SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH FLORIDA EXPO ANOTHER HIT

What do you get when you mix a beautiful day, 500 people, the best turfgrass researchers, 46 vendors, a magnificent barbecue lunch, and excellent educational sessions? The 17th Annual SGFCSA Turf Exposition, of course.

COVER STORY: A VALE OF TWO PALMS

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: KEYS TO LONGEVITY

Monroe Miller, winner of the 2004 USGA Green Section Distinguished Service Award, shares thoughts on surviving gracefully in our profession.

HANDS ON: AQUATIC MANAGEMENT

Superintendents must consider how they can impact water bodies with their turf maintenance programs, and they must be knowledgeable about the basics of aquatic systems so they can enhance their appearance and quality.

INDUSTRY: BROWN TURF IS OK

Even with the most sophisticated irrigation system or water-savvy superintendent, a prolonged dry spell causes some degree of discoloration on golf courses, notes USGA Green Section agronomist Todd Lowe.

STEWARDSHIP: MULTIFUNCTIONAL PROJECT

A pesticide mix/load岱lane Club Golf Course in Panama City prevents potential pesticide mix/load rinse water from contaminating the groundwater or adjacent wetland… and makes an excellent ACSP project.

SUPERINTENDENTS JOURNAL: INSIDE THE ROPE

Over the years, FGCSA’s local chapters have made connections with NBC Sports and helped to provide programs to sponsors and golfers to assist in the televising of the four men’s Tour events in Florida.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Hand in your best practice tips and give the following topics. Photographs or slides are encouraged. Digital images that are 5 inches wide at 300 dpi for publication. Full 2004 - Traffic Control Programs and Strategies Winter 2005 - New Weed-Control Weapons Spring 2005 - Successful In-House Projects.

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Sevin®
This past year has flown by and has arrived much quicker than I expected. I am sitting at my desk writing my last President’s Message for the Florida Green. The prospect of writing these articles four times over a period of a year loomed as the most daunting task that I could foresee in becoming president of the Association. I always find myself struggling to write an article that someone (other than my Mom), would find interesting and useful. So away we go!

The board has had a very busy year and has worked diligently to do the right thing for the association. The directors stepped up to the plate and embraced the initiatives that were set forth one year ago. The committees were actual committees with members who jointly worked together towards their goals. A so-called committee in the past often consisted of one person who communicated only with the board. Hopefully, this trend will be continued and we will expand the input that the board receives on all issues.

Thank you to each and everyone on the board and the committee members. We would not have been able to accomplish our goals without your diligent efforts.

Joe Pantaleo and Craig (Bulldog) Weyandt were always at the ready for suggestions. They each did their homework on issues and were always very prepared to take on any task that was presented to them. Thank you for all of your help and support.

Unfortunately, David Court will be leaving the board. Those of you that do not know David cannot begin to fathom the steady influence that he has had on the board. David always had a very controlled, well-thought-out voice of wisdom. The voice of wisdom is not a new phenomenon for him. I first met him many years ago well before the lines on my face appeared and my hair started turning gray and after my first conversation, I knew this was someone that I was going to respect. Now, at least I have had the privilege of working with him and on behalf of the entire board, thank you for allowing us to gain by your being involved.

Joel and Marie, (sounds like the title of a love song from John Mellencamp), are the lifeboat of this organization. They both have been there to correct my mistakes and make me look good. I thank you both for your guidance, patience and especially their understanding during the past year. Each and every member needs to thank Marie and Joel daily for their contributions.

During the course of the past year, for those of you who read these articles, I have mentioned the idea of learning from the past to improve the future. When I look back to see who shaped my involvement in superintendent matters, first in the Treasure Coast Chapter and then the state, I look to two past presidents having the greatest influence.

First was Mark Jarrell who took the time to make me feel a part of the gang on a softball team years and years and years ago. I was new to Florida and knew only one person on the team of established superintendents. Mark took the time to introduce himself and actually showed some interest in me.

As the years went on, I asked Mark questions concerning the association and I gained a whole new respect for his passion and listened to him talk about the need for involvement from others, I decided to get involved on the local level with no immediate intentions of becoming this involved, but I am thankful and have gained from my involvement. Mark writes a column for each and every Florida Green called “Mark My Words”. His articles are a must read in every issue and his continued involvement is a great asset to the Board.

The second past president was Paul Crawford. “Crawdaddy” prodded and poked at me to get more involved years ago but with the tournament schedule at my previous job, it was nearly impossible. Now I realize that I had the time if I just had the wisdom and maturity to manage my time better. They both had different methods but they both left a lasting impression on me and I thank them for all of the guidance that they provided over the years.

At the 2004 Past President’s Dinner, I had the privilege of presenting the Distinguished Service Award to Darren Davis. Darren has become a very good friend and it was a wonderful experience to present such a prestigious award, but to also give it to someone that I respect so much was the icing on the cake. Darren served on the board for many years and also spent two years as immediate past president. He continues to serve the FGCSA on the national level through his involvement as a committee member. Congratulations Darren, on a well-deserved honor.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to represent the FGCSA at several functions over the past year. My club has benefited from my involvement through contacts that I have made during the past year. It was an extreme honor and privilege to serve as President and I thank you for allowing me to do so.
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Chapter Round Up

Social, Educational Events Highlight Springtime

Calus

We are proud to announce that our new Web site, www.calusagcsa.com, is in the final stages of construction and will be fully operational very soon. We will also be publishing our first chapter membership directory.

Central Florida

We had a mid-term change of officers as President Brian Lentz moved to Bradenton to take the chapter members will be anxious to test out Buck Buckner's Mini Verde greens at the new Eagle Creek golf course. This is the first use of Mini Verde in Florida that we know of. We will host another GCSAA Regional Sept. 30 with Michigan State's turf pathologist, Dr. Joe Vargas.

Congratulations to the team of Chris Barfield, Joel Brownsberger, Tommy Land and Glenn Thompson for capturing the first Chapter Challenge Cup in a three-way match among the Central Florida, Ridge and West Coast chapters. Thanks to Diamond Players Club for hosting this inaugural event and Superintendent Kevin Baldwin for organizing it.

Everglades

Congratulations to Darren Davis on being named 2004 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award winner at the Past Presidents Dinner on May 13 and also to Kenyon Kyle of the Shadow Wood C.C. in Bonita Springs on becoming a Certified Golf Course Superintendent. We aren’t slowing down just because the Poa Annua Classic is over. In June we are hosting a Vendor Appreciation Day to thank all those affiliate members for their generous sponsorship of our chapter events and education seminars. We will be holding a superintendent/affiliate team event at the Imperial Golf Club with no charge to the affiliate members.

By all accounts the 2004 continued on page 6 ...

Teams playing in the National Minority Golf Championships are introduced as they march into the Opening Session at the PGA Club in St. Lucie. Photo by Joel Jackson.

On behalf of the Palm Beach GCSA, Chapter President Peter Powell (left) presented Greg Pheneger with a donation of $5,000 to be used by the FGCSA for Government Relations and other operating expenses of the FGCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

On behalf of the Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, Seven Rivers GCSA’s Glenn Oberlander and Buddy Keene (left and right) accept the Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen Championship Donor’s check of $25,000 from David Cheeseman, Don Delaney and Walt McMahon. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Paul Crawford (left) outbid all comers to win the Bayer Power Pak auctioned off by Brian MacCarrach at the Blue Pearl at Loblolly Pines. The proceeds are donated back to the chapter. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Lakewood Ranch G&CC job. Vice President Scott Jamros, CGCS, Hawks Landing GC has become president. We wish Brian and his family all the best and thanks for the years of service to the chapter.

There was a big turnout for the GCSAA Regional Seminar on Bermudagrass Management with Drs. John Cisar and Dave Kopec at the Crown Plaza Resort in Orlando. In June of Paul Crawford (left) outbid all comers to win the Bayer Power Pak auctioned off by Brian MacCarrach at the Blue Pearl at Loblolly Pines. The proceeds are donated back to the chapter. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Thank you to our 2004 POA Sponsors for presenting

The 29th Annual Poa Annual Classic

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Poa Classic

The 2004 G.C. Horn Endowment Tournament was held at the beautiful and challenging Estuary G.C. at Grey Oaks in Naples. Photos by Joel Jackson.

Seth Strickland defended his 2003 Poa Annua Classic title by duplicating his score of 69 from last year. Strickland lost no time in celebrating and chilling out beachside with friend Resa Teproff. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Distinguished Service At the Past Presidents Dinner in conjunction with the Poa Annua in Naples, FGCSA President Greg Pheneger had the honor of presenting the 2004 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award to Darren Davis for his continuous service to the Everglades and Florida GCSA chapters and the GCSAA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Poa players gather on the putting green to meet and greet before the shotgun start. The tournament was sold out early this year. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Marie and Her Boys Ten presidents gather around Association Manager Marie Roberts. She made us all look good when we had the gavel. From left: Paul Crawford ('93), David Court ('02), Don Delaney ('83), Joel Jackson ('89), Marie Roberts (since '84), Darren Davis ('99), Dale Kuehner ('96), Tim Hiers ('78 – the first), Greg Pheneger ('03), Scott Bell ('94) and Kevin Downing ('82). Photo by Casey Harris

FUNdamentally Speaking Dr. Patt Schwab, president of FUNdamentally Speaking, believes in taking humor seriously as her seminars are packed with humor, insight and practical tips for working with people. Her topic, Dealing with Jerks, resonated with the superintendent audience at the seminar in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

One of the attractions of playing in the Poa Classic is not all the birdies are on the greens. The Rose-ringed Parakeet is a common sight on the Naples Beach Club G.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Ten presidents gather around Association Manager Marie Roberts. She made us all look good when we had the gavel. From left: Paul Crawford ('93), David Court ('02), Don Delaney ('83), Joel Jackson ('89), Marie Roberts (since '84), Darren Davis ('99), Dale Kuehner ('96), Tim Hiers ('78 – the first), Greg Pheneger ('03), Scott Bell ('94) and Kevin Downing ('82). Photo by Casey Harris.
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If there was one dark cloud over the event it was a brief rain shower that visited the luau Saturday night just as the buffet lines opened. Fifteen to twenty minutes later, everyone re-grouped and the food was served. You can tell the attendees are getting older, most of the dancers enjoying the band were younger children of superintendents and vendors. This event remains the biggest event for superintendents and their families held in the state, thanks to the great location at the Naples Beach Club Hotel.

Golf Championship at Southern Dunes in September. The five low gross superintendent scores from our April, May, June and July meetings will make up the team. Rip Phillips hosted our May meeting at the Windsor Parke G.C. The education session was about the proper interpretation of soil reports presented by Bill Bowen of Floratine.

Palm Beach
At the FGCSA spring board meeting in Naples, President Peter Powell made a $5,000 donation to the FGCSA operating account to help offset Government Relations and Public Relations expenses as the state association represents superintendents on economic and environmental issues. Steve Pearson, CGCS hosted the 24th Annual Future of Golf Tournament at The Falls C.C. in Lake Worth June 5. The team of Mark Henderson, Jeff Klontz, Karl Schmidt and Peter Brooks shot a 58 to win the event. On June 19, we will hold our Third Annual Fishing Tournament.

Championship Sponsors
Golf Ventures, Helena Turf Products and Jacobsen presented a check for $25,000 to help the cause of turf research. We are extremely grateful to the 46 sponsors who helped support this event, which netted $40,000 after expenses.

South Florida
Thanks to all the sponsors and attendees of the 2004 SFGCSA

continued on page 12...
Thank you to all our sponsors that made the 2004 event possible

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Palm Beach GCSA

On behalf of the Jeff Hayden Envirotoron Classic, Seven Rivers GCSA’s Glenn Oberlander and Buddy Keene (left and right) accept the Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen Championship Donors’ check of $25,000 from David Cheeseman, Don Delaney and Walt McMahon. Photo by Joel Jackson

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2004 SFGCSA Turf Expo

Trials, Demos, Seminar Set Stage for Lunch

By Jim Walker

What do you get when you mix a beautiful day, 500 people, the best turfgrass researchers, 46 vendors, a magnificent barbecue lunch, and excellent educational sessions? The 17th Annual SFGCSA Turf Exposition, of course.

The Ft. Lauderdale research center was hopping early with turfgrass managers from golf courses, parks and athletic fields from all over South Florida. Susi and I arrived at 7:00 a.m. to help Marie Roberts with registration.

Field Trials

About 8:25 a.m. Dr. John Cisar came to the front area donning his “pith helmet” and I knew it was time for the field trials to begin. Doc had good news regarding “disease-like” symptoms for the folks managing ultradwarf grasses.

I walked across a bermudagrass test plot with thin spots and spurge, and knew entomologist-nematologist Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis could not be far away. He had more good news for even better control of nematodes in the future. Out with Nemacur and in with parasites!

Next was an interesting trial by Dr. Lawrence Datnoff on fungicide management of bermudagrass greens overseeded with Poa trivialis.

We also heard from Dr. Bill Howard about an aphid that is damaging seashore paspalum. Those dirty pests have learned quickly how to damage our hope for a new golf course turf. Because they have been identified early and are easily controlled with sod webworm insecticides, these aphids should only be a minor nuisance.

Other field trials included Dr. Phil Busey with an herbicide update on St. Augustine and bermudagrasses; Dr. George Snyder discussing sodium management; Dr. Bill Kern giving us great tips on capturing all the nuisance critters we find on our golf courses and parks; Dr. Kim Moore showing us beautiful flowering plants in her trial garden; Dr. Ted Carter informing us on evaluating new biocontrol agents; Dara Park reporting on some big plusses for this grass. It seems to require less fertilizer, provide thick with muffled sounds of gas and diesel engines and, at the turn of a key, the equipment demonstrations featuring shiny new machines were under way. There were all types, shapes, sizes and applications. I’m with Tim the Tool Man – More Power (vaarrooom)! At the same time the doors opened for 40 booth displays under the big top tent. Every facet of the turfgrass industry was on display: fertilizers, chemicals, irrigation supplies, and rental equipment.

Demos and Exhibits

At 10 a.m. the air was thick with muffled sounds of gas and diesel engines and, at the turn of a key, the equipment demonstrations featuring shiny new machines were under way. There were all types, shapes, sizes and applications. I’m with Tim the Tool Man – More Power (vaarrooom)! At the same time the doors opened for 40 booth displays under the big top tent. Every facet of the turfgrass industry was on display: fertilizers, chemicals, irrigation supplies, and rental equipment.

Lunch

At high noon everyone including Gary Cooper died and went to heaven thanks to Environmental Turf. For the seventh consecutive year, they served up barbecued ribs, green beans, yellow rice and killer cookies. What a treat. There were two lines, no waiting, and Dr. Cisar resplendent in a green apron helping to spoon out the beans. After a little snooze, it was time to trundle off to the auditorium for the seashore paspalum seminar.

Paspalum Seminar

John Foy filled in for Todd Lowe, who had a family emergency, and began a discussion of this new hope for the future of golf course turfgrass. He was joined by Dr. Phil Busey, who served as moderator of the panel consisting of Tim Hiers, CGCS from the Old Collier Club; Mark Henderson, CGCS from Gulfstream Country Club; and Jim Torba from the Miami Beach Golf Club, all of whom are managing paspalum on their courses.

Thanks to All

After the educational sessions ended, refreshments were served at the gazebo and folks picked up their continuing education forms.

The South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association would like to thank the following people for a wonderful and very successful day: Dr. John Cisar and all the staff at the UF/IFAS Research Center; FGCSA Association Manager Marie Roberts; John Foy from the USGA Green Section; Bob Harper and Kelly Cragin from the South Florida GCSA board of directors; major sponsors Hector Turf, Kilpatrick Turf, Environmental Turf, Disbrow Enterprises and Necrane Machinery. Special thanks also go to our 40 booth suppliers and, most of all, to everyone who attended the event. Without all of you there wouldn’t be an Expo.

We are glad you came, hope it was informative and enlightening and most importantly, we hope to see you again next year with a friend under each arm.