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CALL FOR ARTICLES

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And remember, TERRANE B gives you the same effectiveness and economy on a wide variety of ornamentals, too.

So call your chemical supplier or call Kincaid today.
Looking to Score an Ace

After an unusual year of weather here in Florida, the advent of our active growing season could not have arrived soon enough. The year of hurricane activity was widespread, leaving no portion of the state untouched. Followed by a cool and dry winter, most of us are excited about the opportunity to strengthen our turf through our much-needed spring turf renovation programs. Those close to last year’s hurricane damage are probably planning those necessary tree-trimming chores that sometimes get overlooked. Everyone should have learned valuable lessons on managing our golf facilities from our not-so-pleasant experiences in 2004. Hopefully, we are all taking steps to stay ahead of the game this spring, summer, and beyond.

One of our goals for the year is to improve communication and coordination throughout our 12 chapters, with our national association — GCSAA — and other allied groups within our industry. This goal could not have gotten a bigger kick-start than from our recently completed, first-ever Golf Industry Show held in Orlando in February. As most of you may be aware, this hugely attended event (23,000) included participation from the American Society of Golf Course Architects, Golf Course Builders Association and Golf Course Owners Association. Soon to be included in 2007 will be the Club Managers Association.

This was a bold attempt by the GCSAA to recognize the importance of including these most influential pieces of our industry at our own conference and show. We have always felt that the more golf’s importance in Florida is understood, the better the chance of improving our varied public perception.

By involving more allied groups in our business, we hope to score an ace this year and in the future through awareness of the issues, communication of facts and information and engagement on finding solutions so we become a bigger, stronger group. Everyone doing a little bit is better than waiting for a select few to carry the torch.

A few of our own members received wonderful recognition at the recently completed Golf Industry Show. Bob Randquist, CGCS, from the Boca Río Golf Club was elected to the GCSAA Board of Directors. Not only is Bob well known around the country, but has quickly gained respect here in Florida since his arrival from Oklahoma. We are very excited to have Bob serve on the national board and are confident he will promote the importance of golf in our state through his future contacts and travels.

Also recognized was Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, from Interlachen Country Club for receiving the Superintendent of the Year Award from GolfWeek/Superintendent News. Only one superintendent from America can win this prestigious award, and we are very proud to have him here in our own state. Don’t look now, Stuart, but we may need to harness some of your talent at the state association level.

With more than 1,300 golf courses around the state, you would think that a few of us would be able to golf a bit even with our busy maintenance schedules. Well, golf he did! Seth Strickland from Miami Shores Country Club recently walked away with the coveted National Superintendents Tournament trophy at two fine Orlando venues. As far as we can tell, Seth is only the third Florida superintendent to ever come away with such an honor in the 50 or so years in this championship history. Seth wasn’t the only one who played well. The No. 1 Florida Team of Bob Harper, Mark Henderson and Joe Ondo joined Seth to capture the much-sought-after team trophy as well. Congratulations to them and all that participated for representing our state so well!

On a different note, the need for turf research continues to loom as one of our biggest challenges for the future. A couple of very important projects are ongoing while many others are in need for the near future. Our most popular product used for controlling Nematodes is being phased out in 2007, and we are very concerned for future viable alternative products. Dr. William Crow from the University of Florida is currently engaged in a study to look for another way to control this widespread pest. There seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel as 2007 quickly approaches.

Also involved in a current research project is Dr. Lawrence Datnoff from the University of Florida. He is studying the relatively new ultradwarf putting green turf varieties. His particular area of concern is the disease pressure we are seeing with these relatively new grasses. So much is yet to be learned about these exciting turf strains, and we are hopeful we receive some valuable information on managing them in the near future.

One of our most important products, methyl bromide, is in imminent danger of being removed from the market. This soil sterilant is used on nearly every course in the state as well as the entire agricultural industry in an effort to achieve clean soil prior to the planting of hybrid turf and crops. Our suppliers are working hard at protecting our use of this product with federal regulators, using scientific data to prove its safety, importance and effectiveness. There are no viable alternatives for methyl bromide at this time and all that is being done to retain it is much appreciated.

There are many more pending research projects that need to be tackled. Alternative water use sources and the development of turf types that may need less irrigation, fertilizer and chemicals are high on the list for short-term development. If you can share insights on these or have any other ideas for future research projects, we would love to hear from you.

As I mentioned earlier, golf is a huge business in Florida. We could use just a little help from everyone on these and other issues. We are confident, that with our newly included segments of the industry, the sky is the limit for future turfgrass advancements.
Growers have relied on Orthene® TT&O products since 1974 and are still using them today on golf courses, sod farms, trees, shrubs and other ornamental plants, landscapes, and for mound treatment of fire ants.

For the best broad spectrum insect control, there’s nothing else like Orthene TT&O.
Leventhal Named
SuperNews
Superintendent of the Year

Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and the Interlachen Country Club have made news in this magazine before. As one of the first certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries

in the central Florida area, Leventhal has long distinguished himself as a consummate professional in the golf industry.

He and his club have hosted 17 consecutive Florida Turfgrass Association turf research fundraising tournaments each January. The club waives any golf fees and provides a sumptuous lunch at cost in order to maximize the net proceeds for research. There is always a guest speaker to educate the gathering of superintendents and club officials.

Those of us lucky enough to call Leventhal friend and to putt on his lightning-fast greens know how dedicated he is to his family, his club and golf course and to his profession. So we were doubly pleased when he was named Superintendent of the Year.

Leventhal was nominated by his general manager, Don Emery, who was impressed with his total control and organization in the face of the disastrous hurricane damage to the course. The award is sponsored by Club Car, a leading manufacturer of golf, transportation and utility vehicles for the golf industry.

Besides his grass-growing and course-management acumen, Leventhal has volunteered to serve his profession and industry as a Central Florida GCSCA board member and officer including the chapter presidency. He also serves on the Mid-Florida Turf Advisory Board for the Orange County Extension Service and the annual CFGCSA Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open Committee.

All the hoopla surrounding this award is a little unsettling for Leventhal who knows that mother nature giveth and mother nature taketh away at the drop of a hat. While he is deeply touched by his club’s outpouring of congratulations and recognition, he tries to not let the highs get too high or the lows get too low. “This is a humbling business,” he said, “You can’t take anything for granted.”

According to the Club Car news release in SuperNews, Leventhal doesn’t hesitate when asked if the summer of 2004 was the most difficult period in his 25 years of taking care of golf courses.

“It was a rough summer, by far the toughest I’ve been through,” said Leventhal who led restoration efforts to reopen the Interlachen golf course after it was devastated by Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne in August and September.

Hurricane Charley leveled more than 1,500 trees and left the private course outside Orlando under ankle-deep water. Entire fairways were buried under trees and debris on some holes, and the road to the clubhouse was impassable. Leventhal and his staff had the course ready for play in less than two weeks only to face the aftermath of two additional hurricanes in the next six weeks.

“It was hard work and we put in a lot of hours, but emotionally it was even harder,” said Leventhal. “The word I use was, ‘overwhelmed.’ The good thing, though, was that the members never asked, ‘When are you going to have it ready?’ They never put any pressure on us.”

Mike Packer, Club Car vice president for utility and international sales, who presented the winner with keys to a Club Car Carryall 294 all-wheel drive vehicle, said Leventhal “epitomizes the qualities that make superintendents such a vital part of our industry.

“Throughout his career, Stuart has shown tireless devotion to his course and his members. Last year was exceptional in terms of the challenges he faced, but the leadership and dedication Stuart showed are the characteristics he’s built his reputation on.”

Leventhal was selected from 90 superintendents who were nominated by employers, co-workers, golfers and friends. Editors of SuperNEWS narrowed the nominations to nine finalists before making the final selection.

Chapter Round Up

Education Tops Superintendents’ Early Spring Agenda

Deep Creek GC hosted our annual Yellow Ball Tournament. This fun event consists of four team players each taking turns playing a yellow ball on a hole. The score of the yellow ball counts as one of the two “best ball” scores on that hole. Lots of strategy involved in who plays the ball and what hole they should play it on, and whatever you do, don’t lose the ball!

Central Florida

Stuart Leventhal, CGCS hosted the 17th Annual FTGA Research Tournament at the Interlachen CC in January. Florida Turfgrass Association President Tom Wells and FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired, gave the gathering of superintendents and club officials an update on projects, and superintendent initiatives in fund raising and government relations. Guest speaker Steve Smyers showed how architects try to use the natural lay of the land for environmental, aesthetic and shot-making reasons in the design of a golf course. After lunch the group played a two-man scramble event with Nancy Henderson and John Lammrish from LPGA International winning top honors. $5,000 was raised for turf research.


Third Flight: Gross – Gene Stys and John Raycroft, Indian River Colony Club; Net – Tom Alex and Joel Jackson.

Leventhal was to be in
the limelight again in February as Golfweek’s SuperNews magazine, in conjunction with Club Car, selected him as Superintendent of the Year at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando. See the related article elsewhere in Spotlight.

We held our annual Superintendent/Vendor scramble at the Club at Cypress Head in Port Orange. Thanks to new superintendent Dennis Pickavance for having the course in great shape for the event. Kudos to Hal Richburg and his Victoria Hills Club for being named No. 7 public course in Florida on Golfweek’s list of America’s Best Courses.

Coastal Plains

Congratulations to Eddie Snipes, CGCS and the SouthWood Golf Club for being named to Golf Digest’s list of America’s Best New Courses.

External Vice President Jeff Heggen is spearheading a membership drive to enable superintendents in Florida’s Panhandle west of Tallahassee to overcome geographic travel limitations and make it easier for them to be part of the Florida GCSA, which serves all state superintendents through its initiatives. Jeff has volunteered to travel west and provide regular FGCSA Board reports on state issues to the group. Shane Bass, CGCS will assist Jeff in this effort.

The Gulf Coast GCSA territory stretches nearly 200 miles from Panama City to Pensacola. Their chapter is subdivided into three zones: East, Central and West to accommodate its members. Dr. Brian Unruh has been serving the chapter as a liaison for FGCSA news for many years and he hosts the Gulf Coast Turf Expo at the West Florida REC at Milton every June.

And speaking of our Panhandle peers, congratulations to Larry Livingston,
SPOTLIGHT

“The Florida Green,” says Roy Wilshire, CGCS as he celebrated a hole-in-one on the 7th hole of his course during the 2005 Ridge Invitational. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Tom Egnaczyk, the 61-year old former assistant superintendent at the Links of Boynton got an unexpected retirement bonus when he won the Florida Lottery. Photo by Scott Wahlin.

CGCS and his Camp Creek G.C. in Panama City for being selected to the No. 8 spot on Golfweek’s Florida list of America’s Best Courses.

At the FGCSA Winter Board meeting in Bradenton, President Joe Pantaleo accepted a $1,000 check for the FGCSA Benevolent Fund from Ridge GCSA External Vice President Jeff Brown. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Everglades

After another successful Christmas Tournament held at Mark Black’s Quail West G&CC that benefited the Children’s Home Society, the busy winter golf season began and included an education break in the form of a USGA Regional Talk also held at Quail West. The target audience for these regional talks is the superintendent and club officials and the topics are universal hot button issues at clubs: green speed, overseeding, transition, trees and shade. Jim Snow, national director of the USGA.

“Hey Mom! I’m going to be in the Florida Green,” says Roy Wilshire, CGCS as he celebrated a hole-in-one on the 7th hole of his course during the 2005 Ridge Invitational. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Tom Egnaczyk, the 61-year old former assistant superintendent at the Links of Boynton got an unexpected retirement bonus when he won the Florida Lottery. Photo by Scott Wahlin.

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Green Section gave also gave an interesting history of the USGA and turfgrass research to introduce the program. He was ably assisted by our two Florida Section agronomists, John Foy and Todd Lowe.

In March we will take a dinner cruise on the Naples Princess for a social outing and we have entered the March 12 St. Patrick’s Day parade in Naples. We will have a fleet of golf carts and vehicles with trailers to carry our members, spouses, kids and guests to help promote our profession and industry.

Springtime education and social events will continue as the chapter and the Naples Beach Club host the annual Everglades Spring Symposium in April and the 35th Annual Poa Annua Classic in May. This year two golf courses will be used so that no players will be turned away. Medalist golfers will play the Naples Grande course and fun seekers will play a scramble format event at the Naples Beach Club.

North Florida

Our 13th Annual Mike Richards Tournament will be history by the time this Florida Green goes to press, but we are looking forward to this year’s event at the Jacksonville G&CC. Guest speakers this year will be Bob Randquist, CGCS our first GCSAA director from Florida since our own late John Hayden was a director some 22 years ago. Bob will talk about GCSAA projects. Also on the agenda will be FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson giving us an update on government relations issues.

Some of our meetings, events and elections have been getting reported in the “Golf News” published here in Jacksonville. Good to let the golf community know that we exist and contribute to the game. “Golf News” has also been running a series of short golf maintenance articles written by Joel Jackson. The articles are designed...
to educate the public about the whys and wherefores of some of our cultural practices.

Palm Beach

Congratulations and happy retirement wishes go out to Tom Egnaczyk, assistant superintendent at the Links at Boynton Beach. Tom is 61 years young and doesn’t qualify for early Social Security (age 62) just yet, but he says he’ll manage somehow. Tom has been in the Palm Beach area since 1975 and has served as superintendent and/or assistant superintendent at many area courses over his 30-year career. His latest gig as the assistant at Boynton Beach was an effort to scale back just a bit and transition into retirement. His plans for his final weeks on the job. “That’s Mister Egnaczyk to you’ during his final kudos to Tony Disano and the staff at Lake Jovita G.C. for making the Top 15 list of Golfweek magazine’s Best Public Access Courses in their 2005 rankings. Seven Rivers

Congratulations to Jimbo Rawlings, Corey Bell and Brad Barbee for having the Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks courses at World Woods ranking 4th and 5th in Golfweek’s 2005 list of best public access courses in Florida. What a treat for all the folks teeing it up in our 13th Annual Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic at Worlds Woods on April 18th.

We are also proud to note that Darren Irwin and his El Diablo Club also made the Golfweek Florida list coming in at No. 11, and in the national private course division for the Top 100 Best Modern Courses built since 1960, our own John Cunningham and the Black Diamond Ranch placed No. 32.

South Florida

What a wild shootout between Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods at the Ford Doral Open. The course looked absolutely fantastic on television. Hats off to Doral’s Director of Grounds and Maintenance Eric Von Hofen and Blue Course Superintendent Lukus Harvey and the whole Doral crew for a job well done. We couldn’t help but notice that NBC’s Johnny Miller goofed again calling the overseeding Poa annua instead of Poa trivialis. Johnny must be thinking of California greens. That’s the second time Mr. Grain has made...
that faux pas. Last year Bob Murphy bailed him out. Susi and Jim Walker organized the spotters for NBC. Bet there was some wheeling and dealing among the group to see who was going to work with the Woods-Mickelson pairing.

Suncoast
The Bradenton CC hosted the Florida GCSA Fall Board Meeting in October as President Joe Pantaleo is trying something new by moving some of the state board meetings around the state this year. We will be changing our old habits too by moving our traditional March Suncoast Scramble to the Jacaranda West C. C. in Venice for our 2005 event. We didn’t meet in February due to the G.I.S. in Orlando, and we will not be meeting in April. Our next big gathering will be at our annual meeting and golf tournament in May at the Sara Bay CC. This tournament will be the second of three qualifiers to determine the Suncoast Champion for entry into the 2006 GCSAA Golf Championships.

Treasure Coast
With spring upon us, our thoughts turn to hosting the 2005 Blue Pearl Tournament on May 9th at The Medalist Club in Hobe Sound. This is our big fundraising event that generates research dollars as well as supporting local school turf and environmental programs. Recently, members Ralph Cessna and Craig Weyandt took part in a state sponsored workshop that was focused on updating the Pesticide License process and examination. Thanks for donating your time and energy to participate on issues affecting your fellow professionals.

West Coast
The year 2005 is off to a fast start coming on the heels of our Vendor Appreciation Day held at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Thanks to our hosts Mike Wilcox and Mike Grace and cooking sensation Ray “The Griller” Miller for the good eats. In January we unveiled our new website and also announced we would accept credit card payments for meeting registrations. The Board of Directors is looking at holding a GCSAA Regional Seminar in July of this year.

Florida GCSA
To recap some of the communications advances statewide the following chapters now have websites in operation or under construction: Calusa, Central Florida, Everglades, Florida GCSA, Suncoast and West Coast.

Our 2005 Government Relations Delegation traveled to Tallahassee in March during this year’s Legislative Session to lobby for support of our turf research matching funds proposal that Mike Goldie, our legislative consultant, has been putting together with the help and support of several key legislators. In addition we will be promoting our Golf BMP manual that we are working on in conjunction with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the USGA, and environmental and industry representatives.

If you missed the 2005 GIS in Orlando and the FGCSA reception then you missed good ones. The new format certainly was a change for many, but should have great longterm benefits for our profession. Paul Crawford, the reception chairman, organized a “rocking” good time for more than 1,000 FGCSA members, sponsors and guests. One of the new traditions at our reception is a Benevolent Fund drawing to raise money for superintendents in need of assistance. We raised $5,100 in Orlando and John Johnson from the South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island won the cash prize.
Analysis

Floridians Take Seat on Board, National Title

By Joel Jackson

The 2005 Golf Industry Show was a success in its debut this past February in Orlando as the combined conference and show for both the Golf Course Owners Association and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. It succeeded on a variety of levels.

As an attendee to most of the conferences since 1985 let me say that I have never been to an unsuccessful conference and show. There is always something that I take away from each event: powerful opening session speakers, classroom knowledge, new professional contacts, and peer networking. Some years one area may be stronger than the other, but it is never a waste of time. So like many of you, I wondered what the new-fangled “Golf Industry Show” was going to be like.

The 2005 event was like any other conference and show and I mean that in a good way. Except for the practice range, artificial putting green and Pro Shop Solutions areas, it looked just like a normal superintendents’ trade show experience. The Solution Centers concept is a good idea I think, especially if they can group suppliers related to the topic around them. It sure makes sense for walking the floor and visiting booths. Some superintendents said the Building the Green Center was perhaps a novel curiosity that appealed more to the owners and others who don’t see the inner workings of green like they do. The fast pace and ingenuity was applauded, but the educational impact was maybe a little low on their scale. To view a slide show of the whole process log on to www.gcsaa.org and check the Golf Industry Show link for Building the

New Golf Industry Show’s Orlando Debut Successful

Seth Strickland, Miami Shores CC, shot a two-under 142 to win the individual trophy and lead the Florida No. 1 Team to victory in the team event at the 2005 GCSAA Golf Championship. Strickland’s boyhood golf idol Jack Nicklaus presented him with the trophy. Photo by Joel Jackson

Colorful decorations created a festive tropical island backdrop for the 2005 FGCSA Reception. Photo by Larry Kieffer.

Samantha and Greg Kriesch from the Calusa GCSA staff the Benevolent Fund Table. Photo by Larry Kieffer.