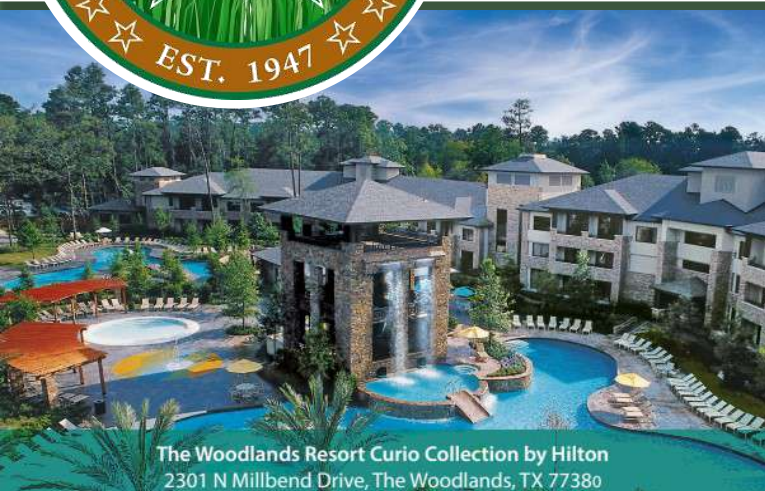




2nd Quarter 2026

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**Full Conference Program
Pages 20 - 27**

TDA and GCSAA Credit

TDA Credits approved thus far:
Agriculture- 1 Drift, 1 IPM, and 5 General
Structural: 1 L&O, 1 Weed; 1 General- Safety; 5- General Other
GCSAA: July 12th- .30; July 13th- .30; July 14th- .03

TTA SUMMER CONFERENCE

SUNDAY, July 12, 2026 - Grand Ballroom

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9am	Registration	
11am-1pm	Exhibits Open- Join us for a light lunch and Network with our Table Top Exhibitors!	
1pm	"Herbicide Resistant Weeds"	Dr. Hennen Cummings <i>*CEU speaker</i>
2pm	"The Game's still Won on the Fields"	Bryce Stuckenschneider
3pm	BREAK	
3:15pm	"Municipal Procurement and Finance"	Tyler Agee
4:15pm	"Turfgrass Advice for Homeowners"	Dr. Hennen Cummings <i>*CEU speaker</i>

**Austin
English**

Join us at 6:15pm for an exciting evening
directly in the Grand Ballroom.!

Acoustic Music, featuring Austin English.
Cash Bar, Apps, Corn Hole - Families welcome!
Come network and enjoy!



MONDAY, July 13, 2026 - Grand Ballroom

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9am	Hot Breakfast and Coffee with Exhibitors - Don't miss it!	
10am	"Updates in Irrigation Water Management"	Charles Swanson <i>*CEU speaker</i>
11am	"SMU Washburne Soccer Field Replacement: FIFA World Cup 2026"	Jeff Salmond
12:15pm	"Autonomous Mowers: Turfgrass Response, Benefits, and Limitations"	Dr. Pablo Boeri
1:15pm	"Innovations and Insights in Outdoor Power Equipment"	Dr. Bryan Unruh <i>*CEU speaker</i>
2:15-5:15	FREE TIME AT THE RESORT	

TUESDAY, July 14, 2026 - Grand Ballroom

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
7am	Breakfast with our Exhibitors - Last chance to network!	
8am	"Identification, Monitoring, and Management of Key Turfgrass Pests"	Dr. Caixing Xiong <i>*CEU speaker</i>
9am	"Bermudagrass: Genetic Diversity, Breeding improvement, and Turf Cultivars"	Dr. Yanqi Wu <i>*CEU speaker</i>
10am	"Simply Offer More Education: The AWE S.O.M.E. Approach to Growth"	Michael W. Potter
11am	"Herbicide Drift: Understanding Risk, Protecting Your Turf Operation, and Staying Compliant"	Dr. Scott Nottle <i>*CEU speaker</i>

Keeping Texas Green SINCE 1947



TEXAS TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

President's Message



As we move into the summer season, I want to thank each of you for your continued support and commitment to the Texas Turfgrass Association (TTA). The second quarter has been a productive one for our industry, with members across the state working hard to advance turfgrass management practices, support our communities, and strengthen our profession.

One of the highlights of the year is quickly approaching—the **Texas Turfgrass Association Summer Trade Show and Conference**, scheduled for **July 12–14 in the Woodlands!** This event provides an outstanding opportunity for turfgrass professionals, suppliers, researchers, educators, and industry leaders to come together for networking, education, and the exchange of ideas. Attendees can expect informative educational sessions, the latest industry innovations showcased by our exhibitors, and valuable opportunities to connect with colleagues from across Texas.

I encourage all members to make plans now to attend and bring members of your team. In addition, we are pleased to welcome families to participate in the event. The conference offers a great opportunity to combine professional development with quality time spent enjoying the activities and hospitality planned throughout the weekend.

As our association continues to grow, your involvement remains essential to our success. Whether you are attending events, volunteering on boards and committees, supporting our educational initiatives, or simply sharing your expertise with fellow members, your contributions help strengthen the future of the turfgrass industry in Texas.

I look forward to seeing many of you in July and appreciate everything you do to support TTA. Have a safe and successful summer season!

Sincerely,
Brian Norton
TTA President 2026



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Welcome to Summer 2026

A great big thank-you to all of our exhibitors, sponsors, and members for being part of this year's Summer Conference in the Woodlands, TX. One thing you will notice on our conference name badges this year is a "New Member" ribbon. Please take a moment to recognize and welcome our new members who have chosen to join TTA and become part of this association and professional industry. There is so much knowledge and camaraderie within this group, and I want every new member to feel welcomed right away!



Our Awards Program is also coming up, with submissions due in September. I encourage all members to consider submitting fields, landscapes, or golf courses that you feel are deserving of recognition. These awards are also a wonderful way to recognize the staff members who put in the hard work and dedication every day. I know many parts of Texas are struggling with drought, so maintaining fields and turf right now is one of the biggest challenges we face. If you are also working through staffing challenges, success with limited resources is especially worth celebrating. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Award recipients will be announced at the Winter Conference in December.

Texas Turfgrass Association
has implemented a Texting System and we urge you all to opt in.

Please Text: TTA2023 To: 972-243-9239

This service will only be used for TTA events and notifications.

This is a great tool! Emails get buried and you can stay informed!

Speaking of staffing, please remember that TTA offers a job board for all members. I try to keep job postings available for 60 days. If you have an open position, email it to me and I will make sure the opportunity is posted on our website as soon as possible.

Lastly, do not forget about our Winter Show in Frisco, TX, on December 15th and 16th, 2026. We hope to see many of you there!



Thank you to our Board of Directors, advisors,
and sponsors for your continued work and support!
God bless!

Warmest regards,
Your Executive Director,
Katie Flowers



2026 Annual Summer Conference - July 12-14

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OBJECTIVES



To raise and maintain the professional standards of those employed in the turfgrass industry in Texas.



To provide effective continuing education programs for professional turfgrass managers.



To award special recognition to professional turfgrass managers who demonstrate a high level of accomplishment and skill.



To encourage professional turf managers to become active participants in the Texas Turfgrass Association.

Congratulations to the newest CPTMs!

Sergio Vasquez

Trevor Oakley - City of University Park

Jon Slate - City of Plano

Jose Diaz - SSC Service Solutions

Ruben Garcia - City of Lewisville

Zach Burney - Sulphur Springs Country Club

Thomas Garcia - SSc Service Solutions

Guillermo Sanchez Garcia

Treason Dyess - SSc Service Solutions

Gregg Gilmore - City of Jersey Village

Karen Rangel - Reeves County Golf Course

Kirk Parrish - Chambers Creek Golf Course

Next CPTM Lecture will be held is on December 15 at the Frisco Conference Center. Join us in December!

CPTM CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Certified Professional Turf Manager (CPTM) designation recognizes a level of achievement in professional turfgrass management in Texas beyond a Bachelor of Science degree or a long tenure in the industry.

The CPTM designation is a mark of distinction. Professionals who acquire the CPTM designation benefit the turfgrass industry and themselves through increased self-esteem and respect, increased value and service to their employer and increased competitiveness in the job market.

By acquiring the CPTM designation, the professional turf manager sets himself or herself apart from other turf managers.

For applicants to be considered for the CPTM designation and to maintain that designation they must provide documented evidence of turf management skills, participation in continuing education programs and successful employment in the turfgrass industry.

Applicants for the CPTM designation are also required to satisfactorily complete a comprehensive written examination. An intensive 4-day training program in preparation for the examination is optional.

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The Data-Driven Golf Course: New Technologies Transforming Turf Management

Author - Samantha Wilson

The Data-Driven Golf Course: New Technologies Transforming Turf Management

Golf course superintendents and turfgrass specialists have long balanced science, experience, and observation to produce consistent playing conditions. In recent years, however, the next generation of technologies, from advanced soil sensors to digital course management platforms, is transforming how golf courses are managed.

Instead of relying primarily on visual observation and manual measurements, turf managers now have access to real-time data, precision monitoring tools, and digital analytics that help guide daily decisions. The result is not only improved operational efficiency, but also better turf quality and more consistent playing conditions for golfers.

Precision Agronomy Comes to Golf Courses

One of the most significant shifts occurring in golf course management is the move toward precision agronomy, a concept borrowed from modern agriculture that focuses on applying resources exactly where and when they are needed.

Continued on Page 12



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Continued From Page 10

Today, a growing number of tools allow superintendents to monitor turf conditions at a level of detail that was previously difficult to achieve. Soil sensors installed throughout a course can continuously measure conditions such as soil moisture, temperature, and salinity, transmitting that information to cloud-based platforms for analysis.

Companies including Syngenta have partnered with technology firms such as Spiio to develop cellular soil sensors designed specifically for golf courses and sports turf. These systems continuously collect soil data and send it to digital dashboards that turf managers can access from a smartphone or computer. By monitoring soil conditions in real time, superintendents can identify early signs of stress and adjust irrigation or maintenance practices before turf health declines.

New Tools for Measuring Turf Conditions

In addition to permanent sensors, new handheld tools are helping turf managers gather more precise information about course conditions. In 2025, the United States Golf Association introduced the USGA Moisture Meter, a handheld device capable of measuring soil moisture, temperature, and salinity while automatically uploading the data into the organization’s digital course management platform.

The meter integrates with the USGA’s DEACON course management system, which allows superintendents to record and analyze data from multiple areas of the course. By collecting consistent measurements over time, turf managers can track trends and better understand how different sections of the course respond to weather, irrigation, and maintenance practices.

According to the USGA, tools like these help courses apply the same data-driven management strategies used in professional tournament preparation, where precise turf conditions are critical for consistent play.

Mapping Moisture Across Fairways

While handheld tools provide valuable spot measurements, some emerging technologies allow superintendents to measure soil conditions across entire playing surfaces. One example is the moisture-mapping technology developed by turfRad. The system can be mounted on maintenance vehicles and collects thousands of soil moisture readings as the vehicle travels across the course.

The collected data produces detailed color-coded maps showing exactly where soils are too wet or too dry. According to the company, a single pass across a fairway can generate thousands of root-zone moisture readings, giving superintendents a far clearer picture of soil variability across the property.

This level of detail allows irrigation systems to be adjusted more precisely. Instead of watering an entire irrigation zone equally, superintendents can target specific areas where moisture levels differ.

Improving the Golfer’s Experience

Although many of these technologies are designed to improve operational efficiency, they also have a direct impact on course playability. Firm, consistent turf conditions are essential for shot performance. Excessively wet areas can reduce ball roll on fairways and create softer putting surfaces, while overly dry areas may stress turf or produce uneven playing conditions.

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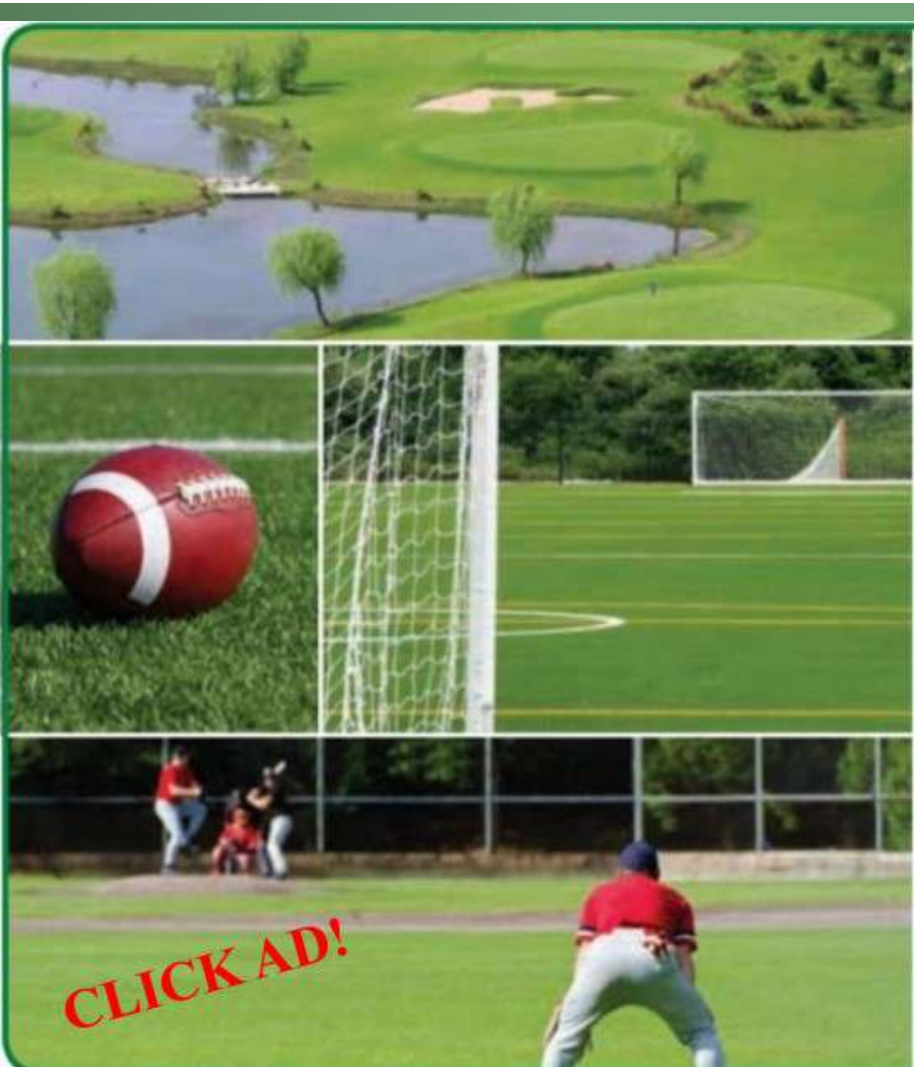
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By maintaining more consistent soil moisture levels, precision monitoring tools help superintendents strike the right balance between turf health and playing quality. Moisture mapping technologies, in particular, can help eliminate wet spots and dry patches that affect ball roll and surface consistency. Better data also supports more informed decisions about mowing, rolling, and irrigation timing. Over time, turf managers can compare environmental data with maintenance practices to better understand how different conditions affect green speed, firmness, and turf performance.

The Future of the Digital Golf Course

Technology is rapidly becoming an integral part of golf course management. As sensors, analytics platforms, and automation tools continue to evolve, superintendents are gaining access to more powerful tools for monitoring turf conditions and guiding management decisions. Researchers and technology companies are already exploring advanced systems such as predictive models that analyze turf stress patterns and digital platforms that combine weather data, soil conditions, and course management records.

These innovations are helping superintendents combine their expertise and experience with real-time information and advanced analytics. While technology can provide valuable insights, it is the knowledge, judgment, and experience of turfgrass professionals that ultimately transform that data into exceptional playing conditions. Together, this combination of human expertise and advanced tools is becoming essential to maintaining the outstanding golf courses players expect.



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Lobo® Zoysia Shows Early Strength in Texas Parks

CATEGORY: LOBO ZOYSIAGRASS

In a state where heat, shade and heavy use all collide, finding a grass that can handle real conditions matters. That is exactly what Travis Sales set out to test in Texas.

Sales, the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Rockwall, oversees everything from sports fields and playgrounds to irrigation across the park system. As he put it, “If it’s in a park, we manage it.” After retiring from a 32-year career with the City of Mesquite, he stepped right back into the work, retiring on a Friday and starting with Rockwall the following Monday in July 2017.

With more than 40 years in the industry, Sales has been heavily involved with the Texas Turfgrass Association (TTA) over the past two decades, including serving as past president in 2010 and 2014 and as a long-time board member. Through that involvement, he stays closely connected to new varieties entering the market and stresses the importance of trialing them in the field.

One of those is Lobo® Zoysia, a newer grass developed by North Carolina State University, released in 2021. Sales first heard about Lobo through TTA and conversations with Sod Solutions. “I decided to do some real-world testing,” he said.



Pictured above: Lobo® Zoysia installed at City of Rockwall sites showing early establishment and density.

That testing includes multiple sites with very different challenges. Installations at the city’s historic museum include both full-sun and shaded areas, while the police station site is “almost 100% shade.” Another location sits under a large live oak where grass has struggled to grow in the past. All were sodded in July 2025 by Sales’ team using Lobo supplied by Murff Turf through Sod Solutions Professionals for sourcing and logistics. Early performance has stood out, even through recent swings in Texas weather, with temperatures ranging from the mid-90s one day to the low 60s just days later.

Continued on Page 18



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—BRENDAN SEAVER

Director of Field Operations - Columbus Clingstones



Every comeback starts from the ground up.



Lobo® Zoysia installed at the Rockwall County Museum gazebo.

Continued from Page 16

“The one thing I did notice about Lobo is that it rooted extremely quickly for a zoysia,” he said. “We were throwing down roots at the end of week one.” He added that the establishment paid off, with foot traffic within a few days of installation.

“Once it’s on the ground, you cannot dig through the canopy and touch soil; it is so thick,” he said, noting the density even affected mowing early on. He added they had to adjust mowing with a push mower and that it requires slightly more attention than bermudagrass.

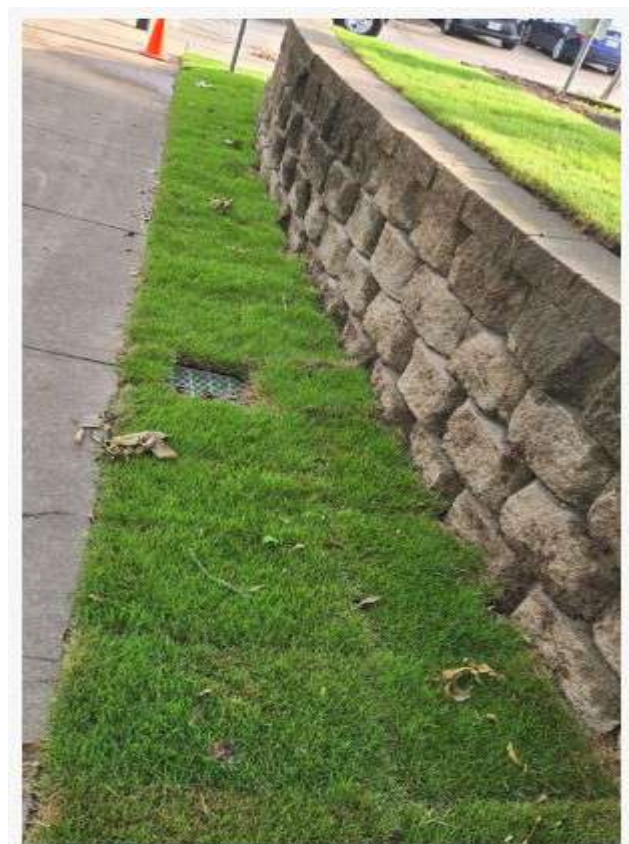
Compared with previous grasses in these areas, Lobo is showing improved performance, especially in shade. “Some of the areas I’ve got it in get less than two to three hours of sun a day, and so far it’s doing great.” While zoysia does require some adjustment compared to bermuda, management has been straightforward with only minor changes, such as slightly higher mowing heights in shaded areas. Sales is now looking ahead to a full growing season, but early observations are strong.

He is also evaluating Cobalt Hybrid® St. Augustine alongside Lobo at the police station and said he has been very happy with its performance so far.

Sales has also begun sharing those early observations, recently speaking to more than 150 attendees at a Rockwall County course, Homeowners Guide to Landscaping, where he included Lobo Zoysia and its maintenance in the discussion. Hosted in partnership with the North Texas Municipal Water District and AgriLife Extension, the program focuses on practical tools and guidance for homeowners. Another session is scheduled for April 25.

Through that work, Sales emphasized the importance of continued education on turfgrass, especially as newer varieties improve drought tolerance and water-use efficiency. “It doesn’t have to be a water hog anymore like the varieties did in the past.”

Now managing several thousand square feet of Lobo, Sales is among the early end-users of the variety in Texas, with more insight expected as it moves through its first full growing season.



Lobo® Zoysia installed at the City of Rockwall.

This article was written by Cecilia Johnson.

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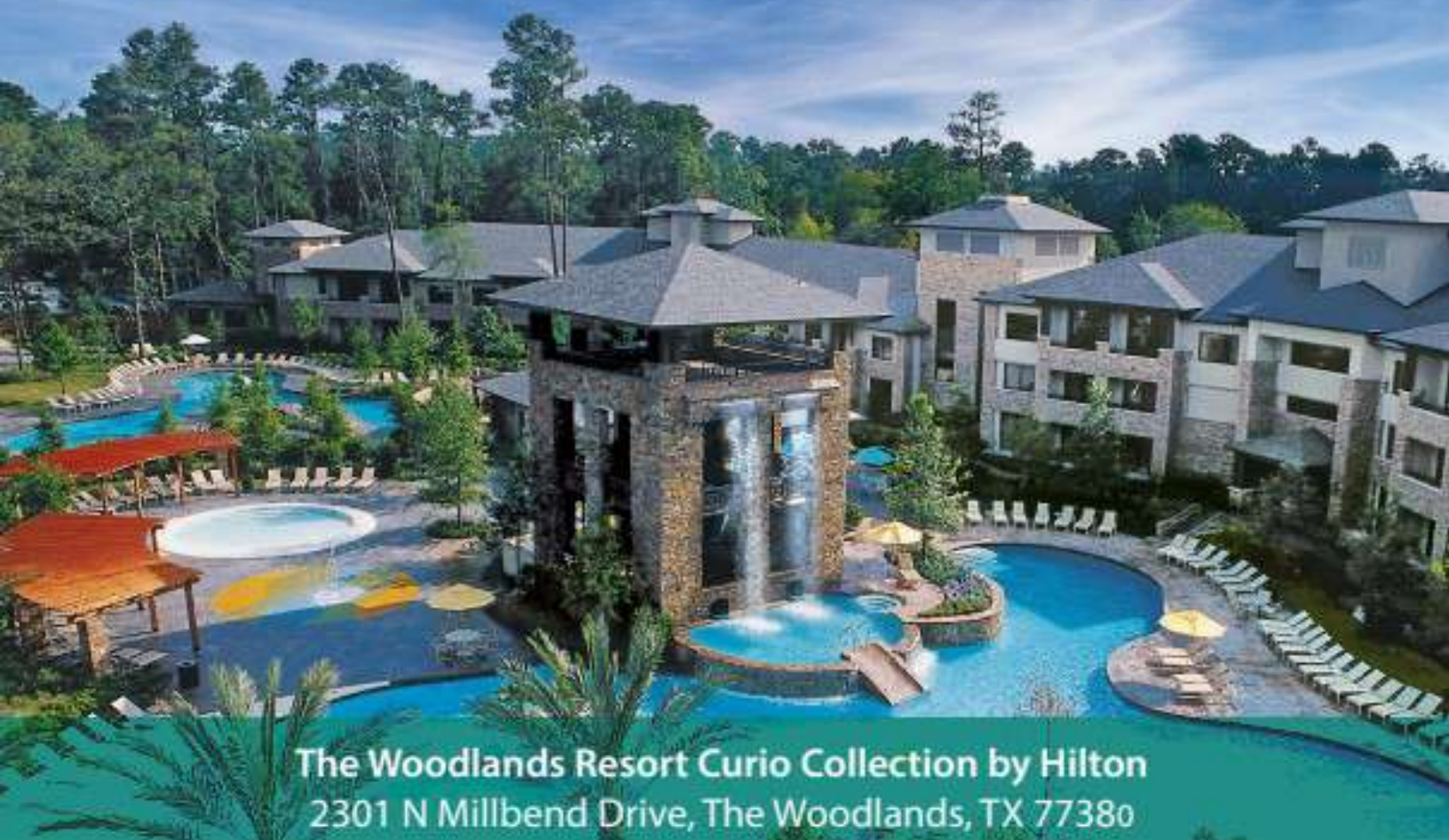
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Austin English

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Cash Bar, Apps, Corn Hole - Families welcome!
Come network and enjoy!



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9am	"Bermudagrass: Genetic Diversity, Breeding improvement, and Turf Cultivars"	Dr . Yanqi Wu *CEU speaker
10am	"Simply Offer More Education: The AWE S.O.M.E. Approach to Growth"	Michael W. Potter
11am	"Herbicide Drift: Understanding Risk, Protecting Your Turf Operation, and Staying Compliant"	Dr. Scott Nottle *CEU speaker

TDA and GCSAA Credit

TDA Credits approved thus far:

Agriculture- 1 Drift, 1 IPM, and 5 General

Structural: 1 L&O, 1 Weed; 1 General- Safety; 5- General Other

GCSAA; July 12th- .30; July 13th- .30; July 14th.- 03

Continuing Education Credit Information

Each TDA-approved educational session will include a QR code for attendance verification. To receive full TDA credit, attendees must attend all three days of the conference. Please note that TDA does not allow partial credit.

The final session on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, will complete the full course requirement. After the course concludes, the Executive Director will submit the course content and attendance information directly to TDA.

For GCSAA credit, attendees must sign in at registration each day to receive 0.30 credit.

CPTM and MCPTM participants must also sign in daily at registration to receive 5 CEUs toward certification.

To stay up to date with conference updates, join our texting group: Text 'Summer26' to 979-243-9239

Special Thanks for All of Our Educational Speakers



J. Bryan Unruh, Ph.D.

Professor and Associate
Center Director
West Florida Research and
Education Center
University of Florida



P. Agustin Boeri, PhD

Assistant Professor - Extension
Turfgrass Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Research and
Extension Center at Dallas



Jeff Salmond, CSFM

Ambassador
United Turf and Track



Hennen Cummings, Ph.D.

Professor of Aquaponics and
Turfgrass Management
Internship Coordinator
Wildlife, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Sciences
Tarleton State University, Member of The Texas
A&M University System



Tyler Agee, MBA, CPRE, CPSI

Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Keep Duncannville Beautiful Board Liaison



Caixing Xiong, Ph.D.

Assistant Research Scientist
Department of Entomology



Yanqi Wu, Ph.D.

Regents Professor / Meibergem
Family Professorship
Oklahoma State



Scott Nolte, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Weed Specialist
Soil and Crop Sciences Dept.
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Charles Swanson, M.Agr.

Extension Program Specialist II - Landscape Irrigation
TCEQ Licensed Irrigator #16031
Certified Ag Irrigation Specialist
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Michael W. Potter, M.S.

Horticulture Extension Agent, Montgomery
County | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service |
Certified Professional Turf Manager



Bryce Stuckenschneider

Principal | Trailblaze Labs





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