

September Education Recap

Our Fall education event was held at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. Following education from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Ben Wherley, Wes Eppelle, and Brian and Kyle Cloud, several attendees stuck around for the evening's horse races, social time and dinner. Thank you to United Ag and Turf for trying something new with our education event and sponsoring a great day!



August Scramble Recap

Thanks to all that joined us for our August Scramble at Coyote Ridge and thank you to Longhorn for sponsoring a great day. Though the heat was nearly unbearable, the company made it worth it!

Congratulations to the team of Willie Wallace, Kyle Moore and Michael Underwood on their first place win. The team of Austin Brown, Brian Sutton, Frank Darnell and Dusty Daniels finished in second place. Proximity winners for the day are listed below.

Proximity Winners

- Longest Drive #2 - Drue Thompson
- Closest to the Pin #7 - Monty Ashworth
- Closest to the Pin #11 - Coby Morrow
- Closest to the Pin #14 - Roger Meier





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Upcoming Events

Scholarship Tournament - SOLD OUT

October 30, 2023

Northwood Club

Annual Meeting

November 13, 2023

Grapevine Golf Course

Crew Championship

December 4, 2023

Brookhaven Country Club

Awards Banquet

January 6, 2024

River Crest Country Club

Other Events and Dates to be announced soon!



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President's Message

I hope everyone has had a chance to breathe now that the weather has cooled off for us. I know we could all use more, but hopefully you got at least a little rain on top of the cooler fall temperatures! This has been yet another year that our industry has proven how important and valuable we are to the game of golf. You all continue to fight through the stresses that Mother Nature continually gives us. I am proud to be a part of this group.

We have an unbelievable Fall calendar coming up, and I hope you all take the opportunity to be a part of it. First up is our annual Scholarship Tournament at Northwood Club on October 30th. This should be a fantastic day for everyone involved. At the beginning of the year, one of the goals of the Board of Directors was to bring notoriety to Superintendents and to our industry as a whole. This year, "The Hardline" from 96.7 and 1310 The Ticket will be broadcasting live from Northwood from 3pm to 7pm. This will be a great opportunity for Superintendents to get some much-needed notoriety in DFW and beyond. It will also serve as a great opportunity for us to promote our profession and the job opportunities we have to offer. I highly recommend posting any job openings that your course has open to the NTGCSA job board. We will have many ears that will hear of these opportunities for the first time. Let's take full advantage of this opportunity! Let's not forget the reason for the event though. The purpose of the day is to raise money for scholarships for our members' children as they seek further education. Whether you have young kids, old kids, no kids, or hope to have kids in the future, remember they will be seeking scholarships one day, and hopefully when the time comes, there will be plenty of scholarships opportunities to help them out!



We will also be hosting our Annual Meeting at Grapevine Golf Course on November 13th. This is an important event for our association. Here, you will be able to hear the state of the association, and participate in our annual elections for next year's Board. If you have never served on the Board, I highly encourage you consider doing so. Serving on the Board has pushed me out of my comfort zone, and has given me the opportunity to meet numerous people in our industry that I would not have met otherwise. I have learned that the more I am forced to be uncomfortable, the easier it becomes. It has also been an honor to serve the great members of our association. If you have interest, please reach out to Shannon Phillips or any board member and let us know. It is that easy!

One last cool update. On October 22nd, PGA Frisco will be hosting the 2023 Texas Golf Hall of Fame celebration. Thanks to the work of the Lonestar GCSA, next year there will be a category for "Agronomic Professional". There has never been a Superintendent elected to the Texas Golf Hall of Fame and this gives us a great opportunity to change that going forward. Obviously, it's hard to imagine golf without the Superintendent, so it seems only fitting that one-day Superintendents are regarded as important as any other category. This is a great step in bringing notoriety to our profession and to those who came before us.

In closing, I want to encourage everyone to get involved. This is a tremendous association filled with tremendous members. I have learned, the more involved I get, the more benefits I get from it. Though we are all at different courses, we all typically deal with the same issues. What better way to navigate issues than with like-minded people?

I hope to see you all soon!

Neil Packard

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2023 Family Social Recap

This year's Family Social was held at Globe Life Field in Arlington. Attendees had a great time, even though the game outcome wasn't in the Rangers' favor.

Thanks to all that joined us and thank you to PTP for helping us put on another great event!

We apologize that this year's event sold out, but hope to do it again next year! Be on the lookout for more details and be sure to sign up early!



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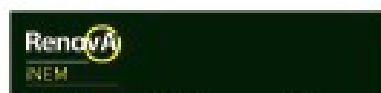
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Call for Job Postings

Staffing has long been an issue for golf course superintendents. We have a unique opportunity for you at this year's Scholarship Tournament. The Hardline from 96.7 and 1310 The Ticket will be broadcasting live from Northwood from 3pm to 7pm. We plan to use this time to drive traffic to our Web site and specifically to our job board. This will be a great opportunity to advertise any job opportunities that you have to offer. We will have many ears that will hear of these opportunities for the first time. Email Shannon at ntgcsa@gmail.com to post ANY jobs you have available or visit our Web site at https://ntgcsa.org/form.php?form_id=10&c=1 to post directly to our site.

GCSAA Call to Action - October 19 Deadline



Challenge your chapter to advocate for the game

Help GCSAAPAC. GCSAAPAC is the only federal political action committee dedicated to golf course management. We're entirely member supported. That means we need chapters like yours to encourage members to contribute. We've created the Chapter Challenge to help.

\$100 by October 19, 2023. Between September 1 and October 19, 2023, we are challenging each of GCSAA's 94 chapters to secure at least \$100 in contributions from its individual members. That will enable us to reach our goal of \$15,000 in contributions for this year.

Can my chapter just contribute the entire amount?

GCSAAPAC can only accept contributions from individual members. Chapters cannot contribute. Neither can facilities. A contribution from a chapter or facility would have to be returned.

Top chapters recognized with the GCSAAPAC Cup!

Two chapters will be recognized at GCSAA's annual Chapter Delegates meeting: the one that raises the most funds and the one that raises the most funds per member. Each will be honored with a trophy/plaque.

We need YOUR help

If you are a:

- Class A or B Superintendent (including retired Superintendents)
- Assistant Superintendent
- Equipment Manager
- Associate Member
- Educator
- Friend
- or a member of any of their families

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- 1. By check.** Make your personal check payable to "GCSAAPAC".
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- 2. Online.** Online donations can be made at:
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- 3. Text.** Text "GCSAAPAC" to 758-756-4005.

Contributions to GCSAAPAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. Contributions are voluntary. Your contribution will be used to support candidates for federal office who support golf course management issues. The amount given by the contributor, or the refusal to give, will not benefit or disadvantage the person being solicited. Contributing more or less than the suggested amount is permissible. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

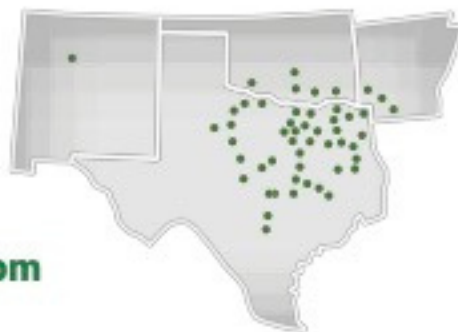


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Understanding the Lifespan of Golf Course Maintenance Equipment

Cory Isom, Agronomist, West Region

Golf course superintendents rely on a fully functional fleet of equipment to work their magic. A typical course can have more than \$500,000 invested in mowers, tractors, sprayers, utility carts and many other specialized machines. Some pieces of equipment cost more than \$100,000 on their own! Equipment managers do their best to keep these fleets sharp and in good repair, but even the best-maintained pieces of equipment have a lifespan. So, how do superintendents know when it's time to replace a piece of equipment?



With a car, we would generally look at the mileage to estimate when a replacement was warranted. However, golf equipment does not typically come with an odometer because miles traveled isn't the best measure of equipment use. Engine hour meters are actually a better way to track the lifespan of course maintenance equipment. Here's a scenario that explains why:

You have a choice between two trucks that are exactly the same model and color. One has 100,000 "highway" miles. The other has 100,000 "city" miles. You would likely prefer the highway-miles truck because the assumption is that it took less engine time to accumulate those miles. Whereas the city-miles truck could have four to five times the number of engine hours to rack up the same 100,000 miles. That's a big difference in overall wear and tear, which is why engine hours matter.

Unfortunately, most golfers, course owners, committee members and general managers aren't used to thinking about equipment life in terms of engine hours, so it can be tough for superintendents to explain when a piece of equipment has reached the end of its useful life. Unless you have an odometer and an hour meter on a greens mower, there is currently no easy way to translate engine hours into miles driven. More importantly, even if your greens mower had both, the miles on equipment don't translate well into the automotive world that most people understand. So, let's wade through some of the variables that need to be considered and see if we can make a reasonable translation of engine hours into miles.

RPMs

Revolutions per minute (rpm) is a measurement of engine speed. 3,000 rpm is a normal operating speed for golf equipment. Most modern, non-commercial vehicles are geared to maximize fuel economy. This means that you will rarely find yourself driving a car or truck in the 3,000 rpm range. If you were, you'd be traveling much faster than most speed limits – probably in the 80-90 mph range. However, this is where a good comparison between engine hours and miles can begin.

RPM Calculator: 1 engine hour at 3,000 rpm = 85 miles.

Terrain

Most golf courses are not flat and they're certainly not smooth like pavement or concrete. Golf courses have hills, valleys, curbs, bridges, tree roots, wet spots and everything in between. *Continued on page 13.*

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Understanding the Lifespan of Golf Course Maintenance Equipment

Cory Isom, Agronomist, West Region, *Continued from page 11*



Using the formula outlined below, this mower would have the equivalent of about 400,000 miles on it. Probably time to think about replacement.

Those 85 miles will feel like much more to the engine throughout its operating time. So, adding 10% to our 85 miles is warranted. More should be added if the golf course is exceptionally hilly.

Terrain Multiplier: Normal golf course = 10% more miles. Extremely hilly golf course = 20% more miles.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance is assumed in these calculations. However, there may be times when equipment maintenance can't keep up with use. In these instances, the extra burden on the engine can cause quicker deterioration.

Maintenance Multiplier: Irregular maintenance = 10%-20% more miles.

The following chart shows how golf course equipment engine hours can be translated into an estimated mileage for a personal vehicle, assuming routine maintenance is being performed.

Translating Engine Hours Into Mileage	
Hours	Miles*
1,000	93,500
2,000	187,000
3,000	280,500
4,000	374,000
5,000	467,500
6,000	561,000
7,000	654,500

This is a simplified estimation of engine life. There are many other factors that influence the useful life of course maintenance equipment. However, this formula can be used as a baseline for making equipment replacement discussions much easier to understand.

This article was originally posted in the October 6 edition of The Green Section Record at <https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record.html>.

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Member Spotlight - Kevin Carpenter, Northwood Club

1. How did you get into the business?

I started playing golf at the age of 5. My dad was the high school golf coach and my brother and I often tagged along with him and his golf team. I think I may have been in charge of making sure there were no frogs in the cups, but nonetheless I had a club in my hand at an early age. A football injury my senior year in high school ended all hopes of any sports in college. My brother went on to be a golf professional and I took the alternate route, the better route, of becoming a Golf Course Superintendent.

2. Tell me about the Northwood Club property.

Northwood club is on a great piece of land that was originally the Fogelson Ranch. There are subtle topography changes across the property that you wouldn't expect in North Dallas. White Rock Creek borders the north and southeast sections of the golf course. While White Rock Creek only comes into play on two holes, the par 5 14th hole is one amazing tee shot from the rock outcropping along the creek. Reminiscent of something you might see in the hill country.

3. What is the most rewarding part of your job?

There are so many rewarding aspects of my job. Being able to work outside, seeing sunrises and sunsets, accomplishing projects, or having an idea that comes to fruition. But I think the most rewarding is the people. I have an amazing staff of men and women that dedicate long hours and give up weekends and holidays to maintain the course and grounds. I try to learn from them and hopefully I get to teach them something along the way. Also, the members of Northwood are like family. I'm so grateful to work for a membership that cares as much about me and my staff as they do the golf course. They believe in us and trust us to do the right thing. They understood the necessity to improve our maintenance facility and we completed a completely new facility a few years ago.

4. If you could play a round of golf with any PGA professional past or present, who would you want to play with?

In 1981 I got to meet Lee Trevino during the Texas Oklahoma Junior Golf Tournament in Wichita Falls. That was the first professional golfer I ever saw hit a golf ball. From that moment on he was the golfer I would tune in to watch on tv. He's always had such a big personality and rarely did he not have a huge smile on his face while playing. It always seemed that he played for the love of the game and had fun playing it. The PGA tour players today are too uptight and serious. It's a game, it should be fun! Give me a round with "The Merry Mex".

5. If you had an hour of free time, how would you spend it?

Free time? I'm not sure what that is. I'm not typically one to sit and relax. If I ever get a moment to do something leisurely it's hopefully with family. My favorite part of the day is after dinner when my wife and I take the dogs for a walk. I always try to take Sundays off to attend church and spend time with family. It takes my mind off work and gets me mentally prepared for the upcoming week.

Continued on page 22

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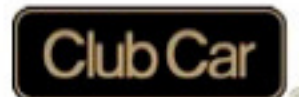
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Volunteers Needed!

We need more volunteers to get involved with the NTGCSA! We have several committees for members to serve on and also need members to serve on our Board of Directors.

We have 3 Superintendent Board positions (one 1-year term and two 2-year terms) and 1 Affiliate Board position (2-year term) open for election at our Annual Meeting.

Superintendent board members must be Class A or B members.

To volunteer to serve on one of our committees, or run for our Board of Directors, contact Shannon at ntgcsa@gmail.com.

Be sure to also mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on November 13 at Grapevine Golf Course. Registration link and info coming soon!

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GCSAA Conference and Trade Show

Do you plan to attend the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Phoenix?

We've set up room blocks for NTGCSA members at the following hotels:

- Hyatt Regency Phoenix: \$329 per night does not include 12.57% tax
- Renaissance Phoenix Downtown: \$304 per night does not include 12.57% tax
- Sheraton Phoenix Downtown: \$299 per night does not include 12.57% tax
- The Westin Phoenix Downtown: \$319 per night does not include 12.57% tax

Rooms are blocked until December 7, 2023. After this date rooms will be released into the general sale.

Reservation(s) must be guaranteed with a credit card in the amount equaling a deposit of one night's room & tax for each room reserved. The credit card used to hold room(s) must be valid through February 2024. Please note, nothing will be charged to the credit card at the time of booking.

Book at <https://book.passkey.com/gt/lodging/219460561?gtid=b96bc1eb4585f6a5a752e6bb5e928df>

Housing Deadlines & Cancellation Policies:

December 18, 2023 - Individual reservations can be cancelled without penalty until this date.

December 19, 2023 - Cancellations made on or after December 19, 2023, up to the individual hotel's cancellation policy will incur a \$100 cancellation fee per reservation from Connections Housing.

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Member Spotlight, Continued from page 15

6. What is one thing readers don't know about you, that they might be interested to learn?

I think most have probably seen my video work at the annual banquet. I'm also a photographer and own my own photography and film business. I've been taking photos and creating videos since college. Most of my work is in the travel and lifestyle genre. Golf course photography and videos revolving around golf has led to other projects. My business has grown substantially outside of the golf world, and I have some exciting opportunities on the horizon. It's a great thing to keep my creative side occupied. Having a hobby or another distraction outside of work can keep the mind fresh.

Kevin is a long-time member and former President of the NTGCSA. He is also the Superintendent of Northwood Club and our host for this year's scholarship tournament.



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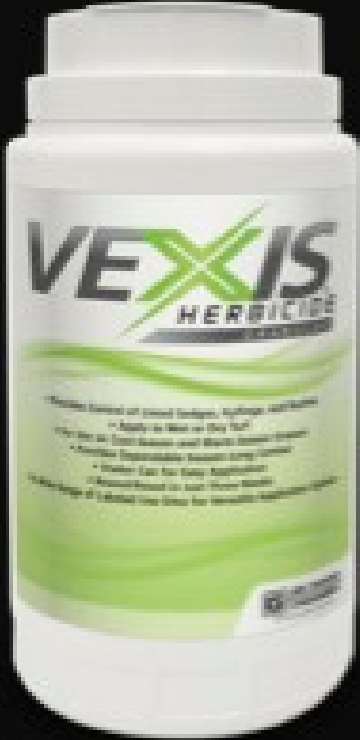
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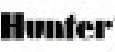
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