

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XX, PART II, MARCH/APRIL 2004

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

★ ★ *Two Stars Shine in San Diego* ★ ★



GCSAA Keynote Speaker, Jim Nantz, had the crowd buzzing when he pledged to do a better job of publicizing the role of golf course maintenance in the game.



Unable to get local schedules in sync in Palm Beach, David Court, CGCS, (left) hauled the FGCSA DSA award to San Diego to present it to a deserving Mike Perham, CGCS, at the FGCSA Reception.

Upcoming Events

- | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|-------------|---|
| Mar. 1 | Ridge GCSA Jack Harrell Sr. Invitational, Grasslands | Mar. 24 | Palm Beach GCSA chapter meeting, Abacoa GC | Apr. 19 | Jeff Hayden Envirotron Tournament, World Woods GC |
| Mar. 11 | Calusa chapter meeting, Deep Creek, Port Charlotte | Mar. 30 | Suncoast Scramble, Misty Creek GC, Sarasota | Apr. 19 | Central Florida chapter meeting, Deer Island GC |
| Mar. 15 | North Florida GCSA Mike Richards Tournament, Jacksonville G&CC. See pg. 6 | Apr. 8 | Everglades GCSA Spring Symposium, Naples Beach Club. See page 6. | May 14 - 16 | Everglades chapter Poa Tournament weekend, Naples Beach Club |
| Mar. 16 | Everglades Naples Princess Cruise | Apr. 12 | Joint Meeting with Club Managers and Golf Pros, PGA Village (Treasure Coast & Beach chapters) | May 14 | FGCSA Seminar, Dealing with Jerks, Dr. Patt Schwab GCSAA education points |
| Mar. 18 | SFGCSA Exposition, Fort Lauderdale REC. See pg. 6 | Apr. 19 | North Florida GCSA Research Tournament, Pablo Creek | May 24 | Treasure Coast GCSA's Blue Pearl, Loblolly Pines GC |
| Mar. 23 | West Coast GCSA Benefit Tournament, Wentworth GC | | | | |

President's Message Greg Pheneger

The golf season for most of us is now in full force. Courses are full of hopefully very happy members playing a game that they enjoy. To most golfers, golf is a game. To us, golf is a business. The game is how we make a living. We read a lot about why some golfers do not take more of an active role in the game. Well it is a game or a recreational activity, not the way they make a living.

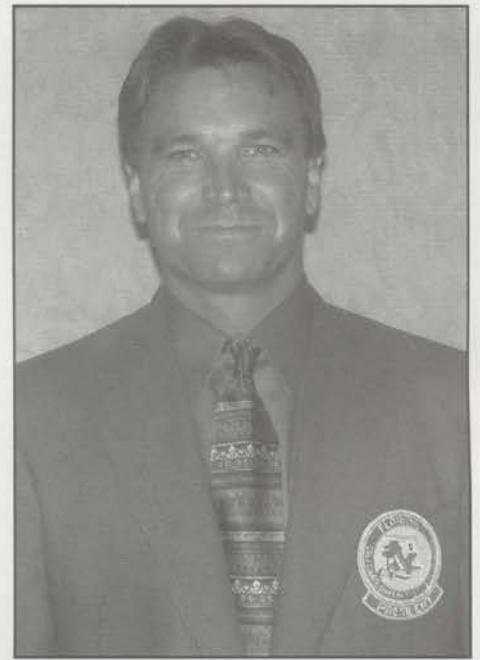
Your Board realizes that the game of golf is a business and with that in mind, we began this year with many aggressive initiatives to strive for. We just had an excellent FGCSA Winter Board Meeting. If you will bear with me for a moment, I would like to toot our own horn by informing you of our progress with a few of our initiatives thus far.

In the spring of 2003, Darren Davis, representing the Everglades Chapter brought a request to the meeting to lower the dues for assistants. That proposal came too late for action during our present year however, we continued to discuss the merits of the issue. At the Winter Board Meeting a motion was voted on to lower assistants annual dues by \$30.00 and passed in the closest vote I can remember. The goal of the dues reduction is obviously to attract more assistant members. The local chapters will now need to reduce their annual membership dues by

\$30.00 to reflect the reduction. The program will also need promotion to increase membership. The GCSAA reduced their dues a few years ago and assistant participation has doubled.

The result of the assistant dues structure will be reevaluated next year to decide if the program should be continued. Every chapter needs to take advantage of this opportunity to increase membership.

The Finance Committee reported favorably on their meeting with financial advisors from Morgan Stanley and UBS Financial. Both groups insured the Committee and the Committee felt that the reserve money that is now kept in a bank money market could be safely invested and earn interest. The Board initiated the reserve money two years ago at the direction of our accountant. The Board approved the Finance Committee Recommendation of hiring one of the two firms. The hiring should take place shortly and the Board will report the quarterly results. Remember, to make money on all investments it will take dedication on our part to weather blips in the investment atmosphere. The investments will be very conservative in nature and will be reviewed every quarter to verify the results on both. An investment policy is being developed to ensure that a sound investment strategy will be followed into the future. The investment strategy will only be able to be changed by the Board.



Greg Pheneger

At one time, the Distinguished Service Award was presented at the Crowfoot Open; however, several years ago the Crowfoot deleted the dinner portion of the event. The presentation of the award was then given to the local chapter, but that eliminated the States involvement in the Award's presentation. Therefore, the Awards Committee has now recommended, with the Board's approval to present this award at the Past President's Dinner, which is going to be held at the Poa in Naples. This venue will bestow the honor of this prestigious award with the winner and their family in attendance.

As you are aware, our delegation traveled to Tallahassee to meet with a few legislators. As a group, we were much more focused on our goals at each meeting and the legislators appeared to be more attentive to our agenda. I walked away this year knowing that we made our point and we will get some help on some of our most pressing issues.

In the near future, a fellow superintendent will be calling each of you with a short verbal survey from the FGCSA regarding a few issues on the direction of our organization. Please participate in the survey, whereby so doing you will be helping all superintendents. In addition, it will give you an opportunity to voice your opinions regarding the focus and direction of the Board. Remember, it is your Board!

THE GREEN SHEET

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Deadline next issue: April 15.

What's Up D.O.C.?

by Joel Jackson

1. Government Relations: 2004 Capitol Hill Visit - Our second annual FGCSA trip to Tallahassee was by all accounts a successful venture. Besides introducing ourselves to four senators and two representatives to let them know that a band of brothers known as the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association exists and is engaged in a multi-billion dollar industry that contributes mightily to the economy and environment of the state, we also let them know we wanted to be a part of the solutions to issues and not roadblocks. We made them aware of our concerns over the six water bills and the need for good science in all decision making.

We also initiated a conversation on how we can obtain consistent funding for turfgrass research. It's too early to talk specifics and we have some homework to do before the next session, but they opened the door to the idea and that is a good beginning. We also discovered we have some strong "game of golf" allies that we can go to if and when issues arise that need a voice for our concerns. Keep the names of Sen. David Aronberg, Sen. Skip Campbell, Sen. Paula Dockery, Rep. Dudley Goodlette, Sen. Ken Pruitt in mind if and when they might need support. Two others that I met individually about that time are Rep. Roger Wishner and Sen. Nancy Argenziano. Rep. Wishner sponsored the Jr. Golf license plate and Sen. Argenziano is the Chairman of the Senate Ag Committee.

Spring Regulator Tour: On March 29th we will be participating in our third Spring Regulator Tour which is organized annually by the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association. This tour consists of approximately 40 regulators from the U. S. EPA in Washington and U.S. EPA Region 4 office in Atlanta and from FDACS and FLDEP in Tallahassee. We have become tour sponsors and get them on Monday afternoon as their first stop on a weeklong tour of Ag industries including nursery and sod production, sugar, citrus groves and processing, field crops (tomatoes and others), and cattle ranching. We kick off their tour with a visit to Old Collier G.C. and a barbecue dinner hosted by Tim Hiers and his staff. Tim is our number one advocate and a polished spokesperson full of facts and information that

forces the regulators to examine and question their pre-conceived notions about golf courses. In most cases they know nothing about our operations beyond what they see on TV tournaments.

2. Allied Associations: The GCSAA is working on revamping its governance structure to make board and committee service more of a strategic planning exercise to set goals and let staff achieve those goals with less micro-managing. The very up-side to this configuration will be to draw on larger numbers of members in task force and resource group meetings and conference calls. It will also reduce the amount of travel required to perform service at the board level and hopefully encourage more members to step up and serve and give of their ideas and energies to keep the association moving forward.

3. Education: There was so much education offered at the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Diego you had to really plan your schedule efficiently if you wanted to attend all the ancillary functions like the Opening and General Sessions, which were also fantastic, educational and inspirational. What a challenging problem - too much education! A great bang for your buck, and the beat goes on with e-learning and online courses. And don't forget the basic GCSAA website itself with Member Resources allowing you to input and monitor your PDI and certification points. Also the Government Relations site has a handy tool box to help you address any regulatory issue you can name from grass roots letter writing to bills being submitted in the state legislature.

4. Media/Public Relations: March will see the PGA Tour make its annual swing through Florida from Miami to Jacksonville and the South Florida, Palm Beach, Central Florida and North Florida chapters will be donning NBC Sports hats and radio headsets to act as spotters and scorers to help telecast the events. Be sure and wear some FGCSA or Chapter logo clothing to help promote our association. I have enjoyed chatting with folks in the gallery and dropping our name whenever I can to let them know we're out there in golf world. By working the freezing PGA Father/Son Challenge this year I've earned a spot on the Bay Hill spotter team. It's been a few years since I walked the "Hill" and I'm looking forward to getting

back inside the ropes again at Arnie's place.

Perhaps the biggest news in PR for our profession came in San Diego when keynote speaker, Jim Nantz of CBS Sports, made superintendents a promise during his keynote address at Thursday's opening session of the GCSAA Conference and Show. Nantz told the several thousand superintendents in the audience that he has realized he hasn't done a good job of talking about the importance of golf course maintenance while broadcasting golf tournaments for CBS. Then Nantz said that needed to change. "I vow on this stage to do more," Nantz said. "I stand in awe of your profession and what you do."

5. Education: The 17th Annual South Florida Turf Expo will roll out the red carpet once again on March 18th. It's a day of hands-on experiences and education not to be missed especially if you haven't been to the GCSAA Conference or FTGA Conference. I haven't seen any GCSAA Regional Seminars scheduled by our local chapters so this event along with the Everglades Symposium on April 8th in Naples will be your most likely PDI and CGCS point getters this spring.

6. DOC/Editor Upcoming Events, Travel, Deadlines and Tasks

2/18	Green Sheet Deadline
2/20	Golfdom (April) and Florida Golf Central (March) Deadlines
2/23	Central Florida Supt/Vendor Outing, Deltona Hills
3/1	Jack Harrell Memorial/Ridge Invitational, Grasslands CC
3/8	Florida Green Spring Deadline and Florida Turf Digest May/June Deadline
3/10	Florida Golf Central Deadline
3/15	Mike Richards /North Florida Scholarship Tournament, Jacksonville G&CC
3/18	South Florida Turf Expo, UF/IFAS REC, Fort Lauderdale
3/20	Golfdom Magazine Deadline
3/29	Spring Regulator Tour, Old Colliers GC, Naples
4/10	Florida Golf Central Deadline May
4/15	Green Sheet Deadline May/June
4/19	Jeff Hayden Memorial/Seven Rivers Environtron Classic, World Woods GC
4/22	Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Assn Meeting

The Winter 2004 meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was called to order by President Greg Pheneger at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30th at Grand Cypress Villas.

All officers were present and all chapters were represented. Others attending were Joel Jackson, Joe Ondo, Dale Kuehner, Kevin Downing and Jan Beljan - FTGA President.

Mike Goldie gave a review of the recent trip to Tallahassee by our group of FGCSA board members. He suggested that IFAS needs to do a better job of publicizing themselves to the Florida voters by making a stronger presence in their communities. He suggested that we establish a program to push IFAS as a statewide program during next year's trip as well as to emphasize Direct Grants. We need to make an impression on these legislators before more budget cuts are voted on. Continue our strategy of emphasizing the Economic Impact Study. Mike mentioned Senators Pruitt, Sen. Skip Campbell, Sen. Aronberg and Sen. Dockery as well as Rep. Goodlette who were responsive to our message on water bills and funding issues.

Mike recommended that SFGCSA invite their local representative to attend and speak at the Expo. He suggested that other chapters invite their local representatives to chapter meetings for good public relations.

The minutes of the Fall 2004 Board Meeting as presented were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Greg Pheneger reviewed the questions for our FGCSA Member Needs Survey. He asked all chapter External Vice Presidents to personally contact at least ten superintendents in their chapter by March 30th. The list of questions are in 5 categories: turf research; professional development; environmental issues; association topics; and member services needs. After contacting their fellow members, each External should send the results to the FGCSA office so that they can be compiled and discussed at our Spring board meeting in Naples.

INITIATIVES: Greg then discussed his list of Initiatives for this fiscal year noting which ones had been accomplished and stressed the need to continue working on

them in the next few months.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Sec/Treas Craig Weyandt gave the Financial Report for the Second Quarter. We are currently funding two projects by Dr. Crow and expect the GCSAA to approve at least one of our projects through the GCSAA Chapter Co-Operative Program. Reports were approved.

Greg and Craig then discussed the results of their meeting with two separate financial companies to move some of our reserves to more aggressive though still conservative funding vehicles. Greg reported that the companies were UBS (a Payne/Weber company) and Morgan Stanley both of whom are well respected in the industry. Both representatives stressed multi-layered portfolios of a conservative nature and were eager to work with the FGCSA. Both companies have long term backgrounds with Not for Profit businesses. The annual fee would probably be in the 1% range but not be measured by number of transactions, rather by total funds involved. The goal is to make our funds grow in a conservative environment with a good comfort level. Ralph Dain made a motion that the Officers continue to pursue this project. The motion was approved. Greg noted that the FGCSA Finance Committee should be Chaired by an interested FGCSA Past President with the rest of the Committee to be composed of any other interested Past President along with the current Secretary/Treasurer. That structure insures that all members of the Finance Committee have held the position of Secretary/Treasurer in the past giving them a good background in the funding of the FGCSA.

D.O.C. REPORT: Joel discussed the information in his Turfgrass Trends and Impact Study folder. He stressed DACS, MSMA, the Endangered Species Act, the FFVA legislators tour of golf courses as well as the new restriction of getting amendments approved to the Florida Constitution.

He urged all Externals to send him dates of their upcoming chapter functions so that they may be posted onto our web site and published in the Green Sheet.

FLORIDA GREEN: Joel reported that the Winter issue has been printed and is currently in the mailing process. This gets us back on schedule. He reported that the

Florida Green Fall cover has always featured the Country Club of the incoming President of the FGCSA which is also the cover of the annual Membership Directory. Since the next two incoming Presidents have already had their clubs featured as cover stories in the past, they will move to the Superintendent Journal section of the Florida Green. In the future there will be some flexibility in the selection of the cover story.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Marie Roberts reported that the 2004 Membership Directory has been distributed. Advertising support has been terrific with income from ads to exceed our budgeted amount.

AWARDS: Chairman Clayton Estes spoke on the possibility of the FGCSA presenting the Distinguished Service Award at its own function rather than the current practice of at a local chapter meeting of the nominee. In the past, the DSA had been presented at the Crowfoot but since Central Florida now presents the Larry Kamphaus Award at that function it was best to separate the two awards to give each one its proper respect. Clayton suggested that now that the FGCSA has initiated a Past Presidents Dinner during the weekend of the Poa, we present the DSA at that time. He also suggested that the DSA winner be notified that he has won the award and will be given a complimentary night at the Naples Beach Hotel for the night of the dinner and presentation. If we do decide to go with this arrangement, chapters would need to have their nominations for both the DSA and their Lifetime Award nominees to the Awards Committee at the Fall board meeting rather than the Spring meeting as has been in the past. A suggestion was made to present the 2003 DSA during the Florida reception in San Diego this year since it has not been presented as yet. We would then start the new time schedule and setting with the 2004 DSA winner. Definite time schedules and procedures for receiving nominations will be finalized at the upcoming Spring board meeting.

BY LAWS: We will need to do a By Law amendment to comply with the GCSAA's renaming of a Class B member as now a "Superintendent Member." Steve Bernard will present this change at our next meeting.

EDUCATION: Buddy Keene reported that there are no GCSAA Regional Seminars

slated for Florida this coming year. That may be due to the GCSAA Convention being here next February. He again asked all Externals to keep us informed on their upcoming local chapter events to try to avoid conflicts with other chapter functions. The Poa seminar will be given by Patt Schwab on Friday, May 14th in Naples.

GOLF: Joe Ondo reported on the Central Florida's Research Tournament at Interlachen which has raised over \$55,000 for research in the past 15 years. Joe then reported that Bob Harper will be replacing Robert Parmar on the Florida team.

Joe then discussed ways of policing Handicaps for local chapter events. The Crowfoot Committee is working on this problem. Most superintendents play enough at their own clubs to be eligible for a USGA handicap card. Chapters should require proof of this card to verify the handicap.

MEMBERSHIP: Matt Taylor led a discussion on whether the FGCSA should lower the annual dues for Assistant Superintendents with the goal of getting more Assistants to join their local chapter and the FGCSA. Is this the most effective means of attracting more Assistants? A poll of Externals showed that Palm Beach does not plan to lower their Assistant dues; South Florida chapter does not feel it would get more assistants to join; Central Florida noted that they have established free membership to Assistants until July. After considerable discussion, Matt Taylor made a motion that the FGCSA reduce its annual fee for Assistant Superintendents by 50% of current rate beginning July 1. The motion passed with 8 chapters in favor, 2 against. This will be a one year trial basis. Greg Pheneger then stated that the only way to make this work is to have the local chapters reduce their assistant dues by \$30.00. Chapters need to institute programs or chapter meetings to get assistants more involved.

RESEARCH: Craig Weyandt reported that we have received updates from Dr. Billy Crow on the projects that we are co-funding with the GCSAA. The FGCSA will be sending checks to the University of Florida for the monies due on these two projects. We will await news from the GCSAA Chapter Co-Op Program on which of the three programs we have submitted have been approved for co-funding to be announced at

the Conference.

Kevin Downing gave a report of the joint research committee meeting that was held in November with representatives from UF Research Committee, FTGA, USGA and researchers from the University of Florida. The idea behind the meeting was to form a "Super Research Committee" to meet once year and develop a 5 year plan of funding more research at the University of Florida. The goal of the Super Research Committee would be to raise more dollars for turfgrass research by speeding up the timing needed to get funds committed. Plans would be pretty much the same as the format that the FTGA already has in place. Kevin submitted a written statement describing a Recommendation for a Combination Group for "Turf for a Beautiful Florida". Jim Goins asked that if all research donations were to go in one pot, could their chapter continue their ten year commitment to supporting the maintenance of the facilities at the Fort Lauderdale campus. Kevin replied that he himself would be in favor of spreading those funds between all of the other REC's not just Fort Lauderdale. Kevin will present this Combination Group at the next FTGA Board Meeting.

FUND RAISING: Jeff Brown announced that his committee consists of Scott Scamehorn and Lon Chatfield. Jeff recommended that the letter requesting chapter research donations as written by President Greg Pheneger for the Everglades Chapter be sent to all chapter presidents. The letter will include a chart of a ten year history of FGCSA donations and special projects. Jeff then discussed the how the monies in the FGCSA Benevolent Fund would be distributed. When the committee gets a request for funding, they will discuss each request case by case on a needs basis. After the Committee has decided on the appropriate disbursement, they will go to the FGCSA board for approval. A letter from Kurt Sowers, West Coast chapter, asking for donations to a fundraiser for West Coast member, Steve Franks, Superintendent at Mainlands GC, who has MS was read by Jeff. He suggested to the Board that a donation to the fundraiser would be an appropriate vehicle for the Benevolent Fund. A motion was made that the FGCSA donate \$1,000 to the West Coast Fundraiser to be held in March. The motion was approved. There will be a booth at the FGCSA reception to

raise funds for the Benevolent Fund through a raffle with \$500 being given to the winner of the raffle.

GCSAA ELECTION: Dale Kuehner, Voting Delegate, presented a synopsis of the candidates in the GCSAA election. He stated that all candidates were very well qualified this year and did not have any preferences. Craig Weyandt suggested that we let Dale decide the Sec/Treasurer position since either candidate would be a good choice. As usual, Dale would be available to all chapter representatives for discussion of any candidate before the election. Dale reviewed/explained some By Law issues that would be voted on at the GCSAA Annual Meeting.

Greg noted that the GCSAA has asked that each chapter approve extending the current Affiliation Agreement for an additional year. Since no one had any objections, Greg will sign the one year extension and forward it on to the GCSAA.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP: The GCSAA is planning another 2-day Workshop for March 23rd and 24th which is open to 25 attendees. Since attendees should be an officer, Craig Weyandt volunteered to attend the Workshop.

GCSAA RECEPTION: Marie Roberts reported that plans for the reception are just about finalized thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. We have again picked one of the GCSAA hotels as our site but this year will not be using either of the two host hotels. The Wyndham Emerald Plaza was very accommodating to our needs and we expect to have another great reception and still remain within our budget. Several board members volunteered their services at the door and at the Benevolent Fund table.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: Steve Bernard presented a slight change to the SOP manual in the job description to the Secretary/Treasurer position. The Sec/Treasurer will now be responsible for preparing a 5-year financial plan to be approved by the board and placed in the SOP manual.

NEW BUSINESS: Date for the Spring Board Meeting will be Thursday, May 13th at the Naples Beach Hotel with dinner to follow.

Florida Chapters Make Plans for their Springs Fundraisers and Chapter Activities

West Coast Fundraiser for Benevolent Fund

The Florida West Coast GCSA will be hosting a golf tournament at Wentworth GC in Tarpon Springs on Tuesday, March 23rd.

The funds raised from this tournament are used so that we may help out our members and their families in times of need or in the event of a disaster. The year's funds will be donated to one of our members, Steve Franks, Class A Member, Mainland GC, Pinellas Park, who has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) so that he may be able to fight this disease.

Entry fee is \$100.00 per person or \$400.00 per team. Entry fees must be received before March 23rd to insure your spot in this tournament. Registration is from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. with lunch served at 11:00 and golf to start at 12:30. Hors d'oeuvres will be served after the tournament.

If you can not play in the event, the FWCGCSA would greatly appreciate your support of this event through a monetary donation or a donation of an auction item. Please send your donation to Kirk Sowers at Wentworth GC, 2990 Wentworth Way, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688 or call 727-938-6435 for an entry form.

NFGCSA'S Mike Richards Memorial Tournament

The 12th Annual Mike Richards Memorial Tournament will be played on March 15th at the Jacksonville G&CC with Greg Tharp again serving as host superintendent. The Tournament funds scholarships for students in the North Florida area who are seeking a turf related career path. The family of Alan MacCurrach has also been instrumental in promoting the scholarship fund. The North Florida chapter is proud to honor both of these gentlemen with this annual event.

Format is a two man scramble with Gross and Net Team Play. Entry Fee of \$125 for superintendents with sponsorships available. Deadline is March 8th.

Everglades GCSA Spring Seminar Set for April 8th

The Everglades chapter proudly presents its 12th Annual Turfgrass Spring Symposium to be held on Thursday, April 8th at the Naples Beach Club.

The all-day program begins with registration at 7:15 a.m. and Opening Remarks at 7:45. Morning presentations include Jeff Wheaton speaking on "Are you in Compliance"; Dr. Thomas Nikolai from Michigan State University on "Effects of Rolling and Fertility on Putting Green Root Zones," Scott Woodhead, "What PDI Means to You," and Dr. Bruce Martin, Clemson University, speaking on "Ultradwarf Management and Disease Interactions."

After lunch and a short EGCSA board meeting, presentations include an update by John Foy, USGA, "What's Hot and What's Not in Florida,"; J. Mark Black on "Improving golf course operations through the addition of a state of the art golf maintenance facility" and finishing up with Dick Kopplin on "How to Work Effectively with the Club General Manager".

Advance registration fee is \$110 per person with an April 2nd deadline. On site registration is \$120. Florida Department of Ag CEU's and GCSAA education points are pending. Any questions or to obtain a registration form, please contact Everglades Education Chairman, Matt Taylor at 239-261-4987.

Certified Superintendents

Congratulations to the following ten Florida superintendents who have attained Certified Status during the past few months.

Thomas Dechant, Hunters Green, Tampa
Tim Larson, Stonebridge GC, Naples
Ron Hibbard, Harbor Hills, Lady Lake
Hal Akins, Bonita Bay Club, Bonita Springs
John Cunningham, Black Diamond Ranch
Barry Greenwalt, One Source at the Villages
Robert Markut, PGA CC, Port St. Lucie
Lucie Russell Geiger, Hole-in-the-Wall GC, Naples
Mark Johnson, TPC Prestancia and
Chad Nixon, Saddlebrook Resort.

17th Annual SF Exposition Features GCSAA Credits

The South Florida GCSA is hosting the 16th Annual Exposition at the University of Florida IFAS Station in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday, March 18th. This year there are even more equipment companies participating with lots of new machines on display!

The all day event is the major fundraiser for the upkeep and maintenance of the FGCSA research green and the University of Florida turf plots at the site. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.. Field tours begin at 8:30 a.m. with University of Florida researchers themselves explaining their studies on the plots. GCSAA education points are available.

The Exposition part of the day begins at 10:00 a.m. and features equipment displays as well as other turfgrass related products in the booth area under the big tent. Our sponsors work hard to get their products on display so please take the time to browse.

After the always popular bar-be-que lunch generously provided once again by Environmental Turf. Inc., the afternoon turns to serious educational opportunities. Training sessions complete with DACS CEU's for crew members (irrigation techs, spray techs and mechanics) will be presented by the major equipment sponsors.

At the same time, there will be a two hour program on Best Management Procedures to Reduce Pesticides in Seashore Paspalumgrass by Todd Lowe, USGA, which will be followed by a panel discussion. The GCSAA has awarded .35 education points for the day. These education points are very valuable to our Superintendents and are a bargain at the \$30.00 PreRegistration fee.

SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

The Suncoast GCSA will play its annual Suncoast Scramble on Tuesday, March 30th at Misty Creek GC in Sarasota. Format for this day of fun and comradie includes four man teams composed of a superintendent, the general manager, a club official and a supplier member of the Suncoast chapter.

Florida Superintendents Enjoy the Show in San Diego

The host city for the spectacular 2004 GCSAA International Golf Course Conference & Show couldn't have been more inviting and exciting. If it weren't so far away it would have been perfect! The Show itself kept the 200+ Florida superintendents busy with great education throughout the entire week. The Show had a total of 684 exhibitors covering 240,000 sq. feet of floor space.

The Florida team consisting of Steve Bernard, Bob Harper, Mark Henderson and Seth Strickland, finished in a strong tie for 2nd place with Georgia in the Team Gross Division. First place went to the Midwest Association thanks to the play of GCSAA Champion Tommy Robinson and runner up Alan Pondel. Mark Henderson finished with a 152 to take 5th place with Steve and Seth placing in the top 20.

Spouses and family members who made the trip had plenty to do during the week of great weather to visit the zoo, Balboa Park, shop and dine in the Gaslamp Quarter, or just enjoy the spectacular San Diego Bay. Some even traveled to the nearby Buick Open to enjoy the golf in La Jolla.

The Florida reception held on Thursday evening at the Wyndham Hotel in Emerald Plaza was a great success with over 400 - 500 members and sponsors attending. The roast beef was the best ever and, of course, our trademark shrimp went quickly. The hotel staff was very accommodating and we owe another thank you to our loyal sponsors for putting on this reception for us every year. Thanks to everyone who supported the Benevolent Fund Raffle which netted \$1,680. Congratulations to Seth Strickland who had the winning ticket.

Mike Perham, Chairman for the FGCSA Reception for the past seven years, was surprised by David Court who presented him with the 2003 Distinguished Service Award. David was diligent in his pursuit of Mike for the past several months in trying to find an appropriate venue to present him with the Award. Mike was nominated for the award by the Treasure Coast and Palm Beach chapters for his work with the FGCSA Board culminating in his presidency during the 1998-



(L-r) Greg Plotner and Scott Zakany of IGM present GCSAA CEO Steve Mona with a \$7,500 check for turf research for the Environmental Institute for Golf. The money is the result of IGM's annual hole-in-one contest.

1999 year. As is typical of many of our Past Presidents, Mike remained active on the FGCSA Board after his Past Presidency by serving as Business Manager for the Florida Green and as Reception Chairman. Mike is a Certified Golf Course Superintendent at Jonathan's Landing in Jupiter.

Elections were held during Saturday's GCSAA Annual Meeting. Mark Woodward, CGCS at Dobson Ranch/Riverview GC in Mesa, Arizona was elected President. Vice President is Timothy O'Neill CGCS at CC of Darien, Conn. and Secretary/Treasurer is Sean Hoolehan, CGCS at Wildhorse Resort GC in Pendleton, Ore. Directors are Gary Carls, California; David Downing, North Carolina; Robert Haibusch, Illinois, Mark Kuhns, New Jersey and Ricky Heine, Texas. Jon Maddern will serve as past president.

Next year's Show moves back to Orlando and takes on a new name, the Golf Industry Show hosted by GCSAA and the National Golf Course Owners Association. The Trade Shows will be combined but the educational programs will remain separate.

GCSAA Approves Eight New Research Projects

The GCSAA Environmental Institute for Golf announced their funding schedule for 2004. The Institute will fund three National Research Programs, one Michael Hurdzan Program; and one in the Mark Kizziar Program.

Three projects qualified in the Chapter Cooperative Research Program of which two were submitted by the University of Florida.

"Ecology, pathogenicity and management of *Bipolaris* and *Curvularia* fungal species associated with decline of ultradwarf bermudagrasses in Florida" a three-year project by Dr. Lawrence Datnoff.

"Timing of nematicide applications on turf based on soil temperatures, nematode activity and root development" a two-year project by Dr. William Crow.

Both projects were submitted to GCSAA with co-funding to be provided by Florida superintendents.



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