



TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Meeting & Education
 May 21, 2019
Golf Club of Houston
 (more info on page 9)

2019 Meeting Schedule

May 21, 2019
 Meeting & Education
Golf Club of Houston

June 18, 2019
 Chapter Championship
Raven Nest

July 22, 2019
 Member/Guest/Guest/Guest
 TAMU

August 2019 - Date TBD
 Scholarship Banquet
Elkins Lake

September 9, 2019
 Supt./Pro - Member/Member
Houston Oaks

September 15-17, 2019
 Lone Star Texas Trophy
Kingwood CC

October 15, 2019
 Meeting & Education
Clear Creek

November 4, 2019
 Annual Meeting & Past
 Presidents Meeting
Panorama GC

December 2019 - Date TBD
 STGCSA Christmas Party
Location TBD

RECORD BREAKING 2019 SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT & LIVE AUCTION!!

Thank you to everyone who came out and donated auction items for the 2019 Annual Scholarship Tournament & Live Auction! We had a record breaking year and raised over \$31,000 just in the Live Auction! Congratulations to all of our winners!

(Golf Results on page 4)

1st Place Gross

1st Place Net



Jackie Smith, Chad Nitz, Casey Wade, Cody Spivey



Colt Phillips, Jon Snider, Thomas Brown, Tanner Light

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jerry Huntsman - President STGCSA



I'd like to start off by welcoming Blayne Sparks back to the STGCSA Board of Directors. We thank you for your commitment and dedication to the association.

Next, I would like to thank all of our 2019 Sponsors and everyone who donated auction items to our Annual Scholarship Tournament. It was a huge success and record breaking year. raising over \$31,000 just in the Live Auction. We sincerely appreciate everyone who came out to support this great cause. Thank you again to Cody Spivey for hosting such a successful event.

Our next Monthly Meeting & Education is Tuesday, May 21 at Golf Club of Houston, where David Doherty, CEO & Founder of the ISTRC will be presenting Physical Properties & the Two Major Causes of Greens Failure. We understand there being a slight conflict with the Lone Star Texas Cup scheduled for May 20, but still hope to have a great turnout at our next event.

Lastly, don't forget that all 2019 Scholarship Applications are due by Wednesday, May 1. We hope everyone takes advantage of this great opportunity.

Hope to see you all soon!

Jerry Huntsman



Welcome New Members!!!!

Riley Maxey - South Texas Sales Manager @ GLK Turf Solutions

Logan Behrens - Asst. Superintendent @ The Woodlands CC Player Course

Frank Bittner - Owner @ Precise Control

We welcome you to the Association!!!!

2019 South Texas GCSA, Inc. Membership Renewals & 2019 Member Directory Review

Please pay your 2019 Membership Dues ASAP if you'd like to be included in the 2019 Member Directory, which will be mailed out in May. Please review the Directory Link below and let Carrie Cole know of any changes that need to be made at stgcsa@stgcsa.org. If the link does not open, you can view the 2019 Member Directory on our website under the "Members Only" tab: <http://stgcsa.org/members-only.html>.

If you'd like to put your credit card information on file going forward, please submit the credit card authorization form below.

We are also always welcoming new members into the association, so if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining, please see the application link below and let them know!

Attention: Superintendents!! Did you know that Lone Star GCSA Membership is included in your South Texas GCSA Membership?!

Please Note: (this applies to Superintendents only)

South Texas GCSA, Inc. 2019 New Membership Application

Credit Card Authorization Form

STGCSA 2019 Member Directory Draft



Annual Scholarship Tournament & Live Auction Results

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club

April 23, 2019

Host: Cody Spivey

GROSS

1st Place - 53

Cody Spivey, Chad Nitz, Casey Wade, Jackie Smith

2nd Place - 57 (Scorecard Playoff)

Kevin Borowski, Tanner Chrasteky, Lee Gravett, Mark Baughman

3rd Place - 57 (Scorecard Playoff)

Ben Hutchins, Chris Lepore, George Manuel, Jack Diehl

4th Place - 57 (Scorecard Playoff)

Justin Lonon, Jason Barrington, Kody Key, Philip Littlefield

NET

1st Place - 41

Jon Snider, Thomas Brown, Tanner Light, Colt Phillips

2nd Place - 42 (Scorecard Playoff)

Kevin White, Doug Wright, John Dailey

2nd Place - 44 (Scorecard Playoff)

Daniel McCann, Brent Ratcliff, Chris Mrosko, Parker Reeves

3rd Place - 45 (Scorecard Playoff)

Allen Plagens, Seth Johnson, Steve McCreight, Troy Muller

4th Place - 45 (Scorecard Playoff)

Adam Buys, Carl Tolbert, John Ferguson, Jeff Rowe

Proximity Winners

#1 CTP 2nd Shot - Tanner Chrasteky (Holed Out)

#2 LD - Philip Littlefield

#3 CTP 2nd Shot - David Gray

#4 LD - Chad Nitz

#5 CTP (Amateur only) - Carter Hindes

#5 CTP (Pros only) - Jack Diehl

#6 CTP 2nd Shot - Willy Plowman

#7 CTP - Jack Diehl

#8 CTP 2nd Shot (Amateur only) - Doug Stephens

#8 CTP 2nd Shot (Pros only) - Brian Ward

#9 CTP - Lee Gravett

#10 LD - Jack Diehl

#11 CTP - Tim Phillips

#12 CTP 2nd Shot - Jason Barrington (Holed Out)

#14 CTP 2nd Shot - Pat Johnston

#15 CTP 2nd Shot - Garrett Driver

#16 CTP - Jeff Rowe

#17 CTP 2nd Shot - Ryan Riley

#18 CTP 2nd Shot - Blayne Sparks

#18 Longest Putt - Craig Springman

Thank you to Cody Spivey & Staff for another great event!


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SAND HILL FARM MARCH MEETING



Thank you again to Brian Johnson & Staff for hosting our 1st Ryder Cup event!

Congratulations to the Superintendents for defeating the Affiliates!

Proximity Winners:

LD - Miles Carlson

LD - Justin Lonon

CTP - Jeff Smelser

CTP - Ed Schultheis

Thank you again to Scott Dunham with BASF for Sponsoring the Education Portion of this Meeting!



2019 CHAPTER LEADERS/ EXECUTIVES SYMPOSIUM



Carrie Cole (Executive Director) & David Gray (Vice President) of South Texas GCSA, Inc. at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS

[Click Here for More Info](#)

Member Spotlight

SCOTT DOTSON, TERRITORY SALES FOR SIMPLOT PARTNERS

As the son of a Class A, PGA Professional, I was brought up to cherish the game of golf. It's a sport where life lessons are learned, one can play their entire life, and enjoy the outdoors. At the early age of 13, my Dad recruited me to pull carts and pick range balls at Baywood Country Club. At pay-day, I remember owing money to the club for all the milk shakes I drank during the pay period. The milk shakes were great, obviously. When I turned 16, I was offered a job on the maintenance crew at San Jacinto Community College Golf Course. On my first day, they trained me on a greens mower. The experience was instantaneous and I appreciate that to this day. After graduating high school I moved to Austin to spread my wings and explore life. However, the golf industry called me back in. My brother worked in the pro shop at Jimmy Clay Golf/Roy Kizer Golf Courses was able to get me a position on the maintenance crew. Thanks to Superintendent Nick Smitham, I was able to see what the industry had to offer and what it meant to be a Golf Course Superintendent. I decided to further my career in the industry and graduated with a Degree in Golf Course Management from Texas State Technical College, in February of 1997. I returned to The Roy Kizer Golf Course as Nick's Assistant Superintendent. After 7 years in that role, I decided to make a move from Austin, Texas to Lake Sam Rayburn in East Texas for the Superintendent's position at Rayburn Country Club and Resort. I was in for a bit of culture shock going from Austin to East Texas, but I took it in stride and spent a lot of my free time fishing and hunting. My time at Rayburn Country Golf Club allowed me to experience a whole course renovation project as well as maintaining the golf course through environmental obstacles such as four hurricanes and almost yearly droughts. After 11 years at Rayburn Country, and 25 years total working at golf courses, I was ready to try another endeavor, yet stay in the industry in which I was raised.

In early March 2015 I was offered a job in sales. I was to sell Commercial Equipment/Irrigation to Golf Courses, Sports Fields and Grounds within the Greater Houston Area. I continued in this role for approximately 3.5 years. Thereafter, I was offered another sales job. I was offered a great opportunity in sales for Simplot. Simplot has its own top of the line proprietary products as well as distribution in industry leading fertilizers and pesticides.

At the time of my hire, Simplot was expanding across the entire Southeast United States, including the Houston, Texas Area. This company is a great company not only to work for, but also has the customer's best interest in mind. It's a service oriented company that builds relationships by being COMMITTED, CONSULTATIVE and CONNECTED to our customers. We are glad to serve you in this Greater Houston Area, where we will continue to take care of our customers for a very long time! Good luck this growing season and I hope to see you all very soon!



JEREMY LEWIS, SUPERINTENDENT AT THE CLUBS OF KINGWOOD

Jeremy grew up in Austin and has been working at golf courses since the age of 16. He has worked in Austin, Spicewood, Temple, Waco, New Ulm, and now is at The Clubs of Kingwood in Kingwood, TX. Jeremy received his Class A with GCSAA in 2016 and is hoping to start his work towards a CGCS soon.

Golf is not what keeps him sane though. He also is the music director at The Anchor, a church in Cypress that he plays lead guitar. Jeremy has been playing guitar for 20 years now.

He has 2 beautiful daughters (Gabrielle, 11 and Savannah, 8), and has been married to his lovely wife, Tara, for 13 years. He's not sure how he got so lucky, but has convinced his wife for the need to own LOTS of guns.



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GOLF CLUB OF HOUSTON

2019 Meeting & Education

Golf Club of Houston

May 21, 2019

Format:

3 Man Choker Format
(Rules TBA)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Education

Sponsored by:

Education



Speaker: David Doherty, CEO & Founder of the ISTRC
Topic: Physical Properties & the Two Major Causes of Greens Failure
GCSAA credits will be available

David Doherty is the CEO and founder of the International Sports Turf Research Center (ISTRC) and holds three patents on the ISTRC System, which was developed to monitor the ageing process of both sand and soil based golf greens. Doherty is recognized by most in the industry to be the world's foremost authority on the physical properties of golf greens. The majority of the top 100 courses in all categories use the ISTRC System to monitor the effectiveness of their agronomic programs from year to year, or from season to season. ISTRC has monitored the effects of aerification and other cultural practices of over 2,000 different golf courses and thousands of greens in less than 10 years. The patented ISTRC System of undisturbed core testing was developed by Doherty to provide turf grass professionals with: (a) accurate, cost effective data about root zone conditions as they exist in the field, and (b) the effects of those conditions on turf quality and plant health. ISTRC's unique and proprietary data base contains thousands of test results. The knowledge derived from the database allows ISTRC to not only report the test data, but also interpret the data in "layman's language."



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Golf Fun Fact:

The longest putt was a mind blowing 375 feet!





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

2019 South Texas GCSA, Inc. Scholarship Application



The 2019 Scholarship Awards Ceremony will be at Elkins Lake this August.

The application deadline is May 1, 2019 with transcripts due July 1, 2019.

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

South Texas, GCSA, Inc.
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[Click Here for the 2019 STGCSA Scholarship Application](#)

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The South Texas GCSA is once again offering the:

2019 STGCSA Marian Takushi Memorial GIS Scholarship

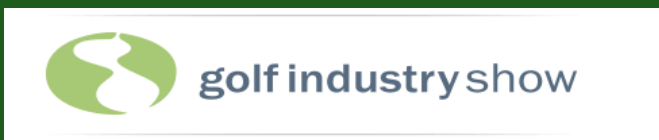
The STGCSA is sending two deserving Superintendent Members to the January 2020 Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida.

The scholarship will cover the cost of registration, round trip airfare between Houston and Orlando, 4 nights hotel stay, a \$50/day stipend and registration for one 1/2-day seminar.

The scholarship is intended to assist STGCSA Superintendent Members whose club does not normally pay for them to attend the conference, though all are welcome to apply.

The applicants selected will be asked to write a short article for the March/April 2020 Tee to Green issue re-capping your experience and how you benefitted from attending the conference. If you are interested in applying, please fill out the application and return to stgcsa@stgcsa.org by October 1, 2019.

[Click Here to Apply](#)



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Jack Harrell, Jr Provides Insights on Decision to Stop Selling Glyphosate

Lakeland, Florida, March 11, 2019 - A letter from Jack Harrell, Jr., CEO of Harrell's regarding recent decision to discontinue distribution of glyphosate products.

There has obviously been some discussion and concern about our decision to stop selling glyphosate products. I apologize for any confusion about this and I would like to explain why we made this decision.



First, Harrell's is not making any judgment as to whether glyphosate is detrimental to anyone's health. In fact, the weight of scientific evidence strongly supports its safety when used properly.

That said, during our annual insurance renewal last month, we were surprised to learn that our insurance company was no longer willing to provide coverage for claims related to glyphosate due to the recent high-profile lawsuit and the many thousands of lawsuits since. We sought coverage from other companies but could not buy adequate coverage for the risk we would be incurring. So we had no choice other than to notify our Harrell's Team and customers that we would no longer offer products containing glyphosate as of March 1, 2019.

We are still ready and able to help you with a variety of alternative products that will meet your non-selective control needs or to help you find glyphosate elsewhere. As always, we will make sure your needs are met no matter whether we sell a particular product or not.

Finally, be assured that Harrell's will continue to partner with our suppliers, customers, and all National, State and Local associations to advocate for responsible regulation and legislation of our products and practices. Together we can educate lawmakers and the public and ensure we can continue Growing A Better World.

In addition to being one of the nation's largest distributors of branded fungicides, herbicides and insecticides, Harrell's produces top-quality, custom blended fertilizers, specialty liquids, and wetting agents. Harrell's guarantees stringent quality control procedures, tight manufacturing specifications and careful selection of raw materials for each product that carries the Harrell's name. They are also the world-class formulator and a leading world distributor of POLYON®, the industry's superior controlled-release fertilizer technology.

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Difficult Weeds of the Future

By: Bart Fox, Syngenta Professional Solutions

Back in my college days, we learned that a weed is just a plant out of place. That definition is still correct today but removing these plants has become more difficult. Back in the day, all we had to know is whether the weed was a grass weed, broadleaf weed or a sedge and then we could pick our herbicide accordingly.

Within this decade, we all have experienced weeds that have lost herbicide sensitivity, aka resistant goosegrass and *Poa annua*. The new exciting class of chemistry called sulfonyleureas controlled so many weeds without discoloring the desirable turf the professional turfgrass manager became hooked on them for everything from *Poa annua*, goosegrass to *kyllinga* and sedges.

Personal experience has taught me when we change herbicide practices we sometimes end up with unexpected results. Before Monument® herbicide received registration, within my territory, Syngenta sold more Pennant Magnum® pre-emergent herbicide in the spring than it did Barricade®. Pennant Magnum® was popular for reducing yellow nutsedge and *kyllinga* from seed as well as your other typical spring weeds. The popularity of Monument® for controlling all sedges and *kyllinga* caused the use of Pennant Magnum® to diminish. More doveweed started appearing soon afterwards. Doveweed would be considered a weed of the future since it was almost impossible to control post-emergence. Fortunately, the industry has started incorporating products like Pennant Magnum® and Tower® into spring herbicide programs because both herbicides have these weeds listed on their labels.

Henry's Crabgrass, (*Digitaria ciliaris*) is the next major hurdle we will be facing. We have been fighting this weed for several years without much success. We in the Houston area were calling it by the wrong name, India crabgrass but now we know better. It didn't matter what name we called it, we could not control it from showing up on our professionally managed turf. Henry's crabgrass didn't seem to mind what pre-emergence herbicide we applied, it just invited itself over to stay and liked every height of cut. The typical crabgrass post-emergence herbicide didn't control it either. By the end of summer, this crabgrass variety with short internodes and shorter leaves, forms into a massive mat that roots itself at each internode that touches the soil. While doing some research on this weed, it seems to thrive in Hawaii, but I have noticed it getting much worse throughout my territory of southern TX and all of Louisiana.

My final weed of the future that causes me the most anxiety is KR Bluestem. The KR stands for King Ranch since this was the first place this seed from Asia was planted. This weed has always been spotty in turfgrass areas in San Antonio, Austin, College Station and the south Texas region. Since Hurricane Harvey's flood waters came into Houston and Victoria Texas, this weed has exploded. I can identify this weed on almost every commercial property and school district grounds. From a distance, this grassy weed can look like Dallisgrass, but it is tougher to control. I can remember reading an herbicide research study a long time ago when the SU herbicides were coming into the market like Revolver® and Monument®. I do remember the only herbicide to give some control was the non-selective herbicide glyphosate, all other herbicides in trial didn't give any relief. Most control options on the internet include words like plowing and burning. Properties with good pre-emergence programs don't seem to have this weed for now. If this perennial grass weed ever gets established your selective post emergence herbicides options are currently non-existent.

I have been in the turfgrass industry for 32 years. It seems that the first 2 decades were simpler in regards to weed control. Grass weeds received a mighty dose of MSMA + Sencor and if it was a

broadleaf it was sprayed with a 3-way herbicide which always included 2,4-D. I will close with a quote from Dr. Scott McElroy, Weed Scientist from Auburn University "long gone are the days of spraying a single herbicide, the future must contain a tank-mix of multiple active ingredients from different classes of chemistry"



(Doveweed flowering in Houston, September 2018)



(Henry's Crabgrass in Katy, TX July 2018 golf course fairway)



(KR Bluestem in Webster, TX August 2018 Commercial St Augustine)



(KR Bluestem in Friendswood, TX September 2018)



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Bioengineered Living Shorelines the Newest Erosion Control Solution

J. Wesley Allen, Environmental Scientist and Regional Manager at SOLitude Lake Management

When development companies design golf courses with lakes and stormwater ponds, they envision them as beautiful aquatic resources to attract visitors, connect with nature and enhance the surrounding property. Without proper management, however, these waterbodies can quickly become eyesores that produce harmful algae and bad odors, lead to damaged and eroded shorelines, and result in displeased members.

Most aquatic management professionals will tell you that when a golf course superintendent calls about an issue at their waterbody, it's often past the point of a quick fix. This is regularly the case when we arrive onsite to look at an erosion issue on a lake or pond embankment. Rather than finding a few problematic patches of rock or soil, we discover steep, unstable banks, deep washouts and extensive bottom muck caused by years of sedimentation.

Erosion is a natural process caused by wind, rainfall, poor design, cultural impacts like mowing and recreation, or simply an aging aquatic ecosystem. These erosion issues are all exacerbated by human disturbance. Unfortunately, erosion can also negatively affect your lake, stormwater pond, canal or coastline by causing loss of habitat and property value, nutrient loading, reduced storage volume and waterbody depth, and excess runoff. When topsoil is displaced, stormwater pipes and structures can be exposed and damaged. Overtime, erosion can lead to the formation of trenches and gullies that pose a serious danger to the public.



(Golf Course Erosion Before)

There are many ways to correct erosion with rip-rap, bulkheads, and other hard armoring systems; in certain situations, they may be the preferred option. In my experience, however, reestablishing the embankment utilizing vegetation, whether turf grass for recreation or native vegetation for habitat, has always been an excellent way to halt erosion and enhance golf course waterbodies. There are several best management practices that can help stop erosion and establish vegetation, but a lot of them have a shorter life-span or planting restrictions. Fortunately, there is a new solution available for both the immediate and long-term stabilization of shorelines and hillsides.

Bioengineered living shorelines are the latest technology in erosion control. These patented woven systems offer an innovative, environmentally-friendly solution to immediately stop shoreline and embankment erosion and create a natural foundation for vegetation. The most effective systems available are designed using a combination of ecofriendly, biodegradable burlap sock-like fabric and heavy-duty knitted mesh. The socks can be filled with local pond muck and sediment, which is why many superintendents choose to pair this solution with proactive hydro-raking projects. After the woven mesh systems are filled, they are then secured to the embankment and can be immediately sodded, planted with native beneficial buffer plants, or seeded through the mesh and fabric layers.



(Golf Course Erosion During)

As an Environmental Scientist, I've utilized several different shoreline restoration techniques over the years, but this innovative system is certainly creating some excitement! It provides immediate stabilization while effectively filtering and buffering run-off water, removing harmful contaminants and benefiting waterways and water quality, all the while providing a seamless planting platform and long-lasting erosion control. Restored banks and hillsides can be walked on within just a few days, making bioengineered shorelines a fast, aesthetically-pleasing and long-lasting solution for most properties.

Depending on your waterbody and specific erosion issues, goals and budget, your lake management professional may recommend other natural restoration tools. Lakes and ponds that experience heavy water movement may be suitable candidates for erosion control using logs comprised of coconut fibers. Installed in areas with direct water flow, these biodegradable logs can help redirect water movement while reducing erosion along delicate banks. Coconut "coir" logs are biodegradable, compact and excellent solutions for properties in need of a truly custom erosion control approach.



(Golf Course Erosion After)

Whether you decide to move forward with a complete shoreline restoration or are several years away, it's imperative to properly budget and integrate proactive management strategies that protect your banks and hillsides, while preserving the water quality of your aquatic resource. Cultivating a beneficial vegetative buffer with flowering native vegetation will help stabilize soil during rainstorms. Deep-rooted flowering plants can also help pull excess nutrients from stormwater runoff, preventing the growth of nuisance weeds and algae in the water resource. Undesirable nutrients can be further combated with the professional application of naturally-occurring nutrient remediation products, which permanently "lock up" and prevent nutrients from fueling aquatic weeds or algae.

Just like turfgrass management, lake and stormwater pond management is an ongoing commitment that requires different approaches throughout the year. While no two waterbodies are the same, each and every aquatic ecosystem is susceptible to shoreline erosion and can benefit from custom management plans that integrate buffer management and nutrient remediation, as well as other sustainable tools like hydro-raking, aeration, biological augmentation, and regular water quality testing. Whether your waterbody is in its prime or has seen better days, contact your lake management professional to restore and prolong your water resources—starting with the shoreline.

J. Wesley Allen is an Environmental Scientist and Regional Manager at SOLitude Lake Management, an industry-leading environmental firm. He has nearly two decades of experience leading high-profile shoreline stabilization and wetland restoration projects. This article is the second in a series featuring new break-through technologies that will revolutionize the management of lakes, stormwater ponds, wetlands and fisheries in 2019. Learn more at www.solitudelakemanagement.com/knowledge

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