

Lone Star Links

The Official Publication of Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association

SPRING/MARCH 2014



Summit Rock at Horseshoe Bay Resort

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Lone Star GCSA and WinField Solutions presents the Texas Cup at Summit Rock at Horseshoe Bay Resort

May 5, 2014



Funds directed toward local programs

Rounds 4 Research raises nearly \$150,000 in 2013

Rounds 4 Research completed its first full year on a national scale with two highly successful auctions that raised nearly \$150,000 for turfgrass research. The first auction in June featured more than 600 rounds of golf and raised \$107,000, while a second auction of 300 rounds in August grossed an additional \$39,000.

In the South Central region, five of the ten affiliated chapter participated in the 2013 auctions and raised \$4,829 in golf round sales. These funds will be utilized to support region specific turfgrass research, education, advocacy and scholarship. All chapters were successful in introducing the program to their members and facilities and are strongly considering participation in the 2014 effort.

Specifically, the Lone Star chapter was able to collect 41 rounds donation and sold more than half of those rounds in the August auction. The chapter now will determine the best use for the funds raised. The chapter encourages members to provide any feedback or suggestions regarding the program.

Rounds 4 Research is a fundraising program with the goal of generating resources to support agronomic and environmental research for golf courses. It is in response to previous funding sources, both public and private, being eliminated. The program is administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

"We envisioned that Rounds 4 Research could be a nationwide program to address the shortage of funds available for turfgrass research, which is so critical to the future of golf," GCSAA President Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, said. "So to see such a tremendous response from both our fundraising partners and those who have purchased rounds this year, has confirmed that Rounds 4 Research is filling a vital niche in our industry."

Accessible through the highly popular online auction site Bidding for Good, the 2013 auctions featured rounds from coast to coast as well as special travel and sporting event opportunities. In 2012, a series of four smaller auctions raised almost \$30,000.

Rounds 4 Research allows GCSAA chapters and turfgrass foundations to participate as fundraising partners with the vast majority of proceeds going back to those organizations. In this way, these organizations can direct the proceeds to specific projects that will have the most significant impact in their local areas.

Rounds 4 Research currently has 50 fundraising partners across the country.

Participating chapters saw a high return in the ratio of value of funds raised to the value of donated items. Bidding for Good advises that a 40 to 45 percent ratio of total bid to total value is realistic for items on its online auctions. Many GCSAA chapters saw ratios of more than 50 percent, and the highest ones neared 70 percent of value.

Auctions are being planned for 2014 with the dates to be announced soon, and Rounds 4 Research is already accepting donations for those upcoming auctions.

For more information contact:

Mark Johnson, senior manager of environmental programs, 785-312-5161 or mjohnson@gcsaa.org

Mischia Wright, EIFG senior manager of development, 785-832-4445 or mwright@gcsaa.org

Brian Cloud, Field Staff – South Central Region, 817-296-9117 or bcloud@gcsaa.org



Rounds 4 Research

Email your donation to: bcloud@gcsaa.org

Last year, Lone Star GCSA raised almost \$3000.00 for research and/or educational funds by collecting rounds of golf for The Environmental Institute For Golf Rounds 4 Research

Project. Donate this year to continue this great program!

The first 2014 Auction Date is set for June 9-22, 2014. Go to www.biddingforgoods.com

Funds helped Dr. Ben Wherley's research on: "Deficit Irrigation Programs for Water Conservation in the Management of Bermudagrass Fairways in Texas" (2012, 2013)

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EyeOn Golf

Turf for 2016 Olympics in Brazil is also used in San Antonio course

By Kyle Porter | Golf Writer



Wait, what?

Yes, the 2016 Olympic golf competition will be played on the same turf used at a course called Cordillera Ranch (recent PGA Tour winner Jimmy Walker's home course, by the way) in San Antonio, Tex.

The turf is called "Zeon Zoysia" and is used in the hill country because it doesn't need as much water as other types of turf.

"Our members love it because the ball sits up on it like a tee," says Cordillera Ranch Director of Agronomy Mark Semms.

"It is the most playable fairway turf on the market because of its blade density. We have Zeon Zoysia on our tees, fairways and practice range, and it is a perfect complement to our A-5 bentgrass greens and Bermuda rough."

If you would have asked me where the turf for the Olympics in Brazil, San Antonio would not have been my first choice but it's a cool nuance for a tournament that will undoubtedly have a lot of nuances.

Also, if I'm coaching the US squad, might want to think about selecting Walker.

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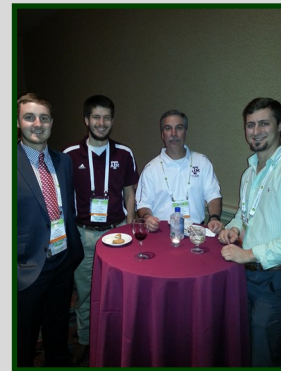
Lone Star GCSA Annual Reception at The Golf Industry Show, Orlando



Thank you Terry/Beth Gill and Ken/Kathy Gorzycki for making the reception run smoothly!



Members from all the Texas Chapters, as well as Arkansas GCSA joined for food, drinks and commeraderie at the Rosend Centre Hotel in Orlando on February 5th.





Lone Star GCSA and WinField Solutions join together to make the Texas Cup an even better experience for all our members!

Join us on May 5, 2014

Summit Rock at Horseshoe Bay Resort

Click here to register!

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. Please note that if you are an industry member of another Texas regional chapter, you still must join the Lone Star GCSA to play as a member.



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Lone Star GCSA President's Message

Kenneth A. Gorzycki, CGCS

It was 1993....the last time I found myself in this situation....writing a President's Message to the Lone Star GCSA. I know we are in the age where recycling is the proper thing to do, but I really didn't expect to be here again.

Although everything has changed over the past 20 years, including our chapter and especially me, rest assured, Lone Star will continue to focus on what we do....try not to unnecessarily duplicate the efforts of others....but certainly support the efforts of those that share our interests.

With that in mind, our main priorities this year include:

The Lone Star Reception at the GIS – This is the most popular event of the year and was hosted at the Rosen Centre in Orlando. This event cannot be successful without the outstanding support of our sponsors. Everything was the right size this year; from the room, to the amount of food and the bartenders were ready for us. We were also able to host each of the candidates running for GCSAA office or director position to address our membership.

The Texas Cup – This is the event where we raise funds to help support our members running for GCSAA board of directors, for research and for benevolence. We appreciate the years of sponsorship from C&M and look forward to our new title sponsor relationship with Winfield Solutions this year.

The Texas Trophy – This is the event where it all started. This is an opportunity for our members from all 5-chapters throughout the state to reunite with each other annually for friendly competition and comradeship. Every year, this event rotates to a new location providing each local chapter an opportunity to host the rest of the state in their backyard.

Research Projects – Since the downturn in the economy, funds for research have become scarce. Through some innovative efforts with the Carolinas Rounds 4 Research, then Raffle for Research and now GCSAA's Rounds 4 Research, LSGCSA has been able to collaborate our funds with GCSAA and USGA to help support some important research the past couple years. We need to continue to grow our presence in this area.

GCSAA Voting Strength – Texas carried a united 345 votes to the 2014 annual meeting and cast them all in support of our candidates. There were many votes that were not represented and even others that were not even cast. Rest assured, we know how important your vote is and it will not be wasted.

Government Relations – We are becoming more and more challenged at the local, state and national level and we must become more engaged. We must advocate ourselves if we are to survive. We need everyone to become part of GCSAA's Grassroots Network and respond when called upon to contact your congressmen through letter writing campaigns.

Water Conservation BMP Plans – I am going to push each and every one of you to develop a Water Conservation BMP Plan for your golf course this year. It is not complicated and we will be here to help you along the way. Water will be a big part of the 2015 Texas Legislature and we need to take advantage of this off year for the legislature and prepare for the worst.

We will continue to take a hard look at ourselves to fiscally manage our association responsibly and transparently. I want to Thank Doug Browne and Johnny Walker, our two immediate Past Presidents for their energy and passion for this association. We are also very fortunate to have Marian Takushi as our Chapter Executive Director. I applaud the volunteerism of all my fellow board members and look forward to serving the interests of the golf course superintendents of Texas. - kg



AROUND THE STATE

South Texas GCSA Schedule

March 25, 2014—Tour 18

April 29, 2014—High Meadow Ranch GC
Annual Scholarship Tournament

May—TBA

June 24—Chapter Championship

July—Member/Guest/Guest/Guest

September 21, 22, 23—Lone Star Texas Trophy
Campus Course at Texas A&M

October—TBA

November—Cypress Lakes Annual Meeting

Contact: Marian Takushi

South Texas Executive Director

(281) 494-0094

www.stgcsa.org

Central Texas GCSA Schedule

Contact: Jaci Powers

Central Texas Executive Director

(512) 507-8233

New Email: executivedirector@ctgcsa.com

www.ctgcsa.org

West Texas GCSA Schedule

Contact: Tessa Stow

West Texas Executive Director

(432) 524-2003

www.wtgcsa.org

Texas Gulf Coast SA Schedule

March 18, 2014 Palm View GC

April 22 - Vendors Day Tournament at Rockport CC

June—Date TBA—Riverside GC, Victoria

Contact: Darlene Curlee

Texas Gulf Coast Executive Secretary

(361) 850-7974

www.tgcsa.org

Lone Star GCSA Schedule

May 5, 2014—Texas Cup

Summit Rock at Horseshoe Bay Resort

September 21, 22, 23—Lone Star Texas Trophy

Campus Course at Texas A&M

Contact: Marian Takushi

Lone Star GCSA Executive Director

(281) 494-0094

www.lsgcsa.org

North Texas GCSA Schedule

Contact: Lori Goodrich

North Texas Chapter Executive

(800) 277-6449

Texas Turfgrass Association

Texas Turfgrass Conference and Show

July 13-14 Summer Conference at Hyatt Lost

Pines Resort in Bastrop, TX

December 16-18 Ft. Worth Convention Center and
Omni Hotel

Contact: Shirley Duble, Executive Director

(979) 690-2201

www.texasturf.com

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"To be honest, Champion was on my mind early on, because it was the sexy, in-vogue pick. But I put in a test green with TifEagle, MiniVerde and Champion, and after 2 years of playing around with all three, I got to see the limitations and strong points of each grass. I also looked at a lot of TifEagle courses. In the end, my bosses and I agreed that TifEagle was by far the best ultradwarf for Prestwick."

*Paul Kaufman-Superintendent
Prestwick Country Club
Myrtle Beach SC*



You'll find TifEagle Bermudagrass at the spectacular Prestwick Country Club in Myrtle Beach SC. This links-style gem was designed by Pete Dye and his son P.B. Dye and opened in 1989. Superintendent Paul Kaufman is responsible for the day-to-day management and upkeep of this top-flight course that features towering dune-like berms, stairway bunkers and bulkhead-protected greens. It was Paul along with his bosses who made the decision to go with TifEagle. "Our Tifdwarf was really beginning to show its age and was getting to be almost unmanageable. On top of that, the Myrtle Beach area is so competitive. There are almost 100 courses here now in what's essentially a one-mile by 30-mile strip, and the majority of them have ultradwarf

greens. From a competitive standpoint we were just lagging behind. So I put in a combination test green with TifEagle, MiniVerde and Champion and evaluated all three grasses for over two years. I also looked at a lot of other clubs, and talked to a lot of other superintendents. We decided to no-till and shut the course down on June 18th. Believe it or not, we were open for play on September 1 with superb new TifEagle greens." Take a tip from Paul Kaufman. 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.

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All Things Considered – A USGA Staff Opinion

An Opinion on Opinions

Opinions and facts related to golf course maintenance –
appreciate the difference.



BY LARRY GILHULY

Opinion — A belief stronger than impression and less strong than positive knowledge. A personal view, attitude, or appraisal. A belief or judgment that rests on grounds insufficient to produce complete certainty. Fact — Something that actually exists; reality; truth. A truth known by actual experience or observation; something known to be true. Golf course superintendents face a tough task on a daily basis, and it has absolutely nothing to do with growing grass. Rather, the task is dealing with the opinions of golfers who play the course that day, which could be upward of several hundred opinions on any given day, depending on the amount of play. Some opinions are positive, some negative, some vocalized in person, and many vocalized at the “19th hole. “While opinions are varied, let’s look at some of the most common ones vocalized by golfers. Let’s also compare them to the facts.

OPINIONS ONPUTTING GREENS “The greens are too slow!” Thesis easily the most common opinion expressed by golfers, and it is usually based on personal preference. Like many golfer opinions, it is also frequently related to how well the golfer played that day. Furthermore, it is often uttered when a golfer does not understand that a big part of the game is adapting to the playing conditions that day. It is important for superintendents to ensure that the practice putting green is maintained at the same speed as the regulation putting greens. Doings gives golfers a chance to “calibrate “their putting strokes prior to beginning their rounds. “The greens are too fast!” This opinion is usually voiced when hole locations are placed on slopes. Unfortunately, many golf courses have exceeded their architectural speed limit years ago for the average player. It is important to remember that Stimpmeter readings of 7 and 8 feet were considered reasonably fast just a few decades ago. At these speeds, holes could be located on the steeper slopes common to older greens without adversely impacting putting. However, as green speeds have increased over the years, these same hole locations can prove too difficult for average players. The most difficult combination occurs when the greens are small, heavily contoured, and fast. There may not be enough usable hole locations over which to spread player traffic. Such greens are often targeted for redesign and reconstruction. “There is no way these greens are 10 feet on the Stimpmeter! They are no more than 6 feet!” This is often mentioned by low-handicap players just after the greens have been measured at or near 10 feet using a Stimpmeter. “The greens are too hard!” These are often the same people who complain that the greens are too slow and bumpy when they have been watered too much in response to the “too hard” opinions. The grain of the turf goes to the setting sun!” The pattern and direction of turf grain varies widely, often within the same green, and regardless of the sun’s position. If grain is present at all, it tends to follow drainage patterns, meaning it generally goes downhill). “My putt just missed because the hole is ‘volcanoed!” In most cases, the “volcano” effect, a term used when the area nearest the hole becomes slightly elevated compared to the surrounding putting surface, is actually created by players. It is caused by golfer foot traffic around the hole or when the hole liner is raised when players remove the flagstick at an angle. “The greens were great and you ruined them with aeration!” It is true that greens need to be aerated when they are healthy and growing at their best. This ensures the most rapid recovery possible. Aeration is also one of the most beneficial maintenance practices for the turf and, in most cases, an absolute necessity to ensure the long-term health of the greens.

OPINIONS ONBUNKERS “The bunkers are inconsistent! “Bunkers are hazards that are meant to be avoided. As such, optimum and consistent lies are not to be expected. Interestingly, roughs around the greens are almost always inconsistent, with different grasses, growth habits, and traffic, yet this fact is seldom mentioned by players. “The bunkers are too soft or too hard!” Although this opinion occasionally has validity in instances where the depth of the sand is much too shallow or if there is far too much sand, this is a little like saying that water hazards are too wet or too dry.

(continued on page 11)

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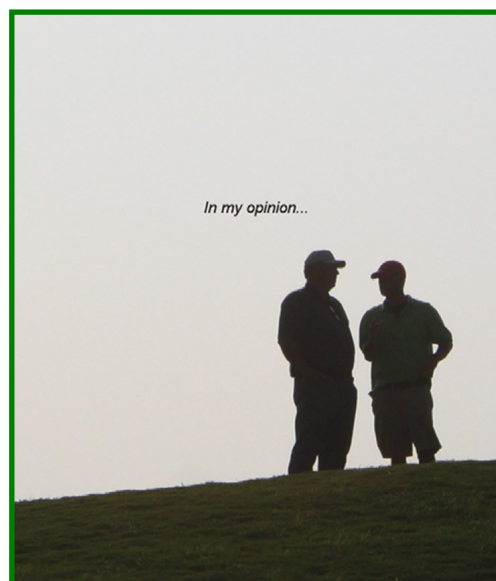
OPINIONS ON TRAFFIC DAMAGE “Pull carts do not damage areas around the greens!” This opinion is often heard at golf facilities where bare areas between greens and bunkers are very noticeable. Concentrated traffic of any type eventually wears turf thin and compacts the underlying soil. These areas of the course are also very difficult to aerate due to heavy contours and confined spaces. Since these areas frequently come into play, ropes and stakes often must be used to divert and distribute traffic elsewhere. “Power carts do not do the damage my superintendent says they do!” It is hard to believe anyone really doubts that carts can cause significant damage to a course. If you know someone who does, please encourage them to read “Letting the Numbers Tell the Story on Cart Damage” for the facts. “Traffic does not damage turf when there is frost. The superintendent is just being overprotective of the course!” Any traffic on frosted turf can and does cause turf damage and sometimes the death of the entire plant. Traffic on frosted turf causes those black footprints and tire marks that show up after a frost and remain for weeks, eventually turning brown as the turf dies.

OPINIONS ON FAIRWAYS “The fairways should be green, but my ball has mud on it in the summer!” Unless you have a very large budget that allows for considerable hand-watering, you are much better off having a few brown areas. Trying to create a totally green golf course will result in overwatering of many areas if the automatic irrigation system is the only source of water. “The ball has a better lie at a higher mowing height!” In reality, the opposite is true. Regular fairway mowing heights should generally be in the ½- to ¾-inch range, depending on the turfgrass variety used. Higher cuts can result in “flier” lies more typical of roughs. Mowing heights under ½-inch are very difficult for those who attempt to “sweep” the ball (common to many mid- to high-handicap players). “Fairway topdressing is not needed once the depth of the sand reaches 4 inches!” Fairway topdressing is a long-term commitment, although the annual rate may be reduced once sand has accumulated to the point that it exceeds the depth of standard fairway aeration equipment. Once aeration can be performed without bringing native soil to the surface, aeration cores can be returned (recycled) to the surface to minimize annual sand application inputs.

MISCELLANEOUS OPINIONS “The maintenance staff is lazy. I never see them working!” Ideally, you should not see too much of the maintenance personnel, since their goal is to get as much work done as possible before play begins. Whereas your tee time may not be until noon, an atypical day for an hourly employee on the grounds crew generally begins around 4:30 or 5 a.m. and finishes by 2 or 3 p.m. “Golf courses are bad for the environment!” This opinion is often heard from those outside of the game. Decades of scientific research shows the exact opposite to be true. For those wanting to learn more about how golf courses impact the environment, please visit www.usga.org. “You can’t remove the trees. They make the course!” If trees make your course, then it is a near certainty that your course also has major problems with playability and growing healthy turf. The above are just some of the more common opinions heard on golf courses over the past several decades. It is hoped that this short article will help illustrate the difference between opinion and fact when it comes to your course. Who knows? The game may even be more fun. But that’s just my opinion. **LARRY GILHULY** is director of the Northwest Region and has been known to give an opinion or two during his nearly 30 years with the USGA Green Section.

Golfers have never been hesitant to offer their opinions to the golf course superintendent.

While opinions matter, they matter most when they are based on facts





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Hope all Lone Star GCSA members are ready for spring! Some parts of the state don't believe it's near, but I promise it is. I've double checked the calendar and it really is right around the corner. I wanted to share a few GCSAA news items and also invite you all to keep up with all the latest happening in the South Central region by following me on Twitter @GCSAA_SoCentral and on my gcsaa.org regional blog. More about these stories and much more can be found at the GCSAA website. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you soon at chapter events. As always, please let me know if there is anything we can do for you or your chapter! Brian Cloud, bcloud@gcsaa.org

Nominations Open for GCM's 2014 Most Valuable Technician Award

Does your turf equipment technician deserve a day in the sun, a tip-of-the-cap for all the hard work and the vital behind-the-scenes role they play in the success of your golf facility? If so, then nominate them for GCM's Most Valuable Technician (MVT) awards program, presented in partnership with Foley United. Nominations are now being accepted for this program, designed to honor the best and brightest golf course equipment technicians in the industry, the men and women who play such a key role in keeping the tools of golf course maintenance up and running.

The nominations will be narrowed to a field of three finalists by a team of industry judges. GCM readers will then be able to review the resumes and qualifications of the finalists and vote online for their favorite. The winner of the MVT contest will then be announced in the July issue of the magazine. To nominate your turf technician, submit your nomination by March 30.

Par Aide's Joseph S. Garske Collegiate Grant Program

The goal of this program is to assist GCSAA members' children in funding their education at either an accredited college or trade school. It is available to the children of GCSAA members who have been an active member for five or more consecutive years. Applicant must be a graduating high school senior and be accepted at an institution of higher learning for the upcoming year. The annual deadline is March 15.

Upcoming Webinar - Plan Now to Update Your Turf Care Center

Mar. 6, 2014, 10 a.m. (Central) - Michael D. Vogt, CGCS, CGIA

The turf care center is a unique and highly specialized site at your facility. The opportunity to design and construct a new building doesn't come along often; but what changes can you make to improve labor and equipment flow? In this 90-minute webcast, Mike Vogt, CGCS, will show how proper space programming and advanced planning can save time and money for your operation. He'll also cover options on equipment fleet space requirements, accommodations for staff, and even site selection (just in case you are building something new!). Join us for tips you can use no matter what your budget.



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It's time to renew your dues, sponsorships and advertising!

- ◆ In order to get everyone on the same page, we have some new packages that will allow you to maximize your benefits by joining by March 15th, 2014. There are great savings and advantages to joining early! Almost all the new packages include your membership for 2014 as well as entries in both The Texas Cup and The Texas Trophy! Advertising is included in one package and there is a 10% discount to the upgraded difference if paying in full by March 15th!

Those of you who sponsored the Lone Star Reception in Orlando, "Thank you!". If you are wanting to "upgrade" your sponsorship to keep that exposure going..... we can adjust the cost, no problem! Email the office!

- ◆ Advertising in Lone Star Links has only gotten better! Your advertisement now has a free link to your company website on the online edition of the issue. Lone Star Links (a quarterly electronic newsletter) is securely emailed out through constant contact to over 700 people in the golf course industry and is also posted on our website year-round.

All new sponsor packages and advertising prices can be accessed on our website at lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org

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