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The 2009 TVMA Annual Conference was held October 5-7 in Corpus Christi at the Emerald Beach Holiday Inn. A record number of sponsors and over 200 attendees participated in all aspects of the conference.

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2009 Sponsors	5	Old and new business were addressed and easily completed. Rich Hendler, with Dow AgroSciences, received the Lifetime Achievement Award and provided the audience with an entertaining video of his active involvement in vegetation management and TVMA. TVMA will call for Lifetime Achievement nominees soon, so please begin thinking of qualified individuals and send us your choices for next year's winner. The 2010 conference is to be held at the College Station Hilton, October 18-20 with numerous field trips being contemplated.
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Dues statements will be sent soon to those who did not attend this year's conference or have not paid the \$25.00 membership fee. Become a member of the premier vegetation management organization - TVMA.



Presidential Update

Seasons Greetings! As a representative of the association I would like to wish you and your family a joyous and safe holiday season. Celebrate with family and friends and look forward to a rewarding 2010.

The 2009 annual conference was a huge success due to the attendees, exhibitors, food sponsors, and special contributors. Attendance and exhibitor participation was excellent, especially considering the present economy. Corpus Christi in October isn't bad either! The board hopes that you enjoyed yourself and that the speakers provided you with useful information that you can use to make an impact on our industry. Donnie Dippel's presentation highlighted some legislative issues that will affect our industry and may require a response from our membership and association. I would like to thank Rob Brooks, Myron Rabalais, Tee Cotton, Kevin Patton and especially Kay Dippel for all their help and assistance in putting the program together. The 2010 conference will be held at the Hilton Inn in Bryan. I encourage you to contact Scott Dunham or any of the other board members to make suggestions and recommendations that will improve next year's conference.

The association is in a strong financial position due to the active participation of the membership and exhibitors. This will allow the board of directors to become more active on important legislative issues that are important to the vegetation management industry. These contributions also support our CEU training sessions and scholarships for students and active TVMA member's family pursuing a college education. Scholarship eligibility information and applications are available on the Texas Vegetation Management Association website.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Kedrick Bryant, Matt Grafton, Michael Hale, Walter Hambrick and Vernon Langston to the board. The board of directors has meetings scheduled for February 2 (Austin), May 11 (Bastrop) and August 3 (Bryan) prior to our next conference. I encourage the membership to attend and participate in one or more of these meetings. There are opportunities to work on committees and make a positive impact in the association.

It is an honor to serve as your president this year. I encourage you to become more active in the organization. Please feel free to contact me or any of the other board members with your suggestions and recommendations.

Happy Holidays,
John Mason



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Rich Hendler Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The 2009 TVMA Lifetime Achievement Award winner was Rich Hendler. Rich has been actively involved in Utility Vegetation Management (UVM) since the late 1970's. He earned a B.S. in Biology from Tulane University, and joined Dow AgroSciences after receiving an M.S. in Agronomy from Texas A&M University in 1979.

In the first part of his career with Dow, Rich was a Technical Service & Development Representative, supporting the development and introduction of new herbicides and application techniques in the Northeast. It was in this capacity that he cut his teeth in the UVM industry, conducting R&D, and working directly with utilities and applicators from West Virginia to Maine. During his time in the Northeast he helped launch Garlon and supported development of low volume basal application technology. He was active in the Northeast Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Mountain Lake vegetation management conference, and the West Virginia Vegetation Management Assc.

In 1985 he accepted a position in Dow's Sales & Marketing group and transferred back to his home state of Texas. Since then Rich has been a driving force in the UVM industry in his region, He was the Inaugural President of the Texas Vegetation Management Association (TVMA), and a Past President of the Louisiana Pesticide Applicators Association (LPAA). Rich currently serves as President of the Oklahoma Vegetation Management Association (OKVMA).

Rich has hosted several regional gatherings of utility foresters; the purpose of is to facilitate networking within the community of professionals. Discussions typically range from current UVM practices to UVM related R&D, and includes discussion of current and emerging issues and regulations. Rich also conducts numerous training courses throughout the year which help practicing utility arborists and applicators meet both pesticide licensing and professional certification requirements.

Rich makes his home in Colleyville, Texas, and has been active in local politics. He was a Parks Board Member & Chairman (1994-2001), and was instrumental in Colleyville obtaining Tree City USA, now having celebrated the 10th year. Rich was also a Tree Board Member, and served as City Councilman for three terms (2002 – 2008).



January Vegetation Management Conference

The Texas Vegetation Management Association with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Harris County will offer both TDA and structural continuing educational credits its at the Texas Vegetation Management Conference on Thursday, January 21st at the Bear Creek Extension Auditorium and again on Friday, January 22nd at the Baytown Community Center. Five TDA credits and five structural credits will be offered. Classes will run from 9-3 each day, and the fee is \$25 to preregister or \$30 for on-site registration. For more information or to register contact Diana Todd at 281-855-5614.

2010 Scholarship

As Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, I extend my sincere thanks to all of the TVMA members and exhibitors who participated in our fund raising events at the TVMA conference in Corpus Christi. The golf tournament, directed by Tee Cotton, was a complete success as was the silent auction. I believe all who took part in the casino night activities had a good time and really helped the scholarship cause too. The association gave four scholarships to four very deserving college students and I know that all four of them truly appreciate the generosity of the TVMA membership.

Our 2009 scholarship winners were: Desiree Vargas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Vargas of Bryan, Texas; Keith Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Phillips of Henrietta, Texas; Thomas Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Moore of Athens, Texas; Jim Rabalais, son of Mr. and Mrs. Myron Rabalais of Katy, Texas. Each of these students received a \$2,000.00 scholarship check sent to their respective universities to help pay for their college expenses.

The time to start getting your scholarship application information together for 2010 is NOW! You can download the application(s) form from the TVMA website. The deadline for getting your application in to me is April 1, 2010. This is a firm deadline date and any application received with a postmark after April 1, 2010 will not be considered for a scholarship award.

Again, THANK YOU members and exhibitors for your continued support of our college bound young men and women through the TVMA Scholarship program.

Koko Palace

TVMA is sponsoring an applicators workshop on December 14, 2009 at the Koko Palace, Avenue Q, in Lubbock. To contact the Koko palace call 806-744-0400.

Registration for the workshop begins at 8 with training beginning at 9 and ending at 3 with an hour for lunch which is included in the \$50 registration fee.

Topics and speakers include:

Weed ID	Dr. Peter Dotray
Labels and Labeling	Larry Mauldin
Modes of Action	Myron Rabalais
Notify Your Neighbor	Rich Hendler
Drift Minimization	Larry Mauldin

Pesticide applicators can earn 5 CEU's for the states of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Please contact Myron Rabalais at 713-899-4249, Larry Mauldin at 210-863-5543, or Layne Fields at 214-505-3147 for more information.

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSORS



Intelli-Spray

Go to tvma.net for a full list of this year's sponsors and supporters.

Winners!

Participants in the scholarship golf tournament enjoyed the unique Newport Dunes experience while contributing to the TVMA scholarship program. Tee Cotten worked hard to make the tournament enjoyable for avid golfers and recreational golfers alike.

Closest to the pin winners included:
Eric Sabala, Steve White, Roger Lindsay

The longest drive winner was Tee Cotten.

The winning team, shooting 9 under par, included:
Rusty Evans, Ken Kinsey, Roger Lindsay, Tee Cotten

Casino night, which also benefitted scholarships, yielded six winners. The games were won by Virgil Brown, Dean Parker, and Jeff Seigel. Texas Holdem winners were Shane Winkler, first place; Layne Fields, second; and Jeffery Hudson, third.

Visitors to all the sponsor booths became eligible for the first time to win a \$500 Academy gift card. That lucky winner was Aaron Porter of LCRA. A second gift card drawing winner for collecting sponsor signatures was Julio Falcon with McCoy Tree Surgery.

Many thanks to all the participants and sponsors who continue to make the conference activities successful, enabling TVMA to continue programs and provide services and scholarships.

Board Changes

Five new board members were elected by acclamation at the TVMA business meeting, Tuesday, October 6th replacing Tee Cotten, Progressive Solutions LLC; Don Fields, AEP; Thomas Crosby, Coastal Spray Co., Ken Draper, Wright Tree Service, and Rick Bennett, Helena Chemical Company.

Those new members willing to give their time and effort, as did the leaving board members, include: Matt Grafton with Davey Resource Group, Walter Hambrick of TxDot, Michael Hale of Farmers Electric Coop., Vernon Langston with Dow AgroSciences, and Kendrick Bryant of TNMP. Please welcome these new members and express to them or returning board members any compliments or concerns you wish to share.



TVMA 2009-2010 Leadership

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11, 2010 TVMA Board Meeting Bastrop, TX	December 14 CEU Class Koko Palace, Lubbock, TX
August 3, 2010 TVMA Board Meeting Bryan, TX	January 21, 2010 Vegetation Management Conference Bear Creek Extension Auditorium
October 18-20, 2010 TVMA Annual Conference College Station, TX	January 22, 2010 Vegetation Management Conference Baytown Community Center
	February 2, 2010 TVMA Board Meeting Austin, TX