

USGA Green Section's annual Florida educational conferences set for WPB, Orlando March 8, 10



The annual USGA Green Section educational conferences for Florida are scheduled 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. March 8 at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott and March 10 at the Orlando Marriott.

The fee is \$45 per person for representatives of USGA-member clubs and \$55 per person for others. The price goes up \$10 after Feb. 25. The fee includes lunch.

Featured speakers include Jim Snow, national director of the USGA Green Section; Jerry Pate, professional golfer and golf architect; and Chuck Gast, USGA agronomist for Florida. Co-hosts for both conferences are Roger Harvie, USGA Regional Affairs manager for the Southeast, and John Foy, USGA Green Section director for Florida.

FGCSA members will receive recertification credit towards their pesticide licenses and members of the GCSAA, PGA of America and CMAA will receive recertification credits for attending the conference. To receive credit, individuals must have their membership numbers available at the time of the conference.

The agenda:

- 8:00 Registration.** Coffee and Danish
- 8:45 Welcoming Remarks.** Roger Harvie, manager, USGA Regional Affairs; John Foy, director, USGA Green Section Florida
- 8:50 Management of High Sand Root Zone Greens.** Chuck Gast, agronomist, USGA Green Section, Hobe Sound.

9:20 Environmental Research — What We've Learned. Jim Snow, national director, USGA Green Section, Far Hills, N.J.

10:05 Break

10:20 Soil Sampling — Analysis and Interpretation. Dr. Edward H. Hanlon, extension soil management specialist, University of Florida, Gainesville.

10:50 Labor Law Update and Employee Motivation Tips. Whit Collins, president, West Coast Employers Assn., Inc., Tampa.

12:15 Luncheon

1:30 Safe Handling and Storage of Pesticides. Jeff Wharton, environmental manager, United Horticulture Supply, Lakeland.

2:30 Nuisance Wildlife on Golf Courses. Dr. William Kern, assistant extension scientist, Pinellas County Extension Office, Largo.

3:00 Design and Maintenance Perspectives. Jerry Page, PGA Tour golf professional and golf course architect. Pensacola.

4:15 Adjourn

Reservations are limited to 200 in West Palm Beach and 175 in Orlando. Questions should be directed to Roger Harvie, USGA Regional Affairs office in Marietta, Ga. at 404-951-0766 or to John Foy, USGA Green Section office in Hobe Sound at 407-546-2620.

More than 200 see Envirotron become a reality

More than 200 friends of turfgrass showed up in Gainesville Nov. 19 to witness the formal dedication of the Envirotron turfgrass research facility behind Fifield Hall on the campus of the University of Florida.

The one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art research facility, comprising a rhizotron, greenhouses, a laboratory, classroom and conference space, and living quarters for graduate students, was built for \$700,000 — \$350,000 from the Florida Turfgrass Association matched by a grant from a state capital improvements fund.



Florida golf course superintendents helped raise most of the FTGA's share.

Featured speaker was Steve Melnyk, former Gator golfer and PGA Tour player who now divides his time between run-

ning a golf management firm and analyzing golf tournaments for CBS Sports.

Other speakers included Dr. John Lombardi, UF president; Jim Davidson, UF vice president for agriculture and natural resources; Dr. Terril Nell, chair of the UF environmental horticulture department; Nick Dennis, FTGA president; State Rep. Bob Casey, D-Gainesville; and James R. Heekin Jr., Board of Regents.

The Envirotron will complement the

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Dedication ceremony

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turfgrass research capability provided by the FGCSA's Otto Schmeiser Research Green at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Center in Fort Lauderdale.



Florida 2000 symposiums help IFAS focus on shifting economy

BY TOM BENEFIELD

The first-of-its kind meeting was held at three locations around the state in late fall. These meetings were sponsored and provided by the administration of the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science at the University of Florida.

The focus of these meetings was consistent with its title. To provide input to IFAS on the direction the people of the state of Florida think IFAS should be going. A mission if you will as to how IFAS may change its current goals and programs to better serve the citizens of the state.

The necessity of these "town hall" meetings is prompted by the shrinking agricultural population of the state and the large urban sector which demands more attention. The original mission of IFAS was geared to agriculture and production of agricultural commodities. The new mission is likely to take on an entirely new outlook.

The audience in Broward County was immensely diverse with all fragments of urban and rural society represented. From Home Economics educators, to Sierra Club members to grove and nursery operators, everyone had time to state his case.

A recurring theme was the need for more programs to provide help for those who are helping people on the most basic level of subsistence. Nutritional educational programs and job training programs in both large and small communi-



TOM BENEFIELD

Dr. Terril Nell, chair of the UF/IFAS environmental horticulture department, at the IFAS Florida 2000 Symposium in Fort Lauderdale

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ties were asked for. Several of these speakers talked of the successful programs already coming through IFAS and the need to enhance and enlarge them. I learned quite a lot from listening to these people who in their own environment were on the front lines working hard to make a difference in their communities.

Other topics talked about were how IFAS could do better at their primary mission of helping agriculture. Issues of employee safety training programs echoed around the room as well as requests for IFAS to restaff field and research positions lost in the last three years.

The green industry spoke briefly on our relationship with IFAS through our funding activities. We stressed the need to keep this relationship ongoing and building on it. Our concerns on the much-talked-about IFAS Broward County Research Center land swap with Florida Atlantic University for a parking lot was discussed with UF President John Lombardi after the meeting.

We stated our case for the need to keep the Broward County IFAS research facility in its present location. As we talked, he listened to us and nodded his head in understanding. We left with the feeling that we had gotten our point across. All in all, it was a very positive meeting with everyone getting a chance to share his views.

My hat is off to President Lombardi and the administration at IFAS. Not every university has an outreach program like IFAS. Not every school has the ability to do the things IFAS can do. But the University of Florida has this unique ability with IFAS to develop programs for which their citizens can share. I think the university took a tremendous step in sponsoring these "town hall" meetings. Showing insight and foresight, they are sending a message to the people of the state, saying they plan on doing their job as best they can, but they need our input and we thank them for that.