

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XII, PART 3, MAY/JUNE 1996

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



SFGCSA Hosts 9th Annual Exposition . See story on page 7.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------|---|---------|---|--------------|---|
| May 6 | Central Florida chapter meeting, Rio Pinar CC | May 18 | Poa Tournament and Banquet Naples Beach Hotel | July 10 | FGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar, Turfgrass Stress Mgmt, Palm Beach (new date) See page 3 for details |
| May 6 - 8 | 50th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conf, Tifton, GA | May 19 | G. C. Horn Tournament | July 15 | West Coast GCSA Annual Meeting, Countryside |
| May 7 | West Coast chapter meeting, Eastlake Woodlands | June 8 | PBGCSA Future of Golf Tournament, PGA National | July 17 | PBGCSA Annual Meeting, Country Club of Florida |
| May 13 | PBGCSA joint meeting with SF&TCGCSA, Boca Lago | June 14 | EGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar ,Colliers Reserve See page 3 for details | July | South Florida Annual Meeting Riviera GC |
| May 14 | NFGCSA chapter meeting, Baymeadows GC | June 17 | PBGCSA chapter meeting, Bear Lakes CC | July 25 | Suncoast chapter meeting, The Oaks GC |
| May 14 | Suncoast Annual Meeting, Sara Bay GC | June 18 | Suncoast GCSA chapter meeting, Inverrary GC | Aug. 3- 5 | Crowfoot Open, Walt Disney World |
| May 17 | FGCSA Board Meeting, 8:00 a.m. Naples Beach Hotel | June 19 | Treasure Coast chapter meeting, Jupiter Island Club | Aug. 23 - 26 | FTGA Conference & Show, Tampa Convention Center |
| May 17 | FGCSA Architecture seminar, 12:30 Naples Beach Club | July 3 | Treasure Coast chapter meeting Willoughby GC, Stuart | | |

President's Message by Greg Plotner, CGCS

A call from a good friend the other day gave me something that I needed most of all — an emotional lift. He had called and asked how I was doing and after a couple of minutes of me doing the talking, he interrupted. He said, "Greg, get over the disappointment and get on with your career. Be aggressive now more than ever. Find a better job. You have been successful before and you will be successful once again. You are too good at what you do to pity yourself."

He continued by saying that some of the most famous people we know have had setbacks in life time and time again. A famous inventor we all know once failed at a single experiment over 10,000 times before he got it right. His name is Thomas Edison.

Another person we all know ran for public office several times and always ended up in defeat. Our country today may have been quite different if this man had not continued trying to represent the people of our great nation. His name is Abraham Lincoln.

My friend concluded his conversation with me by saying, "Greg, you cannot go back and change anything to make the outcome any different. You can only go on with your life and learn from your past experiences. You will be a stronger person because of this."

I thanked him for the call and you know something — he is so right! Setbacks are a part of life and everyone must deal with them in their own way. No one person is exempt from them. Even great athletes suffer from setbacks as we have seen recently. Dealing with them is difficult as I have found out and I am sure so have they. In this world today, it is all so true that only the strong will survive. Golf course superintendents, the professionals that we are, are strong. The volatile nature of our profession makes us this way. I am proud to be a golf course superintendent and I look forward to my next challenge. Bring it on!

On another note, the affiliation process with GCSAA is moving along very nicely. I encourage all chapters to have representation present at our next FGCSA board meeting. This meeting will be held at the Naples Beach Club on



Greg A. Plotner, CGCS

Friday, May 17th. It will begin at 8:00 a.m. and be finished in time for those wanting to attend the afternoon educational seminar to do so.

All concerns that anyone may have about the GCSAA affiliation process need to be addressed at this meeting. It is the FGCSA's intent to have all chapters sign the Affiliation Agreements at the annual FGCSA Board Meeting in Orlando this coming August. Everything needs to be in order for this to occur. Cooperation from all chapters is vital.

See you in Naples.

NOTE: You do not have to be an officer or an FGCSA board member to attend the FGCSA Board Meeting. They are open to any FGCSA member. We will be discussing items that affect your future and the future of your local chapter so we encourage everyone who will be at the Poa to make an effort to attend.

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Deadline next issue: June 15.

Florida Superintendents Can Become Certified Environmental Managers

Two seminars are being offered this summer that qualify for the GCSAA's Environmental Management Program. The environmental impact of golf courses continues to attract scrutiny from the general public and government regulatory agencies. GCSAA has assumed an environmental leadership role by responding to the complex training needs of today's superintendent with the Environmental Management Program (EMP).

Superintendents who successfully complete the study requirements in a specialization receive a certificate and special recognition from GCSAA. In addition, the superintendent who earns this certificate demonstrates a personal commitment to preserve and protect the environment.

Drainage Systems, the seminar offered on June 14th, is part of the Water Quality and Application specialization while Turfgrass Stress Management is found in the study requirements for the Integrated Plant Management specialization. Golf course superintendents may choose to complete one or more of the EMP specializations. Call the GCSAA for more information on the requirements for the EMP.

Drainage Systems, an educational seminar co-hosted by the Everglades GCSA and the GCSAA will be presented at Collier's Reserve CC in Naples on June 14th.

This seminar will cover design, installation and maintenance of drainage systems, including gravel placement, prevention of clogs and proper outletting. Materials, safety issues, types of systems and expectations of drainage systems are also addressed. Attendees will learn to identify and plan surface drainage systems appropriate for the golf course, understand the hydrologic cycle and how it influences surface runoff and soil water movement, identify the need for subsurface drainage systems and design circular drainage conduits.

This seminar will be taught by Dr. Albert Jarrett, professor of agricultural engineering at Penn State. Jarrett's current position includes teaching all phases of soil, water and waste management. His research interests include infiltration, erosion, sedimentation basins and turf hydrology.

The FGCSA and the GCSAA will co-host an all day seminar on "**Turfgrass Stress Management**" to be held on Wednesday, July 10th in West Palm Beach.

This seminar is designed to promote the industry's significant interest in Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Heat, cold, shade, drought and traffic stresses will be discussed. Attendees will review cultural practices and share ideas designed to reduce the amount of pesticides used to maintain quality turf. Students will also assess their own management practices and procedures and formulate varied approaches to prevent and minimize injury to turf.

This seminar will be taught by Joseph M. DiPaola, Ph.D., senior technical support specialist for Ciba. DiPaola has a research background in turf growth regulation, water stress and cold hardiness.

Both of these all day seminars carry .7 CEU toward Recertification. Advance registration is required through the GCSAA education department. Registration forms can be obtained by calling the FGCSA or the GCSAA.

1996 Poa Activities

Once again the Everglades GCSA is presenting the Poa Annu Golf Classic weekend at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club on Friday, May 17th through Sunday, May 19th. Room reservations can be made directly with Group Reservations at 1-800-237-7600.

Friday starts with an early morning FGCSA Board Meeting which will begin at the hotel at 8:00 a.m. All interested FGCSA members of all local chapters are invited to attend this important meeting.

The FGCSA is sponsoring a GCSAA approved seminar at 12:30 p.m. This year's seminar is a light hearted look at the history of Golf Course Architecture presented by Ron Force who is an enthusiastic supporter of the "classic" golf course. The FGCSA Education Committee feels this seminar will fit well into the fun filled atmosphere of the Poa weekend. The seminar is open to the public and has a pre-registration fee of \$35.00 before May 5th. As always, you do not have to be playing in either the Poa Classic or the G. C. Horn in order to attend the seminar.

The Poa Classic begins on Saturday with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start at the Naples Beach Hotel golf club. Superintendent entry fee is \$90.00 which includes your dinner ticket. Eagle Sponsors are available at \$500 which includes two entries and dinners. Birdie sponsors are \$200.00 to include a tee sign. If you have not received an entry form or sponsor registration, call the Everglades chapter at 941-598-5311. After the Tournament, cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m., banquet at 6:30 p.m. The popular Jazz Fest will be held on the grounds of the Naples Beach Hotel beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday is reserved for the G. C. Horn Memorial Tournament which will also have an 8:30 shotgun start. Last minute sponsorships and registrations may be made by calling Dick Naccarato directly at 941-261-7815 or by contacting David Barnes at 941-324-2380.



Superintendents Plan New Research

Kevin Downing, FGCSA Research Committee Chairman, is soliciting input from all Florida superintendents for future projects that may be undertaken at the University of Florida. The FGCSA will be working closely with the Florida Turfgrass Association to develop a consolidated long range plan of research dealing specifically with Florida turfgrass.

Types of concepts that might be included but are not limited to are:

- inspection and field operation of all new products that are available in the marketplace
- interpretations of soil reports and tissue sampling
- long term effects of turf retardants in turfgrass
- all Bio type products and their impact on quality, healthy turf

Please take a minute to write up your ideas on future projects that will benefit the industry and send them to the FGCSA office.

The USGA has recently included a comprehensive list of a variety of research activities in many disciplines at colleges and universities across the country in their March/April *Golf Journal*. Categories include Construction and Maintenance of Golf Greens, Environmental Research, and Turfgrass Research. The article is entitled "Where the Money Goes" and includes grants that are currently being funded by the USGA Green Section. Many of the projects are in their first phase with future phases requiring many more dollars in funding. All of the projects are planned to help you the superintendent do a better job of improving the field of turfgrass management. If you have not read the article, call the FGCSA to obtain a copy of this interesting and informative listing.



Everglades GCSA chapter members turned out in good numbers to view a panel discussion on management companies. This type of informational program would be very beneficial for all chapters to consider as part of their monthly program.

New Valent Offerings in 1996

As part of Valent's 1996 "Think Like A Customer" program, Valent introduces a new product loyalty program. The program is available to golf course superintendents from January to December 31, 1996 and includes ORTHENE® Turf, Tree and Ornamental Spray and PINPOINT® 15 G Insecticide.

Based on sales of these products, Valent will make a research grant in the name of the superintendent to a state golf course superintendent association or state turfgrass association. As a superintendent, you can determine who receives your funds. By giving research grants to study areas such as: protecting the environment, irrigation scheduling, weather patterns, IPM use and daily concerns such as tracing and knowing turf varieties, Valent hopes to help you find better ways to maintain and improve golf courses throughout the Southeast.

Watch for mail information on the new loyalty program being mailed to you shortly. If you have any questions call your Florida Valent sales representative or 1-800-89-VALENT.

FGCSA Spring Board Meeting Notice

The Spring Meeting of the FGCSA will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 17th at the Naples Beach Hotel. All FGCSA members are invited to attend this meeting to keep yourself informed on what is going on in your state association.

Local Chapters Host Scholarship Tournaments

Central Florida Chapter:

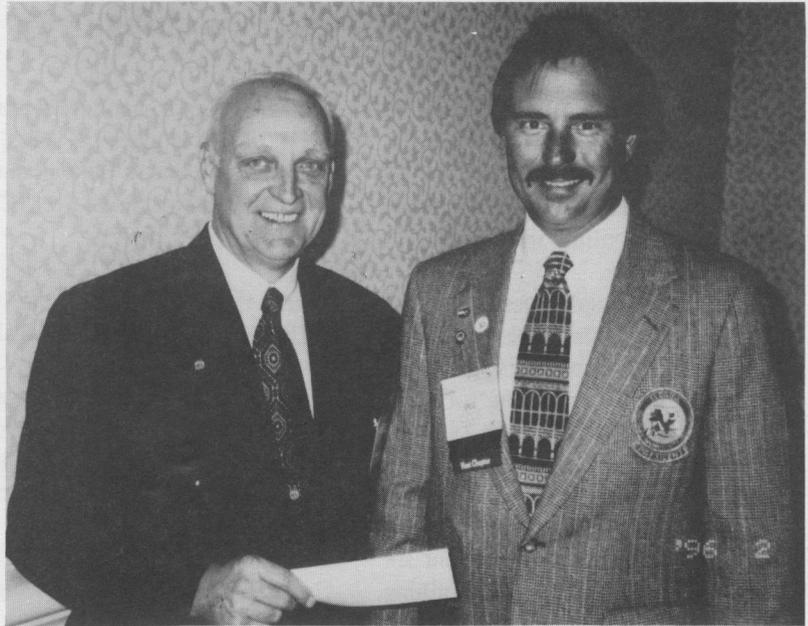
The Second Annual Danny Burgess Memorial Golf Tournament was sponsored by the Central Florida chapter at the Windermere Country Club on March 30th. Proceeds from the tournament went to sponsor three Lake City CC turf students who were presented scholarship checks on the first tee prior to the shotgun start. Walter Wells, a former crew member at Indian River Colony Club and a first year student at Lake City was presented a check for \$1,500. The second \$1,500 scholarship was presented to Ken Maltby, a former assistant at Orange Tree. The third presentation was made to Sam Bryie, a former greensman at Mt. Dora GC who received \$1,000. This year's event raised over \$3600 that will be utilized for scholarship funding in 1997. Special thanks to all the sponsors, participants and the staff at Windermere, particularly superintendent Carl Benedict and head professional Mary Thomas.

North Florida Chapter:

The Fourth Annual Mike Richards Scholarship Tournament was held on April 16th at Windsor Parke GC. Proceeds from the tournament are used by the North Florida chapter to fund a major scholarship. The 1995 recipient, Woody Woodward, is an outstanding second year turf student at Lake City CC who was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship.

West Coast Chapter:

The West Coast GCSA recently presented \$750 scholarships to the following: Max Ayer from Auburn University, Billy Browning of Hillsborough Community College, Mark Carter student at the University of Florida and two students at Lake City CC, Curt Lampe and Steve Horsley. All five students interviewed very well and will be an asset to the future of our industry.



Mr. Frank Dobie, president of the Musser Foundation (left) accepts a \$1,000 check from Greg Plotner, president of the FGCSA. The Florida GCSA has been a strong supporter of the Award for Excellence program for many years. Each year, the Musser Foundation presents scholarships to the most promising turfgrass Doctoral students throughout the world. Over the past eight years, \$70,500 in scholarships has been awarded.

Palm Beach Future of Golf

The Palm Beach GCSA is sponsoring the 15th Annual Future of Golf Tournament at the prestigious PGA National Resort on Saturday, June 8th. This year the tournament committee has expanded the field to use both the Champion and General courses. Entry fee for four man teams are \$320.00 which includes lunch, refreshments on the course and door prizes. Sponsorships are available at three separate levels and information may be obtained from Jeff Klontz, Tournament Chairman.

Proceeds from the Tournament go to support the Hook-A-Kid on Golf program, turfgrass research, the Otto Schmeisser Endowment Fund and provide scholarships given by the Palm Beach chapter.

Suncoast Scramble



The Suncoast GCSA Board of Directors would like to thank Tom Crawford and his staff at Misty Creek for hosting the highly successful Suncoast Scramble on March 19th. This is truly a total chapter effort with teams consisting of representatives of area clubs and suppliers. This year's tournament raised over \$12,000, far exceeding our goal for this our 12th annual event. Partial donations have already been made with the profits to benefit turfgrass research, scholarships, and the future of the game of golf.

Many thanks go to our Silver and Bronze sponsors who supported the tournament. Special recognition goes to our Gold Sponsors: Almar Chemical, Aquatrols, DowElanco, Environmental Waterways, GASH, Go For Supply, Gold Kist, Golf Ventures, Harrell's, Nematode Controllers, Pro Plus, Southern Ag, Southern Corporate Promotions, Tresca, Vigoro, and Wesco Turf.

Four More Florida Superintendents Earn Certified Status

GEOFF COGGAN was born in Mansfield, England and received a degree from Nottinghamshire College of Agriculture and another from Lancashire College of Horticulture in England.

He came to the United States as an intern for Tim Hiers at John's Island Club in 1986. From there he moved to the Clubs at Inverrary in 1987 working for Dave Oliver and then Bob Klitz. In 1990 he accepted his current position as superintendent at the Great Outdoors. Geoff is grateful to the intern program and supports a reciprocal arrangement for turfgrass students to obtain Training Visas for up to 18 months.

Geoff credits Bob Klitz for encouraging him to pursue a professional career in turfgrass management through the GCSAA certification program. Geoff has been active in the Central Florida chapter where he currently serves as Vice President. He became very interested in GCSAA activities after attending the Chapter Relations meeting in Lawrence this past year. He is also interested in the activities of the FGCSA and has attended many meetings this year to learn more about what is going on at the state level.

Geoff is married and has one daughter.

GERALD BELYEA has been around golf all his life. He began his career at the age of 13 working for his older brother who was a superintendent in the Naples area. With his brother's encouragement, Gerald went off to earn a degree from Lake City Community College. He returned to Naples for his OJT at Hole-in-the-Wall GC under the direction of Buddy Carmouche. After graduation, Gerald accepted a position as Assistant Superintendent at Bloomingdale Golfers Club in Tampa for two years but was tempted to return to the Naples area to become superintendent at Hibiscus Golf Course. Being a person who is always looking for new challenges with courses that need a little

help to get up to par, Gerald transferred to Foxfire for another 2-3 years, then on to Bellview Mido in Belleair and is now superintendent at Royal Tee GC in Cape Coral.

Gerald was encouraged to study for the GCSAA Certification Exam by his good friend, Buddy Carmouche. Gerald considers achieving certification to be a stepping stone in reaching the top of his profession. He is eager to get involved with his local chapter and start giving back to the turfgrass industry.

Gerald is an avid golfer and weight lifter and even manages to squeeze in time to be a wrestling coach.

MICHAEL SWINSON is another superintendent who discovered his love for golf through his family. He began golfing with his father at the age of 13 and soon accepted a part time position on the crew at the golf course. He earned a B.A. at St. Leo College in Tampa and also has an Ornamental Horticulture degree from Hillsborough Community College.

In 1982, he was hired by Pete Bass at Cypress Run to be his Assistant Superintendent. It didn't take long for Michael to decide that his professional goal would be to replace his mentor and good friend, Pete, as superintendent when the time came. In 1987 he was hired as superintendent at Seville G&CC and then four years later he moved to Crescent Oaks GC to wait for his chance to get back to Cypress Run. In 1992 Pete took the superintendent's position at Palma Ceia G&CC in Tampa and recommended Michael for the job at Cypress Run. Michael credits Pete with opening lots of doors for him and encouraging him to pursue his career as a professional.

Michael is one of the "Founding Fathers" of the Seven Rivers chapter and has served on their Board of Directors since their inception in 1991. He was also instrumental in helping Glenn

Oberlander and the rest of the Seven Rivers members organize and run the highly successful Envirotron Tournament which is the major fundraiser of any of our Florida chapters. He continues to serve as Co-Chairman of the event.

Michael also served a term as External Vice President on the FGCSA Board of Directors and is eager to get back to attending more FGCSA meetings and getting involved with the state activities. He is married and enjoys golfing and restoring old cars.

DAVE OLIVER earned his B.S. degree in Agriculture from the University of Florida. While working on his degree, he met Jody who was also a UF student who went on to the UF Law School. They were married shortly after her graduation from Law School in 1981 and moved to Fort Lauderdale.

Dave started as a crew member at the Clubs at Inverrary and quickly rose through the ranks to Assistant and then on to Superintendent where he remained for three years. When Kevin Downing told him about an opening at Mariner Sands GC in Stuart, Dave was quick to respond. He spent two years at Mariner Sands and then in 1989 was hired as Superintendent at Martin Downs GC in Palm City.

Dave was encouraged by his Greens Committee Chairman to become a Certified Superintendent to show the Martin Downs members that there is a professional level of golf course superintendents.

Dave has been active on the Treasure Coast Board of Directors serving as Secretary/Treasurer for a few years before stepping up to serve as President of the chapter in 1992-93. Dave and Jody have three sons — Jason, Matt and Daniel — all of whom are following in their fathers footsteps with a love for the game of golf. Dave is a 1 to 3 handicap golfer who has won his share of FGCSA tournaments and also represented the state on the Florida team in recent GCSAA tournaments.

Sun Shines on South Florida Exposition

Thanks to Mother Nature and the support of our loyal sponsors and equipment demonstrators, the 9th Annual South Florida Exposition was another great success. The event is held at the University of Florida Research and Education Center in Fort Lauderdale where the FGCSA maintains the Otto Schmeisser Research Green.

Attendance was strong with over 200 golf course superintendents, parks and recreation personnel, and turfgrass vendors present to learn about the new developments in equipment and turfgrass products, and to tour the grounds to hear updates on the research that is being done at the Center. Seminars on weed control and turfgrass herbicides were given by Dr. Bert McCarty and Dr. Thomas Perkins, respectively.

This year the host South Florida chapter held an "under the sun" event when the "bigtop showroom" did not materialize (Don't ask!). All of the 28 loyal booth participants took the news in good stride and quickly found a spot under the oaks while the equipment demonstrations

were going on in the adjoining turf plot areas.

The SFGCSA raised over \$17,000 with this year's event thanks in great part to the equipment demonstrators — Florida Coast Equipment, Hector Turf, Kilpatrick Turf, and Pifer — most of whom have been supporting the Expo since its inception. We are also thankful to our booth participants who come back every year to give their support to the event.

This is the primary function that supports Marcus Prevatte who is responsible for maintaining the FGCSA research green and assisting the researchers with their experimentation at the Center. In addition to the Expo, the research green has been assisted by our equipment dealers and suppliers through other forms of support and donations. Bill Rayside of Harrell's Fertilizer has donated all the fertilizer that has been used on the research green since it was built eight years ago. Dale Mitchell of Golf Agronomics has supplied all the top dressing on the green and even assisted

Googe Transport with the trucking of materials!

In February 1992, NuCrane Machinery started a commitment of providing the research green with a new John Deere 2243 Triplex Greensmower each year for use on the test plots and putting green. The 18 horsepower, liquid cooled gas engine has been very reliable. The offset cutting heads and 11 blade reels have provided superior cutting quality. Marcus Prevatte, the research green's technician, enjoys the benefit of power steering with this machine to make his daily tasks a little easier. NuCrane continues to replace this machine on a regular basis with a new machine each time upgrades become available. NuCrane also helps out with any unusual repairs while Marcus handles the routine maintenance.

The South Florida chapter as well as the FGCSA would like to thank all of the above turfgrass suppliers for their continued support of our industry and, in particular, to the Otto Schmeisser Research Green.



*There is
always a line
when the
lunch bell
rings in Fort
Lauderdale!*

*But we sure
did miss that
good
bar-b-que!*



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FGCSA Plans Important Board Meeting for Poa Weekend

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