

SPRING 2012

SPOTLIGHT ON TEXAS CUP—RIDGWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Lone Star Links



Official Publication of the Lone Star
Golf Course Superintendents
Association

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Mark Your Calendars!

***Texas Cup
Ridgewood Country Club, Waco***

April 30, 2012

2012 Texas Trophy

***Date and Location
TBD***

On the Cover: Ridgewood Country Club. This very scenic course overlooks Lake Waco. The signature hole is #15, a 419-yard, par 4, which was built on the side of a large hill and offers a beautiful view of the lake.

President's Message

Dear Lone Star Members,

It is an honor to serve as your President in 2012. I have been involved with the Lone Star Board for several years and have always enjoyed being a part of this great organization. It is due to our chapters that I have numerous friends throughout Texas. I encourage everyone to participate in local and state chapter events whenever possible. The education, fellowship, and friendships you will gain will serve you through your entire career.

I want to personally thank Chuck McCaskill, CGCS, former Lone Star GCSA president and Andy Morrisette, Lone Star Board member, for their hard work and dedication to the Lone Star GCSA Board. Due to golf course and other chapter commitments, they have found it necessary to resign from the Board. With that said, we would like to welcome our new North Texas board members Kevin Carpenter, CGCS of Northwood Country Club and Earl Snowden, GCS of The Golf Club at Fossil Creek as their replacements.

Lone Star GCSA's fund raising project, Raffle4Research, is in full swing for 2012. Thank you to all who donated golf or sold tickets. Without you, the project would not be possible. Lone Star's board set a goal of raising \$14,000, which we hope will be a reality by mid-May. These funds will go to support a GCSAA/Lone Star GCSA chapter grant project entitled, "**Deficit Irrigation Programs for Water Conservation in the Management of Bermudagrass Fairways in Texas,**" by Dr. Benjamin Wherley of TAMU. If you would like to be involved in this fund raising project which will benefit not only Texas, but golf courses throughout the country as well, please contact myself, Karen White, or one of your Lone Star GCSA chapter representatives. We need help with golfing round donations and ticket sales.

Don't forget the upcoming 7th annual Lone Star Texas Cup 2-Man Shamble. Our host, Dan Wegand, CGCS of Ridgewood Country Club, Waco, is ready for Lone Star GCSA members and their guests. Date of the event is April 30th, and will be a great opportunity to feed your spring golfing fever. Thanks to our sponsor C&M Golf and Grounds Equipment for this yearly event.

Again, we would like to thank our sponsors for your support of Lone Star throughout the year. You make our events special and affordable.

Keeping it green (or brown,)



Doug Browne, GCS

President, Lone Star GCSA



RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

SITE OF THE 2012 TEXAS CUP

HOST SUPERINTENDENT, DAN WEGAND, CGCS

Golf is a favorite activity in Waco where several beautiful courses give players the best value around. In fact, Golf Digest's August 2005 issue ranked Waco's golf community No. 11 in the nation and No. 1 in Texas. With its centralized location in the state, Waco is a perfect location for the Lone Star GCSA's 2012 Texas Cup. Sponsored by C&M Golf and Grounds Equipment Company, Ridgewood Country Club generously offered to host this prime event for a second time.

The history of Ridgewood Country Club is one of insight and imagination. In 1946, eight men pooled their intellect and enthusiasm and set out to build a new country club that Waco could call its own. With 300 members and \$75,000 sold in bonds, these visionaries lapped up a prime 170 acres of rolling wooded land overlooking Lake Waco. Ridgewood Country Club was born.

Nestled on the shore of one of the largest man-made lakes in Texas, Ridgewood utilizes the beauty of the lake naturally. The course was designed by Ralph Plummer and constructed in 1946 along the Bosque River and eventually Lake Waco. The topography is uncommon to Central Texas and provides a unique challenge, along with beauty offered by the holes bordering Lake Waco.

Many exciting changes have taken place over the last few years to keep Ridgewood one the best kept secrets in Texas, and the club continues to make improvements for golfing enjoyment. TifSport fairways and a new irrigation system were added in 2004, and in 2007 the greens were resurface to

A1/A4 bentgrass. The lake was expanded on holes #5 and #7 at the same time to add additional challenges, and #7 green complex was rebuilt.

The club hosted the 1994 Southwest Conference Championship, won by Justin Leonard with a 72 hole total of 1 over par. Additionally, it was selected as the site of the Women's Big 12 Championship in the Spring of '07, and has held many North Texas PGA events.

The generosity of our club and C&M Golf and Grounds will make this a very fun-filled event for the members of the Lone Star GCSA. I look forward to seeing as many people as possible, and would love to have a full field for this event. Take

time to mark your calendar, and we'll see you on Monday, April 30th for great golf, food, and friends!

Ready to Register?

Details:

Entry Fee is \$150 per team if both players are members of Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association and \$200 per team if bringing a non-member. Register on the Lone Star website.

Schedule of Events

10:00 am	Registration Starts, Range Open
11:00 am	BBQ Lunch
11:45 pm	Registration Closes, Range Closes Players Meeting, Announcements
12:00 pm	Shotgun Start
4:30 pm	Scoring and Social

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**Excerpt From
"Working Nine to Five"**

USGA Green Section Record, 1986
By Bud White, USGA Green Section

Is a golf course superintendent a businessman? Well, he doesn't go to the office each day in a three-piece suit with briefcase in hand, but he *is* a businessman. Public relations, budget preparation, equipment depreciation, labor justification, personnel management, maintenance facility upkeep, and long-range planning are all parts of business management, but they're seldom given enough emphasis in golf course management education or in the superintendent's job description. Learning how to relate to the board and green committee is a critical part of the golf course superintendent's job. When communications are geared correctly toward intended ears, budget proposals and project selling have a much higher batting average.

The golf course superintendent, who gives the maintenance program continuity through myriad changes in the green committee, must constantly reinforce the distinction between the needs of the club versus the desires of individual golfers when dealing with the committee.

When budgets are presented to the board, it is important not only to show figures for each line item, but also to include an explanation and justification for each one. Businessmen want to see where money is going and why. Thus, budget preparation is simply another important facet of the public relations efforts of the superintendent, one that can make the difference between success and failure.

Equipment depreciation and replacement is one of the more difficult sections of the budget to sell to the board. When a new piece of equipment is bought, it should be depreciated so that planned equipment will always be an integral part of the club's finances. Unfortunately, most golf courses do not depreciate their capital equipment, and sudden breakdowns often force significant expenditures when the budget cannot really afford it. Then, other operational budget monies are often reduced or deleted to make up for the unanticipated capital expenditure.

Planned equipment replacement also reduces the significant cost of repair parts, down time, and labor needed to keep old, worn-out equipment operational for another year or two. Using dilapidated equipment is often more expensive in the long run than buying new equipment. Clubs often spend \$12,000 to \$15,000 more a year in equipment maintenance and repair than

Golf Industry Show selects San Antonio for 2015

2012 Las Vegas, 2013 San Diego, 2014 Orlando, 2015 San Antonio

San Antonio has been selected by officials of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) and the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) to host the 2015 Golf Industry Show and education conferences. The dates of the trade show are Feb. 25-26, and the education conferences are Feb. 23-27.

"Based on attendee feedback we selected San Antonio for the 2015 Golf Industry Show," GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans said. "It is a new location that attendees and exhibitors want to go to and do business. It is a great addition to the Golf Industry Show lineup and another outstanding destination."

The 2012 Golf Industry Show (Feb. 29-March 1) and education conferences (Feb. 27-March 2) will be in Las Vegas.

"San Antonio is a perfect complement to the next three Golf Industry Show locations: Las Vegas, San Diego and Orlando," NGCOA Chief Executive Officer Mike Hughes said. "San Antonio is an easy city to travel to and typically features pleasant weather that time of year. We are very optimistic about the networking opportunities available there with the convention center being located on the Riverwalk, where there are so many hotels and restaurants."

The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for the owners/operators of golf facilities and the professional members of the golf course industry. The event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, owners, operators, architects, builders, equipment managers, appraisers and others.

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replacement budget. A yearly capital expenditure item of 10 percent to 15 percent of the maintenance budget can keep equipment upgraded and save the club money over time. Again, make sure the capital budget is a separate line item and not part of the operating budget.

As mentioned above, boards and green committees are composed of businessmen who relate to business terms. Hours on a mower, for example, has no meaning to the average golfer. However, converting hours to equivalent mileage on automobiles allows everyone to relate to the wear on that mower. Don't try to convince the committee to approve a new mower by saying, "That greens mower is 10 years old and has almost 5,000 hours on it!" Plenty of automobiles are still in great condition after 10 years. But how many 10-year-old automobiles have an equivalent wear of 273,600 miles? That's the attention getter!

Let's look closer at the conversion factors from hours to miles on the wear of a piece of equipment to better relate to the overall life expectancy of that machine. A car would have to travel approximately 60 miles per hour to have the same wear factor as turf equipment. Considered in this value is the high revolutions per minute, slow ground speed, and dusty operating conditions. The slow ground speed has a particularly adverse effect because the engine isn't cooled as well as an automobile traveling 60 miles per hour. This 60 miles per hour is not de-

signed to inflate comparative numbers but simply to give a more realistic wear factor in relation to turf equipment. An automobile probably only averages 30 miles per hour when it is in operation, all driving conditions considered, but this relative wear factor would not be comparable with turf equipment operating at near full throttle and moving at a low rate of speed. For example, a greens mower might be driven two hours a day, six days a week, 38 weeks a year, for a total of 456 hours each year. Based upon the 60-miles-per-hour figure, this mower would travel the equivalent of 27,360 miles every year. In five years it would have traveled 136,800 miles, and in 10 years 273,600 miles. Based upon the figures, the useful life of this greens mower should be about five years; then it should be replaced or relegated to backup status.

Taking a large fairway mower as another example, it might run seven hours a day, five days a week, 32 weeks a year. Using the 60-miles-per-hour figure, it would travel the equivalent of 67,200 miles every year, and 470,400 miles in seven years.

From these two examples, it is easy to see the impact this approach would have on the green committee compared to simply listing the number of hours each machine has been driven. This business knowledge of the golf course superintendent will help him lead the club to permanent and lasting improvements.



getting to know you...

Superintendent Profile:

Bruce J. Burger, CGCS

First of all, it's a little intimidating being asked to write a profile of yourself that most of your colleagues will read during the course of their morning constitutional. But I'll give it a shot.

I was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, and lived there until the second grade. Yes, I am still a diehard "Husker" fan. When I was about six years old, we lived next to a nine hole golf course, and my mom, who was the golfer in the family, bought me a 3 iron. Yes, a 3 iron, no other clubs. Needless to say, getting your first taste of the game using a long iron isn't much of a confidence builder! But I persevered and had a great time cold topping it down the fairways of Wellington Greens. We moved from Lincoln, and I spent the rest of second grade and some of third grade in balmy St. Cloud, Minnesota. The golf season lasts about 23 days up there! From Minnesota we moved to Mineral Wells, Texas, for a year and then fi-



nally ended up in Nacogdoches, Texas, where I lived from the 4th grade through college and a bit beyond.

Growing up in Nacogdoches was great. We had a public golf course and a private course. I grew up playing the public course. Woodland Hills is the course, and it plays though those towering pine trees and hardwoods that make up the Piney Woods of East Texas. There isn't a bunker on it which was a big disadvantage when it came to playing out-of-town high school tournaments on courses with bunkers. I was the guy they would point at from two holes away because it looked like I was killing a snake in a phone booth! I began playing golf in earnest when I was about 11. There were quite a few kids to play golf with, and I spent almost every day in the summer on the golf course. My mom would drop me off at 7 in the morning and pick me up late in the afternoon. I would play or look for balls in the woods or fish in some of the lakes with my friends.

I had a variety of jobs growing up. I refinished furniture, hauled hay, worked as a busboy and a cook. One day, a good friend of mine on the golf team called me while I was working after school battering the "yard bird" at Tinsley's Fried Chicken and told me there was an opening on the crew at Piney Woods Country Club! I was fired up! Being out on the golf course and getting paid to do it!

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

What else do you want? So I headed out to interview with the legendary George B. Manuel. The interview didn't take very long, and I think what sealed the deal is when he asked me if I had any mechanical aptitude. I told him I did all my own work on my motorcycle and he said, "You're hired." I think George was tired of doing all the backlapping so he showed me how to do it, and I would do that and whatever else needed to be done after golf team in the afternoons. I worked at Piney Woods Country Club from my senior year in high school all the way through college. In the early days, before we had automatic irrigation, I was the night water man. The only Cushman that we had didn't have any lights but I knew that course so well I could drive in the dark to each quick coupler and hook up a few heads and then go back to the men's card room to continue studying. I guess it was the summer of my freshman year of college that we built an additional nine holes in house which was a great learning experience. However, there were quite a few Lone Star cans used to backfill irrigation trenches!

I went to Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Geology. The summer after graduation I went to work

on an off shore oil rig as a logging engineer. I hated it. That fall I enrolled at SFA with plans to get my Masters Degree. On the first day of class, as I was sitting in a statistics class, I came to the realization that all I really wanted to do was work on the golf course. I got up in the middle of class and went to the add/drop office and got my money back. I called David Myrick who was the superintendent at PWCC and asked him if I could come back to work there and he said yes. Thanks Dave! I continued working there and playing in barbeque tournaments for extra money until the spring of 1986 when Neil Thrailkill hired me as his assistant at Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio. I learned an awful lot from Neil, and helping him host three PGA Tour events was a great experience as well. The first two were the Vantage Championship in 1986 and the Nabisco Championship the following year. Only the top 30 money winners on tour were there. It was the start of what is now the Tour Championship.

During a rain delay at the Vantage in 1986, the tour called us out to squeegee off the tees. I took a few guys and went to the back nine. When we made it to #14 there was a huge gallery. The crowd parted and we walked up on the tee where Lee Trevino, Payne Stewart,

Continued on page 11

Around the State

North Texas GCSA Schedule

March 19—Bully Cup, West vs. East
Links at Waterchase
April 10—Education and Golf Meeting
Hawks Creek Golf Club
May TBD
June 12—Chapter Championship
Lantana Golf Club

Contact: Lori Goodrich
North Texas Chapter Executive
(800) 277-6449
www.ntgcsa.org

South Texas GCSA Schedule

April 3—Scholarship Tournament
High Meadow Ranch Golf Course
May 16—Black Horse Golf Course
June 11—Galveston Country Club

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

Central Texas GCSA Schedule

March 27—Turf Show—Plum Creek Golf Course
April 17—Meeting and Education
The Club at Sonterra Golf Course
June 11—Member/Member/Pro/Affiliate
The Quarry Golf Course

Contact: Danielle Shimkus
Central Texas Executive Director
(512) 715-4657 www.ctgcsa.org

West Texas GCSA Schedule

April 3—Meeting—Quicksand Golf Course
May 15—Meeting—Patterson Ranch Course

Contact: Daysha Cheyne
West Texas Executive Director
(432) 524-2003
www.wtgcsa.org

Texas Gulf Coast SA Schedule

March 13—Meeting, Laredo Country Club
May 8—Riverside Golf Course
July 24—Alice Municipal Golf Course

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

Lone Star GCSA Schedule

April 30—Texas Cup, Ridgewood Country Club,
Waco, TX
September—Texas Trophy Championship
TBD

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

Texas Turfgrass Association

Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference
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Contact: Shirley Duble, Executive Director
(979) 690-2201
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and Bob Tway were waiting. As the crew was working on the tee, Trevino asked me rather loudly what the weather forecast was. Suddenly the ESPN camera was on me and everyone close by was listening. I said, "Well Mr. Trevino, they're calling for another couple of inches." Trevino looks over at his caddie Big Herman and said, "that's what I need Herman is another couple of inches!" Needless to say, everyone within earshot was roaring with laughter! That's one of the reasons this profession is so wonderful. I've been able to meet and play golf with people from all walks of life. I enjoy coming to work every day because it really doesn't feel like work to me...most of the time.

In 1988 I took my first superintendent job at McAllen Country Club. It's a wonderful facility with a great group of members and I'm friends with quite a few to this day. While I was in McAllen I was married and my first daughter was born in 1990. Later that year I was offered the job at Woodlake Country Club in San Antonio, so we moved back. While at Woodlake we did a greens and bunker renovation and hosted some nice events like the Regional Qualifying School for the Champions Tour as well as a few four spot qualifiers for the Texas Open. I tried the four spot qualifier twice and fired a beautiful 79 each time. Those guys are good!

In 1993, Jack Parker, one of the developers of The Quarry Golf Club came to me and said he was building a golf course in the old Alamo Cement Quarry and he wanted me to be the superintendent. So I drove over

Quite simply, two reasons: 1) my boss at the time told me he wanted me to. And 2) I felt like I needed some validation since I had a non-traditional degree for the field of turfgrass maintenance. However, you'd be surprised how much the chemistry, biology, and soil related classes overlap.

My family consists of my beautiful and talented wife Barbara, who is a licensed interior designer. We have two daughters, Jordan who is 21 and Morgan, 19. We have three dogs (only one of which is mine), and one cat. I love to cook, and I'll grill almost anything. We enjoy traveling to Mexico and Europe when time and money allow, although Mexico has been off the radar screen since my Kevlar vest doesn't fit anymore. I enjoy gardening and working in the yard, believe it or not. I like to participate in Amateur golf tournaments around the area and attempt to be competitive.

I believe that we as golf course superintendents are some of the luckiest people in the world. We get to work outside in a beautiful surrounding and observe nature at it's finest. I want to wish everyone a successful and stress free year with rain when we need it!

This is hole #13, named "Escape from Alcatraz".



Barbara, Morgan, and Bruce



This is a shot across most of the back nine. The tees in the foreground are #15, behind that is #14 green, followed by 11 and 12.

with him and looked down into an 84 acre hole filled with broken concrete, rebar and rattlesnakes and after being offered a raise equal to about the price of a good bottle of wine, I told him I'd do it. That was almost 19 years ago. My youngest daughter was 6 months old at the time and now she's a freshman at Ole Miss. Time flies.

I became a Certified Golf Course Superintendent in 1995. Quite a few superintendents have asked me over the years why I decided to become certified.



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SOARS AT DANIEL ISLAND



"When our members go out and play other courses with other ultradwarfs, or even bentgrass, they invariably come back and tell me that our TifEagle greens are still some of the best they've ever played on. And my Beresford Creek greens are going on 12 years old."

*Mike Fabrizio-Director of Grounds
And Golf Maintenance
Daniel Island Club, Charleston SC*

You'll find TifEagle Bermudagrass on both of the premier golf courses at the exclusive Daniel Island Club in Charleston SC. The Rees Jones-designed Ralston Creek Course and the Fazio-designed Beresford Creek Course each sport world-class TifEagle greens, the ultimate ultradwarf putting surface. Thirty-five year veteran Mike Fabrizio (CGCS), Director of Grounds and Golf Maintenance, is responsible for the day-to-day management and upkeep of these two top-flight courses located in the heart of this upscale residential golf community. It was Mike who made the decision to go with TifEagle. "We were looking for something a little more stable than Tifdwarf. We looked at Champion and TifEagle, but the

TifEagle was a University of Georgia release and was a little more suitable for our soils and climate. Our members love it. So do I, because I know TifEagle will give me bentgrass speeds, but without the headaches. We use the stimpmeter as a management tool, and if speeds drop below our standard, we know they are growing faster than our clip." Take a lesson from Mike Fabrizio. Whether you're renovating your existing greens or planning a brand new facility, insist on the best. Specify certified TifEagle Bermudagrass by name. You can sod it, sprig it or even no-till it under the right conditions. For more information and a list of TifEagle growers, visit us at www.tifeagle.com. Or call 706 552-4525.


www.tifeagle.com

TeamUGA's Improved Bermudagrass and Paspalum Cultivars Are All Patented, Licensed, Certified and Carefully Inspected For Varietal Purity

TIFSPORT TEAM UGA®
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS

- Excellent color, texture, density and cold tolerance
- Rapid recovery from injury
 - Upright leaf blades
- Superior sod strength for improved traffic tolerance

www.tifsport.com



TifEagle TEAM UGA®
For Greens

- Less thatch buildup than the other ultradwarfs
- Improved speed, consistency and overall playability
- Superior color retention under cool conditions

www.tifeagle.com



TIFGRAND TEAM UGA®
CERTIFIED BERMUDA

- World's only shade-tolerant sterile triploid bermudagrass
 - Maintains excellent density in up to 60% shade
 - Thrives in full sun
- Excellent dark green color

www.tifgrand.com



SeaIsle1 TEAM UGA®
Certified Seashore Paspalum

- Extremely salt-tolerant
- Good choice for fairways, tees and roughs
- Requires less N fertilization
 - Bred for multiple environmental stresses

www.seaisle1.com



SeaIsle2000 TEAM UGA®
Certified Seashore Paspalum for Greens, Tees, Fairways and Roughs

- Similar in texture to the hybrid bermudas
- Tolerates effluent water with high contamination levels
 - Ideal for greens, tees, fairways and roughs

www.seaisle2000.com



SEA ISLE TEAM UGA®
SUPREME
PASPALUM

- Most salt tolerant
- Low maintenance and water requirements
 - Perfect for greens, fairways, roughs and tees
 - Dark green color

www.seaislesupreme.com



For More Information Visit Our Websites or Call 706 552-4525

TEAM UGA[®] UPDATE



Paul Raymer
Seashore Paspalum Program

Paspalum breeder Paul Raymer has a new and improved Seashore Paspalum in the works. He's had it in test plots and field trials for the last seven years and is set to release it in the spring of 2012. Dr. Raymer will be glad to talk to you about our existing SeaIsle grasses as well as his much anticipated new variety. Contact Paul at 770 228-7324 or paulraymer@gmail.com.



Brian Schwartz
Bermuda & Zoysiagrass Programs

Dr. Brian Schwartz is now responsible for our warm-season turf breeding program in Tifton GA. His bermudagrass focus is on improved cultivars for fairways, roughs, tees and greens. And through a cooperative agreement between UGA and Bladerunner Farms, Dr. Schwartz has access to Dr. Jack Murray's extensive zoysia collection from which he will develop new zoysia-grass cultivars for golf courses around the world. Contact Brian at 229 386-3272 or tifturf@uga.edu.



Terry Hollifield
Turfgrass Certification & Inspections

Terry Hollifield oversees the Georgia Crop Improvement Assoc. (GCIA) and coordinates all certified turfgrass inspections for TeamUGA[®]. Every field in every state with a patented UGA grass is inspected three times a year for varietal purity and weed problems. Each shipment of turfgrass is required to have a 'Blue Tag' certificate, that ensures each shipment of sod, sprigs or seed meets GCIA's published certification requirements. Contact Terry at gacrop@bellsouth.net or 706 542-2351.



Shelley Fincher
Domestic & International Licensing

Shelley Fincher is the Turfgrass Plant Licensing Manager for the University of Georgia Research Foundation (UGARF), which owns and manages new turfgrasses developed at the University of Georgia. If you're interested in obtaining a domestic or international license for one of our existing or future releases, please contact Ms. Fincher at 706 542-0969, or by email at shelleyf@uga.edu.

Foundation Turfgrass Production



Dr. Roger Boerma

Meet Dr. Roger Boerma, the new Director of the Georgia Seed Development Commission (GSDC). His agency is responsible for all foundation turfgrass production. In addition GSDC develops and implements appropriate turfgrass management and maintenance protocols, coordinates the marketing of the six patented UGA turfgrasses, and collects royalties owed on turfgrass sales. Call Roger at 706 552-4525 or roger.boerma@gsdc.com.

2012 USGA Green Section Award



Wayne Hanna

Dr. Wayne Hanna, our groundbreaking turfgrass researcher has been selected as the recipient of the 2012 USGA Green Section Award. Hanna continues part time in Tifton and his new shade-tolerant TifGrand[®] Bermudagrass will be plentiful for the 2012 season. Contact Dr. Hanna at 229 386-3184 or whanna@uga.edu.

The World's Leading Warm Season Turfgrass Program
For Golf Course Greens, Tees, Fairways and Roughs