

TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Tour 18

Spring has Arrived!

March is always a great meeting because everyone is ready for spring! We are lucky that Tour 18 is again having us out to enjoy their beautiful course and amenities. Golf Course Superintendent, Todd Stephens (CGCS) always makes us feel welcome and puts on a fantastic day of fun, food and camaraderie. The meeting is next week, so sign up today! [\(Just click here\)](#)

Just around the corner on April 19th, our very popular and successful annual scholarship tournament and live auction will be held at High Meadow Ranch. It was great to have a change of pace last year at Tour 18 and luckily we are able to go there this month because we all enjoy Todd Stephens' place, but we decided to come back to Cody Spivey's venue this year. We know Cody and Casey Wade are very hospitable and High Meadow offers such a fantastic space for the auction and better that great food! Looking forward to it! Get your donations in now so they can get on all the advertisements and on the web. Just email your auction item and the value of the item to stgcsa@stgcsa.org. Encourage your friends and family to bid on our website! Lets beat last years' record!

Meeting Schedule

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

April 19, 2016 Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch GC

May 9, 2016
Lone Star Texas Cup
Squaw Valley GC in Glen Rose, TX

May 23, 2016
Sterling Country Club at Houston National
Educational Speaker: BASF

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

July 19, 2016
Member/Guest/Guest/Guest
Battleground

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

Presidents message: Cody Spivey

First things first....Congratulations Johnny Walker!!! We are excited for you and wish you the best as you enter your first year on the board of the GCSAA.

As we look forward to supporting Johnny on this endeavor, we ask for all of your support on a few upcoming events. We are still in need of donations for the upcoming scholarship tournament. Please contact Marian if you have any items for the auction. As important as the donations are, don't forget to show up early and be part of the auction. With the wonderful support we receive each year for this event, we have been able to award over \$214,000 since 1994.

We are also looking for round donations for [Round 4 Research](#), and we have volunteer opportunities at the Shell Houston Open. Forms and details on these can be found on our website. Lastly, we encourage everyone that has not already done so to get those dues and sponsorships sent in to Marian as we try and finalize the 2016 Directory by March 15th.

Success of these events depends on our participation as an association. Help us to keep showing why we are one of the strongest associations in the country!

We look forward to seeing everyone at Tour 18 (host Todd Stephens) on March 8th as we welcome back speaker Casey Reynolds.

Cody Spivey—General Manager/Course Superintendent
cspivey@highmeadowranchgolf.com



Equipment Manager membership

renewal

Equipment Manager members who obtained complimentary GCSAA membership in 2015 have until March 31, 2016 to renew their membership. [Learn more about](#) the value of a GCSAA membership for equipment managers.



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ASGCA Foundation debuts *Golf & Water: Case Studies in Water Stewardship*

New book details numerous examples of architects protecting world's most vital resource

BROOKFIELD, Wis. – Attendees to the recent Golf Industry Show (GIS) in San Diego, were introduced to a new book from the America Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) Foundation, *Golf & Water: Case Studies in Water Stewardship*. With financial support from The Toro Foundation and Rain Bird, *Golf & Water* details more than a dozen examples from courses in North America and internationally where ASGCA members and others from the golf industry have positively impacted the management of water.

“This book will help those who develop land – and make decisions about how golf fits into a community – see how golf is committed to good stewardship when it comes to water, our most vital natural resource,” said ASGCA President Steve Smyers, ASGCA.

Golf & Water provides examples of the innovative paths to responsible water stewardship being designed by ASGCA members and implemented by course owners, operators and superintendents.

“*Golf & Water* continues the more than 40-year commitment of the ASGCA Foundation to support golf and the environment,” said ASGCA Foundation President John LaFoy, ASGCA. “The ASGCA Foundation is thrilled with the reception *Golf & Water* received at GIS and is proud to shine a light on the work of this industry in meeting the challenges of water management and conservation.

“From *An Environmental Approach to Golf Course Development* to white papers and national and international presentations, the ASGCA Foundation continues the conversation on how golf courses provide social, economic, and environmental benefits to our communities.”

Golf courses in North America have reduced water use by more than 22 percent since 2005, according to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. *Golf & Water* shows how this has been done, including reducing energy consumption, managing turfgrass, better use of retention lakes, better irrigation practices and more. There is also a section looking ahead to how answers to the “water question” continue to evolve.

Golf & Water: Case Studies in Water Stewardship is available for free download by visiting http://asgca.org/images/stories/publications/Water_Golf_All_Pages2_lores.pdf. Print copies are also available from ASGCA; contact Aileen Smith, Aileen@asgca.org.

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Congratulations!

Texas' John Walker appointed to board of directors for Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Walker enters first year on association's board of directors John Walker, director of golf course maintenance at Bentwater Yacht and Country Club in Montgomery, Texas, was appointed to the board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) at the association's annual meeting Feb. 11, 2016, in San Diego.

He previously served as superintendent at Blackhorse Golf Club in Cypress, Texas; Shadow Hawk Country Club and Houstonian Country Club in Richmond, Texas; Inwood Forest Golf and Country Club in Houston; and Weston Lakes Country Club in Fulshear, Texas.

A 29-year member of GCSAA, Walker is a member and former president of both the South Texas GCSA and the Lone Star GCSA. He is also a member and serves on the board of directors of the Texas Turfgrass Association. He has a bachelor of science degree in agronomy from Texas A&M University.

Walker and his wife, Sharon, have four grandchildren, Haley, Blayne, Clay and Presley, and reside in Katy, Texas.

Johnny makes a statement:

"Over 25 years ago while employed at Weston Lakes Country Club, I decided to run for the South Texas GCSA Board of Directors. I was encouraged to do so by several of my mentors such as Sonny Dubose, Tom Leonard, Larry Finke and Keith Ihms to name a few. Now after many years of service for South Texas GCSA and Lone Star GCSA, several job changes and many personal challenges, I begin my journey of service for the GCSAA National Board of Directors. None of this would have been possible without the friendships I have made through our local chapter over the years. The leadership experience I have gained from service for this chapter has helped me to prepare for this National appointment. I hope that I can make you proud of me and our chapter during my time on GCSAA board. I want to thank all of you for supporting me in this endeavor and especially a big shout out to Sean Wilson, Terry Gill and Doug Browne for doing their very best to keep me in line during the campaign process. I look forward to seeing each of you at our monthly meetings and I will do my best to represent our great chapter."

JOHNNY WALKER
Director of Golf Course Maintenance
Bentwater Yacht & Country Club



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Texas Turfgrasses

Casey Reynolds, PhD and Matt Elmore, PhD



There are over 10,000 species of grasses in the Poaceae family and over 700 species of grasses found in Texas.

Many of these species serve as a source of food, forage, biofuels, soil and land conservation, and ornamentals. However, there are also at least 12 species that are widely used as turfgrasses. These often serve as perennial ground covers in home lawns, athletic fields, golf courses, roadsides, etc. While many of these turfgrass species share similar characteristics, there are distinguishing factors among each species that often make them unique. In order to properly identify each of these species it is first important to understand basic turfgrass morphology and growth as well as how this may impact identification and selection.



Turfgrasses tolerate mowing because of the position of their growing point at the top of an un-elongated stem called the crown. This is a region of actively dividing cell tissue that results in the growth of turfgrass leaves, which occurs near the soil surface. As long as vegetative growth continues, newly formed leaves will continue to be formed at the crown and will replace older leaf tissues as they are mowed off of the plant.

As these leaves emerge, they form into two parts; the *blade* and the *sheath*. The blade is the unfolded or unrolled part of the leaf while the sheath is the lower portion of the leaf, which attaches it to the rest of the turfgrass plant. Other characteristics of leaves listed in Figure 1 that can be useful in identifying turfgrass species include *vernation*, *ligules*, *auricles*, and *collars*.

Figure 1. Turfgrass Plant Morphology and Identifying Features

In addition to leaves, the turfgrass crown also has the ability to produce *tillers*. All turfgrass species have this ability, and it is one of the primary features that allow them to produce dense turfgrasses from single seeds. However, in addition to these tillers many species of grasses also have secondary lateral stems called *rhizomes* or *stolons*. Rhizomes are below-ground lateral stems while stolons are above-ground lateral stems. These features are important components of many turfgrasses because they allow them to tolerate and recover from stresses such as traffic, divots, drought, or injury from insects or diseases.

Many fescues and ryegrasses have a bunch-type growth habit while Buffalograss, Creeping bentgrass, St. Augustinegrass, and Centipedegrass have *stoloniferous* growth habits, and Kentucky bluegrass and some species of Fine fescue have a *rhizomatous* growth habit. Bermudagrass, Seashore paspalum and Zoysiagrass have both rhizomes and stolons, which is one of the features that often make them hardy in high-traffic settings.

The final and most significant feature used to identify turfgrasses is the *inflorescence*, or flowering portion of the grass plant (Figure 2). There are many variations of the grass inflorescence, but they are all placed into one of three different categories: the *spike*, the *raceme*, and the *panicle*.

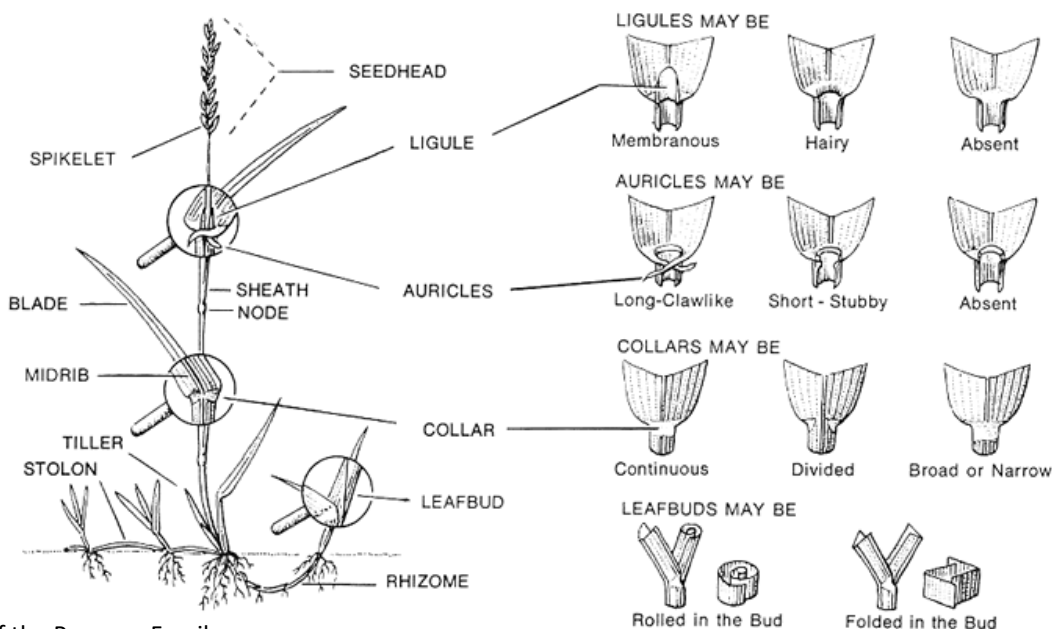


Figure 2. General Characteristics of the Poaceae Family

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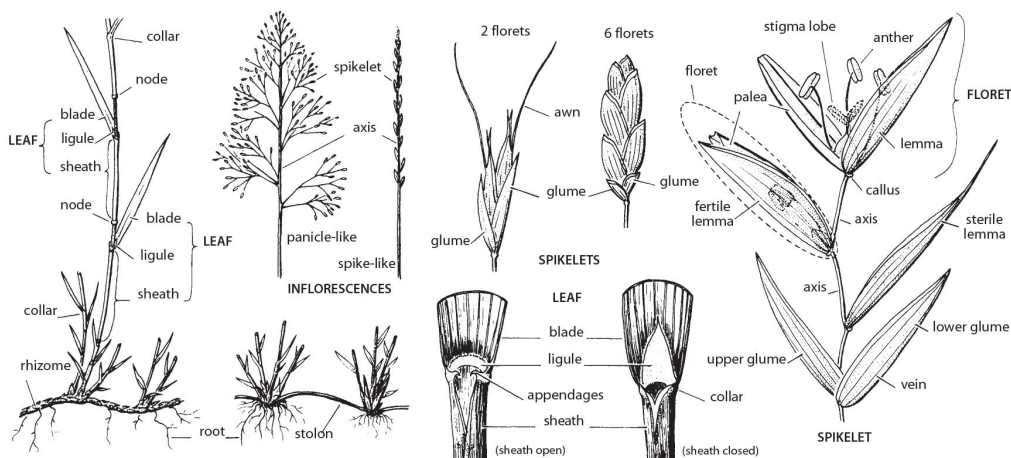
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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POACEAE (GRAMINEAE) FAMILY [JEP]

Figure 2. General Characteristics of the Poaceae Family



Hickman, J.C. ed. 1993. The Jepson manual: Higher plants of California. University of California Press, Berkeley. Reprinted from The Jepson manual, J. Hickman, Ed., 1993, with permission from the Jepson Herbarium. © Regents of the University of California.

The most common inflorescence in grasses is the panicle, which can be found in various forms. Many cool-season grasses such as bluegrasses, bentgrasses, and fescues have a panicle inflorescence with multiple levels of branching and re-branching (Figure 3).

Figure 3



Figure 4



However, panicles can also consist of various spicate branches that extend away from the central axis, as in the case of seashore Paspalum and Bermudagrass (Figure 4).

Continued from page 8

Annual ryegrass, Perennial ryegrass, St. Augustinegrass and Zoysiagrass are all examples of Spike/Spicate/Spike-like inflorescences where the flowering bodies are directly attached to the central axis (Figure 5). Regardless of the type of inflorescence present in a particular grass species, the basic unit of the inflorescence is the *spikelet* and the basic unit of the spikelet is the *floret* (Figures 2 and 6). Florets are reduced flowers that can be *perfect*, *staminate*, *pistillate*, or sterile. Turfgrass species have various degrees of self-incompatibility and therefore rely on cross-pollination for fertilization of their flowers. This is one of the factors contributing to the high variability that exists in grasses.

Vegetative and flowering characteristics of turfgrasses are extremely important tools for proper identification, because turfgrasses can often exhibit differences in appearance based on management and environmental factors such as mowing, fertility, temperature, shade, etc. While it is common for turfgrasses to demonstrate minor changes in leaf texture, density, color, etc., vegetative and flowering characteristics remain much more constant and useful when identifying turfgrass species. For specific information on turfgrasses adapted for Texas, please click on each of the turfgrass species listed below in Table 1.



Table 1. Texas Turfgrasses	
Warm-season Species	Cool-season Species
Bermudagrass	Annual ryegrass
Buffalograss	Creeping bentgrass
Centipedegrass	Fine fescue
Seashore Paspalum	Kentucky bluegrass
St. Augustinegrass	Perennial ryegrass
Zoysiagrass	Tall fescue

References Cited: Shaw, R.B. 2012. A Guide to Texas Grasses. Texas A&M University Press. College Station, TX.
 Turgeon, A.J. 1996. Turfgrass Management. 4th edition. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Upper Saddle River, NJ.



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"Who's Who"

Welcome to our new and returning members!

Chad Ott-Golf & Grounds Acct. Exec, PTP

Logan Behrens—Asst. Supt at Ravens Nest GC

All Members!

Dues must be in by March 15th to be listed in the 2016 directory!!

Check it out !

Member, **Jeff Smelser** submitted photographs of his greens and they are in **Golf Course Management Magazine** March issue



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Mattox & Martinez Win 2016 South Four-Ball Championship in a Playoff Author: TGA



February 28th 2016 - KINGWOOD – Mark Mattox and Ed Martinez claimed the 2016 Texas Golf Association South Four-Ball Championship after a 4-hole playoff. The teams of Mattox / Martinez and John Hunter / Joey Gullion finished 36 holes with scores of 10-under par 134. Mattox clinched the victory with a par on the fourth playoff hole on the Forest Course at The Clubs of Kingwood.

Montgomery's Mattox and Martinez, from Kingwood, worked together again to maximize their birdies to claim their first South Four-Ball title. The team started the day three shots back of the pace set by defending champions John Dowdall / Randy Lance and Thomas Tsika / Ross Horak after an opening round 3-under par 69. The duo posted five birdies and their only bogey of the day on their way to a first nine score of 4-under par 32. They would go on to card three more on their second nine. Their two-day total of 10-under par (69-65—134) was good enough for a tie atop the leaderboard.

The Hunter / Gullion team matched their opening round score of 5-under par 67. Houston's Hunter and Gullion of Humble, turned at 1-under par 35 and carded four birdies on their second nine on their way to a second round 67 and a two day total of 134.

The co-leaders made their way to the eighteenth hole to decide who would claim the South Four-Ball title. The group needed to play the par four 18th hole four times to decide a champion. Mattox claimed the title for his team after draining a five foot par putt.

"This is my first tournament in a long time and it feels good to get a win" said Mattox. Martinez echoed how good a victory felt, "the level of competition that played this weekend shows how good the golf is in Texas."

Solo third was claimed by first round co-leaders Tsika / Horak at 9-under par 135 and the teams of Andrew and Chris Minton finished tied for fourth with Dowdall / Lance at 7-under par 137.

The Texas Golf Association would like to thank the membership and staff at The Clubs of Kingwood for hosting this year's Championship. For full results, click [here](#).



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Does Your Chemical Storage Facility Make The Grade?

February 16, 2016 By John Daniels, agronomist, Central Region



The combination of snow cover and cold temperatures throughout much of the Midwest has limited many golf course maintenance activities – with the exception of an occasional plowing and shoveling – to indoor tasks within the confines of the turf care facility. Farther south, many golf courses are trying to wrap up any remaining course-improvement projects like tree maintenance. With the 2016 golf season on the horizon, now is a good time to review your facility's pesticide storage building and ensure all products are well-organized and in appropriate condition.

Proper pesticide storage not only reduces the likelihood of accidental spills but also improves operational efficiency during the mixing and loading process. A pesticide storage area should create a suitable environment for pesticides to retain their performance abilities while also protecting the environment.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- Inspect all containers for leaks or other damage
- Keep products off the floor
- Place dry formulations above liquid formulations
- Properly discard empty containers
- Utilize secondary containment bins for greater security
- Group similar pesticides together for easier identification
- Make sure all containers are properly labeled
- Ensure your spill-containment kit is up-to-date
- Create a current inventory of all products and respective quantities
- Confirm Material Safety Data Sheets are easily accessible and current
- Test ventilation, heating and lighting systems
-

Always consult with local and state regulatory agencies regarding specific storage requirements. Remember to follow manufacturer directions listed on the label.

For more information on proper chemical storage please review:

[Chemical Storage Upgrades](#)

[What Makes a Good Maintenance Facility?](#)

[I Know We Don't Have the Money, but Can We Afford NOT to Invest in a New Maintenance Facility?](#)

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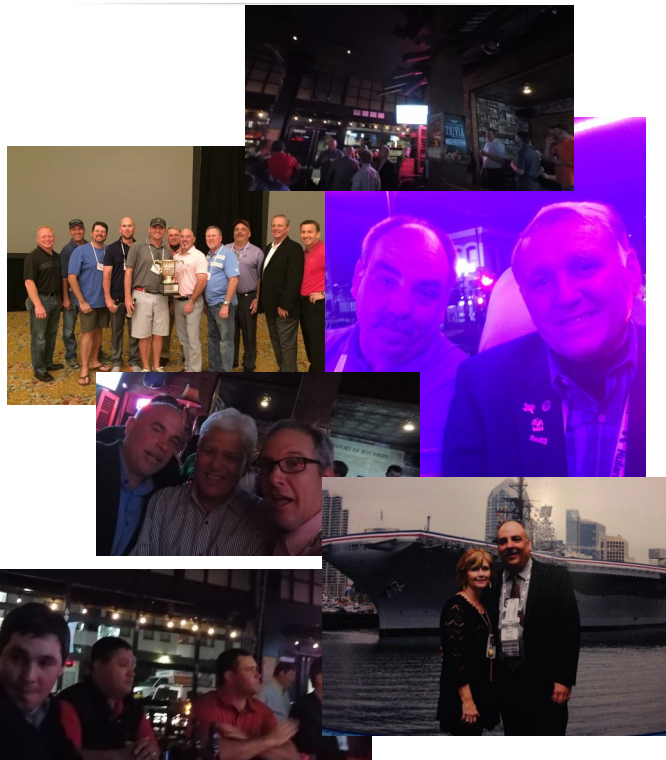
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DONATE A ROUND!!

GCSAA is excited about conducting the R4R program again in 2016. As you know, this program helps chapters raise money to support turfgrass research by auctioning rounds of golf to the general public. This year, we will conduct one auction that will run April 1 – 10 on biddingforgood.com. Chapters will receive 80% of the proceeds from the auction and 20% will be retained by the Environmental Institute for Golf to cover the administrative cost of conducting the auction and promoting the program. It is pretty simple process – facilities donate rounds and designate the chapter to receive the proceeds. Chapters then decide where and how to fund local turfgrass research. Please check out this website for all of the details regarding the program: <http://www.rounds4research.com/about/>

If you can help and donate rounds of golf, please contact Brian Cloud at:

Brian Cloud | Field Staff – South Central Regional Representative GCSAA bcloud@gcsaa.org (mobile: 817.296.9117)

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Its Time To Renew your dues!!

In order to be listed in the 2016 Membership Directory, your dues must be in by March 15th!
Not sure if you paid your 2016 dues?

Email Marian at stgcsa@stgcsa.org