

Superintendents Do Dallas!



By day, Dallas is one of America's most entertaining cities. By night, like its skyline, Dallas truly sparkles.

Big D
has plenty
to keep you
busy, day & night

It's
Showtime!

By TOMMY WITT

DALLAS — Record attendance is anticipated as attendees converge on Dallas for the 65th International Golf Course Conference and Show, Jan. 31-Feb. 7. But one question remains: "What is there to see and do in Big D?"

There are numerous entertaining answers available for conferees. Dallas, the number one destination for Texas visitors, is prepared to keep you entertained.

Attractions abound. As the nation recently marked the 30th anniversary of President Kennedy's death, conferees may visit the JFK Memorial, Deely Plaza and the Texas School Book Depository Sixth Floor Museum. Other notable city points of interest include the John Neely Brown Cabin, Reunion Tower, Thanksgiving Square, the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex also features many fine museums.

Fans of the television show "Dallas," may consider a trip to the South Fork Ranch. Tours of the house and grounds are a favorite of most first-time visitors to the city.

If shopping is your cup of tea, you have come to the right place. The North Park Mall, famed Galleria — complete with skating rink — and various outlet malls are also available for your shopping pleasure.

The West End District and Deep Ellum Districts are noted for their nightlife. Musical entertainment, restaurants, night clubs and shops make these two areas prime choices of Dallas visitors.

The subject of dining provides an endless menu of options. Noted restaurants such as Baby Ruth, The Mansion on Turtle Creek, The Riviera, Del Frisco's Steakhouse, Old Warsaw and The Enclave are some of Dallas' best.

No trip to Texas would be complete without being exposed to some real Southwestern entertainment. The famed Billy Bobs is located in the city of Fort Worth, about 30 minutes from downtown Dallas. Restaurants, clubs, shops, live music and indoor bull riding can all be found under the same roof. Nationally recognized country and western entertainers are regulars on the stage. Dallas is also home to numerous country and western clubs.

For those interested in sports, Dallas offers everything under the sun. During the conference period, both the Dallas Mavericks basketball and the Dallas Stars hockey teams will play at least one home game at Reunion Arena, which is accessible from all conference hotels. In addition, the Mesquite Rodeo is held every weekend in Mesquite, a suburb

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Tommy Witt is the golf course superintendent at Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas.

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GCSAA Championship: A battle of home favorites?

By PETER BLAIS

AUSTIN, Texas — Superintendents Dale Miller of Barton Creek and Bill Hanna of Austin Country Club may not be familiar names to followers of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Golf Championship scene.

Neither has ever won the tourney. But both are accomplished golfers. And with the 36-hole championship flight being held at their home courses on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, their knowledge should place them among the favorites to win the event.

"Dale's my man" said Barton Creek head pro Greg Smith of his course manager. "He's a scratch golfer and has to be considered one of the favorites in any tourney he plays."

"We have a third course here called Lakeside. Dale shot a 61 there. That's just a stroke off the course record."

The championship flight will be played on Barton Creek's Crenshaw/Coore Golf Course. Fairways are large and greens enormous, averaging about 10,000 square feet. The par-5, 16th, for instance, has a 14,000-square-foot putting surface.

"It's fairly easy to reach in two. But the green is so big, that's no guarantee you'll make par," Smith warned.

"The fairways are wide, so the course puts a premium on chipping and putting. The greens are undulating, but funnel everything toward the middle."

The par 4, 430-yard 10th is the best hole,



The Hills at Lakeway, designed by Jack Nicklaus and taken care of by superintendent Greg Hinton, is one of four Austin-area courses slated for this year's GCSAA Golf Championship. The final flight will be played over Barton Creek and Austin Country Club.

according to Smith. The downhill drive is straight toward a fairway bunker just past the landing area. The approach is back uphill to an elevated green protected by a pair of sand bunkers. A prevailing left-to-right wind makes it all the more difficult.

Other memorable holes are the 4th and 12th, both of which have a giant oak tree sitting in the middle of the fairway. The 13th is the highest point on the course, affording beautiful views of the state capitol.

Austin Country Club head pro Tinsley Pinick describes his layout as "one of Pete Dye's better courses. It's not that long. But there's usually trouble on the left and trouble on the right, so you have to keep the ball in play. It's visually intimidating."

Which is why he expects Hanna to do well. Austin CC's superintendent carries a very respectable 5 handicap and has played the course enough, Pinick believes, that he won't be intimidated.

"Once you get over the visual intimidation at any Dye course, you find they aren't that difficult to play," he said.

The par 4, 11th is the signature hole, requiring a 190-yard carry over an open canyon from the back tees.

But the one that consistently plays the most over par is the deceptive 287-yard, 4th hole. Lake Austin runs the entire length of the short par 4.

"Water comes into play on the first and second shot. But the hole is so short, people

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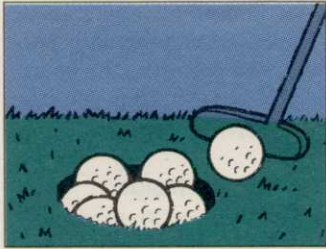
It's
Showtime!

To do in Dallas

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only a short driving distance from downtown. Last, but certainly not least, golfing options abound. Several of the state's premier daily-fee courses are located in the Metroplex. Top public-access courses include Firewheel in Garland, Bear Creek Golf and Racquet Club at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, Fossil Creek in Fort Worth, Chase Oaks in Plano and Buffalo Creek in Rockwall. In order to get tee times at private clubs, of course, contact the resident golf course superintendent.

If attendees have any questions regarding entertainment options, do not hesitate to use the information centers at your hotel because, without a doubt, there's plenty to keep you busy in Dallas.



Baidy ready to assume GCSAA presidency

By PETER BLAIS

Providing quality membership services will be the cornerstone of the Joseph Baidy Administration, promised the incoming president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

"The primary goal has to be to service the members while enhancing and promoting the profession," said the 53-year-old head superintendent at Acacia Country Club in Lyndhurst, Ohio.

"The key is provide quality service and the way to do that is by constantly refining the educational program. Everything we do

is like spokes on a wheel with education at the hub."

Outgoing President Randy Nichols rode herd on one of the more tumultuous years in GCSAA history. The past 12 months have seen the resignations of the organization's top three administrators and immediate past president as well as a shifting focus away from the international arena and back on membership programs.

"Randy has done a great job," said Baidy of his predecessor. "No president I can remember has been under the pressure he has. We'll try to continue moving for-

The primary goal has to be to service the members while enhancing and promoting the profession.

— Joseph Baidy

ward on the same plane."

Fellow board member Bruce Williams is confident Baidy can keep the 13,000-member organization on course.

"Joe will do an outstanding job," assured the head superintendent at Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park, Ill. "He'll help strengthen our relationships with the allied associations.

"Joe is people-oriented and always looking for ways to meet the needs of our members. He is as concerned about the smaller chapters as the larger ones. He wants to make sure we provide quality services for all members at affordable prices."

Baidy had nothing but praise for former senior managers John Schilling, Robert Ochs and Diana Green.

"John [Schilling] made a major career decision [to start his own business]. He did well for us. He took us to a new plateau and I wish him well."

As for the new senior management staff, led by Chief Executive Officer Steve Mona, Baidy said: "I'm very excited about the new ideas and concepts they'll bring to the organization. I'm positive they'll take us to a new plateau."

Baidy watched and learned from last year's bylaws vote when members overwhelmingly defeated several major proposals endorsed by the board. He was one of the main organizers behind September's chapter delegate meeting in Lawrence, Kan., where this year's proposed bylaw amendments were discussed in the hopes of better communicating the reasons behind the proposed changes to members.

"We wanted to revisit some of the proposals the members felt had some merit. Those that were big-time losers [i.e. removing delegate voting and giving the board authority to set dues for voting members] won't be back.

"We had a chance to hear back from the delegates and use their ideas during the September meeting. One of the ideas was to present many of the proposals as separate issues rather than lumping several together in a single question. That's why we have something like 15 separate issues to vote on this year as opposed to eight or nine a year ago."

Baidy was so pleased with last September's delegate gathering that he plans a similar meeting at the same time this fall.

"We probably won't have one every year, just when major issues come up," he said.

Baidy also intends to hold a full-scale planning committee meeting to map the organization's future during his first weeks in office.

Fast first aid for your tees.

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