



Chapter Connect

Connecting North Texas GCSA Members through Communication, Information and Education

Fall 2020

Volume 28 Issue 3

Hole #8 - Las Colinas Country Club
Photo Courtesy of NTGCSA Member Ed Martinez



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President's Message

Fall is in the air in North Texas. I'm sure we are all enjoying a little bit of some cooler temperatures and maybe even a little bit of a slowdown from the hectic schedule of activity that summer brings. Or at least that slowdown is somewhat in sight for many of us. The fall brings lots of busy activities at most of our courses with tournaments and outings so there never really is much of a break.

The chapter is also very busy this fall. In October, our Annual Meeting was held at Heritage Ranch Golf Club in McKinney. We had a really good turnout of members who were all very conscious and aware of the precautions needed to be taken to hold a healthy and successful event. Thank you to Turf Care of Texas and Turf Materials for being the Title Sponsors for the event. Both provided some good information about their companies and some useful education. All of our Platinum Sponsors this year have been very cooperative and helped the chapter be successful by "doubling" up at some events as the title sponsors. We really appreciate all of their effort, input and financial support.

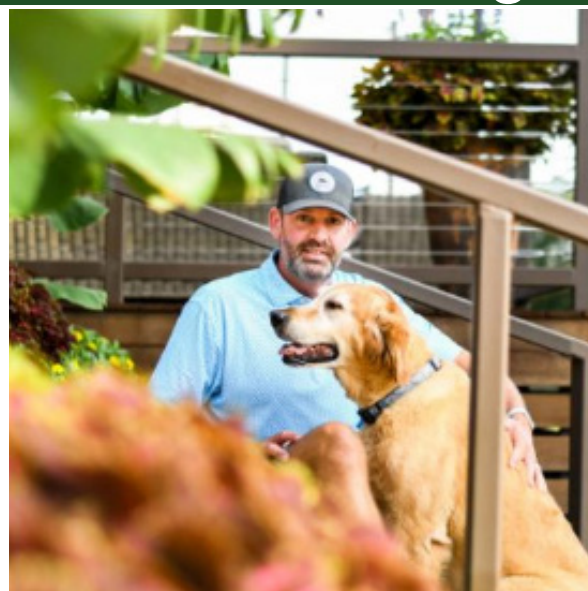
Fall also brings two great annual events that the chapter has hosted for many years. The Annual Scholarship Tournament will be held at Dallas National Golf Club in November with a little bit of a different flair than normal. Because of the ever present health precautions, the event will be limited to Members Only and will be utilizing tee times throughout the morning at Dallas National. We appreciate everyone's understanding of the precautions necessary and look forward to a great turn out and support for our Legacy Scholarships. Full details and registration information can be found at our website ntgcsa.org.

In December, the chapter will wrap up our 2020 event calendar with the ever-popular Assistant / Crew Championship. Look for an announcement soon on the venue and registration details. If you've never had the opportunity to include your team in this special day, I encourage it strongly. It is amazing to see all the hard-working staff members taking a day to relax and enjoy each other's company. It's always a fun competition and something the chapter enjoys doing for the benefit of our support staff who works so hard for us all year around. More details and registration information soon to come.

Congratulations to our new 2021 Board of Directors who were elected at our election at the Annual Meeting. I look forward to working with 2021 President, Anthony Williams CGCS as he assumes the role and leads the chapter into a hopefully successful and more "back to normal" year. Anthony has great experience in other chapters and will certainly be a great benefit to our association as we move forward. Check out the list of individuals who stepped up to the plate and will serve as your Board of Directors in 2021. Also, at the Annual Meeting, the membership approved the by-law changes that were proposed. The board worked hard to identify some much needed changes that will help our association continue to grow and be successful in the future. The changes to the bylaws that were approved include the following items:

- An adjustment to the Member Classifications to mirror the classifications that the GCSAA has set.
- Introduction of SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) for the positions on the board of directors to assist with transition each year to a new board.
- Allow flexibility with the date of the Annual meeting. Previously, it had to be scheduled in the month of October per the bylaws.

Thanks again to all who participated and sponsored our Fall events. We look forward to finishing the year with more great events and activities!



KD Davis CGCS
Golf Course Superintendent
Royal Oaks Country Club

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TPC Four Seasons Resort
Vice President - Jason Wiedeman,
Cross Timbers Golf Course
Secretary / Treasurer - To Be Appointed
by President in January

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Mark Claburn - Tierra Verde Golf Club
Neil Packard - Dallas National Golf Club
Mike Epps - Mira Vista Country Club
Mike Upchurch - Old Bonita
Cody Morrow - Northwood Club

Affiliate Directors

Todd Gilmour - Turf Care of Texas
Curt Franklin - Ameriturf / Turf Materials

Congratulations and thank you!



About Us

North Texas Golf Course
Superintendents Association



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Vice President: Anthony Williams, CGCS
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Secretary / Treasurer: Jason Wiedeman
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Past President: Bryan Brown
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Superintendent Directors

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Mike Upchurch

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Affiliate Directors

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Todd Gilmour - toddgolf1@yahoo.com

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3 Tools to Help Boost Your Quality of Cut!

By: Tony Bevolo
Equipment Manager
Trinity Forest Golf Club



We as equipment managers / technicians fight the daily battle of keeping everything running and cutting perfect, all while doing so on some sort of budget. There is no doubt though, our most expected and most important aspect of what we do is **quality of cut**. Always has been, always will be, there is no sugar coating it. Sure, you may have a few pieces of equipment broken down outside the shop, maybe a couple overdue services, but if that greens mower starts scalping on #4 green it is all hands-on deck to play damage control. Which is why I wanted to give my opinion and to share what I believe the 3 most important budget friendly tools that every shop should have to limit those calls and maintain a high quality of cut!

I would like to start by saying that not all poor quality of cut results are directly related to shop set up or equipment. Tons of factors come in to play with getting a great playing surface. Factors such as turf health, cultural practices, and of course weather. But let's just say we have ideal conditions to work with. One of the straightforward tools I would like to share is going to help and give the shop a more accurate reading as to what the bench HOC is coming out of their hands. That tool would be some sort of HOC measuring device with an analog or digital gauge, such as what I use, the Acccuproducts Accu-Gage®.



Gone should be the days of using a bolt with a couple of nuts and a flt bar. There is too much room for variance in that. For \$129.00, you can have the piece of mind knowing that your cutting units are all leaving the shop at the same bench HOC. Especially if you have multiple technicians checking machines.

Since we are on the topic of consistency, that is going to lead me in to my next two tools. Both tools assist the EM/tech in the actual sharpening and set up process. I am going to use that word consistent a lot here because that is the point I am trying to drive home. If your cutting units are leaving the shop consistently set up correct: first, your QOC problems will be few and far between and second, if a problem does arise you are able to diagnose the issue faster if all the reels are set up the exact same.

This tool is what is known as a Pi tape and it is my favorite way of measuring reel diameter. We have made it a check list item that when the cutting unit gets put on the grinder, we measure the reel diameter on each side and after its been ground we do the same. If we see any variance in reel diameter, we grind that taper or cone out of the reel to bring it back to a true cylinder. I feel that this step is easily avoidable but very overlooked.



Continued on next page

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If the reel becomes coned, it is hard to parallel the bedknife back up to the reel without twisting and putting strain on the bedknife, bed bar, and reel bearings. Studies have shown that only .010" of taper will start to affect your QOC.

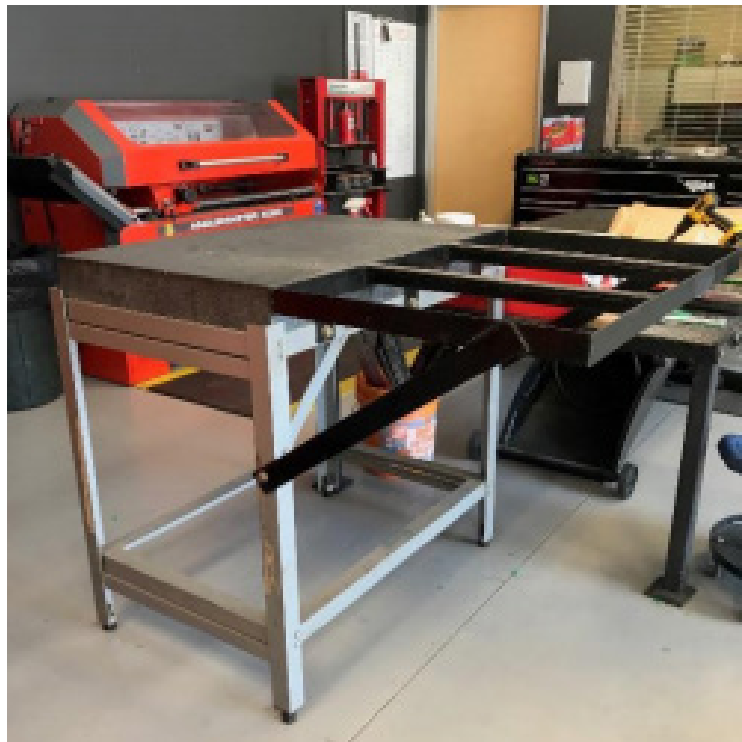
If you are a John Deere customer, this Pi tape will also be your friend when it's time to flip your bedknife eccentric bushings. On JD QA5 cutting units, there is a bushing that you can flip once your reel diameter reaches 4.8". What that eccentric does is it brings the bedknife close to the attitude it started out as when the reel was brand new. I utilize this feature a whole lot, especially relating to our greens mowers. Our greens are full of undulations, so when you combine that, with low (.095") bench HOC, kicking the rear end of that bedknife back up into the reel frame and getting a more aggressive cut is the ticket to avoiding bedknife scuffing on our property. You can find a SIP Pi tape available for \$99 on turfaddict.com.

Last but certainly not least is my baby, the tool I would never be able to operate a well-groomed shop without... a big, tight toleranced chunk of granite known as a surface plate. When I was taught about proper reel grinding and set up, this step was stressed to me as being the most important of them all. Your cutting unit and bedknife can be as sharp as you want them to be, your height can be right on the money, your frequency of clip can be dialed in, but if

your cutting unit as a whole isn't moving across the cutting surface square or in parallel, you are going to get some not so pleasant results. After our cutting units and bedknife get ground and reassembled, it is put on the granite block stand and moved to the desired bench HOC. It is then rolled onto the surface plate and checked for square. That can be achieved by clamping down the rear roller and using machining dial indicator gauges on the front roller or by a less accurate method of the simple "rock" test. That is done by grabbing opposite corners of the cutting unit and applying pressure to each corner to try and make the cutting unit "rock" side to side. Each manufacture then has ways to adjust the variance of the cutting unit until it is square.

There is a huge selection of different granite blocks varying in size and tolerance available on msdirect.com. One can be had for \$286.87 and placed on an existing stand or table. You can also purchase a prefabbed stand for \$269. Either way, acquiring one of these by putting it in the standardized reel set up in your shop is a step in the right direction when we try to achieve consistency from all our cutting units.

I hope these tool recommendations can help in any way. I understand that some operations might not see the financial benefit, but for those striving to achieve a consistent high quality of cut and after cut appearance, these will get you putting your best foot forward. If anyone would like to chat about any of these products in more detail, please feel free to shoot me an email. I would love to hear from you! Thanks, and have a great day!





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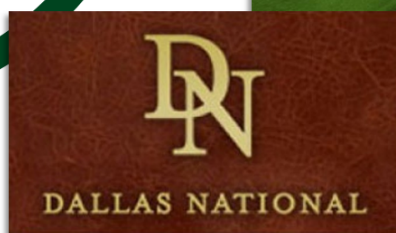
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Benefitting the NTGCSA Legacy Scholarships

November 17, 2020

Dallas National Golf Club

Each year, North Texas GCSA members gather to raise funds to support Legacy Scholarships that benefit children and grandchildren of our members.

This year, the chapter will visit
Dallas National Golf Club!

Due to the limited compacity the event will only be open to North Texas GCSA members in good standing. Entry includes tee prizes, golf, brunch, lunch, snacks and dinner. Our host Neil Packard and his staff will have the golf course in outstanding condition so don't miss this great opportunity!

Our field is limited to 96 players. We expect this event to fill quickly and a waiting list to be created. You will be notified as soon as possible if you are on the waiting list.

Visit NTGCSA.org for more details and to register!

Schedule

Check-In / Brunch: 8:00

Tee Times: 9:00 - 11:00

(warm-up and eat 1 hour prior to tee time)

Lunch: Place order on Hole #5 for pickup at Hole #8

Comfort Station: Hole #14 (snacks / drinks)

Dinner: 1:30 - 4:00 - Smoker Trailer upon completion of round

*** Due to Covid and the attempt to Social Distance Awards will be announced via Email Blast and will be sent to the winners.

Cost: \$200.00 per Player

Players will be invoiced prior to event and payment must be received by November 10th to secure your spot. (You will be responsible for payment if you do not cancel by November 10th at 12:00 noon.)

All proceeds go to Legacy Scholarship Fund

Format - 2-Man Best Ball

Please sign up as a team.

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Underdogs of Turf calendar coming back for 2021

Man's best friend is making a comeback for the 2021 Underdogs of Turf calendar.

Presented by Rain Bird, John Deere and Golfdom, the Underdogs of Turf calendar is back for the fourth year, and it's the third year with Golfdom's participation. The brainchild of Kasey Kauff, director of grounds at Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas, the calendar features hundreds of dogs from superintendents around the country.

"John Deere is excited to once again support the making of the Underdogs of Turf Calendar," said Robert Schmidt, global manager of market development & strategy, John Deere Golf. "Like much of the industry, we look forward to the calendar each year and can't wait to see whose dogs appear in the 2021 edition."



The Underdogs of Turf calendar is bounding back in 2021. (Photo: Sean Reehoorn)

New this year is a photo contest to choose which dog makes the cover. Golfdom's judges will decide on the best photo and hire a professional photographer to travel to that dog's home course to snap a shot for the calendar cover. The original submitted photo will be featured on the interior of the calendar. The submission deadline for the cover dog is Sept. 11.

The calendar will be distributed with the December issue of Golfdom.

"Whether they are big or small, young or old, all dogs have a place in the underdog calendar — that's what makes it so special and why Rain Bird loves being a part of it," said Matthew Corentin, golf specification manager, Eastern U.S., Rain Bird Corp. "It might not be the first dog calendar, but it'll definitely be the best!"

Craig MacGregor, publisher of Golfdom, added, "The Underdogs of Turf calendar has become a great tradition for us here at Golfdom. I want to thank everyone who makes this calendar possible — our partners, Rain Bird and John Deere, as well as everyone who participates and sends in a photo of their dog. Remember, with our calendar, every dog doesn't just get his day ... he gets an entire month!"

Golf industry professionals have until Oct. 9 to submit pictures of their hounds, retrievers, terriers and mutts.

The advertisement features a background image of a golf course with a red flag on a green. Overlaid on the image is the Aqua-Aid logo in a red oval at the top left. Below it is the 'PBS150' logo in large, stylized green and blue letters, with 'POLYFUNCTIONAL BRANCHED SURFACTANT' written in smaller text underneath. To the right of the logo, the text 'MULTI-BRANCHED SUSTAINS A LONGER UNIFORM SOIL MOISTURE PROFILE' is displayed in white capital letters. At the bottom left, a white box contains the name 'Brian Daniel', email 'brian@aquaaaid.com', and phone number '806-239-4044'. At the bottom right, the website 'www.aquaaaid.com' is listed in white.

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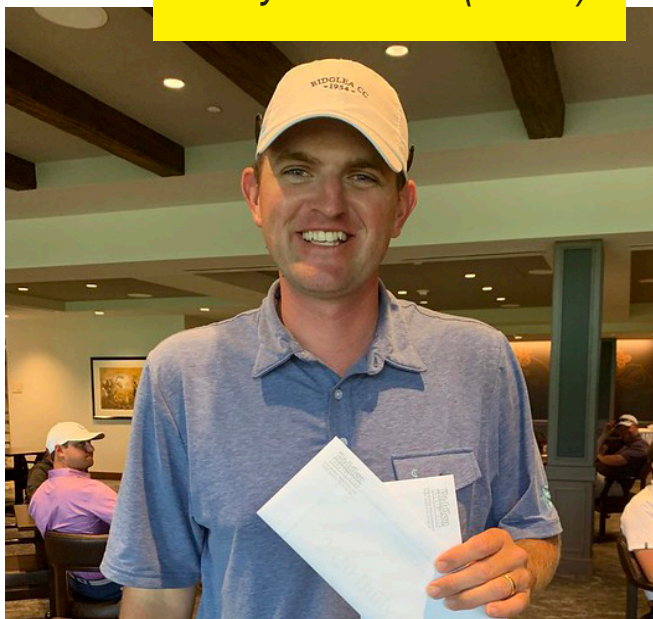
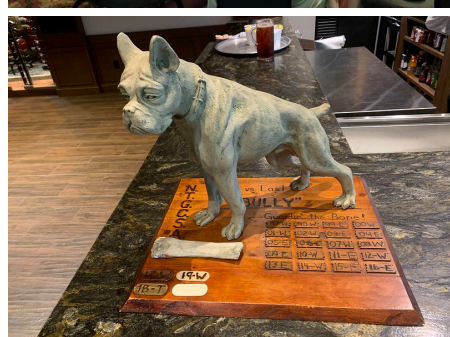
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Duane Janssen (l) and
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Bully Cup Results

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1998 - West

1999 - East

2000 - West

2001 - West

2002 - West

2003 - East

2004 - East

2005 - East

2006 - East

2007 - West

2008 - West

2009 - East

2010 - West

2011 - East

2012 - West

2013 - East

2014 - West

2015 - East

2016 - East

2017 - West

2018 - Tie

2019 - West

2020 - East

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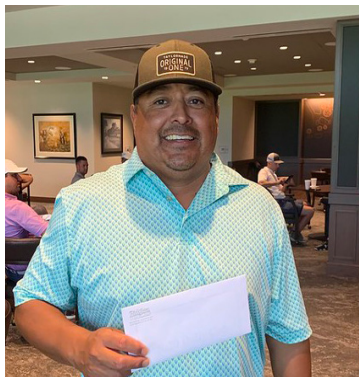
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Darryl Walker
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Luke Benedict
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Victorious East Captain Kyle Embry (r) getting some pointers from former captain Jay Stine



Happy Prize Winners!

(starting top left - clockwise)

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Ed Martinez, Hunter
Elwood, Grant Jones
and Charlie Trammell



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Golf course architect Jeffrey Brauer has been hired by the city of North Richland Hills in Texas, to renovate its municipal Iron Horse golf course.

Jeffrey Brauer to address water issues at Iron Horse



Richard Humphreys
July 5, 2020

“The primary focus of the project at Iron Horse will be on correcting the situations of too little and too much water on the course, respectively,” said Brauer, who can make the short trip from his adopted home in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. “New irrigation for the entire course will be plotted and installed to satisfy the main issue – it is the first priority.”

The 18-hole public facility was designed by Dick Phelps and opened in 1988. It was built in a floodplain and runoff from the growth in urban development has increased.

“We will address the track’s lowest lying fairways to counter its battle with periodic flooding that has forced the course to be out of play a few times a year,” said Brauer. “Elevating the lowest lying fairways for more flood protection and increasing surface pitch for better drainage will be nearly as important.”

A few greens and most bunkers have also been negatively impacted by flooding and will be renovated or removed. Topsoil will also be replaced in areas where fast flowing waters have worn it off.

“The course was built for the city of North Richland Hills by a management company, who prided themselves on being able to build cheaply,” said Brauer. “In reality, they didn’t value engineer anything, they just left things out. An extra US\$300,000 in 1989 would have probably reduced the need to spend US\$3 million in 2019 to add what was left out in terms of drainage, flood control, and irrigation coverage.”

Brauer also seeks to open up playing corridors. “Iron Horse is a very solid and well-liked golf course overall, but if there is a complaint from golfers it has been the narrowness of the play corridors. Those issues will be addressed in the renovation as we create increased playability and a more open course.”

Plans should be finished by early autumn with construction expected to start by the end of the year, so grassing can occur at a peak time of May-June 2020 to best assure an October reopening.

“This project is a great example of a targeted renovation, fixing the most important problems without doing a total redo,” said Brauer. “I believe it will be the model for public course renovations moving forward.

“For a while, total renovations seemed to make sense, as those who did them experienced greater revenues to offset costs.

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With more and more re-branded golf courses, it doesn't seem like spending more leads to more revenues, and it is wise to fix what is broken, what customers complain about, and let the original design – in this case, a nice Dick Phelps 1980s era public design – be the best it can be. Besides, unlike most courses these days, play isn't down – well, a bit, but still playing 45,000 rounds – so putting a new design stamp on it doesn't seem necessary.”

Vickie Loftice, managing director of community services, and Joe Pack, senior park planner, will oversee the project for the city.

“Jeff is well known for being able to supply a lot of ‘bang for the buck’ in municipal renovations, which was one of our key considerations in selecting his firm over others who were interested in our project,” said Loftice. “This is a situation where things may need to change some over the course of the renovation and, in his previous work, Jeff has shown an ability to adapt his ideas, his plans and his focus as needed – and that was important for us.”

Brauer's firm GolfScapes has retained EC Design Group for irrigation design, while Halff Associates will provide hydraulic studies that will allow permitting under current regulatory processes. The course is managed by Arcis Golf, who will also provide agronomic consulting. Long-time golf course superintendent Kevin Ramsey will provide local insight to Brauer and his team.

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Follow up Article

Iron Horse set for September reopening following Brauer renovation

Richard Humphreys Sept. 10, 2020

The municipal facility – managed by Arcis Golf – has been subject to a \$3 million renovation that has included the widening of playing corridors, new irrigation on 12 holes, renovations to the thirteenth and fourteenth holes, Better Billy Bunker method employed throughout, and the addition of new forward tees.

Fleetwood Services began construction in November 2019, with the aim of addressing water issues on the Dick Phelps-designed course. The project was declared as an “essential infrastructure project” by the city, which allowed work to continue amid the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Iron Horse golf course in North Richland Hills, Texas, reopened to the public in September following a renovation overseen by Jeff Brauer.

“The irrigation and drainage issues have now been corrected,” said Brauer. “The city of North Richland Hills, Arcis Golf, and Fleetwood Services all were great to work with. Everybody did their part to make this renovation a huge success and focused on enhancing the overall golf experience.”

“The city was very smart to make the investment and fix what needed to be addressed. It is money spent wisely and serves as the prototype for how most public course renovations should be carried out.”

Brauer explained that sodding was done wherever the course was disturbed during the

project. “It may be more expensive, but it’s also the best flood insurance available,” he said.

“This project has been fully embraced from the outset by the city as well as the community,” said Jerred Gibson, general manager at Iron Horse. “We couldn’t be more excited to show off all the outstanding upgrades that have been made to this much-loved course.”

Oscar Trevino, mayor of North Richland Hills, said: “We salute the golf course operations team, Jeff Brauer, Fleetwood Services, and everyone who worked on the project as we are confident the renovation will be met with great acclaim and continue the club’s iconic tradition. The facility – from the course to the pro shop and clubhouse – is nothing short of first class and understandably, a great source of pride for the community.”

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2021 Golf Industry Show to be presented virtually

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The association announces plans for GIS 2021.



The 2021 Golf Industry Show is going virtual.

Amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, GCSAA announced today that the annual education conference and trade show will be presented in a virtual format instead of the previously planned in-person event in Las Vegas.

The decision was made in conjunction with GCSAA's presenting GIS partners, the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) and the Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBA). The organizations say the virtual event will offer an experience that continues the Golf Industry Show's long tradition of connecting attendees, exhibitors and industry experts through a week of unparalleled educational opportunities and access to golf facility solutions for industry professionals.

In addition to the education, trade show and special events that will take place live on the virtual platform the first week of February, attendees will also have the option to view or review all content from the show for an extended period after the event concludes.

The theme of GIS 2021 — "Your space. Your pace. All in one place." — not only reflects the ability of participants to attend the show from the safety of their homes or offices and consume the content when they want to, but also speaks to the convergence of industry experts that is a hallmark of GIS and will remain so in the virtual format.

Registration for the 2021 Golf Industry Show will open Oct. 13 on the Golf Industry Show website.



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Rescheduled Rounds 4 Research Auction Sells Out Of All Rounds!



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Donate a round and support turfgrass research
that sustains the future of golf.



Lawrence, Kan. (Aug. 4, 2020) -- The 2020 Rounds 4 Research fundraising program to support turfgrass studies, administered by the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), sold out of all 997 rounds of donated golf and yielded nearly \$265,000 in its July online auction, marking the first time all rounds were sold since the program launched in 2012. The EIFG is the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The auction was originally scheduled for April 27-May 3 but was postponed to July 20-26 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And while the number of rounds donated and the amount of total funds raised were also affected by the pandemic, the results of the rescheduled auction show the game and program remain popular.

"We are delighted with the results of the 2020 auction, and it exceeded our expectations in light of world events," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "Rescheduling it was the right thing to do, and we knew some courses would no longer be able to make donations. However, the fact that all rounds sold and we greatly exceeded our goal are evidence of the popularity of golf in today's world and the strength of the R4R program."

The Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association raised \$50,907 and was the leader among more than 64 GCSAA affiliated chapters and turfgrass organizations that received proceeds from the auction to support turfgrass research at the local level. The Florida GCSA was next with \$29,981 raised for its chapter.

The top bid was \$10,009 for a one year membership with full member privileges to six private clubs in the Dormie Network.

The national campaign is supported by a \$50,000 donation from The Toro Co. The program has raised more than \$1.7 million since it began.

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John Daniels
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Dragging fairways is an effective way to reduce dollar spot severity.

Dew and disease pressure go hand in hand. Fungal pathogens like *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Clairiireedia* spp can spread rapidly under heavy dew. Therefore, keeping leaf wetness to a minimum is an effective strategy for disrupting disease development and protecting your key turf areas.

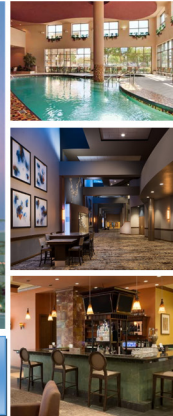
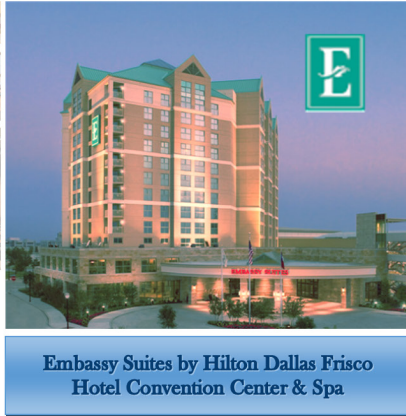
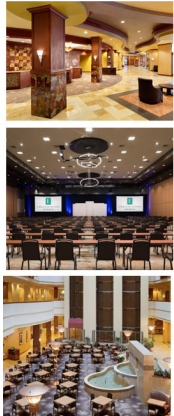
The most common form of dew displacement is early morning mowing. For surfaces that are generally not mowed each morning, such as fairways and tees, removing the film of dew first thing in the morning can lessen disease severity. Allowing the turf-grass leaves to dry just 1 to 2-hours earlier could provide significant benefits and has been shown to improve fungicide performance. The practice is quite simple, and many courses are able to knock down the dew on all their fairways in as little as 1 hour or so.

Fairway dragging can be completed by an individual employee using a piece of PVC pipe or by two employees using a long, single piece of rope or hose. The latter approach is often faster but will require two separate vehicles. I recommend using a lead core rope, similar to what is used in commercial fishing operations. A 5/8-inch diameter rope works great. Make sure to attach the ends of the rope to a metal eye swivel hook. You want the rope to be able to rotate freely when attached to the hitch so that it does not become tangled or tied in a knot.

Dragging fairways doesn't just reduce disease outbreaks. It can also be helpful for dispersing grass clippings and nuisance earthworm castings, thereby providing a more consistent and clean golf course presentation. Early morning golfers will appreciate having drier feet as well.



Save the Date - IT'S A GO!
Annual Winter Conference and Trade Show
December 1st and 2nd, 2020



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(Vendor Set-up November 30th)

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Newsletter Articles of the Year

The North Texas GCSA wants to recognize our great members who are willing to share their stories!

Articles must be original and can be on any topic you would like to share: agronomy, management, leadership, personal experiences, you name it! Please include photos.

The 2020 award winners will be chosen from articles published in this years issues of the Chapter

Connect. A committee will decide the winners and they will be announced at the 2021 Awards Banquet.

Writing not your forte? Not a problem, we are happy to help with proofreading and editing if you need a little help. Below are the awards that will be presented again this year. Need a little more nudge?

How about a \$250.00 prize? We thought that might get your attention!

So fire up that word processor and get to work!



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Award Categories

Superintendent
 Article of the Year

Assistant
 Superintendent
 Article of the Year

Equipment Manager
 Article of the Year

Affiliate Member
 Article of the Year

Forward your entry
to Carol Cloud at
ntgcsa@gmail.com



2020 Texas Turfgrass Association Awards

Submission Deadline - October 15, 2020

Award categories



2019 Award Winners

- ◆ A.W. Crain Award
- ◆ Special Awards
- ◆ Green Thumb of the Year ◆ Football, Baseball, Softball and Soccer Fields of the Year
- ◆ Turf Landscape Maintenance of the Year ◆ Outstanding Commercial Affiliate of the Year
- ◆ Golf Course Award - Private / Resort or Municipal / Daily Fee



Click for more information and nomination instructions

Calling all North Texas Members!

Every year at the Texas Turfgrass Association Winter Conference, awards are given for outstanding Golf Course for Private/Resort and Municipal/Daily Fee. This is a great opportunity to get the recognition you and your facility deserve. The application process is simple and detailed below. Take a moment to review the application process and please consider sending in an application. We would love to see the award be given to a North Texas facility this year. Deadline to apply is October 15th.

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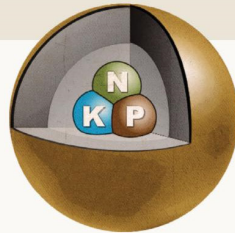
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