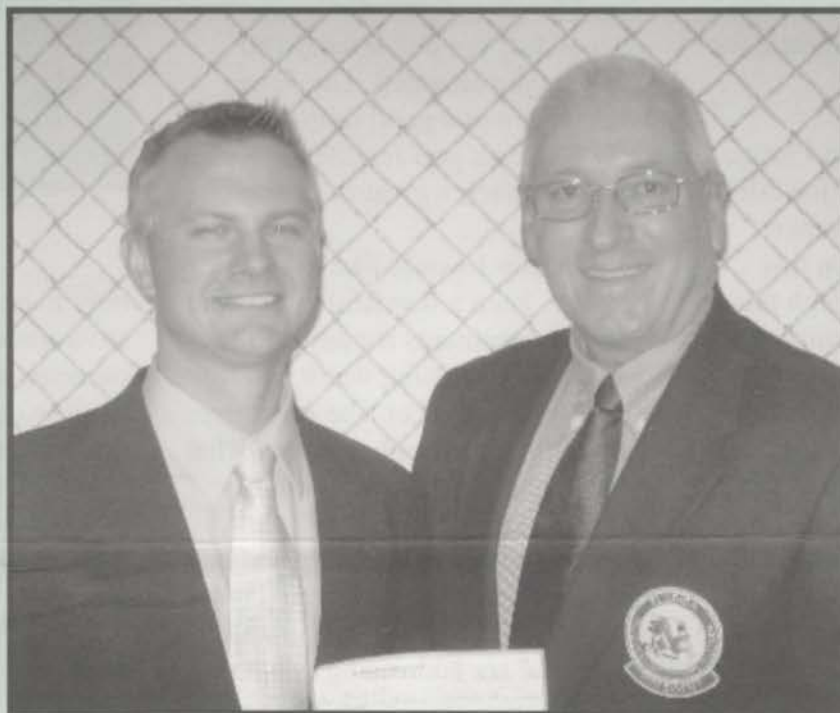


# THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XXVI, PART II, MARCH/APRIL 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



The West Coast GCSA Kicks Off 2010 FGCSA Research Donations! (l-r) WGCSA External VP Kevin Sunderman presented FGCSA President Bill Kistler with a \$1,500 check at the Winter Board Meeting at Disney World.

## Upcoming Events

March 8<sup>th</sup> – North Florida GCSA Annual Research Golf Tournament, Pablo Creek Golf Club

March 10<sup>th</sup>, Seven Rivers GCSA Monthly Meeting, Rainbow Springs

March 15<sup>th</sup> – Ridge GCSA, Jack Harrell Ridge Invitational

March 25<sup>th</sup> – Suncoast GCSA, Suncoast Scramble

March 25<sup>th</sup> – South Florida GCSA,

Turf Expo, IFAS Fort Lauderdale

March 31<sup>st</sup> – West Coast GCSA Monthly Meeting, Largo Municipal

April 8<sup>th</sup> – Everglades GCSA, Spring Symposium

April 12<sup>th</sup> – North Florida GCSA Memorial Tournament, Marsh Creek Golf Club

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Treasure Coast GCSA

Roundtable Discussion and Golf, Hawk's Nest

April 19<sup>th</sup> – Seven Rivers GCSA, Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Calusa GCSA and Suncoast GCSA Joint Meeting, Plantation Golf Club

May 17<sup>th</sup> – Treasure Coast GCSA, Blue Pearl Tournament, The Medalist

May 19<sup>th</sup> – IFAS Field Day

## President's Message

By Bill Kistler

Is it that time already? Spring training has started and we can finally put this crazy winter behind us. Let's hope El Nino is gone for another seven years.

Here we go again. Now it's the EPA numeric nutrient criteria for the state of Florida.

All GCSAA members in Florida will be receiving an Action Alert email from GCSAA to make comments to the EPA on this matter. Please read through this and respond to EPA concerning their one size fits all criteria for nutrient levels in our waterways. If this is passed, the economic impact could be significant. Pass this information on to your members, GM's because this will affect us all. Costs will be passed on to all residents in Florida. This is just one more item to add to our watch list.

After returning from the GIS in San Diego, I thought the change in format this year went well. The show floor was packed on Wednesday as well as Thursday. Speaking with some of the exhibitors, they were pleased with the two days of dedicated time for them.

Our Florida reception was also very successful. We had around 180 people who attended. The venue was great and a good time was had by all. Thank you Jennifer Innes for selecting such a great location.

Once again I would like to remind us all to keep a watchful eye on our local governments for any public hearings concerning water quality / fertilizer issues. Let's be proactive, talk with your members about what is happening and how it could affect their golf course and club. Sustainability, stewardship and best management practices were mentioned at the GIS and are all topics we are addressing due not



Bill Kistler

only to economic pressure but from environmental pressure like the numeric nutrient criteria. Make it a habit to document all the reductions you have made in fertilizer, chemical and water use so we can produce hard data on your responsible turf management.

As always, good luck and success with your spring season.

# 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 April 15.

*Please check out  
our website for  
upcoming events  
and member  
information.*

[www.floridagcsa.com](http://www.floridagcsa.com)

## Executive Director Report

By Joel Jackson, GCCS

### 1. Sustainability was a key message in San Diego:

There's no getting around it. Sustainable, environmentally friendly practices are becoming even more prominent in the vocabulary of all green industries including golf. We are no strangers to embracing best management practices and participating in the Audubon International programs, but as the activists continue to wage war on turfgrass via fertilizer and water use issues, the turf industries are fighting back. Fortunately, we tend to have science on our side when it comes to measuring actual fate and effects of our sound management programs.

One key element in all this is that there needs to be an education component to golfers and club members so they get the message up front about potential consequences of "going green" and "being sustainable" so there are no surprises when course conditions might get a little "lean and mean" around the edges. Golfers should be willing to compromise on the wall to wall perfect manicured "lush green" expectations of days gone by so that the game and industry may continue to thrive and survive in a changing world. But this needs to be communicated at the outset from those organizations promoting a sustainable golf agenda.

Also rolling out at almost the same time is the Golf 20/20 Florida Golf Economic Impact Study results (see our website for a copy of the 36 page report) and a national effort by the major golf associations (GCSAA, PGA, CMAA and GCOAA). It's called "We Are Golf" and the initiative will focus on educating legislators, regulators, the media and the public about the positive attributes of golf and to alter those common misconceptions harbored by media and public alike. They just aren't getting both sides and now this effort will attempt to change that information gap.

Thanks to FGCSA Vice President Gary Myers, CGCS who represented us at the Golf Impact Study preview at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando in late

January, while I was at another Allied Industry meeting in Clearwater. We both felt the actual presentation of the data was a bit awkward, but the original program was altered in order to have Governor Crist in attendance and to speak on behalf of golf in Florida. While the delivery could have been better none the less the facts tell the story of the positive golf industry contributions to the state's economy.

Armed also with the results of the five GCSAA Baseline Golf Maintenance Surveys that many of you have participated in, we are entering a new era of golf course management. It is an era where you as individuals by doing a little more documentation of your practices, especially in areas like nutrient management and water use can show reductions in use while not sacrificing quality of the product for your customers and members. By tweaking your fertilizer application amounts and frequency and by altering your irrigation schedules and perhaps doing an irrigation audit, you can not only gain cost savings but also showcase your stewardship with some hard data.

The take home message is that sustainability not only means environmental responsibility but also business survivability. All best management practices are based on practical and economically feasible, attainable solutions. Please document all those positive things you are doing so we can tell the story of Florida Golf.

### 2. GCSAA Members elect 2010 Board of Directors:

At the 2010 Annual Meeting and Election, Feb. 12 in San Diego, James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, was elected president; **Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, was elected vice president;** and Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, was elected secretary/treasurer. Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, and Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, were elected directors. Peter J. Grass, CGCS; Keith A. Ihms, CGCS; and John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, remain on the board for the last year of their two-year terms. Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, will serve an additional year as immediate past president, and David S. Downing II, CGCS, will retire from the board.

What a great piece of timing in that next year in Orlando, our own Bob Randquist, CGCS will be elected President of the GCSAA.

**3. Fertilizer Ordinances:** The City of Dunedin in north Pinellas County is the next local government to consider their own fertilizer ordinance. The commission meeting will be on March 4th. Green industry representatives will be promoting the use of the state model fertilizer ordinance to the commissioners which is based on science and practicality.

**4. Water Conservation:** The South Florida Water Management District will soon be sending a survey to all permit holders regarding water conservation practices especially in the areas of equipment and system upgrades, using technology and scheduling. The survey will only be 7-8 questions. The District staff knows from working with the chapters in the SFWMD that superintendents are pretty good water managers, but this survey will help document that fact with hard numbers. They feel as we know, we have a good story to tell. Help tell that story by taking and submitting the survey when it comes to your course.

**General Comments:** Understandably total attendance numbers at the GIS were down. One preliminary report said 7% less than last year. The same was true of course for our FGCSA Reception and we missed you and hope next year we can all celebrate Bob's election as GCSAA president together in Orlando. It was a smaller but still enthusiastic group that gathered on the Solamar Hotel rooftop in the San Diego Gas Lamp Quarter. Jennifer definitely scored another home run for site selection and meeting planning as noted from the numerous compliments on the venue.

*A special Thank You to our  
FGCSA Reception Sponsors.  
Without YOU our Reception wouldn't be possible!*

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## MINUTES OF Winter 2010 FGCSA BOARD MEETING

The Winter 2010 Board Meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was called to order by President Bill Kistler at 10:05 am. Friday January 22nd at Disney's Grand Floridian in the Whitehall Room.

All officers were present with the exception of Immediate Past President, Shane Bass. All Chapters, with the exception of Ridge were represented. The Chapter Representatives were:

Calusa, Nancy Miller; Everglades, Bill Davidson; Central Florida, Bill Beasley; Palm Beach, Steve Pearson; Suncoast, Mark Todd; Treasure Coast, Roy MacDonald; Seven Rivers, Mark Kann; South Florida, Ricky Reeves; West Coast, Kevin Sunderman; North Florida, Chris McCranie

Others attending the meeting were: Jennifer Innes, Association Manager; Joel Jackson, FGCSA Executive Director; John Foy, USGA; Greg Pheneger, President FTGA; Ralph Dain, GCSAA; Dale Kuehner, FGCSA Chapter Delegate

Minutes of the FGCSA Fall 2009 Board Meeting were approved as written.

**USGA Report** – John Foy reported to the Board that the USGA is continuing to focus on education, in particular the readily available webcasts. A listing of all webcasts is available via the homepage of the USGA. The USGA is also able to set-up webcasts for local Chapter meetings. Please contact Shelly Foy, at the USGA office, if you are interested. The USGA is also looking forward to the continued partnership with the FGCSA for the Poa Annua Seminar. Information for that seminar will be mailed out after the GIS. Currently the USGA is mailing out invoices for TAS Services. These fees will remain the same. John also announced to the Board that the USGA Green Section Record will no longer be produced in a hard copy. The last printed issue will be the July/August issue. Upcoming USGA events in Florida: The Senior Amateur Tournament at Lake Nona in October and the Women's Senior Amateur Tournament at Fiddlesticks.

**FTGA** – Greg Pheneger reported to the board that the FTGA Education seminars

are in full swing. Attendance is up in all locations with the exception of Orlando, which had a new meeting location. The FTGA is keeping a watchful eye on Fertilizer Regulations around the state; particular the just passed ordinance in Pinellas County and possible regulations in Jacksonville. We need to join together and speak with our councilmen now. Pete Snyder will meet in Tallahassee concerning a possible check-off program that will benefit Sod, FGCSA, Lawn Maintenance, Parks and Rec., Sports Turf and the FTGA. This has the potential of helping to generate more positive public relations for our industries.

**GCSAA** – Ralph Dain reported that the GCSAA is gearing up and is prepared for the GIS in two weeks. Registration costs were reduced with the hope of encouraging more attendees. Ralph and Jennifer have reached out to all those members of the GCSAA that have not assigned their vote to their Chapter or the State who will not be attending the GIS or voting in person and have encouraged them to re-assign their vote. Ralph continues to participate in Strategic Planning session with the local Chapters. Those sessions have been very successful and helpful as each chapter prepares their plan for the future. These sessions are at no cost to the Chapter. Please contact Ralph if your chapter is interested.

**Treasurer's Report** – Mark Kann presented to the Board the Publications and Operations budget reports for the second quarter. The current budget figures were approved. Mark also presented to the Board a revised 2008/2009 Year end Statement that was approved by the Board.

**Government Update** – Mike Goldie was unable to attend the meeting, however, he did provide a summary handout for the members of the board; Of the some 1200 bills filed for the 2010 Session, approximately 35 bills deal with issues such as water, fertilizer, or other related topics which would affect either the turf or golf industries. Our primary concern will be bills either proposed or heard by the Senate select committee on Florida's inland waters. Sen. Constantine is the chairman of this committee and has not filed "shell bills" on water related pollution control issues. These bills do not yet have

any substance as they are place holder bills to meet the filing deadlines established by the legislature. As of today there are no house companions filed to support Sen. Constantine's bills and no House Committee dealing with these specific issues. Budget shortfalls are another issue that could directly affect IFAS and its programs as the House Committee on state Universities and appropriations has asked its members to establish priorities for state spending and rank those priorities with a 15% reduction from last year's appropriations. Mike urges the Board to contact any House member to try and reduce the impact of these shortfalls on the IFAS budget.

**Executive Director Report** - Joel Jackson **EPA Water Sense and Numeric Nutrient Criteria** – The USEPA continues to move forward to regulate the use of turfgrass in home lawns and how much irrigation people can apply nationwide. Additionally, EPA will draft a set of limits on nitrogen and phosphorus in Florida's waters. FLDEP says they are working with EPA to provide them with data showing the variable content that exists in different types of water bodies like rivers, lakes and bays and how they also differ widely in the same region and from region to region. At the Ag BMP meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>, DEP indicated that while EPA will issue some numbers there may be some ranges of values and not single numbers. However, DEP also expects that many BMP manuals may have to be revised to reflect compliance with the new criteria. Implementation may be a can of worms for DEP.

Another point brought up in discussions of EPA vs Ag Industries is that as more restrictions are placed on others like residents and commercial operations, a political rather than environmental pressure will be put on legislators to crack down more on Ag & Green Industries who's BMPs have been protecting them from severe water and fertilizer regulations.

**Fipronil – Top Choice/Chipco Choice:** EPA will allow the continued use of fipronil over the top

applications to control fire ants and mole crickets in turf. The product will become a Registered Use Pesticide and can only be applied by pesticide license holders.

**MSMA:** The phase out of MSMA continues with some confusion over some deadline dates as Florida is on a shorter timeline than the rest of the nation. To summarize: Manufacturing of turf labeled product to cease December 31, 2009 except of golf, sod, etc. Distribution and use to phase out by December 31, 2010 in Florida except for cotton. If you have legal, turf labeled product it can be used until supplies exhausted. To summarize: 12/31/2010 will be last date to distribute or sell product bearing old labels to applicators. After 1/1/2010 applicators may use existing stocks with old label until stocks are exhausted.

**Methyl Bromide:** EPA has said they will not take turf use off the MeBr label at the end of 2009. They will work with registrants to draft a multi-year phase out plan.

**Fertilizer Ordinances: There are 22 local (city and county enacted ordinances to date):** Hillsborough County is on the verge of likely passing a "No Buy or Apply" ordinance with a blackout period from June 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup>. It will mirror Pinellas County since they share Tampa Bay. Manatee County may be next. Golf is not blacked out but must follow the language in the Golf BMP manual. Time for our industry to seriously get behind the BMPs and perhaps conduct our own training and certification program to show our serious intention to stewardship.

**Farm Links** – the Farm Links trip has been confirmed for March 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. Please RSVP to Jennifer.

**Membership Report** – Kevin Sunderman presented to the Board the updated membership chart. Membership was down 15% in October from last year and is currently down 12.5% from last year. Please continue to forward along any new memberships or membership renewals to Jennifer as

they come in so she can update the state database. The Treasure Coast Chapter continues to be the only chapter showing an increase in membership.

**Chapter Delegates** – Dale Kuehner provided to the Board his and Darren Davis' recommendations for the GCSAA Board of Directors. There was no opposition to Dale's recommendation. All chapters, with the exception of the Calusa chapter which will have its own representation, agreed to have representation by Dale and Darren in the GCSAA election.

**Publications** – The Winter issue of the Florida Green will be a 40 page magazine and is currently complete and will be printed and mailed in the next week. The fact that our page count has stabilized at 40 pages and does not continue to decline is a positive sign. Our photographer, Daniel Zelazek, has shifted entirely to 4x5 film sheet instead of 5x7 which will lower production costs. Joel suggested a meeting of the Publications Committee in the near future to discuss the direction of the Florida Green and to consider some content changes. We also need to explore moving forward with a new website, electronic publishing, and new revenue opportunities. Jennifer will look into possible website creation and development opportunities that are close to her location. Larry Keiffer will be retiring at the end of the year. His last issue will be the Fall 2010 issue of the Florida Green. The publications Committee will also need to meet to discuss Larry's replacement and possible candidates. The Membership Directory was mailed the last week of December. All members and advertisers should have received a copy. Revenue and expenses for the Directory were as projected.

**Awards** – Nancy Miller reminded the External's to submit nominations for award recipients. Descriptions and past winners of all the awards are listed in the FGCSA Membership Directory. So far, only one submission for the Marie Roberts Award has been received.

**Education** – Mark Kann presented to the board a spreadsheet of upcoming education opportunities provided throughout the state. Please be sure to have your local chapters forward along any information that can be added to the schedule to Mark. The FGCSA

will begin working with the USGA to come up with an Education Seminar for the Poa Annua. Information for the Poa Annua will be mailed out sometime in March.

**Logo** – At the previous Board Meeting all of the Externals were asked to present to their local Chapters the proposal for the FGCSA to adopt the new GCSAA logo. Acceptance of the GCSAA logo was voted on and not approved. A motion was made for the FGCSA to adopt the GCSAA logo on all letterhead and publications that would also include the current FGCSA logo; similar to what is currently done on the Florida Green. The motion was seconded and voted on; all members were in favor. This change will ensue when the current letterhead and envelopes are exhausted.

**Reception** – The FGCSA Reception will take place on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Solamar. All invitations have been mailed and we have had great success securing sponsors for the event. Florida enrollment for the GIS is up and we are anticipating 175 attendees. Wristbands must be worn for the event.

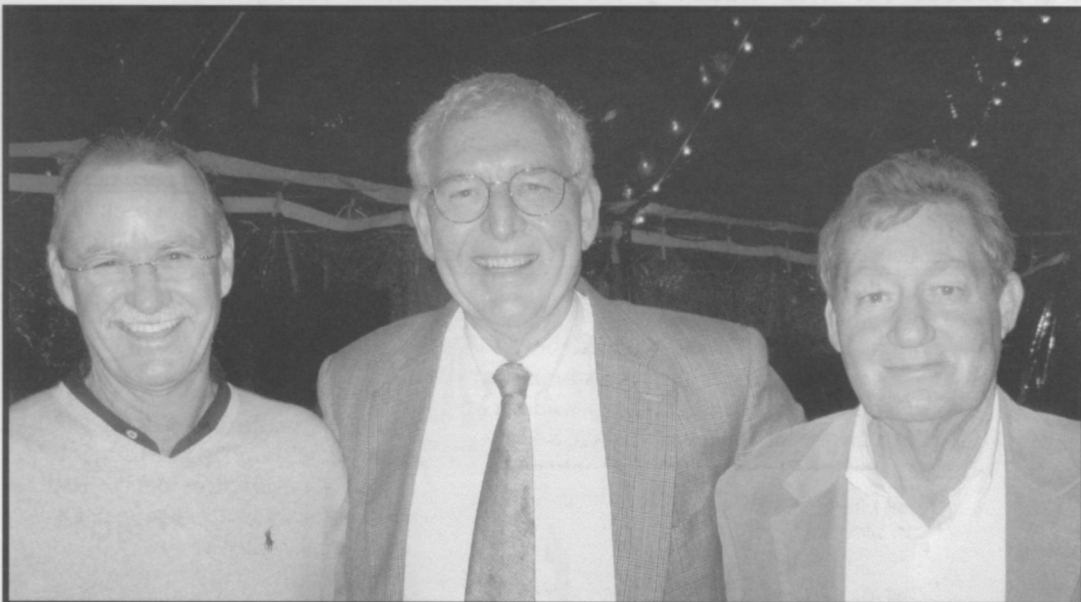
**Research** – Steve Pearson – currently there are no new research projects up for consideration. Dr. Kenworthy is seeking support for a turfgrass study that is currently underway and a nematode breeding study. Steve will discuss the scope and need of the study further and report back to the board with more concrete information as it becomes available.

**Survey** – The FGCSA will be working alongside the Survey Committee to prepare and conduct an FGCSA Maintenance Survey. Jennifer will investigate some potential on-line providers to conduct the survey as an alternative to a traditional mailed survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm. The Spring Board Meeting will be held at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Host and speakers at  
the 22nd Central  
Florida/FTGA  
Research

Tournament were:  
Stuart Leventhal,  
CGCS Interlachen  
CC, Bill Beasley,  
External VP  
CFGCSA, Armando  
Campos, FTGA  
Sec/Treas and Dr.  
Kevin Kenworthy,  
UF/IFAS.



Jim Montgomery  
(center) with  
GREENSMITHS,  
INC. won the  
Benevolent Fund  
Raffle at the  
FGCSA Reception  
in San Diego. Jim  
donated his \$500  
prize back to the  
fund. Pictured  
with Jim are (l-r)  
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Golf Ventures remains focused on providing turfgrass professionals with sound agronomic solutions, quality products and superior customer service.

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

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