



# TVMA QUARTERLY CLIP

September, 2009

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## Register Now!

Just a few weeks until the Texas Vegetation Management Conference kicks off with the scholarship benefit golf tournament at Newport Dunes on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to join two hundred or more involved in vegetation management and related fields for CEUs, training, testing, indoor and outdoor booths, networking, food, and fun at the Emerald Beach Holiday Inn in Corpus Christi, Texas on October 5-7. Rob Brooks, John Mason, and the rest of the board have worked diligently to plan a conference that is a “Don’t Miss!” meeting. Bring yourself up-to-date through the educational classes outlined on the enclosed agenda and note those who have already committed to sponsorships for this event. Take the training offered Monday and Tuesday and test on Wednesday for a Texas Department of Agriculture commercial pesticide applicator license. Network with exhibitors and other attendees while sharing your input as to how TVMA can continue to serve its members. Join everyone for Casino Night on Tuesday and polish your Texas Hold ‘em or gaming skills. What better opportunity to become actively involved in the Texas Vegetation Management Association and take advantage of all TVMA has to offer than at this premier event in an ideal setting on the Gulf Coast at a hotel with a private beach and heated indoor pool?

Register now with the forms included or on line at [tvma.net](http://tvma.net)! See you in Corpus.



## Presidential Update

Well, this is my final presidents' letter. This year sure has gone by fast. It's still hot now, but fall is just around the corner and all that comes with it; football season, deer hunting, the TVMA conference, and hopefully a brief reprieve at the end of the year that will allow us all to catch our breath, spend some time with the ones that we work so hard for, and time to get ready to do it all again in 2010.

I want to start by thanking all of you for entrusting me with the honor of representing you as the president of this great organization for the past year. I can honestly say that I had a lot to live up to when looking back on the list of other individuals who have served in this same position. Fortunately for me I've had a lot of help from a really dedicated group of board members and it has been my pleasure to work with you all. Thanks again for your time and efforts on behalf of our organization.

A lot of exciting things have happened with your organization this year and it has been a privilege to be involved in it. To begin with, your organization has given more scholarship money back to its members than ever before by awarding three deserving students of members \$2000 scholarships along with an additional \$2000 to a student studying in a field related to our industry. We are poised to grow our membership beyond what the original founders had ever conceived, and with the help of Donnie and Kay Dippel we have taken further steps to become a recognized force within our industry and in our states political environment by joining the Ag Council, petitioning our states legislators to protect the right to do our jobs, and keeping track of pending legislation that will affect our industry.

John Mason has done an outstanding job in putting together an exciting agenda for this years conference in Corpus Christi. We have a lot in store for you and have additionally worked very hard to keep you up to date with the latest products, and technology available in our field from an excellent list of vendors. Hopefully, we will steer clear of any hurricanes this year and we will all enjoy the great atmosphere, food, and fellowship that Corpus Christi has to offer.

I am pleased to see a renewed interest in individuals willing and able to serve on this board and believe you will have a tough time in determining whom to elect as your board members this year as there are several very qualified individuals that possess a lot of enthusiasm and passion for this organization.

I'll close by thanking you once again for your support this past year and hope that you will still feel free to call me if you have anything on your mind. Remember, this is your organization, and unlike our government we want to hear what you have to say. I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,  
Rob

### New Member

The newest member of TVMA is David Grimm with Bluebonnet Electric Coop. For a nominal membership fee of \$25.00 join TVMA to help it stay a strong voice for those in vegetation management and related fields. Bring a coworker to the convention or suggest they join. This is an organization that works for the concerns of the vegetation management industry.

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## Legislative Update

In the last newsletter I mentioned the ruling by the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court's interpreting the Clean Water Act (CWA) requiring a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for any applications of pesticides to, on or near water. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) jurisdiction in the CWA is defined as navigable waters of the United States. Since the last newsletter proposed legislation has appeared to remove the word *navigable* from the CWA. If the word navigable is removed, the CWA ruling then includes any body of water. When I say any body of water, I mean privately owned ponds and lakes, and I have been told by some it could include swimming pools. If we do not get the court ruling overturned and the proposed legislation to remove the word *navigable* is passed, you will need another crew just to file for permits. These changes will definitely make a major increase in cost to maintain our right-of-ways. Please take the time to send your congressmen messages addressing your concerns about these issues.

As we digest what happened in the last Texas Legislative Session, we also need to determine what issues we need to be thinking about for the next session. An issue I have been thinking about is a bill that would not allow an individual, city, county, or political subdivision to disallow by previous rules or write rules that would prevent the proper maintenance right-of-ways. I feel that this type of bill would be very important to our industry to allow for the proper maintenance of right-of-ways in Texas. I also need to hear from you if there are other issues that TVMA needs to start working on for the next session



### **Join TVMA for the golf tournament at Newport Dunes.**

The Texas Vegetation Management Association golf tournament, as always, raises money for scholarships, but this year everyone is encouraged to come out and have a great time even if you are not an avid golfer. The course is an Arnold Palmer designed course and has been nominated for *Golf Digest's* Best New Public Golf Course for 2009. Play begins at 1:30 with a shotgun start on Monday, October 5, 2009, at this premier course on the beach only twenty minutes from the host hotel. Check in at the course will begin about noon and the fee for this playing opportunity is \$75.00. Join in the raffle for a great putter to be drawn at the end of play, and if it is not your day on the course, mulligans will help keep that score low. Prizes, as always will be awarded in various categories.



Tee Cotten (903-262-5827) is in charge of this year's tournament and, along with the rest of the board, requests you to save October 5 for a great day on the course while supporting scholarships for our youth. We will have a reception following the tournament back at the Holiday Inn -Emerald Beach.

John Mason has worked diligently with Rob Brooks and the rest of the board to plan what promises to be a great slate of speakers and events for the 2009 conference.

**2009 TVMA Conference  
Program**

**Monday October 5, 2009**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
9:00 am	Registration
10:00 am-5:00 pm	TDA Pesticide Applicators License Examination Training – Kevin Patton
12:00 pm-6:00 pm	Exhibitor Setup
12:00 pm	Registration Golf Tournament
1:30 pm	Golf Scramble
5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Reception (appetizers and cash bar)

**Tuesday October 6, 2009**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
7:00 am	Registration Opens
7:00 am-8:00 am	Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)
8:00 am-5:00 pm	TDA Pesticide Applicators License Examination Training
8:00 am-8:30 am	Opening Remarks – Rob Brooks
8:30 am-9:00 am	Exhibitor Presentations
<b>9:00 am-12:00 pm</b>	<b>General Session 1 – Rick Bennett</b>
9:00 am-9:45 am	“State & National Legislative Update” Donnie Dippel
9:45 am-10:15 am	Coffee Break
10:15 am-11:00 am	“Changes in TDA Regulations & Licensing” Jimmy Bush-TDA
11:00 am-12:00 am	“Chemical Drift Minimization” Dennis Markwardt-TxDOT
12:00 am-1:30 pm	Luncheon and Business Meeting
<b>2:00 pm-5:00 pm</b>	<b>General Section 2–Outdoor Exhibits &amp; Demonstration</b>
6:00 pm-9:00 pm	Casino Night (appetizers and cash bar)

**Wednesday October 7, 2009**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
6:30 am-8:00 am	Past Presidents Breakfast (Invitation Only)
7:00 am	Registration Opens
7:00 am-8:00 am	Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
8:00 am-12:00 am	TDA Pesticide Applicators License Examination
<b>8:00 am-12:00 pm</b>	<b>General Section 3 – Rob Brooks</b>
8:00 am-9:00 am	“Invasive Species on the Rio Grande”-Dr. John Goolsby-USDA-ARS
9:00 am-10:00 am	“Proper Inspection of Polyethylene Herbicide Tanks”- Dr. Fred Whitford-Purdue University
10:00 am-10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am-11:30 am	“What’s So Bad About Pesticides?”-April Fletcher-USFWS (retired)
11:30 am-12:00 pm	Closing Remarks
12:00 am-2 pm	Board Meeting

## PLATINUM SPONSOR



## GOLD SPONSOR

# BASF

## SILVER SPONSORS



Go to [tvma.net](http://tvma.net) for a full list of last year's sponsors and supporters.

## TVMA Training Meeting

TVMA will hold a two day training meeting for new applicators followed on the third morning with the TDA testing for the general test, laws and regulations test, and right-of-way test during the annual TVMA meeting in Corpus Christi. Study manuals can be ordered on form D-1405A at

<http://www-aes.tamu.edu/Forms/TDA%20order%20form.pdf>

B-5073 Commercial/Non Commercial Applicator – General at the cost of \$25.00

B-5056 Laws and Regulations at the cost of \$15.00

B-5068 Right-of-Way pest control at the cost of \$35.00

If you are interested in helping with the training or have other questions you can contact Kevin Patton at 361.881.5394 or [kbpatton@aep.com](mailto:kbpatton@aep.com).

TVMA will also hold a one day CEU class for applicators in December in Lubbock, TX. More information will be coming. Contact Kevin Patton at 361.881.5394 or [kbpatton@aep.com](mailto:kbpatton@aep.com) for any questions.

There will be 5.5 CEUs available at the conference related to TDA recertification and ISA certifications. TVMA also strives to provide reciprocal CEUs for neighboring state agencies. If you have a special request for a state, please contact Kevin Patton at 361.881.5394 or [kbpatton@aep.com](mailto:kbpatton@aep.com).

## **TVMA 2009 Exhibitors/Sponsors**

Exhibitors and sponsors make it possible for TVMA to continue providing services to the Texas Vegetation Management Industry, and TVMA thanks all the exhibitors and sponsors who will make it possible for TVMA to have another great year. At the time of this *Clip* publication, the following exhibitors have already committed to their sponsorships for the 2009 Conference. Please thank them and feel free to contact them for your vegetation management needs. Go on line to [tvma.net](http://tvma.net) and choose your sponsorship category to help keep our industry strong and take advantage of the perks sponsorship has to offer.

This year as you visit exhibitors, you can bid on silent auction items provided by sponsors to benefit scholarships and have a card stamped by all sponsors to become eligible for a \$500.00 Academy gift certificate.

### **Gold Sponsors:**

Chemical Weed Control, Layne Fields, 214-505-3147

### **Silver Sponsors:**

Alligare LLC, Howard Pierson, 214-435-5152

Davey Resource Group, Matthew Grafton, 405-826-8984

DuPont VMF, Myron Rabalais, 713-899-4294

Dow AgroSciences, Rob Brooks & Rich Hendler, 409-752-7267 & 817-821-0005

### **Bronze Sponsors:**

Helena Chemical Co., Rick Bennett, 979-268-5206

### **Nickel Sponsors:**

ACRT Inc., Tim Lawyer, 330-945-7500

Aliquid., David Schoonover, 540-966-3035

Becker Underwood, Scott Dunham, 979-255-3980

Cibolo Sprayers, Inc. Johnny Kubacak, 325-597-4614

Crop Production Services, A.J. Thibodeaux, 713-705-9800

DeAngelo Brothers, Mike Telesz, 281-391-1885

Eco Pak LLC, Nick Hoffman, 614-264-8719

Garrco Products Inc, John Garr II, 765-395-3441

Red River Specialties, Inc., Stan Jones, 713-924-6929

SSI Maxim Inc., Guy Blanchard, 972-414-4882

Superior Forestry Service, Inc., Tim Jessup, 870-496-2442

The Townsend Corporation, Brittany Gerig, 765-468-3007

## **Koko Palace**

Again, don't forget to make plans to attend the Texas Vegetation Management Association one day CEU class for applicators on Monday, December 14, 2009 at the Koko Palace in Lubbock, Texas from 9 AM to 3 PM with lunch provided. The cost of the program will be \$50.00 per person. For more information, contact Larry Mauldin with Red River Specialties at 830-864-5363/ [larry.mauldin@rrsi.com](mailto:larry.mauldin@rrsi.com), Kevin Patton with AEP at 361-881-5394/[kbpatton@aep.com](mailto:kbpatton@aep.com), or Myron Rabalais with DuPont at 281-828-1109/[myron.j.rabalais@usa.dupont.com](mailto:myron.j.rabalais@usa.dupont.com).

# TVMA 2008-2009 Leadership

## Officers

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**Membership**  
Scott Dunham  
**Scholarship**  
Stan Jones  
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**Training**  
Kevin Patton

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**Advisory**  
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Myron Rabalais

**Nomination**  
Rick Bennett

**Legislative**  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 5 - 7  
TVMA Annual Conference  
Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach  
Corpus Christi

December 14  
CEU Class  
Koko Palace  
Lubbock, TX