

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XXV, PART I, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



The 2008 Lake City Endowment Tournament was held Nov. 7th at the Colony Golf & Bay Club in Bonita Springs. The committee was (l-r): Front row – Steve Rauh, John Piersol and John Johnson. Back row – Glenn Zakany and Scott Hamm, CGCS

Upcoming Events

Jan 8th – West Coast GCSA Monthly Meeting, Palm Ceia

Jan 9th – Calusa GCSA Meeting, Coral Oaks

Jan 13th – North Florida GCSA Meeting, LPGA International GC

Jan 14th – Seven Rivers GCSA Meeting, Continental CC

Jan. 16th – FGCSA Winter Board Meeting, Disney's Osprey Ridge GC

Jan 21st – Chemical Spill Response Class, Sanford, FL CEU's available (NFGCSA)

Feb 2-5 – GCSAA Education Conference & The Golf Industry Show, New Orleans
Feb 5th – FGCSA Reception, New Orleans Riverview Room.

Feb 23rd – West Coast GCSA Benevolent Tournament, East Lake Woodlands

March 9th – North Florida GCSA Annual Research Golf Tournament, Pablo Creek GC

March 26 – South Florida Expo

April 13th – North Florida GCSA Annual Memorial Golf Tournament, TBA

Local Chapters please remember to send your updated membership rosters to the FGCSA office so those late joining members can be included on the FGCSA's mailing list and can receive a copy of the 2009 FGCSA Membership Directory.

President's Message By Shane Bass, CGCS

Now that we have all had our fill of turkey and ham from the holidays let's get this new year off with a good start. We are all constantly hearing about new fertilizer ordinances all across the state and it was surprising when about a month ago I hear they are try to implement one in the City of Tallahassee. Up until now they have mainly been along the southwestern coast of Florida with the exception of Jacksonville, Marion and Orange Counties. So obviously it is an issue the entire state is going to have to deal with.

We have science and research on our side if we choose to do a few simple things that I am sure most of us are already doing. But we must show proof as a group that we all believe in what we are preaching and a simple way to do this is to endorse and use of the BMP manual that was created for golf courses in Florida. There are 12 sections on the check list and I encourage all of you to look at them if you have not yet done so.

As you look at them and check off what

you already do just remember they all do not have to be checked "yes" the first time you look at the list. So to get us some kind of idea of who is already aware of the BMPs we are going to put a simple question on the FGCSA web page. The simple survey question will be down in the lower right corner of the home page.

If you have not gone to the web site lately go check it out and if you have seen the new layout at least log-in again and look for the question. I thought it would be a good idea to change the question out every 6 weeks throughout the year and then do a report of all of the questions in next year's Jan/ Feb Green Sheet. So to start this year out the first question is going to be "Have you completed the BMP manual check list?"

PLEASE take two seconds and stop by www.floridagcsa.com and answer the question. Then next year at the same time we will run the same question and see if we can improve are numbers. Wouldn't it be nice if we could walk in to these county or city commission meetings and say 1100 of the 1150 courses in Florida are in compliance with the Florida DEP BMP manual for golf courses.



Shane Bass

So let's help the folks who are out there fighting for us on fertilizer, pesticide and water issues with some good numbers that they can use in our defense. If you have any questions while filling out the check list please do not hesitate to give me or Joel a call let's get these done while it is still volunteer and not mandatory.

GCSAA golf show is just around the corner hope to see all of you at the reception. It looks like it is going to be a nice venue.

THE GREEN SHEET



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All material submitted for printing will be edited at the discretion of the editor. Material must be typed or clearly printed. Photos are encouraged. Items must be for the good of the association.

Deadline next issue February 15.

Check out the new FGCSA website!

We are currently in the process of making the website more user-friendly. Please check the site regularly for information on association news, upcoming meetings, education opportunities and association events. If your Chapter is hosting an event, please be sure to let us know so we can include it on the calendar along with a link.

www.floridagcsa.com

Executive Director Report By Joel Jackson, GCCS

1. Government Relations: The War Against Turfgrass Continues.

Local Fertilizer Ordinances: The City of Tallahassee joins the ranks of local governments seeking to regulate the use of fertilizers on turfgrass. Hilaman Park GC superintendent Jeff Heggen reports that at least they are talking to golf and sports industry folks to make sure they don't cripple those sectors. The rough draft looks more science sensitive than others so far. The proof will be in the final draft of course. Meanwhile, Marion County deleted the (unscientific, unproven) rainy season blackout clause that many of the SW Florida Counties added to their ordinances. Licensed businesses of course must follow these rules, meanwhile there has been no clear accounting of how homeowners and the unlicensed "Chuck in a Truck" lawncare folks will be monitored and the ordinances enforced. Seems like an unforced error all around, but it sure looks good in the media.

Water Restrictions: The South Florida WMD staff has been working with the FGCSA with the help of UF/IFAS Ag Engineer Dr. Michael Dukes to modify the Blaney-Criddle model to give users a larger allocation in the dry winter months while still fulfilling and water shortage restrictions. Initial efforts to make adjustments to the rainfall and ET multipliers did indeed yield a shift in the amount of water available to be allocated during the dry months. We are waiting for final tweaking to make sure the water allocation curve doesn't skew so much that it creates shortfalls in other times of the year.

Meanwhile, all districts appear to be headed rapidly to a year-round 1 or 2 day lawn watering restriction. The 1-day restriction being touted for the cool winter months, but as just noted, it is also our dry season. Once again regulating wasteful homeowners is practically impossible without water police and government can't afford them.

This just in: The SFWMD is going to endorse a 3 times per week plan instead of the 2-day which was boardline for some. So. Fla. locations, and no restrictions on reclaimed water uses.

Over at the Tampa Bay Water Authority they have listened to reason and with the help of the Turf Industry, adopted a more reasonable sod installation and replacement policy overturning the original "no new sod until next June" rule, and it uses less water than the old district rule for new sod. A real win-win decision.

Water Conservation: Check out our website: www.floridagcsa.com we have posted some golf course water saving comments from Dr. Michael Hurdzan, a noted golf course designer who walks the talk. More than ever we need to document and publicize our ability to manage and conserve water while still providing a viable golf course. Make it a New Year's resolution to make a couple of minutes run time reduction to your irrigation schedules and multiply the gpm per head times the run time and show the amount of water you save per irrigation cycle. Then send your savings amounts to me, so we can publicize our stewardship.

Methyl Bromide: Reports from the recent International Meeting on Methyl Bromide contain ominous indications that the Climate Change advocates will be injecting themselves and their opinions into the Montreal Accord process which is totally foreign to the agreement. They seek to gain funding for their cause at the expense of those commodities seeking redress for the unscientific, uneven handling of the phase-out. Once again the USA seems to be getting the short end of the stick on uses of the stockpiled material, and turfgrass, well turfgrass is still losing on this battlefield as well.

MSMA: Well, I should know better. Having written the obituary on MSMA prematurely based on the wind direction and dire comments being made. I should know it's not over until the fat EPA lady sings.

Right now she is still humming. I can't make out the tune, but it isn't So Long Charlie yet.

2. Allied Associations:

UF/IFAS: On November 24th IFAS folks met with industry folks in Plant City to talk turkey about turf research. The essence of the conversation was to identify people who may be movers and shakers and friends of turf, golf, etc who might be interested in providing funding for a Turfgrass Foundation within IFAS to create an endowment fund that would have perpetual incomes to stabilize research funding.

GCSAA: The Florida GCSA applied for and has received a \$3,000 Chapter Outreach Grant to help us fund the new FTGA Florida Turfgrass Economic Impact Study. Each turf commodity in the state will be surveyed and reported on and have its own section in the results. It is this kind of information that we share with those local governments and the media to show how important the Turf Industry is to the state's economy. We have most certainly used this information in articles to the public in the Florida Golf Central magazine and Golf is Our Game newsletter to help educate the public about golf's contributions to not only the economy, but also the environment. Make sure your chapter also donates to the study. It is a combined effort since we will all benefit. Our cousins up in the Gulf Coast GCSA chapter have agreed to pitch in as well since it has statewide benefits.

3. Education: There will be nine **FTGA Regional Seminars** around the state beginning January 10th. If you haven't received the brochure outlining meeting times, locations and topics then log onto www.ftga.org and download the information. You can also register online.

GCSAA: Times might be tough, but there's no better place to make sure you are getting the latest technology and information to do a better job than at the 2009 GIS in New Orleans. This year's site is driveable in a day. If budgets are tight, consider car pooling and room sharing with a couple of fellow superintendents from your chapter. Thanks to all the receptions you can save on meals too. Log on to www.gcsaa.org to register now.

4. Executive Director's Meetings, Events and Travel

01/05? TBA Florida Green Spring Cover Story Trip, Vero Beach
 01/09 Florida Sod Growers Meeting, Disney World

01/10 Deadline – Florida Golf Central Magazine
 01/12 FTGA Turf Research Tournament, Winter Park
 01/16 FGCSA Winter Board Meeting, Disney World
 01/20 Deadline – Golfdom Magazine
 01/28-30 PGA Merchandise Show (GCSAA, ING), Orlando
 02/04-07 GCSAA (GIS Trip), New Orleans
 02/10 Deadline – Florida Golf Central Magazine
 02/15 Deadline – Green Sheet March/April Newsletter
 02/20 Deadline – Golfdom Magazine

The FGCSA would like to recognize the following people/associations for their contribution to the FGCSA Research Fund so far this fiscal year:

Shane Bass, CGCS

Ron Wright, CGCS

Golf Agronomics

Everglades GCSA

Joel Jackson, CGCS

West Coast GCSA

GCSAA

Palm Beach GCSA

Gulf Coast GCSA



From the left: The Wild Turkey Team of Terry Wood, Joel Jackson, Matt Neider and Corey McDonough used all 10 of their mulligans to take 2nd place in the 2008 CREW Land & Water Trust tournament held at Bonita Bay East on October 18th.

USGA Green Section Unveils Online "Live Meetings" Education and Communcations Technology

On December 18th, the The Mid-Continent Region of the USGA Green Section hosted the first on-line conference. The Florida Green Section is hoping to make these on-line conferences a new addition to their TAS service. TAS subscribers around the state will be invited to attend on-line meetings periodically throughout the year. This will be a great opportunity to learn of things going on all around Florida, and not just from our agronomists. With the Live Meeting software, there is the potential to have speakers from across the country give updates on important issues in the golf industry.

As a test of the software and process, this first meeting was to discuss happenings in the Mid-Continent Region over 2008, give updates on methyl bromide and Namacur, and close with plans for the future of Live Meeting sessions. As the Green Section continues to develop these educational opportunities, they will be submitting our programs to the GCSAA for CEU's. Although this Live Meeting focused on issues in the Mid-Continent, Florida Region representatives sat in and to give feedback on the possibilities for these meetings in Florida.

There will be no cost to attend these meetings. Jim Moore, Construction Education Director for the USGA Green Section, has written an outline describing Live Meeting, how to get into the system, and how to check your computer for download needs. If you have ever participated in a GCSAA webcast the process is very similar.

What and Why: The cost of attending educational meetings is making it more and more difficult for turfgrass managers to attend as many meetings as they would like. Fortunately, the USGA has given the Green Section the technology to bring a meeting to you via the Internet. Without having to leave your office you can hear and see presentations from Green Section agronomists on topics that are impacting your course. There is no charge for attending this meeting.

How to Attend the On-Line Meeting: At the end of this e-mail message is a link that will direct your computer to the meeting site. However, please complete the following steps before you click on the link.

What you need to attend:

- 1) A computer equipped with speakers so you can hear the presentations.
- 2) A broadband Internet connection (dial-up connections will not work properly).
- 3) Your Internet browser must be Microsoft Internet Explorer (other browsers will not work).
- 4) You will need to install the Microsoft Live Meeting Console (more on this below).

Microsoft Live Meeting installation: (please complete the installation well before the announced meeting date).

The USGA uses Microsoft's Live Meeting application for webcasting. In order to attend this meeting you will need to install the Live Meeting Console (also called "client") on your computer. When you click on the link to join the meeting, your computer will check to see if you have Live Meeting installed. If you have not previously installed Live Meeting, or if you have not updated it in the last few months, you will be taken to the screen you see below. Although it gives you two options for joining the meeting, we encourage you to install the Live Meeting Client as recommended by Microsoft. Although this takes a couple of minutes to install you will find it works much better during the on-line meeting.

To install Live Meeting software on your computer go to to obtain the download:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/usga/join>

How to Join a Meeting?

Once you have installed Live Meeting you are ready to join us for the on-line conference. All you have to do is click on "Join the meeting" link Location: <https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/usga>. Once the page opens type in the Meeting ID and Entry Code info that will be supplied with the meeting announcement/invitation prior to the meeting



2009 FTGA Turf Seminars

The Florida Turfgrass Association has Regional Turf Seminars throughout the state of Florida. These seminars provide local educational programs on topics such as pest and disease, weeds, BMPs, regulatory issues, safety and pesticide usage. Participants will also receive CEUs in both core and turf and ornamental categories.

Seminar attendees include lawn care and landscape professionals, golf course superintendents, as well as parks, recreation and sports turf managers.

The 2008 Turf Seminars had over 1,000 attendees receive valuable education at a great low price. Commercial Suppliers, university personnel and many other key decision makers throughout the state of Florida also attended the seminars. The turf seminars offered a company promotional product update information sheet so each attendee was aware of great new products.

Tampa - Jan. 6
Vero Beach - Jan. 13
Ocala - Jan. 20

Orlando - Jan 7
Lake Worth - Jan 14
Jacksonville - Jan 21

Fort Myers - Jan 8
Plantation - Jan 15
Milton - Jan 27



Winners of the 2008 Lake City Endowment Tournament were (l-r): Mike Dillinger and (missing Matt Neider) in the B Flight and Tim Denton and Chad Montgomery in the A Flight.

GCBAA Announce Board Election Results

LINCOLN, Neb. (Dec. 9, 2008) - The Golf Course Builders Association of America (GCBAA) has announced the results of its recent board elections. Three new directors and five reelected directors will begin serving two-year terms at the organization's board meeting in New Orleans in February.

Newly elected GCBAA directors include: Patrick Karnick of Wadsworth Golf Construction; Ed Kruse of John Deere Golf and Stephanie Zimmerman of Hancor, Inc. Those reelected to the board include: Treasurer Steve Christman of Eagle Golf & Landscape Products; Secretary Ellen Davis, SportZmix Solutions Rick Boylan of Mid America Golf & Landscape, Inc.; Oscar Rodriguez of Weitz Golf International and Bob Bryant of Bryant Taylor Gordon Golf.

The new directors join 14 others who will continue to serve as members and officers on the GCBAA board including: Immediate Past President Thomas Shapland of Wadsworth Golf Construction; President Robert Pinson of Course Crafters; Vice President Mick Jones of The Toro Company; President Elect Dave Munkvold of Duinick Brothers Golf; Greg Bartold of Niebur Golf, Inc.; Ron Freund of Genesis Golf Builders, Inc.; Kurt Huseman of Landscapes Unlimited, LLC; Doug Long of Heritage Links; John McDonald II of McDonald & Sons, Inc.; Scott Pate of Seaside Golf Development, Inc.; Klaus Ahlers of Leemco, Inc.; Dennis Wagner of Ewing Irrigation; David Zippis of Caterpillar, Inc and Doug Zak of ISCO Industries, LLC who was elected by the board to fill an open seat for a one year term.

About the GCBAA and the GCBAA Foundation

The Golf Course Builders Association of America is a non-profit trade association of the world's foremost golf course builders and leading suppliers to the golf course construction industry. It was founded in the early 1970s and its members represent all segments of the golf course industry. The GCBAA Foundation is the charitable arm of the GCBAA and a separate, 501(c)(3) organization. The GCBAA's national executive office is located in Lincoln, Neb. For more information, visit www.gcbaa.org or call (402) 476-4444.

GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show February 2nd – 5th, New Orleans FGCSA Reception Thursday, February 5th Riverview Room, Jackson Brewery

Room Reservations are currently available online at
<http://www.gcsaa.org/conference/travel.asp>

There are a variety of hotels close to both the Convention Center and the Riverview Room located in the historic Jackson Brewery – the location of the FGCSA Reception on Thursday, Feb 5th. A map of the area is also available through the GCSAA website.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Innes at fgcsa@comcast.net or (772)334-7515.

Invitations and wristbands will be sent to all members registered for the GIS. If you plan to attend, but have not registered, please contact the FGCSA office for an invitation and wristband.

February 1st-3 – National Championship & Golf Classic, Gulf Shores, AL

February 2nd-7th – Conference Seminars

February 5th-7th – Golf Industry Show



From the left: South Florida GCSA's Kelly Cragin and Ted Hile present a \$24,000 check to Nancy McBride and Nancy Sullivan with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

Jupiter: 888-222-7072
Lakeland: 800-330-8874

Happy New Year! We wish all of you a Prosperous New Year for 2009 and want you to know we appreciate your business. We know 2009 is going to be a challenging year for the golf industry as well as our country but we are here to service you.

Our territory managers are ready to help you get more bang from your \$\$
We have programs inside to help you maximize your budget dollars through increased fertilizer Efficiency!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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