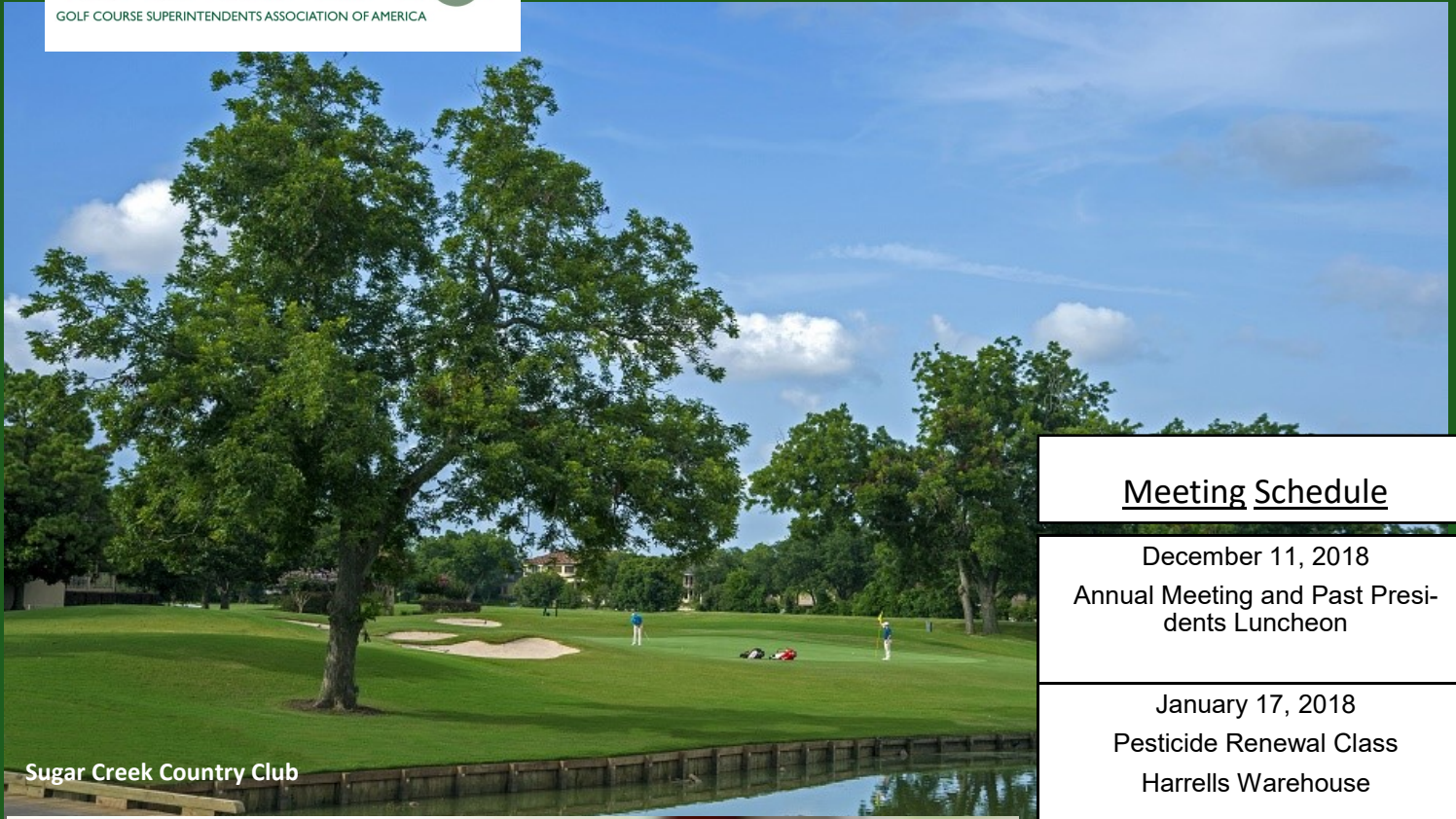


TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Sugar Creek Country Club

Meeting Schedule

December 11, 2018
Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Luncheon

January 17, 2018
Pesticide Renewal Class
Harrells Warehouse

January 30, 2018
Cypress Lakes GC
Chili Cook Off and Golf!

February 7, 2018
Lone Star Reception
Golf Industry Show San Antonio
Hard Rock Cafe

March
Memorial Park GC

April 17, 2018
Scholarship Tournament and Live Auction
High Meadow Ranch GC

May 14, 2018
Sand Hill Farms
Education/Golf/Shotgun Contest

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

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Holiday Season*

*Season's
Greetings*

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Presidents Message: Chris Lineberger



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. In what will be my last message as president, I wanted to give a special thanks to the many others who have given their time to this association. A big THANK YOU to Marian. Most of you probably don't realize how much work behind the scenes she does everyday. We are very fortunate to have her running things for us.

The last meeting of the year is December 11 at Sugar Creek CC. This is the annual meeting. We will be electing a new president and new board members. It is important that we have a good showing. We are also recognizing all past presidents as well. I hope to see everyone there. Details on the holiday party will be coming soon. We will do like last year and host it after the new year.

Kind Regards,

Chris Lineberger



GCSAA members can now begin registering for the 2018 Golf Industry Show, Feb. 3-8 in San Antonio, including the GCSAA Golf Championships, GCSAA Education Conference and the largest trade show in golf course management.

The 2018 GIS will feature the theme "Connect. Discover. Elevate." and will be held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. The GIS kicks off each year with the GCSAA Golf Championships, followed by four days of innovative education and a trade show designed for golf facility owners and managers, including the association's 18,000 members, as well as for the industries that market to those facilities.

"When we brought the Golf Industry Show to San Antonio three years ago, we had an overwhelming positive response from attendees and industry partners," said Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO. "San Antonio is a great setting for what will be the center of the golf world for the week."

More than 550 exhibitors are expected to fill the trade show floor of the convention center, which has undergone a \$325-million expansion since the last time the GIS was on site. Upcoming shows are scheduled for San Diego in 2019 and Orlando in 2020.



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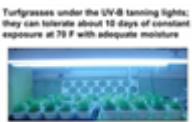
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Best MARKING Practices for Your Golf Course - On Demand



Every boundary needs an end... You can't play the game if you don't mark the field. And a great way to enhance your club's profile is to correctly mark the course. Ron Hickman, PGA Master Professional, provides some examples of best ways to mark hazard and out-of-bounds areas. You'll get insightful course marking tips based in part on Hickman's knowledge and experience with the Rules of Golf, including officiating and course marking at 15 PGA Championships, two Ryder Cups, and six Masters. Understand how to incorporate local rules as you improve your skills by learning from this expert.

Bolster Turf's Ability to Use Natural Defenses Against Stress - On Demand



Healthy turfgrass — especially healthy greens — stays healthier longer. Research is showing you can use turf's own defenses to battle stress. We will review the basics of plant growth and stress or immune responses, touching on the subjects of photosynthesis, light stress, antioxidants, hormones, amino acids, proteins, nutrition and water relations. In this 90-minute webcast, Erik Ervin, Ph.D., shares research concerning plant health products aimed at boosting turf's natural defenses against summer stress, including products containing active ingredients such as pigments, phosphites, PGRs, seaweed extract, humics, amino acids, strobilurins, sunscreen, surfactants and acibenzolar.



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Sugar Creek

Country Club



Please reach out to any past president and let them know about the meeting!

Meet Past President, Tom Leonard (1964). It is a treat talking with him and hearing some great stories from the past!

Past Presidents Cost for lunch \$0

Past Presidents Cost for Golf \$30



We will continue to collect \$20 or a new toy for our annual toy drive. You will receive two mulligans in return!

CHANGE OF DATE!

December 11, 2017

Sugar Creek Country Club

STGCSA Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Lunch

Registration: 9:30

Meeting: 10—11:00

Lunch/Driving Range 11-12

Shotgun Start 12 pm (dinner awards to follow)



Sonny DuBose Memorial Distinguished Service Award...you still have time to get

The South Texas Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is pleased to inform you of our tenth annual Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service Award.

Recognition is what the Sonny Dubose Award is all about, letting someone know their hard work and dedication is appreciated. Anyone (superintendent or vendor) who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course management profession and the success of the STGCSA should be nominated. Still, a superintendent who has had an outstanding year deserves to be and should be nominated for the award. By adding a distinguished service aspect to it, we will hopefully increase nominations and be able to recognize more of those deserving members. Contact any past winner of the award or a STGCSA board member to submit a nomination.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please send any submissions to: stgcsa@stgcsa.org or hand your nomination letter to a Board member.

If you feel strongly that a Member is deserving of this recognition, we ask that you submit to our Board of Directors a single page recommendation expressing your support and reasons for the nomination. We ask that you return this letter to us by December 6th. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors will then evaluate all submissions before presenting a slate of candidates to our membership for a vote at the annual meeting.



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Looking Towards 2018

As we approach the end of 2017 and look back at the year, it was a difficult one for a lot of Houstonians.

Hurricane Harvey in August 2017 was the costliest tropical cyclone on record, inflicting nearly \$200 billion in damage primarily from widespread flooding in the Houston metropolitan area. It was the first major hurricane to make landfall in the United States since Wilma in 2005, ending a record 12-year span in which no hurricanes made landfall at such an intensity in the country. In a four-day period, many areas received more than 40 inches (100 cm) of rain as the system slowly meandered over eastern Texas and adjacent waters, causing catastrophic flooding. With peak accumulations of 64.58 in (164.0 cm), Harvey was the wettest tropical cyclone on record in the United States. The resulting floods inundated hundreds of thousands of homes, displaced more than 30,000 people, and prompted more than 17,000 rescues. One of our own was even in the spotlight for using their heavy equipment to help rescue folks. Long time member, Tommy Burnside (Burnside Services, Inc.) had his earth mover out there in the flood waters moving people from high water locations.



Then on November 2nd, Houston is celebrating its first-ever World Series victory after a thrilling conclusion to the baseball season against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The victory energized residents still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey's flooding.

The year was truly touched with moments of heroism and bravery as well as celebration.....#HoustonStrong



Get your chili ready!!

Sign up soon to be a competitor in the 2nd annual Chili Cook Off!

January 30th at the Cypress Lakes GC First Meeting of the Year!

[Click Here to sign up today!!](#)

Meet....Chris Ortmeier, GCS Champions Golf Club

Superintendent, Chris Ortmeier was Born Nov. 8' 1984 in Del Rio, Texas. Grew up in Highland Village, Texas and lived there from age 2 to 21. Graduated from Flower Mound Marcus High School in 2003. He attended Navarro Junior College from 2003-2005 and Texas Tech University from 2005-2007. Interned at Colonial for the 2006 Bank of America Colonial and spent the rest of the summer at Lantana Golf Club under GCS Kurt Sewell. He graduated from Texas Tech with a B.S. in horticulture with a specialization in turfgrass management and worked at Colonial from 2007-14 under Scott Ebers CGCS and now at Champions Golf Club from June 2014 to present.

Chris is married to Jenna Ortmeier and resides in Tomball with a daughter Greysen (7) and two sons Jackson (2), and Lawson (5 months).

He has been a GCSAA member since 2007, STGCSA member since 2014, and served on the 2012 Assistant Superintendent Committee for GCSAA.



31st U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Championship

By: GCS, Chris Ortmeier



Less than three weeks after Hurricane Harvey dumped nearly three feet of rain on Houston and the surrounding area, Jack and Robin Burke approached me and asked what I thought about hosting the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur in either early November or early March. Mrs. Burke explained how Hurricane Irma had brought devastation to the original host site, Quail Creek Country Club in Naples, Fla., causing significant damage to both the golf course and the clubhouse leaving them unable to host the event. At the time, I remember thinking to myself, "We just had a hurricane too. There's no way. The second landing area on No. 13 fairway is still 50 percent sand and we are crossing our fingers we will be able to get everything ready for the member-guest, let alone a national championship." However, I could tell early on that this was important to the Burkes, and within a couple days, we all agreed that it could be done. Everyone understood the risks and had very reasonable expectations regarding conditions especially in the flood affected areas. Fast forward seven weeks and the Cypress Creek course is in the best shape I have seen it since arriving a little over three years ago.



The maintenance staff at Champions G.C. removed more 30 inches of rain from Hurricane Harvey to get the course

As cantankerous as Mother Nature was in August, she came through in the clutch for tournament week. Unseasonably warm temperatures the week prior had all of the short grass shining bright and a perfectly timed cool front tightened up the greens, tees, and fairways making it relatively easy to achieve the desired speeds and playing conditions. Not only were the temperatures perfect, but we went 10 days without more than a 20% chance of rain, which rivals winning the lottery for a superintendent with push-up greens in Houston, Texas.

(continued from page 8)



Utah native Kelsey Chugg defeated Mary Jane Hiestand to not only claim the trophy, but also earn a spot in the 2018 U.S. Woman's Open

Champions Golf Club



Ashley Freeman, a Texas A&M graduate and Houston resident, reached the Round of 32 in her first USGA championship in 12 years.



(continued from page 9)

Despite my high praise for the weather, no one deserved more credit and accolades than the crew. I couldn't have been more appreciative and proud of how they handled everything. After a long, hard summer of bermudagrass maintenance, Hurricane Harvey delivered three weeks of laborious cleanup, and the Mid-Amateur meant seven more weeks of long days and early mornings to get things dialed in. Fully prepared for a frustrated and disgruntled meeting when we informed the crew, I was pleasantly surprised by how well they accepted the news, and how quickly they committed themselves to whatever it would take to get the job done. The weeks leading up to the tournament were filled with small projects and last-minute improvements on top of the regularly scheduled maintenance that required additional effort and time away from families. I can't say enough about our team and feel very blessed to have such a great group of guys to work with.



In regards to the tournament execution, we couldn't have done it without the help and support of our volunteers. More than 230 volunteers stepped up to serve and shared in various capacities throughout the event, but none were more valuable than those who braved the 4:30 a.m. start time at grounds maintenance. Julian Herraghty, Kevin Bednarik, Justin Harrington, Scott Dotson, and Scott Anderson all pitched in and were willing to serve wherever they were needed. Whether it was dragging dew on the fairways, squeegeeing courtesy walk paths, mowing fairways, or raking bunkers, each task was critical to the course set up and every one of them knocked it out of the park. Additionally, several other industry peers had offered to serve and were ready to go, but we were fortunate that the weather cooperated and they could remain on standby throughout the event.

In hindsight, it is rather amazing what we were able to accomplish over the past 12 weeks. As a young superintendent, this was a tremendous learning experience. Not only to be a part of a USGA championship, but to see what can happen when a group of highly-motivated, hardworking people come together. The support of the STGCSA and its members was greatly appreciated, and I am hopeful I can return the favor at some point.

November 11-16

Champions Golf Club – Cypress Creek
Ralph Plummer design (1957)

Key Maintenance Personnel

Chris Ortmeier, Superintendent
Brady Forshey, Assistant Superintendent
Sean Kleinfelter, Assistant Superintendent

Grass Types and Mowing Heights

Putting greens: 'Champion' bermudagrass maintained at 0.100-inch (4 acres)
Fairways: 'Tifway' bermudagrass maintained at 0.400-inch (22 acres)
Tees: 'Tifway' bermudagrass maintained at 0.375-inch (2 acres)
Rough: 'Tifway' bermudagrass maintained at 1.75-inches (102 acres)
Bunkers: 46 total, 1.5 acres

Tournament Volunteers:

Julian Herraghty – Carlton
Woods Assistant
Kevin Bednarik – Carlton
Woods Assistant
Justin Harrington – Whispering Pines Assistant In Training
Scott Dotson – PTP
Scott Anderson – Winfield

Crew Lunch

Scott Anderson with Winfield,
Pat and Tony Nuendorff
with Winfield, and Julie
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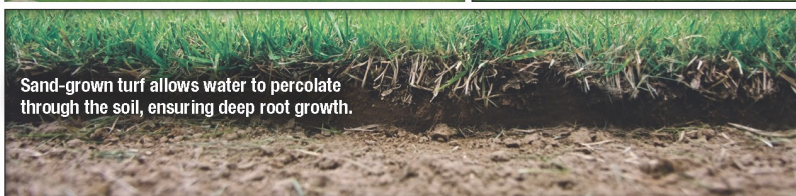


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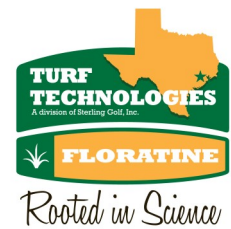


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