

Tee to Green

Official Newsletter
of the



January
2011



2010
Sonny DuBose
Superintendent
of the Year

Randy Samoff



First Meeting
of 2011!
Stephen F. Austin
Country Club
January 25, 2011

January Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Stephen F. Austin Golf Club, 1130 Park Road, San Felipe, TX 77473

Host Superintendent: Doug Browne

Registration: 8:30 a.m. **Lunch:** 11:30-12:30 **Cost:** \$55

Meeting Speaker: GCSAA Representative (TBA)

Golf: Member/Guest Pick Your Partner, Two-Person Best Ball, After Lunch

Please RSVP by January 21 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.

REMINDER:

You must arrive by 9:45 a.m. to play golf

Directions to Stephen F. Austin Golf Club, from Houston:

- Go west on I-10 (Katy Freeway) toward Sealy.
- Take Exit 723 to San Felipe
- Turn right on FM 1458 and go 2 miles to Park Rd. 38
- Turn left on Park Road 38 and go 1 mile to the park entrance and turn right to the clubhouse.

Coming Up Next!

March 8 - High Meadow Ranch Golf Club - Scholarship Tournament

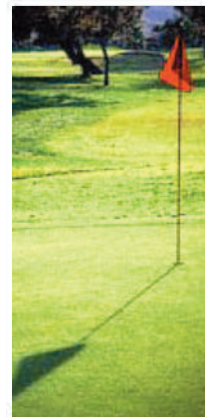


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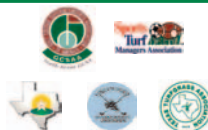
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are ready to begin the new year with a renewed energy and attitude—I certainly am!

I am very humbled by the opportunity to serve this wonderful association as its president in 2011, and I would like begin my term as president of the South Texas GCSA with an expression of gratitude toward many people who I believe are deserving.

First of all, I would like to thank Willy Plowman and all of the previous leaders of this association. The STGCSA would not be where it is today if not for the members who have stepped up and decided to help operate and lead our group.

The board members of the past and the present also deserve a big "Thank You." I have been fortunate enough to get to know many of our members over the past several years much better than I would have if we had not served together on the board. For that, I am very thankful.

I would like to encourage anyone who loves this association to volunteer to serve on a committee or perhaps think about running for the board next year. It really can be a rewarding experience!

Secondly, I would like to thank Terry Gill, Chris Webster, and the entire staff at BraeBurn Country Club. If you who weren't at our Christmas party, it was outstanding! The food was incredible and the atmosphere outstanding . . . what a great way to kick off the holiday season!

Congratulations to all our 2010 Legacy Scholarship win-

ners. It was nice to get to see so many of them at the party, as well.

Just in case you don't already know, the 2010 Sonny Dubose Superintendent of the Year Award was presented to Randy Samoff of Redstone Golf Club. Congratulations to him for that great honor, and thanks for your dedication and hard work in hosting the Shell Houston Open every year. The positive exposure it creates is good for all of us in the profession and for our association.

Next, my thanks go out to all the members who hosted one of our 2010 Monthly Meetings, and in advance to those who will host in 2011. We had a good year in 2010, with many interesting speakers and great golf venues. I only hope to build on that momentum in 2011, and I think we're headed in the right direction.

We have an incredible slate of venues for our meetings this year, many of which we haven't been to in quite some time (if ever). The schedule isn't quite finalized yet, but as of mid-December, we will be headed to High Meadow Ranch, Willow

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Wade Warms, CGCS

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Lone Star Representatives

Doug Browne, Terry Gill, Johnny Walker

Randy Samoff tabbed for 2010 Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year award



Randy Samoff

Terry Gill, past president of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association and the winner of the inaugural STGCSEA Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year award (for 2008), wrote in his letter nominating Randy Samoff for the 2010 award, "taking the course from a transition state back to Tour standards year after year is really remarkable."

He was speaking of the issues Samoff faces every year when he's preparing Redstone Golf Club's Tournament Course to host the Shell Houston Open. As

scheduling would have it, the Tour pros come to Houston just about the time of year when the area's courses are adjusting from ryegrass to Bermuda.

That's not easy an easy task, even if you're not attempting to match playing conditions similar to those found at Augusta National Golf Club, but somehow, Samoff manages to lead his team to success every year.

Given that (and more), it's fitting that Samoff was named the recipient of the 2010 Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year award. Formal presentation of the honor took place last month during the STGCSEA's Christmas Party at BraeBurn Country Club.

The award was created by the STGCSEA in 2008 to honor the memory of L.W. "Sonny" DuBose, who passed away on Dec. 11, 2007, and to recognize significant achievements and

contributions by an STGCSEA member on an annual basis. DuBose was one of the founding members of the STGCSEA, which was chartered in 1958.

"What an honor to be associated with Mr. DuBose," said Samoff of the credit, the only step of its sort taken by the STGCSEA membership to officially credit one their fellows for outstanding efforts. "and the same can be said about Johnny Walker and Terry Gill. They've all done so much for our industry, profession and association."

Walker was the recipient of the 2009 Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year award.

"A couple of people had called me to make sure I was coming to the Christmas Party," Samoff added, "but I wasn't expecting to win. It was a real surprise."

An Abilene, Texas, native, Samoff's family relocated to the Houston area when he was just two years old and he's been in southeast Texas ever since—he considers Baytown his home town.

After graduating from Robert E. Lee High School in 1995, Samoff, now 33 years old, headed to Texas A&M University to study chemical engineering. Something about that just didn't quite fit, though, and after two years, he changed direction.

"I just wanted to be around sports, something in sports management," he explained. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in kinesiology with a sports management specialization, in 1999.

Toward the end of his years at Texas A&M, he worked as an intern at The Woodlands Country Club. His duties were widely varied, but he

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Randy Samoff and his wife, Cindy. Their family includes daughter, Makenzie, 7, and son, Ryan, 2 years old.



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Hess achieves special honor

Alan D. Hess, CGCS, was recently honored by the British and International Greenkeeper's Association by earning Master Greenkeeper status.

Hess has been a GCSAA member for 31 years and of the STGCSEA since joining while an assistant superintendent at Quail Valley Country Club, where he worked for Gary Luscombe, CGCS, and architect Jay Riviere. That team lead the construction of 36 golf holes.

Hess has volunteered his services to the golf course maintenance profession a number of times. He served as the president of the former Old Dominion GCSA, the Lone Star GCSA and the Texas Turfgrass Association.

He received the STGCSEA's Distinguished Service Award in 1987.

Hess became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1986 and has earned recertification five times. Of the 55 Master Greenkeepers in the world, only 20 have both the "CGCS" and "MG" designations— Alan Hess is one of them.

Hess is the father of STGCSEA member, Adam C. Hess, the 2010 GCSAA National Champion Golfer.



Alan Hess, CGCS

Earn .25 service points

An email was sent to all GCSAA Class A and SM members on Dec. 14 and included a link to the 2011 Compensation and Benefits survey. By completing the survey, you'll gain free access to the results (a \$145 value) and earn .25 service points.

If you haven't seen the survey link, please check your spam filter in case it was mistakenly sent there. If you did not receive the email, please contact survey support administrator Enetrix by phone (608-664-3823) or by e-mail at surveysupport@enetrix.com.

This bi-annual survey is designed to track salary, benefits and operations trends in the superintendent profession. It can also help you determine whether your compensation is in line with your peers at similar facilities in your region.

The deadline to participate in the 2011 Compensation and Benefits survey is Jan. 17. The results will be released in the spring as the 2011 GCSAA Compensation and Benefits Report.

Please contact Greg Stacey, GCSAA's senior manager of market research and data, at 800-472-7878, ext. 5152 if you have questions about the survey.

Dues Due!

Your 2011 STGCSEA membership dues must be paid by March 8 if your contact information, etc., is to be included in the 2011 STGCSEA 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.

MEMBER MOVES

The welcome mat is out for *Brent Estes*, an assistant superintendent at Houston National Golf, who joined the STGCSEA last month.

Be here before you know it . . .

The Lone Star GCSA Texas Cup will be held at The Golf Club at Star Ranch in Hutto, Texas, on Wednesday, May 4. Please monitor www.lsgcsa.org for details during the next several weeks.



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Scholarships awarded, recipients recognized

One of the highlights at the STGCSA's Annual Awards Banquet and Ceremony is the formal presentation of the Chapter's Legacy Scholarships. During last month's gathering at BraeBurn Country Club, 19 students were presented as recipients of 2010 scholarships.

All of the scholarships were valued at \$1,000, with the exception of the \$2,000 Legacy Memorial Scholarship (awarded this year to Melissa Myrick).

The STGCSA awarded \$20,000 in scholarships this year, bringing the total funds disbursed to over \$150,000—145 students have received scholarships since the Chapter refocused its efforts in 1999.

Scholarship program is to offer educational aid to the dependent children of STGCSA members and affiliate members.



The 2010 STGCSA Legacy Scholarship recipients on hand for the Chapter's Christmas Party were (above, left to right): Cassie Cincotta, Ashley Dailey (receiving for Johnny Dailey), Tony Cincotta, Sara Johnston, Shawn Freeman, Melissa Myrick, Reagan Ratcliff, Carli Werner and Presley Wilson.

2010 STGCSA Legacy Scholarship Recipients (Parent)

Caroline Baughman (Mark Baughman)
Hannah Browne (Doug Browne)
George Cincotta and Cassie Cincotta (George Cincotta)
Johnny Dailey (John Dailey)
Lauren Drabing (Dodd Drabing)
Sean Freeman (John Freeman)
Stephen and Nicholas Hess (Alan Hess)
Sara Johnston (Pat Johnston)
Melissa Myrick and Catherine Myrick (David Myrick)
Christine Poshtakohi (Pete Poshtakohi)
Reagan, Zachary, and Hunter Ratcliff (Brent Ratcliff)
Dawn Rhoden (Mike Rhoden)
Carli Werner (Tom Werner)
Presley Wilson (Sean Wilson)



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Out of Bounds: What are inert ingredients?

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Sometimes we get so focused on the active ingredient that we forget up to 99 percent of a pesticide is actually an inert ingredient. Inert ingredients play an important role in product performance, ease of application, spreading/sticking, and shelf life.

A complete list of all inert ingredients approved for use by the EPA can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/opprd001/inerts/>.

Some interesting examples of inert ingredients I found on the EPA's "Inert Ingredients Permitted for Use In Nonfood Pesticide Products" list include vermiculite, sodium nitrate, avocado oil, castor oil, cardboard, cat food, beer, cheese and formaldehyde.

A manufacturer is not required to list an inert ingredient on a label unless it is classified as "highly toxic." Because these inert ingredients are not required to be listed, they are essentially "trade secrets."

These inert ingredients may provide a competitive advantage for one product over another even though the active ingredient content maybe identical. In other words, two pesticides may have the same percentage of a particular active ingredient but may have different very different inert ingredients.

The difference in inert ingredients may also explain why two products with the same active ingredients may carry different signal words or have different application site restrictions. A good example is RoundUp versus Rodeo.

Both products have the same active ingredient, but Rodeo is the glyphosate product approved for use near ponds. Essen-

tially, the inert ingredients in one product may be more toxic than another product. In the end, the "label is the law" and the label indications and safety information may be based on the active ingredient and inert ingredients.

To read more about this subject please visit this website:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/PI/PI08100.pdf>

*Dr. Anthony Camerino is a
Commercial Horticulture Agent
with the Harris County Office of
Texas AgriLife Extension.*



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Randy Samoff

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spent about a quarter of this time working with the club's golf course maintenance staff.

"That," he said, "is where my love for the business started. That's where I had the most fun, but I knew I needed much more experience."

The Woodlands had hired him as an assistant club manager in 2001; he was still a jack-of-all-trades, but he was becoming more and more focused on the maintenance side of the equation.

In 2002, after discussions with then Director of Grounds Maintenance Tony Miller, Samoff made the move . . . he became a second assistant superintendent, assigned to The Woodlands' Palmer Course.

Then a new father with a new job, he knew going back to school for the knowledge and experience was not an option, so he enrolled in a Penn State University correspondence course, and in 2003, completed the program with a Certificate in Turfgrass Management.

He was promoted to assistant superintendent at The Woodlands' Oaks Course in July of that year. Just nine months later, he made another move, this time changing facilities altogether to become assistant superintendent at Redstone Golf Club's (then under construction Tournament Course).

Two steps remained before he would reach his current assignment as golf course superintendent for both of Redstone's courses.

The first happened in 2005, when he was promoted to head superintendent on the club's Tournament Course. The second happened in 2008, when then STGCSA President Roger Goettsch, Redstone's Director of Agronomy, left for another job in Austin.



The three winners of the Sonny DuBose Superintendent of the Year award are, from left to right, Terry Gill (2008), Randy Samoff (2010) and Johnny Walker (2009).

Samoff was a natural fit, and Redstone's management interviewed a number of other qualified candidates, Samoff was put in charge of both of the club's courses. The reviews of his work have been nothing less than spectacular ever since, and his selection as the STGCSA's Superintendent of the Year award is simply his latest accolade.

"I'm very proud of the honor, but really, it's the entire team that makes things work," said Samoff. "We have great ownership at Redstone and a great staff, and I've worked to surround myself with good people."

"I've learned that you don't have success on your own," Samoff added. "Surrounding yourself with good people makes you a lot more successful."



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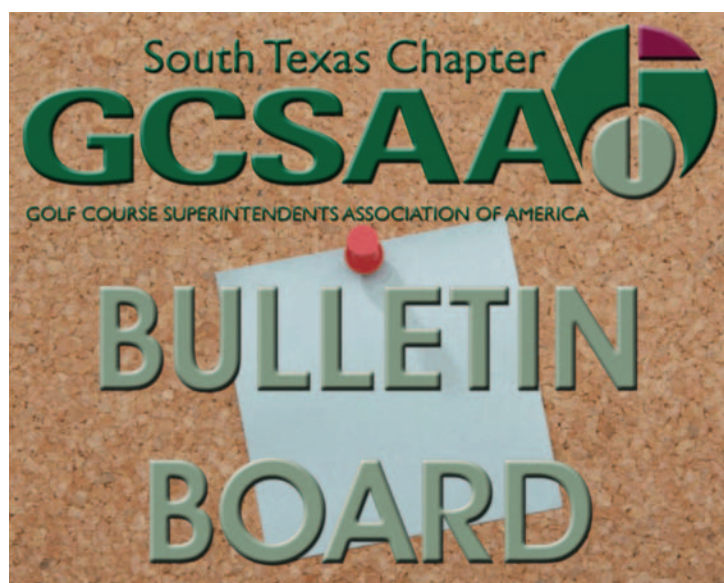
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Assistant Superintendent Wanted

Travis B. Bryan Municipal Golf Course — Bryan
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by contacting Dennis Wilganowski
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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).

Stolen equipment

Kevin Cooper and his crew at Lochinvar Golf Club arrived at work on Dec. 20 and found bad news. The gate to the facility had been cut open and thieves had stolen some of their equipment.

They'll probably try to sell it somewhere, so if someone offers a John Deere 4320 tractor and a Wiedenmann Super 500 (especially for prices that are good to be true), you may be looking at Lochinvar's equipment.

A call to the police would be in order.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

Creek Country Club, and Traditions Club, just to name a few. It's going to be a lot of fun, and I'm excited about seeing everyone at Stephen F. Austin Golf Club in January.

Last but certainly not least, I want to again thank Marian Takushi and Steve Hunter. Marian is vital to keeping our association running smoothly and she makes it look easy. I have been around long enough to know how much she does for us and we are lucky to have her.

Steve has also worked very hard to publish our *Tee to Green* every month. He has a lot on his plate right now while we make the transition from our printed newsletter to a sharper and more colorful digital version. Hopefully everyone will enjoy the change. The decision has been at issue within the Board for a couple of years now, and we felt that the time is finally right to make the transition in 2011. I hope everyone will bear with us, as it will be a new challenge for Steve and the Board moving forward.

You're looking at the first issue of the new format. If you'd like and have the time, please let us know what you think.

— Wade Warmes, CGCS

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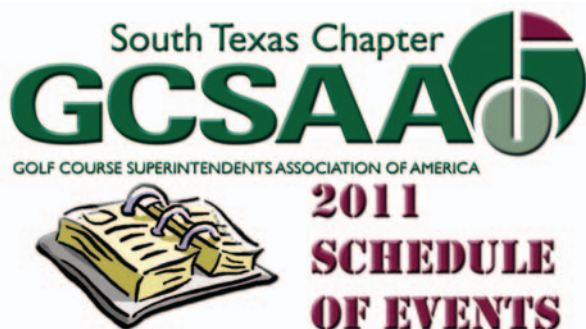
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We Appreciate Your Support

**January 25**

Stephen F. Austin Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Doug Browne

March 8

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

April 4

Willow Creek Country Club
First Round Chapter Championship
Host Superintendent: Mike Rhoden

May 4

Lone Star GCSA Texas Cup
The Golf Club at Star Ranch - Hutto, Texas

May 9

Quail Valley Golf Course
Second Round Chapter Championship
Host Superintendent: Jeff McCrory

June TBA

Sweetwater Country Club
Host Superintendent: Michael Finke

July 10-12

Texas Turfgrass Association Conference & Show
Hyatt Lost Pines Resort - Bastrop

July 18

Superintendent-Pro Tournament
The Traditions at Texas A&M
Host Superintendent: Jesse Shulse

September 25-26

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club - Keller, Texas

October TBA

Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Brian Buckner, CGCS

November TBA

Ravens Nest Golf Club
2011 STGCSA Annual Meeting
Host Superintendent: David Gray

December 12-14

Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference
San Antonio Convention Center

Turfgrass course coming up

The 7th Annual Turfgrass Ecology and Management Short Course will be held Jan. 24-28, 2011, at the College Station Conference Center, adjacent to the Texas A&M University Campus.

This turfgrass management continuing education program is designed to provide basic and practical information to new professional turfgrass managers, as well as to provide experienced turf managers the opportunity to review and update their knowledge.

The cost is \$625 if you register by Jan. 10 and \$675 after that date.

Complete details about the event can be accessed here:

<https://agrilifevents.tamu.edu/events/details.cfm?id=645>

Pest Management seminar set for January

The Texas Agri-Life Extension Service—Harris County Office will conduct a "Pest Management for Golf and Sport Turf Systems" seminar on Jan. 6, 2011, at its office in west Houston (3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston, TX 77084).

Co-sponsored by the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association, the meeting will begin with registration, coffee and donuts at 8 a.m. and will run through approximately 3:15 p.m.

Payment for the seminar may be made by credit card by calling 281-494-0094 or by visiting the "Pest Management for Golf and Sport Turf Systems" link on the "Events/Results" page at www.stgcsa.org.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Anthony Camerino (281-855-5600, awcamerino@ag.tamu.edu).

Headed for the 2011 Golf Industry Show?

The 2011 Golf Industry Show will take place Feb. 7-11 in Orlando, and if you're headed that way, you might want to take advantage of the new "Golf Industry Show Connection," a new application for your smartphone that will streamline your experience in Orlando. Everything you need to know about the show is available right on your phone.

With Golf Industry Show Connection, you can:

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- . Download brochures from exhibitors
- . Stay in the know with show alerts
- . Access Orlando destination spots
- . Find local merchant coupons and discounts
- . Follow the Twitter feed to hear what others are saying

Golf Industry Show Connection is available for iPhone, Android, Blackberry and any smartphone that has web-browser capability.

You can get the new application here:

<http://www.golfindustryshow.com/showinfo/phone-app.asp>



For additional details about each monthly meeting and golf outing, please visit the "Upcoming Events" page of www.stgcsa.org.