

TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



2020 STGCSA Board of Directors



(Chris Teafatiller, Jason Barrington, Allen Plagens, Dale Bowman, David Gray, Jerry Huntsman, Brandon Cole, Steven Chernosky, Chris Ortmeier, Wade Warms, Blayne Sparks, Mark Baughman)

2020 Tentative Meeting Schedule

January 21, 2020

Annual CEU Pesticide Training Sand Hill Farm

January 25-30, 2020

Golf Industry Show Orlando, FL

February II, 2020

Chili Cook-off/Meeting & Education Cypress Lakes GC

March 2, 2020

Meeting & Education Timber Creek

April 14, 2020

Scholarship Tournament High Meadow Ranch

May 12, 2020

Meeting & Education Sugar Creek

June 16, 2020

Chapter Championship The Oaks Course

July TBD

Supt/Pro - Mbr/Mbr Memorial Park

August 8, 2020

Scholarship Banquet TBD

September TBD

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 TBD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Gray - President STGCSA



Without hesitation, I would first off like to thank the Membership and the Board of Directors of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association for selecting me as this year's president. I would further like to thank Kyle Brown, Tim Phillips and Jerry Huntsman for their service to the association. Additionally, I would like to welcome Allen Plagens and Steven Chernosky to the Board of Directors.

If Vendors would like to renew their sponsorships, please do so soon. We have a great schedule of Education and Golf this coming year so please take advantage of the membership packages available.

I also wanted to say that I've been thinking for a while about what I would write when I was the president of the association and needed to have a "Presidents Message" in the newsletter. After thinking about it for some time I thought I would just talk about how I have felt about being a golf course superintendent and the way I see my course/workplace through the course of a year. We all work at different courses and they are all unique. Our profession requires relationships to be developed with membership, pro-shop staff, directors, board, golf committee, vendors, etc. I'm sitting here writing this message thinking about those relationships and how things flow and move in our industry. These last few years have been tough especially when the director asks for a meeting and says "we have been asked to trim the budget from up above". In those moments positive relationships are not the first thing that comes to mind. LOL. I will however say I have a great director of golf here, and I know he's done everything possible to prevent the "trimming". Now here I sit in the office in December with a cold front blowing through with rain and projected lows to be in the high 30's tomorrow morning. I'm thinking how amazing it is that we just made it through a very wet spring and a very hot end to the summer with two less workers than the summer prior, remember the meeting about trimming? Still sitting here typing thinking back at the heat, dust, grass clippings in your face, irrigation repairs, the call from the pro-shop on Sunday afternoon that says there's water spraying everywhere on the number 3 fairway, driving 20 min to find out it's just a weeping head that could have been fixed on Monday. Through all of those things and so many more headaches we all can find a way to reset and have overall positive relationships with the people in all the different parts of our careers in the golf industry. Personally, the reset for me happens about this time of year when you can get off the mowers some, and work on some other things for a change. I would also say for me, it's thinking back of the mornings with the beautiful sunrises looking from up behind our #4 green to the east, talking turf and joking with vendors that pop in to just say hi or drop off product, stopping by the pro-shop to say it's still 90 degree rule after a rain event, or even stopping by the pro-shop to say its "cart path only", that satisfies me too at times, LOL. No matter what it is there is always something that keeps us loving this industry. I do mean all aspects of the industry, on the courses working or having great products for course growth and health.

Remember to always be sure to find a way to reset during this slower time of year! Keep the course looking good and go spend some time with family and friends this holiday season.

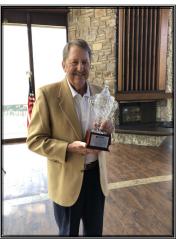
I heard someone say once that "We're only as good as yesterday's greens!"

Happy Holidays!

David Gray

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Mark Monroe for receiving The Tom Leonard Lifetime Achievement Award for 2019!



In July 1971, Mark enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served two years active duty in South Vietnam on the USS Thomaston LSD 28. After returning to Houston, he went to work for his brother, Kelley, on a part time basis. Kelley was a Class A member of STGCSA and also a Class A PGA Pro at Indian Shores Golf and Tennis Club in Crosby, TX. His brother left Indian Shores six months later to take another position, and Mark was asked to take over as the Golf Shop Manager and Golf Course Superintendent at Indian Shores.

So Mark joined STGCSA in October 1971, which turned out to be one of the best decisions of his lifetime. As Mark stated when asked about his early experiences in the industry, "working only two years as an Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, my knowledge was limited. Several members helped me with golf course

maintenance problems; Sonny DuBose, Tom Leonard, Bill McCoy, Jim Holub, John Biddy, Mike Caldwell, Jerry Takushi, Harry Yewens, and Mike Burris were in this group. STGCSA members at this time were from the most influential country clubs in the Houston Area"

He went on to earn a Degree in Horticulture with a Minor in Turf Grass Management at Lee College in Baytown, TX in 1976. During his career, Mark was the Golf Course Superintendent at Indian Shores and Tennis Club from 1971-1974, Goose Creek Country Club 1974-1979, and Hearthstone Country Club 1979-1984.

In March 1981, Mark started Long Green Turf Company and provided contract golf course maintenance for Oxycidental Chemical Company employees' nine hole golf course. Marks last golf course maintenance contract was San Jacinto College from October 1997 to May 2013, at which time he retired.

Mark still enjoys attending STGCSA as a retired member and playing golf when his back permits. He learned to sail at the early age of thirteen and has personally built two boats that he still sails and plans to continue sailing for many years to come. Mark enjoys traveling frequently with friends and groups (Texas Association of Single Sailors, Space City Ski Club, and The Impulsive Travelers) in his spare time.

Mark states that his best career related decisions were joining the U.S. Navy and STGCSA. Later on in life, Mark joined other turf grass management associations, including TTA, GCSAA, and LSGCSA, which he considered all beneficial and important for our industry.

Mark thanks each and every member of STGCSA for being a member, and thanks everyone for their individual dedication to its By-Laws and keeping it as an association to be proud of. Mark appreciates that, as a group, we make all golf course superintendents and anyone who is in the golf industry, feel welcome, feel at home, and feel they are available as a fellow GCS for any assistance needed. We thank Mark for his 48 years of dedication and service to STGCSA!









Thank you to everyone who donated to our annual Toy Drive this year! You have helped and impacted so many families and children this holiday season!

HAAM (Humble Area Assistance Ministries) is an interfaith organization that helps community residents in crisis by providing essential resources to move toward self-sufficiency.

HAAM Vision

Basic needs of families in critical need will be met. Clients will fulfill education requirements for employment. Individuals will acquire skills for job searching to facilitate employment. Families will learn to better manage household finances. Clients will begin to attain self-sufficiency.

https://haamministries.org



We Welcome New Members!!!!

In 2019, we had over 25 new or returning members join South Texas GCSA, Inc.! Please share our 2020 Membership Application to help grow our association even more next year!

Next year we are offering all-inclusive memberships that will allow members to save 20% on all events throughout the year! Please contact Carrie Cole at stgcsa@stgcsa.org if you are interested in signing up for an all-inclusive membership!

Click here for the STGCSA 2020 Membership Application



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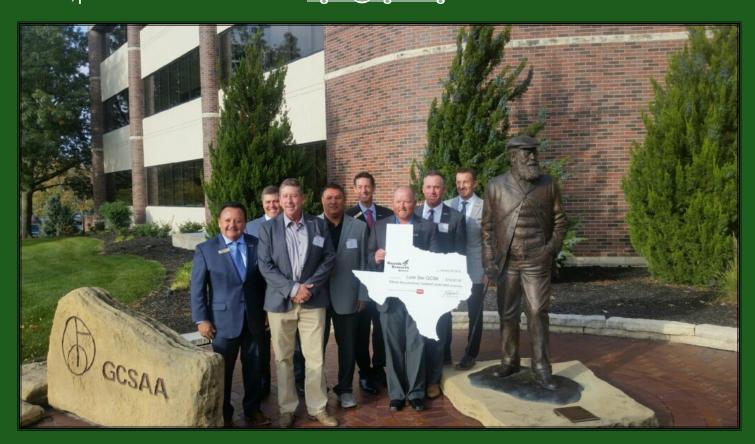


2019 Chapter Delegates Meeting

Thank you to Jason Barrington for representing South Texas GCSA, Inc. at the 2019 Chapter Delegates Meeting.

The Chapter Delegates Meeting brings together representatives from GCSAA-affiliated chapters. Delegates represent the opinions of their chapter regarding initiatives and issues affecting the profession, the association and its members. In addition, they communicate information they receive at the meeting to their chapter. This meeting also starts the new election year, and delegates meet GCSAA board candidates and discuss their campaign platforms.

If you are interested in representing South Texas GCSA, Inc. and attending this meeting in the future, please contact Carrie Cole at stgcsa@stgcsa.org.





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Golf Results for 2019 Meeting & Education

Clear Creek Golf Club
October 15, 2019
Hosted by: Chris Teafatiller



First Place Gross

57 - Daniel McCann, Mark Baughman, Allen Plagens, Ray McFarland

Second Place Gross

60 - Justin Lonon, Seth Johnson, Chris Teafatiller, Jack Hargrove

First Place Net

43 - Tanner Chrastecky, Jason Burgess, Ben Dickerson, Kyle Brown

Second Place Net

45 - Scott Poynot, Steve Vaughn, Wade Warms, Michael Dieckhoff

Proximity Winners

CTP #2 – Ben Dickerson

CTP #7 – Jason Burgess

CTP #12 - Tanner Chrastecky

CTP #14 - Pat Neuendorff

CTP #18 - James Kimberly

LD #3 - Ben Dickerson

LD #13 – James Kimberly



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Golf Results for the 2019 Annual Meeting & Past Presidents Meeting

Panorama Golf Club

November 4, 2019 Hosted by: Steve Gilley



First Place Gross

130 – Steven Chernosky, Jason Burgess, Allen Plagens, Kevin White,
Philip Littlefield

Second Place Gross

135 - Jason Barrington, Tyler Spencer, Fito Velasquez, Pat Johnston

First Place Net

102 - Steve Gilley, Chris Teafatiller, Ben Dickerson, Russ Cobb

Second Place Net

109 – Tanner Chrastecky, Pat Neuendorff, Chris Mrosko, David Gray

Proximity Winners

CTP - Chris Teafatiller

CTP – Brady Forshey

CTP – David Gray

CTP - Jason Barrington





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Golf Fun Fact:

Golf balls were originally made from dried cow eyeballs!



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



Harrell's Growth Continues with POLYON® Acquisition

LAKELAND, FL Harrell's, LLC has acquired one of the green industry's signature brands – POLYON® – from Koch Agronomic Services.

The sale, which is effective at the close of business November 15, includes the POLYON® controlled-release fertilizer brand and related technology, patents and manufacturing capability. More than 70 veteran team members from the landmark Sylacauga, Alabama, <u>POLYON®</u> production facility officially become Harrell's employee-owners.

"This is a great day for Harrell's," said CEO Jack Harrell Jr. "We've always wanted to own POLYON® and finally the time was right for everyone. Now we're going to do everything we can to bring this superb technology to more customers and markets."

Harrell's has distributed POLYON® in the golf, lawn care, horticulture and specialty ag markets for three decades in a supply relationship that originally began with Pursell Industries in the early 1990s. "We've been so closely associated with it that folks mistakenly thought we already owned it," said Harrell. "Those little green BBs have been at the heart of our business and a big part of our growth and success over the years," said Harrell.

POLYON® is a unique, highly efficient fertilizer with a reactive coating technology that diffuses nutrients based on soil temperature and coating thickness. It provides consistent, predictable, dependable feeding to turfgrass, ornamental plants and a wide variety of specialty crops.

"It's a foundational product for so many growers in so many markets," said Harrell. "We believe in a Balanced Approach agronomic philosophy that combines nutrition and plant protection and POLYON® is the perfect start to the process."

Under the agreement, Harrell's will also custom manufacture POLYON® for Koch Agronomic Services, LLC, which will continue to hold exclusive rights to POLYON® in certain international markets.

Harrell's LLC, an employee-owned company founded in 1941, is a national leader in supplying innovative and effective agronomic products to professional growers. In addition to being one of the nation's largest distributors of specialty fungicides, herbicides and insecticides, Harrell's produces <u>POLYON®</u>, the industry's leading controlled-release fertilizer technology and other top-quality, custom blended fertilizers, specialty liquid nutrients, 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. For more, visit www.harrells.com.





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.

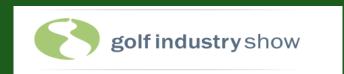
The scholarship will cover the cost of registration, round trip airfare between Houston and Orlando, 4 nights hotel stay, a \$50/day stipend and registration for one $\frac{1}{2}$ -day seminar.

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 Scholarship this year!

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







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Sand Hill Farm (Waller, TX)

January 21, 2020

8:15am - 3:00pm

\$45 Advanced Registration

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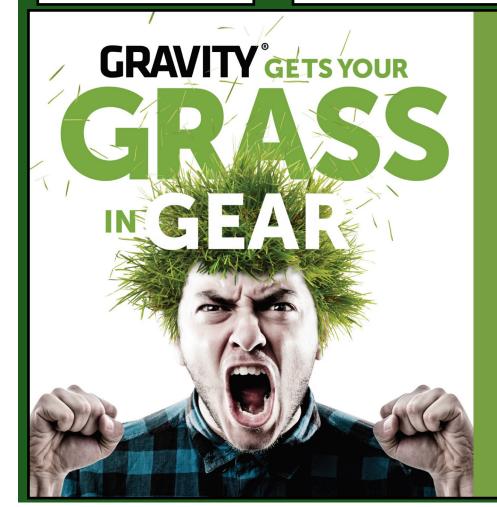
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(Superintendent Positions,

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

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