



TVMA QUARTERLY CLIP

June, 2009

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Join TVMA at the Beach

October 5-7 is a great time to join the Texas Vegetation Management Association at Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach in sunny Corpus Christi, Texas for the 12th TVMA Annual Conference. Training for the licensing exam begins on Monday October 5th at 10 AM with Kevin Patton of AEP. Golf for scholarship at the unique Newport Dunes begins with check in at the course about noon on Monday and a shotgun start at 1:30. Join the group for the golf outing or just come relax on the backyard beach of the Holiday Inn until the evening reception in the hotel. Did we mention the indoor pool?

Classes for everyone begin Tuesday morning at 9 AM presenting the opportunity for TDA and ISA CEUs with the business luncheon at noon and outdoor exhibits and demonstrations beginning at 2 PM at the hotel. Licensing training continues from 8 to 5 on Tuesday with testing from 8 to 12 on Wednesday. The traditional Casino Night brings the day's events to a close unless you are going to downtown Corpus after Casino Night to enjoy the Fresh Gulf Seafood and entertainment venues available. The hotel provides transportation to downtown, as well as, a free shuttle to the airport. Wednesday morning classes continue until noon.

One of the keys to the convention is the **sponsorship opportunities** available. Take the time to check what sponsorship is best for you and your company at tvma.net. If you are not a sponsor, do not miss the chance to speak with the people who provide the most up-to-date services and products in the vegetation management industry. Consider sponsorship but be sure to thank the sponsors who make the convention activities possible.

The board will meet at the Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach on August 11th to finalize plans, and members are invited to attend. The board is always open to new ideas and welcomes member participation in all stages of the planning process.

In October, stay an extra day or come a day early to visit the Texas State Aquarium or the USS Lexington Museum. Wander to Upper Padre Island and experience all the coastal Corpus area has to offer.

Presidential Update

Howdy All! Well summer is here, I think. Between the normally hot days and the unusually refreshing cool fronts we've had lately I can't tell what season we're in, but the cool fronts have made it very nice to be outside lately. Thank goodness for global warming, or cooling, or whatever... Anyway, I hope this note finds everyone busy doing what we do best, controlling unwanted vegetation!

The theme of the president's letter today is "Membership has its privileges" taken from the old Master Card ads. Keep that in mind as you read about all that's going on with your organization.

First of all, the board has been quite busy lately. Thanks to the efforts of John Mason, conference plans are coming along nicely, and we've got a great program lined up for Corpus Christi this year that we think will allow you to get your CEUs, see what's going on in our industry, see a lot of old friends, and most importantly have a good time! Speaking of good times, Tee Cotton has been working diligently on the scholarship golf tournament which is shaping up to be a first class event and is crucial for funding our scholarship program. On that note, Stan Jones has finalized decisions on scholarship applicants and due to the number of TVMA members scholarship applicants we had this year, it was decided at the last board meeting to open up several of the scholarships to Craig Johnson Family scholarships to award more money back to our membership.

As I've said before, membership is the life blood of our organization and Donnie and Kay Dippel are currently working on a project to reach out to past members and potential members like counties, municipalities, and electric co-ops to continue to grow our organization. If you know someone who could benefit from membership, please feel free to contact any of the board members or the Dippels with that information. Donnie is also our legislative committee chairman and our representative on the Texas Ag Council, which has already made an impact. While recently visiting with one of our members a piece of legislation was brought to my attention that would affect their work and could ultimately affect the work a lot of us do in Texas. We brought it to Donnie's attention at the board meeting and ultimately the bill was amended to allow right of way work to be performed. This is truly one of the benefits of membership. Many of you may have also received information on a federal bill from Donnie as well. It is called the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and it spells "B-A-D N-E-W-S" for our industry. I would encourage you to read about it and send a letter to your United States Senator or Representative. Finally, if you feel like your not busy enough and want to give something back to your organization, I would encourage you to become involved with the board. I have a few names from some interested parties, and we have had some visitors at recent board meetings. But believe me there is room for everyone, and speaking from experience, it has been personally very rewarding to see our organization grow and develop into something more than our founders envisioned.

All that being said, I hope you can see the value of your membership in the TVMA. With your help, we will continue to be the leader in vegetation management education in the state of Texas.

Have a great summer,
Rob

TVMA Quarterly Clip
Official Publication
of the
**Texas Vegetation Management
Association**

Vol. 7, Num. 2 -----June, 2009

The *TVMA Quarterly Clip* is
published by
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TVMA Scholarships Awarded

Each year TVMA awards four two thousand dollar scholarships.

This year three have been awarded as the Craig Johnson and Family/TVMA Leadership Award Scholarship and those winners include **Desiree Vargas** who is a freshman Political Science major at Texas A&M University. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Vargas. P. J. works for TXDOT in the Bryan District. The second recipient, **Thomas Moore** is a freshman Environmental Science major at Baylor and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Moore. Bruce works for Oncor Electric Delivery as a Vegetation Management Forester. **Jim Rabalais**, a Biological Sciences major at Louisiana State (LSU) and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Myron Rabalais is the third recipient. Myron is a sales rep. for DuPont, and the treasurer for Texas Vegetation Management.

The winner of the TVMA Scholarship is **Keith Phillips** a Horticulture Landscape Management major at Tarleton State.

Congratulations to these young men and women for their accomplishments. Texas Vegetation Management works hard to promote education through its generous scholarships affording students the chance to pursue a degree. Scholarships are available each year with applications on-line or through Stan Jones, head of the Scholarship Program. Many thanks to those who participated in fundraising events making scholarships possible and to Stan Jones for his hard work keeping the program progressive. Please consider applying or reapplying by April 1, 2010.

New Members

Texas Vegetation Management has sent out letters to members from 2007 and 2008 who did not attend last year's conference in San Antonio reminding them to renew memberships and to potential new members in various fields related to vegetation management asking them to join Texas Vegetation Management Association. Numerous past members have renewed, and we encourage all of you who have not renewed your membership to do so for \$25. The Texas Vegetation Management Association has dedicated board members and membership striving to keep TVMA a strong leader in the field of vegetation management and related industries providing, for example, educational classes, networking, scholarships, and a quarterly newsletter.

Those who are new members since 2007 include:

Brain Flage	CoServ	Layne Harding	Galveston County
William Hartman	De Angelo Brothers, Inc.	Craig Engeling	San Bernard Electric Coop
Warren Mayberry	DuPont	Greg Giebel	San Bernard Electric Coop
Rudy Altamirano	Galveston County	Jared Janicek	San Bernard Electric Coop
Lee Crowder	Galveston County	John Richardson	San Bernard Electric Coop
Robert Presson	Presson Service Co.	Debbie Robinson	Wood County Electric Coop

TVMA will work hard to serve the needs of all members. If you need information about membership or more information about TVMA go to tvma.net or give us a call at 979-969-5612.

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
Tentative Program**

Monday October 5, 2009

Time	Event
9:00 am	Registration
10:00 am-5:00 pm	Training – Kevin Patton
12:00 pm-6:00 pm	Exhibitor Setup
12:00 pm - until	Golf Tournament - Tee Cotten
5:30 pm-7:00 pm	Reception (appetizers and cash bar)

Tuesday October 6, 2009

Time	Event
7:00 am	Registration Opens
7:00 am-8:00 am	Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)
8:00 am-5:00 pm	Training
8:00 am-8:30 am	Opening Remarks – Rob Brooks
8:30 am-9:00 am	Exhibitor Presentations
9:00 am-12:00 pm	General Session I – Rick Bennett
9:00 am-10:00 am	“Laws and Regulations Update” Jimmy Bush-TDA
10:00 am-10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am-11:00 am	“Legislative Update” Donnie Dippel
11:00 am-12:00 am	“Chemical Drift Minimization” Dennis Markwardt-TxDOT
12:00 am-1:30 pm	Luncheon and Business Meeting
2:00 pm-5:00 pm	General Section 2–Outdoor Exhibits & Demonstration (description of exhibits)
6:00 pm-9:00 pm	Casino Night (appetizers and cash bar)

Wednesday October 7, 2009

Time	Event
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
8:00 am-12:00 pm	General Section 3 – Rob Brooks
8:00 am-9:00 am	“Invasive Species on the Rio Grande”-Dr. John Goolsby-USDA-ARS
9:00 am-10:00 am	“Poly Tank Inspection”-Dr. Fred Whitford-Purdue University
10:00 am-10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am-11:30 am	“Chemical Toxicology”-April Fletcher-USFWS (retired)
11:30 am-12:00 pm	Closing Remarks
12:00 am-2 pm	Board Meeting

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR

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SILVER SPONSORS



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

Legislative Update

The 2009 81st Legislative Session has come to an end and was anything but normal. With a record number bills filed (7424) this session, about 1400 were passed and sent to the Governor for his signature. With all the scrambling that occurred the last several days of the session who knows what actually passed and what the outcome of the bills might be? The House failed to pass approval of a safety-net measure to keep five agencies from shutting down, including the Department of Transportation and the Department of Insurance. This most likely means there will need to be a special session to correct these problems.

HB 2874/SB 2553, that would not allow the clear cutting of live oak trees in an unincorporated area of a county with a population of 50,000 or less that borders the Gulf of Mexico and in which is located at least one state park and one national wildlife refuge, has been sent to the Governor. An amendment was placed on the bill that would exclude right-of-way work on electric power lines and gas lines.

The biggest challenge we face is the 6th Circuit Court's decision that any pesticide application made to, on or near water would require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The biggest question is, "What is the definition of near?" This decision could mean every time a right-of-way herbicide application crosses or is in the drainage area of a water source or potential water source an NPDES permit would be required. Such permits could become a costly and time consuming requirement. There are many articles written on what this requirement could do to agriculture, but no one has addressed the challenges it could bring to keeping right-of-ways clean and accessible. The decision needs to be appealed.



Mango scented iced towels, lush fairways, perfect greens, ocean views, and sea breezes-what could be any better? Playing to raise funds for scholarships while enjoying all these amenities is better.



The focus of the Texas Vegetation Management Association golf tournament, as always, is to raise money for scholarship, 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.

Industry News

DuPontT LineageT ClearStandT Herbicide Features Convenient Dry Formulation

A new herbicide blend from DuPont delivers a new level of convenience and effectiveness in brush vegetation management and forest land weed control.

DuPontT LineageT ClearStandT herbicide features the precise levels of DuPont active ingredients needed for forestry hardwood release and industrial brush control to help increase survival and growth of pine seedlings.

The new product, developed using proprietary DuPont blends technology, combines the active ingredient imazapyr with proven DuPont sulfonylurea-based herbicides in a convenient, easy-to-use dry formulation. This highly concentrated, dry formulated product offers a significantly smaller packaged volume of imazapyr than that found in liquid formulations for easier handling, transportation and storage.

Ask your DuPont representative about how to incorporate this LineageT brand herbicide into your vegetation management program or visit landmanagement.dupont.com.

Myron Rabalais

TVMA 2008-2009 Leadership

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

August 11
TVMA Board Meeting
Holiday Inn-Emerald Beach
Corpus Christi

CALENDAR OF EVENTS