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Linda Satter (N. FL.)
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Maureen Clark (W. FL.)
Phone: 813.855.1673 (office)
317.345.2691 (cell)
Email: MCCLARK@DOW.COM

Patrick Bell (E. FL.)
Phone: 407.483.0494 (office)
407.484.1225 (cell)
Email: BELL2@DOW.COM

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P R O V E N   S O L U T I O N S
Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great Holiday season.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who responded to the challenge of fighting the EPA on the methyl bromide issue. Due to the hundreds of letters, emails, and phone calls, the EPA has had a change of heart. They are now looking at a phase-out plan for methyl bromide. Great job, everyone, as the feelings of many were heard as one voice.

Hopefully, many of you will have the chance to go to the GIS in San Diego. A new format this year will have the trade show open on Wednesday and end on Thursday with no classes competing with the show.

Don’t forget about the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic. This event also has a format change this year. The golf tournament will be held during the weekend prior to the GIS. You can compete in the tournament and still be able to take classes starting on Monday. I have already registered to play in the Golf Classic. It should be a great time.

Everyone should play at least once in this tournament. This is a great networking opportunity and making new friendships across the industry.

On Thursday night, Feb. 11, the Florida reception will be held on the rooftop of the Solamar Hotel in the Gas Lamp District. Watch for your invitation in the mail. Be sure to let Jennifer know if you and a guest are coming so we can order the right amount of food.

It’s a new year, but we still have some of the same old discussions we had in 2009: fertilizer restrictions and water quality issues. Anyone who has attended these local government meetings knows how high the emotions run. The Sierra Club has been calling the University of Florida / IFAS turf research biased due to contributions from turf industry partners.

Who else would fund research to help us all do our jobs better? Besides that all the fertilizer research going on the past few years has been funded by a grant from the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection and not the turfgrass industry. An inconvenient truth omitted by the activists.

We need to stay focused on these issues and make our presence known at these meetings. Just like the grassroots effort with methyl bromide, our strength is in numbers and the unity of our message and purpose.

I look forward to seeing many of you in San Diego. Have a busy and profitable winter season.

President
Bill Kistler
This Spotlight report is going to look more like a Palm Beach highlight film script. These folks are taking the fall season by storm.

It all began when the chapter defeated the SFGCSA to retain the Blackledge Trophy in the chapter’s annual golf match at their September joint meeting at the Boca West CC. Then Deron Zendt from the Banyan CC in West Palm Beach won the FTGA and FGCSA golf championships back to back one week apart, also in September. Led by Zendt’s score of 70, the Palm Beach No. 1 Team of Zendt (FTGA & FGCSA winner), Mark Henderson (Poa winner), Jim Torba (Crowfoot winner) and Seth Strickland (Low average in all events) tee it up in the GCSAA Golf Championships in Palm Springs, CA in February.

The Palm Beach Chapter won the 2009 FGCSA Team Trophy at Southern Dunes GC Sept. 26. Front row from left: Jeff Klontz, Deron Zendt (also individual winner) and Steve Bernard. Back row: Steve Wright, Jeff Veneklase, Kevin Downing, Mark Henderson, Steve Pearson and Mark Heater. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Peter Snyder officially began his duties as the new executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association at the Conference and Show Sept. 16. Photo provided by Leading Edge Communications.
Special thanks to Bill Kistler and the Tampa Palms G&CC for hosting the tournament.

The Florida West Coast Chapter thanks the following sponsors for their generous support of this event.

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gold and the glory this fall, The Palm Beach Chapter also has a charitable giving side. The members chose two very worthwhile projects to give back to the community. The chapter sponsored a beautification project that included a butterfly garden and a colorful entry way for the Special Olympics complex in Lake Worth. PBGCSA board member Kevin Downing, cgc, designed and coordinated this project with the supportive efforts of Aiello Landscape and Ryan Golf.

The Palm Beach GCSA also reached out to the First Tee of the Palm Beaches. The facility is located at the Dwyer Park landfill in northern Palm Beach County and is dedicated to promoting the game of golf as a positive influence on the area’s youth. The Palm

2010 Calendar of Events

January - FTGA Regional Seminars
5 Tampa St. Lawrence Parrish, 5325 N. Himes Ave
6 Orlando Valencia West Campus, 1800 S. Kirkman Rd
7 Ft. Myers Three Oaks Banquet & Conference Ctr,
   20991 Three Oaks Pkwy
12 Vero Beach Richardson Center, Indian River State
   College, 6155 College Lane
13 Lake Worth Polish American Club, 4725 Lake Worth Rd.
14 Plantation Central Park, 9151 NW 2nd Street
19 Ocala Marion County Extension Service, 2232 NE
   Jacksonville Road
20 Jacksonville Duval County Extension Service, 1010 N.
   McDuff Ave
21 Milton Santa Rosa County Auditorium, 4530
   Jimmy’s Way

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. at all locations. Get more detailed information at www.ftga.org

FGCSA Chapter Events

January
8 Calusa GC Meeting, Coral Oaks G.C.
11 Central Florida/FTGA Research Tournament,
   Interlachen CC, Winter Park
13 Seven Rivers Meeting, Continental C.C.

February
8-12 GCSAA Golf Industry Show (GIS), San Diego, CA
11 FGCSA GIS Reception, Solamar Hotel, Gas Lamp Quarter

March
8 NFGCSA Florida Research Tournament, Pablo Creek GC
15 Range Invitational, Eaglebrooke G.C.
(TBA) Everglades Naples Princess Sunset Cruise, Suncoast Scramble, South Florida Turf Expo and FGCSA Spring Regulator Tour

April
8 Everglades Spring Symposium, Naples Beach Hotel
12 North Florida, Memorial Tournament, Marsh Creek GC
19 Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic


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The Andersons — Straightest Drive Sponsor
Florida Turf Support — Straightest Drive Sponsor
Dow AgroScience — Beverage Cart
Ragan Technical Solutions — Beverage Cart
Kilpatrick Turf — Closest to the Pin
Greens Grade Services — Beverages

All of the volunteers who gave up their day to help us.
Beach chapter members are currently re-evaluating all equipment and programs used to maintain the turf and recently donated $3,500 to refurbish many items. Craig Watson is coordinating these efforts as the facility’s executive director. As a way of saying thanks, the First Tee will be sponsoring an educational program and skills challenge for many Palm Beach County golf course employees.

While the Palm Beach Chapter may have been hogging this Spotlight, it was hard earned and well deserved.

Meanwhile one of the oldest ongoing charitable tournaments hosted by superintendents, The South Florida GCSA M&E Tournament, celebrated its 25th anniversary this past October at the Carolina Club in Margate. This event has been raising funds for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC/FL - Formerly known as The Adam Walsh Center/FL) during 2008, NCMEC/FL was directly involved in 297 missing child cases and assisted in the recovery

The SFGCSA celebrated the 25th M&E Tournament by donating $25,000 to the Florida Chapter of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. From left, SFGCSA President Ted Hile, Nancy McBride and Nancy Sullivan of the NCMEC/FL and Kelly Cragin, tournament committee man. Photo by Joel Jackson.
of 113 children. The group also distributed more than 4,000 pieces of safety materials. Since the merger with NCMEC in 1990, Florida group has played a direct role in more than 2,500 missing children cases and has provided assistance in the recovery of more than 700 of Florida’s missing children. This year the SFGCSA donated $25,000 in honor of the 25th anniversary. The chapter has donated approximately $500,000 for this worthy cause.

Congratulations to all our chapters for their local charity involvement. We look forward to reporting the results of the many holiday events that chapters will be holding in December. Happy holidays to one and all.

And speaking of charitable giving, last but not least we’d like to recognize the Everglades GCSA for maintaining its annual Platinum Club status by donating $5,000 to the GCSAA’s Environmental Institute for Golf. The FGCSA is currently in the annual Gold Tee Club. In cumulative giving to the EIFG over the years, the FGCSA is in the Presidential Club ($100,000 to $249,000); the EGCSA is in the Governor’s Club ($50,000 to $99,000); the Palm Beach, South Florida and Treasure Coast chapters are in the Statesman Club ($10,000 - $24,999).

Founders of the SFGCSA Me-E Tournament celebrate the event’s 25th Anniversary at the Carolina Club. From left: Bob Klitz, Nancy Sullivan, Bill McKee, David Lottes, Bill Entwhistle, Jr., Nancy McBride and Bill Entwhistle, Sr. Photo by Joel Jackson.
The Tom Wells Memorial Tournament was held at The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland, Oct. 1 to pay tribute to the late Tom Wells, who unexpectedly died Jan. 20.

Wells enjoyed the game of golf and was a great ambassador for the industry. His tremendous passion for the industry was evident by his numerous volunteer hours for various FGCSA chapters and the Florida Turfgrass Association, which he served as president in 2004-2005.

He received the 2009 Wreath of Grass award posthumously at the 2009 FTGA Conference and Show in September at Palm Beach Gardens. The Wreath of Grass is FTGA’s highest honor for dedication and service to the turfgrass industry. The award was accepted by his son Scott on behalf of the family.

Scott Wells helped to organize this event and the family was on hand to thank everyone for their support and participation to honor Tom’s memory and his passion for the turfgrass industry. In conjunction with the Ridge Chapter, Scott plans to make this annual event to raise turf research funding.

The weather was perfect for the golf tournament and, thanks to Alan Puckett, the course was in excellent condition for the four-person scramble. A good time was had by all, and in keeping with “The Ridge” tradition, a barbecue cookout and awards dinner was held afterwards.

The overall winning team was from the FGCSA Suncoast Chapter, consisting of Darden Nicks, Laurel Oaks CC; Tom Robertson, Bird Bay GC; and Bill Tyde, Mission Valley G&CC. First low net went to the team from Coastal Equipment: Natalie Roy, Gary Newcomb, Big Cypress Golf Club, Rafael Villegas and Wes Weathers of Mystic Dunes. Second low net went to Scott Wells, Marc Dull, Brad Mashburn, and Pete Schownir (obviously up and coming Ridge sandbaggers!).

The tournament committee would like to recognize the following sponsors and to say “Thank You” for helping make this first annual event a huge success:

The committee pays a special thank-you to the management team of The Club at Eaglebrooke; to Alan Puckett, golf course superintendent and his staff for a job well done; to Ray Cuzzone for donating his services for preparing the barbecue dinner, and to the many local courses and businesses that donated items for the raffle drawing.

The tournament raised more than $4,000, which will be donated to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation in Tom’s honor for the continuation of turfgrass research.
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In 2005 the University of Florida opened the new turf and agricultural research complex on more than 1100 acres of donated land roughly 20 miles south of Gainesville. The G. C. Horn Turf Research Plots, formerly located near the Devil’s Mill Hopper in north-west Gainesville, were relocated to this new facility which sports more than 40 acres of turf plots, three full-size golf holes and a nine-hole putting course (or green if you like).

Part of the 1.5 acre, 9-hole putting course. In the background football goal post and soccer net indicate area dedicated to sports turf research. Photo by Daniel Zelazek

Mark Kann, current coordinator of research programs for turf, says travel time getting to the new turf plots by