

THE GREEN SHEET



Vol. 26 (P. 1)

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



The South Florida GCSA celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the M&E Tournament by raising \$25,000 for the Florida Chapter of the Center for Missing & Exploited Children. (l-r): Ted Hile, Nancy McBride, Nancy Sullivan and Kelly Cragin.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 8th – Calusa GCSA Monthly Meeting, Coral Oaks Golf Course

Jan. 13th – Seven Rivers GCSA Monthly Meeting, Continental CC

Jan. 26th – Lake City Community College Annual GLO Job Fair, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Feb. 8th-12th – GCSAA Conference and Show, San Diego

Feb. 11th – FGCSA Annual Reception,

Hotel Solamar, San Diego 7-10pm

Feb. 18th – Chemical Spill Response Training, Ocala

Feb. 19th – Establishing Warm Season Grass From Seed, GCSAA Webcast

Feb. 23rd – Florida West Coast GCSA Benevolent Fund Tournament, East Lake Woodlands CC

Feb. 25th – Environmental Management Systems, GCSAA Webcast

March TBA – Suncoast Scramble

March 8th – North Florida GCSA Annual Research Golf Tournament, Pablo Creek Golf Club

March 15th – Ridge Invitational, Eaglebrooke Golf Club, Lakeland

April 8th – Everglades GCSA, Spring Symposium

April 12th – North Florida GCSA Memorial Tournament, Marsh Creek Golf Club

President's Message

By Bill Kistler

I know most of us are either finished or we are finishing budgets for 2010. We are being visited by our vendors to put together Early Order Programs for next year, or just to have that last visit of 2009. In the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to speak with several vendors as well as many Superintendents. The conversation almost always leads to "does 2010 look like a better year for you?"

Without being able to predict the future, I still think we can answer optimistically. We might not get all the way back to pre-2007 levels, but courses following good sound business practices and staying proactive will succeed. There are also conversations about what others are experiencing at their courses, (turf diseases, and reductions in budgets, staff levels, and job openings). Some of the questions are inquiring on who is able to attend the GIS in San Diego.

This will be a difficult year for many to travel to the west coast, especially knowing next year's GIS will be in

Orlando. If you are not attending this year what will you do for your continuing education? In January, the FTGA will be holding their regional seminars around the state. These are great, inexpensive opportunities for education for you or your technicians. Local chapters also offer some type of education during the year. Even though many chapters are experiencing lower attendance at meetings, they are still very worthwhile.

My point is that many superintendents are not attending meetings because they feel that being away from their property might be the wrong thing to do during these economic times. My response to this is during these tough economic times it becomes even more important to attend meetings more often.

Networking with your fellow supers in your region may very well provide a cost saving answer to the same problems you are having. What did they do? How are others scheduling workloads with staff reductions? I think you'll find you are not alone



Bill Kistler

with whatever you're going through. Don't reinvent the wheel. Support your local chapters. Go to your meetings. Take these opportunities to get education and network with your peers.

Good luck and success with your 2010 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 February 15.

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

www.floridagcsa.com

Executive Director Report By Joel Jackson, GCCS

1. URGENT! GCSAA Member Voting

Status: If you are not going to San Diego and attending the Association's Annual Meeting your vote on the candidates and any pending issues will not be counted. To make sure your vote is counted you can assign your vote to your local chapter or to the FGCSA. Your specific vote will be cast as you wish, but you must assign your vote to a proxy – either the local or the state. Please do this ASAP as February will be here before you know it and you will be busy with the winter golf season.

Call 1-800-472-7878 (GCSAA) and ask to speak to Scott Woodhead to assign your voting proxy.

2. Grassroots Efforts Save Two out of Three products up for Cancellation on Turf:

Stakeholders managed to save the use of fipronil for over the top applications of TopChoice on turf to control fire ants and molecrickets. The product will become a Restricted Use Pesticide, but that poses no hardship for licensed applicators. EPA also announced that it will not take turfgrass off the Methyl Bromide label at the end of 2009 as had been proposed. Industry and EPA are negotiating a longer multi-year phase out period. MSMA however did not fare well at least for the immediate future in Florida. End users can apply MSMA product with a turf label, but eventually as industry stops production in 2009 and distribution in 2010 the use will phase out. These cases have been a vital lesson in how we can effect change by speaking up. Keep it up. The issues won't go away especially like EPA's Water Sense and Nutrient Numbers in Water Bodies.

3. FGCSA Reception in San Diego: If you are planning on attending the GIS in February and will be also coming to the

annual FGCSA GIS Reception on Thursday, February 11th, then please contact Jennifer Innes at 800-732-6053 or fgcsa@comcast.net and RSVP so we can have an accurate headcount for food and price guarantees. Also we are setting up a Room Block at the Solamar Hotel where the reception will be held. Room Rate of \$206 normal rate \$269. Please let us know if you're coming. Thanks.

4. Fertilizer Ordinances: Hillsborough County held an Environmental Protection Council workshop on December 9th. While they said they respected science and wanted to work with all stakeholders and didn't want to penalize industry, the closing comments by commissioners seemed to indicate that since they shared the bay with Pineallas and Manatee counties they were likely going to also pass a fertilizer application and sale ban from June 1st to September 30th. Not scientific, but a very political thing to do. Manatee has not written their ordinance yet, but the dominoes are falling. There are currently 22 city or county ordinances regulating fertilizer use and only one or two stick by the science and consensus of the unanimous Fertilizer Task Force statewide fertilizer ordinance and none are abiding by Senate Bill 494.

5. IFAS: Dr Nell and Dr. Hocmuth are ramping up efforts to create and make effective a multi-stakeholder coalition to address all these environmental issues. First step is to do a thorough literature search to compile all the peer reviewed studies on the fate of fertilizers and chemicals so the best science will be available in one place. While they have reached out to environmental groups to sit at the table so we can work together, the Sierra Club, one of the biggest instigators of these ordinances as declined.

6. Golf BMPs: It's not hard to see that while golf courses, sports turf and agriculture have been given exemptions on fertilizer use the lawn care industry and do-it-yourself homeowners have been the focus in this round of regulation, we cannot sit back and ignore the gathering storm. Once the unscientific approach of blackout periods doesn't improve water quality, the activists will demand the politicians come after other fertilizer users and I assume Ag will be last on the list, but we all know the opinion the public has about "the game of golf!" Who needs games while the fate of the bay hangs in the balance and red tide washes up on our beaches?

We have a tool in our arsenal that we need to embrace and learn how to use to our advantage, the Golf BMP Manual. The FGCSA in conjunction with DEP, IFAS, USGA and GCSAA will be working on a voluntary BMP certification program. Right now these local ordinances are requiring lawn care employees to become BMP certified to apply fertilizer. This probably isn't too far behind for golf. We might as well get ahead of the issue and craft something feasible and doable for our profession. So take a look at the Check Off sheet in the back of your manual and see how you stack up right now with your current practices.

**FGCSA Winter Board
Meeting
February 22, 2010
Disney's Grand Floridian
Resort and Spa
10:00am**

FGCSA Reception
Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

Thursday, February 11th, 2010

Hotel Solamar

Solamar Terrace, 4th Floor Rooftop Terrace

San Diego, CA

7-10pm

(A Special Welcome (sponsors only) Thank You Hour from 6-7pm)

LEVEL ONE - PLATINUM SPONSOR

Golf Ventures

Harrell's, LLC

The Kilpatrick Company

The Toro Company, Wesco Turf, Hector Turf

LEVEL TWO - GOLD SPONSOR

Grigg Brothers

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Tom & Mark Burrows International Turfgrass Services

Upstart Products, Inc.

Call the FGCSA office at 772-334-7515 or e-mail Jennifer at fgcsa@comcast.net for more information.

Forms are also available on our website: www.floridagcsa.com, go to the information Tab, click on Reception 2010 San Diego

Interpreting EPA's Decision on the use of MSMA in Florida

Davis Daiker

DACS: Below is language from the cancellation agreement (labeled EPA) posted September 30, between the EPA and the registrant. The sentences in quotes come from the FRN. Please forgive me if any of my comments below (labeled DACS) appear condescending but I find this as confusing as you and those you represent do.

EPA: "Existing stocks are those stocks of registered pesticide products which are currently in the United States and which were packaged, labeled, and released for shipment prior to the effective date of the cancellation action. The cancellation order issued in this notice includes the following existing stocks provisions."

"After December 31, 2009, registrants are prohibited from selling or distributing existing stocks of products containing MSMA labeled for all uses, **except** cotton, sod farms, golf courses, and highway rights-of-way. Also, after December 31, 2009 registrants are prohibited from selling or distributing existing stocks of products containing DSMA, CAMA, cacodylic acid and its sodium salt."

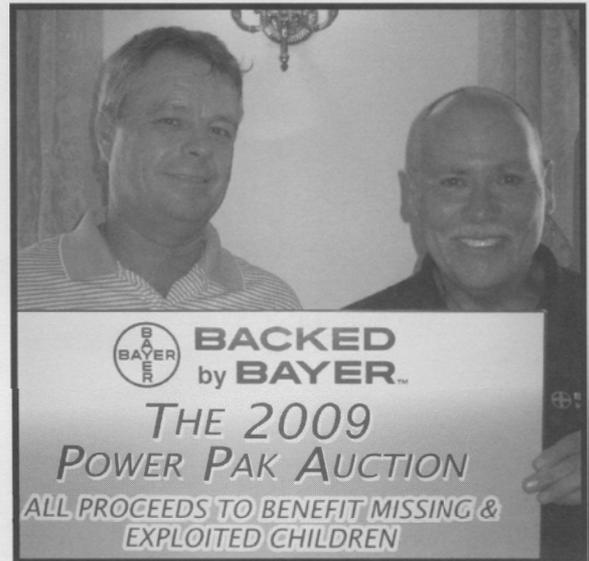
DACS: All uses of DSMA, DMA, and CAMA and use of MSMA on anything but cotton will be cancelled in Florida by the end of the year. I believe registrants were to propose new labels for MSMA in March 2009, for 2010 registration. This means that labels coming to Florida distributors from the registrant after 2009 ~~will~~ only allow cotton use in Florida. The second and fourth lines of the label show how this is to be accomplished. After this point, only product in the hands of distributors or users that contains labeled instructions for use on turf may be used on turf.

EPA: "After December 31, 2010, persons other than registrants (i.e., distributors) are prohibited from selling or distributing existing stocks of products containing MSMA labeled for all uses, except cotton, sod farms, golf courses, and highway rights-of-way, and products containing DSMA, CAMA, and/or cacodylic acid and its sodium salt."

DACS: Essentially, after 2010, distributors will be not be able to sell product with DMA, CAMA, or DSMA, or product with MSMA and a label providing for use on turf in Florida. They will only be able to distribute labels bearing the following language "Do not apply in Florida except in cotton grown in the following counties...."

EPA: "After December 31, 2010, existing stocks of products containing MSMA labeled for all uses, except cotton, sod farms, golf courses, and highway rights-of-way, and products containing DSMA, CAMA, cacodylic acid and its sodium salt, already in the hands of users can be used legally until they are exhausted, provided that such use complies with the EPA-approved label and labeling of the affected product."

This suggests use of product with the labels including use on turf, that are in the hands of users, may be used until exhausted.



Joe Pantaleo (left) from the Indian Creek Club made the highest bid in the Bayer Power Pak auction led by Brian MacCurrach. Proceeds from the auction of the donated products also go to the monies raised by the event. MacCurrach holds these auctions at several statewide events.



Happy New Year! Seven Rivers officers Mark Kann, Rick Watts and Jim Shaffer with six large boxes of "Toys for Tots" collected at their December meeting at Juliette Falls G. C.

From Jennifer's Desk...

Happy New Year! With the New Year comes change, and, here in the FGCSA office, I am hoping small changes will have a big impact. To begin, in each Green Sheet I will share a few tidbits that I hope will be helpful to you, and, in return, please let me know what I can do for you that I am not doing! Your suggestions are always welcome and encouraged. I am here to help you.

As you may have noticed, I have been sending out database blasts to collect information and also to solicit information from you in the form of small surveys. I know many of you have had some trouble responding to these inquiries, but I have several hints and reminders: First, please remember to hit "Reply" prior to filling out the fields. Your data will not enter until you have done this. Also, if you alter the e-mail in anyway, by sending a message, etc.,

the data will not transmit. These surveys are created to enter a special database folder from which all information gets automatically updated into my database. I do not open the individual responses.

This is also true when I send out membership information updates. If your address is incorrect and you make changes, those changes will automatically be updated in my database upon receipt. We are hoping to use this same technique over the next few months as we collect data for our bi-annual survey. This will not only save the Association money in postage, but it will also be tremendously helpful as we calculate results. Our goal is to provide as current and accurate information as possible. I will send out an e-mail announcement letting you know when the survey will be sent. If you would like to receive a hard copy instead, please let me know.

I am also getting ready to mail our Reception invitations and wristbands for the FGCSA Reception in San Diego. I

want first to thank those of you who have already called and notified the FGCSA office that you are planning to attend and whether or not you will be bringing a guest. In addition to those folks who have already let me know their attendance plans, I will be mailing out wristbands and invitations only to those members who have registered via the GCSAA for the conference and show. Each registrant will receive the invitation along with one wristband unless a specific request for an additional wristband is made. I will also have a "will-call" list upon check-in at the reception for your guests that did not receive a wristband beforehand. Please remember, participation in the FGCSA Reception is only available to our members and sponsors.

It is my honor to be a part of your Association. I will continue to do what I can to make my position of value to you and our industry partners.



It takes people. Twenty-five years ago these folks started the M&E Tournament and have helped so many at risk children in the process. (-r): Bob Klitz, Nancy Sullivan, Bill McKee, David Lottes, Bill Entwhistle, Jr., Nancy McBride and Bill Entwhistle, Sr.



The Florida Turfgrass Association hosts nine Regional Turf Seminars throughout the state of Florida. These seminars provide local educational programs on topics such as pest and diseases, weeds, BMPs, regulatory issues, safety and pesticide usage. Attendees will receive CEUs in both CORE and turf and ornamental categories as well as CCA and GCSAA PDI Points.

TAMPA - JAN. 5

ORLANDO - JAN. 6

FORT MYERS - JAN. 7

VERO BEACH - JAN. 12

LAKE WORTH - JAN. 13

PLANTATION - JAN. 14

OCALA - JAN. 19

JACKSONVILLE - JAN. 20

MILTON - JAN. 21



Dear Friend,

The Florida West Coasts Golf Course Association will be hosting the Annual Benevolent Fund Tournament at East Lake Woodlands on Monday, February 23, 2009.

Your support of this event through a monetary donation, a donation of a raffle prize, or a donation of beverages would be greatly appreciated

and would ensure that more funds are available to the FWCGCSA families in need..

If you are able to donate or would like to assist with this event, please contact us as soon as possible (fwcgcsa@earthlink.net). To participate, please fill out the form available on the Florida West Coast GCSA website; www.fwcgcsa.com. Tee signs are also available for \$100.00. Registration forms will not be accepted without payment.

Thank you for your support of this event and your community! The FWCGCSA Benevolent Fund



The NFGCSA had a good turnout in November for their annual Education Seminar at the San Jose CC. Speakers included tech reps from several chemical companies, John Foy from the USGA Green Section and Dr. Fred Yelverton from NC State.

Jupiter: 888-222-7072
Lakeland: 800-330-8874

Happy New Year! We wish all of you a Prosperous New Year for 2010 and want you to know we appreciate your business. We know 2010 will continue to be a challenging year for the golf industry but we are here to service you. Our territory managers are ready to help you get more bang from your \$\$.

Come visit us in San Diego at the GIS Show at the Helena Booth and Jacobsen Booth. Golf Ventures is happy to sponsor the Florida Reception for the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association at Hotel Solamar on the Rooftop Terrace in the Gas Lamp Quarter. Hope to see you there!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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