

Tee To Green

SEPTEMBER 2017

**Golfcrest Country Club
Supt/Pro Tournament**

The Official Publication of the South Texas
Golf Course Superintendents Association

South Texas GCSA, Inc.
PO BOX 571923
Houston, TX 77257-1923





golf industry show

San Antonio, Texas | February 3-8, 2018 | Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Lone Star GCSA Reception is scheduled!

February 7 (Wednesday) 2018:

The Hard Rock Café on the Riverwalk!

7-11 pm



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chris Lineberger—President STGCSA



During our last board meeting it became very clear that we are in a tough spot in terms of leadership moving forward. We have experienced a lot of change lately and this has caused slight strain on the executive committee. There is not a doubt in my mind that next year's President, Kyle Brown, will do a fantastic job leading us into the future, but he can't do it alone. We have great financial support in the association, but we need participation support. That being said, we have several board positions that need to be filled. The good news is that there is not a significant time commitment necessary to be part of the board, we just need some dedication. If you have ever given any thought about serving, now is the time. Please contact myself or Marian if you have any interest.

On a personal note, one thing for certain is the close bonds we share in this industry, whether you are a superintendent or a vendor. I have learned through the years, that when you are facing troubles, there are always people in this industry that will be there for you. Tragedies occur in this world every day, but when they hit close to home, it definitely has a greater impact on you. Just recently this happened to someone close to me, and it definitely hit me hard. Over the past several years, I watched my assistant superintendent, Walt Wilson, stand by his wife Amanda as she battled ovarian cancer. The courage and calmness he consistently demonstrated through this incredibly difficult time sticks with me today. All the while, he gave me everything that he had to do his job to the best of his ability, through four years of construction on top of that. And in early July, Walt's wife, Amanda, sadly lost her battle with cancer. After everything Walt gave and taught me through this challenging time, it is time to give back to him. In an effort to honor Amanda, and ease some of the medical cost burden on Walt, a couple of us have created a charity fundraiser. Many of you have already reached out wanting to participate, and we are so grateful. We will be playing a round of golf on August 28th at Sugar Creek Country Club, and welcome any and all to join us.

Kind Regards,

Chris Lineberger

**For Golf Tournament Fundraiser Information, please email
chrislineberger@vmgolfservices.com**

Meeting Schedule

September 25, 2017
Supt/Pro Tournament
Golfcrest CC
9:30 am shotgun start!

September 10, 11, 12, 2017—Lone Star
Texas Trophy –Gentle Creek Country
Club (Prosper, TX)

October 25, 2017—Education/Golf
Meeting
Wildcat Golf Club

November 13, 2017—Annual Meeting
and Past Presidents Lunch
Pineforest Country Club

December—No Events

January—Holiday Party (TBA)

January 17, 2018—Pesticide
License Renewal

GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

February 3-8, 2018—San Antonio, TX
Lone Star GCSA Reception—February
7, 2018 Location: Hard Rock Cafe

For more details on any meeting
above go to: www.stgcsa.org

All job listings are posted on our
Website: www.stgcsa.org
Welcome new members

Running for Executive Board 2018

There are 3 Board of Director Seats Open for 2018. If you are interested in running, please contact the office or a current Board Member. We would love to have you!



Running for President: Kyle
Brown of Bay Oaks Country
Club

Thank you for considering
me for President of our asso-
ciation. I look forward to working with all
members of the association in providing cama-
raderie and education for STGCSA.



Running for Vice President:
Jerry Huntsman

I have enjoyed serving on the
STGCSA board the last 3 years
and look forward to serving for you again next
year. We may have an open slot on the board
and I might encourage you to look into it and
run for that vacancy.

Candidates for STGCSA Board of Directors— 2018



Running for Secretary Treasurer:
David Gray of Ravens Nest Golf Club

I am excited to be able to serve on the South Texas Board. If elected to the secretary/treasurer position, I will continue to serve the chapter to make it the best in the state.



Running for Board of Director: Tim Phillips of Golfcrest Country Club

I want to help grow an already strong organization. I hope to help improve participation in our events. Thank you.



Running for Board of Director: Richard Alcaraz of South Shore Harbour Golf Club

I am excited to be a part of STGCSA and help keep our association strong!



Running for Board of Directors: Ed Martinez of Deerwood Golf Club

I would like to serve on the board to help promote the growth of our association !



Returning Board of Director:
Wade Warms, CGCS:

“This association and its members mean a great deal to me. We have a special organization, and I would like to continue serving on the Board of Directors.”



Returning Affiliate Board Member:
Brandon Cole with Salsco

Dear Members, I want to thank each and everyone of you for continuing to grow our association. I have been a board member for 9 years now and every year we continue to exceed our expectations. This marks the 4th year in a row I've been in charge of refurbishing in donating a golf cart to a needy charity. I would live to continue to serve STGCSA.



Running for Affiliate Director:
Mark Baughman with Ewing Irrigation

It's truly been a pleasure being an affiliate representative on the STGCSA Board. Would be glad to continue on the board of STGCSA and continue to be a part of this fine organization.



Returning in the affiliate position:
Dale Bowman

It's been a good year for me to learn more about the board here at the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and look forward to serving you for more years. I hope to use the learning experience to help with the game of golf



Sitting in the Past President's chair is
Chris Lineberger

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president in 2017.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications can be found on the home page of the website.

www.stgcsa.org

Application deadline is:

May 1, 2018

Official Transcript deadline is:

July 1, 2018

Debunking Myths: A Professional's Take on Herbicides and Algaecides

By Trent Nelson, Aquatic Specialist at SOLitude Lake Management

It's not uncommon when managing ponds used for irrigation to invest thousands of dollars on irrigation pumps, water testing, submersed aeration systems, and fountains, but it's rare to find a manager who establishes and uses a comprehensive lake management plan. Often times, this apprehension is based on a misconception that herbicides and algaecides could potentially have a negative impact on the waterbody. I'm here to set the record straight and let you know that with the proper choice of a product, application methods and timing, algaecides and herbicides can greatly enhance the effectiveness of a pond management program, even when irrigation is a consideration.

Many turf and golf managers fear that herbicide and algaecide treatments to their irrigation ponds could result in damage to their greens and the surrounding ornamentals, or put a hold on their irrigation water usage. These concerns are valid; shutting down an irrigation system for more than a day or two can be virtually impossible, especially during the growing season. But without proper treatment, an irrigation lake could experience more harm than good. If algae and aquatic weeds are allowed to grow and mature, this vegetation can enter intakes, clogging pipes and pumps and preventing irrigation systems from running properly. In the end, the headache of shutting down an irrigation system to fix a broken pipe or clear vegetation from a line will often outweigh the inconvenience of scheduled beneficial treatments. Algae buildup in the lines and irrigation heads can cause significant maintenance issues.

Product selection is critical when making the decision to treat any waterbody, especially if it is an irrigation source. There are two common types of herbicides: contact and systemic.

Contact herbicides typically have short or even no irrigation restrictions as they quickly control the target species and are rendered inactive shortly after application. While very effective when used properly, improper use can result in a sudden and dangerous depletion of dissolved oxygen in the waterbody. Low oxygen levels can create a stressed environment for fish and other aquatic life.

Systemic herbicides, on the other hand, are translocated throughout the targeted plant, controlling the target plant from the inside out. Systemic herbicides utilized in a prescription-based treatment plan developed by a lake management professional can result in targeted species control and have little to no impact on other plant life. While these products usually take longer to target vegetation and can sometimes require extended irrigation restrictions, they are typically the best choice for overrun waterbodies when paired with a proactive management plan that includes aeration, buffer management and nutrient remediation.

When applied within label guidelines, these products have proven to be effective without altering water quality. That being said, no two waterbodies are the same. Water chemistries and application styles can vary greatly from pond to pond, and not knowing how to alter application rates accordingly can have adverse effects on the aquatic ecosystem. It's worth consulting a knowledgeable lake professional who is experienced in the process of algae and aquatic weed treatments. Before the application of EPA regulated herbicides or algaecides, a professional will conduct water quality tests in order to fully understand the water chemistry, dissolved oxygen levels, pH, alkalinity and other important parameters. Water quality can be the deciding factor on what products are utilized, the rates at which they are used and specific application techniques. Water testing should also be part of your annual maintenance plan in order to compile critical baseline data. Over time, this data will provide a better understanding of potential nutrient loading and other water quality parameters.

When applied properly, algaecides and herbicides can be very effective in solving or preventing algae and vegetation problems in irrigation ponds, which can take months to eliminate without proper attention.



When using herbicides and algaecides, a lake management professional will also consider the timeframe in which they are applied. If left unmanaged for too long, weeds and algae that have reached a mature size or growth stage may require more staggered treatments, using more herbicides and algaecides and, ultimately, causing longer restricted water use periods. Much like pre-emergent weed treatments in a turf setting, successfully treating weeds is much easier before they begin to present an issue or when they are young and just beginning to actively grow. Applications performed early in the growing season allow for limited impact to irrigation during a lower water use period, and can more effectively prevent clogged irrigation pumps throughout the rest of the season. Some systemic herbicides can be applied early enough in the growth stage that only low concentrations of herbicide are needed to effectively kill emerging plant tissue, and may even have no irrigation restrictions.



When using algaecides and herbicides, a lake management professional will also consider the timeframe in which they are applied. Applications performed early in the growing season will have the least significant impact to irrigation systems.

As an aquatic specialist and former assistant golf course superintendent, I've found that being proactive—not reactive—in the industry will provide for better playing conditions and increased turf, lake and pond health. When your livelihood is on the line, why wait until an obstacle presents itself to address the source of the problem? A proactive, long-term management plan provides solutions that can help reduce the ongoing reliance on pesticide treatments and enhance the beauty of the surrounding area. Such a plan will include alternative ways to combat nutrient loading and nuisance aquatic vegetation growth. Beneficial buffers and the addition of native wetland plants along the shoreline can help stabilize and reduce erosion, and filter available nutrients on which algae and nuisance weeds thrive. If water quality testing shows that nutrients are an issue, nutrient remediation can be achieved by the addition of flocculants such as Alum or a unique lanthanum modified clay which permanently locks phosphorous, reducing available nutrients in the water column and sediment of your waterbody. Aerators and fountains combined with biological augmentation can also aid in nutrient remediation as well as muck reductions.



Proactive management strategies, like beneficial buffers and aeration, can help enhance the health and beauty of an irrigation pond and limit dependence on algaecides and herbicides.

No matter your budget, location or intended waterbody use, it is possible to develop a safe and effective management plan for your lake or pond that includes the use of herbicides and algaecides. Professional lake management companies have the knowledge, tools and experience to ensure that appropriate rates, timing, application methods, and water chemistry are properly taken into account throughout the treatment of your waterbody. When working with a professional, lake and pond managers should rest assured that herbicide and algaecide applications will enhance, not harm, their waterbody and surrounding ecosystem.

Trent Nelson is an experienced Aquatic Specialist with SOLitude Lake Management, an environmental firm providing a full array of superior lake, pond, and fisheries management services and solutions. He can be reached through the website, www.solitudelakemanagement.com.

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WE NEED YOU!



Please consider volunteering for a position on the board of directors. We have 3 spots open!

Past Presidents

—Make sure you RSVP for the November 13th Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Lunch at Pine Forest CC! Reach out to a past president you may know, and invite him! Lunch is on the house!

See you there!



Texas Turfgrass Association

Shirley Duble, Executive Director
(979) 690-2201 www.texasturf.com

Summer Conference and Equipment Rodeo
July 9-11, 2017
Horseshoe Bay Resort

The Texas Turfgrass Summer Conference held at Horseshoe Bay Resort, July 9-11, 2017 brought together speakers with vast knowledge in the turf industry as well as vendors who were able to visit with all the participants. One added bonus was the equipment rodeo where participants could also try out the items – perhaps even purchase. Participants learned about insects and their natural defense systems, controlling drift, how to control weeds, BMP, worker protection standard revisions, any new laws and regulations from TDA, IPM, and why calibrations and calculations are important to everyone.

Training and testing for the Certified Professional Turf Manager was also provided. New CPTM's are: Scott Anderson, Wesley Boren, Gabriel Dye, James Grant, Matthew Harned, Osian Pritchard, Garrett Reddehase, Danny Smith, Ron Taylor, Rusty Walker, and Robert Webster.

Texas Turfgrass is an association dedicated to educating and supporting the Turfgrass industry for all applications for the use of Turfgrass. Established in 1947, the Texas Turfgrass Association continues to educate the professional in all areas of turf management, including certifications and continuing education units as required by the laws and regulations of our industry. Please join us for the Winter conference and show December 5th thru 7th at Arlington Convention Center and show your support in keeping Texas green.



Colt Phillips phillipsCB@helenachemical.com 832-596-8532	Eric Glover glovere@helenachemical.com 309-766-0828	Chris Webster websterc@helenachemical.com 281-785-2095
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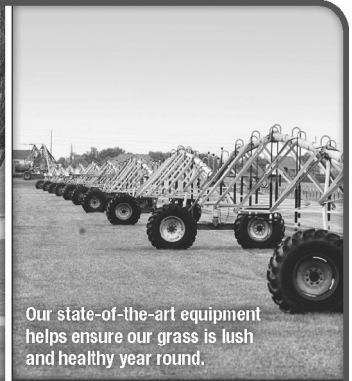
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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

Assessment of Topdressing Sands and Associated Cultural Practices used to Manage Ultradwarf Bermudagrass Greens

Kevin McInnes and Benjamin Wherley

Ultradwarf bermudagrasses on golf greens produce a dense canopy that traps some of the sand particles used in topdressing. Larger sand grains appear to be more resistant to falling or being worked through the canopy. Sand trapped in the canopy produces a less desirable surface for putting and can be picked up by and damage mowers. Given such, it is becoming common to topdress ultradwarf bermudagrass greens with sand having finer particles (with less fraction of large particles) than those of the sand that the course was originally constructed. Finer sand can produce some unfavorable properties at the surface of the root zone, but when mixed with cultural practices using coarser sand to manage organic matter and to aerate, their adverse effects are diluted. To develop recommendations for acceptable properties of topdressing sand, this project seeks to characterize the interaction of physical properties of topdressing and backfilling sands with cultural practices and their geometry and frequency of use. A range of golf courses with ultradwarf bermudagrass greens will be identified. For each course, topdressing sand, sand picked up by mowers, and sand used to manage organic matter and to aerate will be characterized. Cumulative annual amounts of sands used and geometries of placement will be taken into account when properties of core samples from the greens are collected, analyzed, and assessed. Recommendations for tolerable fineness of topdressing sands will be developed.

(continued on page 10)

We wish to develop an understanding of the combinations that work, and a fundamental understanding of why they work, so that sound recommendations for topdressing sands for ultradwarf bermudagrass greens can be developed, as recommendations were in the past for root zone sands. Rather than utilizing a short-term replicated experiment with limited treatments, we will sample, analyze, and interpret the greater variability generated by differing management practices across the many courses utilizing ultradwarf bermudagrass on their greens.

Currently, there are no published recommendations for testing laboratories to evaluate sand for its suitability as topdressing material for ultradwarf bermudagrass greens, other than the USGA recommendations for putting greens in general. Since diagnostic laboratories have observed cases where problems have arisen from overreliance on finer sands for both topdressing and organic matter control/aerification, the golf industry would benefit from more detailed analyses of issues associated with physical characteristics of sand used in topdressing ultradwarf bermudagrass greens.

Our main objectives are:

- 1) Characterize the physical properties of topdressing and backfilling sands currently being used in management of ultradwarf bermudagrass greens across the South Central and Southeast United States.
- 2) Characterize the physical properties of sands removed in mowing a green compared to that used in topdressing of the same green.
- 3) Assess in situ spatial distribution of water and air content within the root zone profile of ultradwarf bermudagrass greens.
- 4) Characterize the resultant bulk physical properties of the root zone profile of greens.
- 5) Develop recommendations for particle size distribution and physical properties of sand used for topdressing in combination with that of sand used in cultural practices for aerification.

To contact Dr. Wherley or Dr. McInnes and help with their research efforts:

Telephone: (979) 845-5986

Fax: (979) 845-0456

e-mail: k-mcinnis@tamu.edu

Don't forget to nominate a deserving member for the Sonny DuBose Memorial Distinguished Service Award

The Winner will be announced at the January 2018 first meeting of the year.

The South Texas Chapter of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is pleased to inform you of our eighth annual Sonny Dubose Memorial Distinguished Service Award. Our Association wants to recognize a Superintendent or Affiliate Member whose accomplishments have been outstanding for their facility over the year.

Recognition is what the Sonny Dubose Award is all about, letting someone know their hard work and dedication is appreciated. Anyone (superintendent or vendor) who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the golf course management profession and the success of the STGCSA should be nominated. Still, a superintendent who has had an outstanding year deserves to be and should be nominated for the award. By adding a distinguished service aspect to it, we will hopefully increase nominations and be able to recognize more of those deserving members. Contact any past winner of the award or a STGCSA board member to submit a nomination.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please send any submissions to:

stgcsa@stgcsa.org or hand your nomination letter to a Board member.

Some of our previous recipients from Left to Right: Doug Browne (2011), George Manuel (2014), Carl Tolbert (2016), Terry Gill (2008), Johnny Walker (2009), John Freeman (2015)



Quote of the month:

I didn't miss the putt. I made the putt. The ball missed the hole.



Superintendent/Pro-

Member/Member

September 25, 2017

Shotgun Start at 9:30

Dinner and Awards to follow golf

Cost: \$275 per 2 man team

Team Must Consist Of:

A Superintendent who is a member of STGCSA (Class A, B, C) and a professional from the same club
OR

Any two members of STGCSA

Field will be limited to the first 46 Superintendent/Pro Teams, and the first 26 Member/Member Teams
(as designated by email date and payment date)



Two drinks per person provided by Heritage Links!

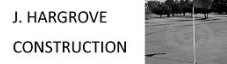


Putting contest one hour before play begins (8:30 am) with breakfast tacos at no charge to the players. Prize money of \$500 to the winning team. (Must putt with the partner you are playing with in the tournament)



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October 25, 2017
Wildcat GC

November 13, 2017
Pine Forest Country Club
Annual Meeting and Past Presidents Lunch

Past Presidents Eat Free!

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Lone Star Texas Trophy
Host: North Texas GCSA
 Gentle Creek Country Club (Prosper, TX)
 September 10 (Mixer), 11, 12, 2017
 Play One, Two or Three Days
 Sign up now at: www.lsgcsa.org

EDUCATION INFORMATION

GCSAA Accredited Educational Program will be held on Monday, September 11th
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM at Gentle Creek Country Club

Speaker: TBA Cost: \$25/Box Lunch Included

(MUST RSVP!)

Members may attend education only- please make reservations by emailing
lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mulligans – Sunday only 50/50 split - All days

Sunday, September 10

Welcome and Registration
10:00 am – 11:30 pm

LUNCH PROVIDED

Lone Star Texas Trophy Mixer

12:00 pm-*Shot Gun Start*
Two-Man Best Ball Pick Your Partner Event
Cash Payouts – Gross and Net

Following Mixer:

Long-Drive Championship
\$500 Contribution to Winning Chapter
Drinks available During Long Drive
Food Sponsors: AmeriTurf/NTGCSA

Monday, September 11

Education Session-Open to All Chapters

9:00 – 10:00 Education Registration
10:00 – 11:30 AM – Education/NTGCSA Chapter Meeting:
Cost: \$25 (Includes Box Lunch for attendees)

Golf - Lunch on Your Own

Lunch on your own
10:30 – 11:30 Registration
12:00 pm – *Shot Gun Start*
Day 1 - Lone Star Texas Trophy
(2-Day Stroke Play Event)
Flighted - Gross and Net Divisions

Dinner: Sponsored by WinField

5:30 Cocktails/6:30 Dinner

Tuesday, September 12

8:30 am – *Shot Gun Start*
Day 2 – Lone Star Texas Trophy
Lunch and Awards Following Play

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Annual Meeting & Past Presidents Lunch

November 13, 2017

9:30 am: Registration

10-11 am: Annual Meeting

(Introduction of All Past Presidents, Voting of 2018 Board of Directors,

Voting of Sonny DuBose Legacy Award Recipient)

11-12 pm: Lunch/Range is Open

12:00 pm: Shotgun Start

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South Shore Harbour

Member / Guest / Guest / Guest

July 17, 2017

Thank you, Richard Alcaraz, GCS and all the staff at South Shore for a great tournament!

TEAM	NAMES	
1 st place Gross	Haven, Mark Haven, Joseph White, Ronnie Matthews, Wally	60
2 nd place Gross	Tolbert, Carl Ferguson, Greg Boal, Tom Meine, Frank	60
3 rd place Gross	Glover, Eric Verm, Clint Lewis, Jeremy Skarpa, Cody	61

First Place—TAMU Team



Last Place—South Shore Harbour Team



TEAM	NAMES	
LAST	Alcaraz, Richard Gehres, James Dotson, Scott Walker, Boyce	67



CTP - So1 - Wally Matthews

LD - So4 - Brad Brown



Congratulations!

STGCSA is proud to announce the 18 scholarship winners for 2017. The Board of Directors of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association started the Legacy Scholarship program in 1990 for the purpose of assisting the children of STGCSA members to attend college. Since 1992 a scholarship tournament has taken place where the majority of the money used to fund the scholarships is raised. In 2001 the Board of Directors created the "Legacy Memorial Scholarship" to honor members who have passed away. This scholarship is awarded to one student who demonstrates excellence in both education and extracurricular or volunteer activities. Since the first scholarship was awarded in 1990 over \$250,000 has been awarded to the children of STGCSA members. Congratulations to this year's 18 winners including the Legacy Winner, Karlie Smelser. Karlie is the daughter of Jeff and Kelly Smelser.



Left: Jeff, Kelly Smelser with scholarship committee chairman, Kyle Brown.



Right: From Left to Right: Ashley Lyles, Lauren Norris, Blake Takushi, Isabel Huntsman, Matt Lyles, Claire Barclay, Anna Johnston, Kelly Ratcliff, Matt Schultheis, Justin Watson, Anthony Wilganowski, Nicholas Terry, Trae Martinez (Not shown: Jessica Anderson, Phoebe Browne, Ryanne Dolen, Abigail Schultheis and Karlie Smelser)



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