

# TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association

*~ Happy Holidays to you and your families ~  
From all of us at South Texas GCSA*

### Meeting Schedule

December 15-17, 2015 - Texas Turf Grass Annual Conference and Show  
Grand Hyatt and Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio

December 18—Christmas Reception  
Bay Oaks Country Club

January 20, 2016—Pesticide License Renewal at AgriExtension Office, Bear Creek

January 26, 2016  
First Meeting of the Year!  
Stephen F Austin GC

February 6-11, 2016  
Golf Industry show –San Diego  
Lone Star Reception February 10th

March 8, 2016 (Tuesday)—Tour 18  
Education Meeting/Golf

April 19, 2016 Scholarship Tournament  
High Meadow Ranch GC

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

### Please join us for some Holiday Cheer



**STGCSA Annual Reception and Scholarship Awards**

**December 18, 2015**

***Bay Oaks Country Club***

**6—10 pm \$35 pp**

Top Ten Prizes will be there to pick up!! Scholarship Checks must be picked up! We have entertainment, food, drink and LOTS of giveaways!!

**Don't miss it!! (Click here!)**

**The best part of the season is remembering those who make the holidays meaningful. We wish you all the love and happiness this season can bring. May it follow you throughout the coming Year.**



# Riverbend Golf Results

November 8, 2015

Host: George Cincotta

**Proximity Winners**

Long Drive
<b>Sean Wilson</b>
CT
<b>Kevin White</b>
CTP
<b>Walt Wilson</b>
Long Drive
<b>Brian Johnson</b>



**Gross:**

**1<sup>st</sup> place: 65**

- Rick Partain
- Russ Cobb
- Colt Phillips
- Gary Hargrove

**2<sup>nd</sup> place 66**

- Blayne Sparks
- Mark Baughman
- John Freeman

**3<sup>rd</sup> place 68**

- Chris Webster
- Tom Werner
- Wade Warmes

**Net**

**1<sup>st</sup> place 54.5**

- Nick Verlinden
- Sean Wilson
- Daryl Wilson

**2<sup>nd</sup> place 58.5**

- Chris Lineberger
- Rodney Crow
- Scott Terry

**3<sup>rd</sup> place 59.5**

- Pat Johnston
- Kevin White
- Walt Wilson



*Thank you George Cincotta and the Riverbend Staff for another great time at your club!  
Kevin White says: "What a blast! I think we need to discuss having this event every year."*

## Past President's Message: Ben Fultz

Being the President for the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents association has been a goal of mine since my first meeting in 2000. I have even more respect for our association after being President, and on the board of directors. I really enjoyed serving as President and seeing our Association grow. So as Cody Spivey is now the President of the Association I will fulfill my duties as Past-President. It has been an honor and privilege to serve and I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity that I was given. I look forward to seeing our association grow and prosper and I would also like to wish everyone and their families a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.



## President's Message: Cody Spivey

With a year of weather extremes coming to an end, I am excited to face the challenges of a new year as your new South Texas GCSA president. As we embark on the Thanksgiving holidays, I would like to thank all of you in our association for making it one of the best associations in the country. I look forward to the opportunity to grow and learn with you in the coming year!



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GCSAA is steadfast, tireless in taking on members' challenges. The addition of a full-time presence in the nation's capital exemplifies that commitment

[Read this story in GCM's digital edition](#)

GCSAA's advocacy endeavors — buoyed late last summer by the decision to enlarge its footprint in the nation's capital by hiring Robert Helland in the newly created position of director, congressional and federal affairs — are an investment in the association's aim of being an even stronger voice for the golf industry at the state, local, regional and national levels, from Washington D.C. to Washington state.

The strategic effort to boost advocacy reached new levels that day. Because of ongoing regulatory scrutiny, GCSAA's Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan to increase its presence in Washington, D.C. That included the hiring of Helland.

Helland, who previously served as GCSAA's Washington, D.C.-based federal lobbyist from the law firm of Reed Smith LLC for the past 10 years, now provides a full-time voice in the nation's capital, allowing GCSAA to expand even more on building relationships.

Helland's presence — along with those of director of government affairs Chava McKeel, government affairs specialist Kaelyn Seymour, and nine field staff members that have done their part to fire up GCSAA chapters — adds more oomph to the momentum at GCSAA.

GCSAA is full speed ahead in its quest to take on any challenge to protect its members, whether over the Clean Water Rule (commonly known as WOTUS), the H-2B temporary guest worker program, or any other matter. When the WOTUS rule was temporarily blocked nationwide Oct. 9 by the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, it signaled much progress for GCSAA and allied partners in their work.

"As an association that places its members first, we have the responsibility to protect and advocate for them and their profession," says GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. "As we all become more engaged in this vital area, taking a proactive approach to governmental affairs, our chances of success will increase."

This determined effort already seems to be paying off.

"They have taken on the government relations side. It's very important. Very impressive," says Justin Apel, executive director of the Golf Course Builders Association of America. "The collaboration, the ability to network with allies, specifically you guys, has been invaluable. We've been able to help one another, avoid duplication, which shows the industry it is a team approach. They (superintendents) always have been important."

[Read the full GCSAA article here](#)

*National Golf Day on April 15 included a GCSAA delegation featuring GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. Photo by Buffalo Communications*



...Continued on page 5

## Engaged and active

This boots-on-the-ground campaign by GCSAA to make inroads and protect its membership spreads far and wide. We're talking Capitol Hill. Major metropolitan cities. Golf courses. Public forums.

"Within all the leadership organizations, all of which are engaged in advocacy, the GCSAA is pre-eminent among them," says Craig Kessler, director of governmental affairs for the Southern California Golf Association, who adds that GCSAA Southwest field staff representative Jeff Jensen has made a major impact for GCSAA members and the industry.

"They are the most focused on it," Kessler says of GCSAA. "They've created a culture of expectations. When it comes to advocacy efforts, they have a high priority on it, and it filters down to regions, chapters. That creates a culture that this is important."

GCSAA's engagement in the industry is vast. It includes:

We Are Golf, a coalition of GCSAA, the PGA of America, the Club Managers Association of America, USGA, U.S. Golf Manufacturing Council and National Golf Course Owners Association, unified to represent the economic, human and environmental benefits of the industry at federal, state and local levels of government.

National Golf Day each spring on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., now in its eighth year, is an opportunity for policymakers to meet with a coalition of golf's leading organizations, including GCSAA, the USGA, the PGA of America, the PGA Tour and others. GCSAA totaled 30 participants this year, and had more than 80 meetings with members of Congress and their staffs.

The Grassroots Ambassador program, launched in July 2014. The goal of the program is for GCSAA members to foster positive, productive relationships with members of Congress to ensure the association has a political voice in all 50 states. To date, 45 states are represented by 193 participants. (Rodney Crow is STGCSA's Grassroots Ambassador).

Whether the issue is water, pesticides, or pollinator protection, the charge for GCSAA's Government Affairs department is to support and stand up for members.

"We can't assume we'd be looked at favorably if we're not part of the process," says Helland, whose policy background includes working in the U.S. Senate on environmental and transportation issues for former New Jersey senator and governor Jon Corzine. "Folks in D.C. can have as much impact on our courses as anyone who plays them. We need to be proactive, not reactive, to how Congress is affecting us. It's a long-term fight, and we need to stay vigilant."

GCSAA has had a productive run so far this year.

In May, Oregon Golf Month featured more than a dozen state legislators in attendance at an event at Illahe Hills Country Club in Salem, Ore.

In June, the first-ever Pennsylvania Golf Day took place at the state capital in Harrisburg. It was an opportunity to tell golf's story, and for superintendents to promote themselves as professional land managers and stewards.

In July, GCSAA chapters in Nevada (Sierra Nevada GCSA, Southern Nevada GCSA) participated in meetings in Las Vegas for the Nevada Drought Forum (established by Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval in April). Chapter presidents discussed current and future drought concerns with an emphasis on golf's water use, which accounts for less than 2 percent of the state's total.

In August, a town hall meeting organized by the Cactus & Pine GCSA at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Ariz., presented another opportunity to educate policymakers. Sen. John McCain's office sent representatives to the event, again demonstrating that GCSAA can catch the ear of those who make a difference for its members

[Read the full GCSAA article here](#)



GCSAA demonstrates turf practices for Congress members.

Photos by Scott Hollister



GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans visits with North Carolina Congresswoman Renee Elmers.

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GCSAA member registration will open Nov. 3, 2015.  
General attendee registration will open Nov. 17, 2015.  
Exhibitor registration will open in December.

REGISTRATION

HOTEL AND TRAVEL

### *Lone Star GCSA Annual*

### *Reception*

*February 10, 2016 7-11 pm*

*San Diego, CA*





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## Preparing Your Irrigation System For Winter



John Daniels, agronomist, Central Region

December finally has arrived and golf courses throughout the Central Region are finalizing important maintenance practices in preparation for winter. Those managing bermudagrass have already raised heights of cut and begun applying turf colorants before dormancy. In the north, mid-to-late November typically marks the time of year when irrigation systems are winterized.

With that in mind, I recently visited with Mike Skopik from Leibold Irrigation to discuss tips for preparing an irrigation system for winter. Here are some things to keep in mind in the coming weeks:

Remove as much water from the lines as possible by running an irrigation program. Many well-designed irrigation systems have valves on the low ends that can be opened to further drain the lines. This should be completed a couple of days before connecting an air compressor.

Many golf courses use between 600 to 1,200 CFM air compressors. A smaller compressor – e.g., 200 CFM – can be used but will increase the amount of time it takes to blow out the irrigation system.

Be cautious of running a large number of heads at the same time as the increased airflow will lead to more friction and heat. There have been reports of PVC failure from running 30 sprinkler heads at once with a large compressor.

Utilize a high-flow pressure regulator that is independent of the air compressor to prevent damaging sprinkler heads. The pressure regulator should be installed between the compressor and the main connection point. Typically, a suitable pressure range for blowing out an irrigation system is 45 to 55 PSI.

Start with the sprinklers closest to the connection point and work away until all heads have been blown out. While blowing out a second time could lead to more water getting out of the system, you run the risk of causing more damage to the sprinklers – especially on high spots, like hills, where added pressure could buildup.

Don't forget about quick-coupler connections. Each one needs to be blown out.

Make note of sprinklers that are damaged and/or in need of leveling.

Disconnect power from the pump station and pump motors to limit damage from offseason power surges. This would also be a great time to clean any debris from in and around pump controllers and motors.

Satellite control boxes also should be powered down and cleaned. Applying an insecticide can help keep satellite control boxes from becoming infested with pests.

Consult with the respective manufacturers of your irrigation system components for additional steps regarding winterization.

Tips for next spring: When recharging your irrigation system in the spring, essentially do the reverse of what you did to winterize it.

It's a good idea to power up the pump station and pump motors at least a couple of weeks before you plan to start using the system. This will allow the coils inside the electric motors that drive each pump to heat up, thereby removing any moisture that collected during the offseason.

Do not start recharging an empty irrigation system with high water pressure – keep the water pressure at 60 PSI or lower when priming the lines. Operate each of the sprinklers until all excess air is flushed from the irrigation system. This also is a good time to check the functionality of any air pressure relief valves – you should hear air being forced out of the valves.



Properly winterizing an irrigation system using an air compressor is critical to prevent damage from freezing temperatures in northern climates.





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**Lone Star Luncheon Wednesday December 16th at  
11:30 am : [click to sign up](#)**



*Congratulations*  
**Congratulation to  
 our 2015 Scholar-  
 ship Winners!**

**Jessica Anderson**

**Claire Barclay**

**Phoebe Browne**

**Heather Dailey**

**Leigh Drabing**

**Anna Johnston**

**Matthew Lyles**

**Zane Mrosko**

**Kelly Ratcliff**

**Abigail Schultheis**

**Anthony Wilganowski**



### **"Who's Who"**

Welcome to our new and  
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Heath Wisdom, Asst. Supt. at  
 River Oaks CC

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All current GCSAA members are entitled to a one-time, complimentary full-conference package at the annual Golf Industry Show.

If you have never used this option, take advantage of the opportunity at the 2016 event, Feb. 6-11 in San Diego.

Complimentary registration is offered to all classes of GCSAA retired, student, inactive and educator members, and all GCSAA members who have never used their one-time complimentary registration.\* Current member dues must be paid in full at the time of registration. GCSAA will confirm eligibility.

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- Opening Night Celebration
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- Trade show
- Closing Celebration

\* GCSAA members using the one-time, free package must register by mailing or faxing the printed form.

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Dec. 8: Turfgrass & K – Reviewing the Relationship

Dec. 10: It's Your Career: What are you going to say about it?

Dec. 16: GDDs for PGR Applications and Re-Applications

Dec. 17: Electrical Technology - Equipment Management Series

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For sponsored events, listen for the code provided at the end of the webinar, and submit it on your [external education affidavit](#).

### Webcast presenters

GCSAA hosts 90-minute live webcasts created specifically for the golf course industry. Do you have a management challenge or is there a current issue in your region that would make an interesting topic for an upcoming event? If you happen to know an expert who can speak on the topic, we'd like to know that, too. For more information about webcasts, contact Lisa Wick, senior manager, e-learning programs.




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