

Tee To Green

SEPTEMBER 2013

The Official Publication of the South Texas
Golf Course Superintendents Association

Cover Photo: Sterling Country Club at Houston National

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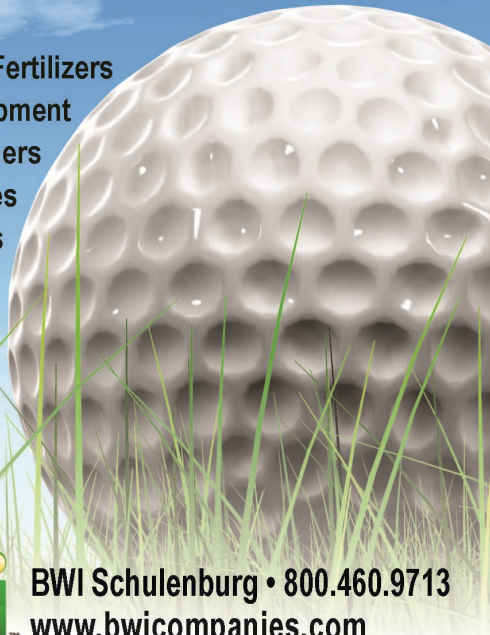
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TEXAS TROPHY



Lone Star Texas Trophy

Host: Texas Gulf Coast Superintendents Association

September 22, 23, 24

Newport Dunes Golf Club—Port Aransas, TX

Will South Texas GCSA bring home the trophy again this year?

Sign up now at: lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org



Texas Golf Course BMP Plan – TEMPLATE

Lone Star GCSA has become active in developing/modifying a template for each Texas golf courses to develop their own set of Best Management Practices (BMP). The most attractive model we have found for our use was developed by the University of Georgia for the Georgia GCSA several years ago. LSGCSA has received approval from the author to modify the Georgia document for use in Texas.

So what is a BMP? By definition, BEST is based on the most current science available, MANAGEMENT is to determine what is needed for each specific site, and PRACTICE is an implemented procedure that is ongoing and repeatable.

And why do we need a BMP plan? A BMP plan demonstrates professionalism and expertise. It also is a way to take credit for all the good things you already do. It identifies opportunities to improve your performance and validates your profession's message that we are good stewards of the environment.

Simply put, there are two methods of adopting BMPs.

Mandated Regulations – This method is very rigid, it is typically done without your input, there is little room for negotiation and is a “one size fits all” approach.

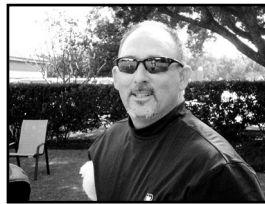
Develop Your Own BMPs – This method provides for flexibility within the industry, is self-administered and is site specific.

There is Little Doubt Which We Would Prefer! We need to all plan to get on board with this initiative. Ideally, we can develop an online template for courses to develop their own BMP plan.

Ken Gorzycki will be discussing this topic at the education portion of the Texas Trophy on September 23, 2013 at Newport Dunes. Sign up for the education course at: lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org under the “Texas Trophy” tab on the left.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I mentioned at the first of this year, we would have some new things and bring some old things back. Some have worked and some haven't. As you all know from your own clubs, you can't please everyone. Let us know whether we have met your expectations or not and we will do our best to improve.



Some of the new things I mentioned are coming up in the next few months. Starting with the annual meeting. As you know this is the meeting we elect the Board of Directors and Executive officers for the coming year. We still need candidates to run for open positions. If you are interested in serving the STGCSA please contact Past President Mark Haven. This year we will be presenting the President's coat and Past President plaque at this meeting instead of at the Christmas Party.

This year's Christmas Party (or Holiday Reception) will be at Pine Forest Country Club. We will be having a reception style party with open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. There won't be a sit down dinner so you are free to arrive at anytime and stay as long as you want without worrying about missing a presentation or being on time for dinner. It is scheduled for Sunday December 15th from 6pm to 9pm. We know everyone's schedule is hectic during the Holidays and thought that a less structured event would work out better for most. Dress will be country club casual. This is probably the most gratifying of all of our events in that we get to get to recognize some very deserving children of STGCSA members and award them a \$1000 dollar scholarship. The Legacy Scholarship winner will receive \$2000.

The Sonny Dubose Award winner will be announced at the first meeting of 2014 at Stephen F. Austin. We have had more than 100 people at this event the last two years and thought it would be better to announce the winner of this very special award when so many are present.

I hope to see everyone at these events and our next event in October at Sterling Country Club.

One last thing;

"Never argue with stupid people, they will drag you down to their level and then beat you with experience"

Mark Twain

M. Sean Wilson, CGCSA

President, STGCSA

Meeting Schedule

September 22, 23, 24—Lone Star Texas Trophy -Newport Dunes GC

September 30—Allied Association/ Vendor Golf Tournament

Pine Forest Country Club

go to: www.texascmma.org

October 15, 2013—Sterling Country Club

November 6-8, 2013 Irrigation Show and Education Conference: Austin Convention Center

November 18, 2013—Sweetwater Country Club (Annual Meeting)

December 15, 2013—6-9 pm

Holiday Reception at Pine Forest Country Club.

January 8, 2014—Pesticide License Renewal Class at Bear Creek

January 21, 2014—Stephen F. Austin

GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW-Orlando, FL

February 3-6, 2014

For more details on any meeting above go to:

www.stgcsa.org

If you have moved locations or have new contact information, please email:

stgcsa@stgcsa.org

All job listings are posted on our

Website: www.stgcsa.org



Running for 2014 STGCSA President: Blayne Sparks

"I would like to thank the association for the opportunity to represent them as President. I look forward to upholding the values and traditions set forth by my predecessors, as well as foster new ideas that can continue to grow this strong organization."


Running for Executive Board 2014



Running for 2014 Vice President is Ben Fultz, Superintendent at Valley Crest at Wildcat GC.

"I have been on the Board for three years and enjoy being able to help. I hope to continue working on the Board in order to continue the growth of the organization"

Candidates for STGCSA Board of Directors— 2014




Running for Secretary/Treasurer:
Chris Lineberger, Superintendent at
Sugar Creek CC.

I served as Secretary/Treasurer of
the MAGCSA prior to coming to
Texas. I have sound knowledge of
financials and managing funds.




Running For Affiliate Director:
Mark Baughman

It's been my pleasure to be a mem-
ber of STGCSA since 1992. I have
enjoyed the relationships devel-
oped in that time. Would enjoy being part of the
Board of Directors again. Has been a wonderful
experience.




Running for Board of Directors: Kyle
Brown of Bay Oaks Country Club

It would be my honor to serve on the
South Texas GCSA Board of Direc-
tors. Service and dedication have always been a part of my
life and I would like to put those traits to use by aiding in
the growth of our association through education and cama-
raderie. I have successfully worked with many different
types of people throughout my career which I believe would
benefit our association. Thank you.



Returning Board Member: Jeff Smelser,
CGCS of Galveston CC.- As a member of
STGCSA, it would be an honor to serve
on its board. Over the years, I have sat
on numerous boards and I feel I would
bring a wealth of experience to the association. I have
gained knowledge from each of these opportunities
and as our industry changes our association must
adapt.



Returning Board Member: Randy Samoff

"It has been an honor to serve on the
board that has done so much for me in my
career here in Houston. I look forward to
continuing that service this coming year
and doing all I can to improve the member experi-
ence. "



Returning Affiliate Board Member:
Brandon Cole, Golf Account Executive
for Professional Turf Products will be
running for reelection for the affiliate
Board position. I have enjoyed serving
my fellow affiliate members for the past several years.
We have made a lot of changes to better serve our
association and its members and I will would love the
opportunity to keep improving the STGCSA.




Returning Board Member: Cody Spivey

It has been an honor to serve on the
board the last two years. I hope to con-
tinue my service on the board of our
association that I have been a part of
since 1997. The STGCSA has helped me
grow in my endeavors and I appreciate now having
the opportunity to help others in the same manner. I
enjoy having the opportunity to help our association
grow and be something we are all proud to be a part
of.



Returning Board Member: Eric Bauer

I have really enjoyed my first year servicing
on the STGA Board. It has giving me an
opportunity to meet others that are truly
committed to making our association one
that works for its membership. The oppor-
tunity to be involved and help guide the future of our
association is one that I hope to continue. I want to
thanks Sean for allowing me this opportunity by be-
ing appointed. Thank you for your support."



Returning as Past President 2013:
Sean Wilson, CGCS

"It has been a great pleasure and
honor to serve as President of
STGCSA. As I enter into my last year of service as Past
President, It gives me a great sense of pride and ac-
complishment to have completed the eight years of
service to the association"



We still need candidates to run for open posi-
tions on the Board of Directors. If you are inter-
ested in serving the STGCSA please contact
Past President Mark Haven at:
mhaven@rec.tamu.edu



golf industry show

2014—ORLANDO Convention Center

GCSAA Education Conference
 February 3-6, 2014
 Orlando, FL
www.golfindustryshow.com

GCSAA announces schedule change to February 2014 industry gathering in Orlando

The GCSAA Education Conference will be at the Orange County Convention Center, Monday through Thursday, Feb. 3-6. The trade show will be held Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 5-6, at the same venue. Unlike in recent years, there will be no activities on Friday in 2014. The USGA session moves to 8-10 a.m. Thursday, prior to the start of the second day of the trade show, and will become the General Session.

In addition, to alleviate the amount of overlap between the GCSAA Golf Championships and the education conference, the golf tournament dates have been shifted back one day from last year. The four-ball competition will be Saturday, Feb. 1, with the fun event (shamble format) being held Sunday, Feb. 2. The GCSAA National Championship and the GCSAA Golf Classic will be held Sunday through Monday, Feb. 2-3. All the golf events will be at Orlando-area golf facilities. Housing reservations will open Aug. 6, and GCSAA member registration for the golf tournament, conference and trade show opens in early November.

Bermudagrass Pests In 2013

By Bud White, director, Mid-Continent Region

June 26, 2013



Summer is in full swing and temperatures are forecasted to hit 100 F this week in parts of the Mid-Continent region.

We have two particularly difficult pests that started in the spring and continue to persist - bermudagrass mites and nematodes. Both are difficult to control as the most effective control products are no longer on the market.

The visual symptom of bermudagrass mite is often referred to as "Witch's Broom."

Bermudagrass mite damage has been termed "witch's broom" because of the stunted, branch-type growth from the plant's nodes. A yellowing of the turf is also prevalent in infected areas. Mites have been active on the ultradwarf bermudagrasses as well but with different symptoms. Instead of the "witch's broom" effect, stolons tend to grow over the top of the playing surface. Brushing removes them quite well.

Treatment has been successful with a few materials, but a second application is needed in 14 days to break the egg cycle. In the days of Diazinon and Dursban, mite damage could be minimized, but now companies are in search of better controls. Soluble nitrogen is most helpful to encourage growth and recovery from damage.

Unfortunately, the nematode battle has been more difficult. There are materials available that have shown some success but universities and chemical companies continue to search for products with greater efficacy. A word of caution - there are several materials that claim nematode control but have been unsuccessful in research trials. Ask for data confirming control claims. The industry is hoping for a control product as effective as NemaCur, but the hunt continues. The University of Florida is a great resource for the latest in product testing and results.

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



Applications can be found on the home page of the website.
 (www.stgcsa.org)

Application deadline is:
 September 1, 2013

Official Transcript deadline is:
 October 1, 2013

Quote of the Month

Golf is played by twenty million mature American men whose wives think they are out having fun.

Jim Bishop



The purpose of USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research Online is to effectively communicate the results of research projects funded under USGA's Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program to all who can benefit from such knowledge. Since 1983, the USGA has funded more than 290 projects at a cost of \$25 million. The private, non-profit research program provides funding opportunities to university faculty interested in working on environmental and turf management problems affecting golf courses. The outstanding playing conditions of today's golf courses are a direct result of using science to benefit golf.

Tracking Nitrogen Fate over the Long Haul

One of the most important responsibilities of superintendents is to manage the golf course while still protecting the environment. An important aspect of this responsibility is to minimize the transport of nutrients, particularly nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P), to ground and surface water. Both nitrogen and phosphorus are essential for healthy turfgrass growth, but superintendents need to be cautious when considering how much fertilizer to apply to minimize the risk of nutrient pollution.



Photo Caption: Since 1991, a nitrogen leaching study guided by Dr. Kevin Frank (shown) at Michigan State University determined that nitrogen leaching can occur on mature turfgrass sites if too much fertilizer is applied.

Since 1998, the USGA has provided funding to Michigan State University scientists to analyze the amount of nitrogen that moves downward through the soil under Kentucky bluegrass turf. The grass was fertilized with nitrogen at a low and high rate (e.g., 2 and 5 lbs N per 1,000 sq. ft.). In 2003, the high fertilizer rate was reduced to 4 lbs N per 1,000 sq. ft. because nitrogen was detected in water that leached four feet below the surface at levels above what is considered safe for the environment. The good news is that this small adjustment returned nitrogen levels for the next seven years to an acceptable level.

The take home message from the research at Michigan State University is that higher rates of nitrogen fertilizer may be acceptable during turfgrass establishment; however, as the grass matures over several years, nitrogen fertilizer rates should be reduced. If the higher nitrogen rates used during the first few years following establishment are not significantly reduced, unacceptable levels of nitrate leaching can occur, especially during the winter months when turf is dormant.

Read More:

Long Term Nutrient Fate Research (<http://usgatero.msu.edu/v12/n2-6.pdf>)

Nitrogen Fate in a Mature Kentucky Bluegrass Turf (<http://usgatero.msu.edu/v05/no2.pdf>)

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Nominations Now Being Accepted for the Sonny DuBose Award 2013

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.



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Next Meeting: October 15—Sterling CC at Houston National

Annual Meeting Schedule

November 18, 2013

Sweetwater Country Club
4400 Palm Royale Blvd
Sugar Land, TX 77479

9-10 am: Registration

10-11 am: Annual Meeting

*(Voting of 2014 Board of Directors,
Voting of Sonny DuBose Award Recipient)*

11-11:45 am: Lunch

11:30-12:20 Range is Open

12:30 pm: Shotgun Start

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Christmas Reception

December 15, 2013

Pine Forest Country Club
18003 Clay Rd.
Houston, TX 77084

6—9 pm

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Scholarship Awards will be passed out at the reception

Heavy hors 'doeuvres and open bar

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or on our website at: www.stgcsa.org



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STGCSA's First Member/Guest Tournament

July 28, 2013

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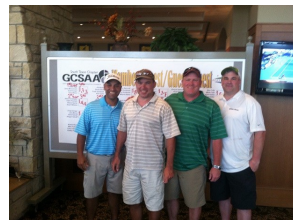
For Scoreboard and Proximity Winners, go to the STGCSA Website

1st FLIGHT

First Place 128	Braeden Riley Kevin Borowski Ted Borowski Martin Riley
Second Place 133	Bob Cook Dottie Keith Patrick Keith Ed Nelson
Third Place 133	Sean Wilson Scott Hooper Lanny McCormick Chuck Agee
Last Place 138	Mark Haven Joseph Haven Dee Haven Mike Haven

2nd FLIGHT

First Place 142	Carl Tolbert Richard Oaks Craig Duncan Craig Theall
Second Place 142	Jason Burgess DJ McCormick DJ McCormick Jr. John Stark
Third Place 144	Blayne Sparks Stuart Williams Adam Pizzolato Albert Pendergast
Last Place 189	Johann Sagermark Troy Hessels Kevin Trow Stacy Arent



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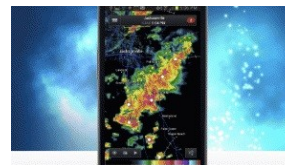
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