

Eighth Annual SFGCSA Exposition

450 attend IFAS Field Day in Fort Lauderdale

Please turn page for photo report

New attendance records were set as more than 450 people registered for the IFAS Field Day/Eighth Annual SFGCSA Exposition held at the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale campus on Thursday, March 16th.

Attendees were separated into two groups, landscape maintenance and golf course personnel. It was standing room only for the third year in a row as University of Florida professors gave their morning lectures. Then the golf course crowd moved to the turf plots where six major turfgrass equipment companies demonstrated 42 categories of maintenance equipment worth more than \$4 million.

With eight years of experience behind them, the South Florida GCSA superintendents were able to pull this demonstration off in less than two hours. that is really "moving 'em in

and moving 'em out" thanks to Master of Ceremonies, Bob Klitz, CGCS, President of the South Florida Chapter.

The rest of the day included table-top presentations by thirty-two turf related companies followed by an outstanding barbecue under the big top. The afternoon program consisted of on-site presentations of current research projects being done on the bermudagrass plots at the Research and Education Center.

Preliminary figures indicate that close to \$20,000 will be raised for the FGCSA research green thanks to the donations of the suppliers supporting the day's events. The Board of Directors of the SFGCSA would like to thank Dr. Monica Elliott and all the suppliers who made this event such a success.

Marie Roberts, Association Manager

Everglades GCSA Spring Seminar

Turf experts speak to 75 superintendents

Spring Seminar

The Spring Seminar held by the Everglades Chapter had a power-packed line-up of speakers. The seminar was held at the Worthington Country Club in Bonita Springs. Approximately 75 golf course superintendents were in attendance.

Gary Grigg, newly elected President of the GCSAA led off the day with a review of the last 12 months and of the new leadership team. He also laid out his agenda for his Presidency. His three major goals are to communicate the positive impact golf courses have on the environment, enhance the image of the golf course superintendent, and work with chapters to assist members.

Shelly Foy discussed the reasons why golf course superintendents should be involved in the New York State Audubon Sanctuary System for Schools. This forum gives us a great opportunity to make sure children are getting the facts and also is a means to reach teachers, parents, and administrators. All proceeds for the seminar will go to sponsor schools in Collier, Lee, and Charlotte Counties. As Shelly stated, "Let's make kids the winners today!"

Ron Dodson, president of the NY State Audubon, reviewed the most frequently asked questions about the Sanctuary Program.

1. NY State Audubon was formed in 1897 with Teddy Roosevelt as its initial president. It was organized to promote conservation using positive efforts.

2. The different Cooperative Sanctuary Programs are an effort to expand communication between different groups.

3. There are 35 different Audubon Societies across America. All with different views and goals.

4. Each participant in the Cooperative Sanctuary program determines how and to what extent the program will run.

5. The goals of the NY Audubon are the same today as they were in 1897. Its main objective is to supply materials to promote conservation by using positive efforts.

6. The programs will increase public awareness of the value of golf courses

7. Clubs certified in the program can focus on educating the community and engage in or host research that will scientifically prove the positive value of golf courses for wildlife habitat.

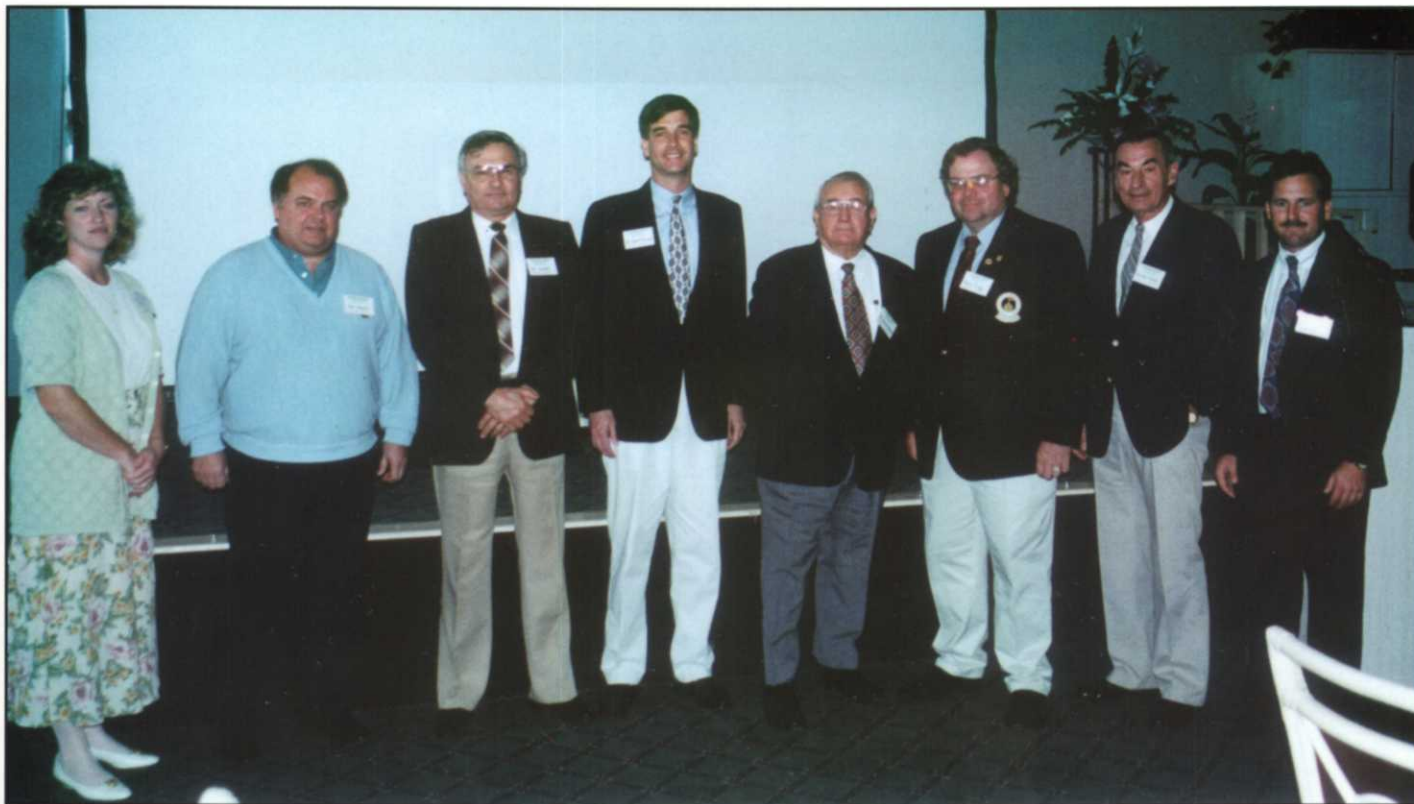
Dr. Al Dudeck reviewed the turfgrass certification program established by the state of Florida. The initial turf within the program is FloraTex bermudagrass. the program was formed by the Florida Foundation Seed Producers and it licensed the FTGA to oversee the program. Only one grower was authorized to grow foundation grass. The program will be monitored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It has strict laws in place to prosecute the unlawful distribution of FloraTex. The most important ingredient of the program is the golf course superintendent who must demand certified turf and also help police unethical vendors.

Dr. Clark Throssel of Purdue University discussed water quality and the impact it has on golf courses. he defined salt as any negative ion except OH, combined with any positive ion except H +.

Managing salt is best achieved by:

- (1) Making efforts to insure good drainage,
- (2) Planting salt tolerant species,

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EGCSA Seminar seekers, from left, are Shelly Foy, Ron Dodson, Dr. Al Dudeck, Dr. Clark Throssel, Dr. Jim Watson, Gary Grigg, Dr. Joe Duich and Wayne Kappauf.

Everglades hosts power-packed line-up

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(3) Leaching excessive salts, and

(4) Managing the available water sources. He also pointed out that gypsum can help sodium problems but not other salt problems.

Dr. Joe Duich of Penn State University discussed putting green speed. He revealed that the stimpmeter was originally meant as a means to measure uniformity of the greens on a course. Good players like fast greens because it limits the number of players who have a chance to win. The fanatical demand for fast greens has been caused by such dramatic improvements made on all other areas on the golf course.

Dr. Duich reviewed his finding on the different methods used to decrease ball deceleration. Double cutting has been the most desirable method of increasing speed, and it has been the most widely used.

The perception that dry greens are faster did not hold up to scientific analysis:

Light frequent topdressing can increase stimp readings by six inches or more.

Wetting agents do not speed up greens.

Brushes do not speed up greens, but they do make the putting surface more true.

Rollers can increase speed by two feet, but the effect will not last until the next day.

In addition, Dr. Duich gave some tips to making more

accurate stimpmeter readings: Consistently measure in the same area on a green, and make sure that the distance in one direction is not more than 20% greater than the opposite direction.

Dr. James Watson of the Toro Company reviewed environmental concerns for the golf course industry. He was encouraged by the most recent Environmental Summit. He reviewed the positive attributes of turfgrass. These benefits are even a greater reason why golf course superintendents and developers must continue to do the right thing. We must limit disruption of native materials during construction of golf courses. Applying pesticides and fertilizers must be done judiciously and always according to the label. We must establish Integrated Pest Management programs and pest damage thresholds. Be precise with irrigation and diligent in our efforts to reduce water consumption.

As golf course superintendents it is our responsibility to become more proactive in our efforts to change the public perceptions of golf.

All of the speakers focused on what we as golf course superintendents can do to enhance our image and that of golf. Hopefully, their combined wisdom will be manifest in many positive results.

*Mike Mongoven, CGCS
Assistant Director of Golf
City of Fort Myers*