



TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Superintendent/Pro - Member/Member
Memorial Park
July 14, 2020

2020 Meeting Schedule

July 14, 2020
 Supt/Pro - Mbr/Mbr
Memorial Park

August 4, 2020
 Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch

August 25, 2020
 Chapter Championship
 TBD

September 15, 2020
 M/G/G/G
Walden on Lake Conroe

October 20, 2020
 Meeting & Education
Galveston CC

November 8-10, 2020
 Lone Star Texas Trophy
Hyatt Hill Country GC San Antonio, TX

November 16, 2020
 Annual Meeting & Past Presidents Meeting
Northgate CC

December 5, 2020
 STGCSA Christmas Party/Scholarship
 Banquet
 TBD

UPCOMING EVENTS



Superintendent/Pro - Member/Member
Memorial Park
July 14, 2020 (DATE CHANGE)

Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch
August 4, 2020

STGCSA Chapter Championship
Location TBD
August 25, 2020 (NEW DATE)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Gray - President STGCSA



Dear STGCSA Family,

Hello again everybody! I would like to start off by letting everyone know that myself and all of us from the STGCSA Board sure hope everyone is managing well in this interesting and weird time. To be honest I can't find a better word that is appropriate besides "Weird" to describe the past few months. Please know that we are trying very hard to keep events happening and planned while trying to make sure our STGCSA membership stays safe. I know there is no way for me to understand what everyone is going through, be it layoffs, budget losses, record rounds being played (wondering when it will stop), trying to make sure the family is safe while driving around town, that's just a few that come to mind. There are just so many different things happening in our world today and I hope we can all keep making the best of a weird situation.

As I have done for past few "president messages" I would like to continue the same way by letting everyone see the past few months through my eyes and how we have been affected at my course. To be honest I'm not 100% sure where to begin. If I remember correctly the last thing happening was being told we needed to close the course for "at least" a few weeks. Well, that lasted all of about 5 days. I'm sure we're all familiar with the term "lots of Chiefs and not so many Indians" lol. That being said, 5 days into the closure with freshly tined greens (because we were going to be closed for at least two weeks) and everything pulled off the course, we were informed that we are opening again ASAP. At least it was only the 7" bayonet tines. Sooo, we rolled and got the course ready and off to the races we went. We are somewhat fortunate here as we have a staff of only 6 (that's everyone, including me) so it's not very hard to practice the social distancing thing with COVID. When it comes to the play on the course it has been rather busy, and it has stayed that way. Tee times were hard to get due to single rider on carts and needing to have enough carts by booking only every other spot on the tee sheet, but even with that rounds are still up. I still kind of wonder when people will stop playing as much and how golf will handle the economy struggles in the long run. When it comes to the course maintenance side of things, there have been times in the past month when I took the sprayer out trying to spray some areas and it was impossible to jump around because players were down right stacked up. That situation is both a blessing and frustrating at the same time, we need rounds however we still need to maintain the course. I'm just having to relearn and adjust some maintenance schedules that's all. Course health has been great overall, except we have had a few smaller spots (normally shady) on greens, that have struggled some over the past few seasons. We had some samples tested for disease and came back that take all root rot/bermuda decline was the culprit. I did the year before also and it showed to be a Pythium root disfunction, or something of the sort. None the less when you have this problem you just have to tell yourself to get out of your traditional ways and start being more aggressive on your treatments and remedies. This course has always been a course that is wide open and with good air movement so in years past I could always get away with less fungicide treatments and have healthy turf. I keep reminding myself the greens are 19 years old also. Long story short, I'm keeping up with the treatment and things are healing well so far. I'm also typing this sitting in the office composing the president message while the African dust cloud moving over and 8" of rain fell over the last 4 days. Lol. Hopefully, the greens will make it through! The last thing I wanted to say is how difficult it is to have certain changes around the course when it comes to personnel. The Pro that was at my course for the past 12 years became a good friend of mine and will always be considered that way. When you work with people for a lot of years and talk with them very often it just happens. I will no longer get to work with them due to the lovely tightening of budgets. He will without a doubt find something else great because he was the most down to earth and understanding Golf Professional I have ever known.

Writing a message and opening up to a group of people that are in the same industry as you can be tough. It doesn't matter if it's behind the Superintendent's desk or in front of the desk discussing products for the course. Being honest about what we do for a profession can also be tough at times. It doesn't matter if you're joking about decisions above your pay grade, course play and members, problems that we have to face on the course, or changes to the staff you were very good friends with. Just remember we can laugh at jokes, problems can be solved, and new friendships can be developed. I sure hope we can get past all of this "weird" stuff soon! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at some meetings soon!

Sincerely,

David Gray



South Texas Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Welcome New/Returning Members!!!!

Kevin Cloud - AIT @ Pebble Creek Country Club

Andres "June" Ybarra - Golf Course Coordinator @ Uvalde Memorial Golf Course

Mike Kellogg - Director of Sales/Agronomist @ Turf Technologies

We welcome you to the Association!!!!

Member Spotlight

A J Pursley - Superintendent at Whispering Pines Golf Club

I am from a small West Texas town in Andrews, TX where my father was the Head Golf Professional at Andrews Country Club for twenty-two years, while my mother worked alongside him in the pro shop during that time. I grew up watching my both of my parents run a successful business in the golf industry. My brother went on to play collegiate golf and then turned professional while I was playing golf in high school. My father retired with a class A of twenty-two years of service with the PGA.

I went on to play some collegiate golf myself and graduated in 2011 from Midwestern State University. I received my Associates in Turf from Western Texas College. I felt like this was a way to stay around golf and learn a completely different side to it. My first job out of college was Ballinger Country Club. It was one other employee and myself. I thank Brad Fluitt for taking me under his wing at Bentwood Country Club in San Angelo, TX. He helped me get through a lot of pain being a rookie in business. I grew up playing San Angelo Country club where Jim Pomroy is the Superintendent. Just noticing the details he and the crew did on a daily basis helped me have an eye for detail work. I then went on to Newport Dunes in Port Aransas under Jim Brown. Jim taught me how to go from managing one guy to managing fourteen guys. If I weren't ready for some of the challenges that life sometimes brings, he'd make sure to let me know in a hurry and I respected his honesty more than he could ever know. He taught me a lot about leadership throughout the crew.

I then found myself at Whispering Pines Golf Club under Michael Dieckhoff and Cody Fisseler. Michael has taught me what it means to get respect from the crew. I have never seen a crew have more respect for someone like they do Michael and it's well deserved. I will say Whispering Pines is a first-class country club and it starts from the top. I can always ask Michael for help whether if it's personal or just something about work because he presents himself as an overall well-rounded man, which nowadays can be hard to find in a boss. As for Cody he is one of the smartest guys I've ever met. The experience and things he has taught me while working together is irreplaceable.

My family, mentors, and friends are the reasons why I am here today. The people in South Texas and Lonestar Chapter that I've called asking for advice through vendors and friends is what makes this job so special. This is a family and I cannot thank each of you enough.

I sincerely hope everyone is staying safe and I look forward to the rest of the year.





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

Superintendent/Pro – Member/Member



**DATE CHANGE
UPDATE**

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Registration opens at 8:30am

9:30am Shotgun Start!

Host: Jason Harsh

Tee Prize Sponsor:

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Please note that the new date for this event is
Tuesday, July 14! We hope to see everyone there!

[Click Here to Register](#)

Syngenta donates to Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's COVID-19 relief fund



GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund is now assisting members affected by COVID-19

GREENSBORO, N.C., USA, May 4, 2020 – To help GCSAA members who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, Syngenta is planning a donation of \$15,000 to the [GCSAA Disaster Relief Fund](#).

“We are fortunate we can partner with the GCSAA to help superintendents who have been impacted by COVID-19 and its effects on the golf industry,” said Scott Reasons, Head of Syngenta Professional Solutions for the Americas. “Syngenta wants superintendents to know we are always there to support them, but especially during this crisis that is unlike anything we have ever seen. We hope this donation will be helpful for off-setting some of the burden superintendents and their families may be experiencing.”

Syngenta has been a long-time supporter of superintendents as a Gold Level partner with the GCSAA since the inception of the program and recognizes the need to provide this additional support for the Disaster Relief Fund.

“Syngenta has been a great friend to GCSAA over the years with their support of professional development for our members,” said Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO. “Now they continue to show their generosity by helping GCSAA members who are in need during these unprecedented times. We are very thankful to have a partner like Syngenta.”

GCSAA established the Disaster Relief Fund after Hurricane Katrina in 2006 to be able to assist members who had suffered personal loss. Since then, the fund has been a resource for members who have fallen victim to other natural disasters such as tornadoes, flooding, wildfires and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, eligible members can contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or email mbrhelp@gcsaa.org.

About Syngenta:

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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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ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP TOURNAMENT & LIVE AUCTION

August 4, 2020

Host: Steven Chernosky

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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:

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Straw added as new Texas A&M turfgrass scientist

March 4, 2020



Chase Straw is a new turfgrass scientist in the Texas A&M University Soil and Crop Sciences Department. (Texas A&M photo by Beth Luedeker)

Chase Straw, Ph.D., has joined Texas A&M University and Texas A&M AgriLife Research as an assistant professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences turfgrass program. His duties will be 30% teaching and 70% research.

Straw comes to College Station from St. Paul, Minnesota, where he held a postdoctoral position at the University of Minnesota Department of Horticulture.

A native of Frankfort, Kentucky, he earned his bachelor's degree in plant and soil sciences from the University of Kentucky. He then went on to earn both his master's and doctorate degrees in crop and soil science-turfgrass science from the University of Georgia.

“My primary research interest focuses on precision turfgrass management,” Straw said. “This involves interdisciplinary approaches aimed at understanding the variability of turfgrass systems in order to develop practical strategies for reducing inputs and improving the overall user experience.”

He also conducts general turfgrass management and physiology research that addresses issues faced by the turfgrass management professionals and the turfgrass industry as a whole.

Straw's teaching role will begin this fall semester. He will teach undergraduate courses in turfgrass management systems and turfgrass maintenance and oversee undergraduate research. He will join Ben Wherley, Ph.D., associate professor and AgriLife Research turfgrass ecologist, to co-teach Professional Development in Turfgrass Science.

Until then, Straw said he will be focusing on his research and forming relationships with collaborators throughout Texas. He will also co-advise the Aggie Turf Club and turf students.

“I am extremely excited to be in this position at Texas A&M,” Straw said. “I look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone in the department.”

Straw is a member of the International Society of Precision Agriculture, Turfgrass Producers International, Crop Science Society of America, the Sports Turf Managers Association and Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

While a graduate student, he received the Chris Stiegler Turf Science Fellowship from the Crop Science Society of America. He received the Dr. James Watson Scholarship from the Sports Turf Managers Association as both a graduate and undergraduate.

2021 DOG DAYS OF GOLF CALENDAR

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Submissions for the 2021 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through Aug. 3, 2020.

From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of GCM magazine.

Plan now to stop by the LebanonTurf booth at the Golf Industry Show in January to place your vote for the 2021 Dog of the Year. The winner's owner will receive a \$500 prize and \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA-affiliated chapter. A \$2,000 charitable donation will also be made to K9's for Warriors by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner.

LebanonTurf has been supporting golf course superintendents and their chapters through the Dog Days of Golf Calendar for more than a decade.

Questions? Contact Cynthia Spondello at LebanonTurf at 800-532-0090, ext. 253

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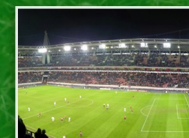
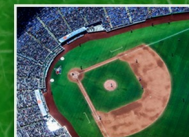
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GCSAA Field Staff Representative

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





GRASSROOTS AMBASSADORS

Overview

GCSAA is taking its government relations efforts to the next level. We are looking for GCSAA Grassroots Ambassadors. The goal is to match a member of GCSAA with each member of Congress, and to build strong relationships between them. The program will establish a network of committed volunteers to serve as the “go-to” people for lawmakers and their staff on golf course management issues. There are many ways to connect with Congress, but remember, the most important thing you can do as a Grassroots Ambassador is share your story. [Download the Grassroots Ambassador brochure.](#)

Ambassador Eligibility and Commitment

GCSAA is seeking enthusiastic, motivated members to serve as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassadors. The link between the Member of Congress and the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador is based on golf facility location, if possible. Also, GCSAA Grassroots Ambassadors need to belong to an affiliated chapter. Terms begin on a quarterly basis in the months of January, April, July, and October.

Ambassador Training and Education

Ambassadors will receive the tools and training needed to become effective advocates for the profession. Resources include a welcome packet to be sent upon signing up, access to online advocate training videos available on demand in Ambassador Central, and invitations to participate in advocacy webinars throughout the year.

GCSAA offers the Grassroots Ambassador Academy at the annual Golf Industry Show where ambassadors interact with grassroots trainers and learn the art of political engagement. Ambassador Academy is by invitation only.

Grassroots Ambassadors are awarded GCSAA education points:

.1 points per training webinar (issues training or training on the “how to of advocacy). 0.1 points will be added to your transcript after a webinar concludes via the participant roster.

Or 0.1 points will be added to your transcript if you self report you watched the webinar via archive.

.05 points for participating in the National Golf Day issues training webinar.

.35 points for attending Grassroots Ambassador Academy at the Golf Industry Show.

Service points:

.25 service points for each in-person meeting with your assigned Member of Congress or their staff and reporting that activity to Michael Lee (such as attending a town hall meeting, hosting a golf course site visit, attending a federal or state lobby day, meeting at the district office, etc.).

Recognition

Ambassadors have the opportunity to win the [Grassroots Ambassador Leadership Award](#), which honors individual ambassadors who have demonstrated growth in advocacy through Congressional outreach and relationship development with a member of Congress. Recipients of the award win an expenses-paid trip to National Golf Day and recognition in GCSAA media. The GAL award is presented in partnership with The Toro Co.

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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.

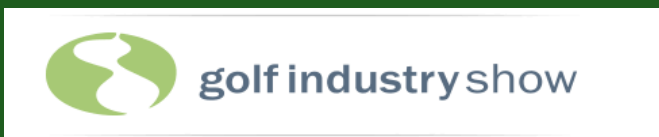
The scholarship will cover the cost of registration, round trip airfare between Houston and Las Vegas, 4 nights hotel stay, a \$50/day stipend, and registration for one 1/2-day seminar.

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!
Application deadline is November 1, 2020!

[Apply Here](#)



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David Reidl, Environmental Scientist at SOLitude Lake Management

Not only are turf managers responsible for the land, but quite often are tasked with overseeing the maintenance of the waterbodies on the property as well. Pond maintenance, in combination with turf management, opens the door to a plethora of issues most turf managers might not know how to address. However, simply knowing how to identify a few types of vegetation within a waterbody can help turf managers maintain a healthy mind and property.



(Cattails)

The first type of vegetation turf managers should be aware of is shoreline vegetation. A few notable examples that can cause stress to turf managers are Cattails (*Typha* sp.), Creeping Water Primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*, CWP), and Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*). Cattails grow in shallow areas and can block inflow and outflow points, ultimately increasing potential for flooding. CWP can be very aggressive and, if left unchecked, can quickly cover an entire pond in one season. Phragmites is one of the most aggressive and invasive plants. They can quickly grow over fifteen feet tall, shading out any native vegetation.



(Water Primrose)



(Phragmites)



(Duckweed)

When it comes to aquatic vegetation, turf managers should be aware of both floating and submersed lake weeds. Floating weeds, such as duckweed (*Lemnoideae*) and watermeal (*Wolffia*), often get confused with algae, but are actually small plants floating on the surface of the water. Duckweed and watermeal often grow in slow-moving and nutrient-rich waterbodies, such as old farm ponds or golf course ponds that are next to frequently fertilized turf areas. While often mistaken for algae, management strategies for these types of floating weeds are very different.



(Watermeal)

A prime example of a problematic submersed weed is Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). A couple of easy ways to identify Hydrilla are by its bushy appearance and, if studied closely, the edges of the leaves, which are serrated. Hydrilla can resemble other beneficial types of submersed vegetation, as well, so it's important to consult a professional who can correctly identify the plant and recommend the appropriate treatment strategy.



(Hydrilla)

Turf managers have a broad spectrum of duties and being tasked with water management can be overwhelming. Knowing how to identify a few basics types of vegetation can go a long way in keeping water-related issues at bay and relieving extra stress on the job. The control techniques used for these weeds is not, however, "cookie-cutter" and each management plan should be unique based on a variety of considerations and variables. That is why it is always recommended to work with a professional lake and pond manager when combatting nuisance or invasive upland, wetland or aquatic vegetation. And, ultimately, the best solution for long-term control is a proactive and ongoing management plan.

75th U.S. Women's Open Championship

Champions Golf Club

Houston, Texas

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!

Syngenta enhances Briskway® fungicide label for increased disease control



Updated label offers increased maximum application rate, higher maximum annual rate

GREENSBORO, N.C., USA, May 5, 2020 – To provide golf course superintendents with increased application flexibility and disease control on their courses, Syngenta worked with the EPA to enhance the label for Briskway® fungicide, the proven cooling DMI and strobilurin combination.

The enhanced Briskway fungicide label provides:

- Increased maximum application rate from 0.725 fl. oz./1,000 ft.² to 1.2 fl. oz./1,000 ft.²
- Higher maximum annual rate from 1.47 fl. oz./1,000 ft.² to 3.6 fl. oz./1,000 ft.²
- Increased number of annual applications from three to seven
- Greater efficacy for curative applications
- Greater control with no heat restrictions or growth regulation
- Increased control of diseases including take-all root rot and fairy ring

“The amended Briskway label provides greater flexibility and enhanced control with a product superintendents have trusted for the past eight years,” said Stephanie Schwenke, turf market manager for Syngenta. “With the additional rates, superintendents can increase their control with a single application. Additionally, they no longer have to reserve Briskway applications for summer use or for particular diseases. They can use it throughout the season to meet the needs of their individual courses as they see fit.”

The differing modes of action from azoxystrobin and difenoconazole in Briskway work together at a calculated rate that performs in high temperatures reducing the risk of harmful side effects. Together, they enable Briskway to control a broad spectrum of diseases, including brown patch, dollar spot, anthracnose, *Rhizoctonia zeae*, summer patch, fairy ring and take-all root rot.

“Years of research have shown that Briskway is safe to use on either cool- or warm-season turfgrasses in high-stress conditions,” said Lane Tredway, technical services manager for Syngenta. “Briskway brings a powerful combination of QoI and DMI modes of action without the risk of phytotoxicity, unwanted growth regulation, or additional stress from applications”

About Syngenta:

Syngenta is one of the world’s leading agriculture companies. Our ambition is to help safely feed the world while taking care of the planet. We aim to improve the sustainability, quality and safety of agriculture with world class science and innovative crop solutions. Our technologies enable millions of farmers around the world to make better use of limited agricultural resources. With 28,000 people in more than 90 countries we are working to transform how crops are grown. Through partnerships, collaboration and The Good Growth Plan we are committed to improving farm productivity, rescuing land from degradation, enhancing biodiversity and revitalizing rural communities.



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REPAIRS AND RESTORATION

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Rounds 4 Research Opens for Bidding July 20, 2020

The auction will run from July 20 - July 26. Check back often during this preview period to watch the auction grow.

Thanks to our friends at The Toro Co. for supporting this effort to ensure the future of the game. We are also excited to have the promotional support of The Golf Channel, Golf Advisor, and GolfNow.

We greatly appreciate all of the GCSAA Chapters and turfgrass organizations who are participating in Rounds 4 Research to support research, advocacy and education efforts throughout the U.S.

For more information, please contact the Rounds 4 Research team at klomshek@gcsaa.org or 1-800-472-7878, ext. 3624.

The EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

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If so, please contact Carrie Cole @ stgcsa@stgcsa.org so we can update your new contact information!



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(Superintendent Positions, Asst. Positions, Technician Positions, Affiliate/Sales Positions, Special Supt Positions, like ranches and sports fields are also listed on the website!)

Please email stgcsa@stgcsa.org when positions have been filled

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