

Tee To Green

SEPTEMBER 2012



The Official Publication of the South Texas
Golf Course Superintendents Association

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July 30, 2012—Redstone Golf Club

Superintendent/Pro-Member Tournament Results

Thank you Randy Samoff and Crew for a great Tournament! The Course looked fantastic (as usual)!

Thank you to Liz Strong, Events Service Manager at Redstone for coordinating such an amazing event.

Superintendent/Pro Division	Championship Flight	
Thomas Brown/Marci Bozarth	1st	65
score card playoff		
Sean Wilson/Toby Grubert	2nd	65
score card playoff		
Randy Samoff/Brett Nutt	3rd	66
score card playoff		
Steve Holley/Tim Loidice		
Score card playoff	4th	66

Superintendent/Pro Division	First Flight	
Mike Rhoden/Troy Schleicher	1st	72
scorecard playoff		
Jesus Polio/Zack Vinson	2nd	72
scorecard playoff		
Cale Shrock/Tyson Stittleburge	3rd	73
scorecard playoff		
Junior Schuette/Nester DelGado	4th	73
scorecard playoff		

Member/Member Division	Championship Flight	
Jason Ruple/Justin Lonon	1st	64
Jeff Smelser/Tony Diorio	2nd	68
Chris Webster/Brian Johnson	3rd	70
scorecard playoff		

Member/Member Division	First Flight	
Pat Johnston/Shannon Donnaway	1st	76
Pat Neuendorff/Alan Hess	2nd	78
scorecard playoff		
John Freeman/Ben Hutchins	3rd	78

Proximity Events

Hole 1 Closest 2nd shot 13+ Hcp
Kevin Hill
Hole 2 Closest 2nd shot 0-12.9 Hcp
Doug Browne
Hole 3 Long Drive 13+ Hcp
Jack Hargrove
Hole 4 Closest to Hole 13+ Hcp
Bobby Holt
Hole 5 Closest 2nd shot 13+ Hcp
Brandon Cole
Hole 6 Long Drive 0-12.9 Hcp
Marci Bozarth
Hole 7 Closest to Hole All Players
Carl Tolbert
Hole 8 Closest to Hole 0-12.9 Hcp
Braeden Riley
Hole 9 Closest to Hole 2nd shot 0-12.9 Hcp
Richard Kane



Redstone's Assistant, Thomas Brown and Pro, Marci Bozarth take first place in the Supt/Pro Division, Championship Flight



Willow Creek Superintendent, Mike Rhoden and Pro Troy Schleicher win first in the Supt/Pro Division, First Flight

Hole 10 Long Drive 13+ Hcp
Cody Spivey
Hole 11 Closest to Hole 13+ Hcp
Brandon Cole
Hole 12 Closest to Hole All Players
Thomas Brown
Hole 13 Closest to Hole 0-12.9 Hcp
Bret Nutt
Hole 14 Closest to Hole 0-12.9 Hcp
Derek Clouse
Hole 15 Closest to Hole 2nd shot 13+ Hcp
Bob Cook
Hole 16 Closest to Hole 2nd shot 0-12 Hcp
Jeff Smelser
Hole 17 Closest to Hole 13+ Hcp
Brandon Cole
Hole 18 Long Drive 0-12 Hcp
Tony Diorio



Weston Lakes Superintendent, Shannon Dannoway and Affiliate Member, Pat Johnston with BWI, win first place in the Member/Member Division, First Flight



Jason Ruple, Affiliate Member with Turf Technologies and Superintendent, Justin Lonon of April Sound GC, win First in the Member/Member Division, Championship Flight

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Everyone talks about the weather, but no one does anything about it." – Mark Twain



The dog days of summer are upon us. My course is showing the limits of its irrigation system. I'm ready for the next round of rain. How about you?

I hated to miss the Superintendent/Pro, Member/Member tournament. I understand the course was in excellent shape and that Randy and his staff made us feel very welcome. My wife had emergency surgery and was dismissed from the hospital the day of the event. She is on the mend and my thanks go to all who prayed for her healing.

Scholarship forms were due by September 1st. I hope all who were interested were timely in submitting their applications. Remember that official transcripts must be received by October 1st or the application is not valid.

Superintendent of the Year nominations are due September 30th. If you believe one of our superintendent members deserves this recognition, please send in a nomination! Nominations are welcome from vendors as well as fellow superintendents. General Managers, Pros, Green Committee Chairmen all can nominate their superintendent as well.

By the time you get this we will have gone through the strategic plan exercise. While the association has been very successful it's always a good thing to examine the past and look to the future with a strong sense of purpose. We will share the discussion and high points at the annual meeting. And speaking of the annual meeting.....

The annual meeting is scheduled for October 15th at Brae Burn Country Club. Terry Gill is a fantastic host and always provides a great spread, not to mention a great golf course. Serving on the board requires extra time, effort, and sacrifice and sometimes means making decisions that can be unpopular. I can't emphasize how important it is for us to have a high level of attendance for this meeting. If you don't make any other meeting, please make plans to be there for this one. It's only \$15 to come for the meeting and lunch so even if you don't play golf afterwards we really encourage you to make time for the election and year end information. We covet your input, especially your vote.

It is too late to put a biography in this newsletter but it's not too late to add you to the ballot if you would like to serve on the board. Contact Wade Warms if you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board. On that note, I must congratulate Johnny Walker for his nomination for the GCSAA Board of Directors. It is an honor to have "one of our own" running for office to represent the State of Texas.

My year as president is rapidly coming to a close. It seems like it has been a whirlwind year. I have received a lot of encouragement, a little criticism, a little advice, and a few questions. Pat the board members on the back and let them know you appreciate their efforts. Don't hesitate to contact me for any reason. mhaven@rec.tamu.edu @bcsgreenkeeper cell 979-224-0184

P.S. I am trying to figure out how to make the Christmas Party entertaining within the confines of my somewhat stoic personality. More information soon.

Meeting Schedule

October 15, 2012—Annual Meeting
Brae Burn Country Club

December 2012—Annual Awards
Banquet and Christmas Party TBA

January 22, 2013—Stephen F. Austin
GC

**GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW-San Diego
Convention Center**

February 1-3 GCSAA National Cham-
pionship and Golf Classic

February 4-8 Education Conference &
Golf Industry Show

March 26, 2013—High Meadow
Ranch GC: Annual Scholarship
Tournament

April 2013—Chapter Championship

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Doug Hamman—Asst. Supt.-
Woodlands/Player Course

Bill Tanner-GM—PTP

Ben Hutchins-Supt-River Plantation

Jeff Smith is now the Owner of
Turfsmith



Running for 2013 STGCSA
President: Sean Wilson,
CGCS.

Sean has been the Superin-
tendent at The Club at Falcon

Point for 8 years. He has been a superintendent in
Texas for 16 years, serving on his chapters' Board of
Directors for 8 years.

**Running for
Executive
Board 2013**



Running for 2013 Vice President is
Blayne Sparks, the Superintendent at
The Wilderness GC. He has been on
the Board for 6 years. "It has been my
honor and privilege to serve our chap-
ter. I would like to thank the members

of our organization for the opportunity to repre-
sent them and I would like to ask for their continued
support throughout this next year."

Candidates for STGCSA Board of Directors— 2013



Running for Secretary/Treasurer and/or Board Director: 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 Board Director: Ben Fultz, Superintendent at Valley Crest at Wildcat GC.

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



Running for Reelection: Jeff McCrory: Superintendent of Quail Valley Golf Club. Jeff was a paramedic and police officer from 1981-1992. He served as president of the N. Texas Paramedic Assoc., and was also a Board Member on the Texas Search and Rescue Team. He has served STGCSA for 2 years and would like to continue to help the chapter.



Running for Board of Directors: Jeff Smelser, Superintendent 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.



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.

The Board of Directors is proposing to make a change to the by-laws. We are proposing to roll back the number of board members to the original charter level. Much of the daily duties that were once on the shoulders of board members are now performed by Marian. By reducing the number of board members we shorten the tenure required for a board member to serve through the executive committee and therefore should reduce burnout and make it more appealing to serve on the board. We are also proposing to eliminate term limits for vendors. See below the proposed bylaw change for 2013 that will be on the ballot at the annual meeting.

Proposed By Law Change—2013

Current:

Article VII. Government:

Sec. 1 The conduct of affairs of the association shall be vested in the Board of Directors consisting of twelve (12) members, Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and six (6) Directors, and two (2) affiliates in a non-voting capacity. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee (Past President, President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer) shall be Class A Superintendents or Superintendent Members of the GCSAA.

Sec. 2. Three (3) directors and one (1) affiliate shall be elected for two (2) year terms each year. The affiliate directors are limited to two (2) consecutive terms of office, and are elected by the Affiliate Membership.

Proposed:

Article VII. Government:

Sec. 1 The conduct of affairs of the association shall be vested in the Board of Directors consisting of nine (9) members, Past President, President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and three (3) Directors; and two (2) Affiliate Directors in a non-voting capacity. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors and the entire Executive Committee (Past President, President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer) shall be Class A Superintendents or Superintendent Members of the GCSAA.

Sec. 2. One (1) Director shall be elected for a three (3) year term each year. One Affiliate Director shall be elected for a two (2) year term each year. Affiliate Directors shall be elected by the Affiliate Membership.



golf industry show

2013—SAN DIEGO Convention Center

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August 1, 2012—Housing Registration Opens

February 1-3, 2013

Golf Tournament

February 4-8, 2013

Education Conference and Show

www.golfindustryshow.com

Schedule

What's new for 2013

New condensed event schedule

In response to attendee feedback, you can now participate in the tournament and the conference and show from Monday to Friday, and still be back home in time for the weekend!

New one-day fun event at the tournament

New this year, join your peers on Monday for a day of fun in the sun playing the game you love. And you don't have to be signed up for other tournament events to participate.

New day and times for some popular events

Be sure to check the schedule for updates to the Welcoming Reception, Opening Session, Celebrating Certification, and Annual Meeting and Election.

16 new seminars

Sixteen new seminars have been added to the lineup for San Diego, including new offerings from some of GCSAA's most popular faculty members.



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In Memory of
 King Hill
 November 8, 1936 - July 14, 2012



Stuart King Hill of Spring TX, passed away Saturday, July 14, 2012 at the age of 75, after a long battle with Multiple Myeloma. Former Rice All-American King Hill, was a multi-sport star. Playing football, basketball, and golf, he began with the Brazosport Exporters, then with the Rice Owls, leading to the No. 1 pick in the 1958 NFL draft. After 35 years as a player and coach with the NFL, King served as the Director of Marketing for Tour 18 Augusta Pines Golf Club.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications can be found on the home page of the website.

(www.stgcsa.org)

Application deadline is:
 September 1, 2012

Official Transcript deadline is:
 October 1, 2012

Firm, Resilient Fairways Require a Commitment to Thatch Control

The USGA Green Section has always been a proponent of firmer, drier turf on golf

courses. Controlling thatch is just one aspect of firm fairways, but it is a crucial element: by, Adam Moeller

Many golf courses are adjusting their turf management philosophies to emphasize firmer surfaces as an integral part of good golf conditions. Achieving these conditions, though, is much easier said than done because there are many variables involved. Sandy soils that drain well allow for firmer conditions much more often than heavy-textured clay soils that tightly retain moisture. Automatic overhead irrigation system efficiency and hand watering capabilities (i.e., labor) also largely influence how firm or soft a golf course can be consistently maintained. Finally, organic matter content, also known as thatch, dramatically impacts golf course firmness, which is the focus of this article. Thatch is a combination of living and dead plant material and is a natural byproduct of growing healthy turf. A reasonable amount of thatch is needed for traffic tolerance, but too much is a major agronomic and playability concern. Mismanagement of turf contributes to excessive thatch buildup, leading to soft conditions. Excessive use of fertilizer and irrigation are two controllable factors leading to rapid thatch accumulation. Grass species also plays a major role. For instance, creeping bentgrass and bermudagrass produce more thatch than perennial ryegrass or annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). That being said, infrequent or inadequate cultivation is usually the underlying reason for excess thatch. Golfers may not care for cultivation (i.e., core aeration, vertical mowing) practices on fairways because of the temporary disruption they cause, but without them it will be difficult to control thatch and produce firm surfaces. Golf courses less interested in firmness should still be cognizant of thatch levels because excessive amounts can lead to serious turf problems. Along with soft conditions, excessive thatch leads to poor root development, greater disease and insect pressure, reduced pesticide efficacy, and increased mower scalping. Moisture-related issues are also common with too much thatch. Thatchy turf will stay wet and soggy following rain or irrigation because it holds moisture very tightly. During dry conditions, excessive thatch impedes uniform water movement into the soil, often leading to localized dry spots that are very difficult to rewet. Simply put, too much thatch leads to poor golf conditions and turf more vulnerable to decline.

Thatch Removal with core aeration and vertical mowing

Core aeration and vertical mowing are routinely used on putting greens to remove thatch from the upper rootzone profile. These same tools are effective for thatch control on fairways. Both core aeration and vertical mowing physically remove thatch from the turf and soil, causing temporary surface disruption and often golfer displeasure. However, without any surface disruption, it is unlikely that thatch will be controlled effectively, and golf conditions will suffer at some point. Temporary reductions in turf quality from cultivation are a necessary part of producing high-quality playing surfaces. As the saying goes, you cannot make an omelet without cracking a few eggs, and this is also true with thatch removal programs. Advancements in large aeration equipment have greatly improved the effectiveness of fairway core aeration and thatch removal over the past two decades. Aeration equipment for fairways can create many holes per unit area and penetrate deeper into the soil than equipment used in the past. Due to these advancements, a greater volume of soil from cores is brought to the surface, essentially serving as topdressing. However, the soil brought to the surface can be messy and challenging to work into the turf, especially when wet. Cleaning the debris left from core aeration is also easier and more effective because of the improvements in core harvesting equipment. In the Northeast region, core aeration typically is performed once or twice annually in the spring and early fall. Deep vertical mowing with tractor-mounted equipment (e.g., Graden, Sisis, First Products) can also be very effective in removing thatch from fairways. This process aggressively removes thatch and old plant material from the surface in addition to grooming the turf and promoting upright growth with less grain. Vertical mowing typically creates more debris than core aeration, but because the amount of soil brought to the surface is often minimal, sweepers or blowers are commonly used with good success. Windrowing the debris towards the center of the fairway is an excellent way to efficiently clean the surface and prevent contaminating the rough with fairway grasses. Aggressive vertical mowing is commonly used once or twice annually in the spring and fall. Other successful vertical mowing programs for thatch removal involve the use of fairway mowers set up with vertical mowing reels. Typically, fairway mowers with vertical mowing reels are less aggressive because they do not generate significant downward pressure, limiting their penetration depth. However, these units are normally used four to six times annually, often with similar results and less surface disruption than deep vertical mowing. Vertical mowing in two directions is common and has a light to moderate penetration depth. Regardless of the method that is used, core aeration or vertical mowing, these programs work for thatch removal and should be performed annually. Some golf courses may only need one cultivation event each year, while others with more thatch will need two or more. Solid- and deep-tine aeration, slicing, spiking, or similar cultural practices are very beneficial programs for fairways as well. These practices do not cause much surface disruption and are quicker to perform than core aeration or vertical mowing. However, these units are not effective for thatch removal and should only be used as a supplement to a sound core aeration or vertical mowing program.

Thatch Dilution With Sand Topdressing

Sand topdressing is another option for thatch control on fairways through dilution and increased microbial degradation. Golf courses in the Pacific Northwest have been topdressing fairways extensively for two decades to control thatch, but mostly because of the drainage and firmness benefits (Gilhuly, 1990). In recent years, fairway topdressing has become more common across North America. Fairway topdressing programs are most beneficial when they are used in a fashion similar to putting green topdressing programs, through light and frequent applications to uniformly dilute thatch accumulation, which is based on turf growth rate during the growing season. (continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8) Heavy, infrequent topdressing applications to fairways will create many layers in the soil profile, which reduces the benefits of the program. Fairway topdressing application rates vary slightly, but research and field observations suggest sand applied at 5-10 tons per acre for each month of active turf growth, totaling 30-60 tons per acre over the entire season in the Northeast region, thoroughly dilutes thatch and improves drainage significantly over time (Zontek, 2005; Skorulski et al., 2010). Research performed at the University of Connecticut has shown that topdressing sand particle size distribution is not overly important to achieve benefits in surface firmness or soil moisture retention compared to total volume of sand applied annually (Skorulski et al., 2010). This research is very useful because sands with finer particles (e.g., mason sands) are often less expensive than sands used to topdress putting greens (generally slightly coarser with wider distribution of particle sizes) but can still provide positive results. However, it is prudent to thoroughly test the native soil and topdressing sand for compatibility and avoid switching to topdressing sands that have a particle distribution that is finer than fairway topdressing sand used previously. The costs of fairway topdressing programs vary widely, depending upon sand availability and shipping costs. On average, fairway topdressing sand may cost between \$10 to \$25 a ton. In order to achieve an adequate amount of sand on an annual basis (30-60 tons per acre), the cost of sand alone could be around \$7,500 to \$37,500 for a golf course with 25 acres of fairways. Large topdressing equipment is also a necessity, and these machines can easily range between \$20,000 to \$30,000. Obviously, a large expense is required to topdress fairways, but the benefits are significant and justify the program for many facilities. Unfortunately, golf courses occasionally fail to plan for the long-term costs of fairway topdressing, which can lead to the program being abandoned after a few years. Once a fairway topdressing program is started, it should be continued annually. If the program isn't sustainable long term, topdressing until a two- to three-inch sand layer has been created will allow for sandy soil brought to the surface from core aeration to be used as topdressing. However, it likely will take five or more years before this layer is created. If there are concerns with the long-term costs of a fairway topdressing program, topdressing the approaches or particularly soft, wet fairways before expanding the program to all of the fairways is a good place to start.

CORE AERATION AND SAND TOPDRESSING

A primary goal with fairway topdressing is to build a layer above the native soil with improved drainage and resistance to compaction. Assuming the native soil drains poorly, aeration cores brought to the surface that are dragged back in will reduce the drainage properties of the developing sand topdressing layer. Clearly, this would reduce the positive effects of the fairway topdressing program, and at least temporarily replacing core aeration with solid-tine aeration is often the best approach. Once a sufficient sand layer (at least two to three inches in depth) is created, core aeration can resume, but the goal should be to avoid intermixing soil cores into the sand topdressing layer. Again, it may take five-plus years until a sufficient sand topdressing layer develops, so other practices to promote rooting, remove thatch, and alleviate compaction become of greater importance since core aeration is temporarily suspended. Deep-tine aeration does not remove thatch, but it improves rooting and alleviates compaction, so this is a good practice to use as a complement to solid-tine aeration. Vertical mowing to remove thatch is another important supplement to solid-tine aeration. However, for the reasons mentioned above, the vertical mowing depth should be shallow enough to avoid intermixing the native soil and the sand topdressing layer. One potential concern with fairway topdressing is creating a distinct layer between the native soil and the sand topdressing layer. In agronomy, layers in the soil profile often are detrimental, but the goal of fairway topdressing is to build a better soil above the poorly draining native soil. Properly implemented, this layer should only have positive implications. For those who want to avoid a distinct layer between the native soils and the sand topdressing layer, creating a zone of transition may be an option. A zone of transition is a gradual shift, from the native soils to the sand topdressing layer. This is created fairly easily but is only an option for those with native soils that drain reasonably well. Core aeration can be performed for the first year or two of the fairway topdressing program, intermixing these soils together. After a period of time, core aeration is suspended while topdressing resumes, adding straight sand on top of the layer of intermixed native soil and sand topdressing. Many golf courses have had excellent results without creating a zone of transition, so it is not a necessity. Furthermore, if the native soils do not drain reasonably well, creating a zone of transition will only delay the developing benefits of fairway topdressing. Keep in mind, what works for one facility is not always right for others. If questions arise on any of these complex points, work with your local USGA Green Section agronomist to develop and monitor these programs.

CONCLUSION

The USGA Green Section has always been a proponent of firmer, drier turf on golf courses. Controlling thatch is just one aspect of firm fairways, but it is a crucial element. Core aeration, vertical mowing, and topdressing are tools to help maintain firm, healthy, and resilient fairways. The intricacies of these programs are variable across the country, but the golf courses that have been successful at producing firm, healthy fairways are the ones that have committed to these programs.



See photos that go along with this article at: <http://gsr.lib.msu.edu/article/moeller-firm-7-6-12.pdf>

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Annual Meeting Schedule

October 15, 2013

Brae Burn Country Club

9-10 am: Registration

10-11 am

Annual Meeting, Voting of 2013 Board of Directors, Voting of Superintendent of the Year 2012

11-11:45 am: Lunch

11:30-12:20 Range is Open

12:30 pm: Shotgun Start

RSVP to stgcsa@stgcsa.org

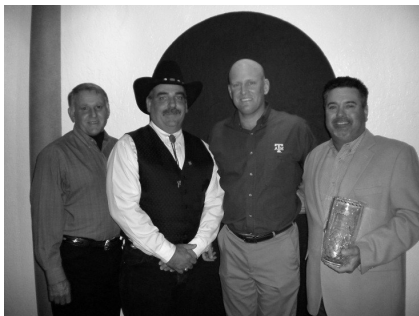
Or on our website at: www.stgcsa.org

Nominations Now Being Accepted for Superintendent of the Year 2013

Posted on the home page of the Chapter web site, (www.stgcsa.org), is a nomination form. STGCSA members may nominate a fellow Superintendent as well as any Course/Club GM, Pro or Committee Chairman. The deadline for submitting a nomination will be Sept. 30, 2012.

Nomination letters will be read to the members at our annual meeting. The members will then vote for their choice as the recipient of the 2012 award, and the honor will be announced during a presentation ceremony at the 2012 STGCSA Awards Banquet and Awards Ceremony in

December.



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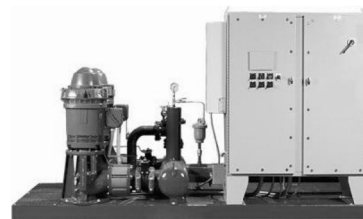
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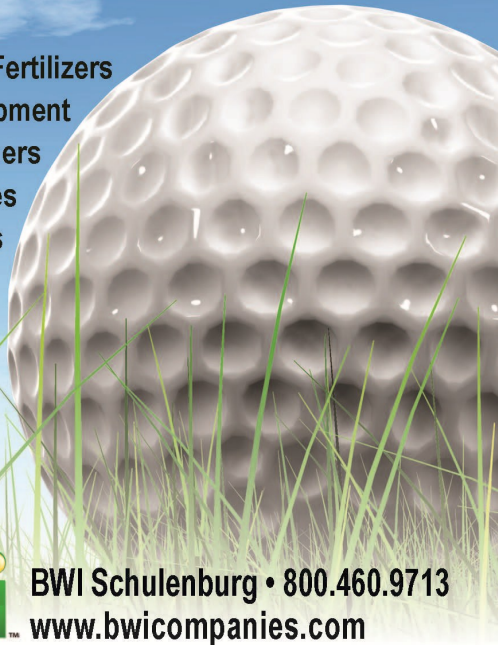
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