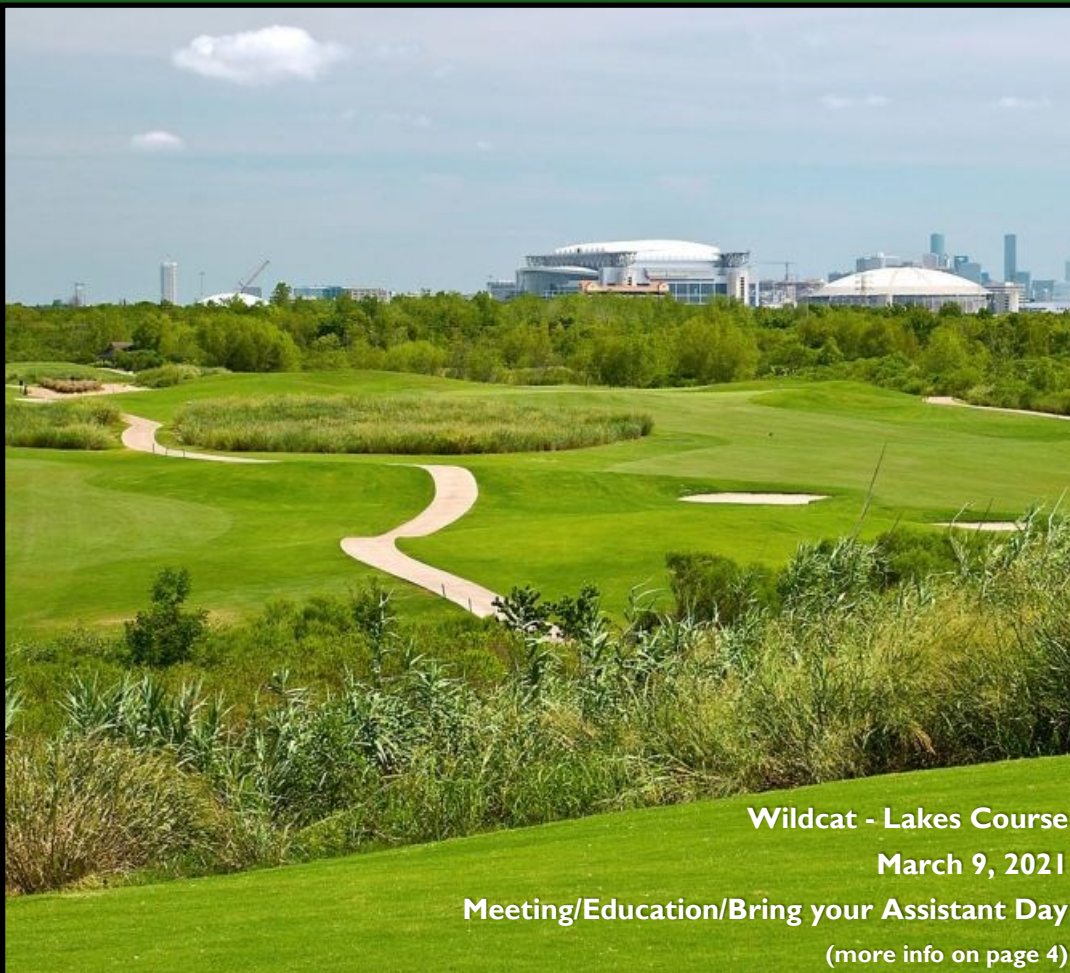




TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Wildcat - Lakes Course

March 9, 2021

Meeting/Education/Bring your Assistant Day

(more info on page 4)

2021 Meeting Schedule
(Dates & Locations Subject to Change)

March 9, 2021

Meeting/Education

Wildcat - Lakes Course

April 13, 2021

Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club

May 18, 2021

Meeting/Education
Sugar Creek Country Club

June 21, 2021

Chapter Championship
Golfcrest Country Club

July 26, 2021

M/G/G/G
Memorial Park Golf Course

August 31, 2021

Supt/Pro - Mbr/Mbr
Whispering Pines

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jason Barrington - President STGCSA



It is hard to believe that March has arrived. I tell you what though, I have never been more ready for winter to be over than I am this year. Living in South Texas, we are not supposed to have the kind of cold weather we had in late February. As I was watching the 10 day forecast and watched the low temps keep getting lower and lower, I definitely had an uneasy feeling. When I lived in Central AR there were numerous times we had very low temperatures, so being that far north, covers were a must; There were times we would have to have them covered for two plus weeks. So, when I saw the lows in the single digits I knew we would have to make sure we had plenty of moisture in the greens and then use the cold to ice them over. Even though the weather forecast called for snow/ice, I was not going to leave it to chance. We watered greens a couple nights in a row to make sure they were completely saturated, and then watered them on Sunday to ice them over. We decided to shut the pump station down and drain everything possible. We are very happy we did since the electricity was going in and out so frequently. Fortunately, the snow stayed around until Saturday and protected us from our coldest overnight temps. In College Station we had a low of 5 with a wind chill of -8. I am thankful we had the ice and snow to help protect the greens during our 86 hours of below freezing. In a couple of weeks we all should be able to see how well we survived the cold.

As we look to the next quarter it will be great to get out to our next meeting at Wildcat. I am hopeful that we will have a good number of assistant superintendents join us for education and golf. Lets all reach out to someone who has not attended a meeting in a while and see if we can get them involved. We will still be requiring everyone to wear a mask. You all have been in my prayers. I have been praying that we all make it through the extreme cold with little to no turf loss. I know we have some of the most creative and best Superintendents in the business. I look forward to seeing everyone on March 9th and look forward to hearing stories, the different methods used to prepare for the cold, and what you all did to help the greens recover.

See you soon,

Jason Barrington



South Texas Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Welcome New/Returning Members!!!!

Patrick Carpenter - VP @ Liberty Materials, Inc. & Monarch Silica

Henry Miller - Superintendent @ Beaumont Golf at Brentwood Entertainment Complex

Kyle Neilan - Assistant Superintendent @ Panorama Golf Club

Terry Colston - Consultant @ Turf Specialties Texas

Michael Burris - Superintendent @ Stonebridge Newport

Aaron Engelhard - Superintendent @ BraeBurn Country Club.

Bill Czekai - Superintendent @ Pecan Grove Country Club

We welcome you to the Association!!!!

**THANK YOU TO OUR
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Member News

Do you have any news to share such as:

A Job Promotion?

Hosting a Major Tournament?

Moving Jobs?

Getting Married?

Birth Announcements?

Etc.?

Please email Carrie Cole at stgcsa@stgcsa.org so we can share the latest news and get to know our fellow members!

Meeting & Education

March 9, 2021

Host: Chris Teafatiller



WILDCAT
GOLF CLUB

Speaker: Brian Cloud, Cloud Golf & Turf Services

Topic: Safety and Compliance in the Golf Course
Maintenance Workplace

Bring your Assistant Day!

We would like to encourage all Superintendents to bring your Assistant(s) for a complimentary meeting, education, & lunch! If your Assistant would like to play golf, it will be a \$40 charge.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

South Texas GCSA, Inc. 2021 Schedule of Events

Dates and Sites Subject to Change

March 9, 2021

Meeting/Education

Wildcat - Lakes Course

April 13, 2021

Scholarship Tournament

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club

May 18, 2021

Meeting/Education

Sugar Creek Country Club

June 21, 2021

Chapter Championship

Golfcrest Country Club

July 26, 2021

M/G/G/G

Memorial Park Golf Course

August 31, 2021

Supt/Pro - Mbr/Mbr

Whispering Pines

All other meetings for 2021 TBA

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT & LIVE AUCTION

April 13, 2021

Host: Steven Chernosky



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2021 South Texas GCSA, Inc. Scholarship Application



The 2021 Scholarship Awards Ceremony Date & Location TBA

The application deadline is May 1, 2021 with transcripts due July 1, 2021

Send all documents by email or mail. Transcripts need to be mailed directly to:

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[Click Here for the 2021 STGCSA Scholarship Application](#)

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Whether from hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding or wildfires, GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf have established a relief effort for victims. This effort will focus on providing support directly to the GCSAA members who suffer personal loss due to disasters. GCSAA's deepest thoughts and prayers go out to those whose lives are affected by such tragedies.

GCSAA will provide financial assistance up to \$2,000 to members who contact the association (via phone or email) and whose daily lives are altered by the effects of the natural disaster and meet any of the following criteria:

Have had to relocate/evacuate (whether they are staying with family, friends or in a motel) from their homes.

Remain in their homes, but lose basic necessities such as electricity, water, etc. which lead to unexpected financial burden.

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Cypress Lakes Golf Club Results Meeting/Chili Cook-off/Golf & Corn Hole Tournament

January 18, 2021 Host: Wade Warmes, CGCS

1st Place

Gross: 67

Steve Gilley
Jim Garrett



1st Place Net:

63.5

Ben Dickerson
Jason Burgess



Corn Hole

1st Place

Junior Schuette
Pat Johnston



Corn Hole

2nd Place

Cody Skarpa
Colt Phillips



2020 Top 10 Winners:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| #1 Brandon Cole | #2 Steven Chernosky |
| #3 David Gray | #4 Tanner Chrastecky |
| #5 Jason Burgess | #6 Chris Mrosko |
| #7 Pat Neuendorff | #8 Jim Garrett |
| #9 Pat Johnston | #10 Chris Webster |

Proximity Winners:

- CTP - Kevin Cloud
- LD - Carl Tolbert
- LD - Bill Tanner

Congratulations!

2021 Chili Cook-off Winners



1st Place



Keith Watson

2nd Place



Brandon Cole

3rd Place



Sam Cocke



2021



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- Communications and Outreach Award
- Innovative Conservation Award



NEW DATES

One winner and two runners-up will be recognized for each of the four awards. An individual can only win one award per year. Applications will open **February 1, 2021** and will close **April 30, 2021**.

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GCSAA Field Staff Representative

John Walker - South Central Region

Before joining the GCSAA staff, John Walker was a superintendent, 30-year GCSAA member and past GCSAA board director.

JWalker@gcsaa.org

713-557-0279

SNOVID-21

by Johnny Walker | Feb 24, 2021

Winter weather in Texas does not usually start until December or January for most years. We Texans know that February is usually our coldest month of the winter. A typical cold spell for us would be a few degrees below freezing for a night or two. A hard freeze would be temperatures in the low 20's for 2 or 3 nights with the daytime temperatures back into the upper 30's. The week after Valentine's Day this year reminded us what a real winter storm is like.

It started on Sunday, February 15 and did not let up until Saturday, February 21. We started with temperatures in the single digits and low teens across the entire state. On Monday, all 254 counties in Texas received some amount of snow ranging from a foot deep in West Texas to a couple of inches on the beaches of Galveston. Temperatures remained in the low teens or single digits for several days, and many parts of the state did not get above freezing for 72 hours. We did what we could to prepare for this storm but we had no idea that electricity would be an issue.

On Sunday, February 15 is when the first rolling blackouts started throughout the state. My wife and I lost power Sunday night and it did not come back on for 10 hours. Later, on Monday night, we lost power again for 38 hours. I have heard reports that some people went 4 days in a row without any electricity.

Here is what happened to the power grid of Texas: Our grid separated from the main grid of the United States a few decades ago so that federal regulations would not be imposed, so that our power system could be deregulated and privatized with for-profit, private generating plants. Many of these private plants were not winterized for this storm and had to go offline due to their plants freezing. Our wind turbines also began to freeze up and could not generate any power. Our power grid was reduced to more than 50 percent reduction of power in the worst winter storm in over 75 years.

It will be months before we can sort out all of the things that went wrong with the power during this storm, but without power during this cold spell many, many homes, businesses and schools had frozen pipes due to the lack of heat because of no electricity. When the temperature began to warm and pipes began to thaw is when we realized the extent of the frozen pipes. In the southern part of the state, most home and small businesses have the water lines installed in the attic because we just don't usually get that cold in the winter. There is usually enough ambient heat from the house to keep the attic warm enough to keep the water lines from freezing.

Needless to say, when the pipes thawed and the water began to flow in the attic, a lot of damage occurred with ceilings and walls falling down. This also caused a major drop in water supply in medium to large cities which caused the water to be turned off. You would think that severe cold temperatures, no electricity, no heat and no water and thousands of dollars of damage to people's homes and businesses would be enough for us to deal with.

The last gut punch was the electric bills that started showing up just days after the storm. Many, many people had electric bills for one month that was in the thousands of dollars and there were several reports of some homeowners being charged over \$10,000 for service that was not reliable. This was a storm that we will not forget anytime soon and hopefully changes will be made so something like this never happens again. The week after the storm the temperature was back in the 70's and 80's and we were back in our normal weather clothing of shorts and flip flops.



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Prolonging Your Pond's Retirement

Proactive solutions to help extend the lifespan of your waterbody

Written by: Gavin Ferris, Ecologist at SOLitude Lake Management

The very first fish I remember catching was a bullhead catfish. It was in a small pond in my grandparents' HOA community that is still there today. Well, sort of. Though the pond had once been deep enough for fishing and stormwater collection, its depth is now best measured in inches rather than feet. The cattails that were once clustered near the outflow are now abundant throughout the pond. Today, the waterbody resembles the nearby wetland more than it does a pond. In the 55 years of its existence, no measures have ever been taken to mitigate against the process of succession.



Lake and pond succession is the natural lifecycle of any waterbody. The very tributaries that supply a waterbody with its water also carry sediment, which over time accumulates and decreases the water depth. Aquatic weeds and nuisance vegetation decompose and create additional organic sediment. And the shallower the pond becomes, the more vegetation it produces—accelerating the aging process.

The speed at which a lake or pond becomes a marsh depends upon several different factors. Some of these factors can be controlled; others can be mitigated. But it is a future that all waterbodies will face at some point in their lifespan. This is why proactive management is not only beneficial, it's key to preserving the health, function and beauty of our freshwater resources.

A common tool recommended to HOA communities and golf courses is a beneficial vegetative buffer comprised of native flowering plants and grasses. A vegetative buffer that is allowed to grow 3-5 ft out from the shoreline can help significantly reduce the amount of surface runoff, sediment and pollution entering a lake or pond during rainstorms. Establishing similar erosion controls around streams and tributaries is also a wise precaution against transported sediment. Organic matter accumulation can be further prevented in the waterbody by applying nutrient remediation products, which process excess nutrients before they can be used to fuel algae and aquatic weeds, and introducing supplemental bacteria and enzymes, which aid in the decomposition of vegetation and bottom muck.

Another consideration relating to decreased water depth is the increase in temperatures. Shallower water warms faster, leaving it prone to excess algae growth, increased submersed and emergent vegetation growth, and oxygen depletion. Lake and pond aeration can help mitigate these issues and help slow the accumulation of organic matter. Beneficial dissolved oxygen can be produced by several types of pond aeration systems, which your aquatic management professional may recommend depending on your goals and the characteristics of your waterbody. Floating fountains provide effective circulation in shallow ponds, while submersed aeration systems oxygenate deeper waterbodies from bottom to top. And new technologies like nanobubble aeration treatments can be used supplementally alongside these systems to provide additional natural benefits, including toxic cyanobacteria control and the elimination of pollutants while encouraging the growth of native wildlife and vegetation.

Eventually, the line between a pond and a wetland becomes a little blurry; after all, a wetland without vegetation is, well, just mud. Some forms of vegetation, like cattails and Phragmites, not only thrive in late-successional ponds, but actually speed the rate at which succession occurs, so removing these nuisance plants is especially important. At the same time, it is just as important to establish and promote healthy native wetland plants in order for any form of aquatic ecosystem to persist. The species best for your situation will depend on your location and your ultimate aesthetic and functional goals.

(continued on next page)

One concern I often hear from community managers and golf course superintendents, especially those with aging ponds and shallow stormwater retention areas, is the production of mosquitoes. Certainly, shallow productive habitats are more conducive to mosquito breeding than are open water ponds. As long as sufficient water remains to sustain them, a population of fish, even minnows, will prevent mosquitoes from proliferating. Amphibian and insect predators like salamanders and dragonflies are also adept at controlling mosquitoes and can be promoted with appropriate native vegetation.



Proactive management strategies can be incredibly impactful in lakes and ponds, especially when introduced early on in the waterbody's lifespan. Eventually, though, decisions must be made about the future of a waterbody. For stormwater basins and other ponds that must meet design specifications in order to fulfill their intended function, sediment removal or dredging may eventually become a requirement. While dredging can be a tremendously expensive endeavor, a well-designed custom management plan that includes strategic hydro-raking can help prolong the need to dredge by 10 years or more and will allow you to plan for the expense gracefully.

Aging is inevitable, even for your waterbody. It is up to us to decide if and how to intervene in that process.

Gavin Ferris is an Ecologist at SOLitude Lake Management who has a keen understanding of the organisms and processes that allow a healthy ecosystem to function. He enjoys working with community managers to develop effective plans to help beautify their waterbodies. Throughout his industry career, Gavin has conducted several notable studies on aquatic wildlife, including projects on aquatic community ecology and behavioral biology, as well as invasive plant ecology and nutrient management. Gavin has a Master of Science degree in Entomology and maintains an array of industry licenses and certifications.



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12 numbers every golfer should know in 2021

45: Tiger Woods' age for the 2021 season. It's hard to fathom the 15-time major champion is only five years away from 50, but it's not hard to fathom Woods competing at a high level heading forward. Precisely how much Tiger has left in the tank is anyone's guess, but rest assured, his age will factor more into the discussion in 2021 than ever.

14: Events (including two major championships) held in the 91-day window between March 12 and June 11, the same stretch of time the PGA Tour shut down due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

\$15 million: The estimated total cost of Robert Trent Jones' renovation at Torrey Pines. The newly renovated South Course will host the 2021 U.S. Open in June.

10.8 percent: Year-over-year change in rounds played through October 2020, according to the National Golf Foundation. The NGF projects 2020 will wind up with a 12 percent increase in rounds played over 2019, the largest change in the sport since Tiger's Masters victory-fueled explosion in 1997.

21: Courses listed in GOLF's Top 100 Courses in the U.S. ranking that are available for public play! So yes, you can have your cake and eat it too.

\$1 billion: Overall equipment sales during the third quarter of 2020, the second-highest quarterly number ever for the equipment industry, according to Golf Datatech. The surge in overall sales throughout Q3 was enough to propel the gear industry over its 2019 numbers, a remarkable feat given the economic downturn of the spring.

6: Syllables in "Kasumigaseki," the name of one of Japan's oldest (and most revered) golf clubs. Kasumigaseki Country Club, which claims C.H. Alison and Tom Fazio among the brilliant architectural minds who have helped mold the course, will host the 2021 Tokyo Olympic golf tournaments in July.

Around 50,000: Estimated attendance for each day at the Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits in September. The biennial event was postponed by the PGA of America in July 2020 in order for fans to attend the event. The earliest experts estimate that large outdoor crowds can return is late summer to early fall 2021.

144 days: Time elapsed between the end of the November Masters and the first round of the 2021 Masters, currently scheduled for April 8, 2021.

48 inches: The maximum allowable driver length, per the USGA. Also, the driver length certain PGA Tour stars are toying with this offseason as they gear up for 2021.

50: Total number of events scheduled for the 2020-2021 PGA Tour season, the most since 1975.

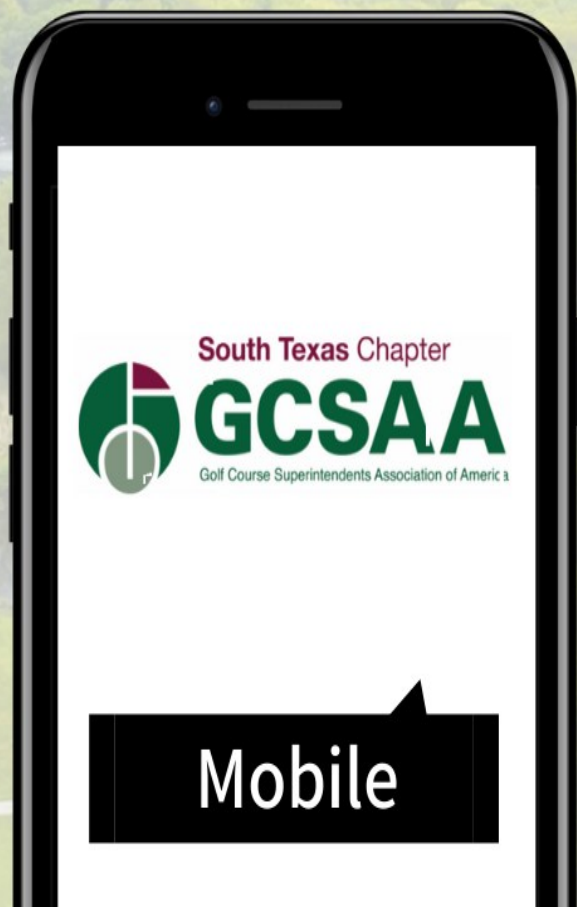
42: Total number of players in this year's Sentry Tournament of Champions in Maui, the most-ever. Sixteen additional players were added to the tournament field after organizers amended the entrance criteria to account for the PGA Tour's spring shutdown.



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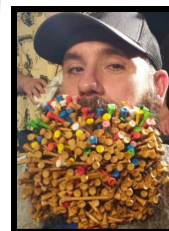


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Most golf tees in a beard:

The most golf tees in a beard is 607, and was achieved by Joel Strasser (USA) in Snoqualmie, Washington, USA, on 21 November 2019.



Joel also holds the record for most toothpicks in the beard.



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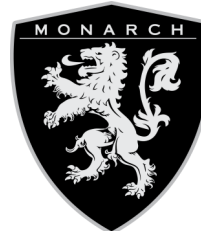
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