is Scottie Gibson, an assistant superintendent at The Club at Carlton Woods, who is the lone addition to the STGCSA's roster for this month.

Harry Yewens has joined the team at Texas Aggregate & Base Materials (TABM) as a Golf Course Materials Consultant and Sales Representative.

Target Specialty Products has announced that *Nick Inberg* is its newest account representative serving the professional golf market in Texas.



*Nick
Inberg*

THE HOME OF GOLF continued from page 7

and golf there. Golf in Scotland, as I'm sure you've heard, is played on the ground as much as it is in the air, and their approach to conditioning reflects that (as opposed to here, where we play mostly in the air).

If playing golf in Scotland (or Ireland) is on your bucket list, I encourage you to plan a trip. In fact, I'd encourage you to add it to your list if it's not already on it.

It is a wonderful experience, especially if you are willing to embrace the history, the courses, the conditions and the people (on the courses and off). If you can do that, you'll be in for the trip of a lifetime and your approach to the game of golf might be forever changed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 3

Club on Nov. 8 to register your votes.

And then, hard to believe as it is, we'll close out 2011 with our Christmas Party. It will take place Friday, Dec. 2, at Cole's Country in Cypress, a party-hosting facility that's built for the job. Special this year will be an appearance by Granger Smith, an up-and-coming country-and-western artist who has seven top 10 singles and three tours in Iraq and Kuwait to his credit. You can learn more about him on his web site (www.granger-smith.com); I think you'll enjoy the entertainment he'll provide.

Last but not least, for now, it's time to renew your membership. You'll find more details about the process on our web site, so please, as soon as you can, re-up and help us plan for 2012.

— Wade Warms, CGCS



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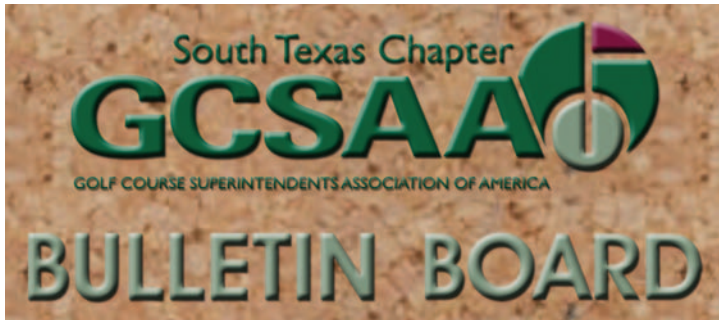
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The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) before the 5th of each month to include your job listings, etc., in the following two issues of Tee to Green. To include your job posting on the STGCSA web site, contact Marian Takushi (stgcsa@windstream.net, 281-494-0094). More complete details about many of the positions listed here can be found within the "Jobs" pages of www.stgcsa.org.

The time is now

The new year, believe it or not, is just around the corner. Accordingly, it's time to renew your STGCSA membership. Membership renewal forms are available online on the home page of www.stgcsa.org . . . you can complete the process online or print it out, complete it and mail it to the Chapter office. Please call Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 if you have questions.



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2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 11

Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club
Member/Guest Outing
Host Superintendent: Brian Buckner, CGCS

November 8

Raven Nest Golf Club
2011 STGCSA Annual Meeting
Host Superintendent: David Gray

December 2

Christmas Party
Cole's Country - Cypress

December 12-14

Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference
San Antonio Convention Center

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



Dear STGCSA Member:

Just a reminder to plan ahead to attend the Texas A&M Turf & Landscape Field Day Oct. 4-5 in College Station. An evening symposium on is planned for Oct. 4 and the Field Day Tour is on Oct. 5. Limited exhibit space is available for vendors.

- \$45 Late Registration Sept. 20-29 (includes lunch)
- \$45 On-site Registration (does not include lunch)

Complete information is available on the website below, as is on-line registration.

<https://agrifliferregister.tamu.edu/> Keyword Search: Turf

We have not had a Turf & Landscape Field Day in a number of years as we have transitioned to a new research location. We hope you will attend and help us restart an annual activity designed to benefit our industry clientele.

Respectfully,

*David R. Chalmers, Ph.D.
Professor and State Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences
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