

# FGCSA: from 0 to 600 in 20

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was founded at the Palm Beach CC in April, 1970, as a confederation of regional associations.

Its original purpose was to open lines of communication, to provide a broader base for educational seminars and to establish stronger voting power in national affairs. Directors were the presidents of the regional associations.

Stan Clarke was the first president, annual dues were \$5, and the first statewide meeting was in January, 1971, at the Florida Agricultural Station in Fort Lauderdale.

Succeeding presidents were Paul Turcotte of the South Florida Association and C.R. Pearson of Bradenton.

Following a five-year dormancy, the FGCSA was revived in 1978 as a federation, with local chapters retaining complete autonomy in their internal affairs. The chapters are represented equally on the board of directors, which elects the three statewide officers: president, vice president and secretary/treasurer.

Public relations, government relations and research funding were added to the association's original goals.

Today, more than 600 superintendents and their assistants are affiliated with the FGCSA through 10 regional chapters, representing more than 400 golf courses from the Keys to the state capital in Tallahassee.

Monthly chapter meetings of the autonomous regional associations are the principal membership activities.

Functions of the state association are carried out by 20 different committees, whose meeting schedules vary according to their assignments. Their work is coordinated by a part-time executive secretary with a computer, answering machine and fax machine.

The FGCSA officers and directors meet quarterly — at the GCSAA convention in February, the Florida Turfgrass Association conference and show in October, and at two popular tournaments for superintendents, the Poa Annu Classic at Naples in May,

### FGCSA COMMITTEES

Bylaws	Long Range Planning
Certification	Membership
Crowfoot Open	Nominations
Education	Poa Annu Classic
Ethics	Publications
FTGA	Public Relations
Fund Raising	Research
GCSAA	Employment Survey
Golf	Voting Delegate
Government Relations	Conference

and the Crowfoot Open at Orlando in August. At the latter two events, the FGCSA education committee sponsors seminars which carry CEU credit for certification.

The FGCSA also helps sponsor the annual day-long USGA Green

Section Conference (which may be expanded to two sessions in different parts of the state), an annual bentgrass seminar in South Florida and two seminars for golf course mechanics at Lake City Community College's School of Golf Course Operations.

The FGCSA's latest project is a 20,000-square-foot research green —

half of it built to USGA specifications and the other half built with the more typical so-called "Florida modification" (no choker layer of coarse sand) — at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center at Fort Lauderdale.

In addition to building the green at its own expense — which topped \$10,000 despite donated materials and labor — the FGCSA has contracted with a technician to maintain the green to playing standards.

Most fundraising for research is conducted at the chapter level, but the state organization does coordinate "Florida Golf Week," which attempts to focus statewide attention on local



FGCSA publications include a quarterly magazine, a bi-monthly newsletter and an annual membership directory. All are financially self-sufficient.

### FGCSA PRESIDENTS

Stan Clarke .....	1971
Paul Turcotte .....	1972
C.R. Pearson .....	1973
Tim Hiers .....	1978-80
Bill Wagner .....	1980-82
Devin Downing .....	1982-83
Don Delaney .....	1983-84
Tom Burrows .....	1984-86
Reed LeFebvre .....	1986-87
Dick Blake .....	1987-88
Cecil Johnston .....	1988-89
Joel Jackson .....	1989-90

### CENTRAL FLORIDA GCSA

A&B Members ..... 87  
 Certified ..... 6  
 Rick Walker, President  
 Orange Lake CC  
 Kissimmee  
 407-239-1057

### EVERGLADES GCSA

A&B Members ..... 85  
 Certified ..... 7  
 Mark Atwood, CGCS  
 President  
 Bears Paw CC  
 Naples

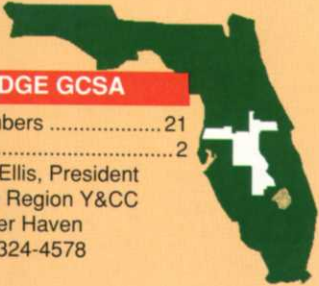
### NORTH FLORIDA GCSA

A&B Members ..... 43  
 Certified ..... 7  
 Mark Waldron, President  
 Turkey Creek CC  
 Alachua  
 904-462-4656



**PALM BEACH GCSA**

A&B Members ..... 101  
Certified ..... 5  
Peter Brooks, President  
The Everglades Club  
Palm Beach  
407-655-7052



**RIDGE GCSA**

A&B Members ..... 21  
Certified ..... 2  
Bob Ellis, President  
Lake Region Y&CC  
Winter Haven  
813-324-4578



**SOUTH FLORIDA GCSA**

A&B Members ..... 58  
Certified ..... 4  
Joe Pantaleo, President  
TPC at Eagle Trace  
Miami  
305-755-6105



**SUN COAST GCSA**

A&B Members ..... 45  
Certified ..... 2  
Talbot Denny, President  
El Conquistador CC  
Bradenton  
813-493-9234



**TREASURE COAST GCSA**

A&B Members ..... 56  
Certified ..... 6  
Scott Bell, President  
Bent Pine GC  
Vero Beach  
407-5567-9422



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**FTGA RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
1989 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Central Florida .....	\$2,000
Everglades .....	4,500
North Florida .....	2,000
Palm Beach .....	3,000
South Florida .....	3,200
Suncoast .....	3,000
Treasure Coast .....	1,000
West Coast .....	5,000
Florida Golf Week .....	<u>2,300</u>
Total* .....	\$26,000

\* Does not include more than \$30,000 contributed towards construction and maintenance of the research green at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center.

fundraising efforts for turf research.

Public relations efforts are funneled through a variety of media.

A unique feature of the association's public relations program is its designated feature writer, who writes columns and stories for outside publications and assists reporters from the news media with technical information.

The association's award winning quarterly magazine, which began life

 <p><b>WEST COAST GCSA</b></p> <p>A&amp;B Members ..... 85          Certified ..... 6          Marshall Edgren, CGCS          President          Mangrove Bay GC          St. Petersburg          813-893-7907</p>	 <p><b>TALLAHASSEE GCSA</b></p> <p>A&amp;B Members ..... TBD          Certified ..... TBD          Robert Giehls          Organizing Superintendent          Killlearn CC          Tallahassee          904-893-2412</p>
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as the newsletter of the South Florida GCSA, is distributed to three persons at every golf course in the state: the superintendent (regardless of FGCSA affiliation), the golf professional and the greens chairman or general manager. The magazine's purpose is to speak for the golf course to the golf industry.

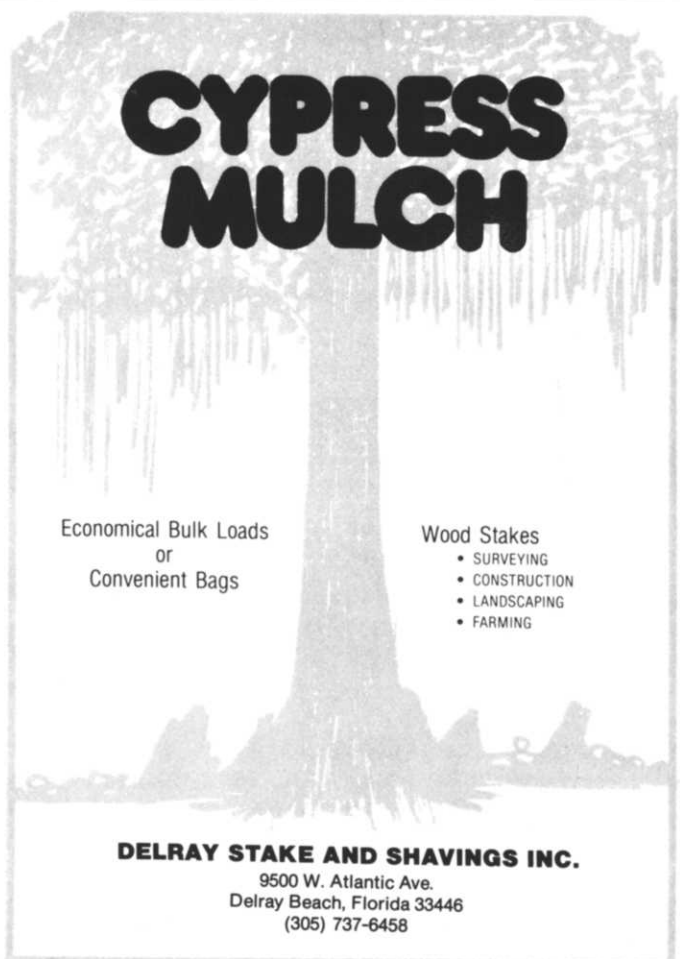
The bimonthly *Green Sheet*, on the other hand, is a newsletter aimed strictly at members and is the primary means of communicating official business.

The annual *Membership Directory* contains the rosters of all chapters, plus association history, code of ethics, by-

laws, committee assignments, member services and winners of the FGCSA's two awards.

The association sponsors two awards: the Distinguished Service Award and the President's Award. Both recognize outstanding contribution to the profession of golf course management, but the President's Award is intended to honor "pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs but who may no longer be actively involved in the FGCSA."

The FGCSA has a booth which it takes to trade shows such as the Florida Turfgrass Association conference and golf shows for the general public. 🏌️



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