

TEE TO GREEN

March 2012

The Official Publication of the South Texas
Golf Course Superintendents Association



Get Ready to Raise Funds!!

South Texas Chapter prides itself on it's members and Board of Directors who work hard to keep our chapter in the forefront of other chapters around the state and country. The Annual Scholarship Tournament each year is our biggest fund raiser event that has allowed STGCSA to grant over \$183,000.00 in scholarships to it's members' families since 1994. This month we are collecting rounds of golf, industry items, fishing/hunting trips, and any other unique items that can be auctioned off at the Scholarship Tournament to be held April 3rd at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club. The more you donate, the more we can raise for our members' families! ([Click here for a donation form](#)).

This year we would like you to encourage your friends and family to bid on items before the actual tournament on our website. Of course, those who attend the actual scholarship tournament and live auction portion of the event will get final bidding privilege. The website will list all the items donated and the bidding online will close Friday, March 30th at 5 pm. We hope this generates more funds for our members' students.

*Please make a note that the original date of the tournament has been changed to April 3rd (Tuesday).

*Please make a note to change South Texas GCSA's email address in your contacts to:

stgcsa@stgcsa.org

Meeting Schedule

April 3-High Meadow Ranch GC
Scholarship Tournament Reg-
istration begins at 9:30 am

[Google Map to High Meadow Ranch](#)

May 16-Blackhorse GC
Chapter Championship Regis-
tration begins at 7:30

[Google Map to Blackhorse GC](#)

June 11-Galveston CC
Registration begins at 8 am

Golf begins at 9:30 am

[Google Map to Galveston CC](#)

July 16-Redstone GC
Supt/Pro Tournament

Registration begins at 11 am

[Google Map to Redstone GC](#)

October 16—Royal Oaks CC (Annual
Meeting)

[Register Now for Any Meeting!](#)

President's Message by: Mark Haven



What a great turnout at Stephen F Austin. A big thanks to Doug and Bobby Browne for a wonderful job hosting again. It was standing room only to hear Bud White. If you brought your GM he got to hear Bud back up what you have probably been telling him all along. George Manuel invited us to help with the driving range again at the Shell Houston Open. STGCSA will reimburse you for half your uniform cost so we strongly encourage you to share in the 10th anniversary of our participation. I know I will be there. We also heard from Johnny Walker concerning the Raffle for Research program. This program will allow us to participate and direct turf studies that have a direct impact on our daily operations.

The next item on the calendar I want to highlight is the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show. I hope to see you at the LSGCSA reception Wednesday, Feb. 29, 2012 from 7:00 to 10:00 at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Because of the late date for the GCSAA Conference we have moved the scholarship tournament back to April 3. Please note the date change. How can you help boost our scholarship funding? First, share your talents from wood working to guiding hunting or fishing trips as well as rounds of golf and products we all use. These go a long way to raising money so we can be generous in the scholarships we provide. Second, sign up early and bring a team. Finally, encourage your team to participate in the auction process. Some of these items go for much less than they should because not all are in attendance. One thing we will do different this year is to allow pre-bidding online. So make your commitment early to make it easier to get these items on the web site.

Thanks to Bobby and George for tolerating my substandard golf and to Phil, Jeff, and Josh for playing to our low standards. It made for a fun day.

To wrap up; I want to encourage your continued participation in our organization. How much this organization will benefit you is directly proportionate to how much you participate. We have received a few good comments and criticisms already and will address those. Don't hesitate to let me know how we can better serve you. mhaven@rec.tamu.edu @bcsgreenkeeper cell 979-224-0184

Superintendent , Asst. Superintendent and Superintendent in Training Positions

Affiliate/Vendor Positions

Technician/Mechanical Positions

Jobs are posted for free!

Email the office with your job descriptions and it will be posted on our website immediately! Also, keep your email

updated: stgcsa@stgcsa.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alex Kukulberg—Assistant Superintendent at Raveneaux CC
Grant Jones is now the Assistant Superintendent Woodlands Tourn. Course

Matt Noles—Assistant Superintendent at Houston Oaks GC

Robert White—Assistant Superintendent at Traditions GC

Aaron Seaman—Assistant Superintendent Deerwood GC

Ben Lauber—Assistant Superintendent Golfcrest CC

Mike Anderson—Superintendent at Red Wolf Golf Resort in Huffman, TX

Dale Bowman—President, Pumps, Motors & Controls

Richard Oaks—General Manager, The Hurt Co., Inc.

Rick Lubert—President, Lubert Bros., Inc.

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[Golf Industry Show Main Page](#)

[Access a list of exhibitors here.](#)

[Lone Star GCSA Receptions Information \(February 29—Las](#)

**Golf Industry Show and Education Conferences
February - March 2012**

Mon 27	Tue 28	Wed 29	Thu 1	Fri 2
GCSAA & NGCOA Education Conf.	GCSAA & NGCOA Education Conf.	Golf Industry Show	Golf Industry Show	GCSAA & NGCOA Education Conf.



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Maximum Input – Minimum Output – Maximum Storage by Bob Cook CTP

A few years ago I took a GCSAA seminar in Anaheim, California from Dr. Robert Carrow dealing with water management. It is funny how things come full circle if you just wait long enough. Last year's major drought brought one portion of the seminar to life. It addresses the title of this article. So let us take a closer look at each part of the title. Please remember that everything we learn has a different meaning to each of us. So here goes my take on the three categories.

As you can see, this can go on and on. What we want to do is be proactive by avoiding heartache or "Rigid Command" from a government agency that would determine our water needs or watering practices. Adopt your own take on these three items through setting goals and benchmarks to make your job better. The picture below is a proactive approach to increasing storage and using storm drainage to increase water volume. When your lake or pond goes dry, it is time to get the stakeholders involved.

Maximum Input

1. A tight sound irrigation system free of leaks.
2. Recent audit of operations such as head rotation and nozzle performance.
3. Irrigation program that complements actual water needs.
4. Cultural practices that ensure the best water penetration and limited run-off.
5. Wetting agents to improve all watering procedures.
6. Water testing to determine water quality.
7. Avoiding "defensive watering practices" be a water manager.

Minimum Output

1. This doesn't mean cutting usage-- it means smarter water management.
2. Having a program in place that is both flexible and turfgrass variety sound.
3. Using resources like soil sensors, weather stations and ET rate programs.
4. Watering times that minimize evaporation.
5. Communication with all stakeholders that "emerald green" cost money.
6. Communication that "emerald green" is not always healthy or playable.
7. Control the area of play, minimize the acres watered.

Maximize Storage

1. Increase your water storage, pond to ponds or lake to lakes.
2. Have or seek more than one water source. Wells, storm drainage or effluent.
3. When you have an opportunity to expand what you have, dig, push or build.
4. Work with outside agencies to procure increased water allocations if possible.
5. Renovation opportunities may be possible from digging water storage options.
6. Networking existing lakes on your course might be a possibility.
7. Adding a lift pump or second pump station is also food for thought.



Expanding water storage and storm drain capability

As you can see, this can go on and on. What we want to do is be proactive by avoiding heartache or "Rigid Command" from a government agency that would determine our water needs or watering practices. Adopt your own take on these three items through setting goals and benchmarks to make your job better. The picture below is a proactive approach to increasing storage and using storm drainage to increase water volume. When your lake or pond goes dry, it is time to get the stakeholders involved.



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Managing Turf with Growth Regulators



Source: American Society of Agronomy Press Release. www.agronomy.org

Madsion, Wisconsin (December 12, 2011)--The growing availability of safer products has made plant growth regulators (PGRs) a key part of many turfgrass management programs today. Now, a new presentation available from the Crop Science Society of America takes turf managers through the current applications of PGRs, with a focus on high-quality turf environments, such as golf courses.

Turf managers who understand these regulators, which influence plant growth by affecting natural levels of plant hormones such as auxins, can use them to slow vertical growth and seed formation in turfgrasses, improve turf quality, and achieve economic savings by reducing mowing and labor costs, say the authors. Their 122-slide PowerPoint presentation—available either as a download or on CD—covers the latest PGR products for high-quality turf and the most recent scientific and management information on their use.

PGRs are small, organic compounds that when applied in small amounts induce a change in plant growth and development. Their first major uses were to slow vertical growth and suppress seedheads on low-quality turf areas, where they've been used for more than 50 years. But until recently, PGRs were not commonly applied to golf courses and other high-quality environments because early PGR products could be phytotoxic to the turf.

To help managers in the golf course and sports turf communities understand today's uses of PGRs, the authors have assembled information from scientific, trade, and industry publications, as well as insights gained from interacting with turfgrass managers both in person and online. After taking readers through the latest PGR products, the presentation covers a wide range of topics, including how to apply PGRs; their ability to achieve important objectives, such as reducing clippings and mowing, and suppressing *Poa annua* seedheads; and how PGRs interact with factors like drought, low mowing heights, turf diseases, and putting speeds. The authors end the presentation with a set of frequently asked questions about PGRs.

Although PGR research is on-going, and new uses and new PGR products are continually being developed, the presentation offers a state-of-the-art look at PGRs today. The material is particularly valuable, say the authors, because no comprehensive textbook on PGRs exists at the present time.

Pest Management for Golf & Sport Turf—Held January 5th



On January 5, 2012 the Pest Management for Golf and Sport Turfgrass Systems event was held at the Harris County Extension Office. The event is an annual partnership between the Harris County Extension Office and the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association. This year's event focused on environmental protection, defining an IPM program, turfgrass response to changing environmental conditions, and an update on new regulations affecting pesticide applications. The speakers were Drs. David Chalmers, Paul Nester, Don Renchie, and Richard White. At the end of the session CEU certificates were awarded in areas of IPM (2), L&R (1), Drift (1), and General (1).



Many questions were asked regarding the new Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (see links at: <http://www-aes.tamu.edu/links/>)



Thank you Ewing Irrigation for providing breakfast!

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Randy Samoff, who was selected as one of 27 golf course superintendents to participate in the Syngenta Business Institute, a unique, educational program.

The Syngenta Business Institute is sponsored by Syngenta in conjunction with Wake Forest University's graduate school of business and was held Dec. 5 to Dec. 8 in Winston-Salem, N.C. While agronomic expertise is critical to superintendent success, Syngenta also recognized the need to provide superintendents with business management tools.

Syngenta worked with Wake Forest to develop a program that focused on business and financial management, human resource management, negotiation skills and generational conflicts.

He was selected from a talented pool of superintendents based on an application process that reviewed their educational background, industry achievements and an industry-related essay.

Samoff is the golf course superintendent at Redstone Golf Club in Humble, Texas and South Texas GCSA Superintendent of the Year 2010.

Superintendent Profile: Mark Hutton CGCS

Family: Married 1977 to Brenda, daughters Megan & Kim who is married to Jeff grandson Tanner

Education: East Texas Baptist College Marshall, Texas BA 1982/Texas State Technical Institute Waco, Texas AAS 1995

Golf Work History: Ridgewood CC - Waco, Texas, Lodge of the Four Seasons - Lake Ozark, Missouri Robert Trent Jones & Seasons Ridge Courses, Eagle's Bluff - Bullard Texas, The Deerwood Club - Kingwood, Texas

Certified Golf Course Superintendent 2005

Chapter Service: Ozark Turfgrass Association - Vice President, Pineywoods Superintendents Association - President

Other Interests: Mountain biking, Photography, Golf, Bible Study Fellowship

Sports Teams: Astros (still upset about the AL deal), Nascar 14 & 47, IRL 3, Grand Am 01

Dream Foursome: Byron Nelson, Ben Crenshaw, My Dad and I

Vision Statement: Matt 5:16



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"After all these years, it's still embarrassing for me to play on the American golf tour. Like the time I asked my caddie for a sand wedge and he came back ten minutes later with a ham on rye." - Chí Chí Rodríguez

Compliance

Compliance and enforcement is how EPA ensures that governments, businesses and industry understand and follow our nation's environmental laws and regulations. Compliance helps organizations or individuals meet their obligations under environmental laws and regulations. Enforcement takes legal action against an organization or industry when they do not comply with the law.

Read more [basic information about compliance](#).

Our Compliance Programs

Compliance Assistance

Provides training and tools to help businesses, federal facilities, local governments and tribes meet their environmental requirements.

Compliance Incentives and Auditing

Reduces or eliminates certain penalties for facilities that voluntarily disclose and correct environmental violations.

Compliance Monitoring

Ensures the regulated community follows environmental laws/regulations through on-site visits by qualified inspectors and information EPA or a state/tribe requires to be submitted.

Government Collaboration

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GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

**Technician, Andy Adair**

My name is Andy Adair and I am the equipment manager at Blackhorse golf club and have been here since 2007. Before coming to Blackhorse I was the equipment manager at Willow Creek golf club for 18 years.

I love working in this crazy golf industry there is never a dull moment. I have been very lucky to have worked with some really great guys. Larry Boyle, John Maloney, Mike Rhoden and now John Walker. A big thanks to all of them for guiding me in my career path.

My first love is my family and I have just been blessed with the birth of my first child. She was born on December 20, 2011. Her name is Avery Allyson Adair and she is keeping me and her mom very tired. I love to FISH any time I can. When I am not fishing I am planning my next fishing trip. I love to hunt as well. Really I just love to be in the great outdoors and enjoying the good life God has given me.

Andy

**JOHN FREEMAN-Affiliate Profile**

I was born in Midland Texas on August 3, 1954. With an older brother Bill, and three younger sisters, I moved to Merkel, Texas in second grade and then to Abilene the next year. From city to farm in 7th grade. Dad left carpentry to be a farmer because he could not deal with contractors cutting corners on jobs. Dad had to do things right to keep clear conscience. This always stuck with me and made me think a lot about the way I lived my life. I have great childhood memories on the farm of dove hunting, quail hunting and fishing. I remember finding Indian artifacts after wind and rain storms in the country that we farmed. Daddy worked all of us kids hard which helped build character for the world we now live in. I loved to go to Colorado, trout fishing after spring grain harvest. My favorite hunting trip was to New Mexico on a bow hunt for elk. I am an avid bow hunter and have harvested over 60 white tail deer with bow and arrow, what a rush!!!

I followed Bill to TAMU and started out studying to be a CPA. This was in rebellion to spending whole life on farm. I realized that I was not cut out to sit in an office all day for the rest of my life. I changed degree path to Agronomy and began to work for Wallace Menn on the university golf course.

Mom and Dad were not able to help us kids with funding for college so Bill and I worked as we went to school. Lots of week-ends we would go to the Navasota Live Stock Auction and work non stop from 4pm Friday through noon on Sunday. While working with Wallace, I learned just how poor the soil was in College Station.

I learned more about irrigation systems when Wallace and his brother-in-law, Charles became certified irrigation installers. Wallace gave me tools and crew to make home and commercial installs in the greater Brazos Valley. As a junior I ran out of funds to stay in school and Wallace informed me of an old Ag, Charles Faubion who was looking for an assistant at Kingwood Country Club. I interviewed and Charles hired me. Charles said we could figure a way to finish my education but it never happened. In 27 years, I was involved with complete construction of The Lake Course, The Marsh Course and Deerwood. What an awesome experience. While at Kingwood and Deerwood I was blessed to have crews that made me look really good. Deerwood was voted in the Top 10 clubs by the Members in the Club Corp family year in and year out. We received the number 1 position several years while I was Superintendent. Some of the guys that worked with me and made me look good were Bob Egan, Mike Rhoden, Kevin Lyles, Steve Vaughn, James Williamson and Mike Hoffart. We were honored to be chosen to host The Doug Sanders Celebrity Classic for numerous years, the next to last stage of PGA Q-school, and eventually the site for filming of Tin Cup. While with Club Corp, I was chosen as a regional advisor of Agronomy and Maintenance operations to South Texas.

Several people in the turf industry made a big impact in my life. Charles Faubion was a great mentor. He turned me loose and let me learn by trial and error. He gave me just enough rope to not hang myself. Charles also backed me up even when I made a mistake and that was a quality that really impressed me. Darrell Ocker was also a great mentor. Every time I had a question Darrell shot me a straight answer.

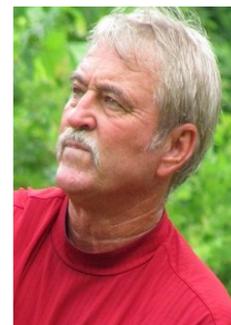
I was blessed to be able to serve both South Texas and Lone Star in the role of Board of Directors. I gave up serving on the South Texas board to help out at the Lone Star level.

I'm blessed to have been able to continue to work in the Turf Industry with John Deere Golf and Turf Sales for the past 10 years. I love representing John Deere, Wiedenmann, Tru-turf, Buffalo Turbine, Dakota, Wylie Sprayer, Lely and other great equipment manufacturers.

I truly believe that our profession as golf course superintendents and turf management suppliers is one of the most honorable professions in the world. We need great places to get in tune with Nature and a golf course is one of the best places to do that on a regular basis.



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Cody Spivey
GM/Superintendent
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
Host of the April 3rd Scholarship Tournament



2012 Live Auction and Scholarship Tournament



Designed by Tim Nugent and former PGA Touring Professional, David Ogrin High Meadow Ranch Golf Club meanders over a magnificent piece of property that is natural and rich in history. Built on the spectacular terrain of southwest Montgomery County, the course sits inside the rustic country development of High Meadow Ranch and features a distinctive routing consisting not of two nines, but three six-hole loops. Aptly named the Forest Loop, Pine Barrens Loop and Signature Loop, the six hole routings provide flexibility for quick golf rounds and has made High Meadow a popular local venue for golf leagues and group outings.

Superintendent Cody Spivey and Golf Pro Casey Wade and all the staff at High Meadow Ranch Golf Club have been hosting our Scholarship Tournament for the past three years. There is a good reason for that! Their generosity and hospitality *and* facilities are hard to beat! If you haven't come to one of the events in the past, at this top notch location, mark your calendar for April 3rd. The day starts at 9:30 am with a live auction. Auctioneer. Bill Freeman, Superintendent at The Cimarron Club in Mission, Texas, and brother to our long time member, John Freeman, shows his skills on the stage auctioning off items such as fishing trips, hunting trips, and golf course equipment. We can use anything and everything, including rounds of golf from all our beautiful courses around the city. After the auction, High Meadow Ranch puts out a nice spread for lunch and the golf tournament follows. Afterwards, a great dinner while trophies and prizes are handed out! You can't miss this one. It's a tradition! Not to mention that all the money raised at this event is allocated to scholarships handed out in the future for our member's kids.

Come support South Texas's most important tournament. You can register for the event at www.stgcsa.org (go to the "events" page), and you can donate any item (including rounds of golf for the silent auction) to be auctioned off by filling out the [pledge form](#) ([just click here!](#)).



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All Things Considered

It's About Time—A comprehensive time/labor study can help prioritize limited resources.

BY ROBERT VAVREK (Green Section Record)

Private clubs are finding it increasingly difficult to replace the 5% of members who are typically lost each year due to factors such as the slow economy, The increasing age of the golfing members, lack of sufficient leisure time for four to five hours of golf, or simply too many other choices for golf. Similarly, rounds of golf are down at most public courses and fewer and fewer golf outings, the universal cash cow of both private and public courses, are being booked each season. Regardless of the reasons for reduced golf revenues, most superintendents face the difficult challenge of achieving a high level of course conditioning under severe budget limitations to meet the expectations of golfers who are generally paying higher dues or higher green fees each season. Assuming a superintendent runs a relatively tight ship with respect to maintenance operations, the policy or mandate of doing more with less is not a sustainable long-term option. After all, there is only so much fat that can be trimmed from a steak or a maintenance budget before the value and quality of the end product are noticeably affected. But how do you justify your budget or explain how course conditions may change in response to significant budget cuts in a manner that all golfers can clearly understand? There isn't much wiggle room in the budget for line items, such as fuel, fertilizer, electricity, and fungicides, and their costs generally increase every season. As a result, the line item for labor, which typically represents 50% to 75% of the maintenance and equipment replacement budget, will bear the brunt of severe budget cuts. You could simply reduce the size of the maintenance crew or take the time to determine how much labor is required to maintain each area of the course, and then make changes to the budget based on these data. When the data are accurate, you can prioritize maintenance operations, and the time/labor study provides valuable information to golfers and your supervisor just how a budget cut will affect play. Guesstimate how much time it actually takes to perform a specific task, and this exercise becomes practically worthless. Have a dependable, well-trained employee perform a familiar task and use the amount of time it takes to complete that operation as a base line. In addition, have different employees perform the same basic task under similar growing conditions and compare the time to completion. You may discover a more efficient way to perform a maintenance practice. Try to minimize fudge factors, such as bathroom and cigarette breaks or spending an extended amount of time for equipment cleanup when collecting time data for a specific task. On the other hand, keep in mind that you are trying to determine a reasonably efficient average time for completing a task, not trying to break the Olympic record for fastest weed whacking. Budget cuts often require employees to multi-task. If an employee mows collars and then mows tees, then he or she will have to accurately determine how much time is spent on each operation. Naturally, some employees are more efficient or motivated than others, and the process of developing a time/labor study can help identify potential candidates for promotions. There is a saying in business that may provide even more motivation for time/labor studies . . . what is measured gets done. I often hear complaints from superintendents that far too much time and labor are spent maintaining perfect bunkers, yet few take the time to determine the actual cost of bunker maintenance. Granted, it isn't an easy number to determine when you consider the effort it takes to accurately document the aggregate cost of bunker raking, bunker edging, string trimming, herbicide applications/weeding, adding sand, measuring/distributing sand to a consistent depth, and repairing washed-out bunker faces after a heavy rain. However, you can make a very strong argument to a golfer, owner, or club president that their expectations for bunker conditioning need to be more reasonable when the cost of bunker maintenance exceeds the cost of maintaining greens. Dollars make sense to golfers and those who approve your budget. If you haven't attempted a time/labor study for your course, it's about time you do.

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Assistant Superintendent Profile—Richard Kane

I got into the business thru the love of the game of golf. I am a transplanted Yankee, born and raised in Staten Island, NY. When I moved to Houston in 1983 after spending 5-6 years caddying on the Lady's tour (which is a big deal today for some high profile players and caddies). While working the tour, it was really just a party and a cheap way to see the country. Upon settling down in Houston I found work at the Woodlands Country club, where I spent three years learning how to maintain a golf course and gained some insight as to what it takes to prepare for a PGA tour event. After 3 years I then moved on to Willowcreek Golf Club in Spring, TX where I spent 16 years and 10 FLOODS as the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent working for Larry Boyle, John Maloney and Mike Rhoden, before taking the Assistant Superintendent position at Westwood Golf Club during their renovation project in 2003. I currently work at Westwood Golf Club for Jerry Takushi. I have been a member of STGCSA since 1995 and have enjoyed all the people that I've met in the association. I will be celebrating my 28th wedding anniversary this year to my wife Susan. I enjoy playing golf, traveling, cooking and an occasional trip to the casino. While on the subject of cooking here is one of my favorites!



Richard's Russian Chicken

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 whole chicken cut up | 1. Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees |
| 1 8 oz bottle of Russian salad dressing | 2. Place chicken in large baking dish |
| 1-2 envelopes of dry onion soup mix | 3. Mix together other ingredients and spread over chicken |
| 1-8 oz jar of apricot preserves or jam | 4. Bake for two hours—Serve over regular or wild rice |



.Thank you to our host, Doug Browne and all of the wonderful staff at Stephen F. Austin for their hospitality. You always make us feel welcome!

Thank you Bud White, for taking the time to educate our membership

~ The STGCSA Board of Directors (and Marian Takushi!)

1ST GROSS

59 - scorecard playoff
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59 - scorecard playoff
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Charlie Ford



1ST NET

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2ND NET

Kevin Brown, Brian Cloud, Kevin White, Clinton Garrett to

3RD NET

Cody Spivey, Brad Griffen, Mike Deo



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Compost has been viewed as a valuable soil amendment for centuries. Most people are aware that the use of compost is an effective way to improve plant growth. Compost-enriched soil can also reduce erosion, alleviate soil compaction, and help control disease and pest infestation in plants. These beneficial uses of compost can increase healthy plant production, help save money, reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, and conserve natural resources.

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Here are some tips from research and practical findings to aid superintendents with overseeding

Whether you like it or not, overseeding bermudagrass is a necessity for some golf course superintendents and athletic field managers. Clientele using the overseeded playing surface see the result of much time and effort through early spring and summer without fully realizing the agronomic and financial sacrifice associated with the practice of overseeding. Most often, establishing the overseeded grass is the easy part. But failure to remove overseeded perennial ryegrass weakens bermudagrass extensively and disrupts uniformity and playability of fairways and athletic fields.

Spring transition is very important for bermudagrass health, and most often herbicides are used to selectively control the overseeded grass. This article highlights various research and practical findings that can aid turf managers dealing with the issues of spring transition.

Sometimes, spring transition and bermudagrass growth can be mediocre as it was for most superintendents in the upper transition zone during the spring of 2008. But with few cold snaps, gradually warming temperatures allowed bermudagrass to grow well. It was far from a worst-case scenario for the transition zone, considering that in many years nighttime temperatures stay cooler, and at least one and often two cold snaps occur that can bring bermudagrass growth to a screeching halt. All too often these cold snaps occur immediately after an herbicide application to selectively control the overseeded grass.

Athletic field managers who are finished with all spring events don't have as many worries when spring transition comes around. Their only worry is growing a strong bermudagrass base, so perennial ryegrass can be removed as early as possible to allow bermudagrass to have a long growing season. If no one is going to see it, who cares what it looks like.

But golf course superintendents, who must have an aesthetically pleasing spring transition, are in a different boat. Controlling the overseeded grass too early can lead to as many as four weeks of ugly, thin bermudagrass in their situations if a cool, wet period occurs after the transition aid is applied.

There's another reason to wait for warm periods to selectively control perennial ryegrass. Research at Virginia Tech has found that some herbicides' effectiveness toward perennial ryegrass is greatly reduced by cool soil temperatures. This research shows that foramsulfuron (Revolver), flazasulfuron (to be marketed) and trifloxysulfuron (Monument) were all slower acting in cooler temperatures. With regard to long-term control, foramsulfuron at 17 fluid ounces an acre controlled only 30 percent of perennial ryegrass when the soil temperature at 3 inches was below 65 degrees Fahrenheit, compared to 80 percent control when soil temperature was above that threshold. Cold temperatures affected trifloxysulfuron and flazasulfuron causing slower action, but overall no long-term reductions in perennial ryegrass control.

Transition aids should be applied at a timing based on long-term forecast with favorable conditions for bermudagrass growth. Time and again, we've found that factors increasing bermudagrasses' competitive ability improve spring transition. Once you see a significant amount (greater than 40 percent) of bermudagrass start greening up, help it along with increased nitrogen fertility, lower mowing height and judicious use of water before using a transition aid. More aggressive cultivars for a given area consistently yield a more acceptable transition.



Cultivars more prone to spring dead spot and winterkill show their weakness during spring transition, so updating your bermudagrass by renovating, interseeding or intersprigging might be something to consider. Mike Goatley, Ph.D., turfgrass extension specialist for Virginia Tech, said cultivars which tolerate spring dead spot and overcome winter injury through aggressive growth habit often do better in Virginia.

Spring transition is very important for bermudagrass health.
(PHOTO BY: MIKE KLEMM)



Nine weeks after application, perennial ryegrass control (in absence of bermudagrass) is influenced by low soil temperatures. When applied at soil temperatures below 65 degrees F (A) foramsulfuron activity is reduced more than trifloxysulfuron (B) and flazasulfuron (C). (PHOTOS BY: JOHN WIL-LIS)

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If I can hit a curveball, why can't I hit a ball that is standing still on a course? ~Larry Nelson

Live Auctioneer April 3rd, and Superintendent, Bill Freeman

Bill C Freeman, CGCS is the golf course superintendent for The Club at Cimarron in Mission Texas. He has been a superintendent for the past 25 years. Bill is very active in the golf industry. He has served on the board of TGCSA, LSGCSA, and TTA and has served as voting delegate for his chapter at GCSAA.

Bill was born in Odessa Texas in 1953. At an early age, he relocated with his family to Abilene. He attended Wylie High School where he graduated in 1971. After high school, he relocated to College Station to attend Texas A&M University. He graduated from A&M in 1975 with a degree in Agricultural Education.

While at A&M, Bill met his wife Libby. They were married in 1973. They have 3 daughters, Rhonda, Melissa, and Samantha. They presently have 6 grandchildren with more to come in the future.

Following college, Bill took on the task of ranch manager for the family operation in Limestone County. This ranch was a 1000 cow registered Brahman operation. The operation was very successful in producing many champions at the major shows in Texas. Bill also was a judge of cattle throughout the world while involved in the cattle industry. The family ranch was sold in the 1980's. And at that time Bill started a new career in the golf industry. His first job was as superintendent at River Hill Country Club in Corpus Christi. He worked there for 12 years. He moved to Mission Texas to become the superintendent for Cimarron. And this is where you will still find him hanging his hat today.

Bill is an avid hunter. He loves to be in the woods looking for deer, elk, quail, or dove. He has a new Golden Retriever named "Bubba". He and Bubba can be seen together most everyday, whether it is on the golf course or in the woods hunting. Bill and his wife travel each year to some place different for photography of wildlife. They just returned from a trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The pictures were amazing of the elk, big horn sheep, moose, mule deer, Bald eagles and the scenery around Jackson Hole. In the past, they have traveled into Alberta and British Columbia, Canada. They have been to Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and many other places just for photography opportunities. Bill also likes to fish and cook.

In 1973, Bill attended the Walter Brittain School of Auctioneering in Bryan Texas. Even though he does not pursue a career as an auctioneer, Bill donates his time in this arena for fundraisers and charity events on a regular basis. He loves the challenge of calling an auction and making a deal between the bidders. In another life, he would probably choose auctioneering as a profession.

As a golf course superintendent, Bill loves the challenges of the day to day activities of the industry. He likes the early morning walks on the golf course to analyze the conditions of the course. He likes working with his crew to produce a quality product that the members can enjoy. He enjoys the challenge of playing the game on a weekly basis to see the golf course from the members prospective. And he enjoys all of the friendships that he has made over the years from within the golf course and turfgrass industry.

Bill is not sure how long he will continue to be a golf course superintendent. However, he does not have any plans for immediate retirement. He and his wife have purchased a small piece of property near College Station. And some time in the future, you will find him living there where he can enjoy the outdoors and his grandchildren in his Golden Years.



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Known throughout the PGA Tour as the SHO Range Warriors, we come together each year to battle the myriad of round projectiles led by Black and Red Titlists and followed blindly by Callaway's, Nikes and Bridgestone, just to name a few. The odds are against us (at least 100 to 1), but every year the Range Warriors have managed to defeat the evil empire of golf balls by the seemingly never ending repertoire of sorting, sacking, and stacking. Sure...there have been injuries along the way, but that doesn't stop Jerry Huntsman and David Gray from traveling from the little hamlet of Huntsville and battling year after year. There are so many more that deserve credit...Cody Marchand, Mitch Elliott, and Gary Hargrove battle on the front lines every year as do Scott Anderson, Pat Johnston, John Dailey, and Mike James. Finally the legendary Captain Carl Tolbert is coming back just to inspire more Range Warriors. I'm sure I've missed a few, but I thank all of you who have hoisted the STGCSA banner throughout the years. And now I ask for your help once again. To paraphrase a fallen leader..."Ask not what your association can do for you...but what can you do for your association!"

Please visit the website at www.shellhoustonopen.com for more information and to get registered. If you prefer not to register on line please feel free to print a copy of the uniform order and waiver and either mail it with a check or you can fax it with credit card information to 281-454-7000.

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Any questions don't hesitate to email me back or contact Terry and/or Doug for more information. We're looking forward to working with you at the 2012 Shell Houston Open!

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GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Patrick Neuendorff—Affiliate Profile

I was born in Columbus, Texas and raised in the country just nine miles east of it in the little community of Bernardo, Texas. I enjoyed the weekend visits to Grandpa's house where I could roam and run free with my cousins on the prairie. I love the outdoors and all that goes with it.

I attended grades 1-12, all in Columbus, and graduated from Columbus High School in 1981. I attended two years of college on a baseball scholarship at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. Unfortunately, they did not offer baseball as a major. I did not finish. My love for the outdoors got me a job on the college golf course there. Because of this experience, I landed a job at the Columbus Municipal Golf Course in 1985. From there I moved to Alvin to work on a golf course and also help build the front nine holes at Beacon Lakes in League City.

I was hired on by Harry Yewens at Old Orchard Golf Course as his assistant in 1997. My passion for golf and golf course maintenance blossomed there. Harry Yewens was a great mentor and I felt, for the first time in my life, that I had found my career. It was a great golf course with a great mentor.

In 2005, after returning from Christmas and New Years' Holidays, we received word that Old Orchard was to close. A developer was interested in purchasing the land for homes. The course remained open for the best part of 2005 and I was searching for my next job most of that year.

In November 2005, I was offered a job in sales by Estes. Reluctant at first, I decided to give it a try. It has been a challenge but also very rewarding. I consider myself a very fortunate individual for being in the right place at the right time.

I still play competitive baseball for the Bernardo Bears baseball team in the South Central Texas Amateur League. I also enjoy weekends at my father's house in Bernardo and spending time with my family there.

I have two children that I am the very proud father of. My twenty two year old son (Ryan), a Navy Corpsman and is in Afghanistan and my sixteen year old daughter (Mindy), lives with her mom in Denton, Texas.



*Dear STGCSA Board of Directors,

I just wanted to say Thank You for offering me a scholarship. The scholarship means a lot to me as it helps me to continue my education. You have given a gift that is not just monetary, but a gift that helps with my future. It will be put to good use towards my tuition. I appreciate that you chose me to receive the scholarship as I am truly honored. I will you all the best, and hope you have a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year! - Sincerely, Caroline Baughman

*Dear Members of STGCSA, I would like to thank all of you who wrote such nice emails about the first edition of Tee To Green. I appreciate the kind words and am now very excited to make each and every issue as unique as the first! I appreciate all of you and am so very lucky to work for you. I can truly say, "I love my job!" - Sincerely, Marian Takushi

Thank you very much for the Scholarship. It is a great help and a wonderful motivator. Your generosity is much appreciated.—Thanks again, Hunter Ratcliff

Dear STGCSA,

Thank you for the Scholarship. It is a huge help for me with all the money that goes along with graduate school. I am sorry I couldn't attend the dinner, but finals were keeping me busy.—Thank you, Zach Ratcliff

STGCSA, I just wanted to take a moment to express my many thanks to the STGCSA program for awarding me the Legacy Scholarship for a fourth year in a row. I have been blessed with four wonderful years at Baylor Univ. and am looking forward to graduating in May. During my time here, I have learned an incredible amount on a scholastic level, but also being at Baylor has given me the chance to mature into the woman I am today. All this would not have been possible without the help from your scholarship program. In my time at Baylor, I have served as the Vice President of the Best Buddies Baylor program, held leadership positions in my sorority, and gained many hours of volunteering and community service which will all benefit me in the future as I go on to a graduate program. I cannot send enough thanks to express how grateful I am for the opportunities I have been provided.—Thank you, Lauren Drabing

I would personally like to thank the STGCSA for granting me the Legacy Scholarship, allowing me more opportunities throughout my college experience. I had a wonderful first semester as a freshman at Texas Tech Univ. and loved every minute of experiencing new things. This spring semester, I am joining the HOSA club and applying for leadership opportunities within my sorority. I will also be looking for shadowing opportunities at the local hospital so I can be one step closer to getting accepted into Occupational Therapy school. I am so blessed to have many opportunities to succeed in life and so thankful that I was able to receive this scholarship. Thank you, Leigh Drabing

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

Grant Jones—Assistant Superintendent

Howdy! I am currently the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at The Woodlands Country Club Tournament Course under the guidance and direction of Superintendent Chris Hartman. I have been employed here since January 2012 and am anxiously awaiting preparations for the Insuperity Championship in May. I am excited about being here at The Woodlands and being a part of Chris' team.

I began my career in May 2007 in College Station at the Traditions Club at Texas A&M working part time while attending Texas A&M University. Carter Hinds, the Assistant Superintendent at the time, provided valuable career advice throughout my first year including suggesting I attempt to go out of state at least once for a summer internship. In May 2008 I was very fortunate to receive an internship at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY. This opportunity allowed me to experience first hand what it takes to maintain a golf course at a championship caliber level.

In May 2009 I accepted an internship at Kirtland Country Club in Willoughby, OH under Superintendent Chad Mark. Through Chad's relationships and with his encouragement, I had the opportunity to volunteer at both the U.S. Women's Open at Saucon Valley Country Club and the U.S. Amateur Championship at Southern Hills Country Club. Being a part of those teams provided a glimpse into how to successfully run a large crew for a major championship as well as the amount of hard work, communication, and teamwork that goes into hosting a championship event. These experiences will be beneficial in preparing for the Insuperity Championship.

After graduating from Texas A&M in December 2010, I accepted the Assistant Superintendent position at Golfcrest Country Club in Pearland, TX working once again under Carter Hinds, now Director of Agronomy for Sterling Golf. My time at Golfcrest provided valuable experience and a good foundation that will help me throughout my career.

As time passes, my hope is I can begin networking and building lasting relationships with members of this great organization.



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