

# THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XXIV, PART I, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



Marie Roberts (center) surrounded by many of her FGCSA Past Presidents. Marie is set to officially retire at the January 31<sup>st</sup> FGCSA Reception in Orlando after 25 years as Association Manager.

## Upcoming Events

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> – West Coast GCSA Monthly Meeting at Dunedin C.C.

Jan. – 9<sup>th</sup> – Palm Beach GCSA Chapter Meeting, Country Club at Boca Raton

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – Suncoast GCSA Vendor Appreciation Day at Bradenton C.C.

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> -FTGA Research Tournament, Interlachen C.C., Winter Park

Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>-Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> GIS, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando

Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> – FGCSA Reception, Orlando

### **FTGA Regional Turf Conferences:**

Tampa, January 9 – St. Lawrence Parish

Ft. Myers, January 10 – 3 Oaks Banquet & Conference Center

Port St. Lucie, January 15 – Indian River Community College, Schreiber Conference Center

Lake Worth, January 16 - Polish American Club

Broward/Miami Dade, January 17 – Central Park

Ocala, January 22 – Marion Co. Extension Service

Jacksonville, January 23 – Duval Co. Extension Service Auditorium

Orlando, January 29 – Double Tree Universal (in conjunction with FPMA)

Milton, February 5 – Santa Rosa County Auditorium



## President's Message By Matt Taylor, CGCS

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and I wish you all a Happy New Year. Recently, the FGCSA engaged Bruce Adams who used to work for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to act as a water issues consultant to help with communications regarding our current water restriction calculations. I encourage all chapters to consider forming regional alliances to work with your water management district on a long-term basis on water issues. Maybe we can work out some sort of agreement to cost share Bruce's services. One of Bruce's first comments to us was that he would need data on what type of economic impact the water restrictions would have on golf courses. My first thought was – here we go, it is Methyl Bromide's "prove market disruption" all over again. My second thought was to call Joel for his help.

Joel being a "get right on it" kind of guy put together information from the U. S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Florida Water Use Reports, and from the Florida Golf Economic Impact Study done by the University of Florida back in 2000. Within an hour he had a page of bullet point facts that would help our cause, and

really told a great story. While we didn't have much to do with the data from the USGS, we did really have a lot to do with the UF/IFAS Economic Impact Study. Back in 2000 Roy Bates, while working for WCI, approached several groups about funding this project. With the main financial backing of WCI, the Florida Golf Course Superintendents, the Florida Turfgrass Association and other groups helped fund the project. The data produced by this study has been used over and over to illustrate the positive environmental and economic impact the golf industry has in Florida. The point is the cooperative and cost sharing efforts made for the benefit of all FGCSA members and all golf facilities in the state.

Research is critical to our long term success in the green industry. Many groups have partnered together over the past few years to continue to provide you with much needed research. In fact over the next few years there will be over \$250,000 in research funded with the University of Florida. The Florida Turfgrass Association has been the umbrella organization which funnels the money to the University.

Research dollars reach the FTGA in many ways. The FGCSA has partnered directly and co-funded projects with the FTGA for many years. Many of our local chapters



**Matt Taylor**

donate to the FTGA's Research Foundation directly as a gift or as proceeds from an event or tournament. Those kinds of donations are also the primary source for the FGCSA's research account. Several companies also donate money to the FGCSA from their profits during the year. Many forward thinkers in the FGCSA, years ago, put monies away for reserves in case of hard times. The interest from those investments is the third way we fund research. We also leverage the donated funds by co-funding projects with the FTGA, the GCSAA, and the Florida Sod Growers Co-op. You can find updates on the research projects in the Florida Green and Florida Turf Digest, the FTGA magazine.

Tim Hiers, CGCS has been working over the past few years on a broad-based funding plan for turfgrass research that may provide consistent on-going resources needed in the future. Look for more details to become available in the near future. We need your chapter, club or business to very seriously consider annual contributions to turfgrass research. Just think of the fertilizer and water issues confronting us right now. Please contact the FGCSA if you need more information. Better still send in a donation. We'd be happy to give clubs credit in the Florida Green as donors to turf research.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming GIS show and the FGCSA reception in Orlando.

## THE GREEN SHEET

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

Deadline next issue February 15.



## Executive Director Report

### By Joel Jackson, GCCS

**Hail and Farewell:** Lots of mixed emotions flowing around the FGCSA these days. We are at once happy and sad that Marie Roberts, our Association Manager since 1982, is retiring effective January 31, 2008. Marie has been the glue holding us together all these years. The fact is that when she took office, we began to have continuity and a conscience for our association that has only helped us to become stronger and a leader on the national scene.

I can only speak for myself, but I know that ten years ago when I made the change from golf course superintendent to full time association director of communications, the transition was really painless thanks to Marie's full cooperative partnership as I learned my new role and we both served the association in our special ways. We were a good team. Thanks Marie, it would have been so much harder without you.

The good news is that Marie isn't going far. She will still work for the Palm Beach and South Florida Chapters as she has been doing for many years. I want to tap into Marie's overall experience by perhaps organizing a local chapter staff resource group in the coming year, where all chapter administrative persons can meet at least once a year and network to improve our communications and member service. Marie will bring a lot of knowledge to that process from the state and national service she has accumulated.

More good news is that Jennifer Innes, who is our new Association Manager, has stepped in and is well on her way to continuing the tradition of outstanding service to our association. She only lives 6 miles from Marie and so they communicate almost daily when needed for advice and information as Jennifer learns the ropes. We are in a period of adjustment for all concerned as Marie lets go and Jennifer picks up the load.

My personal thanks Marie for all you have done for us and all you have meant to the FGCSA's success. I hope many of you will wish Marie a happy bon voyage at the FGCSA reception in Orlando. Bring a hanky, I'll have mine.

### 1. Government Relations: Fertilizer Issues – Florida Consumer Fertilizer

**Task Force Update:** The 13-member task force met in Apopka on December 17<sup>th</sup> and will hold its last meeting in January in Tallahassee in preparation for its submission of its recommendations for a statewide rule that would govern the application of urban fertilizers. Science-based guidelines predominate, but contentious issues remain as some task force members want loopholes and local communities want the authority to create additional restrictions citing special needs to protect water bodies. Unfortunately, many of these add-ons though well intentioned are not based on fact, but rather pre-cautionary perceptions. Even in the face of facts that turf not given necessary phosphorus to keep it healthy tends to leach more P into the environment they are trying to persist in there "we know best" attitude. Unintended consequences like more pollution don't seem make an impression. One task force member was quoted as saying at a local meeting that "failure of a landscape or turf business is not necessarily a bad thing. Look at the asbestos and tobacco industries..." Not nice to be lumped in with those two headliners. On the other hand, others on the task force are willing to compromise on special rulings only if the local government can prove scientifically that the add-on restrictions are justifiable. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, golf courses are not being held to the same consumer restrictions, but must follow the nutrient management guidelines in the 2007 Golf BMP manual, so be sure you have read and follow those guidelines.

**Local Fertilizer Ordinances:** While some cities and counties are still pursuing their own brand of fertilizer restrictions, the pace has slowed a little thanks to the Fertilizer Task Force. Some counties have voted to wait until the state rule is passed. In one case, Punta Gorda City Council voted 3-2 to "NOT" impose an ordinance, but rather devote its resources to public education on best management practices. One councilman said, "Why pass an ordinance we can't possibly enforce?" If Punta Gorda does want something on the books, they could adopt the State Fertilizer Rule, which is the point of the Task Force in the first place – to provide a standard state-wide rule, so businesses would not

have to comply with hundreds of differing ordinances. Once again, however, golf courses need to be aware that wherever ordinances have been put in place, most have directed that courses will follow the Golf BMP manual, so be sure to do so lest you become charged with an infraction.

**Water Restrictions:** I have not been able to find obvious postings on the Southwest Florida or St. Johns River WMD web sites, describing specific current irrigation restrictions for golf courses if you do have a link please share it with me. I have searched them from A to Z. Bill Kistler told me that under the Tampa Water Authority a sub-set of SWFWMD he and others in the Tampa area are on two day per week irrigation of fairways only if you apply for a variance from 1-day per week. Also watering greens and tees is allowed 3-days per week. Bill says the hot spots are increasing every day. Further south, the SFWMD just announced Phase 3 for all golf courses in their district meaning a 45% reduction from permitted amounts. 100% reclaimed water users are exempt from restrictions, but conservation is encouraged. Too bad Miami-Dade was reported in the paper as dumping 300 million gallons of "lightly" treated effluent into the Atlantic Ocean every day! It seems calls for conservation are only directed at easy targets.

**Water Conservation:** I have been asked to serve on the South Florida Water Management District's Long Range Water Conservation Summit Panel. There must be around 18 stakeholders representatives on the panel from Agriculture to Utilities, including turf and green industries like sod producers, nursery growers and landscape and sports and leisure (golf, sports, parks, etc). I'm the Sports and Leisure person.

We met on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the SFWMD headquarters and will meet four more times beginning December 17<sup>th</sup> and ending March 28<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to present the SFWMD Board of Governors with recommendations for water conservation measures across all stakeholder groups. I want your input

with your ideas and commitment to reduce overall water use. Two ideas that I have are: (1) Making out-of-play areas into native plant zones requiring very little if any irrigation after establishment. This is not a new idea, but folks are going to have to buy into the on-going effort to reduce water use. (2) Consider reducing your programmed run times per station by 1 minute. Spread out over the whole golf course times the gallons per minute and number of heads, you could save over 25,000 gallons per run cycle. This is an idea that doesn't take any additional case investment, and frankly considering the growing watering restrictions, should be done anyway. The trick is to do it when we are not in a drought response situation in order to conserve our threatened water resources.

**Methyl Bromide:** Not much progress has been made in securing a CUE for turfgrass use of methyl bromide. Dr. Unruh at the Milton West Florida REC is engaged with a USDA scientist and a grant to re-study how the turf industry might be able to use existing products as effective alternatives.

**MSMA:** It's finally over. The 11<sup>th</sup>-hour attempt to save MSMA has failed. Dr. Barry Brecke of UF/IFAS emailed on November 14<sup>th</sup> to say that the EPA has decided to ban all uses of MSMA on turf and cotton. Details of the phase out will be announced later.

**2. Allied Associations: Ag Institute of Florida:** First thanks to all the local chapters for donating \$100 on top of the FGCSA's \$500 to help fund the Public Awareness Campaign designed to promote positive stories about Florida's Ag and Green Industries' impact on the state's economy and environment. I will be feeding story ideas about golf courses to Consensus Communications for inclusion in their online newsroom and for publication in media outlets around the state. This will not be a one-shot initiative, and we are a small contributor compared to some of the larger commodity groups. However, we will need to put in our "two cents worth" to also be included in the venture, so please plan to make a line item for your 2008 budget to make another donation next year. The issues won't go away and we need to be more vocal and pro-active and that takes funding.

**UF/IFAS:** On December 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, members of the turf industry will meet with IFAS administrators and faculty at a Turf Summit to be held at the Mission Inn Resort in Central Florida. The goal will be to evaluate the programs and progress of IFAS and discuss what works and doesn't work with current programs. It will be an intense 2 day session with stakeholders working up until 9 – 10 PM the first night and all day the next day. A pre-meeting survey was sent out asking for items and issues so we will have a working agenda when we get there.

**GCSAA:** The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced that, beginning in January 2008, it will conduct a national survey of golf courses focusing on pesticide use.

The survey is part of a multi-year, first-of-its-kind project being undertaken by GCSAA that will document the environmental stewardship practices and establish an environmental profile of golf courses. The Golf Course Environmental Profile project is designed to collect information that will allow superintendents and other facility personnel to become better managers, help them operate more efficiently and lead to GCSAA developing more valuable programs and services.

Such information will include details about playing surfaces, natural resources, environmental stewardship efforts and maintenance practices on the golf course. "We see this project as a continuation of the golf industry's commitment to environmental stewardship," said GCSAA Director of Research Clark Throssell, Ph.D. "Thanks primarily to the United States Golf Association and to GCSAA and its affiliated chapters for a supporting role, millions of dollars of have already been invested to research golf's impact on the environment. The data show that properly managed golf courses are compatible with the environment and that golf facilities contribute positively to communities. Our project will fill in information gaps and provide a road map for advancing golf course management."

This kind of data will permit us to challenge and correct misconceptions about golf course maintenance. I can't urge you strongly enough to participate

and provide input to make the data reliable and defensible.

**3. Education:** There will be nine **FTGA Regional Seminars** around the state beginning January 10<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't received the brochure outlining meeting times, locations and topics then log onto [www.ftga.org](http://www.ftga.org) and download the information. You can also register online. **GCSAA:** No secret that the Golf Industry Show will be making its Tri-annual return to Orlando on January 27<sup>th</sup> thru February 1<sup>st</sup> at the Orange County Convention Center. It is an impressive opportunity to show off our profession to our General Manager and Owners as they all meet during the week. Log on to [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org) to register now.

#### 4. Executive Director's Meetings, Events and Travel

01/08	GCSAA webcast: Effective Leadership
01/10-11	FFAA Winter Meeting, Daytona Beach
01/11	FGCSA Winter Board Meeting, Tampa
01/14	FTGA Turf Research Tournament, Winter Park
01/16-18	PGA Merchandise Show (GCSAA, ING), Orlando
01/10	Deadline – Florida Golf Central Magazine
01/20	Deadline – Golfdom Magazine
01/28	SFWMD Conservation Summit, West Palm Beach
01/29-2/1	GCSAA – GIS Conference & Show, Orlando
02/TBA	Florida Green Cover Story Trip, Jacksonville
02/10	Deadline – Florida Golf Central Magazine
02/15	Deadline – Green Sheet March/April Newsletter
02/20	Deadline – Golfdom Magazine
02/28	SFWMD Water Conservation Summit, West Palm Beach

#### **FGCSA Board Meeting to be held January 11<sup>th</sup>**

The FGCSA Winter Board Meeting will be held on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at the Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club. All External Vice President's are urged to attend or arrange for a chapter member to represent your chapter.



## Minutes of FGCSA Fall Board Meeting

The Fall 2007 meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was called to order by Vice President Shane Bass at 1:00 p.m. on Friday October 19<sup>th</sup> at Grand Cypress Villas.

All Officers, with the exception of President Matt Taylor, were present. All Chapters, but the Everglades chapter was represented. Others attending the meeting were Joel Jackson – Executive Director./Florida Green editor; Marie Roberts, Association Manager; Jennifer Innes, Association Manager, Casey Pace, FTGA and Mike Goldie FGCSA Lobbyist.

Minutes of the FGCSA Summer 2007 Board Meeting were approved.

**FTGA** – Casey Pace updated the Board on the Conference & Show. It has received very good feedback so far, but additional feedback was encouraged. The Live Auction, the Scrambler and Qualifier were all big hits. There were a total of 500+ attendees. The Corn Boil was not quite the success it had been in previous years and there were some glitches with the on-line registration that have been addressed. The FTGA Conference & Show will be Sept. 16-19 at PGA National Resort. And finally, the FTGA has put out its Turf Seminar calendar. The Orlando session will be combined with the Pest Manager's Conference. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> will be the last seminar.

**Mike Goldie** - The House of Representatives is currently in a special session as the tax issue deadline is being pushed to the 28<sup>th</sup> of October and the Insurance Bill is being presented. Water restrictions will still continue as the predictions for a warmer and dryer season continue. There is currently a budget shortfall and individual committees will be addressed in November.

**Old Business:** With Matt Taylor not in attendance, Joel Jackson presented what he knew about the Task Force Meetings. There have been 2 of 6 meetings with the 13 members. The Task Force is charged with giving a set of recommendations to the Legislature. The Task Force is staying on track and is working on using best available science for the state rule. It is not clear if the new rule will supersede any

ordinances already passed. The Lawn Care Industry is considering using the Naples ordinance as a model to suggest. It is the closest to the current BMP's. Duval County is in the early phase of thinking about drafting a fertilizer ordinance.

The Audit was addressed. The Audit order was signed and the audit will be completed

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Kistler presented the financial report. Nancy Miller made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded.

Bill noted that the big difference of the Financial Report this year versus earlier years is that now we are actually funding research. The Musser Foundation will need to be addressed at the next Board Meeting to decide if we still want to support it. The FGCSA Research fund still has unpaid commitments that we will need to raise money to support. There was some concern that the Chapter donation chart did not accurately reflect those Chapters who donate by business direct donations.

**PRORATING DUES:** It was held that New Member dues that come in after January 1<sup>st</sup> will be prorated by half.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Joel gave the board a report on the EPA phasing out methyl bromide. The trend of the EPA is large reductions MeBR allocations in CUE applications. We are currently working to get Congress to intercede in the process. Many local fertilizer ordinances facing the Landscape Industry seem to exempt Golf Courses. It is important to partner with those industries, i.e. landscape, etc. to promote their BMPs so they all have equal standing.

Joel also discussed his new role in the Association. He presented the Board with a handout expressing his ideas for the Association relative to his position. He would like to evaluate the publications and maybe re-design and update and coordinate all communication for consistency in messaging.

**FLORIDA GREEN:** The Florida Green is in its final proof process and will be sent to the printer next week. Joel expressed to the Board a possible Florida Green re-design and article archive on the web site. He would like the magazine to be reflective of the members needs.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** Marie Roberts reported that the new Membership Directory should be mailed out in the next two weeks. Advertisers came through, even with the increase in advertiser rates, and we exceeded our projected income goal.

**AWARDS:** Rip Phillips reminded the Board that the nomination process for Award recipients must begin. Chapters will need to send in their nominations with supporting letters. Rip would like these letters to be presented to the Board in January for the Winter Board Meeting.

**EDUCATION:** Mark Kann reported to the board he is working on POA seminar topics. He is currently working on an Assistant Superintendent Survey for possible seminar topics.

**BY-LAWS:** It was brought to the attention of the Board that Joel's job description needs to be updated in the by-laws. It was also of concern if Lifetime Members are included in the by-laws.

**GOLF:** South Florida won FGCSA Golf Championship for another year! The FTGA Champion also earned a spot on the Florida team.

**RESEARCH:** GCSAA Chapter Research Grant Fund – this year we are not submitting any new proposals. The Board agreed that It is a great program, but we currently have two proposals being funded.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership numbers are up by approximately 20. All the Chapters have done a wonderful job at getting their dues in and membership information submitted.

**Chapter Delegates:** Kevin Downing reported to the Board on the Annual Chapter Delegates meeting. There were 2 new attendees this year; Bob Wagner and Steve Pearson. The GCSAA has taken a

....Continuation of Fall Board Minutes

strong hit for the lack of attendance in Anaheim. They are branding PDI to promote Class A. Logo utilization was also encouraged. The Chapter affiliation agreement was also discussed.

He also reminded the board of the 5 free available memberships that are available to give, he suggested, to an Assistant Superintendent who will be helping to build our future.

**Orlando Reception:** Sponsor solicitation forms have been mailed out to anyone who has advertised in the Florida Green or Directory in years past. We are beginning to receive chapter donations. Security during the actual Reception was addressed as a concern. It was recommended that we

hire a private security firm to provide security. We are expecting a large crowd.

**FTGA Seminar:** It was noted in our Financial records that we were budgeted \$1500 for the FTGA. We will send a check of the remaining funds after the Conference & Show is settled. This will total an approximate donation of \$600.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Joe Panteleo will be the Chairman of the committee.

**MISC:** Mark Kann presented the Board with a list of needed new/used equipment donations for the University of Florida Plant Science Center.

The meeting was adjourned.



Darden Nicks, Palm Beach GCSA Treasurer presents Joel Jackson, FGCSA Executive Director, with a \$100 check for the Ag Institute's Public Awareness Campaign during the joint meeting of the Treasure Coast and Palm Beach Chapters.

## **2008 Florida GCSA Reception, Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup>**

### **Level I. Platinum Sponsors**

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**Following is a response by Joel Jackson to the editor of Florida Trend Magazine about an editorial dealing with water shortages.**

I enjoyed 99% of your editorial on water issues and how the folks in Bermuda have been dealing with limited fresh water for centuries.

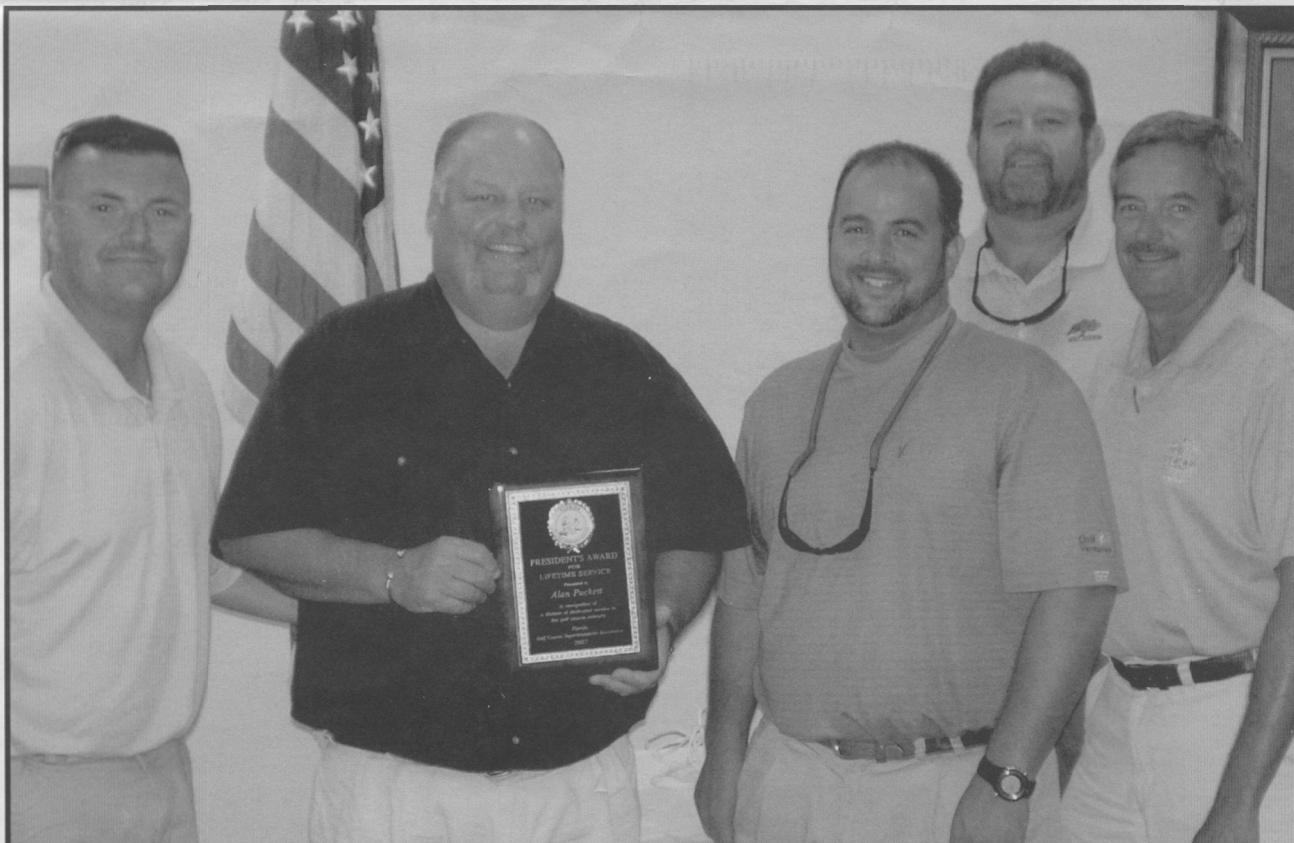
I was stationed at the U.S. Coast Guard LORAN Station on South Caicos Island in the Turks & Caicos Islands (SE Bahamas Chain) back in 1967 and I can vouch for the cistern system, since that was our source of water for the base as well. We had a huge concrete catch basin built into the side of a hill and a 50,000 gallon above ground tank for storage. During hard times we would sometimes be asked to share some of our water with the townsfolk in Cockburn Harbour, which we gladly delivered via tank truck.

The one part of your editorial that is a little off is where you say half of Florida's fresh water goes for lawn watering. I will not argue that a significant portion is involved but perhaps I can add some clarification. Based on the U. S. Geological Survey's Water Use Report for Florida done every five years (see [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov) and go to state links and water use links).

The report divides the state's largest water consumers into six categories and while it is in the Public Supply sector that 50% has been estimated as being used on lawns, the Public supply sector is only 30% of the total consumption. Here's the Data from the 2000 report.

Florida Fresh Water Use

- ❖ Agricultural Irrigation 48%
- ❖ Public Supply 30%.....so 50% of this use or 15% of the total can be attributed to lawn/landscape watering. Other major sources of loss in this section are leaking water mains and home plumbing.
- ❖ Power Generation 8%
- ❖ Commercial, Industry, Mining 7%
- ❖ Recreational Irrigation 5%.....Golf is estimated at 67% of Recreation total or 3% overall.
- ❖ Domestic self-supplied wells 2%



The Ridge GCSA named Alan Puckett recipient of the Ridge lifetime Achievement Award for his service to the chapter and the golf industry. From left: Bob Solms, Alan Puckett, Scott Scamehorn, Tom Barnett and Jim Rowland

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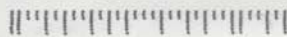
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Golf Ventures would like to take this opportunity to thank Marie Roberts for her support and contribution to Golf Ventures and the golf industry. She has been instrumental in so much and she will be missed.

**MARIE, CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT**

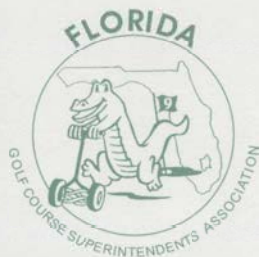
**WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST!!!**



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**Florida Superintendents Head to Orlando for the 2008 Golf Industry Show**

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