

# SPRING 2009

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008 / SPRING INTO 2009



# Lone Star Links



Official Publication of the Lone Star  
Golf Course Superintendents  
Association

Lone Star GCSA  
2601 Green Oak Drive  
Carrollton, TX 75010

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**Highlights from the Lone Star  
Reception, New Orleans**





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**Updates on the Texas Turfgrass Conference, photos of the Lone Star Reception at the GIS, and budgeting for 2009!**

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### **Mark Your Calendars!**

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

**May 4, 2009**

**2009 Texas Trophy**  
**Memorial Park Golf Course, Houston**

**September 13-15, 2009**

**On the Cover:** "Reflections" could easily be the name of this picture. Hole #5 at Ridgewood Country Club is a 142 yard par 3 over water with a cavernous bunker on the left side. The hole was designed by Colligan Golf Design and constructed by the Dan Wegand and staff. Special thanks to Colligan Golf Design for the cover photo, and to Jim Moore, USGA, for Lone Star Reception photos, page 2.

**Lone Star Links** is the official publication of the Lone Star Golf Course Superintendents Association. Direct all new items, letters, corrections, or advertisements to:  
**Karen White, Executive Secretary, 2601 Green Oak Drive, Carrollton, TX 75010**  
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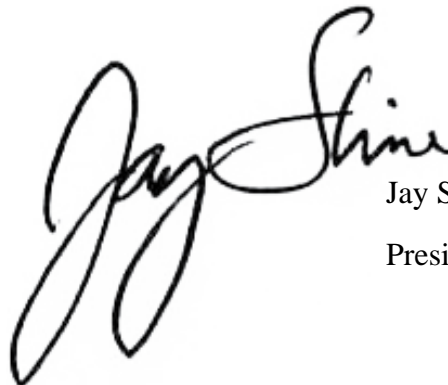
## *President's Message*

As I write this message, I have just returned from the GIS Show in New Orleans. It was great to see such a strong contingent of Texans at the conference. At our Lone Star GCSA reception, I was amazed at the turnout of superintendents, assistants, and vendors. Those of you in attendance know what I'm talking about, but we had a crowd approaching 200 at the reception.

We were also very well represented in the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic. I counted no fewer than 26 participants from our state, and many of them fared quite well in the tournament. The highlights were a 4th place finish by Joe Anderson and a 10th place finish by Jason Kelley in the ultra-competitive National Championship. Tyson Thill and Willie Wallace tied for a 3rd place finish in the Third Flight Gross of the Classic, and Alan Hess and Kevin Yanity finished 1-2 respectively in the Senior I Division. Rounding out the great performances was Harry Yewens who claimed the Senior II Division title. This event always proves to be a very enjoyable one for all involved, and I encourage you to consider playing in the tournament next year in Palm Springs.

The Lone Star GCSA Texas Cup will be here before you know it, so I wanted to give you an update on that event. Dan Wegand has graciously agreed to host this year's Cup at Ridgewood Country Club in Waco. If you haven't had the chance to play Ridgewood before, this will be a great opportunity to see this classic Ralph Plummer designed course built in 1946. This event has grown remarkably in the last few years, and will be a great chance for you to enjoy some great golf and spend some time with friends from other parts of the state.

I can't write this message without thanking our many vendors who support our efforts throughout the year. Our vendors are quite generous in Texas, and the events that we all enjoy in our local chapters and on the Lone Star level would not be possible without the support of the vendors. The reception in New Orleans was a perfect example, and I hope that many of our supporting vendors were able to see the great turnout of superintendents. We certainly appreciate it!



Jay Stine, CGCS

President, Lone Star GCSA





## LONE STAR GCSA 2009 GIS RECEPTION

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*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!*

# 2009 TEXAS CUP SITE

## RIDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

*HOST SUPERINTENDENT, DAN WEGAND, CGCS*

**G**olf 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 2009 Texas Cup. Sponsored by C&M Golf and Grounds Equipment Company, Ridgewood Country Club generously offered to host this prime event.

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 five 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 resurfaced to A1-A4 bentgrass. The lake was expanded on holes #5 and #7 at the same time to add additional challenges.

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, May 4th for great golf, food, and friends!

***Monday, May 4, 2009***  
***Texas Cup Golf Tournament***  
***Ridgewood Country Club***  
***Waco, TX***  
***Sponsored by C&M Golf and***  
***Grounds Equipment***  
***Details coming soon!***



# Budget Crunch

**By David Otis, Director, USGA Green Section  
Northeast Region**

*Reprinted with permission from the USGA website, December 2008*

**T**he 2008 season is just about in the books, and it has been a very unusual one. From the weather standpoint, July was the toughest month of the season as extreme temperatures and wildly fluctuating humidity produced tremendous stress for the turf. In direct contrast, August was one of the mildest Augusts. However, the recent downturn in the economy has produced financial stress on budgets that will likely dwarf the environmental stress on the turf. This is not to say that turf problems did not exist this year, but the recent budgetary problems have been far more significant at many courses. Options for cutting costs are routinely discussed during Turf Advisory Service visits and some courses are having to make major sacrifices just to keep the doors open.

So, where can dollars be cut from the budget? Perhaps the more important question is "where can corners NOT be cut"? A key in working through your budget dilemma is to go back to basics.

- Managing the above and below ground growing environments is essential for a successful turf management system. Thus, continue to invest in tree work and your aeration and topdressing programs. Turf grown in a poor growing environment is less reliable and more expensive to maintain. The same is true of turf that is grown in unfavorable soil environments. Cost cutting here will result in poor turf performance and much bigger costs down the road.
- The biggest part of just about every maintenance budget is labor costs, and reducing frequency of some of the more maintenance-intensive practices certainly is worth consideration. However, be sure to protect key personnel. The average golfer looks at golf course maintenance workers as just that, workers. However, it takes a significant amount of time, effort, and cost to thoroughly train an individual to do all the tasks involved in golf course maintenance. A well-trained individual, particularly a motivated one, is a tremendous

resource and one that should be protected. Well-trained and reliable employees are worth far more than their salaries might indicate. In dire circumstances, you may be better off reducing hours if that will allow you to keep more of your better employees working.

- Reducing bunker maintenance by reducing the frequency of raking is a good option for many courses to save a few dollars.
- Eliminating ornamental planters out on your course and increased use of perennials in the beds around the clubhouse both are good ways to reduce costs. Similarly, reconsider use of hedges on the course because of the labor they require to maintain.
- Use of naturalized rough areas (no-mow areas) represents an opportunity for reducing mowing costs. However, with the level of maintenance some golfers expect in naturalized rough areas, it may actually be cheaper just to mow them as normal rough. Natural areas only reduce costs if they are minimally treated (periodic weed control and an annual mowing or two).
- Green Speed - Greens obviously are the most important area of the course in terms of playability, but dialing back green speed requirements is another option to save a few dollars.
- Depending on fuel costs, increased use of growth regulators to reduce mowing frequency in large areas (bunker banks and/or fairways) is an option worth considering. In some cases, application of growth regulator combinations will provide longer term suppression and perhaps even some slight disease control.
- Fertilization – going back to the basics in terms of fertilization can save some courses hundreds, and perhaps even thousands, of dollars a year. Try using less expensive fertilizers and eliminating the use of products sold based on testimonials rather than solid scientific research.

*Continued on page 8*





*Continued from page 7*

- Reevaluate proposed course improvement projects and reassess their impact on maintenance costs. For instance, large, dramatic, and elaborate bunker designs may have a terrific visual effect, but they also will be much more expensive to maintain. It may be time to consider whether simple mounding can accomplish the desired playability effect as opposed to more expensive and elaborate bunker designs.

Clearly, there are lots of other options for reducing costs at golf courses, and this is not intended to be an all-inclusive list by any means. For additional ideas, read "Maintenance on a Shoestring" by Pat O'Brien. <http://turf.lib.msu.edu/1990s/1995/950701.pdf>. Cutting back on continuing education is not a good idea. The science of managing golf courses is constantly changing, and staying up-to-date on the latest research and ideas can save money in the long run.

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***Texas Turfgrass Summer Conference  
July 12-14  
Hyatt Lost Pines, Bastrop***

***Texas Turfgrass Annual Conference &  
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December 14-16  
Austin Convention Center***

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## ***Breakfast, Anyone?***

The 2008 Texas Turfgrass Association Winter Annual Conference and Show hosted a wonderful Superintendents Breakfast. This year at our breakfast, outgoing Lone Star President George Manual received a Plaque of Appreciation from incoming President Jay Stine.

Bud White, Director of the USGA Green Section, Mid-Continent Region, gave an excellent presentation on turfgrass maintenance for 2009—herbicide and pesticide trends, aeration practices for the new ultradwarfs, soil testing, and getting “back to the basics”.

**The 2009 Texas Turfgrass Association Conference and Show will be held  
Dec. 14-16 at the Austin Convention Center**



Incoming President Jay Stine and outgoing President George Manual, GCS



Incoming President Jay Stine and Ricky Heine, CGCS

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## Agreement reached with EPA on continued use of MSMA

On Jan. 16, 2009, the MAA Research Task Force – a group of basic producers of MSMA – signed an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency which permits the continued use of MSMA.

In August 2006 the EPA issued a decision to make inorganic arsenicals ineligible for re-registration. GCSAA has worked closely with the Task Force to preserve MSMA use through extensive staff and member involvement in grassroots campaigns, direct contact with EPA regulatory officials, information gathering and input from members, chapters and turfgrass scientists, and by providing EPA with usage and economic data, and guidance on proposed mitigation measures.

MSMA use on golf courses will continue. MSMA sale for use on golf courses (except in Florida) will continue until Dec. 31, 2012, with use of existing stocks permitted until Dec. 31, 2013.

Allowed golf course uses (except Florida):

- One broadcast application will be allowed on newly constructed courses.
- Application on existing courses will be limited to spot treatment (100 sq ft per spot), not to exceed 25% of the total course in one year.

Golf course uses of MSMA in Florida will cease by end of 2010. The product will be labeled for sale in Florida through Dec. 31, 2009, with use of existing stocks permitted until Dec. 21, 2010.

### Moving forward to preserve uses beyond 2013

- The Task Force strongly believes that there is growing scientific evidence that low doses of inorganic arsenic do not pose a concern to human health or to the environment.
- If an EPA science review, to convene in 2012, concurs with this position, then inorganic arsenic resulting from uses of MSMA will not pose a concern, and the Task Force will petition for restoration of some or all of MSMA uses.
- EPA will also take into account additional information available on the benefits conferred by MSMA. This is particularly important due to the increased problems of weed resistance to products other than MSMA, particularly in the Southeastern United States.

# Through a Delegate's Eyes-Report on the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting

*By Ken Gorzycki, CGCS, Horseshoe Bay Resort, Texas State Chapter Delegate*

*\*Editor's Note: Discussion on the GCSAA Candidates and GCSAA Golf Tournament has been omitted due to space and timing.*

The GCSAA Chapter Delegate Meeting was held on October 24-26, 2008 in New Orleans. Normally this meeting is held in Lawrence, KS but due to the return of the Golf Industry Show (GIS) to New Orleans in February, the association took advantage of the opportunity to preview the city so the delegates could experience first hand the vast recovery efforts and improvements that have occurred since Katrina.

**New Orleans**—We were exposed to many areas of New Orleans, the good and the bad, and a great deal of history related to both the city and the disaster. The areas around the Convention Center and French Quarter were all full of energy and excitement without many remnants of the storm. Yes, there is still a great deal of devastation to be found, but the portion of New Orleans where we will be had the appearance of being much safer and cleaner than during the pre-storm era.

**New GCSAA CEO**—We had the privilege of meeting with Mark J. Woodward, CGCS, our new CEO of

GCSAA. As great of a job as Steve Mona did for our association and profession, it is refreshing to see our industry led by one of our own. Mark has been charged to provide the leadership and direction to not only keep our association strong but strengthen our role in golf for many years to come. GCSAA has high expectations of Mark and is confident he is the right man for the job at the right time in our history.

**Chapter Effectiveness**—There was a great deal of discussion on what makes a chapter effective and Lone Star GCSA already has most of those components in place. It is an undisputed fact that association members that are involved get the most value from their membership.

One area of glaring weakness in LSGCSA is engaging our members to find new and fresh volunteers. The local chapters in the state seem more successful at engaging their members and developing new leaders at that level than at the state level. This is probably a result of the perceived time commitment required to participate at the state level. This is an area the Lone Star board probably needs to discuss.

*Continued on next page*

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GCSAA committee volunteerism is a valuable method of getting our members engaged. Remember, expenses associated with serving on a GCSAA committee are paid by GCSAA, so the old "it is too expensive" reason is pretty lame. Then it only becomes a time issue. Also remember, just because you may have volunteered for a committee in the past, you have to submit your request each year to continue to be considered. And if you have not gotten involved because you have not been asked, **CONSIDER YOURSELF ASKED!** If you are waiting to get asked in person, don't hesitate to raise your hand first.

**Surveys**—I know everyone has been surveyed-out over the past several years but GCSAA and the Environmental Institute For Golf (EIFG) are starting to reap the rewards of all that hard work as the data gets assembled and analyzed. This data will be critical to our future environmental positioning and influence.

The first survey was Land Use and Environmental Stewardship and that report is now available. A copy can be obtained from GCSAA or downloaded at [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org). The subsequent surveys on Water Use & Conservation, Nutrient Use and that murderous Pesticide Use survey are all in various stages of compilation.

A huge debt of gratitude is owed to all that participated.

The next EIFG survey that you will see in February is on Energy Use. This will be a very easy one in comparison and is not just for the GCM facilities, the survey will encompass the entire facility. So get with your accountant to start gathering your history for fuel (gasoline and diesel), electricity and natural gas/propane use so you will be ready. If you contact your energy provider with all your account numbers, it is likely they can provide your entire history for each account on one report.

In addition, the next GCSAA Compensation & Benefit survey will be launched to all SM/A members on December 17, 2008. It will be an **electronic only** survey and GCSAA will provide a free Chapter Report for every chapter that achieves 50% participation or a 15% improvement from their 2007 participation.

**Thanks**—I appreciate the opportunity to represent LSGCSA as your Chapter Delegate. I would appreciate any input you have for me to best represent the membership. Please do not hesitate to call or email if I can be of assistance.



# Around the State

## ***North Texas GCSA Schedule***

**March 24**—Bully Cup, West vs. East  
The Tribute Golf Club  
**April 27**—Golf Meeting  
Winstar Golf Club, Thackerville, OK

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

## ***South Texas GCSA Schedule***

**March 9**—Golf Tournament  
The Woodlands Country Club/Tournament Course  
**April 14**—Scholarship Tournament  
High Meadow Ranch Golf Course  
**May 18**—Golf Tournament  
The Wilderness Golf Course  
**June 15**—Golf Tournament  
Willow Fork Country Club  
**July 20**—Golf Tournament  
Elkins Lake Country Club

**Contact: Marian Takushi**  
**South Texas Executive Director**  
**(281) 494-0094**  
**[www.stgcsa.org](http://www.stgcsa.org)**

## ***Central Texas GCSA Schedule***

**March 24**—Turf Show  
Olympia Hills  
**April 14**—USGA Regional Seminar  
Barton Creek Resort  
**June 2**—North/South Cup  
La Cantera Golf Club  
**July 13**—Superintendent Championship  
Twin Creek Country Club

**Contact: Jana Gomillion**  
**Central Texas Executive Director**  
**(512) 658-3145**  
**[www.ctgcsa.org](http://www.ctgcsa.org)**

## ***West Texas GCSA Schedule***

**March 9**—Meeting, Quicksand Country Club  
**May 5**—Meeting, Green Tree Country Club  
**June 15**—Meeting, Ross Rodgers Golf Complex

**Contact: Pam Deeds**  
**West Texas Executive Director**  
**(806) 383-6775**  
**[www.wtgcsa.org](http://www.wtgcsa.org)**

## ***Texas Gulf Coast GCSA Schedule***

**March 10**—Meeting, Northshore Country Club  
**April 28**—Meeting, Riverhills Country Club  
**June 9**—Meeting, Laredo Country Club

**Contact: Darlene Curlee**  
**Texas Gulf Coast Executive Secretary**  
**(361) 850-7974**  
**[www.tgcsa.org](http://www.tgcsa.org)**

## ***Lone Star GCSA Schedule***

**May 4**—Texas Cup  
Ridgewood Country Club, Waco  
**September 13-15**—Texas Trophy Championship  
Memorial Park Golf Course, Houston

**Contact: Karen White**  
**Lone Star GCSA Executive Director**  
**(972) 307-8162**  
**[www.lsgcsa.org](http://www.lsgcsa.org)**

## ***Texas Turfgrass Association***

**Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Conference**  
**July 12-14**—Bastrop Hyatt Regency  
**TTA Annual Conference and Show**  
**December 12-14**—Austin

**Contact: Shirley Duble, Executive Director**  
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