June 2015

TEE TO GREEN



The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association

The Wilderness Golf Club

Rain, Rain, Go Away!

For the first time in years, Superintendents in the Houston area are singing the Rain, Rain, Go Away song. Heavy rains over the past couple of months have washed away the Texas drought. For the first time in years, none of the state falls within the US drought monitors most severe classification. Most of the state got over twice its expected rainfall for the first 18 days of May while a third got three times the amount. After the May 26th flood, the number is higher. Harris County Flood District shows the recorded amount of rainfall for the month of May as well as the total for the year. Just click here. Most golf courses were flooded and some sent in photos (see page 15).

School is out and summer is here. It's hard to believe that half of 2015 is already gone! We have some of our most popular meetings ahead of us, starting with the Chapter Championship on June 16th at The Wilderness Golf Club. STGCSA Past President, Blayne Sparks will be hosting this year. Last years' first place winner in the Championship Flight was Doug Browne. <u>Click here to see all scores from last year at Cannongate at Magnolia Creek.</u>

Rounds 4 Research is in full swing with EIFG. This innovative program aimed at generating resources to fund research and help ensure golf's future needs your help. You can support the effort by donating rounds of golf for two or four players or other items that will be auctioned online at <u>biddingforgood.com</u>. Donating is easy and can be done online: <u>Donate R4R</u> or contacting our GCSAA field staff representative, Brian Cloud at 817-296-9117 or <u>bcloud@gcsaa.org</u>. Also encourage bidding to your friends and family. The auction starts June 8th <u>biddingforgood.com</u>.

Meeting Schedule

June 16, 2015 The Wilderness Golf Club Chapter Championship

July-Member/Guest

August 10, 2015—Supt/Pro-Member/Member Tournament Sugar Creek CC

September 20, 21, 22, 2015 Lone Star Texas Trophy Horseshoe Bay Resort

October—Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Lunch

> November 9—Glow Ball !! Riverbend CC

Register Now for Any Meeting!

Camp Hope, Houston (Update)

By: Blayne Sparks



Happy Memorial Day!! What a week or even just the day to celebrate our service men and women for their many sacrifices made to provide us with the very freedoms that we have today. Coincidentally, it happened to be the week of the ground breaking ceremony for the new housing unit at Camp Hope; that will for anyone that has been there, was desperately needed. Once the new structure is in place, there will be an even greater demand on the feeding of nearly 80 of our service people and their families that are returning home, only to find themselves broken or lost. This outreach program that is privately funded, meaning there are no government subsidies, has taken on the fight to get these dedicated warriors back to the lives that they knew before they left the very soil that has all but forgotten them, in some cases. Recognizing our association's willingness to pitch in, I have greatly enjoyed the process of giving back so little to so many that deserve so much more. The generosity of a new golf cart was a great first step, but feeding these heroes can go so much farther, especially recognizing that most times their families are involved with the process of getting their lives back.

<u>Phase I</u>

On Saturday, May 2, 2015, the Board of Director's for the STGCSA was able to mobilize and set forth with the construction of nearly a half acre "L- shaped" raised bed garden. Jack Hargrove of Hargrove Construction provided over seven hours of work and labor on both a Bobcat skid steer and a John Deere tractor spreading and blending over 120 tons of material. Not bad for an old man! Sue Rinehart of Rinehart Trucking donated over 60 tons of topsoil and Daniel Baker provided the remaining 60 tons of mushroom compost material to complete the capping off process in the construction of the garden.

Phase II

This is where everyone can still get involved... and it is desperately needed. All calls out to anyone with gardening experience because this is going to set the stage for a successful yield and get the project started off on the right foot. This year, the STGCSA is going to donate a tiller, instead of a golf cart, so that the Camp Hope veterans can be trained by the time winter crops are ready to be planted. There is still much to do, such as setting up an overhead irrigation system that AMC, Inc. has so generously donated, but needs to be installed.

Jim Norris of John Deere Landscape has donated two (2) backpack sprayers for the maintenance of the garden and Stephen Dolen along with Clint Neely of Harrell's are willing to donate whatever chemical and fertilizers are necessary to develop a garden that our association can be proud of for years to come. We have all been blessed by the sacrifices that these service people have made to insure that our lives are better, so please remember that given the opportunity, we should all take a minute to thank a veteran every chance we get.

J. HARGROVE CONSTRUCTION















Audubon International and e-par USA are pleased to announce additional "Lunch & Learn" webinars on the value of voluntary environmental programs for golf course superintendents. Building from a joint presentation recently delivered at the Metropolitan GCSA Chapter Education Session, Audubon International Executive Director Doug Bechtel and e-par USA President & CEO Kevin A. Fletcher, Ph.D., will deliver a series of 30-minute live webinars designed to inspire the next wave of environmental leadership in golf.



hars designed to inspire the next wave of environmental leadership in golf. As Cornell University Professor Frank Rossi states, "I've had the pleasure of hearing Kevin and Doug present their progressive view of environmental programs for golf. I feel their approach will help superintendents understand the *best* way forward when considering

The schedule for the additional webinar sessions are as follows:

East Coast—12:00pm Eastern: May 11th, June 9th, and June 23rd

establishing a recognized environmental performance program at their facility."

Central/Mountain—1:30pm Eastern (12:30 Central): May 13th, June 10th, and June 24th

West Coast—3:00pm Eastern (Noon Western): May 11th, June 9th, and June 23rd

Click here to register: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8056458512819624962

Along with this "Lunch & Learn" series, Audubon International and e-par USA are also pursuing opportunities to deliver joint presentations at golf association meeting throughout 2015. "If we're to continue to help golf course owners, managers, and superintendents throughout the industry lead on environmental issues beyond the current state, it only makes sense for like-minded organizations to work collaboratively. It certainly starts with more effective outreach and education," said Fletcher.

"E-par-USA and Audubon International share a similar mission to enhance golf course's business operations while certifying best practices," said Bechtel. "We hope to demystify voluntary programs and offer stories and data that demonstrate the balance of economic, social, and environmental benefits certification programs provide."







For the first time ever, we have had to cancel a meeting and reschedule due to all the rain in the Houston area. Not only was GCS Larry Boyle having a time down South at his course, but most of the superintendents around the Houston Metroplex were having the same trouble....too much water all at once!!

New date for meeting: July 14, 2015

<u>Register Here</u>







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June 2015



Register today for the STGCSA Annual Chapter Championship!

June 16, 2015—Host: Blayne Sparks

Click here to Register!

The Wilderness Golf Club, Lake Jackson

The Wilderness Golf Club is an 18 hole, daily fee championship golf course located just 45 minutes south of downtown Houston. The Wilderness stretches out to over 7100 yards and features more than 3.5 acres of Tif-Eagle putting surfaces. All tees, green surrounds, fairways and bunker slopes are grassed in Tifway 419 Bermuda, while the primary rough is a seeded variety called "Savannah" Bermuda. In 2008, The Wilderness completed its enrollment into Audubon International and has maintained the certification, ever since. The golf course occupies approximately 160 acres of a 450 acre tract that is owned by The City of Lake Jackson and is surrounded by nothing more than the complete serenity of nature. Hurricane Ike and the drought of 2010 has certainly had an impact on the original Jeffrey D. Brauer design, giving the front nine more of a parkland feel. Fortunately, the back nine has fared better and continues to show great hole definition book cased with stately live oaks and naturalized areas.

Blayne C. Sparks, Course Superintendent

I am originally from Patterson, LA and a graduate of Louisiana State University with a B.S. in Turfgrass Management. While attending L.S.U., I was introduced to golf course maintenance at The Island Golf & Country Club located in Baton Rouge. During the summer of my junior year, I was offered an internship with Heritage Links of Houston, assisting in the construction of an additional nine holes at the Starr Pass Golf Course & Resort in Tucson, AZ.

Immediately after graduation, my wife Katherine and I moved to Pearland, TX where I accepted a position at Magnolia Creek Golf Links in League City. Within the year, I was hired as the Assistant Superintendent at The



Wilderness Golf Club in Lake Jackson, which ultimately led to my becoming Superintendent in 2007. Although golf is my first passion, some of my other interests include alligator hunting, fishing and snow skiing.

We all recognize our professional accomplishments, but would likely state that our proudest accomplishments are our children. In 2011, Katherine and I were blessed with our son, Reiley, making this the most special time in my life.

Jason Burgess, Asst. Superintendent

I have been at The Wilderness Golf Club for approximately two and a half years and it's been a great pleasure to be a part of such a fantastic crew. I am the proud father of three beautiful girls Jessica 24, Jordan 23, and Juli 18 and three...soon to be four grandchildren. I received my Associate's Degree in Turf & Landscape Management from T.S.T.C in Waco, TX in 2003. Since then, I have worked at several great facilities as an assistant and even delved into being an equipment manager in Tulsa, OK.

I want to thank all of the members of our amazing organization for banding together to support each other and our local communities. I hope to see you here in June, participating in the Chapter Championship at The Wilderness Golf Club.

Blayne Sparks

Eric Glover

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June 2015

STGCSA Legacy Scholarship Criteria for Selection 2015

As described in the STGCSA Criteria for Selection of the Legacy Scholarship Award:

"Selection methods may include (but will not be limited to) personal interviews, transcripts, essays, overall quality of application and neatness of prepared documents, as well as member participation. Scholarship awards will be determined by an independent committee."

The Scholarship Committee this year is placing increased emphasis on the member participation portion of the selection criteria for all awarded scholarships. Member participation is an integral key to the success of our association and is defined as a requirement of attending a minimum of three (3) meetings by the member during the scholarship year ending when the 2015 Legacy Scholarship Applications are due on September 1st, 2015. The "Scholarship Year" as it pertains to participation, is calculated from September 2014 through August 2015.

Member attendance will not be the only determining factor in awarding scholarships, but we, the Board of Directors, also request that each student awarded a scholarship be in attendance at the Annual Banquet to receive their check. If attendance of the student is not possible, the member/parent of the recipient will need to be present to receive the award on their behalf by no later than the January meeting of the following year. Scholarship checks will no longer be mailed to the recipient.

To Print a Full Scholarship Application, Click Here









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"Who's Who"

Welcome to our new and returning members!

Jerry Gregg, Sales Rep for BJB Enterprises Dennis Wagner—Sales Rep, Hunter Industries

Click Here for All Job Postings



Calling all Dogs! Come on STGCSA! Time to get one of our great shop dogs on the calendar!

Submissions for the 2016 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through Aug. 1, 2015. From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of *GCM* magazine.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO DOUG BROWNE AND BOBBY BROWNE:

WINNERS OF THE 2015 TEXAS CUP IN WACO!

May 4, 2015 Ridgewood Country Club—Waco, TX Host: Travis Moore

Golf Results: CLICK HERE









(MUST RSVP!)

Members attending education only please make reservations by emailing

lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org

June 2015

Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award DSA nominations are due by Aug. 31



GCSAA has been honoring those who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession with the Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award annually since 1975.

View the list of previous winners »

The GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is presented annually to an individual or individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent's profession. The contribution must be significant in both substance and duration, and may be, or have been, regional in nature.

Individuals must be nominated by a GCSAA member, an affiliated chapter or a qualified golf association. The nominee must not have been a recipient of this award in the past 10 years. The award was first presented in 1932 and has been presented annually since 1975.

The GCSAA Board of Directors selects the recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards during its fall board meeting. The award is presented during the annual GCSAA Education Conference.

Nominations for the 2016 DSAs will be open through Aug. 31, 2015.

Submit a DSA nomination »

Congratulations!

Isabel Huntsman pictured below is the daughter of golf course superintendent Jerry Huntsman and a sophomore at Alpha Omega Academy in Huntsville, TX. Isabel finished first runner up at the state tournament in TAPPS 2A . The tournament took place at Cottonwood Creek in Waco, TX on April the 27th and 28th. Although hampered by rains GCS J D Franz had the course in great shape. Isabel turned in a 79 the first day (a personal best).

The event was shortened after 9 holes the second day due to weather. Her opponent and golfing friend Anika Clark from Pasadena First Baptist shot a 64 the first day. Anika is a senior and has a full ride next year at TCU. Congratulations Isabel and Anika and the rest of the girls. Also pictured below is the state champs AOA boys' team.





Water BMP (Best Management Practice) Plan

5 Easy Steps to Getting your Plan Completed! Free Meeting fee (\$60) for any STGCSA member that sends in their BMP Plan to the office!!

Step 1: Click Here to see a sample BMP

Step 2: <u>Download This Spreadsheet</u> to calculate your actual irrigation based on your site specific weather data (ET, Rainfall, Evaporation, etc.), acreage, irrigation system and alternative water sources. Fill in and modify the data in the YELLOW shaded areas in each tab based on your individual facility and the calculations will be done for you. Helpful websites for useful data are listed.

Step 3: Use <u>This Reference Guide</u> to find helpful websites to collect data and other useful information.

Sept 4: <u>Use this BMP Template</u> to complete your plan.

Step 5: Email you completed plan to lsgcsa.org

Need More Information? Click Here!

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Hear what these golfing greats have to say about superintendents. Then, use our form to personally thank a superintendent and be entered to win a trip to the 2015 PGA ChampionshipTM at Whistling Straits.

Superintendents are the unsung heroes of the game of golf

Superintendents work hard to manage and protect the game's most important asset – the golf course. Not only do they manage all labor, materials and costs associated with keeping the course at its finest, they are also involved in the business-related activities of the facility including staffing and training. Superintendents strive to keep the environment safe while keeping their courses healthy and beautiful. Through their great effort, superintendents help enhance the enjoyment of the game of golf.

If you love golf like these pros do, thank a golf course superintendent today!

Write your personal note of appreciation to a golf course superintendent

We'll deliver your message of thanks and you'll be automatically entered to win a trip to the 2015 PGA Championship at Whistling Straits.

Click Here!



June 2015

Golf Courses in the Houston Area on May 26, 2015



Brae Burn Country Club, (Terry Gill, GCS)



Bay Oaks CC (Kyle Brown, GCS)

Pecan Grove CC (Rick Partain, GCS)

Riverbend CC (George Cincotta, GCS)







Sugar Creek CC (Chris Lineberger, GCS)





Westwood GC (Jerry Takushi, GCS)





