

FTGA, Allied Associations Fund More Than \$150,000 for Florida Turf Research

Editor's Note: The FGCSA has partnered many times with the FTGA and has received matching funds from GCSAA before, but this year marks an unprecedented level of cooperation for common goals. You will see that several projects are addressing future pest-control options in light of soon losing several longtime products like Nema-cur and MSMA.

By Betsy McGill

The Florida Turfgrass Association, in cooperation with several allied turf and golf associations, announced the allocation of funding for research grants in excess of \$150,000 over the next two years.

Cooperating associations include the Florida GCSA, Florida Turfgrass Association, Florida Sod Growers Cooperative, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and the Club Managers Association of America.

The grants will advance research in the turfgrass industry covering such diverse subjects as irrigation water use; insect, weed and nematode control; turfgrass breeding and best management practices for a culturally diverse

workforce. Funding recipients are Florida-based researchers at the University of Florida and Lake City Community College. Projects funded:

Rapid Turfgrass Disease Diagnosis Assistantship: a one-year start-up funding grant to hire a research assistant in order to expedite rapid turnaround of disease diagnostic processing at the UF-IFAS Florida Extension Plant Disease Clinic (FEPDC) in Gainesville. The facility allows turfgrass professionals to send samples for evaluation. This \$23,961 grant was funded by the FTGA and FGCSA

Best Management Practices for a Culturally Diverse Workforce: a one-year project to be conducted by Bruce Witt at Lake City Community College. The objective of the study is to create a Best Management Practices manual for golf course superintendents and other turfgrass managers who work mainly with foreign-born or English-as-a-second-language crews. This \$13,805 study was funded by the FTGA, FGCSA and the CMAA.

Breeding Turfgrasses for Improved Performance and Reduced Maintenance: a one-year project to be spear-



Dr. Kevin Kenworthy describes the newly funded UF turf-breeding program at the July 19, 2006 IFAS Field Day and grand opening of the new G.C. Horn Turf Research Field Laboratory at the UF-IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Unit just south of Gainesville.

headed by Dr. Kevin Kenworthy at the University of Florida in Gainesville. The objective is to build and advance the turfgrass breeding program at UF in order to produce new grasses for use on Florida golf courses and home lawns. This \$40,000 study was funded by the FTGA, FSGC, FGCSA and the Palm Beach Chapter of the FGCSA.

Evaluation of Soil Moisture &



Chapter fund raisers like the Annual Bud Quandt Tournament make it possible for Bill Kistler (right) external vice president of the Florida West Coast GCSA to present a \$3,000 check to FGCSA President Craig Weyandt at the FGCSA Annual meeting in Orlando.



FGCSA Association Manager Marie Roberts accepts the annual donation of \$3,000 from Dale Mitchell and Richard Colyer from Golf Agronomic Supply & Handling. These annual contributions from GASH now total \$56,000.



FGCSA President Craig Weyandt, accepts a \$5,000 check from Rip Phillips, external vice president of the North Florida GCSA. The funds were the result of this year's NFGCSA Research Tournament held at the Pablo Creek G.C.

Evapotranspiration Irrigation Control to Reduce Turfgrass Irrigation Water Use: a two-year study to be conducted by Dr. Michael D. Dukes at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The objective is to quantify irrigation water savings via commercially available control systems. This \$11,500 project was funded entirely by the FGCSA.

Effect of Nitrogen on the Southern Chinch Bug: A one-year study to be conducted by Dr. Laurie Trenholm and Dr. Eileen Buss at the U. of Florida, Gainesville. The objective is to determine if fertilizer rates for St. Augustinegrass lawns should be modified to decrease susceptibility or increase tolerance to chinch bug infestations. This \$6,346 study was funded entirely by the FTGA.

Field Evaluation of Bioherbicidal Control of Tropical Signalgrass: a two-year study to be conducted by Dr. Carol Stiles and Dr. Raghavan Charudattan at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The objective of the research is to assess effective methods of bioherbicides on tropical signalgrass, a difficult-to-control, invasive weed species. This \$23,094 study was funded by the FTGA, FGCSA, and the GCSAA.

The Billbug Species Complex, Seasonality and Management in Florida: a one-year study to be conducted by Dr. Eileen Buss at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The objective is to better understand the billbug's true activity on Florida golf courses in an attempt to reduce unnecessary insecticide use in controlling the insect. This \$13,895 project was funded by the FTGA, FGCSA and the GCSAA.

Root Knot Nematodes on Turf in Florida: A two-year study to be conducted by Dr. Billy Crow at the University of Florida, Gainesville. The objective is to be better able to diagnose root knot nematode problems of golf course turf and lawn grasses and provide management recommendations. This \$18,883 project was funded by the FTGA and FGCSA.

Credit: Third Quarter 2006 Florida Lawn Newsletter by the Florida Sod Grower Cooperative

From Out of This World



AS IT LIES

BY
JIM WALKER

The year is 1953. The Place is Old Cutler Road and SW 140th Street in Kendall. Real civilization stops about 7 miles north of here in South Miami. People who were living in Miami proper were beginning to move south to the acre estates out in the boondocks. This particular boondock is now 5 minutes west of Deering Bay Yacht & Country Club, and is one of the most desirable areas of Dade County. Homes start at a million bucks and go up from there. My mother's parents decided to leave their home just minutes from the Orange Bowl and join the pioneers and risk takers who were choosing to move to an area that was so dark at night that it went beyond black.

My grandmother is of English descent and her family came down from Manchester, N.H. My grandfather, a wisp of Italian trouble, came to Miami in 1922 with Pathe Studios as a chief electrician to film cowboy and Indian movies on the Miami River. He went on to become the first "Master" electrician in the state and owned Miami Electric, which ripped off car dealerships up and down Biscayne Boulevard and NW 36th Ave in west Miami near the airport for years. What do car dealerships need as much as cars and ruthless salesmen? Lights of course... tons of them to illuminate their shiny new cars.

Unfortunately, what my grandmother didn't realize was that the early 1950s was also the time when Americans became aware that we were not alone in this galaxy and dark areas outside our towns and cities is where UFOs and aliens chose to land and explore.

New Mexico didn't have an exclusive on visitors from outer space. My grandparents' 11-acre tract off Cartee Road was regularly visited by Snoozeria the Martian Bear, who always seemed to show up when my two cousins and I would spend a weekend down south in the boondocks.

So here's the deal: In 1953 I am 9 years old, my cousin Bobby is 8 and his sister Barbara is almost 7. It's Friday night about 9:30 p.m. and everyone is getting ready for bed. We have already been warned by "Daddy Fred" (granddad) that Snoozeria had been spotted recently not only by him but by a couple of neighbors also. There was talk of missing cats, dogs and rabbits, but so far no confirmed reports of young children being abducted. This wicked man set the stage for his little shop of horrors by warning us to not get out of bed and to stay under the covers no matter what happened.

When the lights went off shortly before 10 p.m. it was so dark you could not see your hand six inches in front of your face. Within minutes, Snoozeria, was scratching on our bedroom window. It absolutely scared the crap out of us. The next morning when Nanny asked how we had slept, we told her about our visitor. Sometime later I understood why she gave my grandfather such an evil look. The scenario went on for the better part of a year. No matter how many times it happened and mind you it didn't happen every time we visited, we could not wait to get back to Cartee Road again.

When I relay this story to people now, they all say how bad it was of my grandfather to scare us the way he did. I say, how many kids can say they had an ongoing love-hate relationship with an alien from outer space? Besides it didn't have any negative effect on the three of us. We all stopped wetting the bed by the time we got to high school and Bobby stopped being afraid of the dark when he went to Vietnam to fly helicopters. The last time I spoke to Barbara, she, like me, still sleeps with a night light on.

Now you are asking yourself what