## **SPRING 2010**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2010 GIS-SPOTLIGHT ON TEXAS



# Lone Star Links



Official Publication of the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE DIAY PERMIT NO. 88 LONGVIEW TX

Lone Star GCSA 2601 Green Oak Drive Carrollton, TX 75010





#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Photos of the Lone Star Reception at the GIS, Preparing for Spring, Chapter Schedules, and Much More!

President's Message	4
Twin Rivers Golf Club	6
Travis Moore, GCS	
Texas Rules at the GIS!	10
Preparing for Spring  Bud White, USGA Green Section	11
Around the State	15

## Mark Your Calendars!

Texas Cup May 10, 2010 Twin Rivers Golf Club, Waco

2010 Texas Trophy September 19-21, 2010 Horseshoe Bay Resort, Horseshoe Bay, TX

**On the Cover:** Hole #16 is a fun par 5 that requires golfers to play over three large ravines. The green can be reached in two shots, however anything long or left is in the river. This picture was actually taken during the grow-in of the greens. If you look closely you can see the temporary green and the fresh sprigs on the actual green. Photos courtesy of Travis Moore, GCS.



## President's Message

## **Howdy Everyone!**

I am honored to serve this year as your Lone Star chapter president for 2010. We as a chapter have a great start. The state of Texas is blooming with the growth of wonderful things that have happened and those yet to come. Let us start by thanking all of our sponsors of the LSGCSA reception. Without their support this event would not be possible. Wow! Having it at the Hard Rock Café and Hotel made it especially great. If you had the opportunity to attend, please make sure you thank our sponsors who made it possible. Every "thank you" counts!

At the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, held February 5-12, our great state had some remarkable Texan representation. Doug Petersan was honored with the Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. Jim Brown, CGCS, won the ELGA (Environmental Leaders in Golf Award) for public golf. Not only do Texans take care of business at our golf courses, but we can play the game as well. Adam Hess won the national GCSAA golf championship with a +1 par two day total in a payoff, and his dad, Alan Hess, won the classic SR II gross. John Walker won the Class VI Gross. What a great start to 2010!! I would like to give a BIG congratulations to all these great Texans who are legends, stewards, and competitors. Thank you for who you are and what you do for your fellow Texans.

Speaking of Texans, we all have a chance to be a part of a new way to help research right here in our own backyards. I'm referring to Rounds4Research. What is it, you ask? Please take a look at the website <u>rounds4resarch.com</u> for more details. To sum it up, it is a club-donated round of golf for four (or more) which is auctioned off and the dollars collected are used to benefit research topics that are important to Texas golf. Time is running out, so if you have not donated, please consider doing so. The public will start purchasing the rounds in April, but again please see the website for more details.

Looks like a good winter to clean up the course. Hopefully the colder weather is allowing everyone to spray out some pesky weeds and get some tree trimming done. Dormant turf will soon be green again, and golfers will flood the courses when the sun comes out. The outlook is normal for El Niño this year. But in Texas, what is a normal year of weather? There is NOT one! This is what we do best as Texans—adapt and overcome! One year record heat, the next could be a gully washer. So get ready! Spring is just a few degrees away.

See you in May for the Texas Cup at Twin Rivers,

Wayne Slaton, GCS
President, Lone Star GCSA





## LONE STAR GCSA 2010 RECEPTION

## **GOLD SPONSORS**

C&M Golf and Grounds Equipment
Celebration Bermudagrass

## SILVER SPONSORS

Estes, Inc.

Professional Turf Products/Toro

## RECEPTION SPONSORS

The Andersons Central Texas GCSA North Texas GCSA

Arysta Lifescience Champion Turf Farms Rainbird Golf

Austin Turf & Tractor Crop Production Services South Texas GCSA

BASF DuPont Professional Products Syngenta Professional Products

Bayer Environmental Sciences E-Z-Go Southwest Texas Gulf Coast Supt. Assn.

Brandt Specialty Formulations Gail's Flags Tri-Tex Grass

Brookside Equipment Sales, Inc. The Hurt Company Turf Care of Texas

BWI Companies John Deere Golf West Texas GCSA

King Ranch Turfgrass

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to these sponsors for their support of the Lone Star GCSA Reception.

Don't miss your opportunity to sponsor this wonderful event next year!



## 2010 TEXAS CUP SITE TWIN RIVERS GOLF CLUB

## HOST SUPERINTENDENT, TRAVIS MOORE, GCS

allace Menn, former turfgrass professor at TAMU, once told me, "When the red buds are blooming, the white bass are running!" No statement is more important, when talking about spring time at Twin Rivers Golf Club. Long before the golf course was built, central Texans flocked to the creeks and rivers flowing into Lake Waco in pursuit of boatfuls of white bass. The Middle and South Bosque Rivers which border the golf course on two sides are no exception. Growing up about five minutes from this area. I have many memories of fishing these rivers with my dad, brothers, and high school buddies. I had no idea some years later a golf course would be built and in 2007 I would return to Waco from Houston to take my first job as a golf course superintendent. If you ask any of my old fishing buddies they will tell you that the best part of my job now is that the days of tromping for miles through ragweed and poison ivy are long gone, because now we can get to some of the best fishing holes on the river via golf cart.

The course was designed by PGA Tour Professional Peter Jacobsen and PGA Member Jim Hardy and originally opened in 2001 as Bear Ridge Golf Club. In early 2007 the course was purchased by Brown Bark I, a subsidiary of NC Ventures Inc., and the name was changed to Twin Rivers Golf Club. At this time the TifEagle greens were resurfaced and planted to Emerald Dwarf bermuda. Several other changes were made to the course including renovation of all greenside bunkers.

The layout is unique with a combination of wide open spaces, heavily wooded areas, and diverse topography. With six sets of tees the course is playable by golfers of all skill levels, but the "Big Jake" tees give even the longest hitters a challenge at 7,478 yards. The greens complexes are unique in several ways. Very few greens are elevated and at first glance they seem large and generally flat. However, our regulars will tell you that they can be very difficult to hold and even more difficult to read. If

the wind is blowing (it always is), then you had better bring your short game, and know how to play the bump and run.

Twin Rivers Golf Club is a gathering spot for some of the area's best golfers. We are the home course for the Baylor University Golf Teams and the reigning NJCAA National Champion - McLennan College men's golf team. Also, several former collegiate golfers and aspiring professionals call Twin Rivers home. Our large practice facilities include four greens, large teeing areas, and private facilities for the Baylor teams. We are a semi-private facility averaging approximately 36,000 rounds per year. In addition to daily play and fundraising tournaments, Twin Rivers is a popular location for competitive events of all levels. We currently host the Starburst Junior Golf Tournament, Texas Junior Tour events. Texas Legends Junior Tour events, several high school tournaments, The Coca-Cola MCC Invitational, Baylor Women's Invitational, and the Jamie Hilton Classic - an Adam's Pro Tour Series event.

I want to welcome all of you planning to play in this year's Texas Cup to Waco and to Twin Rivers Golf Club. We are excited to be a part of this event and look forward to seeing you on May 10. It should be a day of good golf and even better food. Our Head Professional/General Manager, Mike Hicks is bringing the pit and will be barbequing all day. Special thanks goes to Jeff Mathis with C&M Golf and Grounds and to Karen White with the LSGSA for their support and hard work in making this possible.

Course Information: 254-848-7800

mike@twinriversgolfclub.net

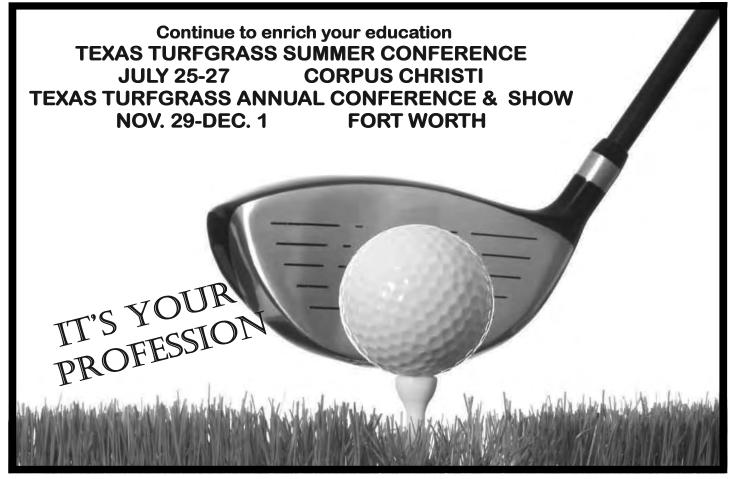
www.twinriversgolfclub.net
1000 Bear Ridge Drive, Waco, Texas 76712
Contact Travis Moore, GCS
tmoore4106@yahoo.com
Mike Hicks, Director of Golf/General Manager





Monday, May 10, 2010
Texas Cup Golf Tournament
Twin Rivers Golf Club
Waco, TX

Sponsored by
C&M Golf and
Grounds Equipment
Details coming soon!



## Help Promote Turfgrass Research in Texas Today!

LEASE DONATE ROUNDS TODAY!!!! Visit <a href="www.Rounds4Research.com">www.Rounds4Research.com</a> and click on "Texas" to download a donation form. The Texas State Golf Association, Texas PGA, and Texas Chapter Club Managers are all partners with the Lone Star GCSA on this very important project. A BIG thanks to all those clubs who have already donated!!

This program centers on an online public auction of donated tee-times under the web banner Rounds4Research.com. Your facility's gift of at least one tee-time will provide critical support to this important project.

Turfgrass research provides our greatest insurance against pests and diseases known and new but resources for this work are under strain in this economy. The beauty of this program is that it gives all facilities a chance to lend "no cost" support and ultimately lets golfers "pay" for the science they benefit so much from.

The first Rounds4Research.com auction in the Carolinas last year raised more than \$55,000 for turfgrass research in that region. This year's auction runs from April 7 to April 21. We urge you to secure your facility's support as soon as possible.





## **Bob Ducote**

**Senior Tech Sales Specialist** 

Tel. (832) 640-1235

Fax: (281) 993-9617

bob.ducote@bayercropscience.com

## Gary Brooks

**Field Sales Representative** 

Tel. (817) 594-7164

Fax (817) 594-7164

Cell (817) 528-6701

gary.brooks@bayercropscience.com

## Golf Approved for 2016 Olympic Committee Membership

Competition will be held in Rio de Janerio, selected as site of 2016 Games

After an absence of more than a century, golf will return as an Olympic sport in 2016 and 2020 along with rugby sevens following their approval by the International Olympic Committee membership during the IOC's 121st Session.

They will be part of the Olympic Program in the Rio de Janerio, which was selected as the host city for the 2016 Games by the IOC. Golf was last an Olympic sport at the 1904 Games in St. Louis, MO, when the United States and Canada were the only two competing countries.

Based on player feedback, the IGF has proposed a format of 72-hole individual stroke play for both men and women. In case of a tie for either first, second, or third place, a three-hole playoff is recommended to determine the medal winner(s).

The IGF also has recommend an Olympic field of 60 players for each of the men's and women's competition, using the Official World Golf Rankings as a method of determining eligibility. The top 15 world-ranked players would be eligible for the Olympics, regardless of the number of players from a given country. Beyond the top 15, players would be eligible based on the world rankings, with a maximum of two eligible players from each country that does not already have two or more players among the top 15.

Current world rankings from both the men's and women's games show that at least 30 countries would be represented in both the men's and women's competitions, from all continents, under this proposal.

## Texas Rules at the GIS!

Adam Hess, the assistant superintendent at Augusta Pines Golf Club in Spring, Texas, defeated Tim Scott, CGCS, in a playoff to capture the 2010 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) National Championship at the Greg Norman Course at PGA West in Palm Springs, Calif., on Feb. 7.

Hess, playing in the National Championship for the first time, parred the first playoff hole to defeat Scott, the GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Stony Creek Golf Course in Oak Lawn, Ill., who missed a five-foot putt for a par of his own on the hole.

Hess began the final round of the tournament three shots behind first-round leader Danny Fielder, CGCS at Creekside Golf Course in Modesto, Calif. Hess had a rough start to his day, with a double bogey on No. 3 and a bogey on No. 5, but settled down to birdie the seventh hole and then par the next 11 holes to finish the day at 2-over-par 74 and the tournament at 1-over-par 145.

Hess, a 3-year member of GCSAA, is the son of Alan Hess, CGCS at Augusta Pines and was on hand at PGA West to witness his son's championship.



Above: Adam Hess, proud winner of the GCSAA National Championship

## Other Noteworthy Winners Included:

Alan Hess, Classic Senior II Gross.

John Walker, Class VI Gross.

Brad Fryrear with partner Greg Strachan, winners of the Four Ball III Gross.

Jim Brown, CGCS, Winner of the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leader of Golf Award—Public Course,

Charles Robertson, CGCS, State Winner of the ELGA for Texas.

Doug Petersan was honored with the 2010 Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

Pictured right: Doug Petersan, recipient of the 2010 Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

\*Photos courtesy of GCSAA/Gary Newkirk





#### PREPARING FOR SPRING

By Bud White, Director, USGA Green Section, Mid-Continent Region

e have had quite a difficult winter this year in the form of significant freezes, tremendous amounts of rain, and cloudy days. These extended cloudy days and wet conditions take a toll on root development and root health due to much reduced growing conditions from the lack of sunlight. This is a factor that affects both bermudagrass and bentgrass.

Below is a picture of a bermudagrass putting green that was iced prior to a freeze, a technique which was experimented with very widely in the South this winter. There is no research that shows that this icing approach has beneficial effects, so we really don't know the full advantages or disadvantages of this ice cover. Other covers have been used quite effectively for increasing the soil temperature in the greens and maintaining better turfgrass recovery. Many superintendents experience quite a significant difference in appearance of bermudagrass under a cover and outside the cover from the early January freeze and the results of this demarcation is still being seen into early March. This is why measuring bermudagrass health by taking plugs, potting them, and putting them in the windowsill of

the maintenance area is a good way to evaluate spring recovery in the late winter. Problem areas as well as healthy areas should be tested as a comparison.

Icing bermudagrass putting greens for winter freeze protection is still unproven.

With this said, it is important to outline a few considerations for early spring management of both bentgrass and bermudagrass greens to promote as early and strong a recovery as possible from the difficult winter. These are suggestions for growth promotion, but the starting point for any recommendation should be current soil tests, especially on high sand greens, considering the amount of rain we have experienced this winter. Moreover, it is an excellent time to have a sample taken of the irrigation water to run an irrigation suitability test. This is important because of the significant rains this winter and the dilution factor that the rains create. Therefore your water tests should show water quality in as pure a state as possible for your particular location and source, and give you an idea of the quality range from the best possible condition to the worst when taken during a drought. This is good historical data to have in the file. I also suggest that an application of phosphorus be put down with a starter fertilizer this mid-March on the bentgrass and the bermudagrass to promote as much root and rhizome regrowth as possible. The best approach for phosphorus fertilization is to apply about 1 lb. of  $P_2O_5$  in mid-March and then apply another 1 lb. of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> per 1000 sq. ft. six weeks later if needed. A split application maximizes root regrowth and development versus one single application in the early spring. Research at Penn State University shows no difference in bentgrass quality over three years with no P vs 2 lbs P/1000sf/yr.



#### Continued from page 11

The *Poa annua* control however, was much greater with no P applied. The suggested target level of P in the soil is 9 ppm and a tissue test of 0.52 ppm. If tests are at or above these levels, no application is needed on the bentgrass.

It is important to also remember the turfgrass needs of nitrogen, iron, magnesium, and potash in the spring as well. A rotation of iron sulfate and magnesium sulfate provides excellent color response in turf health during the spring while supplying the needed base nutrients of phosphorus and potassium. Do not forget the advantages of adequate nitrogen spring fertility. The proper amounts of nitrogen are important for overall plant growth and health at a time of recovery for the bermudagrass from the winter, as well as the time of maximum root growth for the bentgrass.

The other consideration when discussing spring recovery are aeration and topdressing schedules to maximize turf health and root development. Aera-

tion too early in the spring is not as healthy for the bermudagrass because temperatures do not allow as active a root promotion after aeration as desired. Therefore, you lose one significant benefit of aeration. Too early a spring aeration on the bentgrass can promote *Poa annua* invasion during its prime germination period. Therefore, many choose to use the smaller tines for early spring aeration so a more rapid recovery is experienced, saving the larger tines for mid to late spring. Late spring or early summer is a better time for larger tine coring on bermudagrass greens as well, again because of the recovery rate.

Our industry is developing quite a trend over the last two years of only using small tine or solid tine aeration because of the "disruption" to golfers that large tine aeration creates. It is important for golfers and management to understand that large tine aeration cannot be eliminated because of the organic removal that is necessary from larger tine

Continued on next page

### Take Control.

## **Solutions for Turf Management**

#### **Turf Nutrient Technologies**

Manni-Plex® foliar micronutrients and Noculate® greens grade fertilizers.

#### **Plant Protection and Bio-Stimulants**

Neo-Tec S.O. bio-nematicide, NPK and micronutrient blends containing seaweed, amino acids, vitamins, humic matter and other anti-stress substances.

#### **Wetting Agents**

State-of-the-art penetrants, acidifiers, surfactants and water conditioners.

#### **Post Patent Products**

Post-patent fungicides, insecticides, herbicides and more.

#### Brandt Consolidated, Inc.

2935 South Koke Mill Road Springfield, Illinois 62711 USA www.brandtconsolidated.com info@brandtconsolidated.com 217 547 5842

#### Jeff Smith

Southwest Regional Manager turfsmith@brandtconsolidated.com 281 804 8327

#### Tom McBee

North Texas tmcbee@brandtconsolidated.com 214 729 6350

#### Trevor Ogden

Central Texas togden@brandtconsolidated.com 512 738 6133





# Professional Turf Products



Call us today at 817-785-1900 or 888-PRO-TURF



RM5610 Crosstrax



**Series** 

Please call us for any new or refurbished product, or your parts and service needs

WWW.PROTURF.COM

Houston • Euless • Kansas City • San Antonio • Tulsa

Ty-Crop • Otterbine Fountains • Club Car • Flowtronex

#### Continued from previous page

aeration, as well as the fact that very small holes do not allow sand to be incorporated into the profile for the dilution of the organic. Bottom line, it is im-

possible to totally eliminate large tine aeration from putting greens, especially with the newer grasses today and their tendency for thatch accumulations because of their density. Below

is a prime example of a thorough aeration being accomplished that is a "must" for any putting surface. The best approach has been to use large

tines and smaller tines in a combined program to allow for the maximum effects of aeration on turf management and health, but with minimum disruption to the

golfers.

TORO.
PROCORE
648

Hopefully these suggestions for early spring management of putting greens will help you in your decision-making to provide the most rapid recovery from our difficult winter and set your greens up for maximum health during the upcoming spring and summer.

# Around the State

#### North Texas GCSA Schedule

March 23—Bully Cup, West vs. East, Coyote Ridge Golf Club

**April 19**—USGA Regional Conference and Golf, Las Colinas Country Club

May 11—Golf and Education meeting, Cleburne Golf Links

June 14—Chapter Championship Southern Oaks Country Club

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

#### South Texas GCSA Schedule

March 9—ScholarshipTournament
High Meadow Ranch Golf Club
April 13—1st Round-Chapter Championship
Southwyck Golf Course
May 4—2nd Round-Chapter Championship
Blackhorse Golf Course
June 14—Golf Tournament
Riverbend Country Club

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

#### Central Texas GCSA Schedule

March 22—Turf Show
Olympia Hills Golf Club
April 12—Meeting and Education
The Clubs of Cordillera Ranch
June 1—North/South Cup
Austin Country Club
July 13—Superintendent Championship
Twin Creek Country Club

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

#### West Texas GCSA Schedule

March 8—Meeting, Shady Oaks Golf Club May 12—Meeting, Comanche Trail Golf Course June 14—Meeting, Scurry County Golf Club

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

Texas Gulf Coast GCSA Schedule March 9—Meeting, Northshore Country Club

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

#### Lone Star GCSA Schedule

May 10—Texas Cup, Twin Rivers Golf Club, Waco September 19-21—Texas Trophy Championship Horseshoe Bay Resort, Horseshoe Bay, TX

> Contact: Karen White Lone Star GCSA Executive Director (972) 307-8162 www.lsgcsa.org

Texas Turfgrass Association
Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference
July 25-27—Corpus Christi
TTA Annual Conference and Show
November 29-Dec.1—Fort Worth, TX

Contact: Shirley Duble, Executive Director (979) 690-2201 www.texasturf.com





## Austin Turf & Tractor

#### NORTH TEXAS

Farmers Branch, Texas 800-648-6757

#### CENTRAL & SOUTH TEXAS

Marble Falls, Texas 800-528-4290

#### **NEW MEXICO:**

Bernalillo, New Mexico 800-528-4290

#### IRRIGATION:

Jessie Hunt - 325-201-3420

#### **SERVICE & ON-SITE GRINDING:**

Kenny Sierra - 800-528-4290 Gary Stephenson - 800-649-6757

#### PARTS

Ben Rutland - 800-528-4290 Gary Adcock - 800-648-6757



www.austinturf.com

Like to make things easier on yourself? Talk to us. We have a unified team who can put together a comprehensive solution right for your course. With no confusion on how all the pieces fit together. Just another way, you can Consider us part of your crew .



Hole #14, (right) Twin River Golf Club in Waco, TX. This green has actually been in the Lone Star Links before, when it was under water! This hole plays very different depending on the wind and can make for a tricky tee shot over a large ravine. The green can be tough to hold with a south wind particularly from the back tees which measure at 216 yards.



Hole #17 (left) is a picture of the green at the par 3 17th. A fairly long tee shot (201 from the back) and a strong cross wind can make this green tough to hit. There is a large bail out in front but the left side is gaurded by deep bunkers, and the right is full of mesquite trees.



## **AUSTIN TURF & TRACTOR**



## **JOHN DEERE**

Marble Falls, TX 800-528-4290 Dallas, TX 800-648-6757 Albuquerque, NM 800-528-4290



Official Golf Course Equipment Supplier

## BOWLIN CONSULTING

Planning Design Mapping







#### **Turnkey Irrigation Design & Consulting Services**

New Construction & Renovation Projects; AutoCad Design; GPS Mapping; As-Built Drawings; Irrigation System Audits; Government Permitting; Water Demand and Water Use Analysis

#### Stovy L. Bowlin, PhD, AICP, CGIA, CID

Licensed Texas Irrigator #9265

Call Dr. Stovy, Lets Talk Water ... Because in our Business, Its all about the Water

427 Union Chapel Road Cedar Creek, Texas 78612 (O) 512-303-7680 (F) 512-303-7681 (C) 512-560-0010 E-mail: stovy@bowlinconsulting.com Web: www.bowlinconsulting.com



## **bwi** companies, inc.

Jim Garrett Sales

P.O. Box 59206 Dallas, TX 75229 Mobile 214.243.0123

james@acs.bwicompanies.com

## BURNSIDE SERVICES, INC.

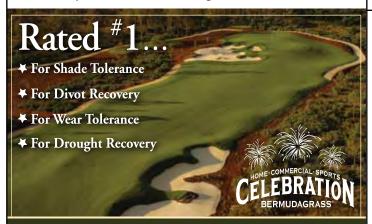
MAINTAIN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR COURSE OR PLAYING FIELD



- Athletic Field and Golf Course Renovation and Construction
- Complete Soil Fumigation Service
- Laser Leveling

Excellence in Service and Quality 936-825-7090

Tommy Burnside Mobile: 936-760-6380 Jake Burnside Mobile: 979-268-8586 1110 Navasota Ridge Rd. Navasota, TX 77868 www.burnside-services.com



sodsolutions.com/Lonestar



Growing Quality for Generations

800-445-2602 www.kingranchturf.com







#### **Dealers For:**

- Jacobsen
- Cushman
- Ryan
- Scag
- Ransomes
- Turfco
- SmithcoCub Cadet
- F7-Go
- SIP Grinders
- Planet Air
- B&B Sprayer
- Echo
- Stihl
- Honda P.E.
- Goossen
- Goossen
   Steiner
  - Manitowoc





Waco • San Antonio 1-800-776-1513