

# Tampa: Ideal City for FTGA Conference & Show

By: Irene Jones

Tampa...the hub city of Florida's West Coast...a picturesque vacationland and a bustling megatrend city will host The 1985 Florida Turf-Grass Association Conference and Show at The Curtis Hixon Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Hotel, on September 29 - October 2, 1985. The show promises to be the best ever with increased educational sessions, the introduction of "hands on" workshop sessions and very qualified speakers.

The new "hands on" workshop sessions are designed to provide a practical, every-day approach to the subject covered. Three workshops are planned. They include:

**ESTIMATING LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.** Conducted by Ms. Kathy Kerr of Kerr and Associates, Minneapolis, Mn. This workshop is designed to provide up-to-date information on how to effectively determine costs. The workshop will help you avoid making costly mistakes, help improve making projections, and improve profit margins.

**TURF DISEASE IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL.** Conducted by Dr. Gary Simone and Mr. Richard Cullen, this workshop will provide the participant with everything necessary to accurately diagnose the common diseases that afflict southern turf. Microscopes will be provided to help appreciate, and reinforce what is needed to make sound decisions when accurate disease identification is vital.

**COMPUTER USE IN TURF MANAGEMENT** is designed to help a turf manager make his or her job easier. Turfgrass management is more than just agronomy. It also combines making sound business decisions, knowing how to budget, make projections, and keep various records regarding financial and equipment matters. These workshops, conducted by Dr. Fedro Zazueta and Ms. Justine Wellington from IFAS, in Gainesville will provide the answers needed to run an efficient, profitable operation.

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Curtis Hixon Convention Center.



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The workshops will be conducted for 3 days. Enrollment will be limited to 24 individuals in each workshop. Enrollment is on a first come, first serve basis with priority given to FTGA members. More information will be released shortly regarding these workshops and the Conference and Show.

Dan and I plan to attend the show this year. We always enjoy visiting the Tampa/St. Petersburg area because growing up my family home was located on Treasure Island over on the St. Petersburg side of Tampa Bay. Tampa and St. Petersburg are separated by a large body of water, the Tampa Bay. Memories of that time in my life include visiting cigar factories in Ybor City, Tampa's Latin Quarter with my Uncle. The cigar industry was the catalyst that created Ybor City when cigar makers migrated from Havana to Key West and then to Ybor City in 1885. My Uncle Paul, a retired policeman from Pennsylvania, came down twice a year and we visited the cigar factories looking over "seconds." Seconds were top quality cigars hand rolled from Cuban tobacco leaves but the price of those cigars was greatly reduced because of flaws in the leaves. Uncle Paul would buy them and repair the air holes by rewrapping the damaged parts. Fine cigars are still rolled by hand by practitioners of this fading craft.

Tampa is well known for its industry, factories, commerce and world trade. Recognized as a major port for both cruise ship lines and barge traffic as well as for its "Pink Gold," Tampa is the home of one of the world's large shrimp fleets. About a dozen of these trawlers are usually in port. And, the Tampa Port Authority wants three downtown docks for cruise ships built sometime between 1987 and 1988, according to Frank Clewis, marketing director. On the 20-acre tract, the authority also wants to arrange for development of 1.5 million square feet of space in two office towers and two hotels with 600 rooms each.

If you are flying in for the Conference you will enjoy a "Five Star Airport" because Tampa International Airport is rated by many, including Esquire and Fortune Magazines, as the finest airport in the world. In addition to being beautiful and efficient, the flight departures are reported to be 99.6% reliable.

The annual FTGA Scholarship & Research Golf Tournament will start things off for the Conference. The tourna-



Ybor Square in Ybor City.

ment will be held at the Sun City Center Golf Course on The Lakes, The Oaks and The Palms which all together include 27 beautiful holes. Dan Morgan, CGCS is the Superintendent, Dan has put in a lot of hard work to coordinate this major event. Tournament monies will support turf-grass scholarship and research. Following the tournament, it's off to Simmons Ranch for a Ruskin Corn Boil and Steak Fry. Since the tournament is open to everyone, even if you don't play golf you can cheer on those who do. The corn boil is a must because you will meet old friends and make some new ones. Superintendents should plan to support this event.

FTGA funded research presentations will start the General Sessions on Monday afternoon, September 30. Topics to be covered include: Bermudagrass Decline, Salinity Studies, Nematode Research, and Overseeding Trials. FTGA lobbyist, Joe Fuller, will update attendees on legislative action affecting turf interests.

A highlight at this year's Conference and Show will be the featured speaker, Art Holst. Mr. Holst is a former NFL official with the ability to motivate, entertain, and challenge his audience. His talk, the "Challenge of Excellence" promises to leave us all with a very strong message.

Educational sessions this year have been expanded to four. They include: GOLF TURF, LAWN CARE AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TURF CULTURE AND ADVANCED PRINCIPLES OF TURF CULTURE. In addition, HRS credits will be awarded for several of the Basic and Advanced Principle Sessions. The following is a summary of the educational sessions for Tuesday, October 1, 1985:

#### GOLF TURF SESSION:

Golfing Trends in Florida — Dr. Joe Beditz, National Golf Foundation.

Golf Course Aerification — Dr. Robert Carrow, Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station.

What Makes a Golf Course Superintendent Successful — Gene Baston, President of G.C.S.A.A.

Putting Green Speed Update - Dr. Joe Duich, Pennsylvania State University.

Preventing Fires in the Maintenance Facility — Todd

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Downtown Tampa.



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Spear, Public Education Officer, Tampa Fire Department.

How Long Can You Mow Greens — Charles "Bud" White, United States Golf Association.

#### LAWN CARE AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:

Selecting Quality Landscape Plants — James Salmon, Salmon's Wholesale Nursery, Ocala.

Design of Landscape Plantings — John Piersol, Lake City Community College, Lake City.

Maintenance of Landscape Plantings — John Aoki, Aoki Landscaping & Maintenance, Tampa.

Calibrating Centrifugal Spreaders — Art Wick, Lesco, Inc. Rocky River, Ohio.

Hiring and Retaining Personnel — Dr. G.C. Nutter, Sunburst Ridge Farm, Buford, Georgia.

Compatibility of Pesticide and Fertilizer Combinations — Dr. Charles Darrah, ChemLawn Services Corp., Columbus, Ohio.

#### BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TURF CULTURE:

Fundamentals I. Turf Selections and Establishment — Harold Jones, Duval Co. Cooperative Extension, Jacksonville.

Fundamentals II. Turf Mowing, Fertility, and Irrigation — David Lambert, Charlotte Co. Cooperative Extension, Punta Gorda.

Fundamentals III. Trouble Shooting Turf Problems — Bob Rehberg, Estech, Inc., Winter Haven.

Fundamentals IV. Biological and Chemical Aquatic Weed Control — Dr. Vernon Vandiver, University of Florida, IFAS, Ft. Lauderdale.

#### ADVANCED PRINCIPLES OF TURF CULTURE:

Turfgrass Growth and Development — Dr. Jeffrey Krans, Mississippi State University, Mississippi.

Selecting Equipment for Turf Maintenance — Frank Buckingham, Equipment Consultant, Springfield, Missouri.

Insecticide Mode of Action — Dr. James Reinert, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Dallas.

Herbicide Mode of Action — B.J. Johnson, Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, Experiment.

A giant new convention center is also targeted for completion in Tampa in 1987. The center will be among the nation's largest, with 200,000 square feet set aside just for an exhibit hall. Proposals for the project are currently under review. This new center would be available for future Golf Course and Turf-Grass conventions.

Some families may want to plan to visit Busch Gardens where Africa of old comes to life. The adventure and romanticism of exotic Africa, The Dark Continent...celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1984, here you will find seven distinctly themed African sections complete with wild jungle animals, wilder thrill rides, colorful open-air bazaars and authentic foods. Lush gardens, exotic birds and the famed Bird Circus, with trained macaws and cockatoos, are still among the most popular park attraction. Located at 3000 Busch Boulevard, two miles east of Interstate 275, Busch Gardens is open daily from 9:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., with extended hours in the summer. The single admission price of \$13.50 includes all rides, shows and attractions. Children two years and under are admitted free. Parking is \$1 per vehicle.

For me the flavor and color of Tampa's Latin American Heritage expresses itself in the dining cuisine of The Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City. Black Bean Soup (the world's best), chicken and rice, flan and strong sweet coffee served in a courtyard filled with the music and rhythm of Spanish Dancers and you're on your way to creating a memorable evening. Two years ago Dan and I enjoyed one such evening with Max and Sally Brown. How about if we plan it again this year?

The final day provides a grand finale to a successful Conference and Show. General sessions on Wednesday, October 2 are designed to be controversial, provocative and enlightening. Victoria Tschinkel, Secretary, Department of Environmental Regulation will discuss the DER and how it affects sensitive issues regarding water quality, protection of ground water, and other problems important to the turf industry. Dr. D.L. Shankland, Chairman of the Department of Entomology and Nematology will discuss "Environmental Toxicants and Public Risks in Florida." His discussion will clarify some of the perceived risks as compared to the actual risks of using chemicals. Many of the chemicals we're exposed to on an every day basis right in the home are far more toxic and dangerous than are the chemicals used in agriculture. Dr. Shankland will compare these risks and illustrate how all these risks need to be outweighed.

Dr. J.M. Davidson, Assistant Dean of Research at IFAS will discuss the "Role of IFAS in Evaluation and Recommendation of Pesticides." He will discuss the testing and recommendation procedures that IFAS goes through in their process of making recommendations. This is an important talk not to be missed since we must now reevaluate many factors before a recommendation can be made especially as a result of increased pesticide awareness and contamination of ground water supplies.

Finally, Drs. Bruce Augustin and Charles Peacock will discuss the latest in insect, disease, nematodes, and weed controls. Their presentation will provide the latest information available for controlling these pests.

The 1985 Conference and Show promises to surpass all others in the past. Be sure to plan now for this grand event to be held September 29 through October 2, 1985 in Tampa, Florida. For more information contact the Florida Turf-Grass Association, 302 S. Graham Ave., Orlando, Florida 32803-6322, Telephone: (305) 898-6721. ■