

# Two Big Winners at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando



Left: Marie Roberts with Matt Taylor (left) and Paul Crawford at her "semi-retirement" celebration at the FGCSA Reception in Orlando. Marie is stepping down as Association Manager after 24 years of service. She will continue to work with the Palm Beach and South Florida chapters. Right: Seth Strickland, Superintendent of the Miami Shores C.C. won his second GCSAA National Golf Championship by dominating the field at the Tom Watson Independence Course at the Reunion Resort. Strickland shot three consecutive 68's to lap the field. His nearest competitor finished 16 shots behind.

March 10<sup>th</sup> – North Florida GCSA Research Tournament at Pablo Creek

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Florida GCSA Spring Regulator Tour, Old Collier Golf Club

March 11<sup>th</sup> – Coastal Plains GCSA Chapter Meeting, Seminole Golf Course

March 20<sup>th</sup> – Seven Rivers GCSA Board Meeting, West End Golf Club

March 26<sup>th</sup>– West Coast GCSA Monthly Meeting, Largo

March 31<sup>st</sup> – Central Florida GCSA Duane Camps Superintendent/Vendor Shootout,

### **Upcoming Events**

Tuscawilla Country Club

March 31<sup>st</sup> – Suncoast GCSA Scramble, Laurel Oak Country Club

April 3<sup>rd</sup> – South Florida GCSA Turf Expo, Fort Lauderdale IFAS

April 14<sup>th</sup> – North Florida GCSA Memorial Tournament, Jacksonville Golf & Country Club

April 16<sup>th</sup> GCSAA Regional Seminar, Central Florida

April 17th - Everglade GCSA Spring

Symposium, Naples Beach Hotel and GC

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Seven Rivers GCSA Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, World Woods Golf Club

May 8<sup>th</sup> – FGCSA Board Meeting and Past President's Dinner

May 9<sup>th</sup> – GCSAA Leadership Seminar, Naples Beach Hotel and GC, Naples.

May 10-12- Poa Annua Classic, Naples Beach Hotel and GC, Naples

May 19<sup>th</sup> – Central Florida GCSA Chapter Championship, Isleworth Golf and CC

# President's Message By Matt Taylor, CGCS

If you did not attend the FGCSA reception at the GIS show in Orlando, you missed a great event. Marie Roberts is now officially retired from active duty for the FGCSA, but she will remain on as chapter administrative assistant for a few of the East Coast chapters. All members of the FGCSA owe Marie a debt of gratitude for her years of service to us. Our first FGCSA President Tim Hiers, CGCS said it best "Marie was the face of the FGCSA.". Thanks again Marie. We couldn't have done it without you.

Behind every event are many individuals who work very hard to make sure things go well. Paul Crawford came out of retirement for this event as Reception Chairman and once again did a tremendous job on the event. Marie was his partner in crime securing sponsorships for the event, and both did a great job.

Many of you also got to meet Jennifer Innes our new Association Manager at the registration table this year. She performed very well under the pressure of learning as she went. Knowing that next year she will be on her own, we have full confidence that the reception in New Orleans will be excellent.

Greg Pheneger' wife Gail created a Powerpoint slide show highlighting Marie's life using a collection of family and association photos. The slideshow ran after toasting, tributes and even some poetry from past presidents Tom Burrows, matt Taylor for Tim Hiers, Paul Crawford, Greg Phenegr and Joel Jackson.

In order to have successful events like our reception in Orlando it takes planning, preparation and funding. Thank you very much to all the vendors who gave so generously to make this event a very special evening. Without your financial support it would be impossible to hold an event like this.

Jim Becker with EPIC communications filmed the mini reception for Marie and will send her copies on DVD at no charge to the FGCSA. Thank you also to all of the other board member volunteers who participate in this event at the registration table and Benevolent Fund table to make it



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Deadline next issue April 15.



Matt Taylor so successful each year.

Lastly, thank you to all of the FGCSA local chapters who donated to Marie's retirement present, an all expense paid trip for two to Las Vegas. We didn't have to stretch to come up with a trip to Vegas, it's one of Marie's favorites vacation spots. Thank you to Butch Gill and Roy Bates for helping with the arrangements at the Bellagio in Las Vegas.

These next few months for most are the busiest of the year. It seems like each week there is an event happening. You can read more about what is going on across the state in Joel Jackson's update.

As if we did not have enough to deal with, the current water restrictions are really making things much harder. Down here in sunny South Florida we are still under Phase III restrictions with South Florida Water Management District. The five chapters that are regulated by SFWMD have banded together in an effort to work together and vocalize a consistent message. We hope that our collective message will be heard clearer than each chapter trying to work on its own.

... continued on page 4

### **Executive Director Report By Joel Jackson, GCCS**

1. Government Relations Report: State Fertilizer Rule: The Florida Senate Agriculture Committee will hear the recommendations from the Consumer Fertilizer Task Force for a Statewide Consumer Fertilizer Rule on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Task Force Chairman Andy Rackley from the Department of Agriculture will give the report.

Local Fertilizer Ordinances: Jacksonville/Duval County just released its final draft of their fertilizer ordinance. The section pertaining to golf courses states that the application of fertilizers will be governed by the Golf BMP Manual. So once again if you are in Duval County you must abide by the limits set in the BMP manual and you must provide soil and/or tissue tests to exceed those amounts.

Water Restrictions: The five chapters affected by the South Florida Drought Phase 3 restrictions have united and held meetings with Water Consultant Bruce Adams and subsequently with the SFWMD staff. Matt Taylor, CGCS as president of the FGCSA has submitted a formal letter to the district requesting that the current restriction allocation methods be revised and that in light of our efficient water management, low water use compared to other groups and the potential devastating effect to conduct competitive business under the current restrictions that a new range of percentages be adopted, returning back to the original 10-20-30% reductions for Phases 1-2-3.

Additionally, the contract with the Water Consultant has been re-written to reflect the Florida GCSA as being the contractor instead of just the EGCSA. It makes sense for unity and political impact purposes to do so. Only chapters using the services of the consultant will pay their share of the fees.

Water Conservation: The SFWMD

Water Conservation Task Group has begun fine tuning and editing the document to be submitted to the Board of Governors in April. We have two more meetings February 28th and March 28th. In the first rough draft version where we could submit suggested changes or provide guiding information to the district staff as they edit the text, I brought up the economic factors and water use and management practices. I also stressed that golf and/or turfgrasses should not be singled out or demonized. They have a role to play in the urban environment. It is the ignorant irrigation practices of the general public that wastes the most water.

Methyl Bromide: A grass roots campaign will be announced and rolled out soon for all stakeholders to write and lobby Congress to get EPA in line with the Montreal Accord and to give turfgrass consideration for a Critical Use Exemption as we wait and hope for sensible effective alternatives to emerge.

**MSMA:** In my last report I said MSMA was done per the grape vine. Evidently the fat lady choked on a chicken bone and couldn't finish singing the farewell song. The MAATF Task Force has threatened to sue EPA for violating FIFRA and FQPA risk assessment guidelines which incorrectly filled up the Organic Arsenical risk cup. Stay tuned.

2. Allied Associations: UF/IFAS: The much ballyhooed budget cuts, a product of revenue shortfall, or whatever, became a center stage issue as the President of the University, Dr. Bernhard Machen, was quoted (or misquoted according to him) as saying that "agriculture in Florida is a dying industry" and that IFAS would likely take a disproportionate share of the \$50 million dollar budget cut assigned to UF.

Needless to say, hard core agriculture commodity groups in Florida are in an uproar. As much as we depend on IFAS for turfgrass research, there are a multitude of services and programs conducted by IFAS which touch the lives of all Floridians, from the county extension, 4-H, health and nutrition, and of course the multitude of common agriculture from cattle, dairy, poultry, fruits, vegetables, turf and ornamental, floriculture, equine, foliage, nurseries, aquaculture, etc, certainly not dying away. Blueberries were just introduced after a new Florida-friendly variety was developed.

The point is that pressure is being brought to bear on Dr. Machen and the Board of Trustee to be very careful how he assigns the budget cuts. An action kit suggested by the Florida Farm Bureau has been emailed to your local chapter president and external vice president. You can also request one from me. Basically once again it is up to the end user and stakeholder to fight for what is important and critical for survival. And once again people in high places have lost touch with the land and the people on it.

Dr. Machen says he wants UF to become one of the top ten research universities in the U.S. What I think he means is he wants faculty to recruit large research endowments for the school so that big dollars are feeding the bottom line. UF/IFAS does lots of renowned research, but a \$40,000, 2year turf project probably isn't noteworthy in his scheme of things. Maybe I'm off base. But the bottom line is that several hundred faculty positions are on the line as well as the county extension system.

**GCSAA:** The 4<sup>th</sup> segment of Golf Course Profile series of survey is underway. This one deals with Pesticide Use. It will run until March 15. That means you have one month to participate. I cannot urge you strongly enough to submit your information. The previous surveys on fertilizer and water use are giving us a solid baseline

#### Executive Director's Report

of data to measure our stewardship and progress. We need the pesticide data to complete this first round picture of where we are in our turf management practices. Please go to <u>www.gcsaa.org</u> and link up to the Pesticide survey. It is important.

FGCSA Officers Shane Bass, CGCS Vice President and Bill Kistler, Secretary/Treasurer will joining be Association Manager Jennifer Innes in attending the annual Chapter Leaders and Executives Meeting at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS. This day and a half meeting helps both volunteer chapter officers and paid staffs learn the techniques association latest in issue facing management, current associations and how to best work together and understand each other's positions and needs. Another plus is exposing key leaders and staff to the resources available at GCSAA to help chapters be as effective serving members as possible.

President's Message ...continued from page 2

We have placed on retainer, Bruce Adams, a long time employee of the District who is now a private consultant to help us with our efforts. We have a contract with Bruces's company for his services, the contract is with the FGCSA and the five chapters will be paying all expenses for their services. The thought was that the FGCSA and five chapters will carry more weight than just one.

If other chapters are interested in using the consultant to assist in negotiating with your water management district please feel free to contact myself, Joel or any of the Presidents of the five chapters and we will explain our efforts to date. We hope that the model we have created will be successful, and might possibly be used by other chapters in the future.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon at the POA weekend in Naples.

## Florida Superintendents Enjoy Another Reception!

The Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando was a gracious host to the 2008 Florida Reception at the Golf Industry Show. Not only was the entertainment spectacular, but the pre-reception celebration to honor Marie Roberts as she retires as Association Manager, proved memorable. An amazing evening was had by all.

Many thanks go to the board member s and others who volunteered to man the door as well as the Benevolent Fund table for the entire evening. The Benevolent Fund raffle raised \$2,860 in donations. Raffle winner Alan Puckett of The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland generously donated his winnings back to the Benevolent Fund. Thank you Alan!

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A special thanks to all of our FGCSA Chapters Who also contributed to make this evening extra special. Level IV Bronze Sponsor

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#### **Minutes of FGCSA Winter Meeting**

FGCSA Board of Directors was called to evidence. order by President Matt Taylor at 1:00 importance of the Board to become p.m. on Friday January 11, 2008 at Tampa involved with the local water management Palms Golf and Country Club. All officers boards. were present. All Chapters, but the Ridge valuable for future relationships. Mike chapter, were represented. The Chapter will continue to work for the FGCSA Representatives were: Calusa, Miller; Everglades, Wayne Kappuaff; regarding the water restrictions and will Central Florida, Gary Myers; South work closely with the Florida Department Florida, Kelly Cragin; Coastal Plains, of Agriculture with these issues. Shane Bass: Suncoast, Bob Wagner: Seven Rivers, Mark Kann; Treasure Coast, John Curran; North Florida, Rip Phillips; West LRP - Joe Pantaleo updated the Board on to work at the door and at the Benevolent Coast: Bill Kistler; Palm Beach, Kevin the Long Range Planning committee Downing. Others attending the meeting meeting. The Committee will continue to were: Craig Weyandt, Immediate Past evaluate ways to increase income for the President; Joe Pantaleo, Long Range FGCSA. The dues increase has been Planning Committee Chairman; Marie successful and will continue with an Roberts, Association Manager; Jennifer increase for the next year. Publications Innes, Association Manager; and Mike will be re-worked and updated to attract Goldie FGCSA Lobbyist.

Meeting were approved.

Board that the Cash Basis Audit is under also discussed to preserve 10% of way and should soon be completed.

presented the current financial statements. Receptions, so a defined budget can be There was some concern over several line followed. items, particularly the miscellaneous category. Jennifer committed investigating those items and would fertilizer tax program. He will give an submit a new Operating Budget to the update to the board at the Poa meeting. Board. There was some concern regarding The membership dues campaign was the Musser Foundation donation. More discussed information would be solicited from Joel suggested addition to chapter applications to present to the Board to determine if this soliciting a voluntary donation of \$25.00 dollars. Money is still needed to fund the chapters to find out who would like to research commitments that have already participate in this program. A standard been made. Confirmations were made by application template will then the represented Chapters to continue to developed for those chapters choosing to donate to the Research fund.

Mike Goldie -Joel Jackson in Tallahassee regarding the Fertilizer Task Force Meetings which were Awards - Rip Phillips reported that the to do with those areas with prior candidates to Rip within the

The Winter 2008 Board meeting of the continues to support the need for scientific Mike Goldie stressed the These relationships will be Nancy gathering research and information

more advertisers and new mailing options will be evaluated. The Green Sheet Minutes of the FGCSA Fall 2007 Board currently continues to be sponsored by Golf Ventures, but may need to be reevaluated if Golf Ventures decides to no AUDIT - Marie Roberts updated to the longer sponsor this publication. It was Reception income in the future for administrative expenses. A financial Financial Statement - Bill Kistler model will be developed for future

to Tim Hiers continues to work on the thoroughly regarding a was the best use of our contributory for research. Jennifer will contact all local be participate. These new forms will be ready to be mailed to Chapter Secretaries Membership Mike Goldie met with before the Poa Board Meeting.

occurring simultaneously with the Board Everglades GCSA has selected their meeting. The Task Force is still working chapter's recipient of The President's to define the fertilizer blackout periods. Award for Lifetime Service. All other while Class A's have decreased. The Two major questions still prevalent: What chapters are urged to send in your

additional protection. The Task Force made and forwarded to the chapters for notify the FGCSA of those members who

presentation.

Rip Phillips reported that he has received one nominee for the 2008 DSA. That award is traditionally presented at the Past Presidents Dinner in Naples on May 8th following the Board Meeting.

Reception - A list of potential sponsors was presented to the Board and volunteers signed on to make some last minute phone call solicitations. Invitations will go out next week and everything is going as planned. A sign-up sheet for volunteers Fund desk on the night of the reception was distributed. These volunteers play a very large part in making the reception a success.

Education Committee: Mark Kann has put in a call to Tommy Witt and hopefully he will be the speaker for Poa. The seminar will be held on Friday morning, May 9th. The Assistant Superintendent Survey garnered few responses at this point. Mark will send out an e-mail to further discuss interest.

Financials - Craig Weyandt presented to the Board the Morgan Stanley financials. Some strategic changes were made to the account by our Dean Witter representative. Craig will find out if these have been beneficial and will report back to the Board.

The FGCSA has 23 Golf superintendents qualified to play and so we will be sending multiple teams to play in the GCSAA Championship.

Research - Because research was already discussed during the LRP committee update, it was just reiterated that we need to find more ways to raise research dollars to fulfill our current commitments.

Wayne Kappauff presented the current membership numbers. Despite the increase in dues, membership numbers continue to remain steady. Most interestingly, the Assistant Superintendent's numbers have increased GCSAA has released its membership lists. All Chapters are encouraged to compare ordinances and what if they need next month so that their plaques can be the GCSAA list with their lists and n .... Continuation of Winter Board Minutes

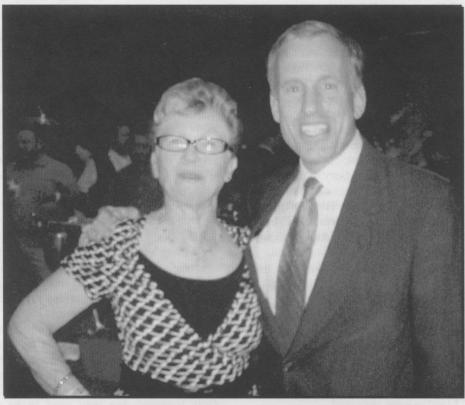
are not actively members of the local chapter

**Government Relations** - Joel was attending the Fertilizer Task Force Meeting in Tallahassee. It was restated that Board Members need to work with Water Management Boards to get the water restrictions under control.

**FTGA/IFAS** – The Board was presented with the FTGA Seminar calendar and was reminded to sign up and encourage those members in your local chapters to do so, too.

**GCSAA** - It was confirmed that Dale Keuhner will be our voting Delegate and Darren Davis is our Alternate.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 8, at the Naples Beach Hotel during the Poa Annua. The meeting will begin at 1:00pm. The Past Presidents Dinner will be held that evening, place to be announced.



Outgoing Chief Executive Officer of the GCSAA, Steve Mona, wishes a fond farewell to Marie Roberts at the FGCSA Reception in Orlando.

### **More GCSAA Golf News**

Besides Seth Strickland's individual championship and domination of the GCSAA National Championship at the Independence Course at Reunion Resort in Orlando, Florida's #1 and #2 teams tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 2 shots behind the Carolinas Chapter. Florida's #3 team finished 4<sup>th</sup>, another 3 shots back. Bob Harper and Roy McDonald finished tied for 11<sup>th</sup> place in the individual competition. Good performance and showing overall for our golfing members.

### **GCSAA Annual Elections**

David S. Downing II, CGCS was elected president of the association at the annual meeting and election February 1. Also elected were vice president Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS and secretary/treasurer James R. Fitzroy, CGCS. Sanford G. Queens, CGCS and Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS were re-elected to the board. Robert M. Randquist, CGCS and Keith A. Ihms, CGCS both enter the second year of their terms as directors. Ricky D. Heines, CGCS will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president. John J. O'Keefe, CGCS was appointed to the board filling the position left vacant by James Fitroy's election to secretary/treasurer.

#### **MEMBERS ON THE MOVE**

Tom Schlick, CGCS, CPAg, 25-year veteran superintendent ended a 17-year run with the Marriott Golf Division to take over as the Davey Tree Expert Company's Southeast Division Manager. In his new role He will focus on development of golf course maintenance projects and large grounds maintenance projects that are affiliated with golf developments throughout Florida and the southern United States.

Bill Davidson, Immediate past president of the Everglades GCSA will be wearing two hats for a short time as he assists Naples Grande hire his replacement as he takes over the head golf course superintendent's position at the Naples County Club. Good luck to both gentlemen in their new roles.

## **GCSAA Education News**

There will be several opportunities for Class A and CGCS education points coming up this spring:

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>** the South Florida GCSAA will host their annual Turf Expo at the Ft. Lauderdale REC. Speakers include Dr. Mike Fidanza, Penn State University and Mr. Todd Lowe, USGA. Give Marie Roberts a call at 772-692-9349.

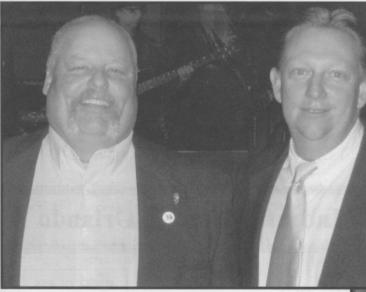
**April 16<sup>th</sup>**, the Central Florida GCSA will be hosting a GCSAA Regional Seminar – Advanced Management of Ultradwarf Greens. Location is TBA. Call Bob Scott at 407-826-5362. Or keep checking the CFGCSA website (<u>www.cfgcsa.com</u>) or FGCSA website (<u>www.floridagcsa.com</u>) for details

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**, the Everglades GCSA will host their annual Spring Symposium, an all day education session with a variety of notable speakers. The Symposium will be at the Naples Beach Hotel. Give Matt Taylor a call at 239-261-4987 or check the EGCSA website at <u>www.evergladesgcsa.com</u>.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**, The FGCSA will host the GCSAA Leadership Seminar at the Poa. Speaker Tommy D. Witt, CGCS will present, "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Golf Course Superintendent". This seminar is scheduled to begin at8:00 a.m. and be finished in time for participants to play golf in the G.C. Horn Tournament at 1:00 p.m. This seminar will cover many strategies for promoting yourself, the job, and the overall contribution you make to your facility and employer. You will learn to thoroughly represent your value to your operation.

Registration forms for the Poa are available from the Everglades chapter and the FGCSA office.

Give Jennifer Innes a call at 800-732-6053 or e-mail the FGCSA office at fgcsa@comcast.net for more information.



Alan Puckett, from the Eaglebrooke (left) won the Benevolent Fund Raffle drawing at the FGCSA Reception. He immediately donated his winnings back to the fund to help fellow superintendents in need. Matt Taylor accpts and thanked Alan for his generous spirit.



Marie's family and friends were also able to join her as she celebrated her retirement. From Left to right, Marie's children Suzanne Turner, Mark Roberts, and Colleen Patterson at the FGCSA Reception in Orlando..

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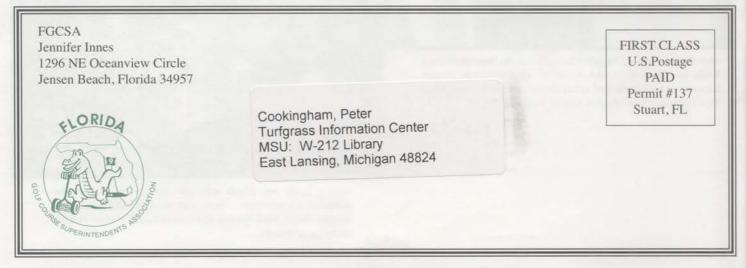
Golf Ventures to be Champion Sponsor for 2008 Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Golf Classic

Golf Ventures is proud to again be the Champion Sponsor of the Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Golf Classic held at World Woods Golf Club on April 21, 2008. Together with Helena and Jacobsen our vendor partners, this sponsorship allows Golf Ventures the opportunity to support the Seven Rivers Chapter and their fundraising efforts for research and the Florida Turfgrass Association.

Golf Ventures remains focused on providing turfgrass professionals with sound agronomic solutions, quality products and high levels of customer service.

Please join Golf Ventures and your peers at the Envirotron as we promote future success for the industry through continued turfgrass research.

# Two Big winners at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando



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