

TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Meeting Schedule

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

May 23, 2016
 Sterling CC

June 20, 2016—Chapter Championship at The Club at Falcon Point

July 19, 2016—Member/Guest/
 Guest/Guest at Battleground GC

September—Supt/Pro (TBA)

October 17, 2016—Cypress Lakes GC

Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Lunch

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)



~ 2016 ~

As the new year starts, there is a lot to get done! Here at STGCSA it's the busiest time of year!

1. Renew your dues for 2016 by March 1st to get listed in the directory.
2. We love our affiliates! Renew dues as well as your sponsorship and advertising. We would not have such a successful chapter without you! Your sponsorship gets us great attendance at the meetings and your advertising keeps our members informed! You are welcome to put coupons or specials on your ad each month!
3. It's time to get your scholarship auction donation in to Marian in order to get all the material ready for the actual auction. Just email Marian!



Bay Oaks Christmas Reception Photos

December 18, 2015

Host: Kyle Brown

Thank you Kyle and all the staff at Bay Oaks for a great time!

Congratulations to all the Scholarship Students and their parents!

Anderson, Jessica

Drabing, Leigh

Ratcliff, Kelly

Barclay, Claire

Johnston, Anna

Schultheis, Abigail

Browne, Phoebe

Lyles, Matthew

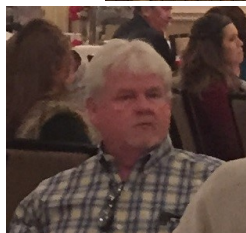
Wilganowski, Anthony

Dailey, Heather

Mrosko, Zane



Member David Johnson of Rinehart Trucking) won the TV for the second time in a row!!



Next Meeting is March 8, 2016 at Tour 18

Sign up now!

9:30 registration

10:00 education (Casey Reynolds—TAMU AgriExtension)

11:00 Lunch

12:00 shotgun start

President's Message: Cody Spivey

I would like to welcome all our members and affiliates to the New Year! I, along with the rest of the board, look forward to a great year serving our chapter.

We have already had an eventful start to the year with the Pesticide License Renewal at Bear Creek and our first meeting of the year at Stephen F Austin. I hope we can keep the momentum as both events were well attended. Thanks to Doug Browne and staff for being a wonderful host and to Brian Cloud and Rodney Crow for the informative updates with GCSAA. Congratulations to John Freeman on being the 2015 Sonny DuBose award winner. Like I said, we have had a busy first month.

As we wait to see what kind of hand Mother Nature deals us this year, we look forward to some great events coming up. For those of you traveling to San Diego, don't forget to stop by the Lone Star reception which is always a great time and second only to spending a little time with our own Johnny Walker while you're there. Good Luck Johnny! In March, we head back to Tour 18 with host Todd Stephens followed by our annual scholarship tournament April 19th at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club. Don't forget to send in information to Marian on any auction items that we can round up for the event. Thanks to all those who commit to giving to the auction!

Just a reminder 2016 dues and sponsorships are now due. Thanks for all the support!





Thank you to all the members who donated to the toy drive!

South Texas donates to The Bridge Over Troubled Water

“The mission of The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Inc., (The Bridge) is to offer support, provide safety, and prevent domestic and sexual violence.”

Through vision, passion and diligence during the past 33 years, The Bridge has become the 8th largest family crisis center in Texas, annually serving approximately 20,000 people through residential/non-residential services and community outreach and prevention/education programs.

The Bridge’s service area is southeast Harris County, Texas, a population of approximately 526,000, including: the cities of Pasadena; South Houston; La Porte; Jacinto City; Channelview; Deer Park; and Galena Park; and the southeast portion of Houston.



South Texas Donates the refurbished golf cart (completed by Brandon Cole) to:



Camp For All is a unique, barrier free camp working in partnership with other non-profits to enrich the lives of children and adults with challenging illnesses or special needs and their families throughout the year. South Texas proudly donated this years’ golf cart project to Camp For All in Burton, TX. Brandon Cole does a great job renovating the carts so they are close to brand new!

Technical tip to save maintenance dollars and frustrations

Member, John Freeman' Technical Tip of the Month

In my travels to visit with superintendents and technicians, I recently had my eyes opened to a very disturbing issue. Many of our equipment manufacturers are getting away from greaseable cone bearing. They are being replaced by sealed, non-greaseable bearings. We are seeing more and more pre-mature failure and replacement of these bearings. A technician friend shared with me why they are failing. He popped the seal out of two or three of his new sealed bearing to reveal a severe lack of grease. I have continued to pop seals on bearing from several golf course equipment providers. Most of the bearings have less than ¼ of the cavity filled with grease. I would recommend that you have your technicians take a small screwdriver that is not sharp and remove one seal and pack all new bearing just like we pack the race and cone bearings. I believe this will save you dollars and frustrations from premature bearing failure.



Fuel conditioner and stabilizer- Our industry is experiencing more failure in small gas engines than ever before. Experts tell us failure is due to ethanol in fuels. We are also seeing more issues with diesel engines than ever before. The bio diesel is not as pure and does not have conditioners that it once had. Diesel engine injectors and injector pumps are contaminated from bio diesel components and performance fails. If you have not treated your fuels with a good conditioner you will continue to struggle with a lot of your maintenance equipment. If possible, make sure that your storage tanks are as free from contaminants as possible. We used to use a paste on a measure stick to make sure that we had no water in our tanks at the Clubs of Kingwood. Make sure your suction tube does not touch the bottom of the tank. Most impurities settle to the bottom of the tank soon after a fuel drop. Let them stay there until you can remove them. Conditioners are cheap compared to parts and labor to repair engines, small and large, gas or diesel.



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Another great meeting at Stephen F Austin Golf Club with the Brownes! Thank you as always for your hospitality!



TEAM	NAMES	GROSS	NET	TEAM	NAMES	GROSS	NET
1 st place Gross	Doug Browne Bobby Browne Charlie Ford	60	58.7	1 st place Net	Gary Hargrove Braeden Riley	61	56.6
2 nd place Gross	Sean Wilson Mike Cleavenger Chris Webster	62	58.6	2 nd place Net	Brent Ratcliff Doug Granger-Guest Nick Smithem-Guest	62	56.6
3 rd place Gross	Ed Martinez AJ Pursley Loren Moulder	62	57.9	3 rd place Net	Bret Barclay Glen Noska Suzanne Whitzel	64	58

Proximity Winners

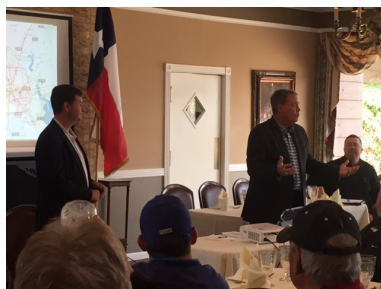
- CTP #2 – Nick Smithem
- CTP#14 – Doug Shamp
- LD 0-12 - Kody Key
- LD 12+ - John Freeman

**Congratulations,
John Freeman.
2015's Sonny
DuBose Award
Winner!**

Previous Winners from Left to Right: John Walker, Steven Chernosky, John Freeman, Doug Browne and Terry Gill



It was a packed house at Stephen F Austin despite the cold wet day. Brian Cloud and Rodney Crow had new information on GCSAA services and John Walker informed everyone about the election process at the Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Good luck, Johnny!



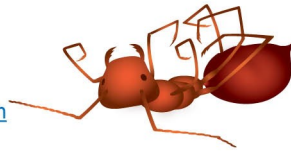


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A note from John Freeman

What an honor to be recognized and honored as the 2015 Sonny DuBose Award recipient. It is truly an honor. Thank you to the board and all the membership that makes South Texas GCSA a world class association. God has blessed me and my family tremendously to be a part of such a great association for almost 40 years of my life. Thank you for allowing me to serve on your board and also to represent you on the Lone Star board. It has truly been a great ride and I look forward to more years of fellowship and relationship building. To this point in my career, this is an honor that I put at the top of the list of awards that I have received. I will cherish it forever.

Sincerely,
John Freeman



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Member Bill Freeman shares his hunting experience from November in Northern New Mexico

After 42 years of hunting elk, Bill Freeman finally killed a big bull. The first week of December found Bill and his buddy, John Watkins hunting in northern New Mexico near Mora. The hunt was a late season hunt that was unseasonably warm. Elk were spotted the first two days of the hunt but nothing of shooter quality.

The third morning found Bill and John along with the guide waiting for daylight in elk country. As it got light enough to see, elk were spotted about a mile away. A stalk was planned and the group was able to stalk to about 250 yards. There were 10 bulls in the herd. Bill and John decided which bulls they wanted to take. Both hunters shot at the same time and two bulls were taken with single shots.

Bill's bull is a 6x6. It has one tine broken off. An official green score on the bull was 349 inches. The bull would have scored ~360 if it had not had the deduction points the broken tine.

Next December will find the hunters once again in northern New Mexico looking for once again.



for elk

Winter is Not 'Down Time' on the Golf Course

The golf season really begins in the winter, so use that time carefully and effectively.

"This article is reprinted from the Jan/Feb 2009, Volume 47, Number 1 of the USGA *Green Section Record*. Copyright United States Golf Association. All rights reserved."

So what do you do during the winter? Better question: Who in the golf course management industry has not been asked this question more times than the number of hairs on our head? Okay, perhaps that's an exaggeration, but there are things that make all of us want to pull out our hair, and for turf managers this question qualifies as one of them.

Superintendents who are highly skilled in communication (and patience) look at this as a great opportunity to educate their golfing members, the green committee, neighbors, and even friends and family. Although some superintendents can easily convey a concise, calculated response, others become angered, or at the very least aggravated, in response to this frequent and somewhat irritating question. This begs other questions such as, "Why are there no articles or books available to turf managers concerning winter maintenance?" and "What took us so long to do so?" In searching through the Turfgrass Information File, textbooks, and the World Wide Web, it doesn't take long to realize that there is a lack of resources on the topic of winter maintenance.

Much like sports, the biggest gains in golf course improvements are achieved in the offseason. Necessary and/or desired course improvements oftentimes demand significant time, labor, and occasionally large equipment, all of which result in varying degrees of course disruption. This being the case, the real gains are achieved when additional man-hours are available and work can be performed most efficiently and without causing undue interference to play. During the golfing season, golf course maintenance is geared entirely to daily play and special events, leaving little time to do more than make only minor course adjustments and improvements.

In northern regions of the country where winters eliminate play for several months of the year, or at the very least cause restrictions for play, maintenance staff levels typically increase sometime in April and reach peak levels shortly thereafter. Staff levels then decrease around Thanksgiving, leaving anywhere from five to eight full-time employees on average, including the superintendent and mechanic. Simply put, for real gains to be achieved, golf courses should think twice about how many full-time staff they should keep through these important winter months. Furthermore, sufficient staffing throughout the winter is needed in preparation for best course conditioning when the course opens in the spring.

For northern courses, winter is the time of year in which maintenance budgets are closely inspected adjusted, and approved. The number of full-time staff needed during the winter months is a typical question that plays heavily on the budgeting process. Ultimately, the appropriate answer to winter staffing levels depends on many variables and is specific to each facility. The following list of activities and projects won't encompass all that can be performed during the winter months, nor is it supposed to do so. Rather, this article is intended to assist green committees, boards of directors, and other course officials to appreciate and better understand what winter golf course maintenance entails, and to be better educated about determining winter staffing levels for their course. The list of winter duties and projects outlined below might surprise the average golfer.

GENERAL DUTIES

Winter Play Setup Duties: While generally not recommended in the northern United States, some winter play does occur and golfers still have expectations for course conditioning. It should also be noted that if winter play is allowed, not only should more staff be in place during the winter to accommodate play, but many more labor hours will be required to repair the course for the beginning of spring play (another article in itself).

Landscape Cleanup: Snow, ice, wind, and rain require debris cleanup across the property, whether it be to accommodate winter play or to prepare the course for spring opening. This includes downed tree branches and accumulations of leaves, soil, or anything that moving surface water leaves behind on the grounds. Remulching landscape and flower beds is another great winter project.

Covering Greens: For courses that annually suffer winter damage to their greens, covering them with straw, tarps or synthetic covers, and heavy sand topdressings, just to name a few, can be essential to avoid turf loss. Many man-hours are required in covering and protecting greens, particularly if covers must be removed or applied several times throughout the winter.

Monitoring Ice on Greens: If by mid-February or early March continuous ice cover still exists, it may need to be removed or broken to allow gas exchange to avoid turf loss due to lack of oxygen. Although winter injury is poorly understood despite decades of research, the threshold for *Poa annua* is assumed to be close to about 50 days, whereas creeping bentgrass can tolerate continuous ice cover much longer. Regardless of these guidelines, monitoring of ice is necessary in northern states and, depending on the intensity and duration of the winter, breaking ice to save greens may be required.



Continued on page 9

Monitoring Course Conditions: In addition to monitoring the golf course regularly, many superintendents frequently perform plug checks to monitor turf health and check for winter damage. This is done by removing soil samples and placing them indoors on window sills where they warm with sunlight. Doing so in advance is a great way to determine if winter turf injury will be an issue, in which case communication and recovery plans can begin.

Winter Fungicide Applications: In northern climates, various numbers of timely fungicide applications are used for control of pink snow mold, or *Microdochium patch* (*Microdochium nivale*), and gray snow mold (*Typhula* spp.) that frequent most cool-season turfgrasses.

Winter Weed Control: For facilities in the transition zone, where bermudagrass and zoysiagrass go completely dormant, controlling actively growing winter weeds, such as *Poa annua*, with pre- and post-emergent herbicides is a must. As with all pesticide applications, staff are required to be trained and certified.

Burning Native Roughs: Burning in early spring is the best weed control method and the healthiest management for maintenance and cleanup of native vegetation. It has always been Mother Nature's way of maintaining the native plains. In addition to a burn permit, make sure to notify applicable parties in the area when burning, including the fire department.

Advance Ordering of Fertilizers, Pesticides, and Other Chemicals: Bulk ordering of fertilizers and pesticides during the winter months can produce significant cost savings as a result of early order discounts, but doing so requires excellent forecasting, budgeting, and planning, all of which takes time. Although this certainly applies to all facilities, those owned by management companies, government agencies, municipalities, and the like require a minimum of three bids for each specification of a product purchase. Depending on the situation, creating detailed specifications to obtain fair, competitive bids for every purchase order can be quite demanding of your time.

Capital Purchases: Maintenance equipment and other capital purchases typically require similar purchasing and bidding processes, as outlined above for chemicals and fertilizers.

Continuing Education: Whether it be the annual Golf Industry Show, local superintendent chapter meetings, USGA regional conferences, pesticide recertification workshops, etc., continuing education is needed to stay abreast of the newest chemistries, technologies, products, and techniques. Continuing education is required not just in certain instances (such as pesticide applicators); it is integral to the success of the facility.

TYPICAL WINTER PROJECTS

Annual Equipment Maintenance and Repairs: Some equipment operates seven days a week all through the growing season, and others run two to three days per week on average. Parts become worn and need to be replaced, fittings loosen, bearings and seals wear out, engines and motors require tune-ups, and wiring needs to be inspected. Extensive preventative maintenance in the winter is crucial for equipment reliability during the golfing season, and reducing costly break-downs results in substantial cost savings. Additionally, there simply is not time to have multiple pieces of equipment waiting for parts or repair during the summer. While breakdowns in the summer cannot be eliminated, winter prevention and maintenance can go a long way in assisting with equipment durability and dependability. Keeping equipment clean and operating efficiently does not just mean a better conditioned golf course; it also increases equipment longevity and trade-in value. "The value of the maintenance fleet more than justifies preventative maintenance and regular service. Maximizing the investment in equipment is good business sense and important to the viability of the overall golf course operation." ¹ Do not forget equipment painting needs as well.

Mower Blade Sharpening and Reel Grinding: With dozens of reels and blades on multiple fairway, green, tee, and rough mowers, diligent sharpening and grinding of cutting units in-house takes weeks. Some courses contract out this work, but it can be very expensive. As such, investing in reel and blade grinding/sharpening equipment, and performing this job in-house, can produce significant cost savings. Bearings, seals, and roller rebuilding are necessary, too.

Tree Maintenance: Selective tree removal and pruning is needed annually to improve growing conditions by increasing sunlight exposure and air flow. Trees or branches that unduly interfere with play or intended architectural design should be eliminated. Annual winter tree maintenance also includes thinning of dense tree populations to reduce overcrowding, clearing understory brush, raising canopies for improved air flow, and addressing trees damaged during winter storms.

Drainage: Limited or no play during the winter is a great time to address deficiencies in drainage. This includes repairing existing drainage tile that has become compromised and no longer functions properly, or the addition of new drainage in areas that drain poorly. To improve poorly draining areas or small pockets that hold water, this can also be achieved through regrading drain basin contours.

Irrigation System: All facets of an irrigation system require annual attention. This includes routine servicing of pump stations as well as upgrading deteriorating irrigation components leveling heads, and mapping of new irrigation lines and heads.

Putting Green Collar Maintenance and Leveling: Collars are areas of the course that are often overlooked, but they benefit from routine maintenance. This includes leveling, defining widths, expansion, and relocation.



re-

Continued on page 10

Tee Leveling, Rebuilding, and Expansion: Intense play and divoting from the centers of teeing grounds may produce surface unevenness that causes playing areas to remain wet, as surface water no longer exits off the tees as originally designed. The opposite also can be true. If aggressive divot-filling programs are in place, excess accumulation causes the center of tees to form a crown. Or, throughout the season it may be obvious that a tee is simply undersized for the amount of play it receives, which is most likely on holes 1 and 10, where additional practice swings are frequently used. In either case, the winter months provide a great opportunity to level, rebuild, or expand tees for the upcoming season.

Bunkers: The general industry standard for the lifespan of bunker sand is five to seven years before it must be replaced. This occurs because silt and clay impede bunker drainage and offer poor playability. Winter months are a great time to replace bunker sand, if needed, or replenish if more is needed. To keep bunkers draining properly, it also is wise to inspect the drain system so that tile lines can be cleaned or replaced.

Cart Path Repair: At some point, highways and streets require repair, and cart paths are no different. Winter months, when temperature and conditions allow, are a great time to prepare cart paths for the upcoming season. Curbing can be built as well.

Maintenance Facility Improvements: An organized, clean, and operative maintenance facility does not happen by itself, and directing some attention here goes a long way to improving employee morale, better productivity and efficiency, and attracting and retaining quality employees.

Pump House, Rest Stations, and Other Small Buildings: There is no rule that states that these structures must be eyesores. Rather, when routinely painted and well maintained, even these facilities can be aesthetically pleasing.

Golf Course Accessories: These include tee markers, wastebaskets, ball washers, benches, bunker rakes, bag racks, etc., and because all are outdoor accessories that endure the elements, all require restoration every now and again. Golf course accessories should be cleaned, repaired, refurbished, painted, or built new, when necessary. New or updated accessories are noticed by golfers.

Soil Testing: Although it may not be practical to obtain soil samples during the winter, it is an opportune time to review soil test results from the previous season (and past years to evaluate trends, if any). Fertility needs should be addressed, and changes, if any, can be anticipated for the upcoming season. This allows for late winter soil amendment applications that may be in order.

Water Testing: Winter is a good time to establish baseline numbers on water purity, as water should be at its purest at that time. By running a water test in the winter and again in midsummer, the relative ranges of water quality used to irrigate your golf course can be obtained.

Miscellaneous: Other projects that can be performed during the winter may include installing a brick patio outside the clubhouse, installing a deep well, repairing a leaking water fountain line, cleaning/servicing/painting/installing large fans used to circulate air on greens, refurbishing the facility's main entrance gate, and everything in between. Winter also presents a great time to develop maintenance standards and review safety and training procedures. There's lots that can be achieved during the winter months, and a winter crew can do so much for your course over time. Continuity of staff throughout the year is extremely important in regard to developing an experienced, responsible, and efficient crew. Similarly, staff continuity throughout the winter reduces time spent training new employees from one year to the next and minimizing rookie mistakes that can be very costly. The exact number of employees to staff through the winter depends upon specific requirements of the facility. Keep in mind that course conditioning and preparation for the golfing season really begins in the winter, so think again and carefully weigh all the options before considering crew layoffs during the winter. Come time for the member-guest, club championship, or any other significant event at your course, you'll be glad you did.

REFERENCE ¹Nelson, M. 2004. Mountain standard time (February, 2004). USGA World Wide Web Site. BUD WHITE is director and TY MCCLELLAN is an agronomist in the USGA Green Section's Mid-Continent Region.



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

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Welcome to our new and returning members!

Russ Cobb—Rainbird Golf Sales with Keeling Company

Josh Brewer—Superintendent at Raveneaux CC

Ricky Lyons-Director of Sales, Turf Technologies/Floratine

Christopher Lepore-Asst. Supt. Magnolia Creek GC

Wesley Curtis-Supt., Westwood GC

Chase Crane-Regional Sales Manager, Pumps of Houston, Inc.

Mike Caldwell-Asst. Supt at Lakeside CC

Brian Sigler-Asst. at Blackhawk GC

Matthew Light— Asst. Miramont CC

Andrew Lewis-Asst. Bluejack Nat'l

Seth Johnson-Asst. Woodlands Oaks/Panther Trail

Boyce Walker-Asst. Bay Oaks CC

All Members!

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MotionScape announces new wearable device helps golfers shoot straight: It's all about the aiming



Motionscape, a leader in golf technology products, announced today availability of The Aiming, the world's first wearable golf aiming device. Using a patented motion sensor rotation algorithm, the Aiming directs the golfer to the right position for an accurate shot.

Using The Aiming is as simple as clipping the device on, standing behind the ball, and pressing a button. A voice then guides the golfer to the right position for a well aimed swing, saying "perfect," when the user is lined up correctly. Or put it on silent mode and a vibration will let you know.

"Aim is fundamental to a good golf shot, but at the same time every golfer knows that the game is at least 50 percent mental," says George Cho, CEO at Motionscape, Inc. "The Aiming uses cutting-edge technology to take the guesswork out of lining up for a shot, while also giving golfers the ever-illusory confidence that reduces stress and saves swings."

Ideal for golfers of any level, The Aiming can be used for tee shots, shots on the fairway, and on slopes as well as flat lies. The device is rechargeable, and a single charge can last up to 10 rounds. The Aiming can stay in the bag with the rest of a golfer's tools for a great game. Just clip it on to a belt or waistband, press the device button, and follow directions.

Retail price for The Aiming is \$149 MSRP and will be available this winter in time for holiday shopping with e-tailers such as Amazon, Newegg, Sears, Kmart, Target and Walmart.

About Motionscape

Motionscape is a hardware venture company that develops golf products that leverage technology to improve the golfer's performance and experience.

For more information please contact Roxanne Alaniz at press@alanizmarketing.com

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GCSAA News

Senate committee passes NPDES fix

On Jan. 20, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved bipartisan legislation to protect golf course superintendents and other pesticide applicators from a duplicative Clean Water Act permit. S. 1500, the Sensible Environmental Protection Act, would remove the need for a CWA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for any pesticide application made on, over, or near waters of the United States.

Help your school win the Turf Bowl Tweet Rally

Support your alma mater or favorite turf program through the tweet rally, held in conjunction with the GCSAA Collegiate Turf Bowl, which is presented in partnership with John Deere Golf. Tweet using the official hashtag of a participating college and #GIS16TurfBowlContest. The school with the most qualifying tweets will be announced at the GIS Closing Celebration Feb. 11 and will take home the GCSAA Collegiate Spirit Award and




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Our Condolences to the James Holub Family

James Holub, Jr. passed away Saturday evening, December 12, 2015. He was 91 years old. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, November 12, 1924. He grew up on a farm in Three Oaks, Michigan, and later served in the army in WWII, part of the Greatest Generation.

He married wife, Betty, in 1948 and in 1954, they moved to the Houston area where he drew upon his farming trade and entered the golf course business. Jim was an active participant and leader in his community and his church. He was instrumental in the growth Alief experienced in the 1960's and 1970's. In 1981, James Holub Middle School was named in his honor for the countless hours he spent volunteering and advocating on behalf of education in Alief.

Jim worked in the golf course business for many years retiring from River Oaks Country Club as the superintendent after 27 years.

He loved to spend time in his wood shop creating functional and artful pieces for friends and family. He loved his family dearly and enjoyed being with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He is survived by daughters, Rose Ann Elmore, Sandra McKee, Sally Justus and son, Jim Holub. He is predeceased by daughter Dayle Allard.

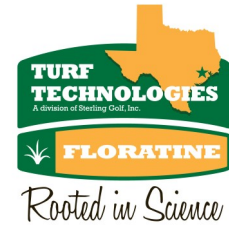


Our Condolences to the Dayton Family

Susie Dayton, wife of past president Randy Dayton, passed away on December 11 at their home in Bandera, TX. Susie's radiant smile and personality were a part of many STGCSA functions. She made many friends in our organization and kept in touch with some after their move to the Hill Country in 2006. Our thoughts and prayers are with Randy in his time of this great loss.



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