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# **For Every Superintendent** There is a Season



From left: Andrew Jorgensen, CGCS, president, Seven Rivers GCSA; Dr. Jason Kruse, Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, and Dr. Brian Unruh of UF/IFAS, and Jim Shaffer, External VP, Seven Rivers GCSA.

According to the heavens it is autumn, which can mean peak hurricane season and/or just cloudy "blah" days before we finally start cooler weather. It is a time for the turf to heal from all the renovation and construction programs. It is the last of the "slow play" days before the snowbirds flock to the fairways to begin the busy winter golf season. It is during this time that many of our chapters and associations wrap up their final events of the year. Here are some of the things that happened during the "dog days" of summer. Look ahead in the "Calendar

of Events" and on the FGCSA website and you can see what's coming up for the remainder of the year all the way to the GCSAA GIS Conference in Orlando in February!

**Seven Rivers:** In August the chapter presented a check to Drs. Jason Kruse, Brian Unruh and Kevin Kenworthy at the University of Florida to fund one year of a continuing multi-year turfgrass breeding study, which is also supported by the Florida GCSA.

The chapter was also highlighted in a human-interest story in the Ocala Star



Seven Rivers members hold a Work Day to help fellow member Barry Greenwalt and his family. Greenwalt has been battling liver disease for nine years. Back row from left: Nathan Armstrong, Jim Shaffer, Andy Jorgensen, Duncan Orris, Ron Palsgrove, Danny Cravey, Josh Carter, Gavin Carter and Chad Nixon. Front row Barry Greenwalt and his daughter Sofia.



At the SFGCSA Annual Meeting at the Hillcrest CC on July 25th, South Florida GCSA President Ricky Reeves (right) presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to Dr. George Snyder, Professor Emeritus representing the UF/IFAS REC in Ft. Lauderdale. The funds are for research projects and maintenance of the facilities at the research center.

Banner when they surprised the Barry Greenwalt family with a "Work Day" at their Ocala home on Saturday August 3, 2013. Barry Greenwalt received his second liver transplant in December of last year is now back on a waiting list for a third transplant. The group did landscaping, roof repair, mowing, clean up and assembled a playground for little 5-year old Sofia. "The gesture was overwhelming," said Barry and his wife Andrea, "we have been truly blessed by this and are forever grateful." (From an article by Lisa Crigar, Ocala Star Banner).

**South Florida:** More turf research support was evidenced by the SFGCSA as the association used proceeds from the annual South Florida Turf Expo held every March to present a check to support continued research studies and maintenance of the turf plots and research green at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale.

**Central Florida:** On Aug. 22, the first joint event between the CFGCSA & the NFGCSA was

held at Spruce Creek CC. The concept of the "Fly In Shoot Out" was the idea of Spruce Creek Superintendent Bo Irby and Jayce Ramage from Pro Plus. More than 50 participants hailing from Polk County to Duval County made the journey to what proved to be a great day. A big "thank you" goes to Irby and his staff for their preparations as the golf course was in awesome condition. And thanks to Jayce Ramage for assisting Bo in the planning and promotion of this event. Golf results: 1st Place Gross Winners: Chris Cartin & Don Mashaw and 1st Place Net Winners: Chris Flynn & Josh Kelley. The CFGCSA is excited about the opportunity to partner with the NFGCSA and hopefully make this an annual event.

#### Palm Beach & South

Florida: From the newest joint chapter meeting, we journey south for one of the oldest joint ventures in the association. In 1978 the Palm Beach Chapter split from the South Florida GCSA, and sometime in the 1980s the joint meetings began. This year the Palm Beach chapter hosted the South Florida GCSA at Mark Heater's Addison Reserve CC, a 27-hole Arthur Hills layout, with the nines being called: Salvation, Trepidation and Redemption. The group played the Salvation and Trepidation nines in both the Ryder Cup-style challenge matches for the Jimmy Blackledge Trophy and the individual stroke play division. At the end of the day, the Palm Beach chapter was victorious, 3 to 2, over South Florida.

Next month Palm Beach takes on the Treasure Coast Chapter in its annual match at Martin Downs GC in Vero Beach. The Treasure Coast GCSA split away from the Palm Beach GCSA in 1980, so both of these events go back a long way.



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Partnership Opportunities are available all year.



The 2013-14 Board of Directors representing the 11 FGCSA regional chapters are from left: Tyler Green, Ridge; Bob Coffey, North Florida; John Curran, Treasure Coast; Stuart Taylor, Calusa; Jim Shaffer, Seven Rivers; Ricky Reeves, South Florida; Brian Main, Palm Beach; Bill Tyde, Suncoast; Rickey Craig, Central Florida; and Any Neiswender, West Coast. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Meet your newly elected FGCSA officers for the 2013-14 fiscal year. From left: President Kevin Sunderman, Vice President Bill Davidson, CGCS, Secretary-Treasurer David Dore-Smith and Immediate Past President Nancy Miller, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.

**Florida GCSA:** The state association officers and directors also meet this time of year for the combined Fall Board Meeting and Annual Meeting and election of officers for the new fiscal year. The association will be studying business models and, as needed, may retain a business consultant specializing in nonprofit associations to develop a new strategic member-service-based business plan. The need, criteria and skill set for the executive director position will be examined.

The association will take all the time needed to find the best plan that will fit the needs of the association and its members. Meanwhile, former Executive Director Joel Jackson, will continue to serve the association as communications director with the main responsibilities of working on our publications and communications.

The results of the election of officers for the 2013-14 fiscal year: President Kevin Sunderman, Vice-President Bill Davidson, CGCS, Secretary-Treasurer David Dore-Smith and Immediate Past President Nancy Miller, CGCS. Past President Mark Kann was not able to attend because of a family emergency. The board appreciates Mark's board service to the association and his organization and administration of the BMP Certification program.

### **2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **NOVEMBER**

Nov. 9 CFGCSA Vendor/Supt Meeting, TBA

### **DECEMBER**

Dec. 6 Calusa Christmas Charity

Tournament, Stoneybrook GC CFGCSA Crowfoot Open,

**Grand Cypress** 

Dec. 16 NFGCSA Christmas Golf Tourna-

ment, Deerwood GC

December SFGCSA Holiday Outing, Flamingo

Lakes, TBA

December Palm Beach Toys for Tots Event, TBA

#### **JANUARY 2014**

Jan. 21 PGA Merchandise Demo Day, Or-

ange County National GC

Jan. 22-24 PGA Merchandise Show, Orange County Convention Center

#### **FEBRUARY 2014**

Feb. 3-6 GCSAA Golf Industry Show, Orlando

Feb. 6 FGCSA Reception, B.B. King's House

of Blues, Pointe Orlando

# **FGCSA Golf Championship**

All work and no play makes superintendents dull guys! So every year –usually in August – FGCSA members gather for fun, networking and serious golf. The 2013 Championship held at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City was a history maker in two ways. It was the first time every chapter in the state participated, and superintendent aka "golf pro" Deron Zendt won his fourth state champion title and his spot on the Florida team for the GCSAA Golf Championship in February.



Congratulations to Deron Zendt for shooting a remarkable 69 to win the 2013 FGCSA Championship and a spot on the FGCSA Golf Team to compete in the 2014 GCSAA Golf Championships next February in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.



The Palm Beach Chapter won the Jimmy Blackledge Trophy 3-2 in the Ryder Cup-style match. Winning their matches, from left: Robert Anderson, Shannon Wheeler and host superintendent Mark Heater. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Led by Zendt's low score of 69, the Palm Beach Team #1 captured the Chapter Team Trophy at the FGCSA Golf Championship held Aug. 23 at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City. From the left: Steve Wright, Deron Zendt, Steve Bernard, Robert Anderson and Mark Heater. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Kasey Kauff, Country Club of Orlando (right) accepts the Low Net Superintendent prize from FGCSA Golf Chairman Joe Ondo at the FGCSA Golf Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Joe Ondo (left) congratulates John Swaner of Golf Agronomics for winning the Low Vendor title in the Supplier Division of the FGCSA Golf Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Individual Stroke Play winners at the Palm Beach GCSA & South Florida GCSA Joint Meeting and Golf Challenge, from the left: Joe Hubbard, Low Net Vendor; Matt Tacilauskas, Low Gross Superintendent and Kevin Downing, Low Gross Vendor. Not pictured was John Gallagher, Low Net Superintendent. Photo by Joel Jackson

# IN MEMORIAM

This past spring we lost two of our legendary superintendents who served their chapters and our industry well. We take a moment to remember them, their leadership and their service.

#### Adam Yurigan, Jr.

Adam was born in Turtle Creek, Pa. and attended the University of Pittsburgh. On June 5, 1943 he married Elizabeth Barnes. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II and was discharged in 1945.

Adam was in the golf industry for 70 years. In the 1940s through the 1970s he held positions as golf professional and superintendent at a number of courses in Iowa. He eventually migrated to Florida and became the superintendent at the Rio Pinar CC in Orlando. Later he moved to the east coast and worked at the Johns Island Club, Hawks Nest GC and as a

consultant to the Vero Beach CC.

Adam was passionate about giving back to the community and to the golf industry. He was a mentor to many starting out in the golf course business. He was an active member of the Rotary Club, PGA of America and the GCSAA. Adam was one of the founding members and first president of the Central Florida GCSA and he also was a member of the Treasure Coast GCSA.

#### Al Ross, CGCS

Al Ross was born in New York and attended Farmingdale State University, majoring in golf course turf management. Shortly after graduation he moved to Florida to start his career as a turf manager.

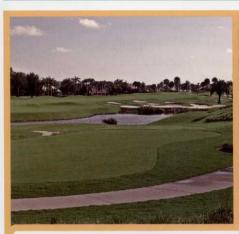
At that time his mother lived in New Port Richey, and learning of Al's plans she made some inquiries on his behalf concerning jobs in the area. Chuck McCracken at Beacon Woods GC hired Ross as his assistant. and Ross was there for construction through grow-in and then some. Five years later Ross got his first head superintendent job at Inverness where he stayed for two and a half years.

Ross then relocated to the Sunrise CC in Ft. Lauderdale where he remained for 19 years. In 1986 he joined the South Florida GCSA and served as president in 1991-92. He continued his board service beyond his presidency, assisting with education planning, serving at the will of the chapter.

He valued the networking and exchange of ideas at monthly meetings, which he felt helped him fine-tune his programs and efficiency on the job. His favorite SFGCSA event was the annual benefit event for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, because it was a very worthy cause benefitting the children in the community.

Ross is survived by his wife Candace and their children, Alfred, Courtney and Melissa.

(Editor's Note: Thanks to Bob Klitz and his article on Al Ross in the Summer 1999 Florida Green for information on Al's life and contributions.)





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## **Darren Davis Receives FGCSA President's Award**

During the Everglades GCSA annual meeting at the Imperial Golf Club in July, Darren J. Davis received the FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service from the chapter.

The stated purpose of the President's award is: "...to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affair, with 20 or more years of service to the turfgrass industry"

In his letter of nomination of Davis to the Florida GCSA, chapter president David Dore-Smith said, "Darren has been on the forefront of both local and state issues concerning turfgrass management and helping to promote the professionalism of the industry as a whole.

"Darren is widely respected within local, state and national circles for his dedication to turfgrass management and was recently recognized as one of the 10 most influential people of the industry.

"Using both the local and state director and officer positions as experience, Darren has now engaged successfully with a position on the National Board of Directors with the GCSAA. Once again, confirming his dedication and commitment to turfgrass management."

Davis was elected to a two-year term on the GCSAA Board of Directors February 7, 2013, at the association's annual meeting in San Diego. He was first appointed to the board of directors at the 2012 annual meeting in Las Vegas.

Davis has been the golf course superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, since 1992. Previously he was an assistant superintendent at the Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter, Fla. Additional professional experience includes two stints at the Augusta National Golf Club, the first serving as an apprentice superintendent in 1990 and returning as the IPM technician in 1991.

A 23-year GCSAA member, Davis is the past president of the Everglades GCSA, and a past president of the Florida



From left: Everglades President David Dore-Smith presents Darren Davis with a 2013 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service at the chapter's annual meeting in July. Photo by Bob Toski.

GCSA and Florida Turfgrass Association. He is currently a director with the Musser International Turfgrass Foundation. In 2004, the FGCSA honored him with its Distinguished Service Award, and in 2011 the FTGA presented Davis with the Wreath of Grass - the association's highest award.

A native of Tallahassee, he earned a turfgrass management certificate from Penn State University in 1991, graduating with highest distinction. He also obtained an associate of arts degree from Tallahassee Community College in 1987, and in 2007, Florida Gulf Coast University conferred upon him a bachelor of arts degree in communication (summa cum laude).

(Editor's Note: Davis also served as the editor of the FTGA magazine, The Florida Turf Digest, for several years and he has been a regular contributor to the FGCA's magazine, The Florida Green, submitting "Super Tips" and photographs, sharing innovative ideas on equipment and turf management programs with his peers.)



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