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LONE STAR LINKS



Official Publication of the Lone Star
Golf Course Superintendents
Association

Lone Star GCSA
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Inside this issue:

Find out what your fellow superintendents have planned for this spring and summer, getting rid of weeds, protecting your identity, and much more!

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Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, May 3	Texas Cup	Forest Creek Golf Club
		Round Rock, TX
September 16, 17, 18	Texas Trophy	Diamond Back
		Abilene, TX
December 17, 18, 19	Texas Turfgrass Conference	San Antonio, TX

*On the Cover: Staff hard at work preparing for the 2003 USGA Senior Women's Championship.
Barton Creek Resort, Austin, TX. Ken Gorzycki, CGCS.
This photo is of the Fazio Course, hole #9, a par 3.*

Lone Star Links is the official publication of the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents, Association. Direct all new items, letters, corrections, or advertisements to:
Karen White, Executive Secretary, 2601 Green Oak Drive, Carrollton, TX 75010
Phone: 972-307-8162 • Fax: 972-662-1168 • email: lsgcsa@gmail.com
Please note this new contact information.

President's Message

Congratulations to the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents' Association and all its members for promoting the second President of the GCSAA from the Lone Star State in the last ten years. The efforts put forth by everyone as a unified chapter have created the ability for Lone Star to be recognized as strong association across the nation. Of course the true kudos go to Ricky Heine, CGCS, and his tireless dedication and commitment to the golf industry. Let's wish Ricky the best of luck and continue supporting his efforts through out his GCSAA Presidential term and beyond.

2007 has unfolded slowly for LSGCSA but we are beginning to pick up speed. We have had a personnel change at the executive secretary position. Our new executive secretary is Karen White. Karen has been involved in chapter administration with the Georgia GCSA, and is also involved with the USGA. Karen has been working diligently to improve our overall image and communication structure. Don't be surprised if, out of the blue, you receive a call from Karen asking you for an article or some type of input for our newsletter. Please welcome Karen aboard. As always, if you have anything you would like to submit for newsletter information we will gladly accept your input. Karen's contact information is included in this newsletter.

Forest Creek Golf Club in Round Rock will be hosting the 2nd annual Two-Man Best Ball Shamble on Thursday May 3rd. You should have received registration information in the mail or you can go to the web site, www.lsgcsa.org, and print out the registration form there. Last year's event was well attended, and we had a strong showing from STGCSA. The defending champion's team of Russell Tippie and Nick Smitham will have their work cut out for them if they expect to repeat. So make plans to eat a little bar-b-que, visit with your peers, have a few cold beverages, play a little golf, and most importantly have a great time with us on Thursday May 3rd.

PTP/Toro will be sponsoring the 2007 Texas Trophy, hosted by WTGCSA and Diamond Back Golf Club in Abilene, TX. The dates for this year's event are September 16-18. Our goal is to have at least 90 superintendents and assistant superintendents participate in the Trophy this year. Please spread the word and let's generate some excitement. PTP/Toro has sponsored the last three Texas Trophy events, and each one has been very well run, with a tremendous amount of effort and involvement from the entire PTP/Toro staff. Thank you PTP/Toro for your continued support.

I want to also thank all our affiliate members – those of you who contribute to our golf tournaments, GIS reception, and advertise in the Lone Star Links. You make a huge difference in our state and regional chapters, and we are grateful for your support.





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Many Summer Weeds Get the Jump in Late Winter and Early Spring

Dr. Ron Strahan, LSU Assistant Professor, Extension Service

Reprinted with permission from Tee to Green, Louisiana-Mississippi GCSA

Many summer weeds emerge in late winter and early spring as day and nighttime temperatures warm in Louisiana and Mississippi. Troublesome weeds that are common on golf courses during this period are annuals such as crabgrass and goosegrass and perennial weeds that break dormancy including dallisgrass and Virginia buttonweed

Crabgrass

Crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.) is probably the most common annual weedy grass that infests turfgrass this time of the year. The weed is characterized by its pale green color, membranous ligule, and heavy seed production. Crabgrass seeds start germinating in the late winter to early spring when temperatures in the soil reach 55-60 F. Light is also required for germination. There are approximately five different species of crabgrass including both annual and perennial types that infests warm season turf. Perennial types of crabgrass are more common in gulf coast areas and less likely where MSMA use is a common practice.



Control: Crabgrass can be managed with preemergence and postemergence herbicides but application timing is most important. Preemergence herbicides such as pendimethalin (Pendulum and other trade names), prodiamine (Barricade and other trade names), and dithiopyr (Dimension) are excellent crabgrass control options for fairways and rough areas. For established bermudagrass greens, the combination of bensulide and oxadiazon (Anderson's Goosegrass and Crabgrass Control) and bensulide (Bensumec, Betasan and Pre-San) are the only registered options.

There are essentially two postemergence options. As long as the EPA allows its use, MSMA is an excellent inexpensive contact herbicide that is very effective on crabgrass with repeated applications. An alternative postemergence herbicide for crabgrass is quinclorac (Drive).

Goosegrass

Goosegrass (*Eleucine indica*) is a clumped dark green summer annual grass with whitish coloration at the center of the plant. The plant is considered an indicator plant for soil compaction and is very common in areas with frequent machinery traffic. However, the weedy grass can persist anywhere on the course. Goosegrass seems to emerge two to three weeks after crabgrass germinates. The plant produces an abundant amount seed from mid-summer to frost.



Control: Goosegrass is more difficult than crabgrass to manage. However, preemergence herbicides such as pendimethalin (Pendulum and other trade names), prodiamine (Barricade and other trade names), and dithiopyr (Dimension) provide good control in fairways and rough areas. For established bermudagrass greens, the combination of bensulide and oxadiazon (Anderson's Goosegrass and Crabgrass Control) and bensulide (Bensumec, Betasan and Pre-San) are the only registered options. Some postemergence goosegrass control options include MSMA + metribuzin (Sencor) and foramsulfuron. (Revolver). For postemergence control on greens, Revolver and diclofop (Illoxan) are effective treatments.

continued on page 6

Dallisgrass

Dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum*) ranks as the 2nd most troublesome weed in turf in Louisiana. The weed is very drought tolerant and I probably

see it more often in non-irrigated fairways and roughs than anywhere else on the golf course. Dallisgrass leaves are coarse textured when compared to bermudagrass and the plant produces multiple seed stalks throughout the growing season that are very difficult to mow effectively. It has a clumped growing habit and an extensive root system with short rhizomes that anchor the plant in the soil. In gulf coast regions of Louisiana and Mississippi, the plant rarely stays totally dormant during the winter months.



Control: Although a tremendous amount of research has been conducted to find effective ways to manage dallisgrass, we are still limited to repeated applications of MSMA.

Virginia

Buttonweed

Virginia buttonweed (*Diodia virginiana*) is a native, mat forming perennial broadleaf weed that is very invasive in turfgrass. The weed is character-



ized by its prostrate growth habit, elliptical leaves, and white flowers that develop into round "button-like" seed capsules. Superintendents may overlook the plants early in spring until late summer and early fall when the plants start blooming. However, these perennial plants break dormancy and begin emerging from roots in March and April. As temperatures warm in late spring and early summer, Virginia buttonweed seeds germinate and seedling plants are common near the perennial "mother plants". It is not unusual in late summer to see weaker areas of turf

choked out with mats of buttonweed covered with small white blooms.

Control: Weed scientists have investigated ways to selectively control buttonweed for several years with very little success. The most economical herbicides used for buttonweed control are three-way type broadleaf killers that contain the active ingredients mecoprop, dicamba, and 2,4-D. However, we have had success with multiple applications of several herbicides including, metsulfuron (Manor/Blade), 2,4-D, dicamba, and fluroxypyr (Escalade), and clopyralid (Lontrel). These herbicides may not be economical for broadcast applications but might fit in your budget for spot treatments. It is important to realize that no single application of a selective broadleaf herbicide will remove established Virginia buttonweed. Courses with a history of buttonweed should be inspected periodically and any new plants that emerge should be spot sprayed.



Please note our new address and contact information...

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Q & A: What Will Be Your Biggest Challenge This Spring and Summer?

Eric Bauer, Director of Maintenance, The Club at Carlton Woods, The Woodlands, TX

At the Nicklaus course we are going through a collar renovation program. This is taking place now and should be completed by the end of next week.

In addition to that we will be building a new bunker complex that was recommended by Nicklaus Design in July.

Other than that we are going to be conditioning both the Fazio and Nicklaus courses for the USGA State Team Championships in September.

I am very pleased with the way both courses have come out of the winter. I have scheduled a couple of extra aerifications for the Nicklaus course on the greens and fairways. Also to try to improve playability I have started an aggressive topdressing program to the fairways at the Nicklaus course.

Tom Werner, CGCS, Shadow Hawk and Houstonian Golf Club in Houston, TX

One of the present challenges we face is renewing our equipment lease for the next four years. We feel as though leasing equipment keeps us on the forefront of technology and we do not develop long term mechanical problems that cause costly downtime, especially during the growing season.

We are also in the process of using effluent water for irrigation purposes. This will not be a total conversion and we plan to gradually increase our usage in future years. Cost of well water is increasing due to growth in our area. We want to do our part for the environment and lower our water costs.

The weather is always a challenge in our region. Either too much rain or not enough. Our work is definitely cut out for us no matter what happens.

Michael Wren, GCS, Cleburne Golf Course, Cleburne, TX

Growing in and maintaining a new 18 hole golf course!!!

Paul Caskey, GCS Lubbock Country Club, Lubbock, TX

My biggest challenge at Lubbock Country Club is bunker improvement. Our bunkers were reconstructed two years ago. We have been struggling with liner problems, steepness, and holding sand on the faces since that time. I am also trying to come up with a solution for the best bunker raking.

Terry Gill, GCS, BraeBurn Country Club, Houston, TX

My biggest challenge this spring and summer is resurfacing our golf course. I will begin killing fairways, tees and green collars May 1st to eliminate any common bermuda that might exist. We will close the course June 1st and begin construction on new green surfaces sprigged with Mini-Verde, fairways and tees re leveled and sodded with 419 Tifway, new irrigation heads installed around greens, all sand bunkers rebuilt, and a major tree project of trimming 100 and removing 70 existing trees. We reopen to the members Oct. 1st. Should be a short four months.

George Manuel, CGCS, Royal Oaks Country Club, Houston, TX

The biggest challenges I face on the golf course at Royal Oaks isn't dealing with the turf—it's dealing with all the landscape we have both on the course and around the club. We have acres of these areas and keeping the weeds under control has been very difficult to date. I hope we have better luck with it this year.

Jim Papa, General Manager, Forest Creek Golf Club, Round Rock, TX

My challenges this spring are having the golf course in

great shape for the Two Man on May 3rd, and trying to complete a clubhouse renovation we started in December that is running two months behind.

Tem Miller, GCS, Alice Municipal Golf Course, Alice, TX

After 15 years at Alice Country Club, I have moved across town to the Alice Municipal Golf Courses. I started on March 26th.

Jim Long, GCS, Grapevine Golf Course, Grapevine, TX

We have been put on some limited water restrictions, but right now they are just an inconvenience. Our real fear is if we have another tough summer, the restrictions could get worse. I think our biggest challenge this year could be maintaining good conditions with restricted water usage.

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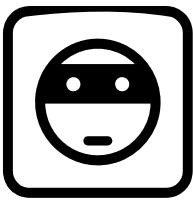
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PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

Compiled By Karen White
Executive Secretary, Lone Star GCSA

Have you ever found a charge on your credit card that shouldn't have been there? I have—and it sent chills down my spine. My initial thought was that my identity had been stolen. Thankfully that had not been the case, but in this day and age when identity theft is so prevalent, it is important to take every precaution to protect oneself.

Here are some simple precautions (found via internet) that may help ensure your safety. Don't let the next identity taken be yours.....

DO NOT sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED".

When writing checks to pay on credit card accounts, do not put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your checks as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have to access to it.

Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your social security number printed on your checks. If you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone number to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. Also keep a photocopy of your passport.

Buy a shredder and use it. Shred everything, including credit card receipts, old bank statements, medical statements, everyday bills, and pre-approved credit card offers. Documents containing personal financial information on it can give an identity thief a doorway into your life.

Get a credit report at least once a year and clean up any errors. Look for personal information and credit accounts that are not yours.

If regular bills fail to reach you, call the company to find out why. Someone may have filed a false change-of-address notice to divert your information to his or her address.

If your bills include suspicious items, don't ignore them. Instead, investigate immediately to head off any possible fraud before it occurs.

What To Do If It Happens To You

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc were stolen. This proves to credit providers that you were diligent, and is the first step toward an investigation (if there is one). Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name.

1. Equifax — 1-800-525-6285
2. Trans Union — 1-800-680-7289
3. Experian — 1-888-397-3742

Call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-438-4338. You can also check on their website: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

The Identity Theft Resource Center is a great website that contains prevention tips, consumer guides and even an Identity IQ Test to determine your identity risk factor.

<http://www.idtheftcenter.org/index.shtml>

There are four different kinds of identity theft crimes: financial, criminal, identity cloning, and business or commercial identity theft. Be on the alert to protect your family, your life, and your future.



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Around the State

North Texas GCSA Schedule

May 22 - Education Meeting and Golf Tournament
Fossil Creek Golf Club
June 19 - Meeting and Golf
Golf Club of McKinney
August 6 - Superintendent Championship
Cedar Crest Golf Club

Contact: Brian Cloud, CGCS,
North Texas GCSA Chapter Executive
(817) 377-4552
www.ntgcsa.org

South Texas GCSA Schedule

April 10 - High Meadow Ranch GC
Scholarship Tournament
May 15 - Miramont Country Club
June 19 - Timber Creek GC
July 24 - Technicians Meeting
Redstone Golf Course
July 26 - Astros Game
2 pm meeting/5 pm dinner
August 7 - Eagle Point Golf Course
Supt/Pro Mbr/Mbr Tournament

Contact: Marian Takushi
South Texas Executive Director
(281) 494-0094
stgcsa.org

Central Texas GCSA Schedule

May 15 - Regular Meeting and Education
Horseshoe Bay Resort
June 11 - North/South Cup
The Hills of Lakeway
August 6 - Superintendent Championship
San Antonio Country Club

Contact: Jana Gomillion
Central Texas Executive Director
(512) 658-3145
[www.ctgcsa.org](http://ctgcsa.org)

West Texas GCSA Schedule

May 14 - Meeting
Big Spring Country Club
June 25 - Meeting
Reese Golf Center
August 6 - Superintendent Leadership Series Program
Dr. Bree Hayes

Contact: Pam Deeds
West Texas Executive Director
(806) 383-6775
www.wtgcsa.org

Texas Gulf Coast GCSA Schedule

June 12 – Alice Municipal Golf Course
July 17 – River Hills Country Club
September TBD

Contact: Darlene Curlee
Texas Gulf Coast Executive Secretary
(361) 850-7974
[www.tgcsa.org](http://tgcsa.org)

Lone Star GCSA Schedule

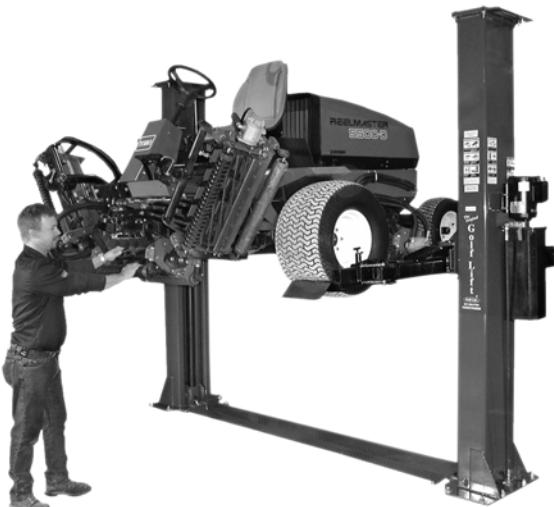
May 3 – 2nd Annual Texas Cup
Forest Creek Golf Club
Sept 16-18 – Texas Trophy Tournament
Diamond Back Golf Club

Contact: Karen White
Lone Star GCSA Executive Secretary
(972) 307-8162
[www.lsgcsa.org](http://lsgcsa.org)

Other Statewide Special Events

July 8-10 – Texas Turfgrass Association
College Station
December 17-19 - TTA Conference & Show
San Antonio Convention Center

Contact: Shirley Duble
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