Cover Story: The Falls CC

The magnificent falls at The Falls Country Club are the club’s trademark, but its biggest attraction may be an equally magnificent avian population, including a female snow goose who winters at the course every year.

Professional Development: Power Point Presentations

An invitation to address an environmental issues group on Shell Point’s achieving certification in environmental planning and water management with Audubon International gave Mike Mongoven, CGCS, the impetus to learn one of the most useful tools in his computer: PowerPoint.

Hands on: Tree Program

Architect Bobby Weed removed 800 trees when he renovated Timuquana CC in 1996. That made only a slight dent in the forest that had grown up in and around the 1923 Donald Ross classic. With determination and fact-based persuasion, superintendent Chris Neff has convinced the club to remove more trees in a long-term tree-management program.

Official Business: Atrazine Advisory

An essay by a noted hydrologist points out how a lawsuit in Illinois involving atrazine may seriously threaten the nation’s food supply.

Stewardship: Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Enhancing wildlife habitat on your golf course can actually enhance playability and golfer enjoyment if you think through the issues carefully and follow some sensible guidelines.

Call for Articles

Hands on Topic: Share your best practices and tips for those topics. Photography or slides are encouraged. Digital images that are 5 inches wide at 300 dpi or greater accepted.

Summer 2006: Managing Vertebrate Pests: Alligators to Moles

Fall 2006: GPS, Biodiversity or Turf

Winter 2007: Fertility Programs - Using Organic

Spring 2008: Nutrient Management without Nonsense

Please submit articles via email if possible. Attached articles should be in Microsoft Word or if you are unable to write programs using the text file before attaching or you may just copy and paste it into the email. Include a cover letter in 128 words or less. The Florida Green pays $100 per page and $50 for 1-3 pictures.

Digital photos must be a minimum of 5 inches wide at 300 dpi for publication. Digital images that are 5 inches wide at 300 dpi or greater accepted.

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The Florida Green

FRONT COVER PAGE

SPRING 2006
RS48-11B Roll ‘n’ Spike Golf Greens Roller

PACKED WITH FEATURES, NOT WEIGHT

The only roller in the world to have the patented triple offset smoothing roller configuration

The flagship RS48-11B Roll ‘n’ Spike Golf Greens Roller by Tru-Turf is the culmination of 60 years design and development in the art of turf rolling. Our triple offset smoothing configuration allows this engineered product to smooth the turf by skilful design, not by weight.

The RS48-11B is designed to roll your greens in any direction without line creasing. With a rolling swath of 1200mm (48”) (the only one in this class), a split smoothing head, finger-light steering, and the patented triple offset smoothing rollers, it is the only roller that produces the quality of surface finished desired, without compacting the green.

Contact us at: disbrowent.com or call 954-345-8577 for more information or a free demonstration of our equipment
Don’t you just love spring? The temperatures have warmed up and grass is growing consistently again, the birds are singing, only to be drowned out by the sound of hammers and construction equipment re-building the members’ clubhouse that got destroyed in the hurricanes of 2004. Yes, you are not in that boat alone.

Like many others we are still recovering from the storms in 2004 and ’05. I do hope everyone has recovered as best as possible. Just think, it won’t be long and you will be able to sit back and reflect on how you and your staff were able to overcome these challenges to make a terrific golfing season.

Speaking of challenges, another storm is brewing out there and it’s not a hurricane. This ill wind is coming from the activists who always blame golf courses and lawns for pollution. The recent trend is to blame phosphorus and nitrate pollution on turfgrass fertilizers. Ok, it’s not new but you know what I mean. I’m hearing and seeing stories of county officials trying to ban synthetic fertilizers, trying to ban soluble fertilizers, trying to ban fertilizers totally.

We have to remind them again and again that properly applied fertilizers do not leach. Present them with the facts and help dispel the myths. Tell them how you really do it. Remind them that it is a business and that wasteful practices just don’t make sense. Tell them how you properly apply products and do so with restraint in regards to water bodies and potential weather events. Tell them how you send in soil samples to labs that match your fertilizer to the needs of your soils. Tell them how you watch the weather. I haven’t met a superintendent yet who couldn’t tell me the weather forecast for the next few days.

We have to know this information. It’s our job. The problem is that most people don’t know that we know and what we do.

You can sit back and wait until this blows over and try to repair the damage after it has been done. Remember the hurricanes? Or maybe, just maybe, you can do something about it. You know, take a little preventive action.

In other words, don’t just talk the talk, but walk the walk. There are 67 counties and 440 municipalities out there that potentially could make laws regulating fertilizer use. Let’s be proactive and combine our efforts to let everyone know about the true positive benefits of golf courses.

Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President
Introducing Headway, a new fungicide solution for fairways. And better fairways mean better play. With a dual mode of systemic action, Headway provides broad-spectrum control at low rates — including outstanding protection against both brown patch and dollar spot. Headway continues the tradition of innovative disease control from Syngenta. Our unique formulations perform on a daily basis, bringing value to your course. Not only do they provide superior control, they are engineered for practicality with no clogging and even coverage.

To a golfer, dedication is wanting to be the first on the course each morning.
To Syngenta, dedication is creating conditions that make that commitment worthwhile.
CHAPTER ROUNDUP

Winter’s The Season of Hyperactivity

CALUSA

On Dec. 6, the Calusa CGCSA held its third annual Christmas charity golf tournament at Kelly Greens Country Club in Fort Myers. The CGCSA is comprised of golf course superintendents from Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Collier counties. As in the past, all proceeds from the tournament were donated to the Abuse Counseling and Treatment Center of Lee County Inc. ACT provides safe shelter, food and clothing for the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and their children. ACT also attempts to break the cycle of violence through educational programs in local schools and in our community. This year the Calusa GCMA was able to raise $1,750. External Vice President Greg Kriesch presented the check to Jennifer Benton of ACT at the conclusion of the event.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tom Alex, director of golf and grounds of the Grand Cypress Resort, was the guest speaker at our annual FTGA Research Tournament held at the Interlachen CC. The event has raised over $60,000 for turf research over the years. The team of Nancy Henderson and John Lammrish from LPGA International Club in Dayona Beach repeated as tournament winners.

Chapter President Chris Cartin hosted our annual superintendent/vendor meeting and golf tournament in February. The event took on a new name in honor of Duane Camps, who died last April. Duane was a sales rep from WescoTurf, the local Toro distributor. The event was renamed the Duane Camps Supt/Vendor Shootout. It was then altogether fitting and touching when Duane’s son won the special Long Drive contest sponsored by Lake Masters and Mike Martin, and he also teamed up with Alaqua CC superintendent Jay Buccelato to win the Low Gross division in the Shoot-out. After golf and over a chicken wing dinner, the band Supt Up performed a song list of classic rock tunes.

Congratulations go out to Bob Karnes of Disney for pulling down a 2005 ELGA Merit Award in the Resorts Division up in Atlanta at the GCSAA Conference.

Our chapter and the Central Florida TESTA association of Equipment Technicians co-hosted a shop tour of three golf course equipment maintenance operations in March. A group of over fifty technicians and superintendents visited Orange Lake, Orange County National and Grande Lakes shops. Each stop was sponsored in order by Coastal Equipment/John Deere, Toro Dealers and Jacobsen dealers. The tour has grown in scope and size each year.

In March, more than 50 Central Florida technicians and superintendents toured three local golf course equipment maintenance operations. Photo by Frank Eckert.
Syngenta never stops working to keep your course green.

Sure, we have an unmatched portfolio of products. From Subdue MAXX®, the industry leader against Pythium, to Barricade®, the longest-lasting pre-emergent against crabgrass. But we’re never content. Keeping turf healthy means constantly refining our formulations. And developing new ones, to ensure we always have the best products. Making sure you have the tools you need, that’s what we do.

Contact Lee Bloomcamp at 1-352-495-3405, Kevin Wasilewski at 1-863-644-1467, and Pablo Perez at 1-305-969-9996 to learn more about Syngenta.
The Supt Up Band, aka Uncle Freddy, entertained players and guests following the Central Florida supt/vendor “Duane Camps Shoot-out” at the Tuscanvilla C.C. Band members from left: Steve Kulka, Mike Dean, John Kopak, Brett Harris and Steve Kress. Photo by Joel Jackson.
We Play by the Ridge Rules. Thank you Sponsors.

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Golf Course Services
Upstart Products

EVENT SPONSORS
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Howard Fertilizer
Wesco Turf
Meanwhile Bill Davidson is planning to leverage our second appearance in the Naples St. Patrick’s Day parade into another positive public relations event.

NORTH FLORIDA

Thanks to Paul Hammrick for organizing our chapter volunteers to work for NBC Sports covering the TPC Championship. March will be a busy month as Glen Klauk will be hosting our annual Research Tournament at Pablo Creek CC on the 13th. Then in April we will all gather at our annual Mike Richards Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC.

Coastal Plains

Don Glaser hosted our January meeting at the Capitol City CC. Jeff Heggen did the honors in March at his Hilaman Park GC.

Everglades

Our members kicked off the 2006 educational calendar by attending the FTGA Regional Seminar at the TECO Arena in January and then trekking up to Atlanta for the GIS. We held a joint meeting with the Calusa chapter in March at Edison College to visit Dr. Lee Berndt’s golf operations program. In April we will have our annual Spring Symposium and Matt Taylor has lined up another spectacular lineup of speakers. We are also in full action mode getting ready for the Poa Annua Classic in May at the Naples Beach Club. Meanwhile Bill Davidson is planning to leverage our second appearance in the Naples St. Patrick’s Day parade into another positive public relations event.

North Florida

Thanks to Paul Hammrick for organizing our chapter volunteers to work for NBC Sports covering the TPC Championship. March will be a busy month as Glen Klauk will be hosting our annual Research Tournament at Pablo Creek CC on the 13th. Then in April we will all gather at our annual Mike Richards Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC.
Any Way You Cut It, TifSport Can Stand Up To A Wide Range Of Mowing Heights.

TEES: 3/8”
Thanks to TifSport’s superior turf density, sod strength and good lateral growth rate, it’s perfect for high traffic areas like tees. It also shows improved resistance to and quick recovery from divot injuries.

ROUGH: 1-1/2”
You can maintain a good TifSport rough of up to 1-1/2”, so why not stick with the same grass you have on your tees and fairways? You’ll really be cutting down on your management headaches.

FAIRWAYS: 5/8”
TifSport’s leaf blade orientation and stiffness make it ideal for fairways. A lot of superintendents are hearing from golfers that TifSport gives a better ball lie than other bermudas.

SURROUNDS: 3/8”
TifSport has just what it takes for a perfect landing area. It holds good shots and it’s tough enough to take lots of shots without injury. No wonder more and more superintendents are using TifSport on their greens collar.

Unlike many bermudagrass varieties, TifSport can handle a wide range of mowing heights. That’s why it’s so ideal for tees, fairways, roughs and approaches. Wall to wall TifSport. Talk about a superintendent’s dream. TifSport also recovers very quickly from injury, has excellent cold-tolerance, color, texture, and density, as well as improved pest resistance. And while it might green up a little later than some bermudas come spring, once it takes off it’s very aggressive. Many superintendents feel this is a big plus when they’re dealing with fluctuating spring temperatures. TifSport. Specify it by name for your new course or renovation project.

TIFSPORT
CERTIFIED BERMUDAGRASS
www.tifsport.com
We fielded a team of spotters and scorers to work with NBC Sports to broadcast the Honda Classic at Mirasol. March will be a busy month with our monthly meeting at Aberdeen CC and the South Florida Turf Expo a few days later. Plenty of PDI point opportunities.

We are currently supporting a membership drive by the Palm Beach Equipment Technicians Association. Encourage your technician to join. Contact Hass Mengloii, president at 561-541-9140 or 561-951-3767 or email to hassmengloi@adelphia.net.

The Ridge Invitational was held March 6 at the Grassland CC. Thanks Roy Wilshire, CGCS for another great event.

President Mark Kann hosted the third FGCSA Assistant Superintendent Seminar at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River in February. Tom Ginnetti and Ed Suarez from Integrated Employer Resources, Inc. teamed up to give morning and afternoon sessions on hiring, communications, interviewing and leadership topics.

Our “spring thing” as always is a busy March with Doral Open — oops, I mean the Ford Championship at Doral — and Jim and Susi Walker rounding up a team of spotters to work with NBC Sports. Tiger hung on for a repeat victory as a windy Blue Monster had the pros chipping out from behind the banyan trees. And soon after the tournament we will be hosting the South Florida Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Station in Ft. Lauderdale.

Thanks to Renze Berg and the Bradenton CC for hosting our January Superintendent/Vendor Appreciation Day meeting and to Mel Hallack of Golf Ventures for the great barbecue spread. Mike McCulloch is ready for our return to Jacaranda West CC for the 2006 Suncoast Scramble in March. This is one of our major turf research fundraisers and we appreciate everyone’s support. We will be changing the site of our annual meeting and chapter championship to Imperial Lakewoods GC since Bob Gwodz will be busy with a reconstruction project at our traditional venue at the Sara Bay CC.

First we are happy to report that we retained possession of the Cavanaugh & Wagner Cup from our joint meeting and golf match with the Palm Beach Chapter. Thanks Rob Kloska for hosting the event once again at Jupiter Island. Our January meeting was a dinner.