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Tournament Fact Sheet

PGA Tour
Shell Houston Open
April 2-5, 2014

Golf Club of Houston
(Tournament Course)
Humble, Texas

Golf Course Management Information

GCSAA Class A Golf Course

Superintendent:

James F. Leonard

Availability to media:

Contact James Leonard by phone 281-459-7869; or email

jleonard@golfclubofhouston.com

Education:

A.S., Turfgrass Management, 1995

Age: 46

Native hometown:

Raleigh, N.C.

Years as a GCSAA member: 19

GCSAA affiliated chapter:

South Texas Golf Course
Superintendents Association

Years at this course: 1

Number of employees: 45

Number of tournament volunteers: 45

Previous positions:

2005-2013, Golf Course Owner,
Taberna Country Club, Bern, N.C.;
1998-2005, Golf Course
Superintendent, Links O'Tryon Golf
Club, Campobello, S.C.

Previous tournament preparation:

2013 Shell Houston Open, Golf Club of
Houston, Humble, Texas

Previous tournaments hosted by facility:

2006-2014 Shell Houston Open

Get to know the superintendent:

James Leonard is a veteran of the
Desert Storm campaign in Iraq.

How James got involved in golf course management:

"Love of the game."

Course statistics

Average tee size: 16,000 sq. ft.

Tournament Stimpmeter: 13.5 ft.

Average green size: 6,950 sq. ft.

Soil conditions on the course: Loam

Green construction soil mix:

USGA (sand 100%)

Rounds per year: 25,000

Acres of fairway: 23

Source of water: Pond, well, effluent water

Acres of rough: 75

Drainage conditions: Poor/fair

Sand bunkers: 60

Water hazards: 8

Championship ratings

	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Shell	7400	72	75.8	138

Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
Tees	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	0.275"
Fairways	Bentgrass; ryegrass	0.450"
Greens	Bentgrass; bermudagrass; ryegrass	0.077"
Rough	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	1.25"

Unusual wildlife on the course

Wild hogs; Alligators

Predominate species of trees on course:

Oak

Email: csmith@gcsaa.org

Course architect/date:

Rees Jones, 2005

Other key course management personnel

Jody Tavarez, GCSAA Class A Regional
Agronomist

Brandon Zurface, Assistant Superintendent

Alex Perkins, Assistant Superintendent

Greg Hedgepeth, Equipment Manager

Herb Lipsman, Club Manager

Tommy Wolfenberger, PGA Professional

Escalante Golf, Club Owner

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on [Facebook](#), follow GCSAA on [Twitter](#), and visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org. The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit www.eifg.org.

For additional information please visit gcsaa.org/newsroom or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

Craig Smith
Director of Communications and Media Relations
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Cell: 785-691-9197

Media story ideas to consider

- Water: Golf's biggest challenge
- The benefits of a golf course to the community and the environment
- What's new in turfgrass research
- Superintendents doing more with less
- Get to know an interesting superintendent
- Who's in charge? A visit with the CEO