Chapter Round Up

Hurricane Recovery, Officer Rotation, Top Fall Agenda

Calusa

Our chapter was at ground zero for Hurricane Charley’s landfall. Several courses have been severely hard hit and totally devastated like some of the surrounding residential communities. The destruction is mind boggling. The clean-up has begun but it is slow going.

Central Florida

No sooner had Scott Jamros taken over for Brian Lentz as chapter president than he accepted a vice president’s position with One Source Golf Management in an offer he couldn’t refuse. Chris Cartin, The Golf Club at Cypress Head, has moved up to the president’s chair. Congratulations, Scott and thanks for the many years of service to our chapter as the education chairman.

Parts of Osceola, Orange, Seminole and Volusia counties were in the path of Hurricane Charley and significant tree damage was reported on many area courses.

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Brett Harris, Lake Nona Club, has been busy revamping the chapter’s newsletter and Web site formats. The members are pleased with the new look. Our chapter hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar in Orlando with the legendary turf guru, Dr. Joe Vargas. His topic was “Turfgrass Management Systems.”

See Joe Ondo’s report on the 28th Annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open elsewhere in this section.

Coastal Plains

Jeff Heggen is pleased to report that membership in our smallest chapter has almost doubled this year.

Everglades

One of the first duties of an incoming president is to present a complete schedule of meetings for the new fiscal year. President Mark Black, CGCS, Quail West C.C. delivered the 2004-2005 meeting schedule with dates and sites, printed and laminated on business-size cards so members stick them in their wallets to have on hand when making plans. Our proactive meeting-planning technique was recently highlighted in GCSAA News.

On Aug. 25, Matt Taylor, Royal Poinciana Club was to host the first of several FGCSA Assistant Superintendent Career Skills Workshops to be held around the state. Superintendents were to get their crash at some PDI education points on Sept. 30 when we were scheduled to host Bruce Williams, CGCS and his GCSAA Regional Seminar topic, “Successful Project Management.”

North Florida

Andy Maguire will be serving as our new external vice president to the FGCSA Board. He presented a check for $5,000 to FGCSA President Joe Pantaleo to be used for turf research and other operational expenses like government relations.

During the FGCSA Summer Board Meeting on July 23 in Orlando, North Florida External Vice President Andy Maguire, left, presents a check for $5,000 to FGCSA President Joe Pantaleo to be used for turf research and other operational expenses like government relations. Photo by Joel Jackson.

During the FGCSA Summer Board Meeting on July 23 in Orlando, newly elected FGCSA officers from left: Vice President Craig Weyandt; President Joe Pantaleo and Immediate Past President Greg Phene ger. Not pictured is Secretary/Treasurer Matt Taylor who was coaching his daughter’s softball team in a post-season tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Palm Beach

Our annual fishing tournament was another great success. Winning captains and their anglers were: Jim Sprankle – Sean O’Reilly (dolphin); Tom DeYoung – Mike McDaniel (wahoo); Craig Maret – Tim Rappach (kingfish). Captain Maret took top honors with a total weight of 134 pounds.

We are looking forward to our annual joint meetings with our neighboring chapters, South Florida in August and Treasure Coast in October. The inter-chapter golf competition is always good fun for all. In November we will host the USGA Green Section Regional Seminar in Palm Beach Gardens, which is always well attended. Many thanks to Immediate Past President Peter Powell for taking over external vice president duties for the chapter.

Ridge

Polk County took a severe hit as the eye Hurricane Charley moved through the area. Several courses like Lake Region, Mountain Lake, Grenelefe, Diamondback and Southern Dunes are reporting hundreds of trees down. Clean-up in some members have qualified to compete at the FGCSA Golf Championship in September: Ken Arsenault, Todd McKitten, Steve Moskis, Matt Siebel and Dana Anderson. Good luck guys.
cases will take months to restore normal operations.

Our chapter has become very active in a First Tee project taking place in Lakeland. The 50-year-old Publix Par 3 course is being renovated by golf course architect Steve Smyers. Toro is donating the irrigation system, Harrell’s Fertilizer will provide turf care products and Fred Ridley, current president of the USGA and Winter Haven native, is providing some grant money to help with the costs. We will help oversee the grow-in and provide ongoing consultation for maintenance operations.

Seven Rivers
Buddy Keene, formerly at the Gainesville G&CC, is now the superintendent at the Arnold Palmer’s Legends course at The Villages.

South Florida
The South Florida Golf Course Superintendent’s Association will be hosting its 20th Annual Benefit Tournament on Friday, Oct. 8, at Colony West Country Club. The tournament benefits the Florida branch of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Committee Chairman Billy Entwistle Jr. pledged at last year’s event that the 20th anniversary tournament in October 2004 would generate $20,000 for the Center. The total donation for the past 19 years is $182,000.


Dale Kuehner, CGCS is the long-time superintendent of Colony West C.C. and he and his crew will undoubtedly have the course prepared for another fun and challenging day on a tough golf course. Colony West has been the host site for the past 10 years and has continually provided excellent support with competitive pricing to keep event costs down, resulting in higher donations to the center. Colony West’s management team always works very hard to ensure a successful event with assistance with everything from placement of a hot dog stand and sponsor signs on the course, to placement of vendors participating as on-course volunteers.

The South Florida golf course community has been very supportive of this event, with some vendors participating as sponsors for the entire 20-year history. Superintendent teams from the Everglades, Palm Beach, South Florida, and Treasure Coast chapters all participate in this annual event.

Randy Hunter took the President’s Trophy at our chapter’s annual meeting with a net 68. John Swaner captured the Vice President’s Trophy for our vendor members with a net 73. Overall Low Gross finishers were Bob Harper (first); Joe Pantaleo (second); Dave Oliver (third). The Low Net winners were: Randy Hunter as noted and Curt Conrad (second) and Jim Goins (third).
Suncoast

We are looking forward to our annual Pro/Superintendent Tournament Sept. 21 at the Mission Valley C.C., where Bill Tyde will be our host. In November we will co-host and participate in the annual November Grounds Management Seminar at Selby Gardens in Sarasota.

Treasure Coast

Chapter President Roy MacDonald reports that his Hobe Sound Golf Club was thrilled about hosting a U.S. Amateur Qualifier this past August. MacDonald says there was lots of pride in getting the golf course into shape for the event and even though the members had to give up playing the course for a day and a half, they came out and watched the event instead.

We had two chapter golf outings during the “dog days of August” with successive Friday golf matches: on the 13th in the northern part of the chapter at Bo Estey’s Quail Valley G.C., and at Kevin Downing’s Willoughby Golf Club in the south on the 20th. The matches are patterned after the Ryder Cup format. Players weren’t required to play on both Fridays, but it was encouraged.

West Coast

Chris Ansley, our external vice president, regretfully had to resign his position in order to devote more time to matters at his golf course. Bill Kistler has volunteered to fill in for Chris. Thank you Chris for all your past service and to Bill for stepping up to represent us in the FGCSA.

Florida GCSCA

The Executive Council for the Florida GCSCA consists of President Joe Pantaleo, Indian Creek C.C.; Vice President Craig Weyandt, The Moorings Club; Secretary Matt Taylor, Royal Poinciana Club and Immediate Past President Greg Pheneger. Directors from the 12 chapters for 2004-2005 are Greg Kriesch, Calusa; Mike Bellino, Central Florida; Jeff Heggen, Coastal Plains; Matt Taylor, Everglades; Andy Maguire, North Florida; Jeff Brown, Ridge; Buddy Keene, Seven Rivers; Jim Walker, South Florida; John VanVranken, Suncoast; Ralph Dain, Treasure Coast and Bill Kistler, West Coast.

We can’t say “Thank You” enough to the folks at Golf Agronomics Supply & Handling. They have been donating annually since 1990 and their contributions total nearly $50,000 in cumulative giving. Dale Mitchell, left, presents Greg Pheneger with a $3,000 check for 2004 at the FGCSA Annual meeting at Grand Cypress. Photo by Joel Jackson.
The Crowfoot Open was held this year at the Grand Cypress Resort in Orlando. Special thanks to Coastal Equipment, Inc. and John Deere Golf & Turf for becoming the first title sponsor for the event. Many thanks also to all the rest of our 2004 sponsors for their continuing support of this event.

The Crowfoot weekend began with the FGCSA annual board meeting and election of officers which was held on Friday, July 23. Saturday was open for golf practice rounds and for families to go to the Disney, Universal and Sea World theme parks.

Saturday night, presenting sponsor Harrell’s/Polyon put on the traditional Crowfoot Reception at the Grand Cypress Clubhouse. Master of ceremonies Tom Alex did his imitation of Billy Crystal at the Academy Awards, only Tommy didn’t sing. After cracking jokes and one-liners during the door prize raffle, Alex turned serious as he described the history of the event and the long-time service and dedication of namesake Larry Kamphaus.

Tom’s eloquent and sincere recounting of Larry’s service to the profession, his employer (Disney) and his church and community served as a prelude to awarding the 2004 Larry Kamphaus Award to former superintendent Brian Jenkins. Brian recently retired from his job with the City of Orlando after serving at the city-owned Dubsread Golf Club and in the Parks and Recreation Department. Brian served for more than eight years as the Central Florida Chapter’s secretary/treasurer and newsletter editor.

Sunday morning saw 164 players tee it up on the North, South and East nines and Director of Golf Tom Alex and his senior superintendent, Jim Sullivan, and staff had the course in its traditional great shape for all to enjoy. While most of the field played a Stableford point system to speed up play, those with 0-9 handicaps played regular stroke play to qualify for a spot on the FGCSA golf team competing at the GCSAA Golf Championship in February 2005.

Thanks to presenting sponsor Howard Fertilizer and Chemicals for sponsoring the tournament.

It was a warm day out on the course but play moved briskly and we were done in four and a half hours. Everyone adjourned to the Villas Executive Center for the Awards Luncheon Presented by Golf Ventures to learn who would claim this year’s prizes and trophies.

Mark Henderson carded a par 72 to capture the individual trophy and the Central Florida Team won the Crowfoot Net Trophy. Team members were Bob Uppenkamp, Joe Ondo, Sean Duffy and Brett Harris. See the Crowfoot sidebar for more golf results.

A tip of the hat to Grand Cypress Food & Beverage Manager Billy Singleton and his staff for the good food and service at the reception and the luncheon. Special thanks to Jan and Bob Lloyd, Lisa McDowell, Tom Alex, Stuart Leventhal, Joel Jackson and Joe Ondo for their committee work to help make this another great event.

 CFGCSA Honors Jenkins With Kamphaus Award

By Joe Ondo, CGCS

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Crowfoot Open

Golf Results

A Flight Gross (Stroke Play)
Mark Henderson 72
Bob Harper 73
Joe Ondo 73

Net Play
A Flight Net
Andy Neiswender 68
B Flight (Stableford Points),
Bobby Ellis, +3; Bob Uppenkamp, +1

C Flight,
Sean Duffy, +8; Brett Harris, +7

Supplier Flights
A Flight,
1. Gary Wilhelm; 2. Dave Oliver
B Flight,
1. Fred Marshall; 2. Cary Lewis

C Flight,
1. Bill Focht; 2. Tami Kovar

Closest to the Pins
Sean Duffy, Jeff Cochran, Joe Ondo, Greg Ellis, Tom Wallwork and Andy Neiswender
Florida Superintendent to Run for GCSAA Director in 2005

Bob Randquist, CGCS, the director of golf and grounds at the Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, has accepted the FGCSA nomination for candidacy for the office of GCSAA Director in the upcoming 2005 elections to be held at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando next February. It has been 22 years since a Florida superintendent has run for national office, when John Hayden, CGCS, from the North Florida GCSA was a director from 1982-84. Gary Grigg, CGCS, MG was already a GCSAA director from the Shadow Glen G.C. in Kansas when he relocated to Florida to build and grow in Naples National in 1991. He completed his remaining board service and GCSAA presidency while at the Royal Poinciana Club from 1995-97.

Randquist has been at Boca Rio since 1998 having moved here from the Southern Hills C.C. in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A veteran of public and private golf course service, Randquist has distinguished himself as a top superintendent preparing his courses for several national amateur and professional golf tournaments. Randquist has also earned a reputation as a thoughtful and practical contributor to key GCSAA committees and resource groups. He served on two of the most crucial resources groups that addressed the Professional Development Initiative and the headquarters relocation issue. His other GCSAA service over the years includes stints on Conference & Show, Nominating, Public Relations, Chapter Relations, Research and Education committees. Besides his GCSAA service, Randquist has been a leader in allied association service with the Oklahoma Turfgrass Research Foundation, the USGA Green Section Committee (15 years) and he is a member of the Florida Turfgrass Association.

The FGCSA will be vigorously supporting Bob’s campaign for director by helping with brochure printing costs and hosting a hospitality suite in conjunction with our traditional FGCSA Reception at the national conference and show. Randquist submitted the accompanying letter of introduction to the voting delegates and to you and other GCSAA members who may not know him as part of his formal declaration of candidacy for the office of director.

It has been 22 years since a Florida superintendent has run for national office, when John Hayden, CGCS, from the North Florida GCSA was a director from 1982-84.
Dear Voting Delegates and Members,

I would like to thank the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association for nominating me for the office of Director of GCSAA. I appreciate their support and encouragement as I seek to become more involved in giving something back to the profession that has provided me with such enjoyment and satisfaction during my 27 years as a golf course superintendent.

I am also grateful that my wife La Vada, daughters Jennifer and Laura, and my employer Boca Rio Golf Club recognize and appreciate my desire to serve my fellow golf course superintendents as a Director for GCSAA. Because they realize the significant impact our profession has on the game of golf, they are enthusiastically willing to sacrifice a portion of the time that I might normally spend with them. Their steadfast support of my career as a golf course superintendent and my commitment to our profession has always been an integral part of whatever success I have achieved as a golf course superintendent.

I have always strongly believed that being a member of GCSAA is an honor and a privilege. I am very grateful that fellow GCSAA members have always been willing to share information with me, provide guidance for me, and be my friends. I was attracted to our profession while working on golf courses during the time I was earning a college degree. Although my major field of study in college was rich in math and science, it was not related to agronomy. The educational opportunities that GCSAA has provided for me have been and continue to be a critically important part of my growth and development as a golf course superintendent.

I am ever thankful that past GCSAA members, officers, and directors have provided the leadership that has kept GCSAA educational efforts as the main priority of our organization, and I am pleased that our current leadership has demonstrated that same commitment. Whether serving as a GCSAA Director or on future GCSAA Committees, I will continue to avidly support development of GCSAA programs that provide affordable and accessible educational opportunities for all golf course superintendents.

Serving on several GCSAA Committees and Resource Groups during the past several years has been a great learning experience for me. Though we may disagree on certain issues at times, it is wonderful to be part of an organization that encourages committees and individual members to express their opinions and ideas regarding the decisions that must be made by our elected leadership. We must be diligent in protecting and improving this process as we work together to resolve issues that GCSAA will address in the coming years. Having served on the Membership Standards Resource Group, I am very pleased that everyone is working together to make implementation of the Professional Development Initiative relevant to the needs of our GCSAA Members. It is especially gratifying to see the rapid development of expanded educational opportunities for golf course superintendents that is at the local chapter level. Compensation, recognition, and appreciation for the efforts of golf course superintendents will continue to improve as we continue to enhance the abilities and competencies of GCSAA members. This initiative will require continuing evaluation and adjustment in future years to provide the results that our members deserve.

We are fortunate to be in a profession dominated by people who love and respect the game of golf and the natural environment we are responsible for on a daily basis. Most golf course superintendents are passionately committed to their work and seek only what is best for golf and the environment. I believe my work experience and both public and private golf facilities, my long-term active involvement in local GCSAA chapters, my desire to see the game of golf enriched by the successful efforts of golf course superintendents, and my service on GCSAA Committees and Resource Groups qualify me to serve the game of golf and the GCSAA if I am given the opportunity to serve on the GCSAA Board. Thank you for considering me for the office of GCSAA Director.

Sincerely,

Bob Randquist, CGCS