

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME VII, PART 6, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1991

[Vol VIII Part I Jan/Feb 1992]

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



Turfgrass seminar host

The Everglades GCSA in cooperation with IFAS is sponsoring a one-day seminar on turfgrass management at the Ramada Inn in Fort Myers, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21. Everglades Chapter President Steve Ciardullo, above, said the seminar will offer CEUs through the GCSAA and the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Speakers will include UF researchers John Cisar, Monica Elliott, Don Short and Robin Giblin-Davis and other horticultural experts who will share new research and information for use in Southwest Florida. For more information, contact Steve Ciardullo at 813-482-6818.

Photo by Philip Pettus

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | | | | |
|------------|--|---------|--|------------|--|
| Jan. 6 | Central Florida Research Golf Tournament, Interlachen CC | Jan. 15 | Palm Beach chapter meeting, Jonathans Landing CC | Feb. 26 | Central Florida chapter meeting, Zellwood Station |
| Jan. 11 | FGCSA Board Meeting, Bay Hill Club, Orlando | Jan. 16 | Assistant Superintendent Seminar, Palm Beach Junior College | Feb. 10-17 | GCSAA 63rd Conference & Show, New Orleans |
| Jan. 14 | North Florida chapter meeting, Ponte Vedra Beach | Jan. 16 | West Coast Chapter meeting, Buckhorn Springs GC | Feb. 14 | FGCSA reception, 5 to 7 p.m., Prince of Wales Room, New Orleans Hilton |
| Jan. 14-18 | 66th Annual Sally Championship, LPGA Tour Event, Oceanside CC, Ormond Beach. Spectators welcome. | Jan. 20 | Suncoast chapter meeting, Bradenton CC | March 10 | USGA Green Section Regional Conference, Royce Hotel, West Palm Beach |
| | | Jan. 21 | Southwest Florida Turfgrass Management Seminar, Ramada Inn, Fort Myers | March 12 | USGA Green Section Conference, Stouffer Hotel, Orlando |
| | | Jan. 21 | Treasure Coast chapter meeting, Windsor GC, Vero Beach | | |

THE GREEN SHEET

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Deadline next issue, Feb. 5

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President's Message

How soon they forget

There was the score, high up on the stadium score board: UF 14 - FSU 9. Who would have thought it would end like this? Certainly not the thousands of FSU faithful who made the two-hour trip with high hopes and expectations of watching their beloved Seminoles prevail.

During the past, game parties and friendly jesting around the tailgaters, some undeserved comments were made by the FSU alumni in regards to their revered coach that made me



Tom Benefield

realize just how fickle people are and how closely related the position of a coach is to that of our profession. The slurring, staggering FSU supporter with the war paint on his face and a feather in his hair, cursed the coach and determinedly said it was time that he resign from the coaching profession.

What had this man done to deserve such treatment? He had his team #1 in the country for more than 3 months. He led them to defeat formidable opponents at home and away. But in two consecutive games he came up short by a total of six points. How soon the FSU faithful forget.

This really struck close to home in how we in the golf course superintendent profession are dealt with.

Each of us has had his courses in tip-top condition when all facets of the program come together at any given time to produce what we all strive for. We have all heard the praise and adulation from our supporters, how we were doing a great job and how our golf course was better than any other course anywhere.

Flying high on cloud nine and it all seemed so simple. These people will adore us forever, right?

Wrong! Just as quickly as coach Bowden fell from grace, so can we. Just as in football where you're a star as long as you are winning, we as superintendents are the fair-haired boys as long as our course conditions are near perfect. But as soon as one provides conditions that are less than near perfect he immediately becomes the whipping boy, the guy who caused all this mess.

From the penthouse to the outhouse and you did everything now that you

were doing then but all of a sudden it is not so simple. Just like coach Bowden — same players, same assistant coaches, same game plan — just different results.

I felt sorry for coach Bowden that day, not because he lost the game but because he had to answer to supporters like this golden chief.

For I know first-hand how easy an adoring crowd can turn into a lynch mob and it is not a comforting feeling. The moral of this story is, "It's not what you did for me yesterday but what you are doing for me today!"



FGCSA reception slated at GCSAA Conference & Show

The FGCSA is sponsoring a reception at the New Orleans Hilton from 5 -7 p.m., Friday, Feb 14, during the 63rd annual GCSAA Conference and Show. All FGCSA members and their guests are invited to attend for cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres. The Board of Directors will be presenting the 1991 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award to Cecil Johnston, CGCS, Bangplee CC, Thailand, during the reception.



All's fair in love and water, right?

By Tom Benefield, CGCS

What a funny world we live in. Not only are some segments of society required to solve the problems they create but other segments are required to solve the problems created by others. Such is the case of the developing war over water and believe you me, this one is turning into a full scale conflict.

The DER passed rules in early 1991 requiring waste water treatment facilities to initiate re-use programs for the water they must dispose of. The rules did not mandate that golf courses must take this water, let alone pay for the WWTP re-use projects. But yet this is exactly what the WWTP officials are working diligently for. Unfortunately for us, they have the ear of the water management districts and are working hand in hand to force golf courses to take this low quality water and extort money from us in the process.

Not all of the WMDs operate this way, but the St. John's District is climbing out on this legal limb that we hope will come crashing down at their feet. This district has decided who it is going to bed down with and has put the priorities and desires of the WWTP at the top of the list. Gone is any notion of fair play and moral obligation, gone is any sense of rational and logical reasoning to drive their decisions. Left is only their cozy, tight relationship with the WWTP's.

How they operate is that the WWTPs will run re-use lines to potential end-users, whether they have contracts for re-use or not. When the end users, in this case the golf courses, protest the cost of the wastewater, the WWTP's contact the WMD which sends threatening letters to the golf courses about revoking the consumptive use permits and they must take the wastewater regardless of cost. In court they would call this a license to steal and it has the wholehearted support of the WMD. Matter of fact, by their actions they indicate a well constructed plan developed in the se-

crecy of backroom negotiations with the WWTP's. Who was it that said this is America, anyway? You would never know it from the treatment we receive from this WMD.

How do we get a fair deal with the WMD's and the WWTP's? The first step is to get the WMDs to see our side of the story. It has long been said we have a positive tale to tell and we must get it across. It has worked well for some of the other WMD's and maybe the St. John's people are not too far overboard to see the real story and hear the truth.

Or it may take legal action and a court decision to change their minds. The \$20,000-30,000 to take this situation to court will be far less than what one facility will have to shell out for this wastewater if this type of extortion is permitted.

Get active, call your WMD, talk over the rules, be a positive solution to this problem or else we will all go down the toilet together.



WINTER MEETING OF THE FGCSA

DATE: Saturday, January 11

TIME: 10 a.m.

PLACE: Bay Hill Club, Orlando

All FGCSA members are invited to attend.

63rd Annual Golf Course Conference & Show Feb. 10-17, 1992 New Orleans Convention Center

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Speed Kills — Are fast greens, healthy turf compatible?

The following articles are reprinted from the Everglades and Suncoast chapter newsletters.

By Buddy Carmouche, CGCS, Hole-in-the-Wall GC

The Stimpmeter readings are increasingly prized by club members as the measure of their golf course's machismo. Weekly television doses of golf greens stimping at 10 or more causes golfers to demand unrealistic green speeds from their superintendents. What most superintendents have trouble with is explaining to members that fast greens and healthy turf are not compatible. The closer you cut grass, the more susceptible it is to disease and noticeable insect damage. Furthermore, there is no historical basis for having lightning-quick greens.

Since the Stimpmeter's introduction in the mid-70s the average readings have increased from 6 feet 6 inches to about 8, while some clubs require readings of 9 or higher. Before the Stimpmeter, Oakmont was considered the standard for fast greens in the United States. Yet Pete Dye had some mathematical experts analyze time-lapse pictures of the 1962 U. S. Open at Oakmont and they concluded that green speeds at that time were around 8. Dye maintains that while the USGA is spending \$10 million on finding hardier turf, all they need to do is raise cutting height by 1/16th of an inch.

Several innovations in the golf industry have helped to increase green speed. Until about 15 years ago greens used to be cut every other day. Thinner bedknives make it possible to cut below 1/8th of an inch where 1/4th of an inch was the norm until the 1970s. Top-dressing is now performed every two or three weeks as opposed to the old once or twice a year. And verticutters and

Dye maintains that while the USGA is spending \$10 million on finding hardier turf, all they need to do is raise the cutting height by one-sixteenth of an inch.

groomers were not available until the 1970s. So it is reasonable to expect faster greens today. But the red zone seems to be about 8 or 8 1/2. Above that turf begins to exhibit the symptoms of undue stress and the budget rises accordingly. While it is possible to shoot for a 9 or 10 for a tournament or special event, maintaining these speeds year round is like walking a tightrope.

Healthy turf and fast greens require a lot of money and a great deal of dedication. And even with these, you might want to keep the old resume handy.



Each course has its own unique green situations

By Jim Svabek, Bradenton Country Club

For the past several years we have been bombarded with the thought that the fastest green is the best green.

With the increased use of the stimpmeter, golf courses have been comparing each other by how fast their greens are. But I believe that each course has its own unique green situations and the speed of the green should be relative to those conditions.

The USGA has warned superintendents about getting carried away with the use of the stimpmeter and each superintendent should consider his own situation.

The USGA chart for green speed is very interesting and shows green speed for championship play and regular play. I think it is interesting to see the difference in speeds.

GREEN SPEED CHART

| | Championship play | Regular play |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Fast | 10' 6" | 8' 6" |
| Medium Fast | 9' 6" | 7' 6" |
| Medium | 8' 6" | 6' 6" |
| Medium Slow | 7' 6" | 5' 6" |
| Slow | 6' 6" | 4' 6" |



GCSAA Refutes Cancer Link

By Steve Pike

The superintendents and the turfgrass sectors of the golf industry have taken their share of criticism the past few years for the use of chemicals in golf course maintenance, and came in for more earlier this month when an article in *USA Today* questioned the use of chemicals on golf courses as they might relate to the four incidents of breast cancer in the past two years on the LPGA Tour.

Through the efforts of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, American Society of Golf Course Architects, and state organizations such as the Florida Turfgrass Association, steps have been taken to educate critics and the public in general about the effects of chemicals on humans.

Those efforts might have taken a big blow when LPGA president Judy Dickinson, in *USA Today*, said she and others were concerned about the effects of those chemicals on themselves because of the time they've spent on golf courses over the years. Dickinson expressed her concern in an article that focused on four cases of breast cancer on the LPGA Tour in the past two years.

While one industry official said the story, with its implications that chemicals used for fertilizer and pesticides have contributed to those cancers "makes you cringe," the industry was quick to defend itself against what it viewed as an

unwarranted attack.

GCSAA president Steve Cadenelli, superintendent at Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, NJ said his organization has written letters to *USA Today* about the article, which he termed "troublesome."

"The science is out there."

The GCSAA has also sent letters to Dickinson and PGA commissioner Charles Meechem, Jr. expressing its concern and inviting them or other representatives to sit down and discuss the issue.

There is no concrete evidence or correlation, industry officials maintain, between the chemicals used on golf courses and the outbreak of cancer on the PGA Tour. Most chemicals used in spraying a course are extremely diluted before going into the water and then only small amount — as little as an ounce — is used for a large area.

"The only 'experts' I've heard of in these situations are in court trying to get money," said Dr. Bert McCarty, a turfgrass specialist at the University of Florida.

"The general public is suspicious of scientists. This type of thing only fuels the fire. A lot of things that you have commonly around your house, like sink cleaner, are more toxic."

Reprinted from November 30, 1991 GOLF WEEK



Central Florida Research Tournament will be played Jan. 6

Stuart Leventhal and the Interlachen CC in Winter Park are hosting this year's Central Florida Research Golf Tournament on Monday, January 6, 1992.

This year's tournament is a two-man team scramble beginning immediately after lunch. The teams will consist of a golf course superintendent and an official from his club. The funds raised will go to buy equipment needed to outfit our new turf laboratory, the Envirotron

being built on the University of Florida Gainesville campus.

The 10 a.m. meeting will include a research update by Robert Yount, executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association. Bobby Brantley, executive director of the Florida Golf Council, will discuss the taxation programs being planned by legislators on golf course properties, and what this will do to Florida golf.

Entry fee is \$120 per team with all contributions going directly to the Envirotron Fund. If you cannot stay to play golf, you may attend the luncheon and meeting only for \$25.00 per person. Call Rick Walker, Joe Ondo or Stuart Leventhal for registration information.



1992 membership directories out; some still need to renew

The FGCSA 1991-92 Membership Directory has been mailed to all FGCSA superintendents. If you have not received your copy, please call the office at 800-732-6053.

Several superintendents have not renewed their membership with their local chapters as yet but Buddy Carmouche, FGCSA Membership Chairman, is busy tracking these superintendents down. The following shows the current membership in the FGCSA. Updates will be included with each issue of the *Green Sheet*.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Big Bend | 10 |
| Central Florida | 102 |
| Everglades | 86 |
| North Florida | 46 |
| Palm Beach | 124 |
| Ridge | 32 |
| Seven Rivers | 21 |
| South Florida | 74 |
| Suncoast | 63 |
| Treasure Coast | 68 |
| West Coast | 70 |
| Dual chapter members | <u>18</u> |

Total FGCSA membership 714



Welcome to our new members

The following members have joined the FGCSA since the 1992 FGCSA Membership Directory went to press. Please add them to the back of your book.

Central Florida chapter:

Jim Brisette, La Cita CC
 Harold "Jay" Cardell, New Smyrna Beach Municipal GC
 John Crawford, Indian River CC
 Tom Heard, West Orange CC
 Jimmy Lawrence, Rolling Hills CC
 Brian Poorman, CC of Orlando
 Stephen Verville, Eastwood GC
 Freddie Swindle, New Smyrna Beach Municipal GC
 Patrick Waymire, Fairgreen G&CC

Everglades chapter:

Alan Bakos, Villages at Country Creek
 Dan Kelly, Eagle Creek CC
 Joseph Kirby, Lakewood CC
 Glenn McCandless, Kelly Greens CC
 Ron Moore, Hunters Ridge CC
 Pat Raley, Moorings CC
 Ron Richards, Sabal Springs GC
 Hugh Smith, Wildcat Run CC
 Joel Smith, Quail Village GC
 Michael Sorrell, Del Vera CC
 Paul Zile, San Carlos GC

South Florida chapter:

Robert Blevins, Redlands G&CC
 Anthony Bryant, Keys Gate GC
 Daniel Diaz, Palm Aire Spa and Resort

Treasure Coast chapter:

Scott Campbell, Sandridge GC
 Bob Mooney, Sandridge GC
 Stephen White, Sailfish Point GC

West Coast chapter:

Fred Tucker, Timber Pines GC



Seven members earn CGCS designation

This month we are featuring seven FGCSA superintendents who have recently become Certified Golf Course Superintendents. If you are working on attaining this status, please call the FGCSA office so that we can keep track of your progress.

J. Mark Black

J. Mark Black received his Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees from Lake City Community College. Before his formal education, Mark worked at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando and at Greenlefe Resort in Haines City.

Immediately following college, he served as assistant superintendent at Imperial Golf Club in Naples for four years. In February of 1984 he accepted the position as Superintendent at Bonita Bay. He was an active part of the team overseeing the construction and growth of the Marsh course which opened in January 1985 and the new course at Bonita Bay, Creekside, which opened in November 1990.

He currently serves on the board of directors of the Florida Turfgrass Association, is a committeeman for the U.S.G.A. Green Section, serves on the advisory board for the Florida State Golf Association's publication, *FORE: Florida* and has served on the Board of the Everglades chapter of the FGCSA.

Mark is proud of his accomplishment of becoming a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. He found it took a great deal of dedicated study to prepare for the exam, but it is well worth it!

David Fry

David Fry was born and raised in Florida. He received his degree from Lake City Community College in 1987.

THE JOB SCENE

JOB CHANGES

James Brumbaugh is the new superintendent at Bella Vista in Howey-in-the-Hills.

Fred Marshall has moved from Suntree to become superintendent of both courses at the City of Melbourne.

Jack Faulk is the new superintendent at Seminole Lakes in Punta Gorda.

Cary Lewis, CGCS, has accepted a position at the Stouffer-Vinoy Resort in St. Petersburg.

Gene Baldwin has moved from TPC at Sawgrass to Hidden Hills in Jacksonville.

Al Wigger has moved from Outdoor Resorts to become superintendent at Barefoot Bay GC in Sebastian.

JOBS AVAILABLE:

Certified Superintendent. Country Club of Orlando. Contact Don Estridge, 1601 Country Club Drive, Orlando, FL 32804.

Assistant Superintendent and Licensed Spray Technician. Ibis CC. Contact Matt Turner, 407-624-8944.

Mechanic Needed. Redlands CC. Contact Bob Blevins 305-247-8503.

Prior to attending Lake City he spent 7 years as superintendent for Sunnybreeze Palms in Arcadia.

After graduation, David served as assistant superintendent at Bonita Bay in Bonita Springs for 2 1/2 years. In 1989 he moved to Mariner Properties where he currently oversees 3 golf courses: South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island, the Dunes Club on Sanibel, and is assisting in the building of Riverwood GC in Port Charlotte.

David is a member of the FTGA and is currently serving on the board of directors of the Everglades chapter of the FGCSA. David's hobbies and interests include working around the house, golf and jazz music.

Buck Workman

Buck Workman is a Georgia superintendent who has become the first member of the FGCSA Big Bend chapter to become certified.

Buck received a B.S. degree in business from Lander College in South Carolina. He worked at golf courses all through school. Since graduation, he served as assistant superintendent at Snee Farm CC in Charleston, South Carolina and Greenwood CC, also in South Carolina. In 1985 he accepted the position of superintendent at Valdosta CC, which is just 20 miles from the Florida state line.

Buck is a member of the Georgia GCSA as well as the Florida GCSA. He

is currently vice president of the Big Bend chapter and will become president in November. He suggests that there is a golf boom in his area of the country and predicts that the Big Bend chapter will grow with it. He mentioned that problems of poor drainage and mole crickets are unique to the panhandle area of the state and that the informal nature of the Big Bend chapter helps the superintendents interact with each other to better handle these problems.

Buck has always wanted to be a certified superintendent and considers the test to be very thorough.

Sam Hocutt

Sam Hocutt is another certified superintendent working in the Georgia area who is a member of the FGCSA. He earned his certification in March and belongs to the North Florida GCSA.

Sam has been superintendent at the Hampton Club on St. Simon's Island, Georgia, for the past 3 1/2 years. Prior to that he was superintendent at Carolina Pines CC in North Carolina and Heritage GC in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He has been a superintendent for 8 1/2 years and is especially interested in the growing-in stage of golf course construction. Planning a course, watching it develop and grow to fruition make all the problems worthwhile.

Sam received his associate degree in agronomy from the Horry-Georgetown

Technical College in Myrtle Beach.

Though he feels that certification is great and is very proud to have achieved it, he is struggling to keep up with the yearly CEU requirement because of travel time.

Frederick Granger

Frederick Granger actually became a certified superintendent several months ago. He recently moved to the South Florida area to take the position as superintendent at the GC of Miami after serving 4 years at Grand Harbor in Sebastian.

Fred has two B.S. degrees from Saddleback College in Southern California, one in business management and one in ornamental horticulture. His first job was at Tomoko Oaks CC in Ormond Beach.

Fred loves the game of golf and enjoys reading industry related material. He studied hard for the test and suggests that you must discipline yourself to properly prepare for it. Being certified does make a difference. He believes that if two equally qualified superintendents were being considered for a position, the one who was certified would have the advantage.

Steven Wright

Steven Wright received his AA degree from Seminole CC and is currently pursuing a business degree from Rollins College.

Steve's first golf course job was at Sugarmill Country Club where he was hired by Mark Jarrell and worked his way up to assistant superintendent. He accepted his first superintendent position at Country Club of Brevard and later moved to Suntree where he remained for 5 years. He has been at his current job at Alaqua for the past 2 1/2 years.

Steve is an active member of the FGCSA having served on the Board for the Central Florida chapter since 1983. He was president of the Central Florida chapter from 1987 through 1989. He continues to serve the membership by his work on the Education Committee and as liaison between his chapter and

the Florida Green.

Steve feels strongly that the GCSAA certification test is a fair assessment of a superintendent's skills. He encourages all superintendents to take the test and feels that he himself delayed too long before taking it. Studying for the test will sharpen your day-to-day and long term skills and is well worth the time.

Steve is married and has two children, ages 4 1/2 and 2 1/2. He is an avid 5 handicap golfer and has enjoyed the privilege of playing a few rounds with Gary Player and Arnold Palmer.

Carol Thomas

Carol Thomas is our most recent Certified Golf Course Superintendent. She earned her bachelors degree in microbiology from the University of Central Florida and went on to gain her masters degree in microbiology and toxicology from North Carolina State.

Carol has been the superintendent at Dodgertown in Vero Beach for the past 5 1/2 years. Prior to that she served an additional 5 years as horticulturalist at the Clubs of Inverrary in Lauderhill. She became interested in the turf industry while working for the University of Florida Agriculture Center in Fort Lauderdale studying turfgrass diseases.

An active member of the Treasure Coast GCSA, Carol has just completed her term as president of the chapter after serving three years on their board of directors.

Working at the site for the Dodgers spring training presents many interesting and challenging projects for Carol. She has just completed building two new baseball fields in Vero Beach and is also evaluating fields and equipment needs in the Dominican Republic. On a rainy spring day, you might even catch Carol lending a hand at tarping the infield! With winter and spring training, there is never a slow season on their golf courses.

Carol is a goal oriented person and was eager to take her GCSAA certification test as soon as she was eligible. She echoes Steve's comments in that the test itself was a fair indication of a superintendents skills.

Carol's hobbies include travel, espe-

cially to the Caribbean and Central America area to sharpen her Spanish. As you can imagine, she is an avid sports fan, has been to many PGA tour events in Florida and even got a hole-in-one back in the days when she was working at Inverrary.

The FGCSA is proud to have these superintendents as members of the association! We urge all members who are considering the certification process to contact them for guidance.



Some critical of NCI study that claims cancer in dogs due to 2,4-D

Reprinted from the October 1991 "Chemically Speaking" published by the Pesticide Information Office, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

According to a National Cancer Institute Study published in the Sept. 4 issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), dogs, whose owners use herbicides containing 2,4-D on their lawns, run an increased risk of developing lymphatic cancer.

NCI researchers interviewed owners of dogs treated at veterinary teaching hospitals in Colorado, Indiana, and Minnesota for lymphomas (491 dogs), other cancers (479 dogs) or other illnesses (466 dogs). The dog owners completed either a self-administered postal questionnaire or a telephone interview which asked, among other things, about the owners' use of 2,4-D on home lawns and/or owners who employed commercial lawn care companies to treat their yards. Authors of the study said the risk of lymphoma doubled among dogs whose owners applied 2,4-D herbicides to their lawns four or more times in a year. 2,4-D is a herbicide used for broad-leaf weeds (not crabgrass) control on lawns. (Pesticide and Toxic Chemical News, Sept., 11, 1991).

A review of the study by Dr. Raymond Harbison of the University of Florida's Center for Toxicology indicates the study's findings are statistically weak, inconsistent internally, inconsistent with expected dose-response relationships, and unconfirmed in the current scientific literature. Other reviewers of the study cite more weaknesses.



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GCSAA refutes LPGA cancer claims in *USA Today*

Please see Page 4

Seven superintendents earn CGCS designation

Details on Page 6

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