Wrapping up 2012

Representatives of the major golf equipment companies discussed the future and implication of the new EPA Tier 4 regulations on engine emissions at the Suncoast-West Coast GCSA joint meeting at the September meeting. From left: John Deere’s Kreg Kinney, Toro’s Grant Young and Jacobsen’s Chuck Grief. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Suncoast/West Coast Joint Meeting
The Suncoast GCSA hosted the Florida West Coast chapter at the Ritz Carlton GC in Bradenton for an educational session on Tier 4 engine emissions with representatives of Toro, John Deere and Jacobsen on hand to discuss the coming changes to golf course equipment. Following lunch, both chapters competed in a Ryder Cup-style match for the 2nd Annual “Beyond the Bridge” Cup. The team scores ended up tied; therefore the Suncoast retained the cup it won last year in St. Petersburg.

FTGA Conference
This year’s FTGA Conference and Show was the site for the second Golf BMP Training and Testing Session. The session was well attended and the number of Golf BMP-certified superintendents continues to climb steadily. During the conference, Ralph Dain, GCSAA Regional Representative for Florida, presented the FTGA’s highest service honor award the “Wreath of Grass,” to Greg Pheneger from the John’s Island Club in Vero Beach.

Long time Florida golf course superintendent and current GCSAA Regional Representative Ralph Dain, left, introduced and presented John’s Island Director of Golf Operations and FTGA Past President Greg Pheneger with the 2012 FTGA Wreath of Grass Award at the FTGA Conference and Show in Orlando in late September. Photo Courtesy of Leading Edge Communications.
South Florida GCSA
For the past 28 years, the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association has sponsored an annual golf tournament that benefits the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Florida Regional Office, located in Lake Park. This year’s tournament, held at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club Oct. 19, raised $25,000, bringing the 28-year total to more than $392,000 to support local programs and services.

North Florida
Now that GCSAA has added a fifth member to the golf teams participating in the National GCSAA Golf Championship in February, Florida needed an official fifth event to allow members to qualify for the team. The North Florida GCSA stepped up and created the North Florida Fall Classic, a two-day event of education, networking and golf. This year the event was held at the Omni Resort on Amelia Island. The education session was a success with speakers Todd Lowe, USGA Green Section; David Dougherty, International Sport Turf Research Center; Gary Grigg of Grigg Brothers Fertilizer; Paul Vermuelin of the PGA Tour Agronomy staff and Tom Vlach, superintendent of TPC of Sawgrass. The trophy (Crash Cup) for the golf tournament the next day was named in honor of Edward “Crash” Hall, one of the founding members of the North Florida chapter. Scott Scamehorn, CGCS from the Mountain Lake GC in Lake Wales shot a respectable 70 to take home the trophy and win the first-ever NGCSA Fall Classic.

The SFGCSA presented a $25,000 check to Nancy McBride, national safety director for Missing and Exploited Children. From left: Back Row: Bryan Singleton, SFGCSA vice president; Billy Entwistle, Joe Pantaleo, Marcus Prevatte, Ricky Reeves, SFGCSA President. Front Row: Lissa Donald-Minus, SFGCSA association manager and Nancy McBride. Photo courtesy of the SFGCSA.

Crash Cup Tournament Chairman Jay McCord, left, presented Mountain Lake GC Superintendent Scott Scamehorn with the very first Crash Cup trophy. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Speakers at the NFGCSA Fall Classic education session were, from left: TPC @ Sawgrass Director of Agronomy Tom Vlach, USGA Green Section Agronomist Todd Lowe, Grigg Bros. Foliar VP Gary Grigg and PGA Tour Director of Competition Agronomy Paul Vermuelen. Not pictured: David Dougherty, CEO of the International Sports Turf Research Center. Photo by Joel Jackson.
West Coast
The Feather Sound Golf Club hosted the West Coast GCSAs 2012 Bud Quandt Tournament Oct. 8. The event managed to finish before an afternoon storm drenched the course. This event is the primary fundraiser for turf research and charitable donations made by the chapter. This year a traveling team from the Suncoast Chapter won the event. In an act of pure class, the champs donated their winnings back to the fundraising cause.

Everglades
On Oct.19, the Everglades Chapter continued its support for environmental education programs for the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed by helping to host and sponsor the annual CREW Tournament at the Old Corkscrew Golf Club in Ft. Myers. It’s been exciting to see other companies and groups help to sponsor this event making a truly cooperative regional event.

Central Florida
The CFGCSA’s Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open at Grand Cypress moved from August to December this year. Superintendents and vendors from all over Florida attended and witnessed Jason Regan from Boca Pointe CC win the Crowfoot Trophy and the last spot on the FGCSA Golf Team going to the GCSA Championship in San Diego. Local superintendent Kevin Rotti, a CFGCSA past president received the Larry Kamphaus Award for service and dedication to family, job and community.

From left: Tom Alex, Crowfoot Open host, presented the 2012 Larry Kamphaus Award to longtime Central Florida superintendent, Kevin Rotti. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Jan 11  FTGA, Tampa
Jan 11  Suncoast Vendor Appreciation Day, Plantation GC
Jan 12  FTGA, Ft. Myers
Jan 17  FTGA, Ocala
Jan 18  SRGCSA Meeting, Continental GC
Jan 18  SFGCSA Meeting, Crandon Park GC
Jan 25-28  PGA Merchandise Show, Orlando
Jan 28  UF Turf Club Golf Tournament, Gainesville

Feb 7  FTGA, Orlando
Feb 8  FTGA, Lake Worth
Feb 8  SRGCSA Meeting, Williston Highlands GC
Feb 9  FTGA, Plantation
Feb 21  FTGA, Milton
Feb 23  FTGA, Jacksonville
Feb 24-25  GCSSA Golf, Palm Springs
Feb 27-Mar 3 GCSSA GIS, Las Vegas

Mar 1  FGCSA Reception, Mirage, Las Vegas
Mar 20  EGCSA Education & Dinner Meeting, Pelican Bay
Mar 22  SFGCSA Turf Expo, Ft. Lauderdale IFAS REC
Mar 22  Golf BMP Training & Exam Session, UF/IFAS, Citra
Mar 29  Suncoast Scramble, TBA

Apr 5  EGCSA Spring Symposium, Naples
Apr 16  SFGCSA Envirotoron Classic, World Woods

Jason Regan, superintendent of the Boca Pointe CC, shot a 75 to win the 2012 Crowfoot Open and a spot on the FGCSA golf team. Photo by Joel Jackson.