

TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Cypress Lakes Golf Club

The End of our 2014 Year Has Arrived!

The 2014 year went by rather quickly!

The weather was pretty cooperative this year and the rainfall wasn't all that bad. The monitored Texas water Reservoirs are 63% full as of October of this year according to the [Water Data for Texas Website](#).

The main topic for 2014 and most likely 2015 as well, is water! With all the new legislative changes occurring, it is imperative for golf course superintendents to stay up to date on these changes and how it will affect the industry. A good resource is the GCSAA website government relations tab ([click here](#)). You can learn about golf course management issues; learn about GCSAA's advocacy efforts; and get engaged in advocacy activities.

Two things you can do right now?

1. Take The Golf Course Environmental Profile Water Use and Conservation Survey (see page 8 for details and link to the online survey).
2. Get your BMP (Best Management Practices) Plan done! (see page 6 for details and link).

Meeting Schedule

November 4, 2014
Cypress Lakes GC
Annual Meeting

December 12, 2014
Christmas Social and Scholarship
Awards
Brae Burn Country Club
6:30—10 pm

January 14, 2-15
Pesticide Renewal Class at Bear
Creek Extension Office

January 26, 2014
Golfcrest CC - Bring your GM or
Greens Committee Chairman!
[Click Here to Register!](#)

February 25, 2015
Lone Star Reception at the Golf
Industry Show in San Antonio
Pat O'Briens on the Riverwalk
[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

President's Message: Blayne Sparks

As I sit here today thinking about my last Presidential message, it gives me a chance to reflect on what has been accomplished by so many hard working individuals that have proceeded me. Over 55 years ago, when the STGCSA was in its' infancy, I wonder if L. W. "Sonny" DuBose and his colleagues would have ever considered that their fledgling ideas could have impacted so many people's lives. Would they have ever conceived of an organization that could send so many well deserving young adults to institutes of higher education through scholarships, educating its' members on both social and agronomic topics, creating a lifelong brotherhood and even providing for the needy? I would like to think that this was the grand vision being discussed around those early maintenance break room tables, but I think that they were only creating the rough draft for what we have come to know and appreciate as our South Texas Chapter.



Truth be told, I believe that it has only matured into its current status through a consistent commitment to hard work and perseverance. As an eight year member of the Board of Directors, I believe that we have recognized the importance of leaving something better than the way we found it. As mentioned so many times before through the currents of history, "With all great accomplishments, comes great sacrifice."

As my tenure winds down, my biggest regret in serving as President of your STGCSA is that I have not inspired more individuals to continue to carry this torch. Life affords us such a small window of opportunity to impact people's lives and this is a great platform in which to do so. With the young and talented minds that surround and help to make up the backbone of this organization, I would like to make one last and final plea. Pick up the torch and move the South Texas Chapter forward in a way that would make our predecessors proud.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Christmas Party.

Blayne Sparks

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If you would like to be featured in Tee To Green, please email a short biography along with 3-4 photos for our section, "Member Profiles"



November 4, 2014 - Annual Meeting, Cypress Lakes Golf Club

~ NOTICE THIS CHANGE ~



Bring a new unwrapped toy for a 150 yard advance on a par 5 hole that will be set up. you can bring the toy or donate \$20. You will also receive a drink with your donation!

This will be INSTEAD of the two mulligans previously published for your donation

Cost \$55—Registration begins at 9:30

Meeting at 10 (you must arrive by 10:15 to golf)

12 pm shotgun start

Agenda for annual meeting:

Proposed By Law Change

Sonny DuBose Award Nominees Announced

Scholarship Recipients Announced

Vote on 2015 Board of Directors

[Click Here to Register](#)

Top Ten Points Prize Winners will be announced at the December 12th Christmas Reception



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Golf Course Turfgrass Reduction: Environmentally and Strategically Sustainable

Many golf clubs are reducing the amount of regularly maintained turfgrass on a golf course. The golf course superintendent and a golf course architect should agree on a plan for keeping the strategic intent of the course intact and ensuring appropriate installation of replacement materials. A survey of members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) revealed 93 percent of respondents are helping their clients reduce the acreage of maintained turfgrass while preserving the course's strategic intent. Here are some examples:

Lowering Maintenance Costs

Reducing the amount of turfgrass can bring a reduction in labor, equipment, fertilizer and water costs. Energy budgets can also be reduced as less water use results in lower electrical costs.

Using Less Water

Reducing regularly maintained turfgrass and replacing it with native grasses or native plants requiring less irrigation can realize significant reduction in water usage.

Greater Sustainability

Replacing turfgrass in out-of-play areas with native grasses or plants can be a good way to improve sustainability. Some out-of-play areas can even be non-irrigated and covered with wood mulch or pine straw from low-cost reclaimed tree materials.



In the photos above, a golf hole is shown in its "Before" state, and with computer-generated "After" effects of turfgrass reduction. ASGCA members routinely prepare visual examples of how a course can look when turfgrass reduction techniques are employed to help club members picture results.

The Planning Process: How a Golf Course Architect Can Help

While it may seem as simple as eliminating existing turfgrass and replanting with other species, turfgrass reduction must be implemented in very different ways depending on climate and many other factors. The following process is a simplified description of the steps which may be taken by a golf course architect.

- Identify areas where regularly maintained turfgrass might be removed. The areas can be classified on a sliding scale from "definitely remove – no effect on playing area" to "carefully consider removal – could dramatically affect play."
- Identify areas where regularly maintained turfgrass can be "transitioned." Existing grasses may be able to just grow taller in out-of-play areas, or appropriate varieties may be allowed to go dormant during periods of little or no rain.
- Consult your course's "Master Plan for Improvements" to ensure consistency with the plan's long-term vision.
- Calculate the economic feasibility and impact of a potential conversion on water and labor budgets to determine optimal scope of the project. Check with local water agencies for rebates or incentives for reduced water usage.
- Consider whether replacement can be handled in-house or whether a golf course builder should be hired.
- The irrigation system will likely be affected by a regularly maintained turf reduction plan. The superintendent and a golf course architect should carefully consider when irrigation system changes need expert oversight.

We will be here



Texas Turfgrass Summer Conference
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort
Bastrop
July 13-15

and here.....

Texas Turfgrass Annual Conference & Show
December 16-18
Fort Worth Convention Center and Omni Hotel



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Water BMP (Best Management Practice) Plan

5 Easy Steps to Getting your Plan Completed!

Step 1: [Click Here to see a sample BMP](#)

Step 2: [Download This Spreadsheet](#) 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 [This Reference Guide](#) to find helpful websites to collect data and other useful information.

Step 4: [Use this BMP Template](#) to complete your plan.

Step 5: Email you completed plan to lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org

[Need More Information? Click Here!](#)

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Delegate Meeting Update

By: Sean Wilson

Chapter Delegates discuss member standards, classifications

On Oct. 14 and 15, 87 delegates representing 91 GCSAA-affiliated chapters met in Lawrence, Kan., for the 2014 Chapter Delegates Meeting. Among the discussion topics covered in large and small groups were member standards, classifications and the potential for a new member class for equipment managers.

[Click Here for more information](#)



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GCEP water survey open until Nov. 17

The Golf Course Environmental Profile Water Use and Conservation Survey is now available. GCSAA is seeking data from superintendents regarding water use and conservation practices to update much needed information and compare golf's current landscape to information collected in a survey conducted eight years ago. Surveys must be completed by Nov. 17.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY](#)



Brae Burn Country Club
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Christmas Celebration -

**December 12th
6:30 - 10:00 pm**

This is not a sit down dinner but heavy
hourderves

(and as most of you know, Brae Burn always puts on a spectacular food and decoration display). And this year.....

3 GIANT DOOR PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN OUT!!
(GIS Entry fee and 1 night stay in San Antonio, Flat screen TV are just two of them! - must be present to win!)

Cost is \$35 pp

[Click Here to Register for the Reception](#)

Once again, Brae Burn Country Club (Terry Gill) will be hosting the annual Christmas Get Together

This is a come when you'd like, stay as long as you'd like

Scholarships must be picked up at the gathering or the January 2015 meeting. They will not be mailed this year.



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GCSAA Delegates Meeting in Kansas—Summary—by: John Walker

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America has 99 local chapters across the United States including Hawaii. Over 20 years ago it was decided that once a year each chapter would send a representative to Kansas so that issues could be discussed and information from the meeting could be taken home by each representative to be further discussed at the local level. We now know this meeting as the GCSAA Annual Delegates Meeting. This year's meeting was held in Lawrence, Kansas at GCSAA headquarters on October 14 - 15. I believe almost 90 delegates were present. Several issues were discussed in Town Hall like meetings. One issue was reducing the number of directors on the national board by one. This could reduce the amount of time all directors serve by one year. After much discussion, it was decided that no change is necessary at this time. Another topic of discussion was the addition of Equipment Managers as members of GCSAA. The board decided to include this topic on the ballot at the 2015 annual meeting in San Antonio.

Another topic that was discussed and was the increase in dues. It was decided in 2006 that dues would be increased a small amount every other year. It is not automatic, it has to be voted on by the membership. The proposed dues increase for 2015 is \$10 per year for class A and SM, and \$5 per year for class C. One recurring topic from last year was revisited this year. We currently have over a dozen different classifications for membership. The board has been looking to streamline our classification system for some time now. The member standards committee has also met on this topic and is in agreement that our classifications need to become more simplified. There was much discussion and debate on this topic. Most everyone agreed that less is more but the roadmap for classification is not totally built at this point. Everyone is hopeful that this topic can be brought to the annual meeting in 2016 for voting by the membership. The last part of the delegates meeting is dedicated to the Candidates running for the board. Each candidate gets about 5 minutes to speak to the entire audience and after all presentations have been made, the delegates are put into smaller groups so that each group can visit with each candidate, one on one, in smaller breakout rooms. Even after campaigning the last two years, this part of the meeting still gets me nervous. But for those of you that know me, when there is a microphone and an audience, I am not scared at all. I feel like my presentation to the large group went well and during the smaller group discussions, I feel that the delegates got a good feel of who I am. The day and a half trip is a nonstop whirlwind of meetings, but for people that are engaged with our association, it is a great meeting to attend. I hope that many more of you get the opportunity to represent your chapter at this meeting, it is well worth your time. See you in San Antonio. ~ Johnny Walker



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[Attendees →](#)

[Exhibitors →](#)



Save The Date!

February 25, 2015 (Wednesday)

Lone Star GCSAA Reception

7:00 - 11:00 pm

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North Texas GCSA —
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Currently employed superintendents who have not attended the Golf Industry Show in the prior two years (Orlando 2014 or San Diego 2013) are eligible to apply.

Apply now for Bayer Superintendent Grant Program

If you are a superintendent who hasn't had a chance to attend the Golf Industry Show in the last two years (2014 and 2013), you are eligible to apply for the Bayer Superintendent Grant Program. The program will send five superintendents to GIS with all expenses paid. This is a great opportunity to interact with peers, earn education points and spend time with exhibitors. Applications are open through Nov. 14.

- Airfare
- Hotel accommodations for five nights
- Conference full-pack registration
- Two education seminars
- \$200 spending money

Please note: The value of the package is based on the actual cost, which will be reported as other income on Form 1099 for 2015. No taxes will be withheld for federal or state purposes. Please consult your tax adviser with questions.

How to apply

Simply complete the [online application](#) or the paper application and fax or mail it in. The deadline for entry is Nov. 14, 2014. The EIFG will notify winners by Nov. 21. Please note that if you have already registered for the Golf Industry Show at the time of the drawing, GCSAA will refund any charges that would be covered by this program.

For more information contact [Mischia Wright](#), associate director, EIFG, at 800-472-7878, ext. 4445.

Be a part of the 2014 #golfvotes social media campaign

Participate in the 2014 #golfvotes social media campaign to show Congress the golf industry is paying attention to what is going on in Washington, D.C. Early voting has started in several states. As you go to the polls, please take a picture of yourself with your "I voted" sticker and post to social media using the hashtag #golfvotes. GCSAA will be sharing your posts on its social media platforms. Find out who the candidates are in your area, and more information about voting in general, from GCSAA.



Past Presidents Luncheon at Riverbend Country Club

Thank you, George Cincotta for hosting this event again this year!

From Left to Right: Mike Sandburg, CGCS/1999, Terry Gill/2003, George Manuel/2000, Doug Browne/2006, Lee Gravett/2009, George Cincotta/2001, Ray Kubesch/1981-82, Charles Joachim/1979-80, Jim Holub/1962&1974, Mark Monroe/1983-84