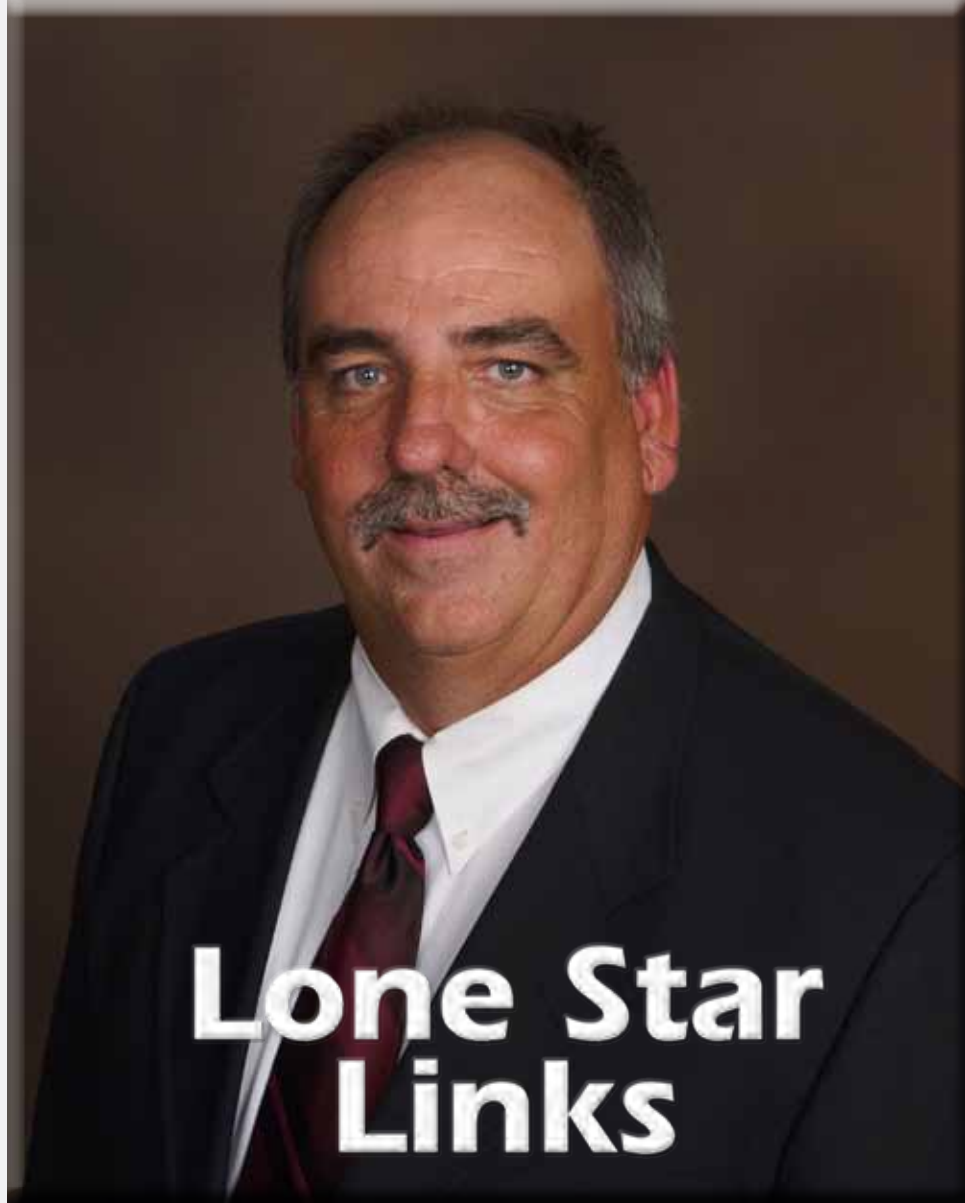


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Mark Your Calendars!

***Texas Cup
The Golf Club at Star Ranch***

May 14, 2013

2013 Texas Trophy

***September 15-17, 2013
Newport Dunes Golf Club***

On the Cover: Johnny Walker, 2013 President, Lone Star GCSA.

Lone Star Links is the official publication of the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association. Direct all new items, letters, corrections, or advertisements to:
Marian Takushi, Executive Director, PO Box 571923, Houston, TX USA 77257-1923
PH/FAX: 281.494.0094; lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org

President's Message

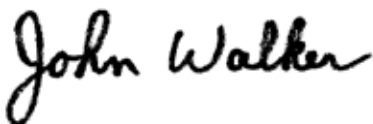
Lone Star GCSA welcomes you to 2013. We kicked off the year with a great reception in San Diego at the Golf Industry Show. I attended over a dozen receptions that night and the Lone Star Reception was by far the biggest and best. A great big "Thanks" to all of our sponsors for making this event one of our best. Also, a special thanks to Karen and Bud White for their efforts in coordinating the event.

As many of you know, my campaign efforts for a director position on the GCSAA Board fell short this year. I met a lot of people along the way, and although I was disappointed, I feel good about the votes I did receive and the relationships I made. Just like Arnold in the Terminator, "I'll be Back!" We'll give it another run this year.

The Texas Cup is set for Tuesday, May 14th. Ricky Heine and The Golf Club at Star Ranch have graciously agreed to host this year's event. This one day tournament gives us a chance to spend the day with superintendents and friends from around the state while raising dollars to support Texas candidates for national office. Make plans to attend because it is always a fun day. Our other big event this year, the Texas Trophy, will be hosted by Texas Gulf Coast. Jim Brown and Newport Dunes in Port Aransas will be the site for this event in September. Watch for upcoming details to be released in the next few months.

After speaking with all the chapter leaders in Texas, the Raffle for Research campaign will be a Statewide effort in 2013. With all chapters participating, we should be able to raise over \$12,000 for research this year. A hearty thank you goes out to all of the individuals donating rounds and selling raffle tickets for support of turfgrass research in Texas.

As I close my first President's message, I would like for everyone to keep Keith Ihms and Kevin Bagley in their prayers as they recover from losses in their lives. I know firsthand how the brotherhood of our profession can help these gentlemen through this tough time of their lives. Also, it is with great sadness that I inform you of the decision Karen White, our Executive Secretary, has made to resign. Our association has become stronger through her years of service and dedication to this position and our association. We wish her the best of luck and we will keep tabs on her through her husband, Bud. From the entire Board of Directors, past and present, thank you, Karen. At this time we would like to welcome Marian Takushi to our association as our new executive director. As many of you know, Marian is currently the Executive Director for South Texas GCSA and has many years of experience in association operations. The Lone Star Board is excited to have Marian join our team as we continue serve all of our chapters and superintendents around the state. Please notice our new address and telephone number: Marian Takushi, Executive Director, PO Box 571923, Houston, TX USA 77257-1923. Phone/Fax: 281.494.0094, lsgcsa@lsgcsa.org(email).



Johnny Walker
President, Lone Star GCSA



MEETING OF THE TEXAS MINDS (PART 1)

We are very fortunate in Texas to have some great minds that truly do work together. The Lone Star GCSA Board has many Board volunteers who work diligently together in order to keep our five state chapters working individually, yet as one....kind of like marriage where all the individuals work independently, yet (try to) work as one. It's not the easiest job to do, as each chapter has its separate board, meeting schedule, and newsletter. A total of three members represent each chapter. Some of these gentlemen serve, not only on their regional board, but on the state board as well—a lot of Texas dedication! But because we are so "spread out" I thought everyone would enjoy a "getting to know you session" with our new 2013 Lone Star Board of Directors.

So, just who are these guys?? We've asked them to share a bit about themselves, in addition to something you may not know.

Johnny Walker hails from the South Texas GCS and is our current president. He is GCS at Blackhorse Golf Club in Cypress, Texas. John has spent eight years at Blackhorse Golf Club, and 15 years with Redstone Companies.

Sharon is Johnny's wife of 10 years and they have four grandkids: Haley, Blayne, Clay, and Presley.

Johnny was the 51st and last ever King Cotton at Texas A&M in 1985. How many people do you know that have killed a 51 year tradition at Texas A&M?

Ken Gorzycki, CGCS, is a representative from Central Texas GCSA and serves the Lone Star Board as Vice President. He has been Director of Agronomy at Horseshoe Bay Resort, Marble Falls, for four years, where he hosted the 2010 Texas Trophy. Ken heads up the Lone Star GCSA legislative efforts as well as serving as its GCSAA delegate. Ken and his wife, Kathy, have one daughter, Casey, who, with their son-in-law, Clint, are expecting their first son in mid-April.

Terry Gill, GCS, is Lone Star's Secretary/Treasurer from South Texas, and has been superintendent of

Brae Burn Country Club in Houston for 13 years. He is a 25-year member of both GCSAA and LSGCSA. Married 22 years to Beth, they have no children but have six beautiful nieces that keep them busy. Terry grew up in North Texas on a farm and ranch, with aspirations of becoming a professional cowboy but just didn't quite make it. However, being a golf course superintendent is the next best thing!

Immediate past president, **Doug Browne**, GCS, has been superintendent of Stephen F. Austin Golf Course in San Felipe since 1989. Married 25 years to Rhonda, they have two daughters. Hannah, 22, graduates from Texas State in May, while Phoebe, 18, graduates from high school in May and is heading to UTA. Doug has quite a lineage in golf course management at Stephen F. Austin. Brother Bobby is the General Manager/Head Golf Professional, but their dad started as GM there in 1975. Together, Doug and Bobby have won the South Texas GCSA Supt/Pro Tournament six times in four different decades—not a small accomplishment!

Earl Snowden is from North Texas and the superintendent at The Golf Club at Fossil Creek in Fort Worth. He proudly serves both the Lone Star GCSA Board of Directors and the North Texas GCSA Board of Directors. Although he says he's not much of a golfer, he enjoys the game and the challenges that come with the job. Earl and Carrie have been married 18 years and have two daughters, Mallory and April. Their oldest, Mallory, is set to graduate at 17 and has been offered scholarships from Abilene Christian University, but she really wants to go to Stephen F Austin...decision decisions!!! Their youngest, April, is almost 7 and a real "girly girl" but enjoys softball and wants to hunt with dad. Hunting is Earl's true passion in life. He loves the outdoors and enjoys watching wildlife.

Also from North Texas is **Kevin Carpenter**, superintendent of Northwood Club for eight years. Not only is this Kevin's second year on the Lone Star Board of Directors representing the North Texas GCSA, but it is also his third year to serve on the North Texas board, serving as secretary.

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Kevin, and his beautiful wife, Robin, have been married for 18 years and have two daughters, Campbell (10), and Griffin (8). He enjoys spending time with his family either on the golf course, at the lake, or traveling to new and exciting places. Kevin is the owner of four—yes, four surfboards, which seems like a lot for a guy from north Texas!!

Jim Papa represents Central Texas GCSA and is GCS at Forest Creek Golf Club in Round Rock.

A superintendent for 21 years, Jim has served on the board of directors for CTGCSA for 14 years, was past president in 2003 and is currently president once again. He's been a member of LSGCSA 17 years, was Past President in 2007 and still serves on the board.

Jim and wife, Kim, have been married for 21 years. Daughter Nicole is a sophomore at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX, and is a Dean's list student. Their son, Tyler, is a senior at Pflugerville High School, is on the golf team and is considering attending A&M Corpus after graduation.

You can find Jim playing guitar, cooking incredible meals, gardening, and spending quality time with family.

"I feel blessed to work in such a unique industry, says, Jim, "where everyone is willing to share information and success stories so freely. I feel I improve and learn each time I talk to one of my peers. We are fortunate to have each other and know and understand we all face the same basic challenges."

We would like to thank retiring board member **Dan Wegand, CGCS**, for his outstanding service to the golf course industry for many, many years. Dan is retiring from Ridgewood Country Club, but we are hoping he will continue to attend golf outings when Jan (his incredible wife) will let him. Dan is one of the biggest Aggie fans you will ever meet, and an avid tailgater. Thank you, Dan for your 15+ years of service on the Lone Star Board!!

Watch for more of your Lone Star GCSA board member bios in the next issue!!

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Ready to Rumble?

Fighting for Summer Growth

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

As with every year, when March 1st finally arrives, superintendents are preparing for the upcoming growing season but know they will go through a time which, in some ways, is the most difficult when dealing with golfers. We've all experienced similar conversations with golfers who complain, "It's warm and sunny...why is the bermudagrass still thin on the tees and fairways?"

Golfers are impatient in the spring and anticipate midsummer playing conditions—an attitude magnified after Master's weekend and unlikely to change in the near future.

I always encourage superintendents to remind golfers of the 150° rule. From research, we have found that bermudagrass does not begin its active growth until the daytime high and the nighttime low temperatures add up to 150°. This degree of soil warmth is required by the plant to reestablish root and rhizome development in the grass. Although bermudagrass greens up earlier than this, its active growth will not occur until these temperatures are reached. Once golfers understand this rule, superintendents often find complaints reduced.

What can you expect from this upcoming summer, after experiencing the heat and drought of the last two years? Many areas of our region are still deficit in water, and lake, river, and even aquifer levels reflect this. This shortfall is further magnified in the soil by the reduced amount of productive flushing possible due to the lack of winter rains to remove sodium. This sodium, ironically, had increased because of the drought and lack of rainfall.

Superintendents should carefully consider the following recommendations this spring as you establish management practices for the summer. The first is your spring application of fertilizer and preemerge. Superintendents are encouraged to make an application of 1 lb. potash/1000 sq. ft. this early spring – best applied with a small amount of nitrogen fertilizer to make uptake more productive. One popular analysis, for example, has been a 5-10-30. This has been very effective as a preemerge carrier. When planning for the preemergent application, superintendents must also weigh whether there has been any potential winter kill or significant winter damage of the bermudagrass and how

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TEXAS TURFGRASS SUMMER CONFERENCE
SHERATON HOTEL ARLINGTON, TEXAS
JULY 7-9, 2013



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your preemerge material will affect its recovery as you move into the growing season. Remember that the DNA type herbicides do restrict root regrowth and reduce the ability of bermudagrass stolons to root down and recover in thin areas. Below is a picture of this happening in a hybrid bermudagrass fairway.

Oxadiazon is a better choice for a spring herbicide material if winterkill or winter damage is suspected. This material does not inhibit root, rhizome, or

Bermudagrass stolons will not root with some preemerge herbicides present.



stolon development of bermudagrass or zoysia-grass, and although more expensive per acre, it is a better choice under these circumstances. If budget restrictions are a problem, then consider applying this material in key areas of the course such as tees, approaches, and landing areas.

A rigorous and routine slicing, and light soluble fertilizer applications are also encouraged in thin areas, as slicing is not disruptive to the golfer and yet is one of the most productive ways to encourage maximum lateral growth and development of the bermudagrass. The same is true with light and frequent soluble fertilizer applications, similar to that accomplished during a grow-in program. Remember, however, that the 150° rule discussed above also applies to superintendents trying to reestablish thin areas. Be patient!! Until soil temperatures are in the mid to upper 60's, at least, and the 150° rule has been established for several days, you cannot expect productive plant growth nor density reestablishment for the bermudagrass or zoysiagrass.

Continued on next page

ADA Golf Course Standards to Take Effect January 31, 2013

Please Note: Private Clubs are exempt from the following standards; however public facilities will need to be aware of the regulations set forth by the following standards.

The U.S. Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act creating the ADA Access Board to recommend standards of access for persons with a disability to golf courses. The guidelines were formalized and sent to the Department of Justice for enforcement purposes. Adoption of the guidelines by the Department of Justice was made in April 2012 but enforcement was delayed until January 31, 2013. These standards have not been challenged in a court of law as of now, but it may be expected that a body of law may follow as courses are cited and prosecuted.

Generally speaking, the ADA requires golf courses to meet specific standards. If the requirements are not "readily achievable" a safe harbor exists for non-compliance. To be exempted, a golf course would have to show that the cost of making its course accessible is beyond its financial means. (Publicly owned courses are not granted this safe harbor). All courses are required to make an accessibility study.

The Department of Justice requirements include: A connected pathway from the parking lot, bag drop, clubhouse, pro shop, practice facilities, through the golf course, the toilet(s) and weather facilities; a pathway at least 48" wide; at least 1 practice station or 5% of the stations whichever is more; at least 1 accessible entrance onto each putting green; access to a teeing ground on each hole (does not have to be forward tee); no requirement for bunker access at this time.

Helpful Resources: <http://www.accessgolf.org/resources/2012allianceowneroperator toolkit.pdf>

<http://www2.gcsaa.org/conference/education/2011-presentation-PDFs/ADA-Greenwell.pdf>

*All facilities must conduct access studies and determine what is and what is not in compliance with the law. This includes a review of physical structure compliance in regards to 1991 standards and the new 2010 standards. Classifications should be made as to each non-compliant condition and then a determination made between mandatory compliance and those subject to the "readily achievable" standard. For those determined not to be readily achievable, the facility should be prepared to defend this position on a cost/available resource basis.

Continued from previous page

The final point to consider with spring management is an evaluation of soil and water samples to determine sodium levels present. If sodium is a problem in your soils, early spring is the perfect time to slice, make a gypsum application and flush the fairways as best as possible immediately prior to the pre-emergent application on the fertilizer carrier. Evaluating your soil condition is important on all areas of the golf course, and lingering sodium issues in the soil can greatly affect bermudagrass recovery in the spring, even after favorable temperatures are reestablished. Remember that soil tests are not effectively evaluated with a saturated paste extract test, as is the popular belief of many in our industry. SPE soil tests are used by soil scientists to measure sodium, salts, and boron only – not to measure nutrients. A basic soil test is the best approach for measuring nutrients and even measuring sodium levels as part of the base saturation components. SPE soil tests, however, are very important to monitor salt concentrations and levels in the soil if salts are a problem in irrigation water.

Hopefully these tips and reminders will help as you plan your spring and early summer management schedule and provide you with the best summer ever! If you have questions or concerns, Bud can be reached at budwhite@usga.org

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Schedule of Events

10:30 am Registration Starts

Range Open

11:30 AM Lunch Buffet

12:45 pm Registration Closes

Range Closes, Players
Meeting, Announcements

1:00 pm Shotgun Start

5:30 pm Scoring and Food/Drinks

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 guest. 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, or your team must register as a guest team.

Register online at www.lsgcsa.org

Around the State

North Texas GCSA Schedule

March 18—Bully Cup, West vs. East Trophy Club
April 16—Pro/Superintendent Fossil Creek
May 22—Pecan Hollow Golf Club
June 12—Chapter Championship-Brook Hollow
Contact: Lori Goodrich
North Texas Chapter Executive
(800) 277-6449
www.ntgcsa.org

South Texas GCSA Schedule

March 18—Walden on Lake Houston
April 16—Scholarship Tournament High Meadow Ranch Golf Course
May 13—Chapter Championship Bay Oaks Country Club
June TBA—Supt/Pro—Miramont Country Club
Contact: Marian Takushi
South Texas Executive Director
(281) 494-0094
www.stgcsa.org

Central Texas GCSA Schedule

March 18—Turf Show at Olympia Hills
April 17—Education & Meeting at Cimarron Hills
May 14—Texas Cup, Star Ranch Golf Club
June 17—Member/Member/Guest/Affiliate, Delaware Springs Golf Club
July 22—CTGCSA Championship at River Crossing Golf Club
Contact: Mike Chandler
Central Texas Executive Director
(512) 715-4657
www.ctgcsa.org

West Texas GCSA Schedule

March 26—Meeting—Diamondback Golf Club
Contact: Daysha Cheyne
West Texas Executive Director
(432) 524-2003
www.wtgcsa.org

Texas Gulf Coast SA Schedule

March 12—Meeting, Gabe Lozano Golf Course
May 7—Newport Dunes Golf Club
June 25—TBD
Contact: Darlene Curlee
Texas Gulf Coast Executive Secretary
(361) 850-7974
www.tgcsa.org

Lone Star GCSA Schedule

May 14—Texas Cup, The Golf Club at Star Ranch, Hutto
September 15-17—Texas Trophy Championship Newport Dunes Golf Club
Contact: Marian Takushi
Lone Star GCSA , Executive Director
(281) 494-0094
www.lsgcsa.org

Texas Turfgrass Association

Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference
July 7-9—Sheraton Hotel, Arlington
Texas Turfgrass Conference and Show
Nov. 12-14—Dallas
Contact: Shirley Duble, Executive Director
(979) 690-2201
www.texasturf.com

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