

The First Annual South Florida Turfgrass Workshop and Exposition

by SCOTT WAHLIN
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IT is with a tremendous amount of pride in this industry that I am pleased to announce this event was a resounding success. There had been some reservations concerning the ability to draw Turf Managers to a purely educational and informative field day. The only reservations we should have next year should be for seats in the class, booths and exposition spots.

The event was co-sponsored by the SFGCSA and IFAS. The cooperation and energy put forth by the sponsors certainly makes them worthy of com-

mendation. Ray Hansen suggested this to the SFGCSA Board as an event that was very successful in the north. The idea is that turf equipment companies spend a great deal of money demonstrating equipment at individual clubs. Why not bring them together with as many prospective buyers as we can muster? Where else can you demonstrate your equipment line for over 100 buyers? The final goal is to have the grounds maintenance supply people see this as being so valuable to them that they become even more active in the planning and preparation to insure a successful outing.

There should be no doubt that this year's South Florida Turfgrass Workshop and Exposition was a success. It was a very productive day for those who were fortunate enough to attend.

Bud Nolder and the Rolling Hills Golf Resort made sure we had excellent meeting facilities and exposition space. We were able to use one of their actual playing holes which was closed for the demonstrations.

Dr. Wayne Curry conducted the workshop. He was very informative and enter-



Calibration Team Captain Bill McKee.



A variety of spray equipment was used for the calibration exercise.



"First Annual South Florida Turfgrass Workshop and Exposition" The Workshop drew 162 participants.



Dr. Curry demonstrates the effects of nozzles and spacing on precision coverage.

taining although he was somewhat sarcastic when it came to the level of precision he had encountered in the field. He demonstrated the effects of nozzle spacing and various nozzles with regard to even coverage. He also discussed various other spray equipment and methods of sprayer calibration. The second part of the workshop consisted of hands on sprayer calibration. Team captains were assigned and participants were divided into these teams. A variety of spray equipment was made available by the dealers. All teams were successful in calibrating their equipment. I spoke with a representative from the Parks Department in Hillsborough County after the work-

shop. He said he had just transferred to that department and was very impressed with Dr. Curry's presentation. He told me he felt he needed to attend more seminars like this and asked how he could join the SFGCSA. I told him we would be glad to have him as a member, but steered him towards membership in the FTGA.

Displays and lunch were in the clubhouse from 11:30 to 1:00. I spoke with several suppliers who were well satisfied with the exposure they received.

Equipment demonstrations began promptly at 1:00. Each company had three minutes to get on, discuss, get

off and shut off all the equipment they offered in a given category. DeBra offers several manufacturer's brands in the category of riding rotary mowers including Jacobsen, Cushman, Steiner, Heckendorn and Hustler. They were able to do all of the above within the three minute time limit. The equipment companies demonstrated equipment at three minute intervals for 3½ hours with only one short break. The logistics of the show were almost as interesting as the equipment. The cooperation and consideration exhibited by the equipment companies towards each other was admirable as well as critical to the success of the show. ■



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