

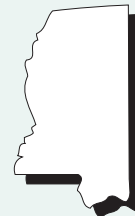
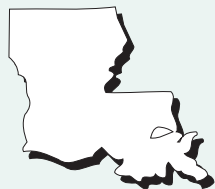
# TEE TO GREEN

A Quarterly Publication of the Louisiana-Mississippi Chapter



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

FALL 2012



## From the President

As I write this, I am excited about the approaching fall season and all it brings. To me fall means football, hunting, cool weather and some much needed time with family and friends. This past summer was hot and stressful, as are most in Mississippi and Louisiana. I hope that you and your course made it through unscathed. I am looking forward to changing focus from daily maintenance procedures to projects and course improvements.

As an association we have entered the last quarter of the year with a couple of events left for the year and many events in the books. We had the Super Pro on July 17, 2012 at Dancing Rabbit Golf Club in Choctaw, Mississippi. I would like to thank Brent McBrayer for hosting this event. On September 18 we had an education/golf day at the Preserve Golf Club in VanCleave, Mississippi. Thanks go to Stephen Miles and Jeremy Stevens for hosting

this event. As always, I would like to give special thanks to the vendors who supported these events and our association. Without vendor support we could not successfully function as an association. Thanks again, vendors!!

We also have two more events in the works for the 2012 season. We will have a golf outing in late October to early November. We hope to make this a well-attended event which we can fellowship together and enjoy a little friendly competition. We will also hold the 2nd Annual Mechanics Workshop in December. This was a very successful event last year and we hope to build on that this year. The dates and time for these events will be announced as soon as the board finalizes them this month. We will also have our Annual Meeting at the first of the year.

Remember, you can find our events calendar in our newsletter and online

at [www.lmgcsa.com](http://www.lmgcsa.com). The board and I welcome any ideas about events that you may have. We will continue to add to and update our event calendar as we move into the next year. We hope to have many of our 2013 events scheduled before the end of 2012. I hope you have a great finish to the year and I hope to see you at one of our remaining events this year!

*Jason McDonald, GCS  
Southern Trace Country Club  
Shreveport, Louisiana* ■

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### ON THE MOVE

**BRETT CHANEY**, former superintendent at The Oaks GC in Pass Christian, MS has moved to Las Vegas and will be directing golf operations at a course there.

**JOSH HICKS**, formerly at The Atchafalaya GC at Idlewild in Patterson, LA is now superintendent at Alexandria Country Club in Alexandria, Louisiana.

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**Email: [lmgcsa@earthlink.net](mailto:lmgcsa@earthlink.net) • Website: [www.lmgcsa.com](http://www.lmgcsa.com)**

## *Welcome, New Members!*

**Adams, Joshua A. (C)**  
**La Tour Golf Club**  
310 Saint Joseph Street  
Raceland, LA 70344  
B: 985-532-3144  
F:  
C: 985-860-4228  
E: [jadams19@its.nicholls.edu](mailto:jadams19@its.nicholls.edu)

**Guerri, William (C)**  
**New Orleans Country Club**  
5024 Pontchartrain Blvd.  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
B: 504-482-2225  
F:  
C: 561-667-4656  
E: [wguerri@yahoo.com](mailto:wguerri@yahoo.com)

**Swart, Kyle (C)**  
**Links on the Bayou**  
271 Vandenburg Drive  
Alexandria, LA 71303  
B: 318-473-1336  
F: 318-473-1359  
C: 315-245-9150  
E: [kts723@gmail.com](mailto:kts723@gmail.com)

### **Mississippi Special Local Need Label (Section 24c) for Avid 0.15 EC for Nematode Control on Golf Course Greens Only**

Mississippi recently received approval to use Avid 0.15 EC Miticide/Insecticide for applications to golf course greens for sting and ring nematode control. This labeling allows the use of this product through December 31, 2017 with multiple applications of 57 fluid ounces per acre on 14–21 day intervals. Refer to the Special Local Need Label (Section 2c) for specific use directions and restrictions on mixing, application rates and intervals, timing, compatibility, etc.



# Mark Your Calendars!

**What:** Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification  
**When:** October 3, 2012  
**Where:** Lafayette, LA  
**Contact:** [www.lpca.org](http://www.lpca.org)

**What:** Tailgate Party – “Who Let the Dawgs Out!!” Sponsored by Ladd’s  
**When:** October 13, 2012  
**MSU vs. University of Tennessee**  
**Where:** Davis Wade Stadium  
Starkville, MS  
**Time:** Contact Layton Scott on Friday (12th) for location: [lscott@bobladd.com](mailto:lscott@bobladd.com)

**What:** 4th Annual World of Golf Tailgate Party Sponsored by Ben Nelson Golf and Utility Vehicles  
**When:** November 3, 2012  
**MSU vs. Texas A & M**  
**Where:** Davis Wade Stadium  
Starkville, MS  
**Time:** 2 hours prior to game time

**What:** MTA Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament  
**When:** November 12, 2012  
**Where:** Hattiesburg Country Club  
Hattiesburg, MS  
**Time:** Tee off 10:00 a.m.

**What:** Mississippi Turfgrass Association Conference and Trade Show  
**When:** November 12-13, 2012  
**Where:** Lake Terrace Convention Center  
Hattiesburg, MS

**What:** Assistants Boot Camp  
**When:** November 14-15, 2012  
**Where:** Birmingham, AL  
**Time:** Registration/Check-in at 8:00 a.m.  
Embassy Suites (off Hwy. 280)

Note: This event is hosted by the Alabama GCSA and co-hosted by LMGCSA and Gulf Coast GCSA.

**What:** Ornamental and Turfgrass Pesticide Applicator Re-Certification  
**When:** November 15, 2012  
**Where:** Kenner, LA  
**Contact:** [www.lpca.org](http://www.lpca.org)

**What:** Mississippi Turfgrass Short Course  
**When:** December 17-21, 2012  
**Where:** Mississippi State University  
**Contact:** Dr. Wayne Wells at [wwells@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:wwells@ext.msstate.edu)

**What:** LMGCSA Annual Meeting  
**When:** January 7, 2012  
**Where:** TBA

**What:** GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show  
**When:** February 4-8, 2013  
**Where:** San Diego, California

**What:** Annual Hospitality Night  
GCSAA Conference – San Diego, CA  
**When:** February 6, 2013 (Wednesday)  
**Where:** TBA

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# Congratulations to...



## Justin Reedy 2012 Legacy Award Recipient

Justin is the son of Stanley and Dot Reedy. Stanley is Director of Golf Operations at Jackson Country Club in Jackson, Mississippi.

LMGCSA gratefully acknowledges the support of Beard Equipment Company, sponsor of the 2012 Legacy Award.

**BEARD**  
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Dear LMGCSA:

“Thank you so much for awarding me this Legacy Scholarship. It means so much to me and my family and a good representation for my dad. Thanks again for this honor.”

—Justin Reedy

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# Feeding Ecology of Mole Crickets May Impact Management

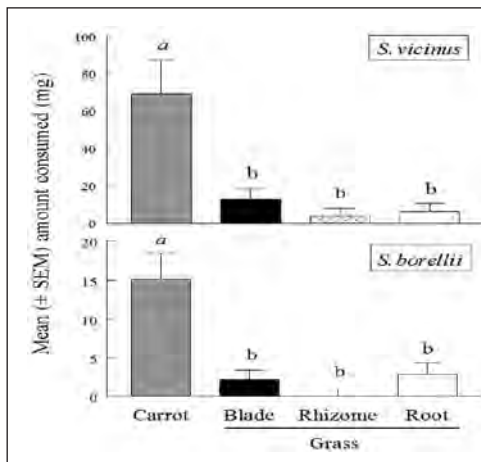
Yao Xu and David W. Held, Ph.D. • Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology  
Auburn University • Auburn, Alabama

Tawny mole cricket (TMC), *Scapteriscus vicinus*, and southern mole cricket (SMC), *S. borellii*, are the most significant pests of turfgrass in the Gulf Coast states. Numerous studies have dissected the guts of these species and found plant and animal parts. Insects that feed on both are considered omnivores despite the prevailing wisdom that tawnies are herbivores and southern mole crickets are carnivores. Both do extensive damage to grass tunneling.

For her Master's research, Yao Xu examined the choice, not gut contents, of both mole cricket species and asked if the choice impacted survival and longevity.

## Feeding preference

We conducted initial studies to determine the relative consumption of Tifway 419 bermudagrass blades, rhizomes, and roots compared to organic carrots, which are commonly used as a generic root in similar studies. We were surprised to find poor feeding on all parts of the grass blade despite comparable nitrogen content in these plant parts. Nitrogen is an indicator of protein content, which is an important nutrient that insects get from their diet. Because of the



poor feeding, carrots were then used to represent a plant diet and ground mealworms as an animal diet in laboratory choice tests. When given a choice, southern mole crickets consumed twice as much weight of mealworms than carrots. Tawny mole crickets consumed similar amounts of mealworms and carrots.

## Rearing on animal and plant diets

Finally, a rearing study was conducted giving newly hatched mole cricket nymphs a diet of mealworms or carrots, a mixed of both, or starvation. Southern mole crickets were reared for 40 wks and tawnies for 8 wks. Southern mole crickets are much easier to rear in the lab and that is why the experiment went 5x longer for that species. Interestingly, mole crickets can survive for 2–4 wks with no food. These insects have a crop that allows them to store and slowly digest food over a longer period of time. Southern mole crickets fed mealworms survived 25 wks

before any died. Southern mole crickets in all other diets were steadily dying beginning at 3 wks. Survival of tawnies was similar for groups fed mealworm and carrots. Mole crickets fed carrots gained the least amount of weight among those that were fed. Tawnies gained less than 5 mg in weight and southern mole crickets gained 200 mg on plants. Tawnies fed an animal diet gained 55 mg and southern mole crickets gained 600 mg on the same diet. Meat is good food for mole crickets despite the prevailing thought that tawnies are herbivores. Nitrogen content is greater in the animal tissue than plants so the benefits of feeding on mealworms may result from greater nitrogen content. Both species, yet more dramatic with southern mole crickets, would clearly benefit when they consume other insects in the soil. Another interesting point was the pronotal length (used to gauge mole cricket age) of southern nymphs within an instar (period between a molt) varied widely based on diet. This means that the standard way to determine the age of field populations, at least for southern mole crickets, is biased. Southern mole crickets at the same stage will be smaller when fed plants than those that eat other insects.

In 2005 before Hurricane Katrina blew through the coast, I sampled mole crickets three holes at the President Golf course. I sampled plots in June and August and was surprised at the range of instars. Populations were mainly southern mole crickets and very synchronized in June but varied widely in August. By August, some southern mole crickets seemed to be newly hatched (2nd instar) and others had wing pads and were nearly adults. At the time, I didn't understand this variation. It is clear now that the variation may be due to diet. We don't have a good understanding of how size variation impacts management but smaller mole crickets aren't attacked by *Larra bicolor*, the beneficial wasp. Likewise, recent work in my lab would indicate that consumption of insecticidal bait will also vary widely based on mole cricket size. Smaller mole crickets may mean that a lower application rates (50–75 lbs per acre) can be used but larger individuals may mean that higher rates (100–200 lbs per acre) are needed. Response to fipronil or other soil insecticides may also vary based on mole cricket size. ■

Location	Southern mole cricket instar	
	15 June	17 August
#6	2nd	4th
#11	2nd	4th range (2–7)
#18	NA	9th

# Assistants Invited to “Come Together” in Birmingham

There is an old saying that there is strength in numbers and this is especially true when the Louisiana/Mississippi, Alabama and Gulf Coast Chapters come together. On November 14–15 these Chapters will meet to promote the careers of our assistant members in Birmingham, Alabama. This two-day event will be packed with speakers who will further your career development and winds up with a golf tournament at Robert Trent Jones Oxmoor Valley Course on the afternoon of November 15.

The keynote speaker of the event is Lyne Tumlinson, CAE, who specializes in career services and career coaching for golf association members. Our very own Stephen Miles will speak on Water Testing. Other topics include irrigation, meteorology, and OSHA compliance.

If you would like to register for this event you can go to <http://www.alabamachaptergcsa.org/> and register on-line or phone Linda Wells at 866-656-4272 or Melanie Bonds at 205/967-0397.

You can attend all or part of the event. Early bird registration for the entire conference available through October 30 is \$75 for the two day program and includes three meals and golf.

## Accommodations:

Attendees are responsible for their own overnight accommodation. The conference will be held at The Embassy Suites (located off Highway 280) • 2300 Woodcrest Place • Birmingham, AL • Phone: 205-879-7400. A room block

Wednesday, November 14, 2012		
8:00—8:45 am	Registration/Check-in at Embassy Suites	TOPIC
8:45—9:45 am	Ron Fister	
10:00—11:00 am	George Brooke Powell/Chad Burke	Irrigation
11:00 am—12:00 pm	James Spann	Meteorology
12:00—12:15 pm	Scott Wanzor—PBI Gordon	Infomercial
12:15—1:00 pm	Lunch	at Embassy Suites
1:00—2:00 pm	Randy Register	OSHA Compliance
2:00—3:00 pm	Stephen Mile	Water Testing
3:00—4:00 pm	Joel Jackson, CGCS	
4:00—5:00 pm	Yoga stretching for golf	
6:00-7:00 pm	Hospitality hour	
7:00—8:00 pm	Dinner at Embassy Suites	
Thursday, November 15, 2012		
7:45—8:00 am	Registration/Check-in at Embassy Suites	TOPIC
8:00—11:00 pm	Lyne Tumlinson	Career Fitness to Thrive in Times of Change
11:00 am—12:00 pm	Check Out/Oxmoor Valley (Box lunch on cart)	
12:00 pm	Golf at Oxmoor Valley/Shotgun Start	
4:00—4:30 pm	Awards presentation/Winners	

has been reserved for our attendees. For reservations at The Embassy Suites phone 1-800-EMBASSY “Alabama Golf Course Superintendents Association” room block. Rates for double room: \$129 plus tax and fees and includes breakfast. Web site is: <http://embassysuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/alabama/embassy-suites-birmingham-BHMWCES/index.html>.

Another option is the Courtyard Marriott Birmingham Colonnade • 4300 Colonnade Parkway • Birmingham, Alabama • Phone: 205-967-4466. Web Site: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bhm-sc-courtyard-birmingham-colonnade>. Listed rates starting at \$99 plus tax and fees.

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# What I Didn't Learn in School

Diligent studying in the classroom provided a sound foundation for my career in golf course management, but my B.S. and M.S. degrees never completely prepared me for all the issues and challenges of the profession.

BY JAKE SCHNEIDER

After six-and-a-half years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, it is hard to imagine any classes that I did not have the opportunity to take in preparation to enter the golf course management industry. In hindsight, wiser decisions when choosing electives might have been made, but thanks to some questionable class selection my knowledge of dinosaurs and gems is greater than it might otherwise be. Yet, there are probably other turf management professionals who have substantially more classroom knowledge than I do of all things pterodactyls or diamonds.

Such is the nature of a profession where so much is learned on the job. Don't get me wrong; I would not trade my formal education for anything, but chances are you know of a highly successful superintendent or assistant superintendent who has no college education or pursued a major totally unrelated to golf course management. Still, despite my bias, I believe the best foundation for a career in this industry is gained through earning a degree in a traditional turf management field.

I recently completed my fourth year as the assistant superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wisconsin, and there is no doubt that numerous classes in soil science, horticulture, plant pathology, and entomology have helped me to grow better turf. Since entering the real world, I realize the supplemental classes I took in written communication, human resource management, native vegetation/ecology, and accounting are just as important and equally useful as my basic turf science studies. However, I now know that growing grass is only half the battle to achieve success as a golf course supervisor. The classroom never prepared me for the challenge of just keeping turf alive



*Agronomy classes helped me understand the importance of a sound aeration and topdressing program for putting greens. However, the classroom never prepared me for the difficult task of convincing golfers that sometimes causing temporary disruption to the putting surfaces is necessary to sustain a healthy, consistent playing surface.*

to meet the golfers' need for perfection or the frustration of allocating considerable time and labor to keep non-grass areas of the course, such as bunkers, in pristine condition.

I recall being chosen as the 2004 USGA Green Section intern for the North-Central Region during my first season as a student intern at Blackhawk Country Club. During a week with Bob Vavrek, USGA agronomist, we toured a wide variety of golf courses that included elite upscale layouts as well as economical and fun "mom and pop" type courses — perhaps the kind of course that provided summer employment during high school and the early inspiration for many superin-

tendents to pursue a career in turf management. When my week as a junior agronomist was over, Monroe Miller, former superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club for 36 years, 2004 USGA Green Section Award winner, and current executive director of the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association, asked me to write an article about the experience for *The Grass Roots*, the publication of the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association.

How could I refuse my boss and editor of *The Grass Roots*? In that article, I wrote, "With a relatively easy summer throughout most of southern Wisconsin, many of the problems that were discussed had nothing to do with





*Accounting classes were helpful regarding the basic preparation of a budget for golf course maintenance operations. Never did a class prepare me for the shock of how much of a golf course budget would be spent for maintaining bunkers, deep roughs, woods, and other areas of the course that are meant to be avoided.*

agronomic issues or with turfgrass at all. It should come as no surprise to most of you that shrinking budgets and political dealings were frequent topics of conversation." Sound familiar? Political issues haven't changed much in the past seven years, but at least agronomy has been a more frequent topic of conversation than it was in 2004, due to the stressful weather of 2010 and 2011. I was fortunate enough to have received an excellent education while pursuing my degrees, but the following are several of the more important things that could not be learned in the classroom.

### **POLITICS AND COMMUNICATION**

No, I'm not talking about Republicans versus Democrats. Trust me, with the election and recall cycles in Wisconsin, that is the last thing that I want to talk about. Rather, I am referring to the politics of dealing with golfing and

non-golfing members, owners, general managers, neighbors, and your employees. Besides duties such as being an agronomist, electrician, mechanic, plumber, arborist, human resource manager, accountant, and landscaper, a successful superintendent must supervise and educate a diverse group of people every day

With rare exceptions, turf managers do not own the properties they maintain, and decisions regarding course conditions are often made by individuals or committees that have little or no agronomic knowledge. It is easy to assume some degree of ownership when spending so much time and effort on 200-plus acres of land. Yet, it is sometimes difficult to remember that it is still their course and not my course. The ultimate goal is to make golfers happy and to sustain healthy turf. This requires educating decision makers so they can make sound decisions or to the point where they

allow us to manage the course without interference. The difficulty of this task can increase exponentially when turnover of committee members occurs frequently.

One must be an outstanding communicator to survive course politics. Very few people outside of the turf industry understand exactly what our jobs entail, and even fewer realize the agronomic sacrifices that are often required to produce desirable golf course conditioning. Nonetheless, with accurate and timely communication, these barriers can be broken.

In light of universal access to smart phones and computers, there is really no excuse for your golfers and supervisors to not have timely access to course conditions and maintenance operations that affect play. At Blackhawk C.C., we developed a maintenance blog (view it at <http://blackhawkgrounds.blogspot.com/>). It is updated weekly with information



## WHAT I DIDN'T LEARN IN SCHOOL *continued from page 8*

about activities on the course and in the maintenance facility. No technical jargon, just current information about "what" we are doing as well as "why" and "how." I am not sure how many of our members read the blog, but I do know that some read it regularly and they pass on some of the information to those who do not. By communicating effectively, you may be able to improve the course in ways that otherwise would not have been possible.

My suspicions are that it would be difficult to learn the dynamics of country club politics in a classroom. Instead, these skills are learned over time through your own experiences and by picking the brains of industry veterans. After all, superintendents who cannot handle the politics and the associated communication demands will rarely survive to become veterans.

Yet, the fundamentals for both oral and written communication skills can be acquired in the classroom. I was so nervous during one of my first college speeches that I was uncontrollably shaking the paper I was holding. There is no doubt that it was embarrassing, but from that point forward I vowed to explore every available opportunity to improve my public speaking. My commitment to improvement paid off, because later, in graduate school, I won the oral presentation competition at the International Crop Science Society meetings. Although I still do not particularly enjoy speaking to large crowds, I no longer convulse while doing so.

### RELATIONSHIPS WITH VENDORS

Don't get me wrong, vendors are not an unruly, unlikable group. In fact, the opposite seems to be true, which makes saying "no" to them difficult.

There are a host of honest, dependable suppliers of equipment, plant protectants, etc., and they all want your business. There are so many issues to address. Do we go with agency or off-patent? How many distributors should get our business? Should we bid out each individual product? Should we schedule time for salesmen



*My classroom experience could not prepare me for the frustration and helpless feeling of taking the blame for what Mother Nature occasionally does to the golf course. A good example is winter injury to a putting green, especially when cool spring weather hinders the rate of turf recovery.*

to visit, even with no intention of buying from them? For the most part, I have yet to come up with a good answer to these questions, but I believe that one should remain open and courteous with all vendors. Just like you, they are trying to make a living.

### REGULATIONS 101

Right or wrong, the number of federal, state, and local rules and regulations that affect our golf course increases every year. Between labor laws, required postings, pesticide/fertilizer restrictions, recordkeeping, water-use recordkeeping, restrictions, and building codes, it is an understatement to say there is more documentation necessary than I ever imagined. It was never mentioned in class that silica sand was a reportable hazardous

material, but now I am going to be looking into personal protection equipment (PPE) requirements for topdressing greens.

### BALANCING WORK AND HOME

I did not fully appreciate the unpredictable work schedule and long hours that are required to keep the course in peak condition until I became the assistant superintendent. I do not believe that 80-hour work weeks are healthy or productive, but even 50 to 60 hours during the heat of the summer can be incredibly draining. The profession becomes extra demanding when you are held accountable for yourself, the maintenance staff, and Mother Nature, so it is just not easy to leave work.

Coming from college, where you are only worried about balancing partying with getting passing grades, it takes a while to find the ideal balance between time at work and time at home. If not already married, be sure to date someone

while working for at least two summers when putting in long hours at the golf course before getting down on one knee. When my new bride said, "I've come to not expect you to be around very much in summer," I realized that she fully knew what she was getting herself into.

There you have it — several concepts I wish I could have learned in school to succeed in the golf course management industry. Maybe if I go to school for another six-and-a-half years the list might be eliminated, but probably not. It is hard to fit 200-plus acres of turf and everyone associated with it into a classroom.

*JAKE SCHNEIDER is the assistant superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wis.*

# 2012 LMGCSA Turf Scholar Competition

Deadline for Application: November 5, 2012

\$2,000

The goal of the competition is to identify and recognize outstanding students who plan careers in golf course management or a related field.

To be eligible for the competition, a student must be an undergraduate student and have completed the first year (24 credit hours or equivalent) in a program related to golf course management. Applicant must also be currently enrolled in an accredited two, three, four, or five-year golf course management or related program.

The application form can be downloaded from the LMGCSA website: [www.lmgcsa.com](http://www.lmgcsa.com) or you may contact LMGCSA Scholarship Chairman, Alan Sullivan – Grand

Bear Golf Club ([sullivan@harrahs.com](mailto:sullivan@harrahs.com)); 228-860-8740. You may also contact Linda Wells ([lmgcsa@earthlink.net](mailto:lmgcsa@earthlink.net)), 866-456-4272 to have an application form faxed/e-mailed to you.

LMGCSA is grateful for the support of Jerry Pate Turf\* Irrigation, Inc., who sponsors the Turf Scholar Competition.



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# INDUSTRY NEWS

## Syngenta News

Greensboro, N.C., USA — Syngenta announced today that it will acquire the DuPont Professional Products insecticide business, including a number of registered trademark brands. Created in 2002, the DuPont Professional Products insecticide business specializes in the development and marketing of innovative branded products for the professional turf and pest control markets, including Altriset, Advion® Arilon and Acelepryn®. The acquisition price is \$125 million. “This is the next step in our strategy to scale our Turf and Landscape business within Lawn and Garden to further support our customers,” said Tim Kroenke, head, Syngenta Lawn and Garden North America. “This acquisition will help Syngenta gain leadership in the professional pest management market and increase our presence in turf.”

As a result of this transaction, Syngenta can pursue opportunities in adjacent markets such as the ornamental hor-

ticulture and consumer markets. Finally, Syngenta Research & Development investment will drive growth in opportunities to extend the use of the active ingredients in the professional and home pest markets.

The transaction is subject to regulatory approval. Closing is expected in the fourth quarter of 2012.



## Scott Lawler Joins Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation

Scott Lawler has joined Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation as a Golf and Grounds Account Executive in Southern Mississippi and South East Louisiana. He brings to his position a B.S. from Mississippi State University and 14 years experience in the field. Jerry Pate Turf & Irrigation would like to welcome Scott to our team. ■

## GCSAA Education Spotlight

# Take Steps to Comply with Key Regulations

Help your employer by knowing what’s needed to meet the terms of the latest regulations that impact golf facilities. These recent webcasts are now available On Demand to listen to at your convenience. Hear from these experts to learn what action you may need to take.

- **ADA Accessibility Standards & Your Golf Course** with Peggy Greenwell
- **Clean Water Act Permitting of Pesticide Discharges – What Does It Mean?** with Jack Faulk
- **New Narrowbanding Law: How to Comply at Your Facility** with Doug Thompson
- **What’s Your Tier 4 Emissions IQ?** with Grant Young

\*\*Note: To access Live and On-Demand Webcasts, log on to [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

## Upcoming GCSAA Webcasts

- 
- Sept. 26 **Top 10 Golf Course Maintenance Improvements**
- 
- Oct. 2 **Why Care About Organic Matter?**
- 
- Oct. 18 **Turf Troubleshooting: Problem Solving for Superintendents**
- 
- Oct. 24 **Making Environmental Management More User Friendly**
- 
- Oct. 31 **Most Commonly Abused Rules of Golf and Course Marking Tips**
- 
- Nov. 8 **Realities of Organic Golf**
- 
- Nov. 13 **Best Management Practices for the Control of Anthracnose**
-



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## Toro® R Series Conversion Assemblies



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# Dr. Christian Baldwin Joins MSU “Turf Team”

The Mississippi State University “Turf Team” is eager to have Dr. Christian Baldwin join them beginning October 1, 2012. Dr. Baldwin will fill the teaching/research position vacated by Dr. Gregg Munshaw, who is now the Extension Turf Specialist for the University of Kentucky. Dr. Baldwin has been employed as Turfgrass Scientist with Jacklin Seed by Simplot in Post Falls, Idaho since July 2008. While this may seem quite far from our southern turf he is well versed on managing warm and cool season turfgrass species having roots in the deep south (New Orleans) and has a strong academic and research background with both cool and warm-season turfgrasses through his experiences at Clemson and with Jacklin Seed. Christian is young and energetic which will relate well with our students. I have taken the liberty of listing below a few excerpts from his resume to familiarize you with some of his academic training and his philosophies on teaching and research. I know you will be anxious to welcome him as we are, so our plans are to get him out to visit many of you and certainly he will have a presence in the Mississippi Turfgrass Association (MTA) Conference in Hattiesburg on November 12–13.

May, 2008 Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
**Ph.D., Plant and Environmental Science**

Advisor: Dr. Haibo Liu

Dissertation title: *Variable approaches investigating light quality and quantity impacts on warm-season and cool-season turfgrasses*

December, 2006 Southern Wesleyan University,  
Central, SC

**M.B.A., Business Administration**

December, 2004 Clemson University, Clemson, SC  
Advisor: Dr. Haibo Liu

**M.S., Plant and Environmental Science**

Thesis title: *Responses of Warm-Season Turfgrasses to Various Physiological Stresses*

December, 2000 Clemson University, Clemson, SC

**B.S., Business Management**

Concentration in International Management

## Teaching Philosophy

*A successful professor is able to draw the interest of students from a variety of backgrounds. This can be accomplished by fostering a classroom environment which allows for discussion and student involvement, rather than having a rigid structure for the semester. From previous experience, beginning each class with an “Identify the Problem” slide instantly draws the attention of students and starts a dialogue, rather than a lecture. This approach seemingly engages the students and immediately draws their interest. Bringing students to research plots, golf courses, and sports fields to look at different species, weeds, and diseases should be integrated throughout the semester to tie in classroom concepts with real-world problems. Students should also have the opportunity to meet with local turfgrass managers for an “on-the-course” classroom experience to see firsthand the day-to-day responsibilities of a turfgrass manager. Finally, many turfgrass students are well prepared for the science aspect of their future profession, but are lacking business skills specifically related to turfgrass management. My business education and “real-world” experiences in the turfgrass industry would be an interesting addition to any classroom. Topics such as how to hire/fire an employee, how to handle situations with disgruntle employees, decisions on whether or not to buy/lease equipment, developing budget sheets, differentiating between managing vs. leading a team of employees and how to interact with greens committee/members would benefit students.*

## Research Philosophy

*To be successful in leading a research program in an industry environment, research goals need to be aligned with the needs of customers. A key first step for the incoming person to fill this position at Mississippi State University will be to visit with the local turfgrass managers (golf course, athletic field, landscape, etc. . . .) to determine the current challenges of the Mississippi turfgrass industry and then begin to address these challenges. My professional goals are to inform, present, communicate, and relay results and information gathered from research projects with homeowners, golf course superintendents, sod farm managers, undergraduate/graduate students, university personnel, sports field managers, and state agencies using all available forms of communication. Ultimately, my goal is to provide practical solutions through applied research trials.*



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# Ornamental Cotton in Louisiana

Dr. Allen Owings, Professor, Horticulture • Louisiana State University

The LSU AgCenter's Hammond Research Station is now evaluating ornamental cotton cultivars in our trial gardens. Personally, my dad grew cotton in his home landscape in Loranger in the 1990s, and LDAF personnel monitored the cotton planting. There is always considerable discussion in Louisiana whether ornamental cotton can or cannot be grown by home gardeners.

Here is some information from Marc Bordelon, director of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program at the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. "We generally allow homeowners to plant cotton in their flower beds, but they must request permission to do so. Our requirement is that the request be in writing and include the individual's name, exact location of the cotton plants and amount of cotton to be planted (number of individual plants, number of rows and length of rows, etc.). Once I receive the request, they are sent a letter listing our requirements, which they must sign, for permission to be granted. We maintain a database with the names of individuals and locations of ornamental cotton planting requests."

"Each year we go through the database, and if no planting request is made by an individual that has requested permission in the past, we contact that individual to verify their planting intentions. A visual inspection is also done at each prior-year location for which we have not received a request in the current year. Additionally, we do not allow nurseries to grow cotton plants for sale or distribution."

## LDAF Press Release on Cotton Plants in Home Landscapes

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry officials say cotton plants may look beautiful in private home landscapes, but the state must monitor all planted cotton, including those used for ornamental purposes, for boll weevil presence.

Todd Parker, LDAF assistant commissioner for the Office of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, said state boll weevil eradication laws provide that anyone who wants to plant any cotton for non-commercial purposes must receive prior permission from the LDAF Commissioner.


"We need to know where all the cotton plants are located throughout the state to monitor for the boll weevil to protect Louisiana's cotton industry," Parker said. "The LDAF puts out a number of traps in cotton fields annually to check for the presence of boll weevils."

Parker said increasing amounts of gardeners outside of traditional cotton-growing areas are planting cotton to spruce up their garden landscapes. Others plant small plots for fiber to spin their own thread for fabrics. The LDAF must place a boll weevil trap at these locations, Parker said.

Historically, the boll weevil has been cotton's most destructive pest. All cotton-growing states have eradication programs.


Cotton remains one of Louisiana's leading crops. The 2010 numbers totaled to more than 247,000 acres harvested with the total value of the cotton sector estimated to be \$210.1 million.

For more information regarding planting of non-commercial or ornamental cotton, please contact the Louisiana Boll Weevil Eradication Program office at 225-952-8105. ■



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# Mississippi Turfgrass Association 2012 Conference Attendee Registration Form

November 12-13, 2012 • Lake Terrace Convention Center • Hattiesburg, MS

**Early Bird Registration Rates Apply Until October 31, 2012**

Host Hotels: Holiday Inn & Suites: Standard Room \$82/night thru 11-1-12; Code: Mississippi Turfgrass Association; 601-296-0302. Note: Upgraded rooms \$124/night  
Hampton Inn Hattiesburg: Rate \$89/night thru 10-27-12; Code: TRF; 601-264-8080

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What segment(s) of the turf industry do you represent? (Check all that apply.)

- Golf Turf     Sports Turf     Equipment / Fertilizer / Chemicals     Consultant     Landscape/Lawn Care  
 Sod Farm     Educator     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration Fee includes Monday reception and Tuesday educational seminars, exhibits, meals and breaks.  
It **does not include** Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament.

Conference Registration Fee\* (\$115 Early Bird rate, \$140 after October 31) . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Employee of Registered Attendee\* (\$70 Early Bird rate, \$90 after October 31) . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extension Agents (\$35 fee includes registration and meals) . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student in Turf/Landscape Management Program (No charge, courtesy of MTA) . . . . . N/A

MTA Membership Dues (\$50 per year, Student Fee: \$15) . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**“Dollars for Scholars” Golf Tournament, November 12, 2012, Hattiesburg Country Club**    **Entry Fee \$75.00**  
**10:30 a.m. Shotgun start, box lunch provided. Pre-Registration IS REQUIRED.**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Golf Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_**    **Student Entry Fee is \$40.00**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL REMITTANCE** . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

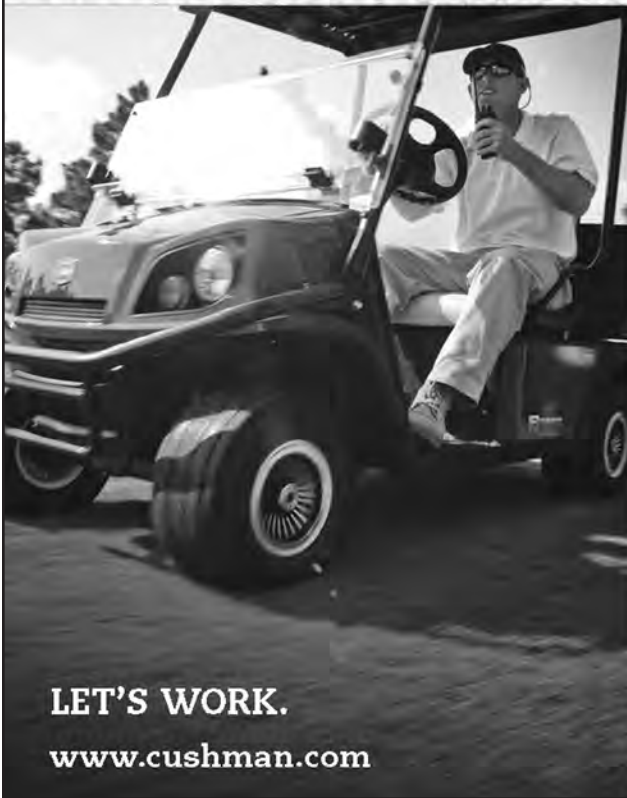
Names to appear on badges: 1. *Registered Attendee* \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Circle one:    *Spouse*    *Employee*    *Student*    *Employee*    *Student*

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