



TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



2020 Meeting Schedule

November 8-10, 2020

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Hyatt Hill Country GC San Antonio, TX

November 16, 2020

Annual Meeting & Past Presidents Meeting/
Vendor Appreciation Day
Northgate CC

December 12, 2020

STGCSA Christmas Party/
Scholarship Banquet
High Meadow Ranch

Annual Meeting & Past Presidents Meeting
November 16, 2020
Northgate Country Club



SAVE THE DATE

STGCSA Christmas Party/ Scholarship Banquet

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club

37300 Golf Club Trail

Magnolia, TX 77355

Saturday, December 12, 2020

6-11pm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Gray - President STGCSA



Hello Everybody! Thank goodness were cooling off some and the days are getting shorter! I think everybody knows my pattern by now and has probably just accepted the rambling and run on statements, however as always, I want to give a big “Thank you!” to Kevin Hill with Walden on Lake Conroe and Jeff Smelser at Galveston Country Club for hosting STGCSA meetings this year. We greatly appreciate your involvement with the association and love playing great courses. Thanks Again!

So back in late August when I wrote my message, I left off talking about healing some thin areas affected by disease and shade, more hollow tines on the greens this next warm season and preparing for fall pre-emerge apps. Well moving on and now in late October, these last two months have been rather interesting, not long after the last message feral hogs started getting on the course again and luckily, they stayed away from the greens. This happened last December also I remember I wrote about it in one of the previous president messages. Well they started again and progressively got worse and worse. I started coming to the course at night over the weekends and some week days trying to “scare them off” so I told the membership. By the way my wife was not always happy about this, but she still came with me a lot! I even contacted a TDA representative to help with the problem also. He is on stand-by to help if the problem starts up again. They were rooting on and off for about the last month, and one day just stopped. Let’s just say there will be a grub treatment app. going down around May/June from now on. It’s crazy to think about how much time and effort I have put into trying to get them on camera and figure out a patten to see what times they come out at night. Only doing this so I can minimize the time I have to spend out there riding around. Besides the hogs, things have been pretty good this past month. It has been progressively getting cooler however I have stayed strong on the fertility and the PGR’s. It’s nice to get the occasional compliment about the greens being in great shape. I did have something interesting thing happen however this past month that has been tough to manage. Everybody should know from past “tee to greens” that I don’t have many staff members here, myself, an assistant, three full timers and my mechanic. I also have an occasional part timer which is helpful. Well on August 31st, I had a full-time employee retire. He was a great guy and worked with me for over 12 years. Knowing he was retiring I started the search process for my next employee, someone who would potentially fill his shoes. The search went well and I found a good person (so I thought), remember I work for a state agency, so the hiring process is not the easiest (lots of back and forth with HR). Soooo, to make a long story short they worked with me from about September 1st until about September the 8th. LOL. Then decided it wasn’t for them. Remember working for the state has its pros and cons. I have been working with only two full-time employees and still in the process of finalizing another hire. We all probably experience this and its just part of managing golf courses. Back to the course, I have tried some different pre-emerge on the greens and had great results so far. I was very happy to have practically no goose grass and crabgrass on the Greens/Collar. In the past few years, I have been making sure to be very consistent with applications and I have seen great results. *(continued on next page)*

I also switched to a slightly different product. So instead of using the combination of oxadiazon/bensumec, I switched to an oxadiazon active ingredient only. Between the active ingredient, application timing, and the application interval we have seen great results. I don't think the combo product was bad, I just wanted to see if the roots were healthier after a season with oxadiazon only, and of course save a little money for other things as well. The jury is still in deliberations only because I want to see how the poa reacts to this as well. Finally, just like every other course will do, this past month I had the pre-emerge application sprayed. It's nice not to have that on my shoulders and now behind me. I can't count how many times the weather has been nasty in the past every time I have the company out to spray. I was very thankful that October was filled with beautiful weather just right for spraying. The course has been busy, rounds are definitely up all we can do is hope things stay great for our awesome industry. It's hard to believe I have almost made it through a whole year as the President of the STGCSA. It seems not long ago when I writing the first message, and now I can't believe this is the last president's message for my term. When I started writing the president's messages I never thought very far ahead about the course and what I do during the course of the year, I mostly thought about the past couple of months between each Tee to Green explaining what I had experienced. Of course, we all have our calendar of what needs to be done and the timing/scheduling of all the normal course maintenance, but I never just sat and thought deeply about how things actually went or how other things can affect us and the course. I wanted to close like I always have and that's on a positive note. I will always remember the year I was the President of the STGCSA. The year 2020 has definitely been an interesting one to say the least. When I first joined the STGCSA board I did not realize how quickly time would pass on my way to Presidents position. I will always feel that we've had an awesome year even with all the curve balls that were thrown at us. We learned to adapt and change with the restrictions and stayed positive while rounds soar at most courses. I know there are always places and people that struggle and we pray for them. Just know I always enjoy chatting on the phone or at the course. Call or drop by any time! Jason Barrington and the new board, I want to wish you all the best of luck for 2021. Last, I want to say "Thank You!" to all our Superintendents, Affiliates, Friends, Members and STGCSA Board for helping make my year as President with South Texas Golf Course Superintendent Association a great one!

Sincerely,

David Gray

Running for Executive Board 2021

There are Four Board of Director Seats Open for 2021. If you are interested in running, please contact the office or a current Board Member. We would love to have you!



Running for President:

Jason Barrington

I am running for the position of President for the STGCSA Board of Directors and am very excited for this opportunity to give back to the association. I look forward to this great opportunity to serve.



Sitting in the Past President's chair: David Gray

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President in 2020. It was my pleasure.

Candidates for STGCSA Board of Directors - 2021



Running for Vice President:
Chris Ortmeier

I am running for the position of Vice President for the STGCSA Board of Directors and am very excited for this opportunity to give back to the association. I look forward to this great opportunity to serve.



Running for Secretary Treasurer:
Allen Plagens

I am running for Secretary of Treasure. I am excited to give back to our great association as well as helping our industry in moving forward. I look forward for the opportunity to serve.



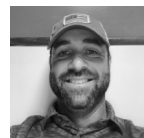
Returning Board of Director:
Steven Chernosky

Thank you for the opportunity to continue my service to this great organization, in the effort to reinforce and build upon the foundation for which it was created.



Running for Board of Director:
Jeremy Lewis

I would like to serve on the Board of Directors to support and represent our association, as well as promote the growth of South Texas GCSA.



Running for Board of Director:
Chris Teafatiller

I sincerely enjoy giving back to an organization that has done so much for me and my career.



Appointed Board of Director:
Tim Huber, CGCS

I am happy to serve on the STGCSA Board of Directors. I look forward to getting to know more of the South Texas chapter members and helping represent our profession to those outside of it.



Running for Affiliate Board Member:
Brandon Cole

2021 marks my 22nd year with STGCSA and 12 years on the Board of Directors. I'm so proud to serve this great organization and represent our affiliate members! Thank you for your support and I look forward to continuing to serve STGCSA.



Returning for Affiliate Board Member:
Mark Baughman

It's truly been a pleasure being an affiliate representative on the STGCSA Board. Would be glad to continue on the board of STGCSA and continue to be a part of this fine organization.



Running for Affiliate Board Member:
Dale Bowman

I would love to serve on the board to give me time and a way to work with our customers and business friends.

Candidates for STGCSA Board of Directors - 2021



Running for Assistant Superintendent
Board of Director: Kevin Bednarik

The opportunity of being on the board would allow me to further my knowledge in this profession, as well as give me a better understanding of how chapters are managed. I feel that Assistant Superintendents make up a portion of the South Texas GCSAA, and being on the board would help me represent them in this chapter.



South Texas Chapter

GCSAA

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Welcome New/Returning Members!!!!

Travis Rogers - Business Development Manager @ Yellowstone Landscape

We welcome you to the Association!!!!



Member Spotlight

Tim Huber, CGCS - The Club at Carlton Woods

I am happy to serve on the STGCSA Board of Directors. I have lived in Texas since 2010 when my wife, Sarah, and I moved here. I have been at the Club at Carlton Woods since 2010 and the Director of Agronomy since 2018. My Wife and I have three awesome kids, Gracelyn (7), David (5), and Levi (2), as well as two Boxers, Rex and Tank. Sarah has an early childhood education degree from Miami (OH) and I graduated from Pennsylvania State University specifically in Golf Course Turfgrass Management. In 2016, I achieved my certified golf course superintendent designation from the GCSAA. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family. I look forward to getting to know more of the South Texas chapter members and helping represent our profession to those outside of it.



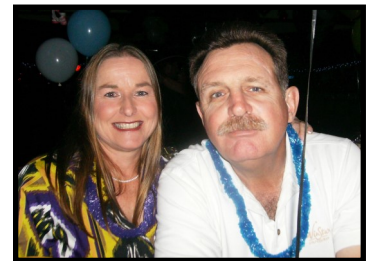
Member Spotlight

Jim Garrett - Regional Sales Rep @ PBI-Gordon Corporation



I was born and raised in Corpus Christi. My father, a 1942 graduate of Texas A&M, was a manager for a nursery/garden store in Corpus Christi for many years. My mother was a school teacher in the CCISD for over 35 years. I started in the golf industry at Oso Beach Golf Course during the summers when not in school. While attending Texas A&M I worked at the turf research center for Dr. James Beard as the mechanic, repairing and maintaining the equipment as well as maintenance on the research plots. Studying under Dr. Beard and other great professors such as Dr. Murray Milford, Dr. Rick Martyn, Professor J.F. Mills and others was a great experience not just in academia, but for life experience. Their leadership and motivational tactics mentored many students through the rigorous course of classes to obtain degrees from Texas A&M. The Associate Dean of Agriculture, Dr. R.C. Potts, was also a great mentor to myself and many students, and I credit him for motivating me to complete my course of study and graduate. These were great men.

After graduation I jumped directly into the superintendent role at Victoria County Club and then World Houston Golf Club (now defunct). Leaving the golf industry after these two positions, we started our own landscape maintenance firm in the Corpus Christi area. We grew a reasonably successful business until the oil crunch of the mid 1980's hit and the business had to shut down. These were dark times as a young man with a wife and 2 children to support. Tom Dechant, the Golf Course Superintendent at NorthShore Country Club in Portland, TX, hired me as the head mechanic at the course and shortly thereafter I was promoted to Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. I learned a lot from Tom and 2 years later, I was moving to the Palm Springs, CA area to assume the GCS position at Rancho Mirage Country Club. At RMCC we were able to update the irrigation system to a VFD pump station and a Toro Network 8000 control system, lowering the irrigation water and electrical expense while increasing the overall effectiveness of the system. After RMCC was sold to a Japanese firm I accepted the golf course superintendents position at Palm Valley Country Club, a 36 hole development club in the Palm Springs area. PVCC was owned by the Sunrise Corporation, which also owned 4 other clubs in the area. While at PVCC I was able to complete the rigorous requirements to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS). After Palm Valley I decided that I needed golf course construction experience and moved to the Dallas, TX area to manage the construction of Tangle Ridge Golf Club for the City of Grand Prairie, TX. When the course opened, it was highly rated in Golf Digest's new courses you can play and is still a tough test of golf skills. After Tangle Ridge, I moved to the construction of Waterview Golf Club in Rowlett, TX. This is where my golf course management career would end. After about 18 years as a golf course superintendent I decided to move to the other side of the desk and into sales.



Len Zimmerer, owner of Zimmerer Kubota, hired me to sell their Bush Hog Turf products to the golf industry in North Texas and Oklahoma. Shortly after joining Zimmerer Kubota I was involved in an auto accident that almost took my life. At 42 years of age a pickup truck hit me as I was walking across a street and put me in the hospital for a week. A major concussion, fractured pelvis and bruised internal organs had me sidelined for a number of weeks. Coming close to death will have a major impact on your outlook of life and lead you to enjoy the small things that come along more like hugs from your kids, cool mornings, the view of the mountains from the valley, dinner with friends and reflecting on the good memories of your life. I have recovered fully and after 3 years with Zimmerer, I took a position with BWI in Dallas, servicing the turf industry with the broad array of products that BWI has to offer. I was an outside sales representative (DSR) with BWI for 9 years before I moved to the Turf Technical Support (TTS) position in the BWI-Dallas office, managing inventory, purchasing turf products and providing technical support to the 25+ BWI DSRs and turf customers across their footprint which is the Southeast quadrant of the United States. After 5 years at the TTS position I assumed my current role as the Regional Sales Representative with PBI-Gordon Corporation. PBI-Gordon is 70+ year old employee owned corporation, providing pest management and fertilizer products to the turf industry through our distributor network.

I currently reside in Cedar Hill, TX with my wife of 41 years (Lynn). We have 2 adult children. Joshua and wife Erica reside in Desoto where Josh is an electrician and Erica is a manager with PetSmart. Leah and husband Jesse reside in Cedar Hill where Leah is a massage therapist with Massage Envy and Jesse is a Supervising Baker with Panera Bread, managing the baking operation at 7 locations. Jesse & Leah have 2 children, Isaac James who is 7 and Evelyn Rose who is 5. After 45+ years in the turf industry, I can truly say that my career has been rewarding and has offered success, personal growth and fulfillment. It's been a good run and I will continue as long as it is FUN!



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!



The Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service Award



South Texas GCSA, Inc. is seeking deserving nominations for The Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service award. Nominations will be reviewed by the South Texas GCSA, Inc. Board of Directors and the winner will be selected by a vote of the South Texas GCSA, Inc. Members who attend the Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Meeting on November 16, 2020 at Northgate Country Club. Members who are unable to attend the meeting in-person will be able to vote online after the recipients are announced. Nominations can be made by any member, golf course official, or company representative. Nominations should be made in writing, including a list of reasons for the nomination, and must be submitted to the South Texas GCSA, Inc. office no later November 10, 2020. ONE nomination per member/per award. If you are nominating someone for these awards, then it should be the ONE person you believe is the MOST deserving. The winner will be presented this award at the Christmas Banquet on December 12, 2020.

The Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service Award is an annual award presented to a member who has shown outstanding service and prolonged dedication to the success of the South Texas GCSA, Inc. It is named after one of the Association's founding fathers and 3-time President.

South Texas GCSA, Inc. members are encouraged to nominate their deserving peers for this award. These types of nominations are very meaningful ways for members to honor their professional colleagues. All nominees will be specially recognized by the association at the Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Meeting on November 16, 2020 at Northgate Country Club.

We strongly encourage all members to share this message to the appropriate personnel at their course and/or company for their consideration.

The deadline for nominations is November 10, 2020. Nominations letters may be emailed to stgcsa@stgcsa.org or mailed to the STGCSA office at P.O. Box 2443, Cypress, TX 77410-2443.

Annual Meeting & Past Presidents Meeting



NORTHGATE
COUNTRY CLUB

November 16, 2020

Host: Tim Phillips

Schedule of Events:

8:30am - 9:30am Registration

9:30am - 11:00am Meeting

11:00am - 11:45am Lunch

12:00pm Shotgun Start

4:30pm - 5:30pm Scoring & Awards

Vendor Appreciation Day!

STGCSA would like to treat our affiliate members to a complimentary lunch AND round of golf as a Thank You for your continued support to our Association!!!!

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Golf Results for 2020 Member/Guest/Guest/Guest

Walden on Lake Conroe

September 15, 2020

Hosted by: Kevin Hill

1st Place Team Gross

60 – Kevin Hill, Jeremy Ice, Greg Garner, Geoff Leary

2nd Place Team Gross

60 – Tanner Chrastecky, Chris Webster, Kevin Holmes, Tom Lopez

1st Place Team Net

48 – Ben Fultz, Stephen Morris, Chris Jefferson, David Turrentine

2nd Place Team Net

48 – Tony Feil, Justin Feil, Hector Davila, Scott Morrison

Proximities

#4 CTP – Justin Feil

#6 CTP – Tony Feil

#12 CTP – Fito Velasquez

#17 CTP – Mike Kellogg

#3 Longest Drive – Tanner Chrastecky

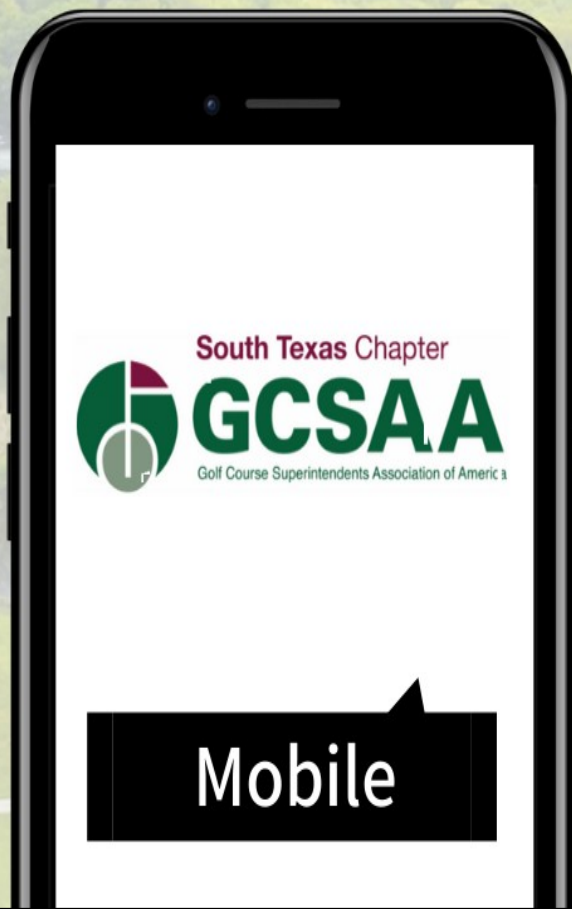
#9 Longest Drive – Ben Dickerson

#10 Longest Drive – Ben Dickerson

#16 Longest Drive – Fito Velasquez

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Keep your turf disease-free this fall with a program approach

By: Mike Agnew, technical services manager for Syngenta



Every season of the year is fraught with its own list of diseases that can impact golf course management. Fall in particular can be problematic, especially where diseases like dollar spot, leaf spot and rusts are concerned.

Dollar spot

Warm days and cool nights that produce heavy dews are conducive for the development of dollar spot. However, taking steps to prevent fall dollar spot can help turf emerge healthier in the spring.

The key to dollar spot control is to plan preventive fungicide applications prior to a disease outbreak. Secure® Action™ and Posterity® fungicides are great options to help control dollar spot this fall. Secure Action provides the protection of a multi-site contact fungicide while Posterity delivers systemic control of dollar spot. The Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) considers multisite fungicides to be valuable tools that manage resistance by delaying its development to many pathogens.

Two new fungicides to the Posterity family, Posterity XT and Posterity Forte fungicides, offer even more flexibility with three modes of action for keeping turf disease free this fall. Posterity XT provides control of diseases such as summer patch, anthracnose and take-all patch in addition to dollar spot. Posterity Forte is designed for extended dollar spot control in addition to brown patch and leaf spot diseases. Posterity, Posterity XT or Posterity Forte can be simply incorporated into a fall disease program depending on the target disease(s).

Fall clean-up of leaf spot and rusts

While dollar spot may be the most important fall disease, other diseases that occur in the fall can adversely impact turfgrass health. Two diseases in particular can be problematic on golf courses: leaf spot and rusts.

Leaf spot:

- Occurs in areas that experience more than 10 hours of foliar wetness a day for several consecutive days
- Favors temperatures between 40° F and 80° F
- Favors high amounts of nitrogen and a low mowing height

Rusts:

- Favor moist, low-light areas
- Favor temperatures between 65° F and 86° F, depending on the species
- Severe rust infections occur on slow-growing turfgrass, particularly those with low nitrogen levels and/or plant water stress
- Secure Action or Posterity XT, applied in early October, can provide excellent control of both leaf spot and rust.

34TH ANNUAL West Texas Turfgrass & Irrigation Conference

Virtual Webinar

\$150

October 27-28, 2020

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NMDA G/PRAP/PRRO CEUs - Oct. 27
TCEQ Irrigation 8 CEUs - Oct. 28
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Golf Results for 2020 Meeting & Education

Galveston Country Club

October 20, 2020

Hosted by: Jeff Smelser



First Place

126 – Chad Davis, John Daniels, Steve Vaughn, Cody Skarpa

Second Place

131 – Tanner Chrastecky, Pat Johnston, Terry Gill, Jim Garrett

Proximity Winners

CTP #2 – Jim Brown

CTP #8 – Scott Dotson

CTP #11 – Pat Neuendorff

CTP #17 – Steve Vaughn

Longest Putt #3 – John Daniels

Longest Putt #7 – Dennis Wagner

Longest Putt #13 – Jordon Droll

Longest Putt #16 – Chris Mrosko

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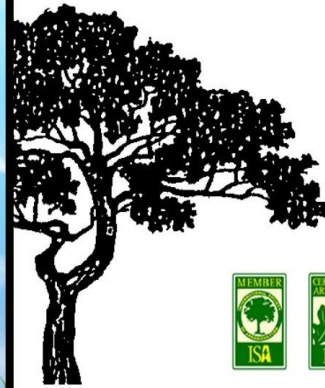


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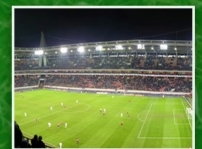
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Fun Fact:

Americans spend more than \$600 million on golf balls every year.



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



2020 STGCSA Marian Takushi Memorial GIS Scholarship

Golf Industry Show shifts to virtual format for 2021

Lawrence, Kan. (Aug. 12, 2020) – The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced that the 2021 Golf Industry Show will transition to a virtual format from the previously planned in-person event in Las Vegas in February.

Registration for the 2021 Golf Industry Show will open Oct. 13.

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!

Please email Carrie Cole at stgcsa@stgcsa.org for more information!



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Debunking Common Aquatic Herbicide Misconceptions: Glyphosate

Written by industry expert Shannon Junior, Aquatic Ecologist & Senior Business Development Consultant

One of the most common questions asked by clients is whether the products that we use to control aquatic weeds and algae in their waterbodies are “safe.” These concerns have become considerably more widespread in light of the recent controversies surrounding the herbicide glyphosate. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation that is circulating, making it difficult to discern the difference between public outcry and peer-reviewed scientific data.

Glyphosate is the most widely used herbicide in history. It is a broad-spectrum product that is used worldwide to control weeds in agricultural, turf, ornamental, and aquatic environments. The glyphosate controversy gained momentum in 2015 when the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), an arm of the World Health Organization, classified it as a probable carcinogen after reviewing public studies. And in recent years, a series of multi-million-dollar verdicts have been awarded by California juries to people who have successfully argued that glyphosate caused their cancer. However, after further review uncovered deficiencies in the validity of the findings, two of the studies used as evidence in the trials have now been retracted by the journals in which they were published. After reviewing all of the available studies and information, in 2017 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concluded that “glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans...(and there are) no other meaningful risks to human health when the product is used according to the pesticide label.” This conclusion is widely shared by other global regulatory and research agencies.

Another misconception about glyphosate is that it kills frogs, which would be extremely concerning for aquatic uses if it were true. However, there is only one study that has been cited by opposition groups to this use pattern, and it was done using a glyphosate formulation that was not approved for aquatic use and should never be used in aquatic environments. The only glyphosate products used in SOLitude’s management programs are specially formulated or tank-mixed with an appropriate surfactant that is completely safe for aquatic organisms.

Most of us in the lake and pond management industry have chosen our profession because we are passionate about water resources and we strive to provide the most environmentally sustainable aquatic weed treatment and water quality management solutions available. While chemical algaecides and herbicides are important tools in our management toolbox, the best approach to achieving a healthy waterbody is through an integrated Annual Management Plan. However, if your lake or pond is already suffering from an overgrowth of aquatic weeds or shoreline vegetation, the appropriate algaecides and herbicides can help get your waterbody back to square one. When applied by experienced professionals, licensed and approved chemical products are safe and effective management solutions that can help regain control of your lake or pond so proactive solutions can be implemented.

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