

TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



From left: Doug Browne, George Manuel, Carl Tolbert, Terry Gill, Johnny Walker, John Freeman

Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2016
Pesticide Renewal Class
Bear Creek AgriExtension Office

Lone Star GCSA Reception
Golf Industry Show—Orlando FL
February 8, 2017
The Pub

March 6, 2017
Elkins Lake Recreation

April 25, 2017
Annual Scholarship Tournament
and Live Auction
Tour 18

May 9, 2017
Eagle Point GC

June 12, 2017
Riverbend Country Club
Chapter Championship

Register Now for Any Meeting!

Congratulations to Affiliate Member, Carl Tolbert- Carl won the 2016 Sonny DuBose Memorial

Distinguished Service Award

(see page 7 to learn more about 27 year member, Carl Tolbert)

Congratulations to our First Annual Chili Cook-Off Winners!

Most Creative Chili—Bob Meyer/Frank Bittner

Best Flavor Chili—Jeff Smith

Best Texture Chili—Bill Tanner

Grand Champion—Sue Rinehart-Warren (Really Tom!!)

Scholarship Application New Procedures!

You can start filling out the new 2017 application now.



It is due June 1st for 2017. Go to the website and save the file. Fill it out and submit. Your transcripts must be in by July 1st, so order them soon!!

Congratulations to the 2016 Scholarship Recipients!



From Left Top Row: Doug Browne for Phoebe Browne, Scott Anderson for Jessica Anderson, Mark Haven for Jonathan Haven, Matthew Lyles, Justin Watson, Anthony Wilganowski.

From Bottom Left: Claire Barclay, Anna Johnston (Legacy Scholarship Winner), Heather Dailey, Rynne Dolen, Abigail Schultheis, Kelly Ratcliff, Karlie Smelser . Not shown: Lauren Norris



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South Texas' Generous Members

South Texas has such generous members, that this year we were able to donate to two great organizations. In the past 33 years, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters in Pasadena has become the 8th largest family crisis center in Texas. Every year they serve approximately 20,000 with the purpose of ending domestic violence and sexual assault. SAAFE HOUSE, located in Huntsville, TX is committed to empowering victims of family violence and sexual assault by providing individualized immediate, free, and confidential services. Their goal is to prevent family violence and sexual assault by educating the community.



Left: Board Vice President, Kyle Brown and Affiliate Board Member, Dale Bowman delivered the goods to The Bridge on December 5th. The Bridge sets up a "store" for the mothers to pick the gifts that best fit their childrens' need.

Right: SAAFE House employees with Board Member David Gray, Board Treasurer, Jerry Huntsman, and Affiliate Board Member Brandon Cole



Thank you, Terry Gill and all the wonderful staff at Brae Burn Country Club for another fantastic Holiday Celebration!

For the first time, South Texas decided to hold their annual holiday banquet and scholarship awards ceremony in January. Well it seemed to have paid off! We had 10 scholarship students attend and the parents of three others come in their behalf. It never fails to be a success when it is held at Brae Burn Country Club. They really take care of Terry Gill and he in turn takes care of us! Thank you, Terry, once again! The casino night was better than in the past. With great prizes to be awarded, almost everyone stayed and played. The play was fun and the dealers were fantastic. All of this could not have gone so smooth without the help of Brandon Cole. He was so helpful to me (Marian) that I have signed him up for all the Holiday Get Togethers as co-coordinator! Thank you so much, Brandon, for doing so much and really being a huge help! Things will change for 2017 with the new scholarship applications being due June 1st. The awards will go out before the students start their Fall Semester. We will now have a small dinner to hand out the awards in late July. That will leave us with a separate Christmas Party in December. This will allow us to have a Holiday Celebration with no business to attend to at the party. Hopefully that will attract more members to attend!

Below are some fun photos from the January 7th Holiday Banquet at Brae Burn Country Club



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Visit Rounds4Research.com to donate today.



New Rounds 4 Research Auction Dates!

We are excited to share that GCSAA will be partnering with The Golf Channel to promote Rounds 4 Research through their new week-long program – “Golf in America.” This is during the first week of May; therefore, we are moving the auction dates to May 1-7 to align with their programming. This will help us reach the avid golfers and introduce them to R4R. They truly believe in what we are doing for research nationwide.

Congratulations, Carl Tolbert

2016 Sonny DuBose Memorial Distinguished Service Award



To our members, Board of Directors and fellow vendors it has been my honor to be an associate member of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendent Association for 27 years. When I began this venture in August 1988 I could not have dreamed or had the expectation of having such a wonderful experience.

College prepared me for a mortgage banking and financial career and I found early in my life that I wasn't cut out to be in an office from 8 to 5 daily and in August 1988 found a job with a small Conoco distributor South Coast Energy here in Houston. With Mr. Keith Ihms, Mr. Johnny Walker as my sponsors I proudly became a member of South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

As fortune would have it I was able to secure a job with A.N. Rusche Distributing in 1991 that would allow me to start a donation program benefiting what then was a struggling scholarship program. I was able to contribute to many of our tournaments throughout the years.

Through A.N. Rusche, The Hurt Company now known as Reladyne I have provided advertising to our tee to green's monthly newsletter for all these years since a newsletter has been published.

In 1997 with Johnny Walker as the association President I was nominated and elected to be on the board as tournament chairman responsible for securing monthly meeting locations and arranging for our two large tournaments each year, Scholarship and Superintendent-Pro/ Member- Member tournament. During the next Eight years under the leadership of great Presidents, I was able to grow our participation, grow the scholarship fund and allow our members sons and daughters to receive scholarships ranging from a modest beginning of \$500.00 up to \$2000.00 with a legacy scholarship in my last year 2005, as a board member.

This association has provided opportunities, great friends and relationships that otherwise I would never accomplished. STGCSA is strong and well respected and I am truly proud to be a member.

Thanks to this group of truly professional men and women for allowing me to participate, thrive and to have such wonderful friends.

I will truly be indebted to this association, The South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Sincerely

Carl Tolbert
Business Development
Reladyne

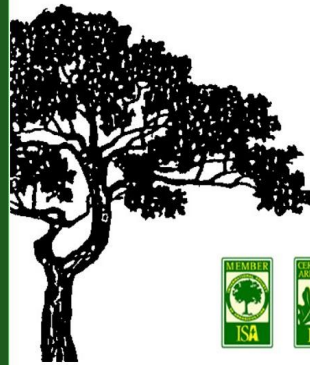


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January 25, 2017 2 PM (central) - Understanding Why

January 26, 2017 10 AM (central) - Carbon, Carbon Everywhere: How carbon functions in your turfgrass system

February 1, 2017 10 AM (central) - Mobile Weed Manual - A Portable Resource

Congratulations to our 2016 Top Ten Winners!



Spivey, Cody	Knowles, Kent	Kane, Richard	
Huntsman, Jerry	White, Kevin	Brown, Kyle	Warmes, Wade
Hargrove, Gary	Hargrove, Jack	Cobb, Russ	Webster, Chris

(This year we had 11 winners because there was a mistake in the points that was brought to our attention after the awards)

The STGCSA Board of Directors believes that the foundation of our organization is the members who actively participate in STGCSA events. We would like to reward all of those who regularly attend and offer incentive for all of our members to take the next step up in participation. The following program offers rewards based on how much a member participates without putting undue emphasis on golf skill or luck.

*11- points for attending the meeting (you must arrive on time and be in the meeting) as well as participation in the Scholarship and super/pro tournament.

*3- bonus points for participation in the golf event at the monthly meeting.

*5- bonus points for a double shift worked at either the Shell Houston open or Administaff classic, Or JR qualifier at Carlton woods, or any tournament set-up that you assist the hosting Superintendent, or host a STGCSA meeting (maximum of 5 points per event)

*3- additional points for service to the organization such as committee service, representation to the Lone Star, GCSAA.. You will receive 3 points for each day or shift a member serves as an official representative.

*3- additional points for any community service that is performed. This must be submitted to the board in writing and proof of participation, and board will respond in 2 weeks.

You must present all additional points earned to the office by November 1st of that year.

Points will start accumulating at the January meeting

As in the past, the people having the most points at the end of the year (The Top Ten) will earn the right to choose a gift. The Point system will be explained in detail at the January meeting. There are several ways to earn points, including volunteering for a committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Marian. We have several new tasks for 2017 that will require more than just the board members to accomplish.

Get Involved! We need your help




This is Helena Houston & We've Got You Covered!

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Stephen F Austin Golf Club—January 17, 2017



A GIANT THANK YOU to all of you helped pull this off! Especially those that donated beverages: Blake Kercheval (Jacobsen), Sue Rinehart-Warren (Rinehart Trucking), Dale Bowman (Pumps, Motors & Controls), Chris Mrosko (AmeriTurf), Ed Schultheis (Embark Tree Services)...I hope I'm not forgetting anyone! Thank you Jeff Smith for all your help and Blake Kercheval for unloading my car!! Thank you, Cody Spivey for all you do and for always willing to help do anything! Thank you, Jerry Takushi for running all those errands for me!

Sincerely.....I couldn't do it without all of you!! ~ Marian

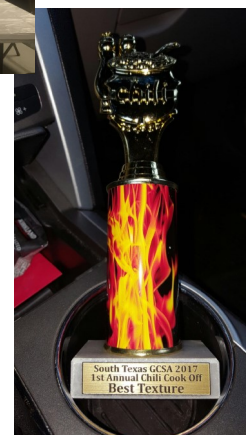
South Texas' 1st Annual Chili Cook Off was a HUGE Success!

The rain didn't stop anyone from coming out to St. Mary's church in Frydek for the Stephen F Austin first meeting of the year. The chili cook off was a great draw! With eleven contestants and tons to drink and eat, it was a packed house. Brian Cloud, GCSAA's Field Staff Rep for the South Central Area spoke to the crowd about everything going on at GCSAA and Johnny Walker helped update everyone as well. After the presentation, 2017 STGCSA President, Chris Lineberger presented the Sonny DuBose Memorial Distinguished Service Award To Carl Tolbert. Carl was overcome with emotion to be given this honor. All proceeds from this meeting will be donated to Stephen F Austin for their long commitment and support to our chapter.



The eleven chili contestants were judged on Texture, Creativity and Taste and awarded with a trophy.

The famous judges from Left: Colt Phillips, Blayne Sparks, Cody Spivey, George Manuel and Eric Glover





Name the New Zoysia Greens Grasses at the Golf Industry Show, Win a New Putter!

Two New Zoysias Suitable for Greens to be Unveiled at the Golf Industry Show

January 11, 2017, Orlando, FL: Ever wonder how new grass varieties get their names? Find out at the 2017 Golf Industry Show in Orlando this February when Team Zoysia takes suggestions from trade show attendees to help name two new zoysiagrass golf green varieties. One lucky attendee will win a new Scotty Cameron putter for participating.

The two new zoysia greens grasses, yet to be named, were developed by renown turfgrass breeder David Doguet of [Bladerunner Farms](#) in Poteet, Texas. The grasses are currently known by their designation used during the research and trial period: M85 and M60.

M85 is a fine-textured zoysiagrass for greens, tees and fairways has a naturally very dark green color with slow vertical growth. Mowing will be reduced in every area of use. Leaves grow from the rhizomes at 90 degrees producing less grain than other varieties. M-85 was selected for genetic color, disease resistance and growth habit. It has shown great promise for greens in San Antonio and Atlanta—especially for excellent cold weather color retention in those locations. The texture is as fine as the ultra dwarf bermudagrasses.

M-60 provides a fine-textured putting surface with good recuperative potential for tees and fairways. M-60 for greens tees and fairways has a natural dark green color along with reduced vertical growth rate. M-60 was selected for fine texture, extensive rhizome system, disease resistance and growth habit.

“Zoysia for greens is the future of golf. We are so excited to introduce these new varieties at the 2017 Golf Industry Show and give attendees the opportunity to see them up close,” Doguet said.

Potential grass names submitted by attendees at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando will be considered for use on either of the grasses. Name selection will be made following legal due diligence and trademark requirements, common for new product naming. Attendees who submit a potential grass name will be entered into a drawing to win a new Scotty Cameron putter, approximate retail value \$300. Winner will be selected from all names submitted, no matter if it is eventually used in commerce.

Both grasses will be renamed and officially released by 2018.

AUCTION

TOUR 18

The Scholarship Tournament is coming up quickly!

Please email Marian with your generous donations for the live Auction. Bill Freeman will again be our auctioneer at Tour 18 on April 25th!

[Click here to email your donation!](#)

**"Who's Who"**

Welcome to our new and returning members!

Jeff Wilson GCS—Eagle Point
Nick Graves-Supt at Blue Jack National

Paul Tate—Texas Drone Pilots
Richard Clark-Asst. Supt at Bay Oaks CC

Frank Bittner-Service Technician, Precise Control

Peter Restino-Regional Manager West, Jacobsen/A Textron Company



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Don Armstrong, Cancer Survivor and
Motivational Speaker

Chances are that everyone reading this blog has been touched by cancer either personally or by someone very close to them. I think we all find inspiration through these very tough battles even though some of them don't turn out the way we hope. I find inspiration *every single day* from my wonderful wife Carol who is a 16-year cancer survivor and, even more incredible, a 34-year survivor of me! She is my hero.

I also want to tell you about another inspiration of mine that has had a profound impact on my career and my life. Don Armstrong is a former golf course superintendent that I first met in March of 1980 when I went to work at Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth (at the age of 8...right?). I was right out of high school trying to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up. He was the assistant superintendent at Colonial from 1978 – 1981 and went on to have an outstanding superintendent career that included returning as the superintendent at Colonial where he hosted the PGA Tour from 1982 – 1987. He has been in the golf course maintenance industry for 38 years and has been a golf course consultant with his company Golf Resources, Inc. since 1987. For five years in the 2000s, he had his own financial management company in Fort Worth. His advice and the example he has set for me as one of my professional role models has been an inspiration to me throughout my career. I ask his advice every time I see him even to this day.

But the much more meaningful inspiration I have received from Don over the past 36 years has nothing to do with fertility, pest control, management, or anything else related to growing grass. Don celebrated his 10-year cancer survivor anniversary in 2015. In 2005, he was diagnosed with Leukemia and went through five chemotherapy treatments and a stem cell transplant. He was the picture of health before his diagnosis and we were all stunned. The story regarding his battle to survive is remarkable, but what he has done since his diagnosis to create awareness, raise money for blood cancer research and to inspire others is truly incredible. He has become an author and motivational speaker and still works in the golf industry in Texas and Oklahoma. He is an avid marathon runner and trains others to run marathons through his organization known as Team in Training which is a fundraising campaign for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He also organizes and manages an annual fundraising event called the Honored Hero Run which raises money for blood cancer research. He has even inspired yours truly to get off the couch once and a while and participate!

Now, Don has taken his efforts to the next level. He has written a book about his life, appropriately titled, *Finish YOUR Race*. It goes on sale on January 24 on Amazon and I can't wait to order one of the first copies. Below is some information about the book. I encourage you to take a look and get to know Don a little better. I hope you will find his story as inspiring as I do and will consider going to Amazon on January 24 and picking up a copy for yourself.

(continued on next page)

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Don Armstrong was first diagnosed with leukemia, a blood cancer that threatened to end his life, in 2005. He endured five rounds of chemo in eight months, culminating in a successful stem cell transplant on May 12, 2006. This was his new “birthday” and his second chance at life.

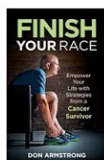
This journey was filled with uncertainty as well as life lessons and huge victories that changed almost every aspect of his life. Don discovered that adversity affects us all, but it doesn’t define us — it’s the way we react that determines and changes the outcome.

Well into Don’s journey with leukemia, he decided he had to give back and make a difference. Since his diagnosis, Don has run 18 marathons (4 internationally), completed a triathlon and a 100-mile bicycle ride, and raised over \$100,000 for blood cancer research.

Don decided to write Finish YOUR Race to share the extraordinary lessons and strategies he learned while his life was on the line. The strategies he discovered aren’t just for cancer patients — everyone can use them to empower their lives.

When you read this uplifting memoir, you will be captivated by Don’s story, inspired by his determination and encouraged by his example. You’ll learn that it’s possible to transcend even the most challenging circumstances and find your life purpose and live it with passion in the process.

Don Armstrong is a leukemia survivor having endured five (5) rounds of chemo and a stem cell transplant in May 2006. He is an avid marathon runner having completed over 20 marathons to-date. 10 since his stem cell transplant. Don is also an author and motivational speaker. He teaches others to win their race in all areas of life with courage, confidence, grace and a positive spirit. Don resides in Fort Worth, Texas. You or your organization may contact Don at Don@DonArmstrongLive.com or 817-917-5919 for information about his speaking availability.



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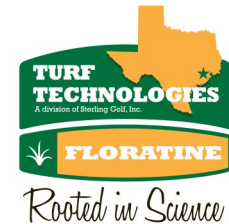
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Thank you, Jeff Smith, Solutions Store

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4. We do not offer email advertising as of now

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Orlando, Florida | February 4-9, 2017 | Orange County Convention Center

February 4: 7-8 am start | [GCSAA Golf Championships](#)

Registration and Hotel information 2017

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SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Lone Star GCSA Reception is scheduled!

February 8 (Wednesday) 2017 at The Pub Orlando!

7-11 pm

[Click here to see photos!](#)

