

Spring 2008

Highlights of 2007 / Looking Forward to 2008



Lone Star Links



**Official Publication of the Lone Star
Golf Course Superintendents
Association**

Lone Star GCSA
2601 Green Oak Drive
Carrollton, TX 75010

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Preparing for 2008!

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Mark Your Calendars!

2008 Texas Cup	May 13	Briggs Ranch Golf Club San Antonio, TX
2008 Texas Trophy Tournament	Sept. 21-23	Victoria Country Club Victoria, TX

On the Cover: Designed by Colligan Golf Design, the 165 yard, par three 8th at Cleburne Golf Links is a peninsula green extending into Lake Pat Cleburne. The forward tees maintain the same beautiful setting but eliminate the forced carry in order to ease the burden for the higher handicap players. In addition, the soft grass bunkers on the right and behind the green offer all a safe area to bail out. This is one of nine holes that are adjacent to the lake, the remaining nine parallel these in keeping with a true "Links" layout.

Lone Star Links is the official publication of the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association. Direct all new items, letters, corrections, or advertisements to:
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President's Message

Back in the mid 1980's

the founding fathers of the newly formed Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association set some goals for the

fledgling organization. They wanted to accomplish three things. First, enhance communications between the local statewide chapters. Secondly, form a strong and viable voting block at the GCSAA conference and show that over time Texas would be able to promote their own candidates to the national board of directors. Finally they wanted to promote and expand the Texas Trophy Golf Tournament.

Your 2008 Board of Directors is still working on those same goals today. Over the years we've seen some tremendous successes and quite honestly even some failures. I believe we're ready to continue to build on the successes and I assure you that we have learned lessons from the failures. We've got strong representation in each chapter and I'd encourage you to get to know these leaders/representatives and thank them for the time they spend away from home and work on your behalf. Their unselfish willingness to serve is making the LSGCSA one of the strongest associations in the country.

You might wonder how I can make such a statement. Well, they say the proof is in the pudding. Since 2001 the LSGCSA has helped elect three superintendents with strong Texas ties to the GCSAA board of directors. Tommy Witt and Ricky Heine both worked their way up to GCSAA's highest office and our third director, Keith Ihms appears to be on the same track. No other association in the country has had three candidates make it to the board in that time frame.

We're also hoping to bring more superintendents and affiliates together to fellowship and play golf than ever before. The Texas Cup and Texas Trophy continue to get better with age and 2008 guarantees to continue that trend. The 4th annual Texas Cup will be held in San Antonio at Briggs Ranch on May 13th and the 22nd Texas Trophy will be hosted by the Gulf Coast Chapter at Victoria Country Club September 21st and 22nd. Look for more information on these events in the near future and mark those dates on your calendar. They both promise to be fun filled events you won't want to miss.

Finally in this first message I'd like to thank some people who have been instrumental in guiding the LSGCSA to higher ground over the last 12 months. Jim Papa was one of the best (if not the best) President we've ever had. He's a true leader, an unselfish individual, and a tremendous asset to our organization. Likewise we have an outstanding executive secretary in Karen White. We're so fortunate to have her. She's already improved the quality of our newsletter and I look for her to help me communicate better and more frequently to the chapters and members in 2008. Last but certainly not least I'd like to thank Eddie Clark and the PTP/TORO team of Ed MacHendrie, Chuck Watson and Bill Thornton for making the Texas Trophy such a great event over the past four years. Thanks for setting the standards so high. The officers, directors and members of this association will always be indebted to you all.

That's it from beautiful Houston, Texas for my first presidential message. As always, if you have any questions or comments don't hesitate to contact me at golfcoursesupt@gmail.com. Until next time, I wish all of you a happy and prosperous 2008, both on and off the course.

George B.

**George B. Manuel, GCS
Royal Oaks Country Club**



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Spring Transition: Going, Going, Gone

Removal of overseeded perennial ryegrass from bermudagrass is a must.

By Fred Yelverton

Reprinted with permission from the USGA Green Section Record, March/April 2005

Few discussions regarding turfgrass management on golf courses get more emotional than discussions on whether or not to overseed fairways, roughs, etc., with perennial ryegrass. This discussion will not wander into those waters. However, one fact about overseeding is indisputable: Overseeding with perennial ryegrass can, and often does, have an adverse effect on bermudagrass. Nevertheless, management practices can be implemented that significantly reduce the impact of overseeding on bermudagrass health. The most important of those practices is **getting rid of the perennial ryegrass by late spring!**

One of the troubling trends occurring on golf courses is the increasing practice of overseeding too early in the fall and keeping the ryegrass too late in spring/summer. If bermudagrass does not have sufficient time to grow during the summer without competition from perennial ryegrass, the bermudagrass will decline over time. This may occur in one year, but more often it occurs gradually over a period of several years. Why does this happen? A brief discussion of plant competition will provide insight.

A fundamental principle in weed science is that plants compete with one another for four basic resources: 1) water, 2) nutrients, 3) carbon dioxide, and 4) light. When bermudagrass and perennial ryegrass grow together in spring, which of these resources would be limiting?

1. Water? No, golf courses provide ample water.

2. Nutrients? No, same as water.
3. Carbon dioxide? No, this should never be limiting.
4. Light? Yes, this is the main culprit.

Beard¹ describes bermudagrass adaptability to shade as very poor. Duple² states that at low light intensities (less than 60% full sunlight), bermudagrass develops narrow, elongated leaves; thin upright stems; elongated internodes; and weak rhizomes. Any golf course superintendent who has managed bermudagrass knows it does not perform well in shade. In overseeded environments, when bermudagrass begins to come out of dormancy in spring, perennial ryegrass growth is at its maximum. As a result, the perennial ryegrass provides significant shade to the bermudagrass. An indication of this can be seen by comparing bermudagrass growth in the fairway vs. the rough.

In most climates, bermudagrass needs about 100 days of growth without ryegrass competition. We know this because, on golf courses, bermudagrass tends to disappear gradually over time if ryegrass is allowed to remain in the summer and bermudagrass has less than 100 days of growth. Typically, bermudagrass thinning is a culmination of several years of overseeding where the perennial ryegrass is allowed to remain too long. This is exacerbated by the fact that many of the newer perennial ryegrass cultivars appear to be more heat tolerant and tend to persist longer if not chemically removed.

METHODS OF PERENNIAL RYEGRASS REMOVAL

It is an understatement to say that the typical golfer doesn't understand the dynamics of overseeding and the potential problems it can cause. A vast majority just see green grass and may not be very understanding when a herbicide has been applied to remove the perennial ryegrass. I once heard from a golf club member, "Now, I do not know much about

mowing grass, but the grass is dying and that is typically a bad thing." No, actually, that is a good thing. In a vast majority of environments in the United States where bermudagrass is overseeded, a herbicide should be used to remove the perennial ryegrass in late spring/early summer. With the possible exception of very warm climates like South Florida and South Texas, perennial ryegrass will not die out on its own early enough to provide sufficient recovery and growth of the bermudagrass.

Cultural methods of ryegrass removal have been extensively tested. A former graduate student at N.C. State University (Dr. Brian Horgan, now at the University of Minnesota) tested a number of such methods. His overall objective was to initiate management practices that favored the bermudagrass and disfavored the ryegrass as temperatures began to warm in spring. Treatments included nitrogen fertilization, scalping, vertical mowing, aerification, and combinations of each of these. None of the treatments or combination of treatments would consistently remove the perennial ryegrass in a timely manner.³ Furthermore, one of the worst things that can happen is that only about 90% of the perennial ryegrass dies. This will result in the remaining ryegrass becoming clumpy. Once perennial ryegrass becomes clumpy, it will not die out on its own. Clumpy ryegrass is fast becoming one of the worst golf course weed problems in areas that overseed bermudagrass with perennial ryegrass.

In recent years, several new herbicides have been introduced that are highly effective in the removal of perennial ryegrass from bermudagrass. These newer herbicides include Revolver (foramsulfuron), Tranxite (rimsulfuron), and Monument (trifloxysulfuron). Prior to these products, Kerb (pronamide) or Manor (metsulfuron) were used effectively for perennial ryegrass removal. While Kerb was effective, it removed perennial ryegrass very slowly. Typically, six weeks were needed to get good control. In addition, Kerb is highly mobile, so extreme care was needed when it was used in close proximity to cool-season grasses. Manor (first released in turf as DMC Weed Control) was

used for several years with much success. It is still utilized and is highly effective. One of the complaints about Manor is that it occasionally needs to be reapplied because of an incomplete kill. In addition, it has no activity on annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). It is common to have annual bluegrass in perennial ryegrass at time of transition.

Tranxite, Revolver, and Monument have all been released in the past few years. Not only are these products highly effective in removing ryegrass, but they also will kill annual bluegrass.

Furthermore, these herbicides tend to kill ryegrass very quickly (2 to 4 weeks). Because these products kill ryegrass rapidly, they should be used as a late transition aid. To state it another way, the underlying bermudagrass must be actively growing before these herbicides should be applied. If they are applied too early (before the bermuda is actively growing), then the ryegrass will die before the bermudagrass is able to fill in the voids from the perennial ryegrass, and the resulting overall turf quality will be poor. However, that they work very quickly allows turfgrass managers to leave the ryegrass in until



Perennial ryegrass growing in low densities becomes clumpy. This occurs when ryegrass is tracked from overseeded areas or when overseeded ryegrass does not completely die in spring/summer

later in the spring. A fast kill still allows 100 days of bermudagrass growth without ryegrass competition.

The mobility and tracking potential of these new herbicides also have been issues. Because

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cool-season grasses are sensitive, use around bentgrass putting greens or overseeded bermudagrass greens is a concern. Several studies to investigate lateral movement have shown the potential for this to occur. However, they appear to be less mobile than Kerb. In terms of tracking, these herbicides should not be applied immediately prior to equipment or golfers tracking through the treated area and onto a putting green. It is advisable to apply these products after golfers have left for the day, followed by a light irrigation prior to equipment or golf traffic being allowed back on the greens.

Field trials tested the effectiveness of these products on the removal of perennial ryegrass. By four weeks after treatment, the perennial ryegrass had been removed.

In summary, any decision to overseed bermudagrass with perennial ryegrass should include a plan to remove the ryegrass. Failure to have a removal plan will lead to a decline in the overall health of the bermudagrass over time. Several new herbicides are available that are effective in removing ryegrass.

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Fred Yelverton, Ph.D., a weed scientist at North Carolina State University, tackles tough problems throughout North Carolina.



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May 13, 2008

Texas Cup Golf Tournament

Briggs Ranch , San Antonio, TX

Mark This Date On Your Calendar

Details Coming Soon!



Breakfast, Anyone?

The 2007 Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference annually hosts a sumptuous Superintendents Breakfast. This year at our breakfast, outgoing Lone Star President Jim Papa received a Plaque of Appreciation from incoming President George Manuel (pictured below left). Hannes Combest, Managing Director, Member Programs for the GCSAA, enriched our program by being the guest speaker (pictured below right). We enjoyed a great attendance this year! Thanks to all who came. If you missed it—well, better luck next year!!



2007 Recap of the Texas Turfgrass Association Conference

The 2007 Texas Turfgrass Association Annual Conference and Show, held Dec. 17–19 in San Antonio, Texas, marked the finale of the organization's "Sixty Years Strong" campaign. Approximately 1200 attendees gathered in San Antonio to participate in outstanding educational seminars, an awards banquet and other networking events, as well as the best turfgrass show in Texas.



Educational opportunities included:

- fourteen golf sessions covering issues such as fleet management, maintenance standards, career success, disease management, subsurface irrigation, as well as a session on, "The Most Challenging Issues of 2007,"
- training for irrigators, which provided approved continuing education credits for irrigator license renewal,
- business management training that focused on workplace success, team building, workplace leadership and communication, dealing with difficult employees, time and stress management, and strategies for retaining high performance employees,
- and much, much, more!

In addition to the quality educational sessions, TTA's sold out trade show was well attended by both industry exhibitors and conference attendees and guests. The trade show brings together attendees and exhibitors so they can meet and learn from each other, and work on great deals. TTA appreciates its industry supporters and provides sponsorships that offer increased exposure to our membership.

TTA's 2008 Annual Conference and Show will be in Ft. Worth, Texas, December 8-10. To learn more about TTA, visit their website at www.texasurf.com.

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Highlights of the GIS Reception



The 2008 Lone Star GCSA Reception at the Rosen Plaza Hotel was a huge success! Lots of people, lots of fun, and lots to eat and drink!

Congratulations to our Lone Star Teams who played well in the GCSAA Tournament! Our teams placed an award-winning 6th Place in gross and 10th Place in net!



2008 Lone Star GCSA *Executive Committee and Board of Directors*

George Manuel, President
Jay Stine, GCCS, Vice-President
Jim Curlee, CGCS, Treasurer
Jim Papa, Immed. Past President

Board Members

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Dan Wegand, CGCS

Around the State

North Texas GCSA Schedule

March 17—Bully Cup Golf Championship
Waterchase Golf Club

April 15—Education and Golf Tournament
Bridlewood Golf Club

June 17—Chapter Championship
Fazio Course at Stonebriar Country Club

Contact: Brian Cloud, CGCS

NorthChapter
(817) 377-4552
www.ntgcsa.org

South Texas GCSA Schedule

April 15—Scholarship Tournament
Memorial Park Golf Course

May 20—Golf Tournament
Woodlands Country Club/Players Course

June 10—Golf Tournament
Wildcat Golf Course/Highlands Course

Contact: Marian Takushi

South Texas Executive Director
(281) 494-0094
www.stgcsa.org

Central Texas GCSA Schedule

March 25—Third Annual Turf Show
Olympia Hills Golf Club

April 15—Championship and Education
Stonetree Golf Club

June 2—Meeting and Education
Cimarron Hills Country Club

Contact: Jana Gomillion

Central Texas Executive Director
(512) 658-3145
www.ctgcsa.org

West Texas GCSA Schedule

May 12—Meeting, Midland Country Club

June 23—Meeting, Floydada Country Club

Contact: Pam Deeds

West Texas Executive Director
(806) 383-6775
www.wtgcsa.org

Texas Gulf Coast GCSA Schedule

March 11—Meeting, Riverhills Country Club

May TBD—Palm View Country Club

Contact: Darlene Curlee

Texas Gulf Coast Executive Secretary
(361) 850-7974
www.tgcsa.org

Lone Star GCSA Schedule

May 13—2008 Texas Cup

Briggs Ranch Golf Club, San Antonio

September 21-23—Texas Trophy Tournament
Victoria Country Club, Victoria



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