

TEE TO GREEN

The Official Publication of the South Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association



Member/Guest/Guest/Guest

Deerwood Country Club

July 23, 2018

Hosted by Ed Martinez

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ED MARTINEZ AND
JEFF SMELSER FOR
WINNING THE TEXAS
CUP AT COTTONWOOD
CREEK IN WACO!**



***Important Date Change**

The Chapter Championship at BraeBurn Country Club has been rescheduled for Monday, August 20
We hope this new date works for everyone!

Meeting Schedule

July 23, 2018

Member/Guest/Guest/Guest
Deerwood Country Club

August 11, 2018

Scholarship Banquet
Bay Oaks Country Club

August 20, 2018

Chapter Championship
BraeBurn Country Club

September 11, 2018

Superintendent / Pro
Blackhawk Golf Club

September 16 - 18, 2018

Lone Star Texas Trophy
Corpus Christi Country Club

October 8, 2018

Education
Northgate

November 6, 2018

Annual Meeting &
Past Presidents Meeting
Kingwood Country Club

Presidents Message - Kyle Brown

In the previous newsletter's President's Message I updated the association on the state of our Executive Director search. For this message, on behalf of our Board of Directors, I am happy to welcome Carrie Cole as our new Executive Director. She comes to us with a wealth of experience in administration on the professional level rooted in the energy industry. I do not want to steal all her thunder as you will find out more about her in her introductory article. We are extremely happy to have her and we are thankful for the work Carol Cloud did for us on an interim basis March through May.



Thanks goes out to Brian Johnson and Sand Hill Farm for hosting our May education and recreation. It was good education and a different format than we usually offer. Because of the tropical disturbance that moved through our area the week of June 18 we decided to reschedule the Chapter Championship to Monday August 20th at BraeBurn Country Club. Thankfully Terry Gill and BraeBurn Country Club are able to accommodate our move. That being said, our next meeting is the Member/Guest/Guest/Guest hosted by Ed Martinez at Deerwood. It will be nice to see the fruits of Ed and his crews labor at Deerwood after recovering from torrential flooding two consecutive years. I know they have worked hard to repair the course and have even heard some say the course is better than before the floods.


A special congratulations goes out to Ed Martinez and Jeff Smelser for winning the Texas Cup at Cottonwood Creek in Waco. Congratulations gentlemen from all of STGCSA!!

It is the time of year again when we are asking for people to run for Board of Director positions. Serving on the Board of Directors is a rewarding experience and serves as an opportunity to help grow our association and bond with peers. We are also arranging the meeting schedule for 2019 so if you are interested in running for the Board of Directors or hosting an event in 2019 please reach out to any board member or Carrie.

Last but not least, as Hurricane Season is upon us again and Harvey is still fresh on our minds, please be vigilant and prepared.

Kyle Brown

STGCSA President

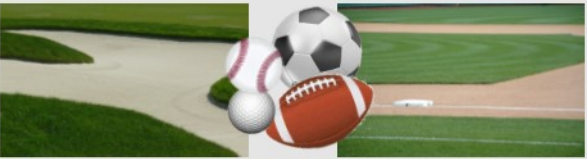


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Executive Directors Message - Carrie Cole

Hi, my name is Carrie Cole and I'd first like to take a moment to thank the Board of Directors for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your new Executive Director. I have 18+ years of experience working with senior level executives and hope to incorporate a lot of new ideas, events, and opportunities into the association.

I was born and raised in Houston, where I met my husband Brandon 15 years ago, and am currently a stay at home mom with our four children. In our free time, we enjoy swimming with family and friends, vacations to the beach, and frequent trips to our favorite water parks.

When I first found out about this opening, I was looking for a work from home position and knew this would be the perfect opportunity for me and my family. I know I have big shoes to fill, but am excited and thankful for the opportunity and look forward to meeting and working with each of you.

Please let me know if you need anything and I will be happy to help.

Carrie Cole

STGCSA Executive Director

New Superintendent Scholarship to 2019 GIS in San Diego

STGCSA will grant scholarships for 2 deserving Superintendent

Members to attend the 2019 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. The applicants will be selected based on attendance at STGCSA meetings and need. Application coming soon. Please see Page 14 for more details.

Good Luck!



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WE ARE GOLF

2018 National Golf Day is a Wrap! Tim Phillips from Golfcrest Country Club attended this event in Washington, DC. Here is a write-up of his experience there:

Last April, I was fortunate enough to be selected to represent the STGCSA in Washington D.C. during National Golf Day. This was a very rewarding trip from my perspective. I was able to meet many fellow superintendents from around the country and discuss common issues we are facing. It also provided a great chance to get involved with the very large volunteer project that takes place on the National Mall each year. We aerified, overseeded, mowed, and laid sod. The National Parks manager informed us that we do in one day what would take his crew an entire year. This is a very satisfying feeling and probably the greatest backdrop I will ever have the pleasure of working around. On the following day, we really got down to business as we met with staff from all of the congressmen and representatives from our area to discuss the legislation our industry needs to get supported. I highly recommend to all fellow superintendents to get involved in the grass roots project and/or attend the National Golf Day meetings spreading our message. It is very important that we bring the message to our politicians instead of allowing others to set the narrative. Thank you all for the opportunity to be involved. Tim Phillips, Golfcrest Country Club



The Algae Triangle: Managing Nuisance Aquatic Plants Without Pesticides

Gavin Ferris, Ecologist at SOLitude Lake Management

I frequently use herbicides and algaecides in my line of work. Having attended college and graduate school to be an Ecologist, it isn't something I thought I would do very often, but with the frequency of environmental problems that involve invasive flora, nuisance aquatic weeds and potentially-toxic algae, EPA-approved pesticides are an invaluable tool. There are, however, times when pesticide use is impractical, imprudent, illegal or impossible. Maybe the golf course superintendent or property manager prefers that pesticides not be applied to near ornamental plants or irrigation waters. Perhaps the regulatory bodies in a given area aren't permitting the use of certain products. Whatever the reason, sometimes this option just isn't on the table. But how do we effectively manage algae and weeds without pesticides?

I employ a simple concept that I call the algae triangle, though it works for all forms of vegetation. If you had the same fire safety lessons in elementary school, you may remember the Fire Triangle, which is based on the idea that three elements are necessary for fire: fuel, oxygen and heat. If you have enough of all three, you'll ignite a fire. Eliminate any corner of the triangle, and the fire goes out. Similarly, if you have water, sunlight and nutrients, you'll likely develop some form of algae or vegetation. If the triangle becomes too imbalanced, the resulting plant species can become a nuisance.

Obviously, in the golf and turf industries, we aren't removing water from the equation, so establishing balance between each factor is the focus. Putting this concept into practice means understanding how sunlight and nutrients affect the ecology of the waterbody in question. Communities have several natural options to help mitigate against algae and aquatic weed growth, including limiting sunlight, improving water circulation and reducing excess nutrients.

If a stormwater or irrigation pond receives full sunlight during the growing season, this directly impacts plants and algae by increasing water temperatures and providing the light necessary for photosynthesis. To prevent sunlight from penetrating the water column and stimulating the growth of deep submersed plants and benthic algae, water levels can be increased. Dredging is an effective strategy to increase the depth of a lake or pond, however, it is costly. Instead, proactive hydro-raking can help maintain existing water depths and prolong the need for dredging by removing unconsolidated muck and organic debris from the bottom of a lake or stormwater pond. Likewise, blue or black pond dye can be applied to reflect sunlight. Pond dye can enhance the aesthetics of a lake or pond while simultaneously absorbing sunlight before it can penetrate the waterbody and fuel excessive plant growth.

In addition to thriving in water that receives lots of sunlight, algae and nuisance weeds also flourish in stratified waterbodies. A stagnant, sun-warmed layer floating on top of colder, deeper water can serve as a perfect habitat for undesirable species. Circulation with a diffused aeration system breaks this stratification and allows the water to mix more evenly, resulting in more consistent temperatures and less warming in the sunlit portions of the water. Aeration is also effective at improving the health of an aquatic ecosystem in a number of other ways, such as preventing oxygen depletion and fish kills, improving beneficial bacteria levels, and preventing the release of excess nutrients from the sediment. This brings us to the real meat and potatoes of preventative maintenance: nutrient management.

Phosphorous is the most important nutrient contributing to excess vegetation in lakes, irrigation ponds and stormwater management facilities, and it can enter the water column in runoff containing lawn fertilizers, grass clippings and other organic materials. A number of nutrient reduction strategies should be considered if water quality tests reveal nutrient levels are too high. A professional lake manager can apply beneficial bacteria to the waterbody to utilize nutrients that would otherwise be available for plant and algae growth. Water quality can also be amended by using products that bind with phosphorous to keep it from becoming fuel for nuisance plants. Additionally, strategically planting desirable buffer vegetation around the shore of the waterbody can help to intercept phosphorus before it enters the water and is absorbed by unwanted vegetation. Your lake manager can help identify buffer plants that are native to your region.

When it comes to quickly and effectively managing nuisance aquatic weeds and algae, EPA-approved pesticides can be very useful, and in many instances, they are the safest and most practical option available. Nonetheless, natural and proactive management techniques can be tremendously effective at improving the health and appearance of almost any community lake or pond before a problem occurs, which is why it's important for golf courses, property managers and landscape professionals to consider sustainable and holistic plant management methods whenever possible.

Gavin Ferris is an Ecologist with SOLitude Lake Management, an environmental firm providing sustainable lake, pond, wetland and fisheries management solutions. Learn more about this topic at www.solitudelakemanagement.com/knowledge.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Nuisance algae: Pesticide applications can be a safe and effective strategy to reduce nuisance aquatic weeds and algae, but the most sustainable alternative is proactive management.

Aeration: Floating fountain aerators provide effective oxygenation in lakes and ponds, which can help reduce undesirable algae by facilitating the conversion of phosphorus to forms that do not sustain algae growth.



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Managing Weather Impacts During USGA Championships

By Darin Bevard and Jim Skorulski



Preparing golf courses to host USGA championships is challenging. For a major championship, such as the U.S. Open, logistics both inside and outside the ropes can seem overwhelming. Fan experience and television broadcast windows impact the agronomic preparation of a golf course. Most golf facilities will never host an event that has the scale and complexity of a major championship. However, lessons can be learned from championship preparation that apply to daily maintenance and the preparation for events at any course.

[Read More](#)

Save the Date!



Member/Guest/Guest/Guest

**Monday July 23, 2018
Deerwood Golf Club**

Host: Ed Martinez

Registration Coming Soon!

Bring your family or friends to play a
fun day of golf!



STGCCSA Annual Chapter Championship

Rescheduled for:

Monday, August 20, 2018

BraeBurn Country Club

Shotgun Start at 10am

Hosted by: Terry Gill

[Click Here to Register!](#)



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GCSAA now has the first of our recorded series of "how-to" classes for the Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program available in the Learning Hub, and featured below. These events will help you learn what to expect when you take each of the exams.

METALWORKING AND FABRICATION/SPRAY SYSTEMS TETCP RECORDING FROM GIS 2018

Refresh your brain with an overview on metalwork and fabrication and spray systems, presented by Trent Manning, equipment manager at Ansley and Settindown Creek Golf Club. Then, Eric Duncanson, equipment manager, Pine Needles and Mid Pines Golf Clubs, reviews spray system content.

[Click Here for More Information](#)




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Submissions for the 2019 Dog Days of Golf Calendar will be accepted through Aug. 1, 2018. From the submissions, 14 dogs will be selected. Owners of the selected dogs will be notified in September, and the calendar will be distributed with the November issue of GCM magazine. Plan now to stop by the LebanonTurf booth at the Golf Industry Show in February to place your vote for the 2019 Dog of the Year. The winner's owner will receive a \$500 prize and \$3,000 for his or her GCSAA-affiliated chapter. A \$2,000 charitable donation will also be made by GCSAA and LebanonTurf in honor of the winner. LebanonTurf has been supporting golf course superintendents and their chapters through the Dog Days of Golf Calendar for more than a decade.

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GCSAA Field Staff Representative

John Walker - South Central Region

Before joining the GCSAA staff, John Walker was a superintendent, 30-year GCSAA member and past GCSAA board director.

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The South Texas GCSA is proud to announce the:

2018 STGCSA Marian Takushi Memorial GIS Scholarship

The STGCSA is sending two deserving Superintendent Members to the February 2019 Golf Industry Show in San Diego, California.

The scholarship will cover the cost of registration, round trip airfare between Houston and San Diego, 4 nights hotel stay, a \$50/day stipend and registration for one ½-day seminar.

The scholarship is intended to assist STGCSA Superintendent Members whose club does not normally pay for them to attend the conference, though all are welcome to apply.

The applicants selected will be asked to write a short article for the March 2019 Tee to Green issue recapping your experience and how you benefitted from attending the conference. If you are interested in applying, please fill out the application and return to stgcsa@stgcsa.org by October 1, 2018



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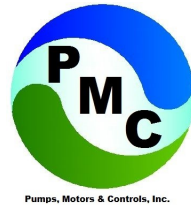
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