

From the President =

I can hardly believe that winter is already here and the grass is already on its way into dormancy. It feels nice to actually get to switch into project mode and accomplish some much needed drainage projects and other things that were set aside during the growing months. Winter always serves as a great time to get things in order for the upcoming season.

Thanks to all who participated at the super-pro tournament in New Orleans. It was a pleasure to have everyone out at NOCC. Everybody seemed to have had a great time and I hope to be able to host another event in the future. The vendor participation and support for this event was phenomenal, thanks again.

Thanks to Alan Sullivan for hosting the recent mechanics workshop at the Grand Bear. This event was well attended and allowed some of our behind the scene guys to participate and network with other technicians in the area. Mechanics play a big part of what we do and the product that we produce. LMGCSA has a mechanic classification, so if your mechanic is not currently a member, please sign him/her up, the charge is only \$50.00.

I would like to congratulate Matt Long of Mississippi State University as he is the recipient of the LMGCSA turf scholarship. Matt is an outstanding student with a desire to only achieve the best. I am certain that Matt will be amongst the industry leaders in the future. Great job, Matt!

This year seems like it has passed by at a blink of an eye. It seems like just yesterday when I was taking the reins of LMGCSA as president. I am certainly grateful to have served everyone this year as president and can insure you that the association is headed in the right direction with many upcoming professionals who have the desire to exceed. LMGCSA needs your help to remain successful in the future; there will be an upcoming events calendar that will be distributed and will

list all of the forthcoming events and activities that will be involved. Go ahead and mark these events on your calendars and plan on attending. These events serve as an opportunity to network and obtain useful information that you can bring back to your golf course. Remember, that this association is here to serve us as members and continue to help us all grow as professionals.

Thanks to all of our venders for their support. Your dedication is appreciated and always remembered while making purchasing decisions.

Neil Mayberry New Orleans Country Club Madisonville, LA

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From all of us, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!

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Welcome, New Members!

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E: brunsondp@comcast.net

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42 Colonial Club Drive Harahan, LA 70123 B: 504-737-0601 F: 504-737-4895 C: 504-913-1829

E: jjrsuper76@yahoo.com

CORRECTION

In the list of LMGCSA Presidents in our fall newsletter, Charles (Buck) Raus was inadvertently not listed. Buck was elected President in 1982 and did such a great job he was re-elected in

Buck has been retired for many years and is enjoying the good life in the Monroe, Louisiana area.

LMGCSA apologizes for the error and thanks Buck for his service to the association.

Mark Your Calendars!

What: LTA Annual Conference

When: January 5, 2012

Where: Lawton Room, Tiger Stadium

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA

Time: Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

What: LMGCSA Annual Meeting

When: January 11, 2012

Where: Brookhaven Country Club

640 Country Club Road NE

Brookhaven, MS

Time: Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

What: GCSAA Conference / GIS
When: February 27-March 2, 2012

Where: Las Vegas, Nevada

What: Hospitality Night GCSAA Conference

When: February 29, 2012

Where: Gordon Biersch Restaurant-Brewery

Las Vegas, Nevada

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

What: Seminar / Golf Outing

When: March 2012 Where: TPC-LA

Avondale, LA

What: Golf Course Management Workshop

When: May 2012

Where: Dancing Rabbit Golf Club

Choctaw, MS

What: Muscular Dystrophy Camp Sunshine

Community Service Project

When: June 2012 Where: Bunkie, LA

What: Super Pro Golf Tournament

When: September 2012

Where: TBA

What: Seminar / Golf Outing

When: October 2012

Where: The Preserve Golf Club

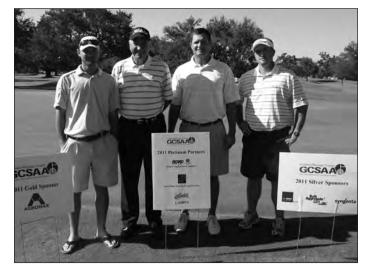
Vancleave, MS

2011 SuperPro Tournament

New Orleans Country Club • October 24, 2011



Linda Wells and Neil Mayberry, LMGCSA President and host for the 2011 SuperPro



First Place Team—SuperPro 2011 New Orleans Country Club

Left to Right: Jeremy Ely, Steve Sykes, Gavin Bauer, Brad Rounsaville MADISON, MS 601-859-0020

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The Field of Excellence Program

Authors: Ron Strahan and Jeff Beasley

Friday nights in the fall find football stadiums filled with excited fans cheering on their local heroes. Few things unite communities like the local high school football team. Louisiana high school football has great tradition and it's played at an extremely high level. Unfortunately our football fields don't always match the quality of the athletes on the field. After working several years with high school coaches and field managers, it became very obvious that many Louisiana high school football fields were in deplorable shape causing unsafe playing conditions that can lead to potentially serious head and spinal injuries. These poor field conditions included severely compacted soils, excessive weed pressure, uneven playing surfaces, and overall poor turf coverage. In order to address these problems, the LSU AgCenter 'Field of Excellence' program was initiated in 2010 and made available to selected high schools across the state. The goal of the program was to provide guidance to improve the condition and overall quality of the participating high school's football field.

LSU AgCenter experts and parish agents working with the Field of Excellence program provide periodic visits (usually every 2 to 3 weeks) to assess the field throughout the spring and summer growing season. Recommendations are made to improve the overall agronomic conditions (fertility, weed management, etc.) and practices such as core aerification are implemented to reduce dangerous soil compaction problems that can potentially cause serious injuries. Following the AgCenter recommendations dramatically improves the aesthetic appearance of the fields and allows



Vermilion Catholic participated in the program in 2010



Vidalia High School coaches help sprig Vidalia High Field

them to recover from excessive use. The program begins in late winter and ends after the final home game.

Most football fields are improved by just getting turf managers to follow simple agronomic practices. However, some fields need more than just improved agronomic practices to get them in playing shape. For example, in 2011 the LSU AgCenter Field of Excellence Program and parish agents, Dr. Nan Huff and Dennis Burns, assisted Vidalia High School in the complete renovation of their field. Winnfield High School was completely renovated in 2010 with the assistance of parish agent, Donnie Moon. The Louisiana Turfgrass Association named Winnfield High School as its 2011 High School Football Field of the Year and the school received a \$500 award for field maintenance.

There were five schools that completed the program in 2011 and six schools in 2010. High schools that follow the LSU AgCenter recommendations and implement the best management practices are certified as an LSU AgCenter Field of Excellence just prior to the beginning of the football season. The schools receive a large banner and sign to display near the field that indicates that the school has participated and achieved the field of excellence distinction. Additionally, the schools are required to make a public address announcement at each game signifying that the football field is an LSU AgCenter Field of Excellence field under the direction of the participating county agent.

The overwhelming success of the program can largely be attributed to the involvement of the parish agents. This will hone the skills of the parish agent and help the turf manager develop confidence in their ability to manage fields.

The Field of Excellence program has allowed the LSU AgCenter to reach a new non-traditional audience and has continued on page 6

THE FIELD OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM continued from page 5

provided an avenue for parish agents to work closely with local school systems and the state specialists. Ultimately, the best part of the program is the dramatic change that occurs in the overall appearance and the safety and playability of the football field.

Requirements for Participation in the LSU AgCenter Field of Excellence Program

- Follow through with the recommendations of the LSU AgCenter
- Have funding to pay for fertilizers, chemicals, etc. needed to maintain field
- Have access to pesticide application equipment such as sprayers and spreaders
- Have someone available to correctly apply fertilizers and herbicides when recommended
- Have access to core or spike aerifier to relieve soil compaction periodically during the growing season
- Ability to irrigate field
- Recognize the LSU AgCenter at each home game with the announcement: <u>field or stadium name</u> is "an LSU AgCenter Field of Excellence" under the direction of county agent's name.



Wossman High Field of Excellence Honorable Mention Award with Athletic Director Dale Zimmerman and Parish Agent Richard Letlow



Chapter Delegates Meeting October 28-30, 2011

This past October I had the opportunity to represent the LMGCSA at the chapter delegates meeting held at our association's national headquarters in Lawrence, KS. This meeting provides an opportunity for the chapter delegates to get a behind the scenes look into the operations of the GCSAA, tour our national headquarters, network with peers from around the country and meet candidates that are running for positions on the board in 2012.

This was my first opportunity to make the trip to Lawrence and my eyes were opened to the value the GCSAA provides to our profession and the game of golf as a whole. Our national association is very active in the areas of government relations, marketing, professional development, environment and numerous other areas that support our industry. I highly recommend this rewarding experience to anyone who may be interested in attending the delegates meeting in the future.

I look forward to updating you on the candidates that are running for office in 2012 at the annual meeting in January.

Regards, Stephen Miles, CGCS The Preserve Golf Club



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News from GCSAA...

CGCS: Certified Golf Course Superintendent

Update: As of Nov. 7, 2011, the following changes have been made to GCSAA's certification program: Members wishing to apply for certification may now do so immediately upon attainment of Class A status. The additional requirements of one year as a Class A member and 5.0 education points have been removed.

GCSAA offers a professional certification program that enables golf course superintendents to be recognized for their superior levels of achievement in golf course management. The professional designation, Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS), is bestowed upon those who voluntarily meet the stringent requirements.

The CGCS designation is the most widely recognized in the golf industry and the highest level of recognition that can be achieved. Approximately 25% of GCSAA Class A members are certified golf course superintendents.

For more information, visit www.gcsaa.org.

Education: Live Webcasts... Free to All GCSAA Members

You can visit the GCSAA website: www.gcsaa.org to see a list of available webcasts and to register.

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H-2B Visa Wage Rule Effective Date Now January 2, 2012

No federal funding can enforce new H-2B visa wage rule before January 2, 2012.

President Obama signed into law November 18 a "mimibus" appropriations package (H.R. 2112), which includes language that prohibits any FY2012 federal funding to be used to implement, administer or enforce the new H-2B visa wage rule prior to January 1, 2012. The rule was previously scheduled to go into effect November 30. The "minibus" package also includes a continuing resolution extension that keeps the federal government funded through December 16 of this year.

The package also includes the FY2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill; the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill; and the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Bill.

The U. S. Senate approved a conference committee report by a 70–30 vote on November 17, hours after it passed the U. S. House of Representatives, 298–121. H.R. 2112 contains the following legislative language regarding implementation of the new H-2B visa wage rule:

None of the funds made available by this or any other Act for fiscal year 2012 may be used to implement, administer, or enforce, prior to January 1, 2012, the rule titled, "Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-agriculture Employment H-2B Program" published by the Department of Labor in the Federal Register on January 19m 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 3452 et seq.).

A Joint Explanatory Statement from the minibus conference committee report also states:

Section 546 prohibits any funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce the "Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-agricultural Employment H-2B Program" prior to January 1, 2012, to allow time for Congress to address this rulemaking. In making prevailing wage determinations for the H-2B nonimmigrant visa program for employment prior to January 1, 2012, the conferees direct the Secretary of Labor to continue to apply the rule titled, "Labor Certification Process and Enforcement for Temporary Employment in Occupations Other Than Agriculture or Registered Nursing in the United States (H-2B Workers); and Other Technical Changes" published by the Department of Labor on December 19, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 78020 et seq).

GCSAA will continue to work with the H-2B Workforce Coalition to help pass a more permanent fix to the new H-2B wage rule.

Duck Hole 'Dads' (Dat's Crawdads)

Mississippi Delta farmer, Léonard Gibeault said, "Look at all the crawfish round the drain pipe in the duck hole. Get the dip nets from the truck, Aaeeeeeeeeh!" Indeed, crawfish (aka "crayfish," "crawdads," "mud-bugs") are native invertebrate crustaceans, abundant in wetlands in the Mississippi Delta, Louisiana, and throughout the Southeast.

One prime habitat where crawdads occur naturally is moist-soil wetlands. These totally naturally grass-sedge dominated wetlands, often managed for waterfowl and duck hunting, team with crawdads during spring and into summer until the wetlands dry and the crawdads burrow deep into the soil to survive the dry season.

Most crawfish we all enjoy at springtime boils come from rice fields and the Atchafalaya Basin in Louisiana. Although Louisiana leads the nation in crawfish production, moist-soil wetlands and swamps in Mississippi and other states in the Lower Mississippi Valley provide suitable habitat for native crawfish, ducks, and other wetland wildlife.

Léonard Gibeault and scientists in the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture at Mississippi State University have known for years about the existence of crawfish in Mississippi wetlands, but no scientific investigations of crawfish ecology in moist-soil wetlands have been conducted. Additionally, scientists have been studying various aspects culturing crawfish in rice fields, but no attempt has been made to quantify yield of crawfish from natural habitats.

Unlike commercial crawfish culturing in Louisiana, where 'stocker' crawfish are captured in swamps and then transported to rice fields where they reproduce, grow, and then are caught in baited traps and marketed, crawfish harvests in moist-soil "duck holes" rely only on native, naturally occurring crawfish. These 'mud-bugs' burrow deep into the soil after duck holes are drained during spring-summer, leaving above ground a mud "chimney" marking the site of their earthen summer hibernaculum. When duck holes are flooded in winter, juvenile and adult crawfish emerge from their earthen burrows, scavenging plant and animal foods from the bottom of wetlands.

MSU scientists decided to capitalize upon values of moist-soil wetlands for wintering waterfowl and water-quality improvement by initiating research to evaluate crawfish production from these wetlands and their economic values. A team of investigators including Ph.D. student Amy Alford and graduate advisors, Drs. Rick Kaminski, Jimmy Avery, Lou D'Abramo, Steve Grado, and Robbie Kröger, designed a survey to harvest crawfish from managed moist-soil duck holes in the Delta region of Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri.

The MSU study mimics commercial crawfish harvest strategies as employed in Louisiana. Approximately 12 traps are deployed per wetland acre, baited with crawfish bait made from fish meal, corn and soybeans. The traps and bait are the same commercially-available products used by crawfish farmers in Louisiana rice fields. Harvesting the crawfish takes place from April through June, with the traps set in about 18 inches of water. Crawfish are most active in the wetland when water temperatures reach about 65° F, which increases catch rates.

After harvest in summer, duck holes are drained to promote growth of seed

producing moist-soil grasses. The seeds provide important food for wintering ducks, and the decomposing grasses provide a substrate rich in foods for crawfish.

Crawfish harvest from duck holes will not compete with commercial production from rice fields in Louisiana. Costs associated with planting a forage crop, such as rice, machinery, transportation, and labor for commercial crawfish production can range from \$450 to \$700 per acre. To profit, farmers harvesting crawfish from Louisiana rice fields must harvest at least 10 pounds per acre per day. On average, daily production of 'duck hole dads' is about 2 pounds per acre.

However, the costs associated with crawfish harvests are reduced when a landowner wants to harvest 'duck hole dads' that exist naturally in Delta wetlands and are not stocked as in Louisiana. The vegetation forage base naturally grows in the wetland and less machinery is used to manage a wetland compared to a rice field. The big expense in harvesting crawfish from moist-soil wetlands comes mostly from the time it takes to tend to traps. The traps cost about \$8 each or can be easily made by hand for around \$5 each. The formulated bait is readily available at local feed and seed shops and typically costs \$12 for a 50-pound bag. However, waste chicken, fish, and other meats can be used.

One big question asked by the research team and public is, "How do 'duck hole dads' taste compared to Louisiana crawfish?" The misconception that duck hole wetlands are 'mirelike,' 'swampy,' or 'dirty' has led some folks to think that naturally produced crawfish will taste dirty or muddy.

continued on page 10

DUCK HOLE 'DADS' continued from page 9

Even in south Louisiana there has always been the debate over the taste of rice-field crawfish and swamp or naturally produced crawfish.

To tackle this debate, the researchers collaborated with Dr. Wes Schilling in the Department of Food Science, Nutrition, and Health Promotion at Mississippi State University to conduct a taste test analysis and let the crawfish consumers be the judge. "We had volunteers from the community and university come to our lab and rate the taste of 'duck hole dads' and commercially harvested crawfish from Louisiana," explained Dr. Schilling.

"Interestingly, about 150 panelists rated "duck hole dads" and the rice-field crawfish as well liked." Guess that debate was put to rest!

Motivation for this research wasn't only to catch and eat crawfish. Landowners and managers in the Delta and beyond are actively participating in wetlands conservation by management of duck holes. Over 50,000 acres of wetlands are enrolled in federally funded programs, such as the Wetlands Reserve Program in the Mississippi Flyway alone. And, these wetlands aren't only providing places for ducks and hunters. Wetlands are considered 'kidneys of the landscape' because they act as filters for nutrients washed off of farmlands and human-populated areas. Without wetlands, much more nutrient-rich water would enter streams and rivers and eventually travel to the Gulf of Mexico and increase the Dead Zone. The research team is also investigating the potential of duck holes to increase water quality in downstream waterbodies in Mississippi.

The researchers believe that creating duck holes provide additional sources of human food (crawfish) and recreation (hunting, wildlife watching, crawfishing), as well as provide incentives for landowners to practice wetlands conservation. Additionally, managing moist-soil wetlands will help improve water quality and replenish underground aquifers. The researchers also are considering marketing the idea of crawfish production in the thousands of acres of now idle catfish ponds in the Mississippi Delta that are growing up in natural moist-soil vegetation.

While currently the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries do not have regulations regarding the harvest of crawfish from managed wetlands, other states including Arkansas and Missouri have harvest restrictions to protect these and other aquatic organisms against overharvest. The Southeast United States has the most diverse

community of crayfish in the world. Many species are at risk of extinction if removed. Therefore, if you are interested in catching crawfish to eat, make sure you are catching the right species and have the appropriate license or permit. Typically, two species of crawfish are abundant in duck holes, the White River crawfish and the Red Swamp crawfish and you likely won't catch enough to overharvest them.

So grab a few traps and some bait, find a good duck hole, get your friends and family together, and contribute to the conservation of wetland habitat by catching and consuming your own crawfish. Boil them up, have a good time, and as Léonard Gibeault and other Cajuns would say 'Laissez le bon temps roulez, Aeeeeeeeeh!'

The following is proven, highly palatable recipe for "duck hole dads" (from Chef Neil Mayberry, Madisonville, LA).

Ingredients for 40 lbs – 60 lbs of crawfish:

- 1 container of Zatarins pro boil powder (5 lbs)
- 32 oz Zatarins liquid boil (64 oz for really spicy)
- 1 cup of vinegar
- 1 26 oz. container of non-iodized salt
- 2 tbsp of cayenne pepper
- 6 chopped lemons squeezed into the pot before placing
- 4 lbs of smoked sausage
- 8 chopped in half garlic cloves w/skins
- 4 whole yellow onions chopped in half
- 1 carton Tony's

Directions:

- 1. Bring water to a boil
- 2. Place sausage, corn, garlic, mushrooms, potatoes, lemons etc. in pot along with $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of spices
- 3. Bring back to boil then add the crawfish. At same time add remaining spices.
- 4. Once crawfish are added, return to a boil. Important, once water begins to boil vigorously, boil for 4 minutes, then remove from heat (turn burner off).
- 5. Take lid off and continue to stir for 15 minutes, place a little ice in pot to help cool for absorption of juices.
- 6. Sprinkle with Tony's and serve.

HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:30-7:30 P.M.

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LTA Conference Agenda

January 5, 2012 • Lawton Room at Tiger Stadium

Registration from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

8:50 **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Ron Labonte

Department Head, School of Plant, **Environmental and Soil Sciences**

9:00 Foliar Fertilization of Golf and **Athletic Fields**

Dr. Mike Richardson

Professor, University of Arkansas

10:00 State of the Golf Course Industry

Rick Baril

Golf Course Architect and International Golf Course Designer

10:45 **Break**

11:00 Ultradwarf Bermudagrass Update

Bud White

USGA Green Section

11:45 Eat and Fellowship

12:45 Business Meeting

1:00 Does My Turf Management Program Make the Honor Roll?

Dr. Wavne Wells

Mississippi State University

2:00 Synthetic vs. Natural Grass Athletic Fields

Dr. Mike Richardson

Professor, University of Arkansas

3:00 Adjourn



"Serving the Turfgrass Industry for Over 50 Years"

2012 LTA Turf Conference Pre-Registration/Membership Dues Form

Please try to pre-register if possible. The fee for the conference is \$50 for the first person. Group discounts are available for additional conference attendees (see table below right). Your fee for the conference includes membership in the LTA. Everyone with interest in turfgrass and landscape management is welcome. This form may also be used just to pay yearly membership dues.

Name(s)		
Company		
Address		
City		Zip
E-mail		
(Your e-mail address is necessary to receive	ve confirma	tion of conference payment.)
Additional e-mail addresses of attendees:		
E-mail:	E-mail:	
E-mail:		
I am not attending conference but I wish to pay my LTA membership dues at \$25 per person.	,	Conference Registration Fees below include Membership in the LTA:

Please make checks payable to Louisiana Turfgrass Association (LTA). Mail to: Amy Blanchard

LSU Ag Center

School of Plant, Environmental & Soil Sciences

155 J. C. Miller Hall Baton Rouge, LA 70803

Number of Attendees	Amount	Total
1	\$50.00	
2	\$90.00	
3	\$130.00	
4	\$150.00	
5 or more	\$175.00	

Catepillar Pests of Greens in the Gulf South

Steve Hong¹, David W. Held¹, and R. Chris Williamson²
¹Auburn University, ²University of Wisconsin-Madison

What kind of grass do you have in your putting greens? Although Bermuda dominates most southern greens, creeping bentgrass can be grown on the edge of the transition zone in the deep south. This is as far south as Auburn in Alabama and the Jackson area in Mississippi. The last few summers have proven that creeping bentgrass is marginally adapted to southern climates even with use of fans and syringing to reduce soil temps and maintain root mass (see Guertal and Han, USGA TERRO Sept 2009). However, there are some varieties being evaluated and released with more heat tolerance (i.e., AU Victory).

The dominance of bermuda makes fall armyworms the scapegoat for caterpillar problems on golf courses in the south. Recently, other caterpillars including webworms and cutworms collected from damaged grass are challenging this notion. The most destructive insect pest of creeping bentgrass putting greens are black cutworms (BCW). This insect is notorious in the north but seldom given thought in the south unless you are growing bentgrass. We initiated a two- year study to learn if BCW will eat and develop in Bermuda grass and likewise, can fall armyworms survive on creeping bentgrass.

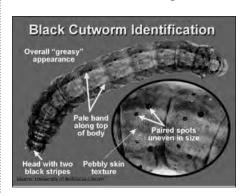
In laboratory feeding experiments, we compared the feeding preference of BCW for 17 formally untested varieties

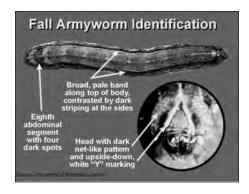
of creeping bentgrass. We also compared development of BCW larvae fed either creeping bentgrass or 419 Bermuda. With FAW larvae in the laboratory, we compared feeding preference for creeping bentgrass or 419 bermuda. We found that all new creeping bentgrass cultivars tested were equally susceptible to BCW as older cultivars like Penncross. In addition, BCW can survive and develop to adult moths on 419 bermudagrass. Interestingly, FAW show a preference for creeping bentgrass compared to Bermudagrass in choice tests.

FAW has traditionally been the primary caterpillar pest of southern golf courses. However, FAW may also cause damage to creeping bentgrass in the transition zone. Both species have a similar life cycle; eggs are laid on the grass, larvae feed and can migrate to greens and tees once they get larger. BCW can overwinter in the Gulf south but FAW only overwinters in southern Florida and Texas then migrate north

in the spring. FAW typically attack in mass where BCW are found individually. Other work at Auburn indicates that adult BCW moths are active all winter and largely absent during summer (May, June, July), when FAW populations may be greater. Both can be found using the soap flush technique, and we've flushed BCW and FAW from creeping bentgrass in Alabama. It may be that BCW are more problematic in spring or early winter and the summer species, even in bentgrass, may be FAW. Recent work in Wisconsin (R. C. Williamson) suggests that new insecticides like Acelypryn can provide >80 d of residual control of caterpillars in greens. Most labeled pyrethroids provide adequate control of both species but residual control is about two weeks.

Comments or Questions? Email Steve Hong (seunghong@wisc.edu) or David Held (david.held@auburn.edu).







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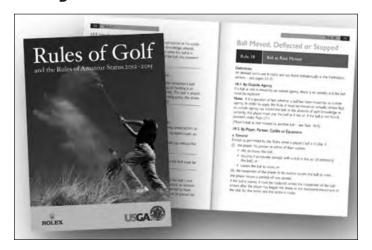
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9:00-12:00	Education Seminar	10:30-11:30	"Protecting the Environment and Your Rights"				
9:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks		Dr. Jeff Beasley				
	Neil Mayberry, LMGCSA President		Louisiana State University				
9:10-10:15	"Preparing for and Managing Golf	11:30	Lunch				
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