1st Quarter 2021

TEXAS TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

We are very proud to introduce our newest

Certified Professional Turf Managers!

Juan Tapia CPTM

Reed Grant CPTM

Gosta Olofson CPTM

Weston Floyd CPTM

Carlos Montelongo CPTM

Kristena Polmanteer CPTM

Joseph Buechman CPTM

Francisco Peralta CPTM

Kyle Foreman CPTM

The 2021 Texas A&M Ecology and Management Short Course had another successful year with 45 attendees from the golf, sports, sod, municipal and commercial sectors of the Texas turfgrass industry. The TTA was proud to be a part of this education event that helped promote the CPTM Program! All attendees had the opportunity to join the Texas Turfgrass Association and apply for the Certified Professional Turfgrass Managers Certification (CPTM).

Not pictured: Gary West CPTM, Stephan Richardson CPTM, Vander Hallmark CPTM, Trevor Perez CPTM

CPTM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

More information on the 2021 Class of CPTM on Page 10

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THANK YOU!

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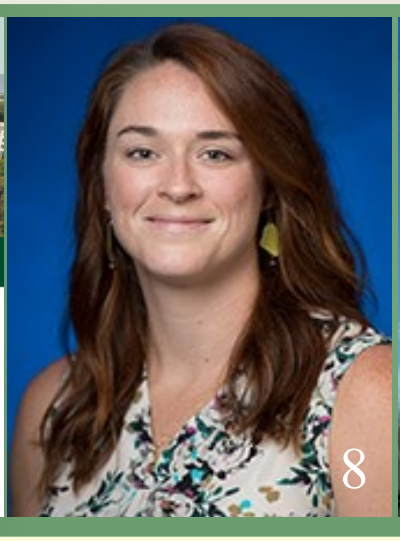

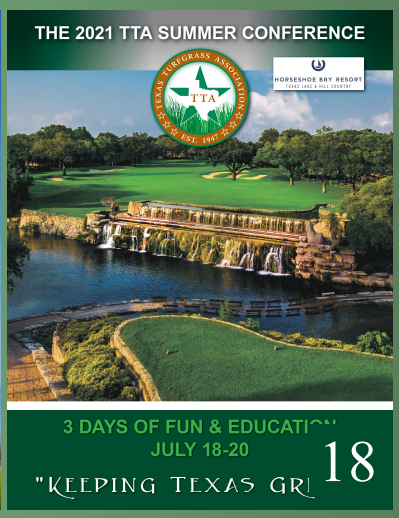

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THANK YOU!

President's Message

Howdy Turfgrass Friends,

As 2021 began, we were still in the grip of the pandemic. Then we experienced an epic freeze statewide followed by record breaking rains in North Texas for May and an ongoing severe drought in South and West Texas. If the Texas Turfgrass Association or I can help you, please let us know. We are all praying for a less eventful second half of 2021.

As I travel across Texas, TTA members ask about the association and share their thoughts. Each of our board members has a different professional network, and we share those experiences with each other to grow and improve the organization. If you share that commitment to the association, we are always looking for that next new board or committee member. I am sure we can find a job for you. On Monday, I saw Mike Chandler, our 2019 TTA President, and I asked if he was enjoying his break from the board. Mike said he was but that he missed working with the board. It is a great opportunity to serve the industry and build relationships.

The Summer TTA Conference at Horseshoe Bay is fast approaching. The summer conference committee, advisors, and Katie have put together a great event with strong topics, excellent speakers and new opportunities for networking. I was attending a meeting yesterday in Katy and I talked to several TTA members who were there getting their pesticide CEUs. Even though they would meet the requirements to renew that license, they see value in participating in TTA conference. Brandon Bryant, Turf and Pond Care Manager at Glasco & Co Landscaping shared a story from the 2019 TTA Summer Conference of meeting a peer from Dallas on the first evening at the Kyle Field tour. They end up sitting together in the meeting and meals for much of the conference. They still call and text each other to discuss turfgrass and the turf industry.

TTA also offers awards for outstanding lawn and landscapes, golf courses and sports fields. These awards can help you motivate your maintenance teams and show your bosses the value that your team provides. Now is the time to start planning your award applications and get your entries in to Katie Flowers by the end of September 2021.

The conferences and the CPTM program afford you opportunities to develop working relationships with key turf researchers and extension turf specialist. These relationships can be critical to helping you solve problems and to describing the positive environmental and economic impacts of the industry.

In closing, TTA membership and conference participation has may benefits beyond just getting you CEUs. If you aren't currently planning to attend the summer and/or the winter conferences, please take a look at them again. I look forward to seeing you at Horseshoe Bay.

Sincerely,

Raymond C Miller

Raymond C. Miller
President - Texas Turfgrass Association

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Dr.Chrissie Segars
Texas A&M AgriLife
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Howdy and Welcome to Our 2021 Summer Conference!

Thank you to our Board of Directors and Sponsors who have helped put this Summer Conference together and most importantly- In Person!

I know that your education can be reached all throughout the state of Texas and now it is easy to get your required education online and in a short day! We hope to find ways to keep you engaged and coming to our in-person shows each year! The networking and face to face interaction of our industry goes beyond the CEU's you need, and we strive to keep that a focal point at the Summer and upcoming Winter TTA Conference.

Special Thank you to Galveston Deep Sea Fishing Charters, GLK, Austin Turf and Tractor, and Aqua-Aid for helping to Sponsor the Family Putting Tournament at the Summer Conference! This is the type of events that cannot be replaced, and we hope brings our vendors, members, and families together in the Summer!

Recently, we had our largest bunch of Certified Professional Turf Grass Managers pass their examine and are recognized in this newsletter! If you have not received your CPTM designation or would like to inquiry about that, please email me, call me, or visit our website to discuss how we can elevate your resume and profession in this industry! Congratulations to everyone who has held this distinction and to those who just earned their title!

If you have not received your Membership Certificate from our office, please inquire with me as all current 2021 Members have been mailed their certificates!

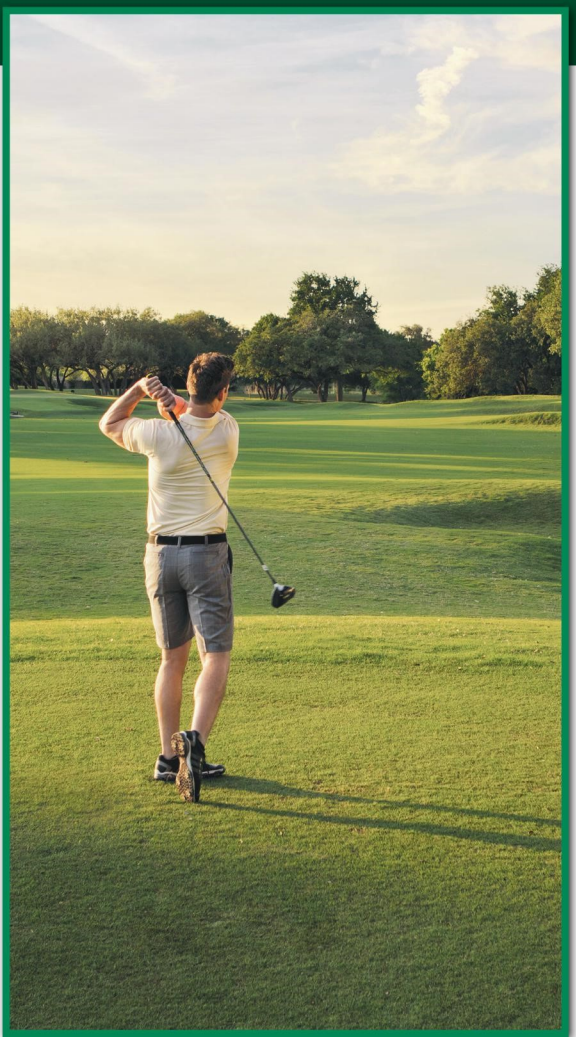
Lastly, Please check out the Texas Turfgrass Association NEW Website! We have updated our look and would love the feedback from everyone!

Thank you to everyone for being a member and for your support!

God Bless!
Your Executive Director,
Katie Flowers

THE 2021 TTA WINTER CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

HYATT HILL COUNTRY RESORT



SAVE THE DATES!
December 14 - 15, 2021

Texas Turfgrass Annual Winter Conference & Trade Show in San Antonio, Texas

JOIN US FOR A 2 DAY IN-PERSON TRADE SHOW AND EDUCATION EVENT

THE TURFGRASS CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Chrissie A. Segars, Ph.D.
Extension Turfgrass Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Texas A&M University Soil & Crop Sciences

You've done it! You've made the decision to renovate your turfgrass area. One of the most important steps in renovation is obtaining quality plant material. This document serves as a basic guideline for choosing quality planting material and being aware of the different options available on the market.

WHAT IS CERTIFIED PLANT MATERIAL?

Plant material goes through several certification processes when it is released from the original breeder. When a turfgrass is released from a breeder, it is placed on a patent. While it is under patent, it must be licensed to seed companies and/or sod growers through a licensing process and also go through the certification process. The certification process involves the Texas Department of Agriculture conducting site visits to "certify" the plant material. Site visits are done at sod farms or seed companies to ensure there are no "off-types" or contaminations from other plants. Once the material has been certified, it may come with a tag to indicate the certification class depending on the type of plant material. However, once the patent has expired then it is up to the individual companies/growers to certify the material through the Texas Department of Agriculture, if they wish to do so. When the patent expires, a license is no longer required to grow the material as there are no legal rules in place. While most growers strive to produce a quality product true to the cultivar, certification adds added assurance to the consumer. Purchasing certified plant material ensures that the cultivar of turfgrass is as-expected with the desired traits that the client is looking for without significant contamination by other cultivars or weeds. Conversely, non-certified material will not offer the same quality assurances, but will sometimes be a good fit for projects with a more limited budget.

SEED CERTIFICATION

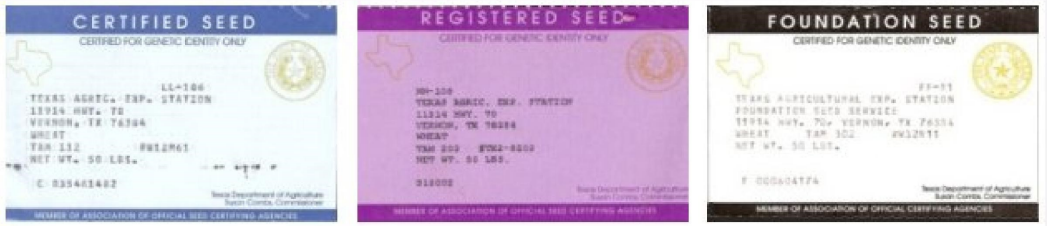


Figure 1: Certification Classes in Texas. Photo Cred: Texas A&M AgriLife Foundation Seed

Figure 1 shows three examples of certified seed tags used in the state of Texas. The color and certification class on each tag will indicate how many generations away from the original seeded cultivar developed by the plant breeder.

The certified class is generally the material that is available to the public for purchase. Information provided on the seed certification tag must include class of certification, kind of crop, variety, lot number, and name and address of the owner. The lot number will allow the end-user to trace the plant material to the original grower and field. This is important for contamination and inaccurate plant material issues that may arise.

SOD CERTIFICATION

While sod goes through the same certification process as seed, a certification tag generally does not come with certified sod. Each individual farm will have turfgrass cultivars that may be at different stages of the certification and/or patent process.

Consumers should inquire with each sod farm to learn about different options for certified plant material.

WHERE CAN I GET CERTIFIED PLANT MATERIAL?

When looking for certified seed, always look for the certification tag as well as an analysis of what is in the bag. This may include weed seed, other crops, or inert matter. The certification tag is going to assure the consumer that seed has met standards of germination and purity testing and that seed is quality.

For more information on the seed certification process, please visit: https://tfss.tamu.edu/for-buyers/seed-certification/.

For more information on where to get sod in Texas, please visit: www.texasgrass.com.

For more information on regulatory programs from the Texas Department of Agriculture, please visit: https://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms.aspx

Photo Cred: Turfgrass Producers of Texas

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT, PLEASE VISIT AGGIETURF.TAMU.EDU OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT.

PRODUCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOIL AND CROP SCIENCES. SOILCROP.TAMU.EDU

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROGRAM PROVIDER THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS OF TEXAS COOPERATING

New Certified Professional Turf Managers!

Weston Floyd
Texas A&M Agrilife Research

Member: TTA, STMA, TXSTMA - Past President, GCSAA, Lone Star GCSA, Crop Science Society of America, BS Agronomy / Entomology, Texas A&M '05

Reed Grant
Center Country Club

Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Science in Animal Science

Congratulations!

Kyle Foreman

Lone Star Tree and Landscape Consulting Services

Member: TTA, International Society of Aboriculture, ISA Texas Chapter, National Association of Landscape Professionals. Bachelor's Degree Business Management, Southwestern University 2009, Certificate in Turfgrass Management, University of Georgia 2020. Certified Arborist, 7 Green Industry Certifications and Licenses. Passion for helping people grow better, healthier plants and managing soils. Enjoys playing golf, watching baseball, hunting, fishing, or just about anything outdoors.

Kristena Polmanteer

Owner - Lawn Doctor

Member: TTA, BMI - Woodlands 1, Associates Degree Accounting, Davenport University. Worked in the green industry since 2015. Best of the Best Award as a Lawn Doctor franchise 2017 and 2018.

Congrats to our newest CPTMs

Juan Tapia
City of Plano

Member: TTA, Texas STMA, Texas Department of Agriculture. Has been with the City of Plano for 15 years. Manages Sports Fields.

Joseph Buechman
Town of Prosper

Member: Arbor Day Foundation, TTA, International Society of Arboriculture. AAS Degree Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture. ISA Certified Arborist, TDA Licensed Applicator.

Stephan Richardson
City of College Station Parks

Member: TTA, Texas STMA, STMA, TRAPS, NRPA. Bachelor of Science Agriculture - Horticulture and Crop Sciences - Sam Houston State University

Newest CPTMs Continued

Francisco Peralta

Peralta Pest Management and Tree Service LLC. Harris County Flood Control District

Civic Organizations: Bayou Preservation Association, Mercer Botanical Gardens, ISA Texas Chapter Member: TTA, Entomological Society of America, International Society of Arboriculture, Dominican College of Architect, Engineer and Surveyor. BS Degree Agricultural Engineering from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (AUSD). My wife, Rayetta Peralta, and I are residents of Conroe, TX. I love nature, the conservation of natural resources and clean energy. I am a Board Certified Entomologist, Certified Arborist and Certified Pesticide Applicator with the Texas Department of Agriculture, (Ag and SPCB)

Carlos Montelongo

City of Plano

Member: STMA, TTA. Has been with the City of Plano 10 years, Started as maintenance worker, currently Asstistant Supervisor over Ballfields in the Parks / Rec department.

Congrats to our newest CPTMs

Gary West
Terra Amare LLC, DBA West Turf Texas

MS in One Planet Leadership from Texas A&M - Central Texas, BS in Nursing Midwestern State University. Been a turf nut since I can remember. My dad had me mowing back when the lawn mower handle was far above my head. Have always had the best lawn in the neighborhood. My business came naturally as I started performing services for others for free. Turf is therapy and has helped me maintain health after retiring from the Army and a long career as an ICU Nurse.

Gosta Olofson
Purple Care

Vander Hallmark
City of New Braunfels

Trevor Perez
Self - Employed

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IS VIRTUAL REALITY IN THE FUTURE OF TURF?

Written by: Daniel Allen
Graphic Designer, Brouwer Kesmac

Virtual and Augmented reality have been on the rise in gaming and entertainment, but this immersive technology has shown it can innovate beyond the entertainment industry. From drone pilots, to aviation training and healthcare, virtual and augmented reality have proven their potential to become a fixture across different fields; one emerging trend being Virtual and Augmented Reality in agriculture.

The coronavirus pandemic has forced most to go virtual this year, including John Deere who will distribute Facebook's Oculus Quest 2 goggles to media and clients, offering an immersive and visual experience while also educating people who aren't familiar with agriculture. Another company experimenting with VR and 360 video is Brouwer Kesmac. "We know our clientele are intuitive and like to see things in person. Much like test driving a car, we are exploring ways to offer our customers that intimate experience in the comfort of their home." 360 video offers a real life perspective captured in complete panorama that can be viewed in 360 on a VR headset, mobile phone or tablet. (youtube.com/brouwerkesmac)

Tablets and mobile devices have also become a valuable business tool incorporating virtual and augmented reality through apps that provide data and automation, that's no different when it comes to precision agriculture. Using sensors, mapping satellites, GPS and other technology, precision farming allows farmers to be more efficient with resources and can help diagnose problems in advance.

THE REALITY OF VIRTUAL TRAINING

Virtual training and simulators have become common place for many industries and agriculture just might be next. With large machinery, virtual training costs far less than traditional training and mitigates possible malfunction or injury with un-trained workers. With the ability to be done remotely, a new employee can troubleshoot problems and train their skills for a smooth transition to a real working environment.

Eric Brouwer
General Manager
Brouwer Kesmac

Another application is a Virtual Operator. Similar to an operator flying a drone, rather than having the operator onboard, a Virtual Operator can operate the machinery, make technical adjustments or provide technical service for a customer from anywhere in the world. A farmer could monitor and operate an autonomous fleet all from the comfort of his home, reducing cost and freeing up labor. There will no doubt be a need for real life operators however, it's not if, but when automation will take that next step.

DRONES. DRONES. AND MORE DRONES!

Drones are common place these days. With an ever-growing consumer market and several fields like real-estate and emergency services being early adopters, it's no wonder we see the drone market expanding into agriculture. From land surveying, to crop fertilization, drones have not only become the more effective alternative, but they have help create a new industry for remote and virtual operators. With the ability to monitor from above, farmers can gather and apply data and insights to overcome engineering challenges and provide a unique opportunity to view and display their products from a new perspective. Producing exciting mainstream content and marketing to showcase your product has never been more accessible; and the mediums to share that content are expanding every day.

Between social media apps like Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and online platforms like Youtube and Twitch, there have never been more ways to distribute your content. The way we consume information is changing everyday and these applications pave the way for consumers and public access.

The next generation of farmers have arrived. Whether they inherited their family's farm, started one from scratch or purchased one and picked up where someone else has left off, a new demographic of farmer is here. As restrictions loosen surrounding the pandemic it's evident we are moving in a digital direction. Zoom calls, social media and virtual events have already permeated our lives in one way or another, and though we may not embrace all of them, these technologies are what allow our families and businesses to adapt and keep moving forward. After all it's been the ability to adapt that has kept the farmer on his feet for generations and will continue for generations to come.

THE 2021 TTA SUMMER CONFERENCE

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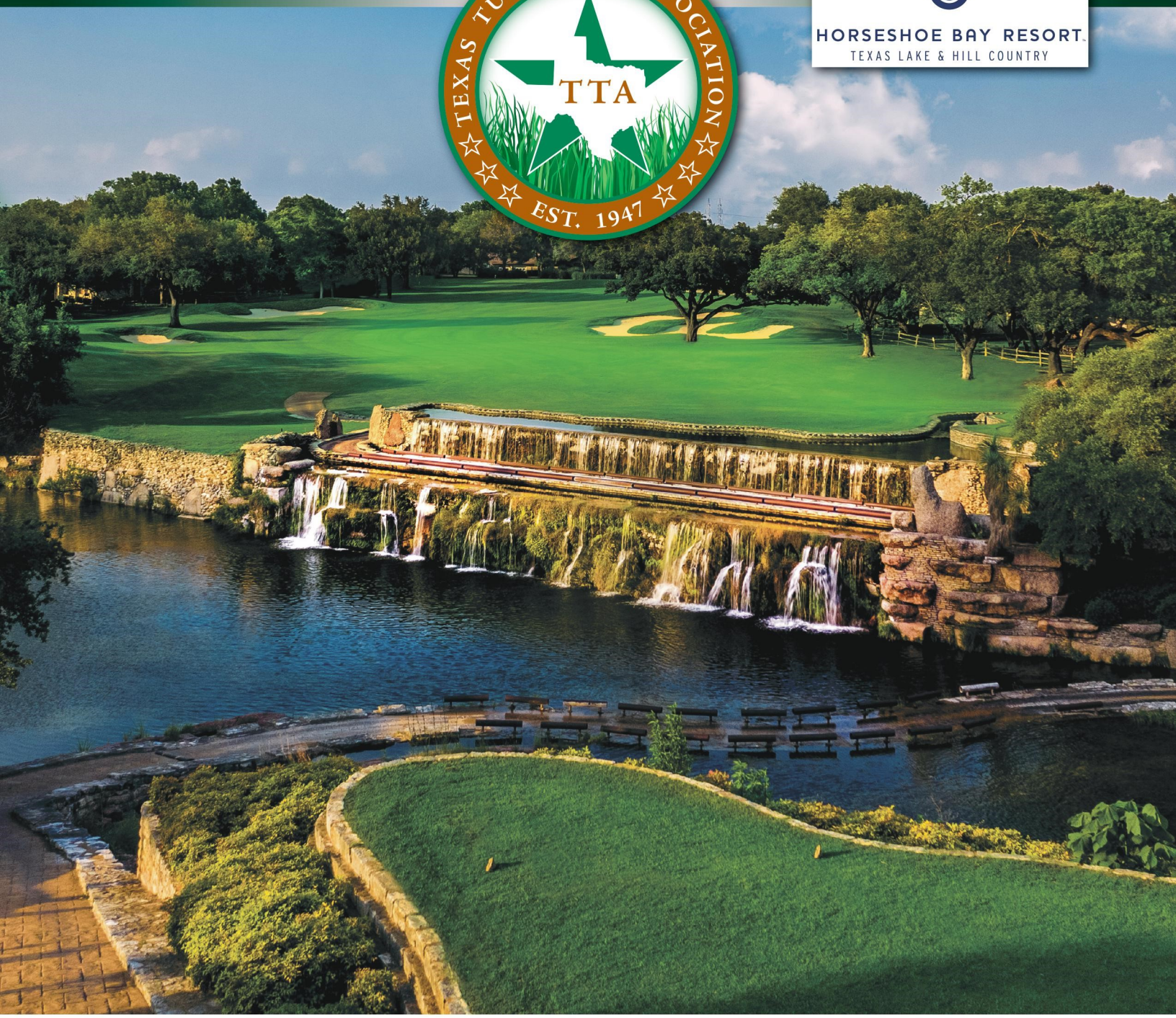

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Known for its cold tolerance, Innovation Zoysia is a finer bladed zoysia variety that is quick to recover from damage. Innovation was developed to challenge the upper regions of zoysia adaptability to cold temperatures while maintaining exceptional quality and appearance.

Thinking of making the switch? Contact our team to learn more at
SodSolutionsPro.com/TTA

TTA SUMMER CONFERENCE

Sunday, July 18 • Granite Ballroom A, B, C, D

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9:00	Registration	
11:00-1:00	Exhibits Open	
1:00	Pesticide Labels and Water: Laws & Regs for the Urban Landscape	Dr. Becky Bowling, * TDA CEU credit speaker
2:00	Sunshine and Daisies: What Could Possibly Go Wrong?	Dr. Gabriel Neal
3:00	Break with Exhibitors	
3:15	Demystify Take-All Root Rot	Dr. Young Ki-Jo, * TDA CEU credit speaker
4:15	Conservation- More than a Trend, Here to Stay	Whitney Milberger-Laird
5:30-8:30	TTA Putting Tournament with 4 Flight Options- Families Welcome!	

Join Our Putting Tournament!

Sunday - July 18 - CPTM Testing Limestone Room

There is no lecture for this testing.
TTA will provide the re-test option for those who wish to test for the exam.

Monday - July 19 - TDA Lecture with Dr Mark Matocha - Limestone Room

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension • Texas Department of Agriculture

When you register for this session, you must pre-register and pay fees for the conference and this session. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is now charging for this session. When you register for this session, it also includes the fees for the manuals you will need.

The license exams are not given at the TTA Conference. The Texas Department of Agriculture conducts all testing through a third party testing company, PSI Exams. If you would like to schedule the exams you must first register with TDA. You can register at:

https://licensing.texasagriculture.gov

You will pay the exam fee directly to them when you test. If you are a new applicator you will need to take the General test and at least one category test to get a license, usually the Landscape Maintenance.

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Monday, July 19 • Granite Ballroom A, B, C, D

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
10:00-12:00	Brunch With Exhibitors	
12:00	USA Softball: The Softball Capital of the World	Jeff Salmond
1:00	Mini-Freaky Aliens: The Insects Occupying Turfgrass in Texas	Dr. Erfan Vafaie, * TDA CEU credit speaker
2:00	Break with Exhibitors and Refreshments	
2:30	Quantifying Reduced Turfgrass Irrigation Requirements in Shade	Dr. Joseph Young
3:30	A Fungus Among Us: Review and Updates for Common Texas Turfgrass Diseases	Dr. Becky Bowling, * TDA CEU credit speaker

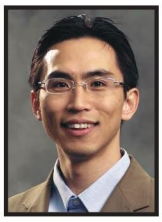
Tuesday, July 20 • Granite Ballroom A, B, C, D

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
7:00-8:00	Breakfast With Exhibitors	
8:00	Getting Lost in the Weeds	Dr. Chrissie Segars, * TDA CEU credit speaker
9:00	Drifting Away	Dr. Hennen Cummings, * TDA CEU credit speaker
10:00-12:00	Synthetic Turf Panel - Open Room Discussion	Kelly Clark, Symmetry Sports Construction Jeff Salmond, United Turf and Track Bret Allen, Paragon Sports

Special Thanks for All of Our Educational Speakers

Dr. Becky Bowling
Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist for Urban Water: Texas A&M AgriLife; The Dallas Center

Dr. Hennen Cummings
Professor at Tarleton State University



Dr. Youn Ki-Jo
Professor & Extension Specialist; Dept. of Plant Pathology & Microbiology; Texas A&M Biology

Whitney Milberer-Laird
TTA Past President: North Fort Bend Water Authority BGE, Inc.

Dr. Mark Matocha
Associate Professor and Extension Specialist; Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Bret Allen
VP of Sales & Marketing Paragon Sports Constructors

Dr. Gabriel Neal
MD MA (Bioethics), Fellow, American Academy of Family Physicians Asst. Clinical Faculty; Dept. of Primary Care, Texas A&M University College of Medicine

Jeff Salmond
Vice President United Turf and Track

Dr. Chrissie Segars
Assistant Professor; Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Dr. Erfan Vafaire
Extension Program Specialist II-IPM Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Dr. Joseph Young
Associate Professor of Turf Science; Texas Tech University

Kelly Clark
VP of Business Development Symmetry Sports Construction,

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