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FALL 2015



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The Florida Green

Fall 2015

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ON THE COVER: #3 hole, Eagle Course, The Oaks Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FOREWORDS

Service Honors Our Debt to Those Who Came Before

"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has a moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."

- President Theodore Roosevelt

A friend recently shared this wonderful quote with me after hearing of my involvement with the Florida GCSA and I couldn't agree with it more. Like many of us, I have been extremely fortunate with the opportunities and support this industry has afforded me both personally and professionally. So it is my honor to give back as your new president.

I am surrounded by some exceptional individuals who dedicate their own time and effort to provide you with the many benefits of being a member of the Florida GCSA. Our board members bring a rich variety of education, experience and personalities. It will be our challenge to continue the road map laid out by the many individuals that have come before us and that have made our association one of the strongest in the country.

Our goals for the coming year include continued efforts with government relations by providing timely and understandable information. We will also continue with the Best Management Practices classes and will also update the BMP manual. We will provide relevant research data to our members, continue to improve our communication with our members and supporting vendors as well as work to increase the value of belonging to the Florida GCSA to our members, who now number more than 860.



David Dore-Smith

The leadership and business skills of our executive director, Jennifer Bryan, have been outstanding again over the past 12 months with the association strengthening in both membership numbers and financial stability. I encourage you to reach out to Jennifer with any questions, comments or compliments because she is here to help you in any way possible. Jennifer will continue to visit chapters throughout the year and provide updates at the local level.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Trent Bouts as our new editor of The Florida Green. Trent comes to us with great experience working with other state associations including the Carolinas GCSA and Georgia GCSA. He also writes for several other golf industry publications. I look forward to his fresh ideas and ways in which we can engage you with relevant information.

Trent will be visiting several events during the year in an effort to develop personal relationships and become familiar with issues that can be reported in future issues of the magazine. I encourage you to become active in the future of your magazine by providing insight, ideas, suggestions and issues that your fellow superintendents can benefit from.

Once again, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president and look forward to seeing you at one of the many great events held throughout the state. I am honored to serve this "organization that is striving to improve conditions" for all members.

FROM THE FORWARD TEES

Challenges Create Opportunities



By: Jennifer Bryan, FGCSA Executive Director

Bill Davidson may have been speaking to a small crowd at the Florida GCSA roundtable after our annual

meeting in Orlando but the issue in question was, and is, a big one for golf course superintendents. As outgoing president of the association, Bill's last word from the stage was basically a heads-up for his colleagues on proposed changes to overtime laws.

The federal government wants to make more workers eligible for overtime pay. The proposed rule likely means some assistant superintendents will qualify for time and half pay for work beyond 40 hours. Bill wanted to be sure that everyone knew what was in the pipeline.

From my point of view, this was very typical of Bill and speaks to his commitment to the profession. We have been fortunate to have him at the helm this past year and I personally appreciate his efforts and leadership very much.

For those who weren't there at Reunion Resort that night, here is what Bill was talking about. This summer, the Department of Labor proposed raising the threshold for

which salaried workers become exempt from overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$55,440. That means salaried workers, no matter what their title, would qualify for overtime if they earned less than the new number.

There was a 60-day comment period on the proposed rule but most observers expect a quick turnaround on this issue with a final rule coming into effect sometime in 2016. Experts estimate that more than five million workers would become overtime eligible under these plans. It is worth noting that the proposed rule also raises the "highly paid" exemption from \$100,000 to \$120,000. That could see some superintendents becoming eligible for overtime.

GCSAA has been monitoring this issue and was weighing in during the comment period, along with the National Golf Course Owners Association, Club Managers Association of America and others. Among points GCSAA put forward was that the golf industry is subject to a wide range of seasonality and pay levels vary across the country. GCSAA also said that bonuses and commissions should be considered when calculating overall compensation to determine whether a worker is eligible for overtime.

Clearly, there are a lot of complex issues for golf course superintendents

and their facilities to deal with at the moment. The fact is that trend is only likely to grow in the years ahead. While these issues create headaches and burdens for golf course superintendents, they also create a kind of opportunity. In many cases, superintendents are the ones stepping forward to lead their facilities and even the golf industry through the maze. Each time, superintendents are demonstrating just how valuable they are and how broad their skill sets are.

In Florida, superintendents have led the way on water use and conservation for a long time. We're at the forefront again with our BMPs for golf courses program. And, through GCSAA, we are part of the debate on overtime that has ramifications for a lot of golf course operations. That leadership comes from people like Bill Davidson and those I meet at the many local chapter events I travel to around the state.

No matter which course you are at today, you are better off because of the work that these leaders and others like them have done on behalf of the profession over many years. Let's support those people in any way we can – become BMP certified, volunteer for your local chapter, attend next year's roundtable: who knows what you might hear, or how you can help?



CORRECTION

An advertisement in the summer issue of *The Florida Green* incorrectly identified the presenting sponsors of The Blue Pearl Charity Golf Tournament at Bent Pine Golf Club. Hector Turf was the sole presenting sponsor of the event staged in partnership with the Treasure Coast GCSA. "We are extremely grateful for the backing of all our industry partners and the support we receive from Hector Turf is at the top of the list," says Treasure Coast GCSA president Matt Boyd from Orchid Island Golf and Beach Club. Bayer and Show Turf were platinum sponsors of The Blue Pearl.

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Chapter Round Up

Florida GCSA

Mark Jarrell, CGCS from Palm Beach National Golf and Country Club has received the President's Award for Lifetime Service from the Florida GCSA. Jarrell served as association president in 1992-93 and is widely respected as a person and as a professional.

Seven Rivers

Ron Palsgrove from Down To Earth is new president of the Seven Rivers GCSA. Palsgrove was elected at the association's annual meeting at Candler Hills Golf Club in June hosted by new vice-president Andy Jorgenson, CGCS. Jorgenson reports that membership has been slow coming in, but several new members have signed up.

Financials remain very positive for the chapter and investment accounts continue to grow. The Jeff Hayden Envirotron Golf Classic for turfgrass research fundraiser in April was very successful. Jorgenson says it was "one of the better years" in the event's recent history.

The board accepted a motion to donate \$5,000 to Dr. Bryan Unruh of the University of Florida to study the "effects of colored topdressing on soil temperature." The board also accepted a motion to purchase a Flir heat-detecting camera to be used in the study at UF's Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra.

Newly-elected leaders are president - Ron Palsgrove, Down-to-Earth; vice-president - Andy Jorgensen, CGCS On Top of the World Communities; secretary - Joel Fort, Rainbow's End Golf Club; treasurer - Rick Watts, Down-to-Earth; external vice-president and immediate past-president - Andy Jorgensen, CGCS On Top of the World Communities.

North Florida

More than 50 members defied a rainy day to attend the North Florida GCSA annual meeting and golf event at St. Johns Golf and Country Club in July. They managed to squeeze in a few holes of play between showers but most of the event was spent watching the U.S. Open Championship on television. Fortunately the beverage cart operation was transferred to the clubhouse which made for a fun, social gathering. Thanks to Nate Maurer and Mike Stevens for hosting the event.

More than \$3,000 was raised at the benevolent tournament in June. This was a record amount. Thanks to host superintendent Matt Howes and everyone else at the Creek Course at Hammock Dunes. Special thanks also to lunch sponsors Gary James of Howard Fertilizer and Jason Mulcahy of FMC and drinks sponsors Jayce Ramage of Pro Plus and Chris McCranie of Upstart Products.

At press time registrations were flowing in for the fourth annual Fall Classic at Amelia Island Plantation with Jason Wilson as host superintendent.



Deron Zendt, then Palm Beach GCSA president, presents Mark Jarrell, CGCS with the Florida GCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service.

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New Palm Beach GCSA president Shannon Wheeler with GCSAA government relations director Chava McKeel.

Back in June the Palm Beach GCSA presented a check for \$10,000 to The First Tee of the Palm Beaches at the 35th annual Future of Golf tournament. The event was hosted by Steve Pearson, CGCS at The Falls Golf and Country Club.

Later in the month was the 14th annual Palm Beach GCSA fishing tournament which attracted 23 boats and about 100 people. Anglers on the winning boat, Frantastic, were Duane Cyr, Dave Wanta, Royse Towner, Deron Zendt, Kevin Kelly and P.J. Nichols with a 52lb wahoo.

Palm Beach

David Tandy and his staff presented excellent course conditions for the Blackledge Trophy matches at Delray Dunes Golf and Country Club in August. Unfortunately for the Palm Beach GCSA, they lost the Ryder Cup style competition to the South Florida GCSA. There was strong attendance and sponsorship support. Earlier in the day, GCSAA's director of government relations Chava McKeel gave a very comprehensive presentation on the new Waters of the United States rule.

Earlier in the month, Jason Bagwell, Mark Heater, David Tandy, Steve Wright, CGCS and Deron Zendt retained the title for the Palm Beach GCSA in the Florida GCSA State Team Championship. Congratulations also of course to Deron for winning the individual championship shooting a 65 on the Watson Course at Reunion Resort.



Kevin Downing, CGCS, Karl Mistretta from The First Tee, Mark Reid and Deron Zendt at the check presentation during the Future of Golf event.



Some crew members from the winning boat at the fishing tournament Duane Cyr, P.J. Nichols, Royse Towner and Dave Wanta with their 52lb wahoo.

At press time the association was preparing for a joint meeting the Treasure Coast GCSA at PGA Golf Club hosted by Dick Gray. Golf on the Dye Course was to decide the winners of the Cavanaugh-Walker Cup.

The Palm Beach GCSA has invested in a Square credit card reader and an iPad mini to provide secure credit card payments at future events as a service to members.

Everglades

Bryce Koch from Cypress Lakes Country Club is new president of the Everglades GCSA. Koch was elected at the association's annual meeting at the Country Club of Naples where Bill Davidson, CGCS was host superintendent. It was a great day for Koch who also won the association's golf championship the same day.

In a message to members in advance of the meeting, outgoing president Nicholas von Hofen, CGCS from Collier's Reserve Country Club said the board had received "numerous



Bryce Koch accepts the Everglades GCSA golf championship trophy from Wayne Kappauf, CGCS.



The new Everglades GCSA board of directors front - Bryce Koch, Robert Toski, Stuart Bothe, Nicholas von Hofen, CGCS; middle - Aaron Ohloff, Wayne Kappauf, CGCS, Matt Gaudet, CGCS; back - Jason Zimmerman, CGCS, Sam Mueller, Kristen Conover, Matt Taylor, CGCS.

emails" over the year praising the association's work. Emails cited networking opportunities, quality education events, the assistant superintendent program, Robert Toski's camera work and overall camaraderie.

"With over 350 members, the Everglades GCSA remains one of the strongest affiliated chapters within the state," von Hofen wrote. "Our regular events have had record attendance



Bryce Koch accepts the Spainhour Cup from Calusa GCSA's Russell Clement.

throughout the year and with strong leadership to follow, the success of the Everglades GCSA will continue to grow."

In August, the Everglades GCSA won the Spainhour Cup

in the annual challenge against the Calusa GCSA with a 7½ to 4½ result. Despite some rain, host superintendent Chris Hughes had the course at Old Corkscrew Golf Club in great shape for the event.

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IN MEMORIAM

COLLEAGUES RALLY IN MEMORY OF GARRY HIGGINS

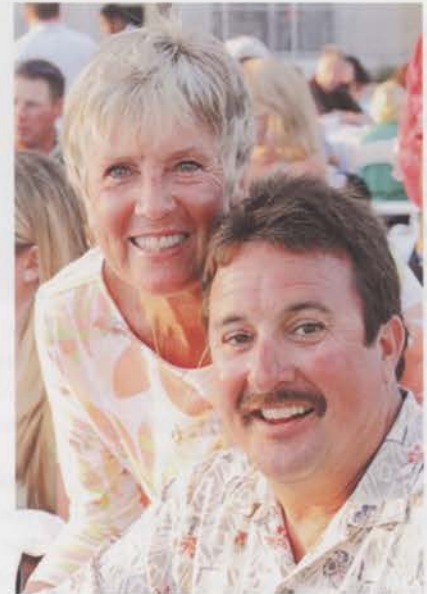
Golf course superintendents have rallied to support the family of colleague Garry Higgins, who died as the result of an accident at The Verandah Golf Club in Fort Myers. Higgins, 53, was superintendent at the club's Old Orange course since 2012. He spent more than 30 years in the golf course maintenance profession working at a number of facilities across south Florida.

The Florida GCSA, Calusa GCSA and Everglades GCSA all forwarded donations to the Higgins family. "Our prayers and sympathies go out to Garry's family and all of his many friends too," says Florida GCSA president David Dore-Smith from Copperleaf Golf Club in Bonita Springs. "Ours is a close fraternity and Garry's loss is felt by everyone within the golf course maintenance industry in the state."

An email to Verandah Club residents after the accident said: "The morning of July 5, while getting the golf courses prepared for play, Garry was involved in what at the time was thought to be a non-life threatening accident. But within a few days of the accident complications related to the injury began to develop and eventually Garry succumbed to those complications, passing yesterday July 19...He loved working with his crew and he enjoyed the relationships that he had developed with many of the members. But his true love was his family."

His wife of 27 years, Linn Higgins, described her husband's work as "his passion." "He was a smiling, happy-go-lucky guy," she said in a newspaper report. "Friends said if we could've bottled his laugh, it would've been awesome."

Garry M. Higgins was born July 2, 1962 in Mount Pleasant, IA to James and Carolyn Muscarelli Higgins. Known as "Skeeter" by friends, he is survived by his wife of 27 years, Linn Higgins; his daughter, Krista (Thad) Hardee of Fort Myers; his father, James Higgins of Fairfield, IA; his brothers and sisters, Cathy (Arschel) Morell of Baltimore, MD; Jimmy (Rachel) Higgins of Kennesaw, GA; Eddie Higgins of Bonita Springs; Ann (Scott) Hanshaw of Marietta, GA and Robbie (Michelle) Higgins of Fairfield, IA. He is also survived by his two grandsons, Colton and Hayden Hardee and several nieces and nephews.



The late Garry Higgins and wife, Linn.

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THE OAKS CLUB: A Residential Golf Sanctuary

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

The Oaks Club is a residential golf community located in the city of Osprey just south of Sarasota. A review of the club's website revealed some interesting facts about the club's origins and Florida history in general.

The land occupied by The Oaks Club is part of an 80,000-acre parcel of land purchased in 1910 by Mrs. Bertha Honore' Palmer, who was a celebrated Chicago socialite, businesswoman and philanthropist, known for her contributions to women's, children's and cultural initiatives. Her estate on the property along Little Sarasota Bay was simply named The Oaks.

Mrs. Palmer's purchase was spurred in part by her interest in Florida's winter climate. She encouraged wealthy friends and international associates to join her in wintering in Florida in what we now affectionately call our annual "Snowbird Migration." It also happens to be our busiest golf season thanks to the predominantly mild Florida winter weather.

Over the next several years, the Palmer family's real estate investments also included 19,000 acres that eventually became the city of Temple Terrace near Tampa and land that became the Myakka River State Park.

Fast forward to more recent history and we find that the actual development of The Oaks Club began in the early 1980s. You may recall that in the summer issue our story on

Homes bordering most of the golf course blend in with the natural look of the layout as seen on Eagle #11.

Photo by Joel Jackson.

Wyndemere Country Club was about the beginning of the 1980s golf boom in Florida prompted by real estate development of residential golf communities.

The Oaks Club has two 18-hole layouts, The Heron Course (1984) and The Eagle Course (2007). I was happy to see that while homes border the golf holes there is a scenic blend of landscaping and mature trees that create a pleasing green space for everyone's enjoyment, including wildlife.

When I arrived in early July to ride the course and interview Nick Kearns, I learned that the Heron Course is currently undergoing a complete renovation from top to bottom. Kearns said, "Originally there were approximately 100 drains on the Heron Course, after this project there will be over 340 drains to complement the new contours that will help prevent any standing water pockets on the course and along property lines."

The Eagle Course encircles the Heron Course and is known as the "Outer" course and so the Heron is called the "Inner" course. As I toured the Eagle, I could observe many of the holes on the Heron Course in various stages of





View of the Eagle's 7th green from a conservation area in the right rough. Photo by Joel Jackson.

grading and shaping.

With the renovation project under way and many of the members back up north for the summer, Kearns effectively communicates progress reports to the members by utilizing his hobby of drone photography to post weekly videos of the progress on the golf course on the club's blog site. Kearns picks holes where obvious changes have taken place to show how the course is changing. Kearns reported getting feedback from members saying they open the blog and skip right to the video link to see the changes to the layout.

Later I asked Kearns about turf selection for the renovated course. He said, "We will be using TifEagle on the greens, TifGrand on the collars and approaches and Celebration in the fairways and roughs. Meanwhile the Eagle Course is wall-to-wall Sea Isle Supreme paspalum."

This difference in grass types requires Kearns to use different management programs for each course. The basics remain similar but fertility, pest control and cultural practices are modified to address certain differences.

Kearns gave a few examples: "In our fertilizer applications both courses get a light nitrogen rate to control thatch with a 1:2 ratio of nitrogen to potassium on the bermudagrass and a 1:4 ratio on the paspalum.

"Culturally, we vent the greens biweekly with solid tines, but we punch more holes in the paspalum because it's harder to work our follow-up light topdressings into the denser Sea Isle turf. When we verticut we go very light or not at all on the paspalum depending on the weather. We get more aggressive on both turfs in the summer and will often circle-cut once a month.

"Our turf disease programs are different also. Since the paspalum is more susceptible to disease pressure we follow a regular fungicide application program while we do a more seasonal preventive program on

SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Meet Nick Kearns



Nick Kearns
Photo by Joel Jackson

Originally from: Lincoln, NE

Family: My wife Kerry and daughters Allison (6) and Anna (4)

Education: Associate degree in Horticulture with an emphasis in Turfgrass Management from Southeast Community College in Beatrice, NE.

Employment history: 2002-2003 turf graduate/student intern, Augusta National GC, Augusta, GA; 2003-2005 assistant superintendent Laurel Oak CC, Sarasota; 2005-2009 assistant superintendent Ritz-Carlton Members GC, Bradenton; 2009-2013 director of grounds Ritz-Carlton Members Golf Club; 2013 to present director of green and grounds The Oaks Club, Osprey.

Professional affiliations; groups, offices held, honors and awards: GCSAA member since 1999; Suncoast GCSA member since 2003. Suncoast GCSA chapter delegate at 2012 and 2015 GCSAA delegates meeting in Kansas City, KS. Suncoast GCSA board of directors service includes all offices, president 2013-2014. Masters Tournament volunteer 2004-2010; Players Championship tournament volunteer at TPC Sawgrass in 2004.

Honors and Awards: In 2014, the Southwestern PGA Chapter and the North Florida PGA Section both presented Kearns with 2014 Superintendent of the Year awards.

Goals/Accomplishments: Giving back to our profession with my Suncoast chapter service has been very satisfying. The renovation of the The Oaks Club courses is fulfilling a goal of mine to be on board for a full course physical and operational renovation. Another goal is to serve on the Florida GCSA board of directors.

Personal philosophy of work: Get involved with your local superintendent chapter. If you do anything, at least attend the meetings and network with fellow superintendents and vendors. Creating relationships with those involved in the same line of work can go a long way by hearing new ideas and ways to do your job better. More importantly your general manager and/or green chairman should encourage you to attend chapter meetings.

(Ed. Note: One method to foster that support is to report back to your club leadership about some of the new ideas and problem solutions that you learned at the chapter meetings.)

Best Golf Shot: Drove the green on the par 4, 13th hole at the Reunion Resort.

Hobbies and interests: Golf, fishing and beach trips with the family.



Scenic view of the 14th green from #15 fairway on the Eagle Course. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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the bermudagrass.”

Managing a total course renovation was one of Kearns’ career goals and he came on board just in time to sit in on the planning and approval process to launch the Heron project. He also brought some impressive practical hands-on experience of what it takes to manage and produce a quality product. He spent a year working at Augusta National Club as a turf student intern and after graduation. He also worked as volunteer at the Masters Tournament for seven years up to 2011.

Kearns’ education in golf course maintenance began back in his hometown of Lincoln, NE when Mike Hansen, superintendent of Yankee Hill Country Club hired him on the crew. At that time Kearns thought he might like a career in landscape architecture, but the more he got involved in turf maintenance he switched over to a turf management degree program.

When it was time to do internships, Kearns went to Augusta. Senior assistant superintendent Jim Evans became a friend and mentor and superintendent Brad Owen gave Kearns the chance to work at Augusta after he graduated.

Some of Kearns’ favorite Masters’ memories come from being stationed between the 12th green and 13th tee during the tournament. Here, away from the massive galleries, he could see and hear the players up close and personal. He also met CBS sportscaster Jim Nantz as he made his traditional Wednesday walk around the course in preparation for the broadcast.

While working at Augusta, Kearns met fellow intern, Zach Lane, who is now superintendent at Laurel Oak Country Club in Sarasota. He suggested Kearns come down to Florida and in 2003 Kearns did just that and took the job as assistant superintendent for two years under then-superintendent Adam Wright at Laurel Oak. In 2005, Kearns advanced to assistant superintendent at the new Ritz-Carlton Members Club in Bradenton where he worked until 2013 when he joined The Oaks Club.

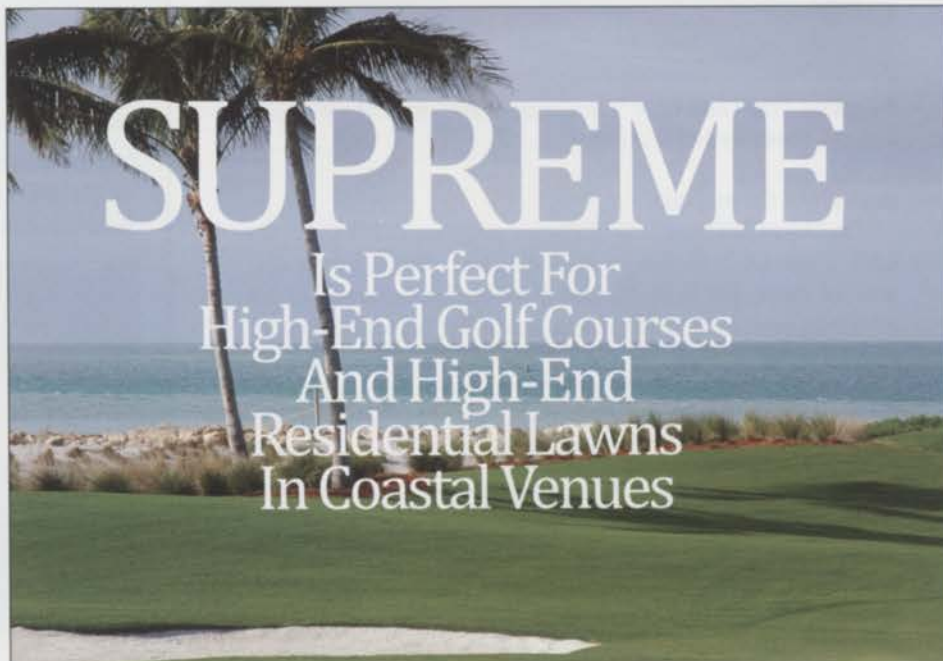
While directing a staff of 42 employees, Kearns is responsible for the two courses, clubhouse, tennis facility and common area grounds and practice facilities. He is responsible for financial planning, development and management of the

maintenance budget and for project and contractor oversight.

Kearns has another project under way, which is much smaller in scope, but also adds value and credibility to The Oaks Club as a productive green space. Kearns said that The Oaks Club is about one month away from attaining certified status in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program. He has enlisted the help and expertise of Brian

Beckner, owner and operator of Native Birdboxes, to install and maintain 24 birdhouses on the grounds.

Brian just happened to be there the day I was there. In fact as Kearns dropped me off at the clubhouse to get a golf cart to ride the course, Beckner drove up with Julia Schreuder, the club’s merchandising manager. Ms. Schreuder is an avid naturalist and she helps identify and photograph different bird species



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It's called "The Oaks Club" for a reason! First hole of the Eagle Course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

throughout the property.

"The Oaks Club began the birdhouse program in 2014," Beckner said. "There are 24 birdhouses including two existing bat houses and one osprey platform. The rest of the birdhouses are for eastern bluebirds, great crested flycatchers, red-bellied woodpeckers and screech owls."

"This first nesting season in 2015 has been very active with at least 50 percent of the boxes used for nesting. There was even a surprise as we found a tufted titmouse occupying a birdhouse intended for bluebirds. Two screech owlets fledged and most special was one osprey fledgling easily sighted by golfers."

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Bunker to the left and a lake to the right. Welcome to the par 4, 2nd hole on the Eagle Course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

NICK KEARNS FUN FACTS

Favorite meal: Sushi

Favorite performer(s): Johnny Depp

My fantasy is: To travel throughout Europe

The one thing I can't stand: People who are unprofessional, unprepared and disorganized

If I could change one thing about myself: Be a little less "hands-on" in some situations

Most humbling experience: The birth of our daughters

My best fish story: Using a pole net to catch a snook under a dock. I did a "catch and release!"

My most memorable golf shot: Drove the green on the par 4, 13th hole on the Watson Course at the Reunion Resort near Orlando.



Eastern screech owl in a nest box at The Oaks Club.





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The Oaks Club golf course maintenance staff. Photo submitted by The Oaks Club.

Course Name: The Oaks Club:
36 holes. Courses:

1. Eagle Course:

Yardage: 7,003 yards. **Par:** 72 Slope
Rating: 147/74.3.

2. Heron Course:

Yardage: 6,825 yards. **Par:** 72 Slope
Rating: 136/72.4. The Heron Course
is currently undergoing a total
renovation.

Location: Osprey

Ownership: Private equity golf course
Playing Policy: Private

Originally designed by: Willard C.
Byrd, ASGCA (Arthur Hills, ASGCA).
The Heron Course opened in 1984
and the Eagle Course was renovated in
2006. Hurdzan/Fry Design is currently
doing a major redesign and renovation
of the Heron course.

Management Team: Club manager Jeff
Hartigan; club president Chuck Clack;
green chairman; Frank Mineo; director
of golf Tim Beckwith and director of
green and grounds Nick Kearns.

Acreage under maintenance: 215

Turf specifications: Eagle Course:
Supreme paspalum throughout –
greens, tees, fairways and roughs.
Heron Course will be: TifEagle greens,
TifGrand collars and approaches and
Celebration tees, fairways and roughs.
No overseeding.

Heights of cut: Greens: Eagle Course -
.105-.120". Heron Course - .110-.125".
Green speed goal: 10-10.5 ft. Eagle
Course: Tees: 400-.500" (5 acres);
Fairways: 400-.500" (65 acres); Roughs:
1.25" (50 acres)

Bunkers: Eagle Course has 56 bunkers.
Sand type: G-Angle. Equipment: Toro
Sand Pro and hand raking.

Non-Turf Conservation areas/beds:
10 acres of crushed coquina rock cart
paths plus native grass beds.

Environmental Programs: We are about
one month away from achieving certified
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status.
We utilize the services of Brian Beckner
of Native Birdboxes. Brian installs and
services nest boxes and monitors bird
counts on the courses.

Waterways: There are 33 lakes and
ponds totaling 70 acres. An outside
contractor does the lake maintenance.

Irrigation: Water sources include
storm water runoff, reclaimed water
and wells. We have a Flowtronex
pump station and a Toro Lynx/850
series/Infinity control system. We also
have a fertigation system. Watering
restrictions: We follow the Florida golf
BMP irrigation program.

Staff: Total staff including
superintendent is 42 full time
employees budgeted for 40 straight
time hours per week.

Key Staff: Eagle superintendent
Eddie MacDonald and Heron
superintendent Dale Taylor and
assistant superintendent Tyler Johnson;
equipment manager Jason Ziegler;
irrigation technician Guillermo
Villegas and administrative assistant
Michelle Lippincott

Meetings: We have monthly golf and
greens committee meetings



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FLORIDA FAREWELLS JOHN FOY, A GENTLEMAN'S GENTLEMAN

Tears welled in John Foy's eyes as outgoing Florida GCSA president Bill Davidson, CGCS threw an arm around him in front of a small crowd making a big noise with their applause. "John was the Google guy on turf before there was Google," Davidson told those gathered at Reunion Resort in Orlando in August. "He was the go-to-guy with the wealth of knowledge he possessed. And the thousands of guys whose lives he's touched are all better off because of it."

Foy, 60, retires this fall after a 30-year career as one of the pre-eminent agronomists with the USGA Green Section. As Davidson indicated with his clearly heartfelt words, a lot of people will be sorry to see him go. Indeed, the Florida GCSA recognized Foy and his wife, Shelly, who is his office manager, with the Marie Roberts lifetime achievement award in 2009. "The guy has dedicated his life to

us," Davidson, from the Country Club of Naples, said.


One of those sorry to contemplate Foy's looming absence is Roy MacDonald from Hobe Sound Golf Club. Both men were a lot younger when Foy first arrived in Florida renting an apartment "right around the corner" from where MacDonald was working at the time. They quickly became "golf buddies." "I miss him already," says MacDonald, a Treasure Coast GCSA past-president and former Florida GCSA director.

Recently, MacDonald hosted a Treasure Coast GCSA outing in Foy's honor at Hobe Sound Golf Club. The association presented Foy with a \$1,000 gift certificate at the club's pro shop. The Palm Beach GCSA also hosted an event for Foy and in November, Rob Kloska, a longtime friend and director of golf course, grounds and tennis maintenance at The Jupiter Island

Club, will host a party celebrating Foy's career.

Foy is a popular man, "a gentleman's gentleman," MacDonald says, or as Kloska puts it, "a gentler soul." But being liked will only get you so far. The real secret to Foy's longevity in a tough role is his professionalism. He has literally called on thousands of courses and superintendents over his career, often only after something has gone wrong and initial attempts at a remedy have failed.

"John's not one who ever sugar-coated things," says Kevin Downing, CGCS a Florida GCSA past-president now with 3 Putt Services in West Palm Beach. "But he knew how to say things in a way that weren't detrimental to the superintendent or the club. It's not easy to walk that line. He never ignored the issue but he was always very diplomatic in how he dealt with it. You've got to be an artist to do that."



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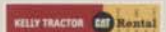
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I'm really going to miss him."

Kloska echoes those sentiments. "John is a great listener and he's not pushy," Kloska says. "His approach and his delivery earned him a lot of respect. He's more likely to offer suggestions as one professional to another so guys have always had a comfort level with John. He's not afraid to tell you what you need to hear but he does it at the right time and in the right place."

Kevin Downing always acknowledged and appreciated Foy's deft touch in delicate situations when personalities and club politics could raise the stakes on whatever the issue might be on the golf course. But since he now finds himself writing reports in a consulting role, his respect for Foy has grown even deeper.

"One word, the wrong word, can turn the whole thing around in terms how someone might take an entire report," Downing says. "John is a master of negotiating all the politics so everybody gets to the right outcome. He never worried about



John Foy receives a plaque of appreciation from Florida GCSA outgoing president Bill Davidson, CGCS.

billable hours too much. He has a passion for the game as much as he has a passion for turf. He would do all he could to assist. He's that kind of guy." Foy concedes there were "occasions" during his career when he was brought in to perform a turf advisory visit only to discover that the club had their superintendent in the cross-hairs. "Being the hatchet man wasn't my job," Foy says. "Our role was to analyze the problem and offer solutions. We were going to focus on the agronomic issues, not personnel issues." Finding the steady ground during those potentially contentious times was made easier by the basic philosophy Foy applied to his work, he says. "The whole goal was always simply to try and help."

Overwhelmingly though, his rear-vision mirror is filled with positive reflections. "Golf course superintendents are a great group of people," he says. "I've made so many friends over the

Matt Taylor from Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples watches John Foy at work.



John Foy, right, digs deep during a visit with Russell Clement at Pelican Preserve Golf Club in Fort Myers.

years. I will certainly miss being able to see them as much as my work has allowed me to do. Being able to help guys achieve what they want to achieve with their golf course and helping those clubs be the best they can be is very rewarding."

If there is any regret, it is one that is all too common among those who work in the golf industry. Foy hasn't played as much golf as he might have liked. Some years he was making in the vicinity of 140 course visits a year. "I

dictated my reports then wrote them up when I got back," he says. "And of course I talk slow so that always took longer than it should, which maybe didn't leave me as much time for golf as there could have been."

Foy had his sights on being a golf course superintendent when he first came out of college in 1977 but the economy was reeling as a result of the gas crisis. Assistant superintendent opportunities were scarce and when a couple of interviews failed to provide a job, he joined a major lawn care company. Less than fulfilled, he went back to school and was graduated by the University of Georgia in 1980 with a Master of Science degree in Plant Protection and Pest Management.

He started with the USGA Green Section in 1985, moving



to Florida where the job grew to a point that the USGA separated Florida from the Southeast section. Since 2001, Foy has served as the championship agronomist for the International Golf Federation and assisted in advanced and daily course preparations for the World Amateur Team Championships.

One of Foy's final tasks will be the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship at John's Island Club hosted by Greg Pheneger in October. Then he will retire and turn his focus on building a house and making a home on three acres in tiny Rutland, GA near Madison where both he and Shelly grew up. He's looking forward to a big garden where he can grow vegetables for the cooking he plans to do. "I'm not disappearing completely but I do plan to slow things down a bit," he says.

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Joel Jackson, CGCS and wife Susan with a farewell memento from the Florida GCSA.

Jackson Heading West After Long Career

For as long as some can remember, Joel Jackson has been as integral to the identity of the Florida GCSA as the push-mowing gator on the association logo. He was one of several individuals honored at a reception after the association's annual meeting at Reunion Resort in Orlando in August. Jackson, CGCS has retired as editor of *The Florida Green* ending a run of service that stretches back deep into the '80s.

"For so long, Joel was like the engine of the car," outgoing Florida GCSA president Bill Davidson, CGCS told the audience. "You don't see it. You just get in the car and drive knowing it's going to take you where you want to go. Joel was instrumental in bringing the Florida GCSA to prominence with the things he did that you guys never got to see. He shepherded us into the era we enjoy today."

Jackson spent 20 years with Walt Disney World either side of a three-year stint as superintendent at Isleworth Golf and Country Club in Windermere. He joined

the board of the Florida GCSA and served as president in 1989-90. After retiring as a superintendent in 1998, he became communications director and, in 2007, executive director until 2013. He was editor *The Florida Green* from 1990 until now. He was recognized with the association's Distinguished Service Award in 1992.

Davidson presented Jackson with a clock from the Florida GCSA. Jackson and his wife Susan are moving to California to be near their daughter. "I did my best to spread the word," Jackson said. "Just to let everyone know that we as superintendents were out there, that we cared and we wanted to serve."

Service was another strong theme when the association recognized USGA Green Section agronomist John Foy (see story page 18) Foy was honored for his long service to the golf course superintendent profession and the wider golf industry.

Kevin Sunderman from Isla Del Sol Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg was



Kevin Sunderman speaks after being honored for his service to the board



Florida GCSA's new executive committee consists of immediate past-president Bill Davdison, CGCS, secretary-treasurer John Curran, president David Dore-Smith and vice-president Ricky Reeves.

also honored after finishing his term as immediate part-president of the association. Davidson said Sunderman was a major factor in why the association was "such a powerhouse" today. Davidson also paid tribute to Sunderman's cool head and clear vision "during times of crisis."

Bruce Witt, longtime educator at Florida Gateway College, formerly known as Lake City Community College, was honored posthumously with the Marie Roberts Award for lifetime achievement. Witt died at age 63 in November, 2014 from melanoma. He taught at Lake City for 27 years. There he helped kick-start the careers of many successful golf course superintendents and others in the landscape and sports turf management fields.

The presentations followed an hour-long panel session moderated by new editor of *The Florida Green*, Trent Bouts. Panelists included Davidson, Sunderman, John Foy and Todd Lowe from the USGA Green Section, Dr. Bryan Unruh from the University of Florida,

Steve Wright, CGCS from Pine Tree Golf Club and GCSAA director Darren Davis, CGCS from Olde Florida Club.

Earlier in the day, David Dore-Smith from Copperleaf Golf Club in Bonita Springs was elected president. There are also five new directors in place

of those elected 12 months earlier. They are Mark Thomas from Kelly Greens Golf and Country Club (Calusa), Aaron Ohloff from Wyndemere Country Club (Everglades), Andy Jorgensen, CGCS from On Top of the World (Seven Rivers) and Nick Kearns from The Oaks Club (Sun Coast).



Steve Wright, CGCS and Dr. Brian Unruh look on as USGA Green Section agronomist Todd Lowe responds to a question for the panel.

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Deron's Game is Heaven Zendt

DERON ZENDT WITH THE FLORIDA GCSA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY THAT NOW BEARS HIS NAME SIX TIMES.

Deron Zendt stood on the other side of the golf ball the first few times he swung a club. His father was a left-hander, which didn't really leave the kid much choice. But then a relative dug out and donated some old right-handed Wilson Persimmons and things began quickly falling into place.

Zendt, golf course superintendent at Banyan Golf Club in West Palm Beach, was "10 or 11" at the time. He started playing alongside his father on his regular Sunday outings at the local public course in central Pennsylvania. The early signs were encouraging. "I was fortunate to be blessed with a knack for the game," Zendt says.

Today, Zendt is 37 and that "knack" has helped him become one of the best superintendent golfers, not just in Florida, but in the entire country. In 2014 he won GCSAA's national championship and this July, won the Florida GCSA championship. His bogey-free, seven-under par round of 65 at Reunion Resort in Orlando featured seven birdies. It was the lowest tournament round of his career but hardly his first look at the trophy. In fact it was his sixth.

That kind of form on top of a win in the Everglades GCSA Poa Annuu Classic in May prompted a buzz about the possibility of a "Florida GCSA slam." That would mean going on also to win the Florida Turfgrass Association championship, the North Florida GCSA Fall Classic and the Central Florida GCSA Crowfoot Open.

Talk of a slam may be moot by the time you read this – with at least one of those events decided since – but at press time Zendt was at least wondering what it might be like. "It would be quite an achievement given that playing golf is a perk of my everyday job," he says. "I tell everybody I'm a golf nut who works on a golf course. That's a nice combination."

According to widespread belief, a golf course superintendent who plays the game is at a professional advantage because he gets to see his handiwork from a consumer's perspective and can mix with them as well. But most superintendents don't play as well as Zendt does and nor do most golfers. For them the game can be hard work, and getting better takes a lot of practice. Perhaps as a result, Zendt frequently hears jibes – mostly good-natured – about how he must be playing more than he's working.

Well, remember that "knack?" Here's one dictionary definition: "A particular skill, especially one that might be innate or intuitive and therefore difficult to teach." Sounds like golf to most of us who are born without it. Zendt, though, clearly has it. "I'm fortunate to have grown into my game ... a late bloomer of sorts," he says.

Sure, he plays, but no more than many other superintendents. It's just that with the quality of his game, his playing makes news and attracts attention. The golf course definitely comes before his game.



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Scramble winners Gary Newcomb and Josh Waring.

"Most folks enjoy seeing someone playing the game well and my members do," he says. "I try to play with them as much as I can and try to play with as many different groups as possible. But sometimes I have to say 'no' because work comes first."

In addition to his hardware from superintendent events, Zendt, who moved to Florida from Pennsylvania in 2004, has two Palm Beach County mid-amateur titles to his name, along with several best-ball titles. He has competed in the Florida State Amateur Championship



Reunion Resort's host superintendent Robert Guerra.

as well, but some of his most enjoyable "competition" is with fellow superintendents like Strickland, Bryce Koch from Cypress Lakes Country Club in Fort Myers and Steve Bernard from Adios Golf Club in Coconut Creek.

"Sure, there's a friendly rivalry there," Zendt laughs. "But I think we all realize that our profession comes before our pastime. So we don't practice or play as much as you need to get the very best out of your game. It's all in good fun."



The team champions from Palm Beach GCSA, from left, Steven Wright, CGCS, David Tandy, Jason Bagwell, Mark Heater and Deron Zendt.

GOLF RESULTS

CHAMPIONSHIP GROSS:

- | | | |
|---|--|----|
| 1 | Deron Zendt, Banyan Golf Club | 65 |
| 2 | Jim Torba, Wilderness Country Club | 73 |
| 3 | Seth Strickland, Miami Shores Country Club | 75 |

CHAMPIONSHIP NET:

- | | | |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | Mike Stevens, Billy Casper Golf | 78-15-63 |
| 2 | Nate Maurer, St. Johns Golf and Country Club | 87-18-69 |
| 3 | Nick Kearns, The Oaks Club | 85-14-71 |

SCRAMBLE:

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Gary Newcomb, Big Cypress Golf Club
Josh Waring, Trigon Turf Sciences | 61 |
| 2 | Dion Pearce, Pathway Biologic
Chester Vandenberg, Dow AgroSciences | 64 |
| 3 | Sean Klotzbach, Harrell's
Jason Morris, Orange County National Golf Center | 66 |

TEAMS:

GROSS:

Palm Beach	302
Deron Zendt, Banyan Golf Club	65-0-65
Jason Bagwell, Gleneagles Country Club	78-5-73
Mark Heater, Addison Reserve Country Club	80-5-75
David Tandy, Delray Dunes Golf and Country Club	79-4-75
Steve Wright, CGCS Pine Tree Golf Club	85-5-80

NET:

North Florida	290
Mike Stevens, Billy Casper Golf	78-15-63
Nate Maurer, St. Johns Golf and Country Club	87-18-69
Bill Griffith, The Golf Club at North Hampton	85-10-75
Casey Kelly, Eastpointe Country Club	101-18-83

CLOSEST TO THE PIN:

- No. 3 - Bryce Koch, Cypress Lakes Country Club
No. 12 - Seth Strickland, Miami Shores Country Club

IN THE NEWS

Excerpts from press coverage on people in the world of golf course maintenance in Florida.



DERON ZENDT

Banyan Golf Club
West Palm Beach

Palm Beach Post, July 9

Just because he spends most of his waking hours at a golf course doesn't mean a superintendent is going to excel at golf. But Deron Zendt fits that description as one of the 129 entrants in the 39th annual Palm Beach County Amateur today through Sunday at Banyan Golf Club and Mayacoo Lakes Golf Club in West Palm Beach. Zendt, 37, has been superintendent at the hidden jewel of a course off Lyons Road since 2008.

"I've been preparing the course for the whole field, and now I get to enjoy that benefit as well," Zendt said. "Hosting an event like this is close to hosting a major for me. The club gets exposure, and it's a good time of year to do it."

After spending three years as assistant superintendent at Lebanon Country Club following his graduation from Penn State, he headed to Riviera in Los Angeles for a year before coming to South Florida, where he spent four years at MacArthur Golf Club in Hobe Sound and six months at Old Marsh in Palm Beach Gardens before getting his first superintendent job at Banyan.

**Zendt, who has a couple of previous top 10s in the event, made the cut finished tied for 33rd.*

SHANNON WHEELER

Wycliffe Country Club
Wellington

The Palm Beach Post, July 18

Look no further than Shannon Wheeler at Wycliffe Country Club as proof that the position of golf course superintendent is about a lot more than mowing fairways and aerating greens nowadays.

Wheeler, 41, who took over as president of the Palm Beach County Golf Course Superintendents Association this past week, has a business degree from North Carolina State. He said he spends as much as two hours every day inside the clubhouse interacting with members.

"I've found it's better to be out there and visible. If people see you here, see you working, talking to members, you're more approachable and they're more apt to understand what you're going through, and ask the right questions ... One of the big benefits of that is we can get our message out."

A big part of that message, Wheeler said, is letting people know that superintendents have become among the most influential stewards of the environment in South Florida.

"One, we're trying to protect the resources around us, and, two, we're not out here wasting things because there's a budget we have to work within," he said. "We're extremely careful because we're the ones handling everything."

BRIAN BECKNER

Native Bird Boxes
Estero

The News-Press, July 18

Brian Beckner often finds himself up a tree in the course of his business. He builds and installs bird boxes for golf courses and gated communities. The former golf course superintendent also gives tours, mostly to residents of those golf course communities, to help people understand how nature and their golf courses co-exist.

"It's hard to call it a job, when there is so much pleasure taken from experiencing wildlife opportunities like this, then being able to share with folks and their communities by showing them what they have harnessed and seeing their joy radiate!" Beckner said.

Beckner started his business, Native Bird Boxes, two years ago. He has more than 50 clients and 2,500 bird boxes to maintain, which means cleaning them out between nesting seasons and shooing away snakes on the hunt for eggs or chicks to devour.

"I was able to walk away from a traditional job," said Beckner, who had built a career as a golf course superintendent over 20 years in Southwest Florida. His experience and contacts enabled him to grow the business ..., he said. His understanding of how golf courses and the environment blend together helps him explain the relationship to people on his tours.

KEVIN KLAHFEN

Palmetto-Pine Country Club
Cape Coral

Island Reporter, August 14

When Palmetto-Pine Country Club needed someone to supervise the renovation of its golf course, Kevin Klafehn was the man they called. After eight years away, Klafehn returned to Palmetto-Pine Country Club three months ago to restore what once was one of the premiere courses in Southwest Florida back into pristine condition.

Klafehn worked at Palmetto Pine for 12 years, serving as interim superintendent three times.

Klafehn, though, ended up at Gulf Harbor Yacht and Country Club in Fort Myers, where he spent eight years before returning to Palmetto Pine, first as a spray-tech, then as the permanent superintendent.

His task: to clean up a neglected course. "It's a daunting task, but in my time back we've started to bring it back," Klafehn said. "It will take a couple years to get it back to when I left, but we're making progress."

Klafehn has started a plan to feed the course and accelerate the growth process to help eliminate weeds and keep the turf healthy and growing. He has also expanded the practice range tee and renovated the short game area. Aesthetically, Klafehn has improved the visuals around the clubhouse by hedging and cleaning up vines and weeds.

JOHN FOY

USGA Green Section
Hobe Sound

Stuart News, July 21

For John Foy, there is nothing boring about watching grass grow. Not when the Hobe Sound resident has made his career as the USGA's top agronomist in Florida, where Mother Nature's dreaded threesome of droughts, thunderstorms and warm/humid conditions present a daily challenge.

Not when golf has become a multi-billion-dollar business where people who pay \$40 for greens fees, and sometimes a lot more, demand just that — a green, lush course. Some of these angry golfers can be bigger pests than the ones under the greens.

"If there is a frustration, it's trying to educate the average golfer on how much work goes into getting a golf course exactly in the prime condition they want it," Foy said. "No matter how hard we work and how well we do our jobs, there are things we cannot control about Mother Nature."

Foy has spent the past 29 years as director of the USGA Green Section's Southeast Region, his area stretching from Key West to Pensacola ... But Foy's run as Florida's top grass man is about to end. The 60-year-old plans to retire soon after the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship the first week of October at John's Island Club in Vero Beach.

Need for BMP Certification Grows as Regulation Does

The Environmental Protection Agency's new rule governing Waters of the United States (WOTUS) underlines the importance of the Florida GCSA's voluntary best management practices program for golf courses. With governments and regulatory agencies ramping up their focus on land and resource use, it is becoming increasingly important for golf course superintendents not just to do the right thing but to be *seen* doing the right thing. The BMP certification program is a wonderful tool to help ensure that both outcomes occur.



Mark Kann

"The fact that superintendents worked so closely with regulators drawing up this program clearly demonstrates our commitment to doing the right thing," says Florida GCSA BMP Committee chair Mark Kann, coordinator of research programs at the University of Florida in Ocala. "The people charged with enforcing laws and standards know that and respect and appreciate our determination to be part of the solution, not the problem. The next step is getting our members to become BMP certified so we can take that message to the public."

To date, somewhere between 30 and 35 percent of Florida GCSA members are certified in the BMP program. In 2012, the association set a target of 50 percent certification by the end of 2015. At press

time with just one, possibly two, certification seminars left before Christmas, it seems likely the association will fall shy of that goal.

Kann says environmental stewardship is only going to become a bigger issue in the eyes of regulators and the public as time goes on. "So staying ahead of the issue, being proactive and taking the lead is important," he says. "We've stressed that all along and will continue to do so. I wish there was a better participation rate in the certification program. I really don't understand why it is not higher."

Even if certification wasn't a factor, Kann says, superintendents still get "great education" out of the day-long certification seminars. "We have excellent speakers and the costs are minimal compared with the value superintendents take away from the classes," he says. "The Florida GCSA is one of the largest chapters in the country, so if we could all stand together on BMP certification, it would make a really loud statement about our commitment to environmental stewardship.

That would send a very big message to legislators."

Florida GCSA past-president Matt Taylor, CGCS, who was central to initial efforts behind the program back in 2007, says all superintendents "owe it to their clubs" to become BMP certified. "Frankly, I'm kind of surprised that not everyone has done the program," he says. "It seems like a no-brainer to me. We all have a responsibility to our clubs to make sure they are protected. We are the stewards of our clubs' liability when it comes to the environment."

Taylor, from Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples, says the BMP manual and program help superintendents get a better understanding of the potential impacts – "both positive and negative" – of their daily activities on the course. "I wonder if some guys are a little hesitant because they might not feel like they have the resources to meet every line on the BMP checklist," he says. "The fact is the checklist is an absolute best-of-the-best standard. It's the perfect world and few superintendents, if anybody, have that."

Taylor likens the BMP checklist to running a marathon in that no one can go out tomorrow and run the full distance. It takes training, progressively building capacity. In that respect, the BMP program can be a training guide towards greater environmental health and fitness, he believes.

"The best way to wash equipment might be through a closed-loop system, but they are very expensive," he says. "Maybe the club cannot afford that, but there are other things a superintendent can do, like draining into a grass swale so rinse water is captured and filtered. What's in the BMP program is a lot of what guys are already doing. But it's a means of documenting that fact so everyone else can know they're doing the right thing."

Instruction and testing for the BMP program occupies a full day,



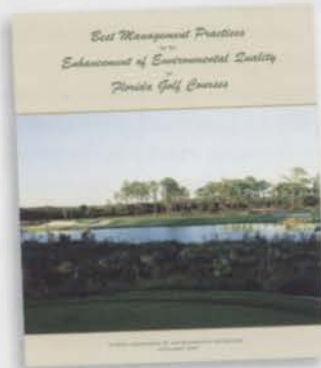
Florida GCSA's landmark BMP manual.



Matt Taylor

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Florida GCSA executive director Jennifer Bryan says, starting at 8am with testing at 3pm. "Most superintendents take about an hour on the test," she says. "The pass rate is about 80 percent. The key is to become familiar with the BMP manual before coming to the seminar. I tell everyone if they haven't opened the book before they step into the room, they are probably going to fail the test and that's true."

Bryan says there is provision for superintendents who don't pass the test at the first attempt to retake it a later date. "Ultimately, we want all superintendents certified, even those superintendents who are not members," she says. "And we will continue to work in that direction whether we get to 50 percent by the end of the year or not."

In February, the Florida GCSA received GCSAA's Excellence in Government Relations Award for its statewide collaboration with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to establish the BMP program. The goal was to agree on attainable management practices to keep golf a profitable business while protecting state water and natural resources, in line with the Clean Water Act and other state and local ordinances.

Accepting the award at the Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, TX, Bryan said: "The Florida golf BMP program has provided the golf industry and the superintendent increased credibility and enhanced working relationships with local governments and regulatory agencies. Based on continuing trends in regulating fertilizer and water use, recognition of the Florida GCSA's voluntary golf BMP certification program and the BMP manual, the FGCSA continues to proactively support our leadership position in statewide environmental stewardship." ■



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This is the first in an occasional series exploring golf course superintendent interests beyond the golf course.

Cann Beer is Worth Bottling After All



Tim Cann is making "head"-way as a home brewer in his garage.

If Tim Cann is ever again the toast of the Florida GCSA, he might be able to save the association a few dollars by providing the beverage to charge everyone's glasses. Cann, the certified golf course superintendent who is director of greens and grounds maintenance at Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club in Palm City, is becoming quite the hand at brewing his own beer. Along with the Florida GCSA's President's Award for lifetime service he won in 2012, Cann's trophy shelf now features two medals for beer brewing.

He's come a long way from the early days, some 15 years ago, when some of his first batches were sour or astringent or offered distinctly non-beery notes of butter and sulfur. That doesn't mean he took that long to get the recipe right. In fact, he quit altogether for about a dozen years before launching the second phase of his brewing career three years ago.

"You don't save any money put it that way," Cann says of his hobby. "It's all for the fun of it. I do think I'm able to do it a little easier than some people because of the science involved in what we do as superintendents. Because of that I probably understand the process better than someone who, say, has a background as a mechanic."

A past-president of the Treasure Coast GCSA with more than 30 years in golf course maintenance, Cann brews in his garage at home using the all-grain method favored by the most successful craft brewers. On a Saturday or Sunday when Harbour Ridge's two golf courses aren't beckoning, he will spend about six hours preparing a batch, 10 gallons at a time. It might be a pilsner, pale ale, India pale ale or a wheat beer.

"I consider every brew a science project," he says. "The process starts out by cracking grain, converting the starch to a sugar

with hot water, adding additional water to flush the sugar off the grain into a boil pot, boiling it for 60-90 minutes and adding hops along the way, chilling it to a cooler temperature and pitching the yeast."

It is at that point, Cann says, when "all the excitement begins." "You

can actually see the action of the yeast consuming the sugars. It's fascinating really. That's when the alcohol and flavor is produced."

Cann's brews typically have an alcohol by volume percentage of 6.2 or more, substantially higher than your average Miller or Coors Light. "The important rules to follow are fresh ingredients, cleanliness and consistent refrigeration while the fermentation is occurring," he says. "I enjoy the challenge of it. I find it interesting and it's a hobby not everybody does."

But it is apparently a hobby that Cann's circle is grateful for. "I don't know that I've made many more friends because I'm making my own beer," he says. "But I will say I've got a lot more

friends who are smiling now. I play hockey and the guys I play with are always asking what I've brought for refreshments after the

game. They're pretty disappointed if I don't have anything."

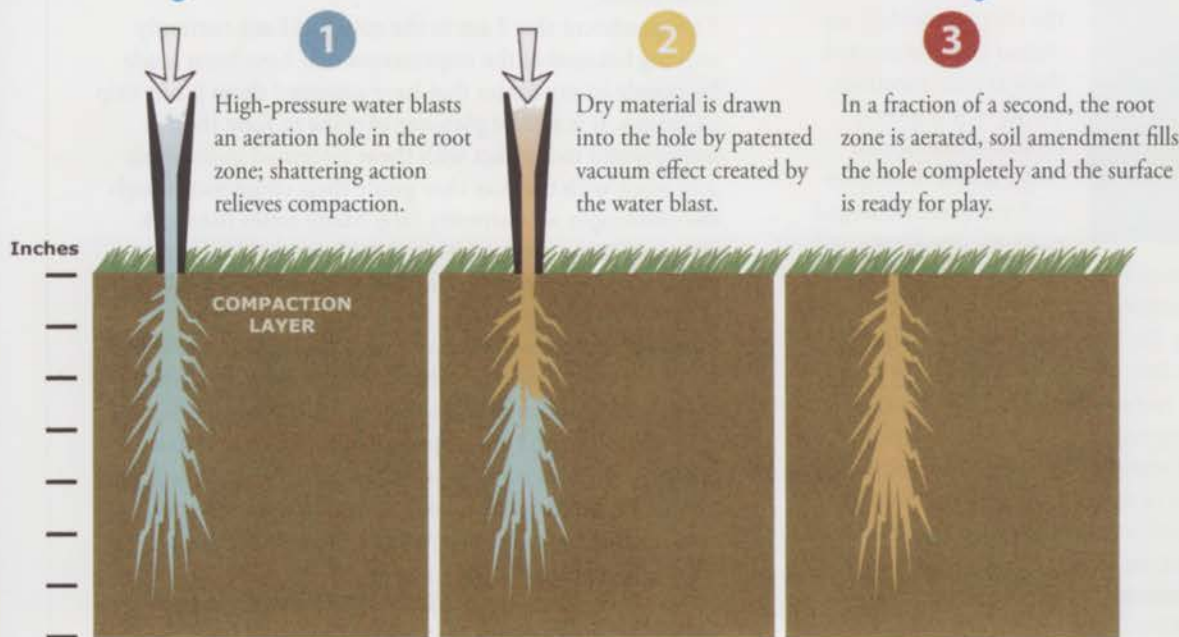
Cann is a member of the Treasure Coast Brew Masters and has learned most of what he knows from reading and Internet research. His second- and third-place medals won over the past year suggest he's a good student. But then when you consider the work product, you wouldn't expect self-motivation to be an issue.

Colleagues in the golf business may not have to wait until Cann wins another major association award to get to raise a glass of his handiwork. He has already offered to stock a tasting station at an event down the track, perhaps a future Blue Pearl charity tournament which the Treasure Coast GCSA hosts each year.

"I do think I'm able to do it a little easier than some people because of the science involved in what we do as superintendents." – Tim Cann

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Acknowledging the Leaders Among Us



By *Ralph K. Dain Jr.*,
GCSAA Regional
Representative Florida

I recently finished my tour around the state of Florida and most all the chapters within my region have conducted their annual meetings. To me this is a very exciting time of year as the baton of chapter leadership is exchanged and new presidents and

board members take their positions in readiness to provide direction for their associations.

I am always impressed by the individuals who assume the additional burdens of leading their colleagues at the chapter level. As we all know the responsibilities of overseeing a golf facility are demanding enough, yet these leaders are motivated by a variety of reasons to give back to our industry. It has not been the easiest of times over the past several years to assume the role of leadership as many superintendents continue to experience pressure to do "more with less" at their courses. The expectations of our golfers and those we report to have not diminished. The regular operations on the course are more than enough to fill one's work day. It is encouraging that we have so many individuals who take on the additional demands of leading their chapters. I am confident that these volunteers are not doing the extra work for the pay.

Consistently, I see these chapter leaders as individuals who are motivated by the overwhelming desire to give back to

a profession that has been rewarding for them. It is this desire that compels them to work on the behalf of all members to try to make their professional lives better moving forward. Be it at the local or national level, I find myself inspired by the work of these men and women and want to give of myself in a manner that mirrors these individuals.

I am confident that I am in the role that I am currently serving because of the impressions that have been made by people in my career that have assumed these leadership positions. It is a great pleasure of mine to have the opportunity to interact with these esteemed individuals and work with them as they guide their chapters through the challenges we currently face. Many times the work they perform occurs after working hours and goes unnoticed by their peers. It can be a thankless task but they still complete it.

To all the individuals who serve on the local, state, or national levels I sincerely thank you for donating your time and efforts on behalf of our great industry. You should be admired and appreciated for all that you do, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge you. I look forward to working alongside all of you over the coming year and am here to serve you as well.

I hope you will turn to me and GCSAA as a source of information and support as you fulfill the term upon which you are embarking. I would hope that your members will echo my sentiments and also encourage you and thank you for all that you do. My hat is off to you all.

Until next time,

Ralph Dain
GCSAA Regional Representative (FL)
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FAREWELL REFLECTIONS



**GREEN SIDE UP
By JOEL JACKSON**

In the summer issue it was hard enough writing my farewell message as emotions flooded my heart and mind. After going through the proofing process of the articles with Jennifer Bryan, Larry Kieffer and Tim Lancaster, I realized that this would be my last time working with the team. I was remiss in not thanking them and others for their participation and sacrifices to produce a magazine that Florida GCSA members could be proud of and one that was informational and educational.

So, I want to be sure that I recognize those who helped make *The Florida Green* a success over these past 35 years. You may have noticed the entry on the masthead

page that says: "Editor Emeritus: Dan Jones." Dan was the first editor of *The Florida Green* when it was created from the *South Florida Green* magazine, which was the flagship of all Florida chapter publications. It began back in 1973. Dan became editor in 1977 and continued up until 1990. His wife Irene should have been called assistant editor, because she was instrumental in helping to write and produce the publication. Back in the day, the Joneses had to turn their home into a print shop to produce the full-size mock ups that would go the printer for the old roller-press printing process. God bless digital printing. Thank you, Dan and Irene Jones.

In 1989, Larry Kieffer came on board to serve as editor, publisher, writer, photographer - you name it, Larry did it. He was a professional journalist who was managing editor of the Winter Haven News-Chief newspaper and he was involved with Charley Stine as executive editor of the original *Golfweek* publication. Larry has been instrumental in the professional operation of *The Florida Green*. He has guided all of us volunteers in the proper ways to write, cite and present information in keeping with proper publication rules and regulations. He was my tutor, mentor and friend these

many years. Thank you, Larry.

Other pioneers of the early years of *The Florida Green* were the Bailey brothers, David and Mike, who both wrote articles, took pictures and helped edit the magazine. Then there was photographer Daniel Zelazek who was the official cover story photographer from 1981 to 2008. Just as Larry was my publications tutor, Daniel taught me solid fundamentals of picture taking. While I succumbed to 35mm digital SLR cameras, Daniel was a purist, with his old-fashioned wooden box camera complete with tripod and black cloth hood. He is a master of photo composition. Thank you David, Michael and Daniel.

For you veterans who remember Marie Roberts, she was the heart and soul of the Florida GCSA. Her enthusiasm and hard work helped us with the association and magazine, as she became the advertising manager and constantly sought advertisers and sponsors to help fund the magazine and special events. Marie retired around eight years ago. Thank you, Marie.

Then Jennifer Bryan came on board bringing a whole wealth of association management experience to help the association. She also serves as the advertising manager and is doing a stellar job for the Florida GCSA and *The Florida Green*. She has been a great

partner to work with in Florida GCSA business. Thank you, Jennifer.

I want to acknowledge our newest member of *The Florida Green* team, Tim Lancaster. Tim is a graphic designer and he has brought a new fresh look to our layout. He worked for the Tampa Tribune newspaper for many years and now has his own company and does publication layout work for various clients. Tim's enthusiasm and creativity helps us tell our stories in a very visual way. Thank you, Tim. I also want to give a big shout out to the Rinaldi Printing Company in Tampa which has worked with all of us over these many years to produce such a high quality publication. Thank you, Rinaldi.

And now I turn the keys over to Trent Bouts, your new editor. I have known Trent for many years through the chapter editors sessions at GCSAA conferences. He was my suggestion as the new editor for the magazine. He's a good man and great writer. Welcome aboard, Trent. Last but definitely not least, thank you readers. We do all this for you.

I'm watching the final round of The Open at St. Andrews as I write this last message, and so I bid you all a fitting final farewell.

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