

Tee to Green

March
2010

Out of Bounds: **Where are the tree roots?**

By Dr. Anthony Camerino

Trees and turfgrass don't mix well. Every superintendent is very aware that trees decrease turfgrass health due to shading, and that shading increases the incidence of foliar disease by extending the amount of time a leaf is wet.

As a result, the "success rate" of fungal spore infection increases. Shading also decreases light intensity, which reduces turfgrass density allowing weed invasion.

The alternative is true, too; turfgrass impacts tree health. Turfgrass roots are extremely competitive and out-compete tree roots for water and nutrients. Only in the urban landscape do we attempt to grow a grassland system and a forest system in the same place, at the same time, and expect a desirable outcome.

The result of this arrangement, not seen in nature, requires extensive corrective management (e.g. pesticide applications, pruning, irrigation, etc.) to keep both plant systems alive.

I have seen many trees surrounded by turfgrass die due to the drought this year. Once the soil-available water below the turfgrass root zone is used up, trees must depend on the water in the



Dr. Anthony Camerino

upper few inches of soil that is being applied via irrigation.

The turfgrass is likely getting the majority of irrigation water. If these trees were to be saved, regular, deep irrigation was needed months ago. So while the turfgrass is growing and satisfied with the irrigation water you applied, it is very likely your trees are suffering from drought.

Contrary to popular belief, a tree's root system is not a mirror image of the tree's canopy. Most mature trees *do not* have substantial tap roots, their roots are *not*

restricted to the drip line and the roots are *not* feet deep in the soil. Speaking with local arborists that perform root-pruning work, I have been told that it is rare to find any roots extending

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Help us stand out

The time of year when we all start getting the golf bug and is rapidly approaching, and the Shell Houston Open is right around the corner. The tournament has been right before the Masters the past two years, and that's where it falls again in 2010 (Mar. 29-Apr. 4, to be exact).

Our colleague Randy Samoff has had Redstone's Tournament Course in perfect shape the last two years. The work he and his staff do and the timing of the tournament have combined to take the Houston area's PGA Tour stop as good as it has ever been, and I don't see how the 2010 edition can be anything but great.

As you probably know, the STGCSA is in charge of marshalling the practice areas during the tournament. Over the last

eight years, literally hundreds of superintendents and their friends have volunteered their time to help our efforts, and we are looking for 50-55 good people to do the trick again.

This year's drill is the same as the last few. We'd like our volunteers to work three shifts, and for that they'll get four good-any-day passes good to the Champions Pavilion, a cool uniform, a free round of golf on Redstone's Players Course, a free meal each day and the opportunity to be inside the ropes with the best golfers in the world.

The STGCSA will again refund half of the cost of the uniforms (after the tournament). There is no place else where you can

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

So 2010 is, I think, off to a great start. As always, our members responded to a call for action. We've had two successful meetings— our Monthly Meeting at Stephen F. Austin Golf Club and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service “Pest Management for Golf and Sport Turf Systems” seminar— and both were very well attended.

I'm particularly pleased to report that some 85 people attended the Stephen F. Austin meeting. As you know, we'd seen attendance dwindle a bit, so the uptick is very encouraging. And I want those who attended to know that their participation and support is very much appreciated.

Your Board of Directors is expending considerable effort to improve the content of the education portion of our meetings (and thanks to Bud White for helping us in that regard), and I think we can take the January turnout as a sign we're on the right track. You can rest assured we'll continue along that path for future meetings.

That's because we know our gatherings are about more than just playing a little golf (although that will continue to be an important part of our meetings). For you and your employers to get the best value out of the time you spend with us, we must provide education that enhances your expertise as a golf course superintendent.

In case you haven't looked at it for a while, take a look at Article I, Section 2 of our by-laws.

It says, “The South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Associ-

ation is dedicated to enhancing the professional status of its members by providing education and the sharing of ideas, so that in turn, the public's enjoyment of the game, and the awareness and appreciation of the superintendent can grow.”

In the end, that is the reason for our existence, and providing meetings that yield true value is our best means of accomplishing our members' needs.

Speaking of that, I want to point out something I learned about at the Pest Management gathering. Representatives of

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made a presentation during the gathering and directed attendees to the National Weather Service's Southern Region Headquarters web site— www.srh.noaa.gov.

If you haven't visited that site before and you have any interest in our region's weather, I suggest you beat a path to it.

It is literally crammed with the kind of weather information you need to help plan your day-to-day, week-to-week and month-to-month work schedule. You'll still be dealing with Mother Nature's ever-changing moods, of course, but this is a site that will help prepare for what might be headed your way.

There are a couple of upcoming events that I want to point out— our 19th Annual Scholarship, Research and Development Tournament and the 2010 Shell Houston Open.

I won't go into detail about either, as both are described elsewhere in this issue of *Tee to Green* (a Scholarship Tournament entry form is enclosed again this month), but I hope you'll plan to take part in both.

Our Chapter has awarded \$128,000 in Legacy Scholarships (\$14,000 last year alone) to 115 of our member's children and grandchildren since 1999. That's something we can take great pride in doing, and it's a direct result of our Scholarship Tournament.

The need for financial assistance will not decrease in the future, so please, assemble a team and enter the tournament. I promise, you'll have fun playing while you're making an investment in our future.

And by the way, if you've got anything you'd like to donate to the auction associated with the tournament, please call Marian Takushi (281-494-0094) and let her know as soon as possible.

Our drill for the Shell Houston Open remains the same as the past several years and is ably described in Terry Gill's page one article. This activity is our most significant public relations activity of the year. And like the Scholarship Tournament, it's fun. Please be a part of it— registration information can be found in Terry's article.



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— Willy Plowman

What the STGCSA's Legacy Scholarship Program is all about

I would like to start by saying how incredibly thankful I am to be a recipient of the STGCSA Legacy Scholarship not only once, but twice.

It is such a blessing for me to continue my education at Baylor University, growing in my faith and giving back to the Waco community. I was on the Dean's List last semester and I recently got a position volunteering at the Hillcrest Baptist Hospital. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work in the ER at Hillcrest, because it is an experience I will need in order to success in the medical field and when I attend medical school.

Without the help of the scholarship program, it is likely I would not be afforded these wonderful experiences. Again, thank you for awarding me this scholarship and contributing to such an important part of my future.

Many thanks,

— Lauren Drabing

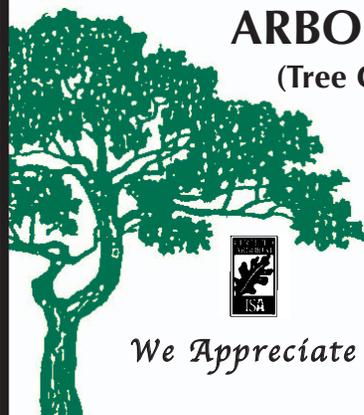
Membership Moves

The new year has brought nine new members into the STGCSA fold, and they all deserve a healthy welcome as soon as you get the chance.

The new members include: *John Oliver*, branch manager for John Deere Landscapes; *Ben McCampbell*, irrigation designer and consultant for McCampbell Irrigation; *Scott Abernathy*, a student at Texas A&M University; and *Timothy Holderman* and *Cody Alexander*, assistant superintendents at The Club at Carlton Woods Creekside Course and The Club at Carlton Woods, respectively.

Also new to the roster are: *Dennis Wilganowski*, golf course superintendent at Bryan Golf Course; *Dan Farrier*, irrigation consultant at IPD, LLC; and, *Lee Keith*, golf course superintendent at Raveneaux Country Club; and *Josh Ferguson*, golf course superintendent at Cypress Lakes Golf Club.

Rocky Zapata is now the golf course superintendent at Tomball Country Club.



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We Appreciate Your Support

19th Annual STGCSA Scholarship, Research & Development Tournament

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
37300 Golf Club Trail, Magnolia, Texas 77355
Host Superintendent — Cody Spivey

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Auction and Lunch: 10:00 to 12 noon

Shotgun Start: 1 p.m.

Four-Peson Scramble

Additional details are available within the "Upcoming Events" section of the Chapter web site (www.stgcsa.org).

Entry Deadline: March 5

Field limited to first 36 paid teams

Please submit entry forms to Marian Takushi by e-mail at stgcsa@windstream.net or through the direct link on the "Upcoming Events" page of www.stgcsa.org by Mar. 5.

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Please contact Marian Takushi if you are considering a tournament sponsorship or the donation of items for the Scholarship Auction.

Directions to High Meadow Ranch:

From Houston: Take Hwy. 249 and go 7.5 miles north of the intersection of 249 & 2920. (Note: 249 turns into 1774 as it narrows into a two-lane road about 1 mile before you reach High Meadow Ranch.) Watch for the entrance to High Meadow Ranch on the left. Proceed into the subdivision, turn right at the first cross street, follow for about 2 miles to the large entry sign for the golf course where you'll turn right. Proceed 1/4 mile to the entrance that will be on the left.

Coming Up!

April 12

First Round Chapter Championship
Southwyck Golf Club

Host Superintendent: Brandon Crumpler

Meeting Topic: Skin Cancer: Reduce Your Risk
Presented by MD Anderson Cancer Center



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January Meeting

Stephen F. Austin Golf Club
Golf Results

Gross

Steven Chernosky, Ricky Lyons, Chris Mink	61
Bret Barclay, Sean Wilson, Brian Buckner	61

Net

Glenn Noska, Doug Shamp, Buddy Weakdock	44.6
Mark Haven, Ed Schultheis, Mark Monroe	45.9

SPECIAL CONTESTS

Hole	Contest	Winner
#4	Long Drive	James Edgmon
#4 (13+)	Long Drive	Jon Snider
#2	Closest-to-Hole	Gary Hargrove
#5	Closest-to-Hole	Tommy Wolfenberger
#8	Closest-to-Hole	Josh Ferguson
#14	Closest-to-Hole	Pat Heuendorff
#17	Closest-to-Hole	Ricky Lyons

TREE ROOTS
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beyond two feet deep in the heavy clays found around Houston.
So where are the tree roots located?:

- Tree roots typically extend beyond the drip line by a factor of 3X.
- Tree roots are concentrated near the soil surface.
- Tap roots are rarely found in compacted urban soils.
- As much as 50 percent of the roots are located outside the drip line.

The next time you are out on the course, keep in mind that while the top of the trees may be out of bounds, it is very likely the tree roots are in play.

To read more about this subject, please visit this website:
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FILES/WO/WO01700.pdf>

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

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SHELL HOUSTON OPEN

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get all of that for doing something that gives so much back to your organization. If you have never taken part in our marshalling effort before, you owe it to yourself to sign up.

If you have participated in the past, you may have received an e-mail (from Susan Maglee) that includes a screen name and password to use when registering for 2010.

If not, go to www.shellhoustonopen.com/Vol-Register.cfmon on the internet and follow the easy instructions.

If you have any questions call or e-mail (281-455-1770, tgill@braeburncc.com) We appreciate your willingness to serve and look forward to working with you again at the 2010 Shell Houston Open.

— Terry Gill

BULLETIN BOARD

Assistant Superintendent Wanted

The Woodlands Country Club
Arnold Palmer Course

Please send resume´ to: Jason McConnell
The Woodlands Country Club

9310 Cochran's Crossing, The Woodlands, TX 77381
FAX: 281-367-9070 • E-mail: jmccConnell@thewoodlands.com

Assistant Superintendent Needed

Kingwood Country Club
Please send resume´ to:

Kevin Lyles, Kingwood Country Club
1700 Lake Kingwood Trail, Kingwood TX 77339

Spray Technician/Assistant Superintendent Trainee Needed

University of Texas Golf Club — Austin

Please send resume´ to: Rich Cope
The University of Texas Golf Club
3100 University Club Drive, Austin, TX 78732
E-mail: rich.cope@utgolfclub.com

Summer Intern Needed

Golfcrest Country Club

Candidates must be enrolled in a
two- or four-year Turfgrass Management Program.

Please send resume´ to:

Carter Hindes, Golf Course Superintendent
Golfcrest Country Club

2801 Country Club Dr., Pearland, TX 77581

Fax: 281-485-3867 • Email: chindes@golfcrestcountryclub.com

The STGCSA Bulletin Board is available for use by all STGCSA members. Call Steve Hunter (281-395-4927) before the 10th 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).

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2010 STGCSA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

March 9

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

April 12

First Round Chapter Championship
Southwyck Golf Club
Host Superintendent:
Brandon Crumpler

May 4

Second Round Chapter Championship
Blackhorse Golf Club
Host Superintendent: Johnny Walker

May 10

LSGCSA Texas Cup Tournament
Twin Rivers Golf Club (Waco)

June 14

Riverbend Country Club
Host Superintendent: George Cincotta

August 2

Superintendent/Pro Tournament
Raveneaux Country Club
Host Superintendent: Lee Keim

September 19-21

LSGCSA Texas Trophy Tournament
Horseshoe Bay Resort (Horseshoe Bay)

October 11

Evergreen Point Golf Course
Host Superintendent: Dennis Klene

November 8

Annual Meeting
Braeburn Country Club
Host Superintendent: Terry Gill

Dues Due!

Your 2010 STGCSA membership dues must be paid by March 9 if your contact information, etc., is to be included in the 2010 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.

Hot Button

Check out the new Government Relations link on www.stgcsa.org. You'll find information about a number of issues pertinent to the golf course maintenance industry.

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

STGCSA Member E-mail Update

If you have changed your e-mail address within the past year, please contact Marian Takushi at stgcsa@windstream.net to provide an update.

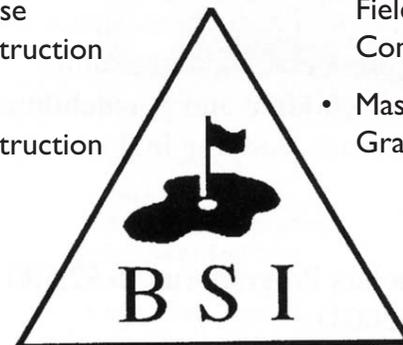
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