



TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



**Annual Live Auction &
Scholarship Tournament
RESCHEDULED for August 4, 2020**

2020 Meeting Schedule

<p>June 16, 2020 Chapter Championship <i>The Oaks Course</i></p>
<p>July 21, 2020 Supt/Pro - Mbr/Mbr <i>Memorial Park</i></p>
<p>August 4, 2020 Scholarship Tournament <i>High Meadow Ranch</i></p>
<p>September 15, 2020 M/G/G/G <i>Walden on Lake Conroe</i></p>
<p>October 20, 2020 Meeting & Education <i>Galveston CC</i></p>
<p>November 8-10, 2020 Lone Star Texas Trophy <i>Hyatt Hill Country GC San Antonio, TX</i></p>
<p>November 16, 2020 Annual Meeting & Past Presidents Meeting <i>Northgate CC</i></p>
<p>December 5, 2020 STGCSA Christmas Party/Scholarship Banquet <i>TBD</i></p>



**Sugar Creek
Country Club**

Our May Meeting & Education originally set for May 12, 2020 has been **CANCELLED** this year and will be rescheduled to a date in May 2021. We hope to see everyone out at the Chapter Championship on June 16, 2020!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Gray - President STGCSA



Dear STGCSA Family,

Hello everybody! Two weeks ago, the STGCSA Board met virtually on ZOOM. We talked about how everyone was doing and how each were holding up, etc. We got a variety responses from all who were there, some mentioned they are no longer with the company they were with, to some courses being busier than they have been in a while. As board members, we are only a few compared to the number of members in our association so we know there are many others out there that are either doing just fine or things couldn't be worse.

We as the board would like to mention that we are very sympathetic to people struggling at this time in our association and wanted everyone to know that the South Texas GCSA is here for them. We are hoping by now everybody has seen the \$500 grant that the GCSAA is offering. Remember it is a first come first serve basis so please hurry. Also as an association, we wanted to be available to help in any form that we can. If by chance any assistance is needed because of this COVID-19, please don't hesitate to get in contact with a member of the STGCSA Board that is close to you (personally/location). We would like to help in any way that we possibly can!

On a personal note, I found out that my course, Raven Nest, reopened after one week of closure. The reason for this was the concerns of people traveling distances to come play here in Huntsville. They were trying to drive and play here because their normally played courses were closed. Raven Nest GC did not want to be the ones responsible for more COVID-19 cases in the Huntsville area. We have been able to continue maintaining the course, which is good.

Please do what you can to stay safe during these different and confusing times. Remember we are all here to help each other so please reach out if you need something. We will try our best to keep everyone up dated with things happening around our area and with the STGCSA.

Sincerely,

David Gray



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!

WANTED

We're looking to add an Assistant Superintendent seat to our Board of Directors in 2021!

If you are a Superintendent and would like to nominate your assistant for this new seat, please email Carrie Cole

at stgcsa@stgcsa.org

What Happens If You Don't Maintain A Golf Course?

March 27, 2020

USGA Green Section Staff

The spread of COVID-19 is having a tremendous impact on golf course maintenance across the country. Many superintendents are operating with limited staff and facing resource constraints that could get worse over the coming weeks. Some superintendents are also preparing for the possible suspension of all course maintenance for several weeks, or even longer. Not surprisingly, there are a lot of questions out there about what would happen to a golf course if maintenance was discontinued for various lengths of time. The Green Section staff put their heads together to answer some of the most common questions we're hearing about maintenance shutdowns.

Question: How long could mowing be skipped before areas would have to be completely replanted to restore normal conditions?

Answer: If grass is actively growing, the putting greens, tees and fairways could be left unmown for only a few weeks before aggressive maintenance practices or even re-grassing would be needed to restore normal playability. For reference, greens typically need to be mown at a minimum of every three days and tees and fairways at least once a week. While it may be possible to gradually lower the mowing heights of areas that have become overgrown, playing quality would not match normal standards for a long time – if the areas could be brought back into shape at all.



Putting greens would be especially problematic if left unmown because of their extremely low normal mowing heights and the specialized grasses used on most greens. Roughs, on the other hand, could go unmown for a few months and be restored to a playable height fairly quickly once maintenance resumed. However, this process would likely require the use of specialized mowers because the grass would become too tall for traditional mowing equipment.

One thing that is easy to overlook is the fact that mowing helps control weeds. If mowing operations are suspended for a prolonged period of time, it is likely that significant weed issues will have to be addressed once maintenance resumes.

Question: What happens if a golf course isn't irrigated?

Answer: The answer to this question depends on a range of factors – including temperature, rainfall and soil type – but if grass is not supplied with adequate water, large areas can die quickly. However, some grasses are more tolerant of drought than others. Warm-season grasses, such as bermudagrass and zoysiagrass, are more drought tolerant than cool-season grasses like creeping bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, tall fescue and Poa annua. There are even wide differences in drought tolerance among the cool-season grasses. For example, creeping bentgrass is more tolerant of drought than Poa annua, which can experience severe damage from a lack of water very quickly.

Different playing surfaces are also more prone to damage from drought because of their mowing heights. Rough areas are typically the most tolerant of drought and putting greens are usually the least tolerant. In the right conditions, even a day or two without water can result in significant turf loss on a putting green.

Depending on the length of time without water, thinning or even complete turf loss can occur. Any turf loss will require aggressive maintenance practices to restore playing quality and complete renovation and replanting may be necessary in severe situations.

Question: What happens if superintendents can't apply plant protectants or fertilizers?

Answer: Plant protectants are applied at specific times to prevent various diseases, weeds or insects from damaging the grass or disrupting playing conditions. Fertilizers, plant growth regulators, and wetting agents are also commonly applied to ensure the turf is healthy and provides optimal playing conditions for golf. Failure to apply these products would likely lead to turf decline due to disease or insect outbreaks. If herbicides cannot be applied, weed issues are likely to arise which could cause problems with playability for the remainder of the season.

Question: What happens if the bunkers are not maintained?

Answer: Routine bunker maintenance is done to create good playing conditions, but it also prevents weeds from growing in the sand. If bunkers are not maintained, weeds will eventually cover the sand. Unmaintained bunkers are also vulnerable to serious decline from sand washouts that go unrepaired. Repeated washouts can eventually result in sand contamination that can't be fixed without replacing the sand completely. If weed growth is the only issue facing neglected bunkers, it may be possible to replace the first several inches of sand in each bunker and restore normal playability fairly quickly, though at a significant cost. If the bunkers are severely damaged by washouts, some may need to be rebuilt entirely.

While decisions about whether golf course maintenance can proceed in a given area will be dictated by forces outside the superintendent's control, it's important for golfers to know that any prolonged stoppage in golf course maintenance will mean a long road to recovery.



WELCOME TO THE NEW GCSAA JOB BOARD

GCSAA is pleased to announce the launch of the new and improved interactive GCSAA Job Board. This new platform offers improved services and enhanced features that will make it easier to facilitate connections between golf industry professionals and employers. As always, the new GCSAA Job Board is free.

[GCSAA Job Board](#)

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TIMBER CREEK

Golf Club



Golf Results for March 2, 2020 Meeting & Education

Timber Creek Golf Club

Hosted by: Andy Coz

1st Place Gross Team

66 – Jim Brown & Tanner Chrastecky

2nd Place Gross Team

67 – Carl Tolbert & Mark Baughman

1st Place Net Team

52 – Russ Cobb & Richard Kane

2nd Place Net Team

56 – Jason Barrington & Bob Ducote

Proximities

0-12 Handicap CTP – Scott Dotson

0-12 Handicap Longest Drive – Pat Neuendorff

13+ Handicap Longest Drive – Colt Phillips

[Click here to view pictures from the event](#)

Earn CECs Online for No Cost in Joint OGSA & GCSAA Offering



In partnership with the Ontario Golf Superintendents' Association (OGSA), the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) is now making select On Demand webinars available for no charge until June 1, 2020.



Reviewed and approved by The IPM Council of Canada for Continuing Education Credits (CECs) in their program, each On Demand includes the recording and a short quiz required to earn CECs.

Visit GCSAA's web site to create a username and password, then log into the **Learning Hub** and go to the *Canadian Credit* category to find the *Version for CEC* that has no fee and register.

Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or by email to lwick@gcsaa.org with questions.

Enhancing Your Weed Control Program: Cool-season Turf: Why didn't the herbicide kill the weed? In this 90-minute webinar, Aaron Patton, Ph.D., will help you know how to answer that question for yourself and improve your weed control program in your cool-season turf by better understanding herbicide activity and weed biology. **CEC value: 1.5**

Factors that Affect Pesticide Fate and Behavior on the Golf Course: Travis Gannon, Ph.D., will help you learn more about the biological and chemical attributes of pesticides and how they behave after application on your course.

CEC value: 1.5

GDDs for Timing PGR Applications and Re-Applications: Details in this webinar taught by Bill Kreuser, Ph.D., can help you maximize the benefits of plant growth regulators (PGR). **CEC value: 1.5**

How to Read Your Soils Report: Learn more about how to correctly read your soils report during this 90-minute webinar with Beth Guertal, Ph.D., who shows examples of various documents and provides key details on how to use that information on your golf course.

CEC value: 1.13

Increase the Precision of Your Nitrogen Application: Utilization of soil moisture probes for irrigation, environmental models for seed head and pest control, and GDD models to schedule PGR applications have increased the precision of turfgrass management over the past decade. Nitrogen fertilization scheduling, however, is still largely based on historical management practices and qualitative observations. In this 90-minute webinar, Bill Kreuser, Ph.D., highlights current research in the area of nitrogen management and investigates the potential for technology to improve application precision on creeping bentgrass golf turf. **CEC value: 1.0**

Optimizing Your Annual Bluegrass Weevil Management Program: The annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) is a severely destructive insect pest of golf course turfgrass throughout the eastern US and Canada. In this 2-hour webinar, Ben McGraw, Ph.D., discusses the keys to successful ABW management, including proper timing and selection of chemical controls, effects of cultural practices, and alternatives to chemical insecticides. **CEC value: 2.0**

Reclaimed Waste Water for Turf Irrigation: Water challenges are impacting more turfgrass managers than ever and all indications are the trend will only increase. David Kopec, Ph.D. and extension specialist at the University of Arizona in Tucson, has been dealing with and teaching about water quality issues for decades. In this 90-minute webinar, he addresses, in practical terms, the classifications of Reclaimed Municipal waste water (RMWW) and the quality parameters about which you should be aware. **CEC value: 0.75**

Review Your Bentgrass Greens Management Plan: Turfgrass breeders have done a phenomenal job of developing new creeping bentgrass cultivars with fine texture, high density, and improved environmental stress tolerance. These advancements, combined with improved machinery, alter the way you manage creeping bentgrass putting greens. Mowing heights are lower, lightweight rolling is regularly applied, and greens still receive a lot of foot traffic from golfers. In this 90-minute webinar, Joey Young, Ph.D., reviews how all three factors can affect the quality and physiological health of creeping bentgrass. **CEC value: 1.5**

Sand Topdressing Programs – Benefits and Challenges: Sand topdressing putting greens has proven to be a valuable management practice that yields several benefits, both agronomic and from a playability perspective. As putting green grasses have become denser and finer-textured, it is often a challenge to incorporate topdressing sand into the putting green canopy. In this 90-minute webinar, Douglas Karcher, Ph.D., focuses on the major objectives for your putting green sand topdressing program. **CEC value: 1.13**

2020 South Texas GCSA, Inc. Scholarship Application



The 2020 Scholarship Awards Ceremony is scheduled for December 5, 2020 (Location TBA)

The application deadline is May 1, 2020 with transcripts due July 1, 2020

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

South Texas, GCSA, Inc.
 PO Box 2443
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stgcsa@stgcsa.org

[Click Here for the 2020 STGCSA Scholarship Application](#)

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December 9th-13th, 2020



Champions Golf Club is seeking volunteers for the 2020 US Women's Open December 9th-13th.

Please contact Brady Forshey at bforshey@championsgolfclub.com for more information.

Thank you for your consideration!

Do you have an article that you'd like to submit?

If so, please submit your article for any newsletter with the topic of your choice to Carrie Cole at stgcsa@stgcsa.org. Articles must be received one week before the next newsletter is scheduled to go out to be included in that Tee To Green.

All topics are welcomed!

BACK TO BASICS: Consider the Rule of Three to Restore Balance to Your Aquatic Ecosystem

Written by Erin Stewart, Aquatic Biologist & Regional Manager and Katelyn Behounek, Aquatic Biologist

When developing a management plan for a lake or pond, it is important to keep its purpose and priorities in mind. Is it strictly aesthetic? Is it used for irrigation or stormwater collection? An effective freshwater management program can be compared to the importance of each leg on a “three-legged stool.” Just like the legs supporting the stool, many water resources are interdependent, meaning that the actions taken in the watershed could cause imbalances that have negative consequences downstream.

Think of each “leg” of this metaphorical three-legged stool as representative of the (1) physical, (2) chemical, and (3) biological components of a freshwater resource. If one part of this trinity breaks down, the others will follow. To ensure each of these aspects is protected, it’s important to understand the ways in which they contribute to the health of a waterbody and how to identify imbalances when they arise.

The first leg of the stool—the physical characteristics of a lake or pond—includes features such as size, depth, volume, bottom substrate, water source and exchange through the system. These are major components that can affect how a lake or pond responds to environmental conditions. For instance, shallow ponds with excessive build up of bottom muck and sediment, or those with limited water movement, will be more likely to experience algae and weed growth than a large, deep lake or one with lots of movement.



The chemical characteristics, the second leg of the stool, refer to natural water quality components that can be measured, such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, nutrients, water clarity, dissolved metals, salts and many other parameters. Poor water quality in lakes and ponds often occurs when these parameters become imbalanced in one direction or another. This is often caused by polluted runoff entering the waterbody that contains fertilizer, pet or wildlife waste, landscaping debris (grass clipping and leaves) and other organic materials. This process of nutrient “pollution” is one of the most common causes of chemical imbalance in a freshwater ecosystem.



The third biological component of the stool comprises all living things, including algae, plants, bugs, fish and microorganisms. Nutrient pollution is an example of how one component can directly affect another; nutrients encourage algae and aquatic plant growth. While moderate levels of growth are natural and provide habitat and food for fish and wildlife, algae and aquatic weed growth can proliferate under imbalanced conditions. Without proper management, nuisance algae and vegetation can block sunlight, limit access for fishing and boating, and compromise aesthetics. As these increased populations of plants and algae decay as part of their natural lifecycle, they will release more nutrients into the waterbody to fuel additional

growth, creating a vicious cycle. In the process, the risk of fish kills, offensive odors, accumulation of bottom muck and nuisance insect populations can all increase—further offsetting the balance of the waterbody’s physical, chemical and biological characteristics.

Having knowledge about the benefits of proactive management, and sustainable tools and technologies at our fingertips, adds a fourth, stabilizing “leg” to the “three-legged stool.” With a proactive management in place—even if one of the other components is slightly out of balance—the stool may wobble but will not fall over. In other words, problems that might normally be detrimental for a lake or pond can be identified and resolved early on, before they can impact other aspects of the ecosystem. (continued on next page)

A proactive approach is most effective when it accounts for all elements of an ecosystem. Vegetative buffer management, shoreline stabilization, aeration, regular stormwater inspections, and even sediment removal are all proactive ways to support the physical leg of the stool. These tools limit the influx of runoff and pollutants, prevent erosion and sedimentation, increase water movement and maintain the depth and structural components of a lake or pond.



Some of the more advanced management strategies utilize nutrient-locking products or beneficial bacteria to cycle and remove excess nutrients from the water column, reducing the potential for chemical imbalances. New technologies like nanobubble treatments can be used alongside these solutions to increase beneficial dissolved oxygen concentrations and enhance overall water quality. Aeration of all types can also help foster the health of fish, wildlife and beneficial insects through the biological food chain. These proactive tools can help give more “stability” to a freshwater management plan so serious, costly problems are far less likely to arise.


Whether mosquitoes and bad odors are keeping you away from the water or nuisance algae is causing an eyesore around your property or golf course, there are always ways to counteract the issues you are experiencing. It is important to bring in a professional to educate you about the best proactive approaches for your waterbody and help design a custom management plan before problems get out of hand. Just like a master carpenter would use his knowledge and expertise to build you the best seat, a certified and trained lake management professional will take each “leg” of the aquatic resource into account to achieve your unique goals and objectives.

Erin Stewart and Katelyn Behounek are Aquatic Biologists with SOLitude Lake Management, a nationwide environmental firm that provides sustainable lake, stormwater pond, wetland and fisheries management solutions. Learn more about this topic at www.solitudelakemanagement.com/knowledge.



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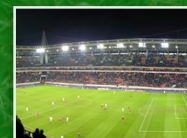
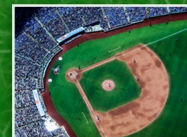
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GCSAA Field Staff Representative

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

40 Days

By: John Walker

I have now passed the 40 day mark of staying at home. Luckily it has not rained the entire 40 days but we have had about 10 days of rain during this time. Our animals have not multiplied but they do keep us entertained and busy. Noah did not have any choices during his 40 day stint but we have the ability to run to the store for essentials. My wife and I have done our best to adhere to the social distancing guidelines but it has not been easy. We are both looking forward to the day that I can get back on the road, especially my wife.

Although I have not been able to travel during this time, I have been quite busy working with all of my chapters virtually and via the telephone. I usually have 3 or 4 virtual meetings a week and many phone calls a day with our members and chapter leaders. GCSAA has worked hard on the National scene as we started this quarantine to keep golf course maintenance classified as essential and our association has been instrumental in communicating with state and local officials on the guidelines we are following to comply with CDC standards.

We are now entering discussions about re-opening businesses and re-entry to our society. GCSAA is developing a tool kit that will be available soon that will help our members with this re-entry phase. I believe that many of our members have seen an increase in the value of GCSAA membership during this unprecedented time because of how our association has responded for our industry. I have also seen an increase of members relying on each other during this time as they collectively look for best management practices to keep their operations running efficiently while adhering to the Covid-19 guidelines. This has been a tough 40 days but we will get through this. Stay connected with each other and GCSAA and hopefully I will start to see you in a few weeks.

John Walker

GCSAA - Field Staff Representative, South Central Region



GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund available to those impacted by COVID-19

Many GCSAA members have had their lives impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund is now providing financial assistance to those affected by the crisis.

GCSAA will provide up to \$500 to members who have experienced the loss of their jobs, layoffs or have been unable to work due to the effects of COVID-19. Funds can be used for items such as, but not limited to, groceries, medication, fuel, personal bills and child-care.

Any GCSAA member is eligible for this assistance, excluding the Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent classification.

- Assistance will be processed on a first-come, first serve basis. Members must contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or email mbrhelp@gcsaa.org.
- Members are also welcome to submit names of GCSAA members they may know who need assistance.

GCSAA's goal is to provide financial assistance as quickly as possible.

Donations made to the fund are an opportunity for those in the golf industry to directly assist their peers and are tax deductible. The fund is administered through GCSAA's philanthropic organization, the Environmental Institute for Golf. You can donate today at <https://environmental-institute-for-golf.snwbll.com/disaster-relief-fund-giving-portal> or by texting Disaster to 785-693-2593 and following the link in the response.

Visit <https://www.gcsaa.org/about-gcsaa/gcsaa-disaster-relief-fund> for more information.



The South Texas GCSA is once again offering the:

2020 STGCSA Marian Takushi Memorial GIS Scholarship

The STGCSA is sending two deserving Superintendent Members to the January 30 - February 4, 2021 Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas, Nevada.

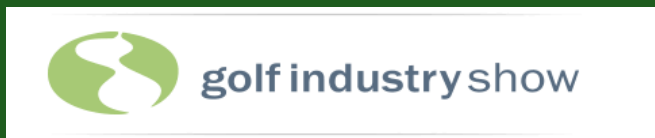
The scholarship will cover the cost of registration, round trip airfare between Houston and Las Vegas, 4 nights hotel stay, a \$50/day stipend, and registration for one 1/2-day seminar.

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.

Congratulations to Wade Warms & Kevin Lyles for receiving the 2019 Scholarship!

We hope everyone takes advantage of this great opportunity and applies!

[Apply Here](#)



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I would like to take a minute to thank the Association for the Marian Takushi Scholarship for GIS. I do not get to attend the GIS every year because my club only pays under certain circumstances. This year's show in Orlando was a great experience for me. I was able to attend a half-day seminar on "In house" drainage where I learned several ideas that I think will help my club going forward.

Our local chapter and other state chapters needed a voting delegate, so I volunteered to do that. I'm glad I did because it was an experience that I've not had before. Meeting delegates from other parts of the country and conversing with some of the GCSAA Board of Directors was enlightening for me. I cast 154 total votes for 4 of our state chapters. The candidates that Texas voted for won I might add!

Many hours were spent walking the trade show floor and visiting about new products and revisiting old friendships. I had a chance to catch up with Lee Gravett over dinner. He is enjoying a new job as a Superintendent in McAllen, TX. The Lone Star reception was especially enjoyable this year. Friends of mine attended that I haven't seen since college. I got to catch up with my first boss in this business, Mike Sandburg!

Overall it was just a great trip and a wonderful experience that I otherwise would not have had. I would encourage anyone that hasn't been to GIS, or just wants to go back, to apply for the Scholarship this year. You might just win a free trip to the show!

Wade Warms, CGCS Cypress Lakes GC



First, I would like to give a huge thank you to the association for being selected as a recipient of the Marian Takushi Memorial GIS Scholarship. Yearly attendance at GIS is not always an option within our organization yet. Without this opportunity from the association I would not have had the experience that I had.

Given this opportunity I was able to attend a half day seminar and visit the trade show as well. The seminar was helpful in obtaining a time frame for some long-range goals and the trade show was excellent all by itself. The trade show gives one the opportunity to see some of the latest in equipment and accessories available to us as course managers. The time spent at the trade show is a lot of walking, but it was also a good opportunity to catch up with some past friendships and make some new acquaintances along the way.

This year was my first time to attend the Lone Star reception and it was all I had heard and read about, again, another opportunity to catch up with past friendships, and there were plenty.

If you haven't been to the GIS in a while, I would highly recommend you applying for the Marian Takushi Memorial GIS scholarship. What is the worst that could happen, you get chosen?

Kevin Lyles, Superintendent Walden on Lake Houston



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