



Chapter Connect

Connecting North Texas GCSA Members through Communication, Information and Education

Spring 2021

Volume 29 Issue 1

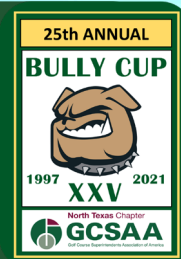


A special night to remember.

The 2021 Annual Awards Banquet in Grapevine. Honoring Distinguished Service Award Winners: Ken Small (TopL) and Gary Brooks (TopC). AC and Garry Bearden Superintendent of the Year, Kirt Phillips (TopR) and Assistant Superintendent of the Year Jacob Boelsche (L)



East Wins!
Bully Cup XXV
All Time Series
TIED: 12 - 12, 1 Tie
Congratulations
Captain Michael Moore
and Team!



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President's Message

First of all I want to thank everyone for renewing their memberships and sponsorships for 2021. You are the best! You make everything we do as the North Texas Golf Course Superintendents Association possible. I am honored to be serving as President of our chapter this year. We have a talented group of experts on the board of directors this year and we all look forward to serving you, the membership. Please contact me or any board member if we can ever be of service or just answer a question.

We were able to have our Annual Awards Banquet on January 16, 2021 at the Austin Ranch Convention Facility in Grapevine. It was the first time we have been able to have a larger gathering in quite some time. I appreciate everyone's cooperation with the Covid – 19 protocols and I really appreciate Carol Cloud and the 2020 Board of Directors for working so hard to make the event successful. It was a wonderful night filled with food, beverages, live music, a casino night, amazing door prizes and of course awards! On that note, another big congratulations to our award winners Gary Brooks, Ken Small, Kirt Phillips and Jacob Boelsche. Kevin Carpenter once again amazed us all with his videos for the winners and the ever popular blooper reel. If you missed it, we missed you! Please remember to watch for next year's date and join in the fun. We will see you there!

2021 has given us a few big memories already. The virtual Golf Industry Show took place and while we all would prefer an in-person Golf Show it was a testament to the quality and commitment of the GCSAA and all the sponsors that we were able to have a golf show and education at all. Thank you to everyone that supported the Virtual Golf Industry Show, it was certainly historic and as I attended most of the events and education offerings I thought it worked well, especially under the current circumstances. We all hope to be able to attend a more traditional version of the golf show in 2022. We also brought another successful installment of North Texas GCSA virtual education to our membership on February 25, 2021. Thanks to our partners at BWI and Colby Johnson for putting together a great program to keep us all up to date on our Texas pesticide license required CEU's. We have a great schedule of events for 2021 so watch for dates and details in your email and on the website.

I hope everyone came through February's record cold and snow event with as little damage as possible. I spoke with a lot of superintendents and it seems our North Texas GCSA family reached out to each other offering advice about covers, watering and all sorts of tips on keeping ahead of Mother Nature. Thanks for sharing everybody, we are in this together. The GCSAA is offering disaster relief funds to Texas superintendents so if you experienced serious damage to your home or course go to www.gcsaa.org for details.

I look forward to the rest of the year as we help shape the future of golf in North Texas.

Respectfully,

*Anthony L. Williams, CGCS
President - North Texas GCSA*



Anthony L. Williams, CGCS

Director of Golf
TPC Four Seasons Resort
and Club Dallas
Anthony.williams@fourseasons.com



Chapter Connect

About Us

North Texas Golf Course
Superintendents Association

Board of Directors

Executive Board

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anthony.williams@fourseasons.com

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jwiedeman@crosstimbersgc.com

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Past President: KD Davis, CGCS
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Affiliate Directors

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Todd Gilmour - toddgolf1@yahoo.com

Chapter Executive

Carol Cloud
ntgcsa@gmail.com 817-368-3002
PO Box 122766, Fort Worth, TX 76121



**Title
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April 5, 2021

2021 Chapter Championship



Registration Open!



Ken Small Family



Gary Brooks Family



Jacob Boelsche and wife Laura



Kirt Phillips Family



President KD Davis joined us virtually.



Superintendent Champion Ed Martinez and wife Dallas



(above) Chapter Executive Carol Cloud recognized. (L to R) Legacy Scholarship Winners Sydney Freshwater, Carter Stine and Grace McClanahan

The 2021 Annual Awards Banquet was a very special night to remember in Grapevine that included recognition for well deserving North Texas GCSAA members. Two longtime NTGCSA members were bestowed the Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award. These two members were Ken Small and Gary Brooks who celebrated with their families on this special night.

Kirt Phillips of Dallas Country Club was honored by his peers with the AC and Garry Bearden Superintendent of the Year Award. He also celebrated the night with his family and joined a very prestigious list of Superintendents in North Texas who have been bestowed this honor. Jacob Boelsche from Four Seasons Resort was recognized as the Assistant Superintendent of the Year and celebrated with his wife Laura.

NTGCSA Superintendent Champion Ed Martinez was recognized for his great playing in the Chapter Championship in 2020. Ed won the championship at his first ever appearance in the event. Ed is a former STGCSA and Lone Star Texas Trophy Champion! His Assistant Mike Mathis was the Assistant Champion and was recognized as well. Something is in the cooking at Las Colinas Country Club!

The Chapter also recognized all of the 2020 Legacy Scholarship Winners. These scholarships are awarded each year to deserving children and grandchildren of NTGCSA members for assistance in their higher education expenses.

Unfortunately, outgoing President KD Davis was unable to attend the event because of a recent Covid exposure. But he did join the group virtually and gave a great farewell address and "handed" the gavel to incoming President Anthony Williams CGCS. Anthony is very excited about serving the chapter in 2021 and getting things somewhat back to "normal" in the near future. Anthony thanked the outgoing Board members and introduced the 2021 Board.

Thanks to all who attended this special event and made it a night to remember. We all look forward to this great evening and look forward to a safe and productive 2021!





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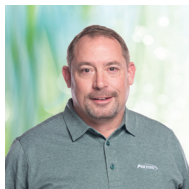
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***Winner, Winner,
Winners!***

***Lots of happy faces
at the end of the night
Casino Prize raffle.
Thanks to all who
participated in this
very special event!***



Dusty Daniel

806-787-2283

DustyDaniel@bwicompanies.com

Colby Johnson

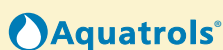
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PhilipDavis@bwicompanies.com



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25th ANNUAL

BULLY CUP



1997 **XXV** 2021



East Siders Prevail on Home Turf!

The 2021 Bully Cup was held at beautiful Tenison Park Golf Course in Dallas. Brian Sutton and his staff had the golf course in great condition for the 25th playing of the matches.

Led by East Side Captain, Michael Moore, the winning team won by a commanding margin of 7 points. One of the most lopsided victories in BC history. The all time series now stands in a Dead A%\$ Tie!

West 12 East 12 1 Tie
Bully will be back in 2022 to break the tie!

WEST

Todd Gilmore / Andy Wright	2 1/2
TJ Guyer / Kyle Moore	3 1/2
Drue Thompson / Landon Lindsey	2
Mark Claburn / David Rainey	1 1/2

EAST

Monty Ashworth / Chuck Mckaskil	2 1/2
Michael Moore / Dusty Daniel	1 1/2
Jay Roberts / Kyle Bunney	3
Dan Leggett / Hunter Elwood	3 1/2

Trevor Ogden / Don Lecroy	1
Bill Strum	1
Kyle Cloud / Michael Copenhagen	3 1/2
Pete Williams / Chris Swain	3

Dan Gilmore / Steve McGee	4
Tony Atchison / Aaron Schick	2
John Rowe / Loren Molder	1 1/2
Colby Murrow / Tony Leblang	2

Mike Upchurch / Lee Langley	1 1/2
Brian Cloud / Johnny Walker	2 1/2 22
Monty Hambrich / Bryan Tupa	2 1/2
Aaron Fox / Jeff Smith	4 26

Frank Darnell / James Jenson	3 1/2
Billy Huckabee / Jeff Garza	2 1/2 26
Grant Jones / Jim Muench	2 1/2
Brian Brown / Antonio Rodriguez	1 27

Anothony Williams / Philip Davis	1 27
Caleb Buckley	0

Scott Cushman / Tyler Breed	4 31
James Burnett	3

West Total

29 1/2

East Total

36 1/2

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THANK YOU!

Todd Gilmour and the whole Turf Care of Texas team for sponsoring the event!

And thank you Mike Dunnigan of Infusion Technology for an interesting talk on water treatment options for golf course water features.





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Join us in 2022!

If you have never played in a Bully Cup, you're missing out!

It is the kickoff golf event for the chapter each year and a great way to meet and network with your peers in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.



Drawing and Proximity Winners

Aaron Schick 50/50 Cash
Drawing benefitting the First Tee

Closest to the Pins

Monty Ashworth Mark Claburn
Aaron Schick TJ Guyer

Long Drives

Todd Gilmour
Antonio Rodriguez



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bradcgcs@yahoo.com



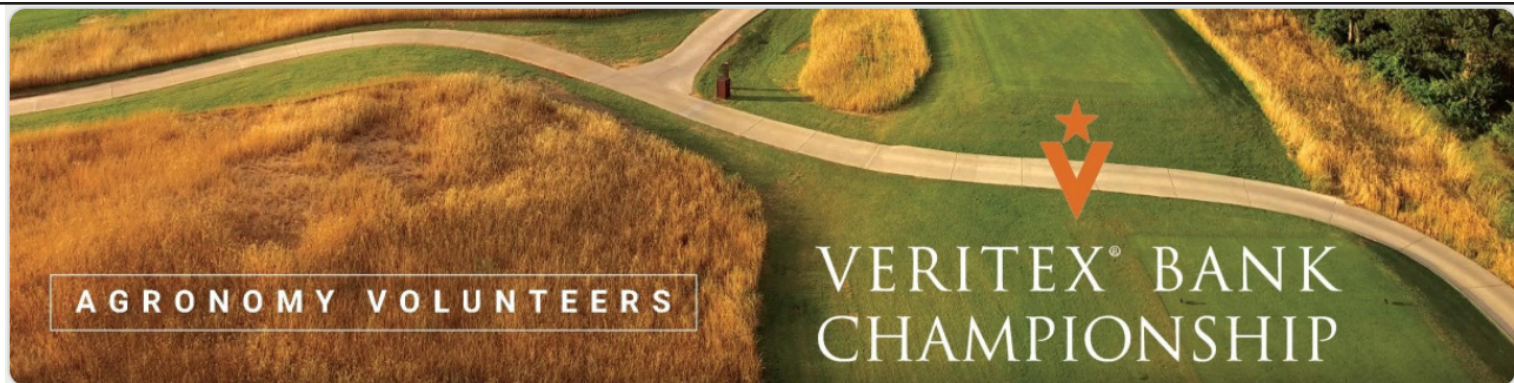
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Championship - April 20 - 25, 2021

[CLICK HERE to volunteer.](#)

Thank you for your consideration!

A large background image of a golf course with a clubhouse and trees. Overlaid on this is a smaller image of a golf course with a clubhouse and trees, and a text box.



CRAIG RANCH

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NELSON

MAY 10TH - MAY 16TH

Calling All Volunteers

The Agronomy Team at TPC Craig Ranch is excited to host the 76th Edition of The AT&T Byron Nelson. The presentation of an event of this magnitude is not possible without the generous participation of volunteers working side by side with our team. Please reach out to Julia Carkeek for an application to become part of the collaboration for a week. This is a great opportunity for turf managers of all skill levels to be involved in the one of the PGA Tour's most prestigious events.

Please Email Julia Carkeek
julia.carkeek@clubcorp.com

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[Click here to view Texas BMP Guide](#)

[Click for PDF Version](#)

We are pleased to announce that the Texas Golf Industry Best Management Practices Guide has been published with a press release being distributed by GCSAA nationally and locally on Tuesday February 9, 2021. The guide will be loaded to the GCSAA website, in addition to our LSGCSA site. We have a social media campaign running in conjunction with the launch, so please support the effort by sharing/liking on Twitter and Facebook.

The guide provides an overview of thirteen best management practices (BMPs) in golf course maintenance to support environmental stewardship and optimal course conditions in the state of Texas. Our goal is to create and maintain courses that are ecologically functional and healthy green spaces, demonstrating commitment to environmental stewardship, the community, and a quality golfing experience. BMP guidelines provide operating standards to strive toward and a resource for stakeholders including regulators, lawmakers, our communities, general managers/owners, members, and guests.

The GCSAA, supported by the USGA and PGA TOUR, initially started the nationwide initiative by providing a base template. Radius Sports Group (a sustainability consulting firm), collaborating with our BMP Steering Committee, helped us develop and customize content to address local needs, practices, and regulatory areas of importance. We engaged industry leaders, regulators, and peers to review the guide. The efforts of everyone involved are greatly appreciated. Our goal will be to utilize this state guide to begin to develop and implement individual facility BMPs.

[**CLICK HERE for more information**](#)



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How and Why I wrote My First Book, Your Best Shot

by Jorge Croda, CGCS

Not long ago, along with Anthony Williams, I wrote an article on "Five Easy Ways to Increase Your Professionalism as a Head Greenkeeper (And Why It Matters)." It was published in several magazines. In this article I basically talk about the academic qualities that a head greenkeeper must fulfill, and how building a great platform of human qualities and moral values can help a person find success in golf and life.

I wanted to expand my experiences and share them with more people and so I wrote and published my first book entitled, *Your Best Shot*. I developed the fundamental aspects of golf, golf course maintenance and life, which makes the book extend to any person and situation. Above all it is tried and true, based on my own experience and rugged journey. I Thank God and golf that I have managed to build myself a safe harbor where I recharge and make the most from everything that life has given and taught me. I want to share this wisdom with everyone so they can find their own success.

It is precisely from this place, my port of peace and triumph that I have written this book where all the benefits that golf offers are explained so that anyone, regardless of their circumstance can acquire and develop all the physical, motor and moral skills that allow themselves to lay the strong foundation on which to build a future of excellence. Ultimately, enhancing their abilities and natural qualities, as well as acquiring new ones.

I have to confess that among all the skills that golf helps you acquire or develop, ingenuity is my favorite. Imagine a golf course ... it is an immense green field that you must travel to the end, although to get to the end you have to achieve a series of goals that are the holes, and between each tee and hole you can find a thousand different surprises. This is the essence of golf and life. You can have a smooth stretch that does not involve much effort, in another stretch you may find that the wind deflects your shots, and in another stretch that same wind is your best ally, in another the shot that should have been perfect ends in a sand trap, and in another one, an intense rain surprises you, or perhaps a soft breeze compensates for a hot day. This path can be traveled alone or in a group. You can teach or be taught, you can play with or without spectators as you can see this looks a lot like life itself.

Have you ever thought about writing a book or accomplishing great thing in life or golf? It is ingenuity that has allowed us to survive and thrive in any situation. We have evolved throughout the millions of years that we humans have populating this planet; it is ingenuity that has allowed us to win the day and grow different strategies, to conquer unexpected things ... in short, great inventions are the product of a need that was solved based on ingenuity and perfected based on knowledge, experience, technique, training , etc. These are the pages of my book and life in golf.

I say this to show in the best possible way the similarity that exists between golf and life, and that the practice of this sport prepares us in a unique and different way to understand life ... and be careful! I am saying face life, I am saying understand life... because when we know ourselves, when we understand ourselves, our relationship with life and with our environment is fluid. It is not that there are no setbacks or problems, it is we who know how to flow between and before these impasses, can internalize in order to live in coherence with our reality. We avoid rejections that cause unhappiness, effort and wear, but rather, in a congru-

ence find stability and happiness for us and those who share our lives. We walk our paths in harmony and hope.

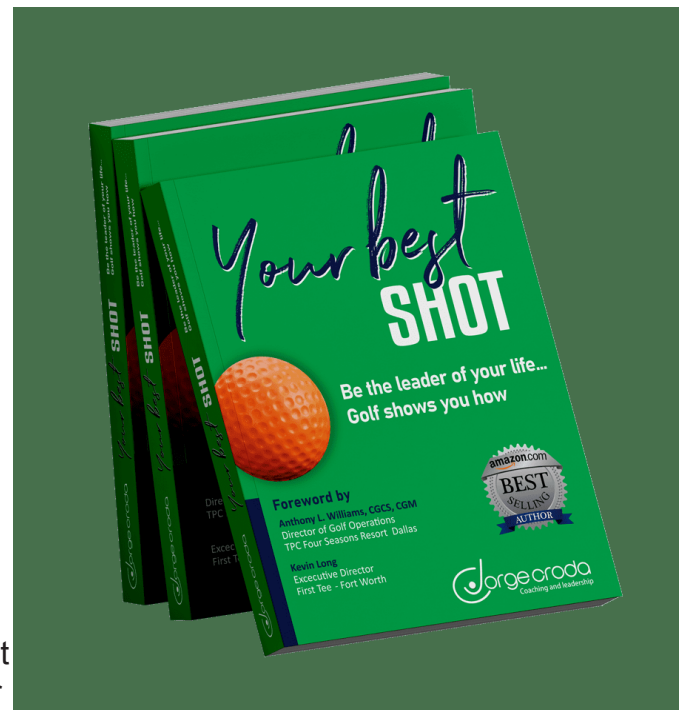
Everything that you are and achieve in this life is nothing more than the reflection of the sum of your qualities and abilities. Everyone has gifts and talents, they are innate, no one comes to this world without the necessary tools to face what they have to live, although we are the ones who must be aware of them and not only use them, but also develop and perfect them. Above all, take advantage of them, all of them in synergy and golf teaches you how! Golf is a sport and tool that, if you give it the opportunity, will teach you to lead your life first ... and from there you are able to lead yourself and your whole environment with intelligence and kindness. You will have a positive impact on everything and everyone to whom your influence reaches.

Believe me, our influence reaches where we cannot imagine, in each step we take we leave a mark. The idea is that this mark transcends for the good in any of our environments such as family, friends, work or even society itself! And as I always say, don't be paralyzed by the image that golf is expensive, or difficult, or whatever because it is not like that at all, on the contrary, it is a friendly sport in which you will always find a hand to accompany you and show you the way. I say give it a try and you will appreciate golf and all it has to give. Look at me, I have turned difficulties into opportunities, I live in a permanent state of calm—that reaches all my surroundings—that I share in articles like this and teach through the GROW program, which I myself have created as a thank you, based on all that that golf has taught me and given me. GROW is a helpful coaching program that is based on the fundamentals of golf and is aimed at all those people who wish to live differently thanks to the changes that golf allows us to internalize and then reflect in our lives at home, work and society... so let me insist... give yourself a chance to grow yourself and the game of golf!

The Top 10 Goals “Your Best Shot” is intended to achieve

1. Publicize the game of golf and the synergy it has with life
2. Skills needed for the job (Golf Course Management) to learn with golf
3. Publicize the benefits of learning the fundamentals of Golf for children, youth, adults, and people with disabilities
4. Help build and strengthen people's character
5. Understanding the 4 pillars; Trust, Constancy, Concentration and Balance
6. How golf and leadership are linked for the individual
7. Self-leadership (BE) Lead Triumph Environments (HACER) (Society and Family) Lead Others (HAVE) (Colleagues and collaborators) Lead Opportunities (RETURN TO THE COMMUNITY, Share Knowledge)
8. Leave footprints that leave a mark
9. To make playing golf a lifestyle
10. To Inspire others through my (Jorge Croda) life/golf, you are the architect of your life

Golf is the only sport that brings out the personality of the player if you want to know someone invite him to play golf. I have accomplished many things in golf some as a player, some as a teacher and some as a golf course superintendent. My life is the combination of all these things. I hope that this article, my book and my story will inspire you to find your best future possible in golf and in life. “Your Best Shot” is available in English and Spanish “Tu Mejor Tiro”.



[Click here for more information and to order](#)

GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW ENGAGEMENT STRONG THROUGH ON-DEMAND PHASE



Kate Hiebert

Virtual trade show participants took part in more than 229,400 booth visits

After welcoming attendees during the live portion of the virtual 2021 Golf Industry Show, Feb. 2-4, participation in on-demand education sessions and the 24-hour a day trade show continued through March 6.

Initial GIS statistics were released on Feb. 4 with the conclusion of the live event, but the numbers continued to rise throughout the on-demand period. Additional registrants during the on-demand phase brought the final total attendance to more than 9,500. The education component, featuring 88 sessions, saw participants engaging in 46,900 session views by the end of the on-demand portion. More than 200 exhibitors took part in the trade show, with a total of 229,434 booth visits taking place before the conclusion of the on-demand phase.

The Golf Industry Show, the largest educational conference and trade show in the turfgrass management industry, transitioned to a virtual event in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While on a virtual platform, the 2021 event continued the GIS's long tradition of connecting attendees, exhibitors and industry experts through a progressive week of unparalleled education opportunities and access to golf facility solutions for those in the golf industry.



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"We know how busy our attendees are, and so being able to offer on-demand viewing and the extended trade show was one of the great advantages of the virtual format," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "We are pleased to see that attendees not only enjoyed the live networking events and general sessions, but also found the education and trade show interaction so valuable that they returned throughout the month. We are definitely investigating having some element of extended access offerings as part of the GIS when we return to an in-person event next year."

The 2022 Golf Industry Show is currently scheduled to be an in-person event and will be in San Diego Feb. 5-10, 2022, at the San Diego Convention Center.

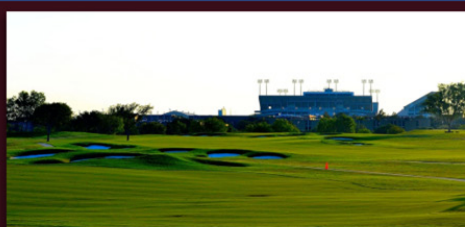


Texas Cup 2021

College Station - May 3



Title Sponsor



Registration Open!

Golf Format:

2 Person Select Drive
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If both players are members of the LSGCSA
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If only one LSGCSA member and a guest

Optional Mulligans
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Eligibility: A,B, and C -
Current Members of the Lone
Star GCSA (requires chapter
membership)

Affiliate Members - Must be
current Lone Star GCSA
Members (separate of chapter
membership)



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What to Expect from Texas Turfgrass Following the Recent Polar Vortex



Ben Wherley, PhD- Turf Ecologist
Texas A&M University-College Station

Chrissie A. Segars, PhD- Turf Extension Specialist,
Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension-Dallas

Context of the Recent Polar Vortex in Texas

While the recent arctic snap experienced across the south-central U.S. is finally in our rear-view mirror, Texans may now be left wondering how their turfgrass will respond come spring. Although the low temperatures experienced in many parts of Texas rivaled record lows not seen in over 100 years, it was the sheer duration of sub-freezing temperatures which was most unusual. For example, the DFW area encountered the second longest period of below-freezing temperatures on record. Ironically, although the Houston area experienced 1 °F wind chills, these frigid temperatures were the lowest on record since only 1990. Perhaps the one blessing in disguise for both kids and plants during this event was the snowfall that came along with it, blanketing the state as far south as Brownsville, where measurable snow had only fallen twice since record keeping began over 120 years ago.

Winter Injury of Warm-Season Turf

Winter injury of warm-season turfgrasses may arise due to numerous factors including direct low temperature kill (freezing injury), suffocation under prolonged ice cover, frost injury, and desiccation during windy, dry conditions. Of these, freezing injury due to low temperatures would be the greatest risk to grasses during an extended deep freeze like the one occurring recently. Although all warm-season grasses have some degree of built-in winter dormancy mechanisms, their relative tolerance to sub-freezing temperatures goes only so far and varies depending on the species and cultivar. In general, buffalograsses possess superior low temperature tolerance, which can be seen in the extent of their northern adaptation, extending all the way into Canada. Zoysiagrasses possess the next best cold tolerance, with cultivars such as Meyer being grown as far north as southern Indiana and Ohio. Although bermudagrass cultivars with enhanced cold tolerance have been developed in recent years, such as Latitude 36 and Northbridge, they generally possess moderate cold tolerance, limiting their use to the southern transition zone and southward. Among the warm-season grasses, centipedegrass, seashore paspalum, St. Augustinegrass, and ultradwarf bermudagrasses (putting greens) all possess the least cold tolerance and are those generally most concerned with following cold snaps like the one experienced recently.

So, what's the difference between species or cultivars with high and low freezing resistance? The answer lies in a grass species' ability to 'harden-off' or acclimate during the fall months, as temperatures begin to drop going into winter. During the acclimation process, freeze-resistant plants begin to dehydrate their cells by accumulating solutes, including sugars and ions such as potassium within the cell, which act in a similar way to antifreeze (this is one of the major reasons we apply late-season applications of potassium to warm-season turf). Freezing injury therefore is most common in plants that have not acclimated, or are unable to acclimate to low temperatures, leading to ice formation within the cell and subsequent rupture of cellular contents.

Continued on page 26



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What to Expect from Texas Turfgrass Following the Recent Polar Vortex

How Low Can They Go? Lethal Temperatures for Warm-Season Turfgrass

So, what do the data tell us? The following are published LT50 (low temperature at which 50% of plants died) thresholds for warm-season turfgrass species and cultivars. These data are derived from controlled environment research studies in which plants were exposed to gradually decreasing temperatures, followed by removal and evaluation of recovery under ideal conditions.

Table 1:
Relative freeze tolerance of warm-season turfgrasses

Table Citation: Fry, J.D., B. Huang. 2004. Applied turfgrass science and physiology. Hoboken, N.J. : John Wiley & Sons.

Relative Freeze Tolerance	Turfgrass*	Relative Killing Temperature**
		°F
Excellent	Buffalograss	-10
Very Good	Zoysiagrass (Meyer)	6
Good	Bermudagrass	18
Poor	Seashore Paspalum	19
Poor	Centipedegrass	18
Very Poor	St. Augustinegrass	23

*Killing temperature is species and cultivar dependent. Genetics plays a large role in freeze tolerance and some cultivars may or may not be able to tolerate lower or higher temperatures than expressed here.

**Killing temperature is based on the lowest estimated temperature to kill the growth point. Temperatures listed do not take into account specific characteristics of the site and should only be used as a general guideline.

Table 2: Published freeze tolerances of ultradwarf bermudagrass green cultivars

Table Citation: J.A. Anderson, C. Taliaferro, and D. Martin. 2002. Freeze

Bermudagrass Cultivar	Lethal Temp for 50% Death
	°F
Tifgreen	20.3
Tifdwarf	20.3
TifEagle	21.2
MiniVerde	21.6
Champion	23.4



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Superintendent / Pro
June 8 - Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club

Family Social
July - To Be Determined

August Event
To Be Determined

Education Event
September 16
Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Annual Meeting
October 19
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Scholarship Tournament
November 22
TPC Craig Ranch

Crew and Assistant Championship
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Table 3: Published freeze tolerances of *St. Augustinegrass* cultivars.

Table Citation: J. Kimball, S. Milla-Lewis, D. Livingston. 2017. Assessing freeze tolerance in *St. Augustinegrass*: temperature response and evaluation methods.

St. Augustinegrass Cultivar	Lethal Temperature for 50% Death
	°F
Raleigh	23.7
Palmetto	25.0
Floritam	28.9

Table 4: Published freeze tolerances of *Zoysiagrass* cultivars.

Table Citation: Okeyo, D.O., J.D. Fry, D.J. Bremer, C.B. Rajashekar, M. Kennelly, A. Chandra, A.D. Genovesi, and M.C. Engelke. 2011. Freezing tolerance and seasonal color of experimental zoysiagrasses.

Zoysiagrass Cultivar	Lethal Temperature for 50% Death
	°F
Meyer	8.7 to 12.7
Innovation	10.8 to 16.9
Cavalier	22.6 to 31.6

Figure 1: Freeze-damaged area of fine textured zoysiagrass and plug from same area with green tissue within canopy



Snow Cover Effects on Soil Temperatures

The risk of direct low temperature kill varies based on turfgrass species and cultivar. However, there are numerous confounding stresses that may also set the plant up for greater risk, which include shade, traffic, drainage issues, direction of slope, and soil compaction. When assessing potential for low-temperature injury, a focus should be placed on temperatures encountered at or near the soil surface during the period of concern combined with the duration of sub-freezing exposure. In the absence of snow, ambient air temperatures may be a good means of estimating soil surface temperatures. However, if snow is present (as was the case with the recent cold snap in Texas) it insulates the turf, creating a physical barrier to heat loss which often keeps the turf near or even above freezing. In fact, this is the same reason that golf courses cover greens with winter blanket during sub-freezing conditions.

Continued on page 30

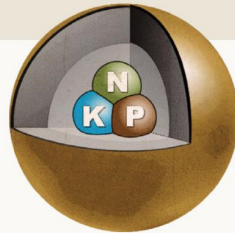
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What to Expect from Texas Turfgrass Following the Recent Polar Vortex

When considering these LT50 thresholds combined with the 3+ days of sub-freezing temperatures we encountered across Texas recently, the outlook for warm-season turfgrass survival and recovery would seem very bleak, were it not for the timely snowfall that occurred and insulated the ground through most of the extreme cold. As an example, Figure 1 illustrates air and soil (surface and 2") low temperatures as measured from Feb. 12th through 21st at the Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Laboratory in College Station. Note that the daily low air temperature (green line) plunges from 16.6 °F on Feb. 14 to 7.7 °F on Feb. 15, and finally to 4.9 °F on Feb. 16. Despite these extremely low, sub-lethal air temperatures, the snow cover helped stabilized soil temperatures, keeping them much higher and closer to freezing. At the soil surface (red line), temperatures never dropped below 26.4 °F during the coldest period of the event. In addition, soil temperatures at the 2" depth (blue line) never fell below freezing. Based on these observations, we would assume that temperatures at the 1" depth likely stayed at or slightly above freezing during the event as well.

Figure 2: Air and Soil Low Temps for College Station during the recent multi-day freeze event

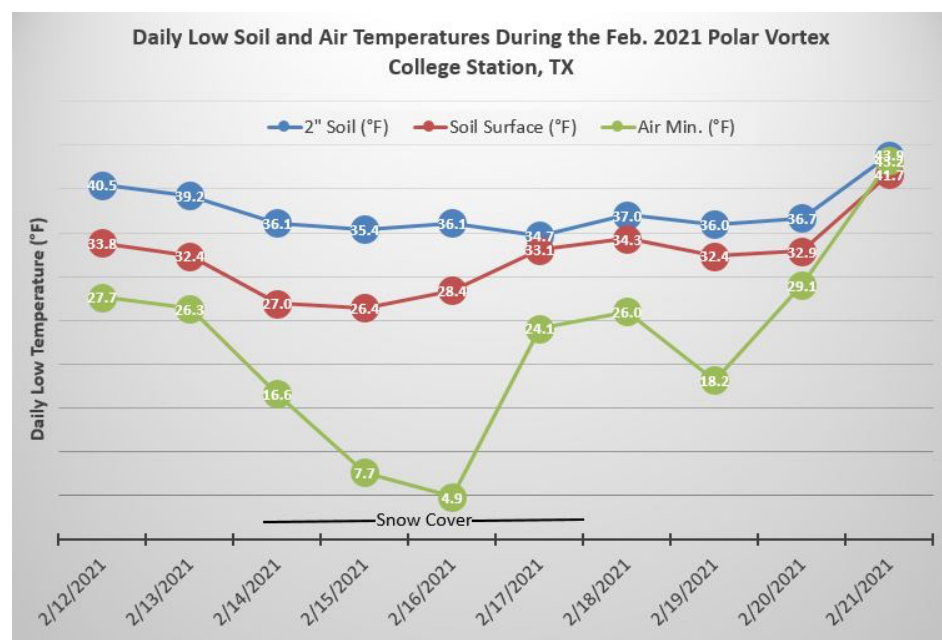


Figure 3: Ultradwarf bermudagrass green covered in snow

Outcome of This Event on Warm-Season Turf

While it's likely that spring green-up may be delayed in many areas and stands may be thinner than usual, based on these data, we are cautiously optimistic that we will see favorable spring recovery of warm-season turf stands across much of south-central Texas. For more northerly regions of the state including DFW, where even lower temperatures than these were encountered, we expect winterkill is likely to be more widespread, primarily for St. Augustinegrass lawns and ultradwarf bermudagrass greens. However, patience is key this spring, as delayed recovery and green-up may be expected from rhizomatous species including bermudagrass and zoysiagrass. This is going to be the case where low temperature kill injured stolons/rhizomes near the surface, but re-growth may still be possible from deeper in the canopy where temperatures were stabilized near or above freezing during the multi-day freeze event.

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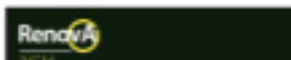
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What to Expect from Texas Turfgrass Following the Recent Polar Vortex

What can I do now?

Diagnosing Potential Winterkill: Quick methods for assessing viability of turf areas

Patience is key in assessing winter injury of turfgrass in its entirety. There are a few steps that you can take right now to assess the potential for winterkill in your turfgrass areas.

Step 1: Collect turfgrass plugs from suspected low-temperature damaged areas. This may include varying areas that receive more shade, endure higher amounts of traffic, have drainage issues, on north facing slopes, or have greater soil compaction.

Step 2: Place the turfgrass plug in a container that contains native soil or sand similar to that used in the root zone.

Step 3: Place the container in a sunny location such as southern facing window indoors or greenhouse.

Step 4: Keep plugs adequately watered. Growth/greening should begin in 7-to-10 days.

Step 5: Assess the crown region for signs of green leaf tissue and overall green coverage after plugs have grown for approximately 2-to-3 weeks.

Step 6: You may choose to repeat the sampling procedure on a 14-to-21-day interval throughout periods of cold weather.

Figure 4: Tifway fairway turf being examined for life after the recent freeze event



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What to Expect from Texas Turfgrass Following the Recent Polar Vortex

Turf considerations for this spring: Fertility and herbicide strategies

When a period of potential winter stress or injury occurs, there are some further considerations for input use during the spring transition period. Often, periods of potential winter injury occur during contemplations for spring fertilizer and herbicide use. The extent of winter injury can be unknown at this time. During the period of the unknown, it is recommended not to rush applications of fertilizer or herbicides following a harsh period of cold weather and to avoid, if able, applications of selective herbicides to areas that have potentially been weakened by winter injury.

Fertilizer Use

This is a great time to consider taking a soil test. This will allow you to prepare not only for the potential establishment of new grass but also to recover the areas that were not killed by the cold temperatures. It is our recommendation to hold off on the addition of fertilizers until potential winter damage can be assessed. This will allow proper applications of nutrients that can be taken up by actively growing plants and will not be lost to the environment. Once turfgrass begins actively growing, the addition of fertilizer will aid in recovery. Once temperatures are conducive, spoon-feeding with frequent, lower rates of complete fertilizer may be needed to encourage recovery of thin or damaged areas.

Pre-emergence products

In general, pre-emergence products are labeled to be safe for healthy, established turfgrass. Root inhibiting herbicides (proflam, pendimethalin, dithiopyr, indaziflam) can delay recovery in areas affected by winter-kill. The pre-product oxadiazon (Ronstar) will not affect pegging down of roots and applications are safe for establishment of sod or sprigs where recovery may be needed. Please note that Oxadiazon is not labeled for residential use.

Pre- and Post- emergence programs

Another consideration is foregoing the application of pre-emergence products during the spring transition period in areas where winter injury is suspected and waiting until full spring green-up has occurred. This would allow scouting of areas that may need to be replanted and would avoid the slowing of recovery from the application of pre-emergence herbicides. This option would rely on early scouting for troublesome weeds and the use of post-emergence products for early spring weed control. Should you find that areas do not need to be reseeded or resodded, an option would be to tank mix a pre- and post- emergent product for your initial application. This would allow the pre-product to stop further emergence of summer annual weeds and allow the post-product to clean up any immature summer annual weeds that may have emerged during the green-up period. If moderate to heavy winterkill has occurred, avoid applications of pre-products if reseeding or resodding will be done right away. Pre-emergence products have varying soil residuals, so time applications before or after seeding/sodding. Remember to always read the label for product use around newly established turfgrass.

Concluding Thoughts

While we won't know the full extent of damage from the recent arctic blast for a few weeks, it serves as a reminder to us that Mother Nature can be unpredictable, and we should always have a plan in place for these types of events, as uncommon as they are. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we all come through this better than expected!



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Site-Specific Shade Assessment

Tree removal is arguably one of the most difficult tasks to carry out on a golf course.

That's not to say the act of cutting down and cleaning up a tree is overly complicated and beyond the abilities of the course maintenance team. In fact, most maintenance departments have the necessary tools and skills to complete significant amounts of tree work in-house. Trying to convince key decision-makers which trees need to come down and why is usually the greatest challenge.



John Daniels
USGA Agronomist
Central Region

When it comes to tree removal priorities, addressing shade is frequently at the top of the list for superintendents. Many tech-savvy superintendents have found success using mobile apps like Sun Seeker or Sun Surveyor to help make the case for tree removal. These apps allow the user to quickly visualize areas where the sun is blocked on a given date and estimate the amount of sunlight hours it receives. USGA agronomists also routinely use these apps during Course Consulting Service visits to identify problematic trees and help build consensus among golfers about the need to take down a particular tree.

Although these apps are certainly convenient and useful, they are unable to demonstrate the total amount of sunlight available over the course of the entire year, and instead only provide a snapshot on a single day that is selected by the user. This limitation is what led Tim Burch, superintendent at St. Louis Country Club in Missouri, to the Solar Pathfinder. With this



The Solar Pathfinder can help you identify obstacles to sunlight and determine the amount of light that an area potentially receives for each month of the year.

tool, he is able to quickly quantify the maximum amount of available sunlight for not only a single day, but for each month of the growing season. He can also identify other obstacles that interfere with sunlight at various times of the year. This has allowed him to better understand tree shade implications for key turf areas and show where improvements can be made.

Continued on next page

The Solar Pathfinder has been around since the 1970s and was originally created to help position solar panels so that the greatest amount of energy is captured. Its design also allows for many other uses, such as helping to determine why turf is struggling because of shade. The tool works by casting a 360-degree reflection of the surroundings over lines that indicate the sun path, time of day and month of the year. You can see which surrounding features will obstruct the sun at various times of day during any given month of the year and you can also easily calculate the amount of potential sunlight for a given month. For example, during October your chronically weak green might only receive 25% of the total sunlight. This information could help explain which trees are limiting turf health and be used to guide tree removal efforts. The tool is relatively easy to set up and can be used during any time of the day or year, and in cloudy or clear weather, the sun's position at the time of use is not an issue.

Removing trees to improve turf health can certainly be a sensitive subject, but hopefully tools like the Solar Pathfinder can help superintendents overcome the initial reluctance that many individuals have when tree removal is discussed.

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