

Tee to Green



September
2008

Texas Trophy time

The 2008 Texas Trophy will be hosted by the Gulf Coast GCSA Sept. 21-23 at Victoria Country Club.

Activities will commence on Sept. 21 with registration beginning at 10 a.m. and lunch beginning at noon. Golf will begin with a 1 p.m. shotgun start, followed by a Long Drive Championship at 6 p.m.

The Lone Star GCSA's Annual Meeting will take place at 11 a.m. on Sept. 22, with lunch (and late registration) beginning at noon. The Lone Star Texas Trophy tournament will get under way with a 1 p.m. shotgun start, and dinner will be served following golf.

A shotgun start will get the second round underway at 9 a.m. on Sept. 23, with lunch and awards presentations to follow.

Winners in last year's tournament were led by the STGCSA's

own Mark Haven, who posted a total of 149 to win the individual competition.

The West Texas GCSA won the team tournament, while the team Long Drive title went to the North Texas GCSA and Kyle Moore of Rolling Hills in Arlington took individual long drive honors.

Entry fees for the 2008 Texas Trophy are \$225 and include three days of golf, food and prizes. In addition to other prizes, the top four finishers in the gross and net competitions will receive paid entry into the 2009 GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic, Feb. 1-3 in Gulf Shores, Ala.

The entry deadline is September 10, 2008. For complete details, please visit the LSGCSA web site at www.lsgcsa.org or call Karen White at 972-307-8162.

Marshals needed

The Administaff Small Business Classic has moved . . . this year's tournament will take place the week of Oct. 13-19, 2008, on the Tournament Course (formerly, the TPC) at The Woodlands Country Club.

The STGCSA will once again be providing a team of members to serve as marshals around the practice areas during tournament week. That, of course, means your help is needed.

If you have an interest in being one of the Chapter's marshals, you can register online at www.administaffclassic.com.

Click on the "Volunteers" link at the top of the page and then the "Register Online" link. There's another link to the "Driving Range/Putting Green"—click on that one and follow the instructions to complete your registration process.

The "Volunteers" page also includes the option to download a printable registration form if you are more comfortable with that process.

If you register prior to the STGCSA's September meeting, you can receive your uniform and volunteer package at the meeting. The STGCSA, by the way, will pay half the cost of uniforms for those able to help out.

There will also be an opportunity to sign up at the meeting, or you can call Jeff Smith (281-804-8327), Terry Gill (713-778-3819) or Roger Goettsch, CGCS (281-380-3829).

Cross the pond

For the third year running, Bernhard and Company, manufacturers of Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders, is sending 10 GCSAA Class A members to the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association's Turf Management Exhibition, to be held Jan. 18 - 22, 2009, in Harrogate, England.

Winners will have the opportunity to attend the conference and exhibition, participate in education seminars, network with greenkeepers from the UK and Europe, and visit golf courses in England.

Bernhard and Company will cover expenses for airfare, accommodation, conference registration, education seminars and transportation.

"Once you have experienced the golf course industry in England, it will make you re-evaluate the ways you do things at your own course," says Chris Gray, Director of Golf Course Operations at the Marvel Golf Club in Benton, Ken., a 2008 GCSAA Delegate.

You can register online at www.bernhard.co.uk/gcsaa-registration.0.html or call (888) 474-6348. Deadline for applications is Nov. 14, 2008. Bernhard and Company will notify the winners by Dec. 5, 2008.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Fall . . . almost. Thanks to plentiful clouds and rain, the first half of August brought us a nice little break from what had been a pretty hot summer, and now we can get ready for the real thing. Sometime between your reading of this issue of *Tee to Green* and the next, our first taste of cool weather will arrive, and we'll start down the path that takes us through some of southeast Texas' best golf weather.

Before I look too far ahead, though, I want to look back a little and say "Thanks!" to Terry Gill and BraeBurn Country Club for being such gracious hosts for our 2008 Superintendent/Pro or Member/Member Tournament.

I didn't get to play this time around, but I know Terry and I know BraeBurn, so I know what kind of job they did to make us feel welcome. Those thoughts are reinforced from what I've been told by people who did play—I've heard nothing but great things. The greens were smooth and firm and the speeds just right, highlighting what we all know is a great course.

And the food . . . I've heard the prime rib and pork tenderloin were mouth-watering main events, which, of course, left me a little envious.

Congratulations, by the way, to all those who came out winners (results can be found on page 7), a description that might fit anyone who played. We strive to make the tournament one of our most enjoyable events of the year, and I'm quite sure we filled that bill this year.

And now, back to the future. With September upon us, so, too,

is the annual LSGCSA Texas Trophy. This time around, it's in Victoria (see the front page for details), just a hop, skip and a couple of jumps away. I hope plenty of our members turn out for it, and I know we'll all be prepared for the fun on the driving range, given the participation we've had in the long drive competition at our monthly meetings.

I'm also hoping South Texas will take bragging rights away from the North Texas GCSA . . . I know we can. Success is almost totally dependent upon drive and persistence. The extra energy required to make another effort or try another approach is the secret of winning. If you enter every activity without giving mental recognition to the possibility of defeat, concentrate on your strengths instead of your weaknesses and on your powers, instead of your problems, you (and we) can master every task we face.

Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence. Knowing the members of the STGCSA, I know we can win.

On another note, please mark your calendars for our annual Ball Game Family Night on September 25. That's just two days after

continued on next page



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Lone Star Representatives

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September Meeting For you, your family and your friends.

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Minute Maid Park

Houston Astros vs. Cincinnati Reds

First Pitch: 7:05 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per ticket for members.

Tickets limited to eight (8) per member.

\$20 per ticket for additional guests (above 8).

Please order your tickets by September 8 by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 or by e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net.

the Texas Trophy, so plan accordingly and come join the fun. It may make for a busy week, but both events are well worth your efforts.

Another thing the Fall brings is our election of new officers and board members. I am calling for those select few members who are interested to come serve their Chapter. If you fit that description, take action . . . we need participation, and those who take the "next step" will find the challenges worthwhile and the accomplishments rewarding.

You can call me or any current officer or board member to discuss the possibilities. We've had a great year, we have great forward momentum . . . you can help us continue down that path.

— Roger Goetsch, CGCS

Membership Moves

Four members of the staff at Whispering Pines Golf Club have joined the STGCSEA, headed by Golf Course Superintendent *Michael Dieckhoff* and *Stephen Tucker*, senior assistant superintendent. Also joining are assistant superintendents *Zach Rosado* and *Clint Evans*.

Steve Yarotsky is now the golf course superintendent at Moody Gardens Golf Club. Cypress Lakes Golf Club's newest assistant superintendent is *Scott Woodard*.

Jeremiah Wankowski has joined the Timber Creek Golf Club staff as an equipment technician, and *Kevin Jordan* is now a technician at Gleannloch Pines Golf Club.



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Out of Bounds: Low water use ground covers

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

There may come a time when a golf course superintendent will want to change an area from Bermudagrass or other turfgrass to landscape plants that require little irrigation, are low maintenance, and will not produce shade problems in the future.

Low water use ground covers are a perfect alternative for turfgrass. Some of the reasons to switch turfgrass areas to an ornamental ground covers include:

- eliminating high maintenance areas that are difficult to mow.
- replacing turfgrass that is suffering from too much shade.
- reducing the need for herbicide applications in areas where turfgrass is thin.
- removing areas that are an ongoing source of pests or diseases.

Fall is the perfect time for planting in the Houston area because soil temperatures are warm enough to permit root growth. In addition, day lengths are short and temperatures are low, resulting in a reduced need to irrigate newly installed plants. October through November provide the best times to plant cold hardy perennials in Houston.

The Harris County Extension Horticulture Program, in collaboration with Kingwood Country Club and Wagner Horticulture, evaluated a recently introduced drought tolerant ornamental grass.

In October 2007, *Lomandra longifoli*, 'Breeze,' was planted at Kingwood Country Club. The planting site was in full sun with a heavy clay soil on a very steep incline.

The site had no preparation before planting except that it was sprayed with glyphosate to burn down existing weeds. The 4.5-inch container plants were installed and watered a total of three times. After 11 months, all plants have survived, are pest free, and have filled in beautifully.

The plants listed below are good replacements for turfgrass. They require minimal amounts of irrigation after installation, especially if installed during the Fall.

- *Bulbine frutescens* – Bulbine

continued on page 7

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Technicians at it again

The South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association's technicians gathered at Kingwood Country Club on July 29 for their summer meeting and a day of discussion about shop efficiency.

Guest speakers at the meeting were Robert Nichols, equipment manager at TPC Craig's Ranch in McKinney and David Shirk, service manager for Professional Turf Products. They came loaded with tons of information and ideas to help the Chapter's technicians improve their operations. You can believe me when I say that these guys have perfected the art of shop organization.

The STGCSA's technicians left the meeting armed with new knowledge and methods to help provide their superintendents and facilities with well run and well organized shops.

I would like to thank Kingwood Country Club for hosting the meeting, and Brookside Equipment, Luber Brothers and Professional Turf Products for their continued support of our organization.

I'd also like to send a special "Thank You!" to John Freeman for an excellent lunch and all the time and effort he has expended to help the Technician's Association succeed.

The group's next meeting will take place in December. We are in the process of working out all the details, so watch for more information on the STGCSA web site and in upcoming issues of *Tee to Green*.

— Lynn Lovett

IMPORTANT!

If you had previously marked your calendar to attend the 2008 STGCSA Annual Meeting at The Houstonian Country Club on Tuesday, Nov. 11, you need to make an adjustment.

The meeting will still be held at The Houstonian, but will now take place on Monday, Nov. 10, 2008.

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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.

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Kelly Morgan & Jordan Fain	67
Terry Gill & Ken McDonald	68

Net

Jason Harsh & Glen Childers	61.50
Ben Hutchins & Steve Shinn	63.22
Kevin Lyles & Darren Whitney	63.50

Member - Member

Gross

Sean Wilson & Paul Tessman	67
Mark Haven & Jeff Blume	67
Bret Barclay & Kent Knowles	72
Alan Hess & Travis Klosterboer	72

Net

Bill Taylor & Justin Lonon	61.25
Pat Johnston & Jeff Smelser	61.25
Jerry Takushi & Richard Kane	64.00

SPECIAL CONTESTS

Hole	Contest	Winner
1	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Ken McGuire
2	Closest to hole	Kent Knowles
3	Closest to the hole, 2nd shot	Bret Barclay
4	Long Drive	Ben Hutchins
5	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Mark Haven
6	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Rocky Zapata
7	Closest to the hole	David Pilsner
8	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Harry Yewens
9	Long Drive	Jordan Fain
10	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Lee Gravett
11	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Dean Wilson
12	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Jerry Takushi
13	Long Drive	Dean Wilson
14	Closest to the hole	Terrell Boyd
15	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Zack Vinson
16	Closest to the hole	Mike Rhoden
17	Closest to hole, 2nd shot	Richard Flores
18	Long Drive	Jeff Jowell

OUT OF BOUNDS

continued from page 4

- *Ficus pumila* – Fig Ivy
- *Gelsemium sempervirens* – Caroline Jessamine
- *Hemerocallis spp.* – Daylily
- *Liriope muscari* – Liriope
- *Lomandra longifolia* 'Breeze' – Mat Rush
- *Ophiopogon japonicus* – Mondgrass
- *Trachelospermum asiaticum* – Asiatic Jasmine
- *Tradescantia pallida* – Purple Heart
- *Tulbaghia violacea* - Society Garlic

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<http://harris-tx.tamu.edu/hort/pubs/pubs/houstonplants.pdf>



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2008 SOUTH TEXAS GCSA EVENTS

September 21-23

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Victoria CC
Victoria

September 25 (Thursday)

Astros Game
Family Night

October 13-19

Administaff
Small Business Classic
The Woodlands CC
East Course

October 20 (Monday)

Golfcrest CC
Host Superintendent:
Lee Gravett

November 10 (Monday)

STGCSA Annual Meeting
The Houstonian CC
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.*

Our sincere gratitude

Another Superintendent/Pro & Member/Member Tournament has come and gone, and it's safe to say, as always, that a good time was had by all.

Our sponsors provide the lifeblood of our golf activities. To all the companies below (and to all the members, guests and professionals who played in the tournament), we send our sincere appreciation for supporting the STGCSA.

We truly appreciate all your support.

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