

FGCSA board votes to fund technician at Fort Lauderdale

NAPLES — A Florida superintendent has become the second woman in the nation to become certified, the University of Florida's Research and Education Center at Fort Lauderdale will get a turf technician and the FGCSA will oppose the establishment of a second community college program to train assistant superintendents.

Those were the items of general interest to come out of a five-hour FGCSA board meeting May 21 at which President Cecil Johnston announced that the herbicide Hoelon most likely will be labeled for special use in Florida.

Kim Hemauer, superintendent of the Oak Bridge CC in Ponte Vedra Beach, earned



LARRY KAEFFER/JANLARK

Dennis Lyon, president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, is flanked by FGCSA President Cecil Johnston, right, and Vice President Joel Jackson. Lyon said that, according to preliminary surveys, the international convention in Orlando next February will set an attendance record.

her certification early in April. Had the paperwork been completed a few days earlier, she would have beaten Terri Heaphy of Norfolk, Va., who became the nation's first female certified golf course superintendent March 29.

The FGCSA board voted to pay half of a

\$60,000 proposal by the UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to finance a turf technician for two years at the Fort Lauderdale Center if the Florida Turfgrass Association will fund the other half from the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation.

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One of the technician's primary jobs will be to maintain playing conditions on a new 20,000-square-foot putting green to be built for research at the center with volunteer labor and donated materials.

The FTGA should have no trouble coming up with its half of the money, said Ray Hansen, FGCSA secretary-treasurer, since the FTGA's research foundation already is holding \$13,000 donated by the South Florida GCSA and earmarked specifically for support of the new green.

"And we've raised another \$14,000 this year that will be donated to the FTGA and earmarked for the same thing," said Hansen. "That means all you have to come up with is \$3,000," he said to John Luper, FTGA president.

"I'm sure the (FTGA) board won't have any problem coming up with the \$3,000 (out of the general fund) if it is sure that is



John Luper, left, president of the FTGA, discussed financing a turf technician at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. Listening is John Foy, USGA agronomist for Florida.

what the Florida superintendents want," Luper said.

A poll of the external vice presidents — Gulf Coast and Suncoast chapters were not represented — indicated unanimous support.

Action on the community college issue came in response to preliminary inquiries

by Palm Beach Community College and other institutions interested in starting programs modeled after the highly successful one at Lake City.

"It's very lucrative for the colleges because it is agri-business and they can get matching federal funds," said Kevin Downing, former FGCSA president and current chairman of the research committee.

"This is very premature," said one board member. "Lake City can graduate 50 assistant superintendents a year. Any more than that would flood the market."

"What is needed," said Downing, "is a program that would give credits that can be transferred to a four-year program at the University of Florida."

He also cited the need for short-term certificate programs for irrigation technicians, equipment operators, pesticide applicators and other skilled workers.

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