

Tee to Green

South Texas Chapter
GCSAA
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

December
2010

New officers elected at Annual Meeting



Wade Warms, CGCS

The membership of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association has spoken. The Chapter's election of officers and Board of Directors took place during the STGCSA's 2010 Annual Meeting, held Nov. 8 at BraeBurn Country Club.

Wade Warms, CGCS, was elected president for 2011, Mark Haven was elected vice-president, and Sean Wilson, CGCS, was chosen as the Chapter's secretary/treasurer.

Warms moves up to the STGC-SA's top spot after a yearlong stint as vice-president, preceded by a year as secretary/treasurer and four year's on the STGCSA Board

of Directors. He has been a member of the STGCSA for 13 years and attained Certified Golf Course Superintendent status in 2005.

"It's great to have been elected and I'm looking forward to serving as president," said Warms. "The STGCSA has been a big part of my life for the past 12 years and I like being able to give something back to it."

"We have a great slate of events planned for 2011," added Warms. "Hopefully, those events will help create a resurgence in our members' participation. We'll be working to continuing improving the educational opportunities at our meetings, and that should help, too. I think it will be a great year."



Mark Haven

Haven has served as the secretary/treasurer of the STGCSA for the past year and worked on the Chapter's Board for the four years prior to that. He has spent five years working on the STGCSA Tournament Committee, four years serving as the committee's chairman. Haven has been a member of the STGCSA for 17 years.

Wilson moves up to the secretary/treasurer position after three years on the Board of Directors. An STGCSA member for five years, Wilson was also a member of the Central Texas GCSA for eight years, serving as that Chapter's vice-president prior to relocating to the Houston area. He has been a Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 2002.



Sean Wilson, CGCS

In addition to the officers for 2011, five members of the Board of Directors were chosen. Blayne Sparks and Brandon Cole were re-elected to the Board and will serve their second terms, Sparks in one of the six "Member" positions and Cole as one of the two "Affiliate Member" slots.

Ben Fultz and Jeff McCrory were first-time candidates for Member positions and were both elected; they will serve in 2011 and 2012. Kevin Borowski and Steven Chernosky were both elected to the Board a year ago and have decided they are unable to fulfill the demands of the positions for the second year of their terms. Past President Johnny Walker graciously agreed to accept appointment to the Board to serve the remainder of one of those terms and an additional appointee will be announced in the near future.

Willy Plowman will join the Board of Directors and newly elected officers on the STGCSA leadership team for 2011 as the

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Start small, grow large . . . growing up near a nine-hole golf course is where I learned the beginning stages of golf course management. I was interested, but I'll never forget playing an 18-hole course for the first time. It was in 1981, and that's when I knew what path my career would take.

There was never a thought, of course, of joining an association made up of people who shared my interests, much less serving on that association's Board of Directors and then becoming the group's president. Those ideas came much later.

I ran for a position on the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association's Board of Director early in the past decade. It was my first effort at volunteering as a group leader, and if you've never done it, I've got to tell you that the early years were a bit nerve-wracking.

The idea of standing up and sharing ideas with the leaders of our Chapter (and even my fellow members who weren't on the Board or in office) was pretty intimidating. Many had been around much longer than I had, so I was a little fearful of stepping on toes.

But I've got to tell you something else. As it turned out, most, if not all, of those people wanted the same things I wanted—to help the STGCSA help its members and the golf course management profession in southeast Texas.



Willy Plowman

I like to think that, with the support of those people, my time on the Board and as an officer has been productive in those regards.

It's always interesting for me to think back about what might not have been. At one point during my tenure as a Board member, I had actually decided not to run for a position as an officer. I talked it over with several fellow Board members and explained how hard it was for me to find time to attend meetings, to take care of the responsibilities I'd been assigned by various committees, etc., etc. I had plenty of excuses disguised as reasons.

And then something happened . . . I attended one of our Past President's Luncheons. I looked around the room at the 30 or so past president's on hand, and thought to myself that there would be no way I'd quit serving the STGCSA.

I knew I had the chance to be one of those guys, one of those leaders, everyone one of whom had a lasting impact on the STGCSA and every one of whom made the conscious decision to dedicate their time, effort and experience to helping build a successful and significant organization.

I think all of us know how much richer our lives are, personally and professional, for the work those gentlemen have done for the STGCSA. I wanted to be one of them, and finally, in late 2009, I was elected president of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association. What a proud moment that was.

My term has wound down now, and I'll be the Chapter's Immediate Past President for 2011, leaving the presidency in the able hands of Wade Warms—my congratulations to him and all of our newly elected officers and Board members.

I could fill this column (and maybe this newsletter) with the names of people to whom I owe a special debt of gratitude for their support and encouragement throughout my years with the Board. Inevitably, though, I'd leave someone out, so I'm just going to single out one person—Carl Tolbert.

Carl was the first member to call and ask me to consider running for office. Frankly, I was blown away when that happened. If Carl hadn't called, though, I might never have made that decision. My impact on the STGCSA is, in the end, for others to measure, but I know what impact serving has had on my life, and it's an experience I'll treasure forever.

Thanks to each and every member for allowing me the opportunity.

— Willy Plowman

P.S. Hope to see you at our 2010 Christmas Party. It will take place Friday, Dec. 10, at BraeBurn Country Club, and as always, will be a lot of fun.

And don't forget our first meeting of 2011, set for Jan. 25 at Stephen F. Austin Country Club.



President

Willy Plowman

Vice-President

Wade Warms, CGCS

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Haven

Immediate Past President

Lee Gravett

Board of Directors

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Russell Birkhimer

Kevin Borowski

Steven Chernosky

Brandon Cole

Blayne Sparks

Tom Werner, CGCS

Sean Wilson, CGCS

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"A leader is a dealer in hope."

— Napoleon Bonaparte

Robert von Hagge

April 27, 1927 - October 16, 2010

Ask people who play golf in the Houston area, and you won't be hard pressed to find a Robert von Hagge layout amongst their experiences. Robert von Hagge passed away one day after Jay Riviere, on Oct. 16 at the age of 83, and just as Riviere's golf courses can be found at a large percentage of the golf clubs and facilities around the Houston area, so, too, can von Hagge's.

Von Hagge's resume includes over 250 courses around the world, designed during a career that lasted over half a century.

He worked as a golf professional in New York during the early 1950s but dabbled with at least a couple of other careers. He was television's "Marlboro Man" in several commercials and worked as a commercial artist before earning a degree in landscape architecture from Purdue University and becoming a golf course architect.

Von Hagge's entree into the business came as an apprentice to noted course architect Dick Wilson, and by the late 1950s, he had become one of Wilson's principal designers. He left Wilson's firm in 1962 to form his own company. His partnership with former PGA Tour professional Bruce Devlin during the "golf boom" days of the late 1980s and 1990s produced several outstanding courses.

He founded von Hagge, Smelek and Baril (with partners partners Mike Smelek and Rick Baril) in the 1990s and continued working on course design even into his early 80s, and was an active member of Houston's Northgate Country Club, where he designed 27 holes, since the early 1980s.

In lieu of flowers, memorial/honor donations can be made to the MD Anderson Cancer Center (online at www.mdanderson.org, by mail (University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, PO Box 4486, Houston, TX, 77210, or by phone (713-792-3450)).

A Chicago native and the son of Bernhart (Ben) and Edna von Hagge, Robert von Hagge is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Greta von Hagge; sister Patricia Haas; daughter Heidi Gussa and husband Chris; and Grandson Jacob Gussa.



Change is coming!

After careful (and several months of) consideration, your officers and Board of Directors made the decision to take *Tee to Green* online for 2011. Accordingly, the issue you are holding will be the last print version—beginning with the January 2011 issue, you'll receive a PDF version of the newsletter via e-mail toward the end of each month (it will still be published 10 times per year). In addition, the newsletter will be posted within the "Newsletter" page of www.stgcsa.org so you can print it out or read it online.

The decision was made for several reasons. One was financial—the online version will eliminate the not-insignificant costs of printing and mailing. The other, and perhaps most important, was that we feel we can improve the quality and quantity of the content by eliminating the previously mentioned costs.

I think you'll like the convenience and new look of the online newsletter and we'll find out for sure the last week of December. Watch for it, and if you have any questions, you can contact me at wwarms@eaglegolf.com or Steve Hunter at 281-395-4927.

— Wade Warmes

Membership Moves

Brian Johnson, golf course superintendent at Sand Hills Farm Golf Course, is the newest member of the STGCSA, and to him, we say, "Welcome!"

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Valuable resources

When you have the chance, please take a minute to visit the Green Section's portal at <http://gsportal.usga.org> to find information regarding upcoming live webcasts and links to recordings of more than 30 previously-delivered webcasts, and announcements of upcoming USGA Green Section activities, education conferences, and meetings.

Would you like to see the digital Record issues you missed? Or, maybe you heard about an article or video in a previous update. All of the issues are stored in one convenient location—the Green Section Record Archive at <https://gsportal.usga.org/gsr/default.aspx>. Take a look, even if you don't know what you've missed.

Dues Due!

Your 2011 STGCSA membership dues must be paid by March 9 if your contact information, etc., is to be included in the 2011 STGCSA Membership Directory. Membership renewal forms are available on-line at www.stgcsa.org. Please call Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094 if you have questions.

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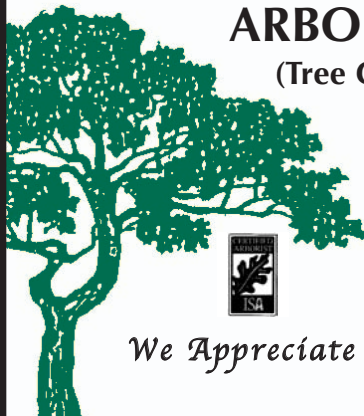
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We Appreciate Your Support

Annual Meeting

BraeBurn Country Club *Skins Game*

Gross Skins

Clint Garrett #2 Richard Kane #10

Net Skins

Danny Atchison #1 Mitch Elliot# #13
Brandon Cole #4 George Cincotta #15
Scott Sipes #5 Michael Finke #16
Scott Sipes #6 Jason Harsh #18

SPECIAL CONTESTS

<u>Hole</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Winner10</u>
#2	Closest-to-Hole	Jeff Jowell
#4	Long Drive (13+ hdcp.)	Jason Harsh
#4	Long Drive (12.9- hdcp)	Jeff Jowell
#7	Closest-to-Hole	Justin Shulse
#14	Closest-to-Hole	Doug Browne
#16	Closest-to-Hole	Cheyenne Herring

ELECTIONS

continued from page 1

immediate past president.

In addition to the election, the Annual Meeting also marked the occasion of the announcement of nominees for the 2010 STGCSA Sonny DuBose Memorial Superintendent of the Year Award. The five nominees are: Brian Buckner, CGCS; Jeff Smelser, CGCS; Kevin Borowski; Randy Samoff; and Steve Vaughn.

The Annual Meeting agenda also included the announcement of the STGCSA's 2010 Legacy Scholarship winners (Formal presentation of the recipients will take place at the STGCSA Christmas Party) and the presentation of STGCSA service pins.

Those recognized in the latter category were; 5 years— Cody Marchand, David Gray and Jeff Blume; 10 years— Ed Shultheis, Jeff Jowell, Scott Terry and Chris Webster; 15 years— Richard Kane; 20 years— Jim Norris; 25 years— Pat Johnston and George Cincotta; and 35 years— Leon DuBose.



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BULLETIN BOARD

Assistant Superintendent Needed

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Please contact Dennis Wilganowski

Office: 979-822-9233 * Cell: 979-219-8460.

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The Woodlands Country Club, Player Course

Please contact Ryan Rosecrans, Golf Course Superintendent

Telephone: 832-482-8920

Please send resume' to:

E-mail: rrosecrans@thewoodlandscs.com

Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Beaumont Country Club

Please contact Shane Hayes, Golf Course Superintendent

The Wilderness Golf Course

5355 Pine Street, Beaumont, TX 77703

E-mail: shanehunterhayes@yahoo.com

The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) before the 5th of each month to include your job listings, etc., in the following two issues of Tee to Green.

To include your job posting on the STGCSA web site, contact Marian Takushi (stgcsa@windstream.net, 281-494-0094).

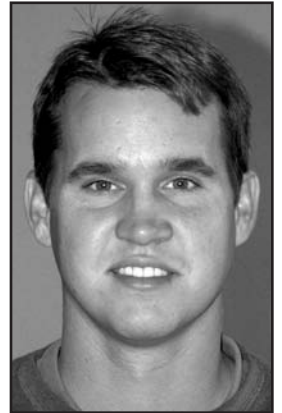
Jowell re-certifies

Jeffrey Jowell, CGCS, golf and turf sales at Brookside Equipment Sales, has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

Jowell has been at Brookside Equipment Sales since 2009. An 11-year GCSAA member, and former member of the South Texas golf Course Superintendents Association Board of Directors, he initially achieved his certification in 2005. Some 1,700 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold "CGCS" status.

To qualify for GCSAA's new competency-based certification program, a candidate must have at least three years experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet post-secondary educational requirements and/or continuing education points.

Maintaining certified status requires renewal every five years after the initial date of certification. To fulfill certification renewal requirements, a candidate must participate in 150 hours of continuing education and professional development.



Jeffrey Jowell, CGCS

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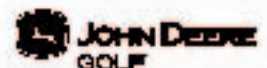
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2010 Awards Banquet and Ceremony

Friday, December 10, 2010

BraeBurn Country Club
8101 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77074
Host Superintendent — Terry Gill

Cost: \$42.50 per person

Casino Night and Prizes!

Free Give Aways! Raffle Prizes!

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Please RSVP by December 7 by calling Marian Takushi at 281-494-0094, by e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net or through the direct link on the "Upcoming Events" page of www.stgcsa.org.

Directions:

From the Southwest Freeway (U.S. 59) south, exit on Bissonnet to the east. Go approximately one mile to the club entrance on the right, or exit on Gessner and go south 1/2 mile and then left on Bissonnet 1/2 mile to club entrance.

SOUTH TEXAS GCSA UPCOMING EVENTS

December 10

Christmas Party and Awards Ceremony
BraeBurn Country Club
Host Superintendent: Terry Gill

January 25

Stephen F. Austin Country Club
Host Superintendent: Doug Browne

March 8

2010 STGCSA Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Cody Spivey

Visit the "Upcoming Events" page of www.stgcsa.org for more information.



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