



# THE GREEN SHEET

VOLUME XXVII, PART II, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



Palm Beach Chapter Sweeps 15th Annual FGCSA Golf Championships including Individual, Chapter Team and Low Net Team titles. Back row – Mark Henderson, Dave Tandy, John Spiwak, Frank McKee, Steve Wright and Mark Heater. Front row – Deron Zendt, Blair Kirby, Larry Balko, and Steve Bernard (Individual Winner).

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – Suncoast GCSA Fertilizer BMP Training, Venice Service Center

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – Florida West Coast GCSA Monthly Meeting, Lexington Oaks CC

Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> – North Florida GCSA Turf Conference, Marsh Creek GC

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – Everglades GCSA Monthly Meeting, Old Collier GC

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Calusa GCSA Monthly

## Upcoming Events

Meeting, Colonial CC

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Seven Rivers GCSA Bowling at Galaxy Lanes, Ocala

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Ridge GCSA Monthly Meeting, Harrell's

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ridge GCSA Christmas Party, Bartow GC

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – North Florida GCSA Annual Christmas Golf Tournament, Hyde Park GC

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – Seven Rivers GCSA Holiday Outing and Toys for Tots, Juliette Falls

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> – Suncoast GCSA Holiday Weekend, Gasparilla Inn & Club

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Florida West Coast GCSA Vendor Day, TPC Tampa Bay

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Everglades GCSA Christmas Tournament, Quail West Golf & CC

## President's Message By Gary Myers, CGCS

Fall is upon on us and as always, a much welcomed time of year. While, you can say this just about every year, this was an unusual weather year. We started out with record low temperatures last January and not just record lows; there were so many cold days. In Central Florida, we had a total of 15 frost days from 2006 to 2009. We had 14 this year alone and who knows, we may have more this winter.

We had above normal rain during our dry season and below normal rain during our rainy season. Then we had above normal average highs in September when we were hoping to cool down just a little. It's another reminder that our business is affected so much by, and we are so dependent on, Mother Nature.

Because we are so affected by and dependent on Mother Nature, we should do all we can to help protect the environmental portion of Mother Nature. Golf course maintenance and Mother Nature are so intertwined that we really are partners. While I agree that we have always been great stewards of water management I don't

think I can say we have always been great stewards of the environment. I do believe that today we are great stewards, maybe just not back in the early days of my career.

It wasn't just us as superintendents; it was us as an industry. When I started out, we were using Chlordane and Paraquat. We were using lead based fungicides. We did not pay enough attention to leaking diesel tanks or used oil disposition. We are now focused on those things and doing our part in protecting the environment.

Our industry has made terrific strides in changing our environmental awareness. Certain chemicals have been taken off the market as they should have been and we have changed our ways to think about the environment and how we affect it. Some of our changes were dictated by certain chemical cancellations and I would like to think we have also become better educated and more aware of how we affect the environment.

With the challenges we face today by environmental groups and municipal governments, it is imperative that we become the best environmental stewards



Gary Myers, CGCS

we possibly can. There are several avenues to help and guide us. One of the best ways is to first read and follow the "Best Management Practices for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses" (BMP's). Complete the checklist in the back of the manual and see where your operation is. Make the effort to become "Certified" in the BMP's. Gain the designation of "Certified Cooperative Sanctuary" by Audubon International. Pursue Environmental Stewardship recognition through GCSAA. Become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent through GCSAA. These are just some of the more visual and recognized programs.

You may already be doing the things that are required for the various certifications without actually following through with the official programs. By getting the official certifications, you are getting that proof and recognition that you are indeed a steward for the environment. This is not only a positive reflection for you and your operation; it is also a positive reflection of the Golf Course Maintenance Industry.

As we head into the fall of the year, I wish all of you a safe and Happy Holiday Season.



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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 December 15.

## Executive Director Report By Joel Jackson, GCCS

**1. Legislative update:** The battle for the hearts and minds of the St. Lucie County Commission is waging on in earnest. The allied Ag and Green industries have been contacting individual commissioners urging the use of the best science and common sense in drafting their fertilizer ordinance. The alliance is supporting the County staff's version which follows very closely the Florida Urban Turf Rule (5E) which is based on BMPs and the best science. There is a heavy activist influence going on as the Chairman of the County Commission's wife is an ardent Sierra Club member, and the Sierra Club and Commissioner Jon Thaxton from Sarasota have been also lobbying hard for the summer fertilizer bans. For our part we are trying to create our own golf BMP certification program similar to the one that lawn care must get to apply fertilizers. It is voluntary show of pro-activity and willingness to document our professionalism with regard to nutrient management, and in truth it would seem that we are probably headed toward a mandatory certification most likely.

The EPA's Numeric Nutrient Criteria is also hot and heavy in the news lately with Senator George LeMieux having a letter to the editor printed in media outlets as well as Florida Utilities voicing their financial disaster scenarios if the NNC is put into effect. These anti-NNC positions were not surprisingly attacked by Earth Justice and the Sierra Club and as usual the first paragraph of their rebuttals start out with things like, "every time it rains pollution flows from yards into our water bodies..." They all use their usual blue-green algae clogging our waterways scenarios but somehow never actually cite any real studies showing how, when and where all these nutrients are coming from on a measurable basis. The most recent comment said, "we need the NNC now and then we can figure all that out." Isn't that backwards. Set a result before you know the source and how best to mitigate it, say like following BMPs?

The NPDES (spray drift) which will affect how, when and where we apply terrestrial pesticides also rages on as the Dept. of

Agriculture which administers pesticide laws now has to battle DEP which is in charge of the Clean Water Act and water quality. Not only are pesticide applicators arguing with EPA over what is "near a water body" now it's an inter-agency battle over FIFRA regulations versus NPDES permitting regulations. Two sets of laws for the same thing. Not a good scenario. Keep on top of this subject by going to the the Advocacy link on the GCSAA website and make your comments with the links provided to your legislators. The U.S. Senate has drafted and sent to EPA an amendment to the NPDES which would give FIFRA regulations predominance over terrestrial applied fertilizers.

**2. Association Business:** As the deadline for membership renewals has come and gone, work on the 2011 Membership Directory begins in earnest. Five chapters this year opted to have their chapter renewals processed by the FGCSA Office. This has simplified that data gathering process as Jennifer was able to

pour the data into the FGCSA database, making name and contact info processing much easier. Every two weeks she would cut checks to the various chapters for their share of the dues. For a few chapters, at their request, she also processed the vendor's renewals.

**FGCSA Website:** Cybergolf will be sending us a preliminary website layout by mid-October which we will review and tweak as needed. Soon after we hope to be able to go active and give members a new link to news and information affecting our association and members.

**3. Education:** Check local chapter websites (See [www.floridagcsa.com](http://www.floridagcsa.com) – Links tab for several fall education events including ½ to full day programs in the North Florida and Suncoast Chapters. Also make your plans to score lots of PDI and CGCS education points at the GCSAA – Golf Industry Show in Orlando, February 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Online registration is now open at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).



FTGA Past President Jan Beljan presents Matt Taylor, CGCS with the FTGA's highest honor, the 2010 Wreath of Grass Award during the Conference and Show held in Orlando this past September.



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Contact the FGCSA office: 800-732-6053 or [fgcsa@comcast.net](mailto:fgcsa@comcast.net) for details on the program



Steve Bernard, from the Adios G.C. won the individual title at the FGCSA Golf Championships shooting a low score of 70 at Southern Dunes G.C. in Haines City on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Led by Steve Bernard's low score of 70 the Palm Beach A Team captured the Chapter Team Title for the third year in a row. (l-r) Mark Henderson, Mark Heater, Steve Wright, Steve Bernard and Deron Zendt.

## Fall 2010 FGCSA Board Meeting Minutes

The Fall 2010 Board Meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was called to order by President Gary Myers at 8:48 am, October 15, 2010 at Osprey Ridge Golf Course.

With the exception of Mark Kann, all officers were present. All Chapters were represented. The Chapter Representatives were; Calusa: James Foster, Everglades: Bill Davidson, Central Florida: Mike Gay, South Florida: Ricky Reeves, Ridge: Jim Rowland, Treasure Coast: Carlos Arayas, Seven Rivers: Jim Schafer, West Coast: Kevin Sunderman, North Florida: Matt Jones, Suncoast: Mark Todd and Palm Beach: Steve Pearson.

Others attending the meeting were: Jennifer Innes, Association Manager; Joel Jackson, FGCSA Executive Director; Ralph Dain, GCSAA, and Greg Pheneger, FTGA.

Minutes of the FGCSA Summer 2010 Board Meeting were approved.

**Government Update** – In Mike Goldie's absence, Joel Jackson reported to the board that the state legislative session is out until after the elections. The Secretary of DEP has resigned and the position will be filled through a Senate Confirmation. The Board decided it was in the best interest of the Association to send out an e-mail blast to Superintendent members showing unified support for a no vote on Amendment 4.

**GCSAA Update** – Ralph Dain updated the Board on the GCSAA. The Chapter Delegates meeting will be October 22-24<sup>th</sup>. The GCSAA has recommended a dues increase that will be voted on by its members. In addition, the GCSAA is actively working to expand its field staff program.

**Financial Statement** – Nancy Miller presented the current financial statements.

Jennifer will submit to the board a revised report to show budget projections.

### **Executive Director Report – Government Legislative/Regulatory Update**

**1. EPA Numeric Nutrient Criteria** – Most recent action report was emailed to you on 9/27. EPA has ignored or minimized the various requests by the Florida Congressional Delegation to review and show the peer reviewed science behind the numeric criteria. While South Florida will not be subject to the NNC, North and Central Florida will come under the criteria on October 15<sup>th</sup>, if nothing happens before then. The State of Florida will be filing a lawsuit against EPA to prevent the NNC from taking effect. No specific details on the suit yet.

**2. Local Fertilizer Ordinances:** The St. Lucie County Commission is in the process of drafting it's version of a fertilizer ordinance. The green industries are supporting the County Staff's recommendation for an ordinance based very closely on the Urban Fertilizer Rule by the State of Florida. I have kept key Treasure Coast members apprised of the latest information and strategies by the united green industries and Scott Bell did attend one of the commission meetings to see if golf was involved directly. It appears in early drafts that ALL applicators of fertilizers may have to be certified in BMP training. Whether or not golf will be exempted from the rainy season ban on applications remains to be seen.

**3. Water:** Keep alert to working sessions, meetings, etc. in your WMD region. There is a move afoot to review Consumptive Use Permitting process and amounts in the overall concern for availability of water. I cannot stress enough the need to inform GMs and other key club officials that they need to be prepared to lobby the district boards of directors in the name of small businesses

to make sure golf gets its fair share. In that vein it was a struggle to get over 100 superintendents to participate in a 7 question Irrigation Technology Survey by the South Florida Water Management District. It is an excellent opportunity to show golf as responsible and efficient managers of water, and maybe only 20-25% of the courses responded. If we don't speak up how can we have a place at the table?

**4. Allied Associations:** Gary attended a Golf Summit held in conjunction with the CMAA of Florida Summer meeting in Orlando in August. While their main concern was revenue issues, they acknowledged the environmental issues facing golf, and all agreed that regular joint meetings would be beneficial in addressing the issues facing all aspects of golf. Hopefully, the We Are Golf initiative at the national level with GCSAA, CMAA, PGA, Owners, etc will help provide tools to help get the word out and generate action.

**Publications** – The FGCSA has rolled out its new Industry Partner Program that will bundle advertising opportunities and reception sponsorships into one package. Larry Keiffer is working closely with Tim Lancaster during this transition time leading up to Larry's retirement. The Fall issue is planned as a 40 page magazine and is currently in production. Directory advertising sales are down this year. Jennifer will make personal contact with past advertisers with hope of increasing the ad list.

**Education Committee** – Jim Shafer presented to the Board a list of upcoming educational opportunities. Please remember to forward your chapter's events to Jim.

**Golf** – The FGCSA Golf Championship was held at Southern Dunes. The Palm Beach GCSA came away with a sweep. The Palm Beach A Team captured the Team Trophy for low Gross Team score

and the Palm Beach B Team walked away with the Low Net Team prizes.

**Membership** - All chapter membership numbers are lower than last year, with the exception of the Everglades chapter which has increased its numbers. Please remember to submit your chapter's membership lists to Jennifer so the state can keep up to date and accurate records.

**Awards/SOP**-. Award nominations must be submitted to the FGCSA prior to the Winter Board meeting for

proper approval and notification. Please forward those nominations!

**Research** - No new proposals have been presented to the Research Committee at this time. The Economic Impact Study has been completed and final reports on this study should be available soon.

**New Business** - Because of increasing pressures via local regulations on fertilizer and water use, the FGCSA, GCSAA, FTGA and USGA have been holding discussions on how to develop a certification program based on the Golf BMPs. The purpose is to give a science

based alternative for lawmakers to apply to any ordinances. A task group will be working on a first steps plan to present to the board for consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am. The Winter 2011 Board Meeting will be held at 8:45 am at Disney's Osprey ridge on Friday, January 7, 2011 with breakfast served at 8:00am.



The Treasure Coast GCSA recently presented two \$1,000 scholarships to golf management students from the Chapter region. (l-r): Chris Gant TCGCSA Scholarship Chairman, Jake Conolly (Florida Gateway College formerly LCCC), David Naumann, Penn State U. and Tim Cann, TGCSA President.

## From Jennifer's Desk...

Greetings from the FGCSA "office"! We are nearing the completion of the FGCSA website. Joel and I have been working hard to make sure the new website offers our members information and services that will be of value. We will complete our training in the next couple of weeks and then the website will go "live"! Please be sure to check it out and give it a try. Besides a new look, our members will be able to log onto their member information and provide any necessary updates. Eventually the website will offer the ability to renew your dues directly on-line. Members will receive an e-mail with your user name and password. If we do not currently have your e-mail address, please be sure to forward it to me so I can send you information - the easiest way to do that is via e-mail; [fgcsa@comcast.net](mailto:fgcsa@comcast.net).

I want to extend a special thank you to all of you who participated in our first ever on-line survey. We had a total of 175 people participate. I will begin tabulating the data and will send out an e-mail announcement when that process is complete. I also want to extend a thank you to those people who provided feedback on the survey. Your feedback is very important and it will certainly be considered when we prepare our next survey.

One final reminder, as we excitedly announced in the last Green Sheet this year's reception will be held on Thursday night February 10, 2011 at *Walt Disney World Resort*® theme park *Epcot*®. Participation in this event is only open to current FGCSA members and sponsors. One more great reason to make sure your membership status is up to date! If you have not already renewed your membership please be sure to do so as quickly as possible. If you know someone who hasn't yet renewed, please be sure to remind them so they don't miss this great event. Information, invitations and wristbands will be mailed out in late December. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, sponsorship information is available on our website or please contact the FGCSA office directly; (772)334-7515 or [fgcsa@comcast.net](mailto:fgcsa@comcast.net).

Thank you!

*Jennifer*

## The 15th Annual FGCSA Golf Championship was a Palm Beach GCSA Sweep!

Steve Bernard, Adios G.C. shot a 70 to take Low Gross individual and a spot on the 2011 FGCSA Team competing in the GCSAA Golf Championships at PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens next February. The Palm Beach A Team captured the Team Trophy for Low Gross Team score and to wrap up the hat trick, the Palm Beach B Team walked away with the Low Net Team prizes.

A special Congratulations to Joe Ondo, Steve Bernard, Mark Henderson and Howard Hulsebosch who have all qualified to represent the FGCSA in February!.

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Golf Ventures wants to thank you for your support this past year. We wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

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