



Rick Wise, CGCS wears many hats and almost as many logos (PGA of America, PGA Club at the Reserve and GCSAA) for the PGA of America golf complex in St. Lucie, Florida. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## A funny thing happened on the way to The Poa



From left, Joel Jackson and Kevin Downing representing The Florida Green join Mike Graham and George Cogsdell from the Fort Pierce newspaper at the media day for the opening of the PGA Reserve's South Course. Photo courtesy of the PGA of America.

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

Two weeks before the Poa Annuu Classic, I received a call from Sherry Major, Public Relations Manager for the PGA of America. A copy of the latest Florida Green had just crossed her desk, and she called to see if *The Florida Green* would like to send a couple of folks to participate in the media day being held for the grand opening of the South Course of the new PGA Club at the Reserve. I had read an article in *Golf Course News* about this new venture and how the superintendent, Rick Wise, CGCS wore three logos on his golf shirt (GCSAA, PGA of America and The PGA Club) signifying the unity of purpose of this new operation. I was very interested in talking to him and seeing the new course. A few phone calls later and I had drafted Kevin Downing, CGCS, from nearby Willoughby GC in Stuart as my playing partner. Since the event was just one day ahead of my planned departure for the Poa, I took an extra day's leave and headed south.

I found that sleepy, laid back St. Lucie, Florida has just been put on the golf map for good! The PGA of America has moved into town, purchased the St. Lucie West course and has just developed a 36 hole

complex at the Reserve based on the Fazio Design Group's imagination. Tom, Jan Beljan and Steve Masiak have dreamed up a Carolina/Florida one-two punch that will test your skill and please your eye. The rolling, piney Carolina-look North Course with undulating greens stresses the short game while the coastal, marshy, wetland South Course requires more attention to driving and approach strategies.

The goal of PGA Properties, Inc. is to develop a chain of courses across the country that will provide public access golf to top notch golf courses at affordable prices. The PGA Club's rates for this year were \$49 during the winter and \$25 for the summer with even more specials for late afternoon and junior golfers. This first venture has been challenging and rewarding for all concerned, and especially from our perspective for Rick Wise, CGCS Turf Operations Manager.

Wise has been busy sprucing up the recently acquired St. Lucie West course just one mile east of the new PGA Club and overseeing construction and grow-in of the new 36 hole complex. Wise was assisted in this monumental task by: Su-

perintendents, Barry Lezark at The PGA Club and Mike Vannoy at St. Lucie West; Assistant Superintendent Clay Marshall at The PGA Club; Shop Manager Brian Layle, Irrigation Tech Stephan Deek, IPM Tech Mike Adams and Administrative Assistant Jackie Harris.

Wise said, "People have been looking at me this past year and a half, shaking their heads and asking if I was crazy! We started construction on the North Course in late '94 and got shutdown by bad weather in January 1995. We finally started planting in June of '95 and we replanted and we replanted while trying to start construction on the South Course. You know what kind of summer we had! We finished planting the South Course in November of '95 and there was much discussion of the pro's and con's about trying to oversee so we could open this winter. Realizing we would likely have to deal with a rough first year grow-in transition and keep explaining why the condition of the South Course was so far behind the North, the PGA agreed it was better to complete the bermuda grow-in and postpone opening till now. They bit the bullet and it has paid off in a much

better stand of turf than we would have had.”

I asked Wise about the three logos on his shirt and their implication. “I can’t say enough about the communications and teamwork I have received from the members of the PGA,” Wise said. “They have listened to and respected my input and have kept me in the loop at all times. Marty Kavanaugh, Senior Director of PGA Golf Properties, and Bill Cioffoletti, Head Golf Professional have been just super to work with and it’s not unusual to find Jim Awtrey, CEO of the PGA of America, strolling into my office at 7:00 AM to see how things are going. It’s been a great experience. Jim is really proud of our maintenance facility and often shows it off to visitors before they see the clubhouse. I was able to work closely with the architect and make some changes. We have a built in recycling system. We don’t release any clippings or rinsate into the environment. In fact, the whole project received an environmental awareness award from Links magazine. While all this has been going on, I have also had the new courses in the Audubon Signature program and St. Lucie West in the ACSP Certification program.”

As for the media day itself, Kevin and I found ourselves not on the print media team, The Scribes, but rather on the electronic media team, The Mics, something to do with balancing the numbers on the teams. At any rate thanks to Kevin’s 76, the Mics drubbed the Scribes -69 to -31. As for me, well my game still needs lots of work, but I enjoyed the day and was pleased that *The Florida Green* had been invited to participate. If you get a chance, swing by and take a look. You will enjoy the whole facility and the experience.

## 1996 Poa Annuia Classic offers respite in transition

Spring means transition. Spring means renovation. Spring means The Poa Annuia Classic and The Naples Beach Club. Like the swallows returning annually to Capistrano, superintendents, suppliers and their wives and families return to Naples for the rites of spring passage and the beginning of the intense hot Florida growing season.

This Poa Annuia was a chance to catch our breath and swap horror stories about the worst Florida winter in the 1990’s. It was an opportunity at the Spring Board Meeting for all the FGCSA Chapters to fine tune their understanding of the impending GCSAA affiliation process. It was a time to earn continuing education credits at the Friday Seminar. It was an excuse to limber up the rusty golf swing and raise

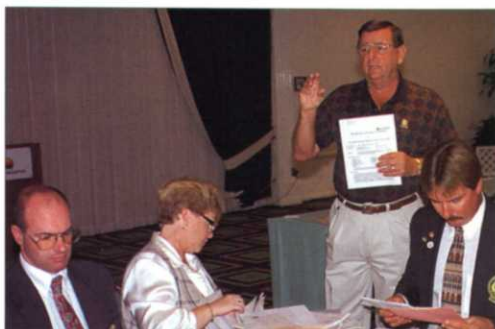


*Architect Ron Forse answers a question during the break in The History of Golf Course Architecture seminar held at the Poa Annuia Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

*All ten FGCSA Chapters were represented at the Spring board meeting to discuss GCSAA affiliation, IFAS organization, research funding, legislative initiatives, public relations, education and next year’s budget. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Charlie Campbell of Dow Elanco made a brief presentation to the FGCSA Board to announce a new rebate program that will benefit turf research. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*(left to right) Mark Hopkins with the Low Gross score of 67 led his Ridge Chapter teammates, Steve Ciardullo, Ray Cuzzone and Dan Smokestad to the Poa Annuia Classic team championship. Mark automatically qualifies for the Florida Team to compete in the 1997 GCSAA Golf Championships in Las Vegas. Ridge Chapter President Alan Puckett(center) holds the traveling Poa trophy. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



education and research money in the Poa Annuia Classic and G. C. Horn Memorial Golf Tournaments on Saturday and Sunday. It was a time to relax with a libation and a sea breeze and watch the sun set in the Gulf without having to worry about irrigation schedules and equipment problems. It was good food, good people and good times once again!

Thanks are in order for the friendly folks at The Naples Beach Club who always make our stay a pleasure, and to Dick Naccarato and his staff for preparing the golf course to our liking. A big round of applause for Dale Walters and the Everglades Chapter for being gracious hosts once again. And a special thanks to Bruce Williams for taking time out from his Bob O' Link course in Chicago during a busy spring emerging from a tough winter to come bringing thanks from the GCSAA for Florida's contributions on the national level.

When the last putt drops and the last handshake pulls apart and the key turns in the door for the last time, we head home having celebrated another Poa Annuia together in pursuit of excellence in all that we do! Take care! See you next year!

*(left to right) Marie Roberts, FGCSA Association Manager, signs in certified superintendents: Dan Jones, Larry Kamphaus, Steve Pearson and Mike Bailey in search of continuing education credits. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Dale Walters, CGCS, President of the host Everglades Chapter, welcomes everyone to another memorable Poa Annuia Classic weekend. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Special guest, GCSAA President Bruce Williams, CGCS participated in the Poa Annuia banquet festivities and in the Dr. G. C. Horn Memorial Fund turf research tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.*





*“...in  
pursuit  
of  
excellence  
in all  
that we  
do!”*

*Yes boss, we do play golf at the Poa! Proceeds are used for education and turf research funding.  
(Ninth green at the Naples Beach Club) Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Out-of-towners soon became “sundowners” at the Naples Beach Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

# USGA Green Section regional conferences draw more than 250

**F**or over ten years, the USGA has been hosting one day educational conferences in Florida. This year, two conferences were held, one in Orlando on April 15th, and the other in Palm Beach Gardens on the April 18th. Over 250 golf course superintendents, club officials, golf professionals and industry representatives attended the conferences.

The morning session started off with Chris Hartwiger, USGA Green Section Agronomist discussing the Ups and Downs of Rolling Greens. Tony Zirpoli, USGA Regional Affairs Director, gave a talk in Orlando on the Amateur Status, while Mike Fallon with the National Golf Foundation, gave a talk in Palm Beach Gardens on Industry Trends in the Growing Game of Golf. Next, Dr. John Cisar with the University of Florida gave a talk on More of What We Have Learned About Pesticide Leaching. Darren Davis gave a very good update on the ACSP for Schools and encouraged other superintendents to get involved. Dr. Monica Elliott discussed Cultural Control of Turfgrass Diseases, and William Amick, Golf Course Architect wound up the morning session with a discussion on How to Properly Set

*Darren Davis gave a very good update on the ACSP for Schools and encouraged other superintendents to get involved.*



Roger Harvie (right), Manager of USGA Regional Affairs, checks in USGA Seminar attendees in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Up a Remodeling Improvement Program for Golf Courses.

After lunch, Dr. Kris Thoenke from Naples, led a discussion on Wildlife's Role in the Future of Golf. Steve Beeman, President of EcoShores, Inc., talked about

Aquascaping Your Golf Course, and the ever popular Whit Collins with the West Coast Employers Association, finished the day with What's Shaking in Labor Relations.

*Shelly Foy*



Olde Florida GC Superintendent Darren Davis makes his presentation at the USGA Seminar in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

# Golf tournament raises \$45,000 for environmental research


The Seven Rivers Chapter hosted the fourth annual Envirotron Golf Classic on April 22, 1996 at World Woods Golf Resort and raised \$45,000 for the Envirotron Research Equipment Fund. The four year total for the event has now reached \$132,500. The Envirotron is a 3,100 square-foot, state-of-the-art research field laboratory, which opened in November 1993 on the University of Florida campus. Funding for this facility has been a joint effort of the Florida Turfgrass Association and the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Tournament organizer, Stuart Bozeman thanked the tournament sponsors for supporting the event and its associated research projects. Bozeman offered special recognition to World Woods owner, Mr. Yukihi Inoue and Director of Golf, Steve Hritsko for providing a host course since the inception of the event.

"The staff and ownership at World Woods are the primary reason that this tournament has been so successful," Bozeman said. "Mr. Inoue's generosity and support reflects the kind of positive attitude that our industry needs to move forward in the field of research."

Major sponsors included: \$10,000 - Chipco Choice Insect Control Systems; \$2,500 - The Crowfoot Open, Southern Golf Products, the Central Florida Chapter of the FGCSA, Terra/Asgrow FL/Bayer. United Horticulture Supply/Bayer/Pickseed, Golf Ventures/Lykes/Helena/Ransomes; \$1,000 - Bayer, NuCrane Machinery, Great Queens of America, AgrEvo USA Co., Zeneca Professional Products, Greg Norman Turf, Harrell's Fertilizer/Polygon, Ciba-Geigy, Wesco Turf, Barbaron Inc., Tresca and

Jacobsen, Dow Elanco, Vigoro Ind. Inc., Eco-Soil Systems; \$500 - E. R. Jahna Industries, Florida Design Communities, Plantation Resort, Kilpatrick Turf Equipment, Golf Agronomics Supply and Han-

dling, Central Florida Turf, Seminole/Marico fertilizer, Liquid Ag, Environmental Golf, Inc., Gold Kist Inc., Lesco, Micro-Flo, ISS Golf Course Services, Green Releaf. 

## GCSAA NOTES...


### *Help us stock our photo files!*

**PUBLICATIONS** — The publications and media relations/video services departments are looking for photos or slides of members on their courses. These pictures are often needed to accompany articles in *Newsline* and in *Golf Course Management* magazine, as well as to use in slide presentations.

If you have any pictures depicting you and/or your staff performing various duties on the golf course, we would appreciate your donating them for our stock photo files. Please be sure to label the individuals, the course and the action or event taking place.

Also, remember that GCSAA strives to represent its members in a professional manner. We prefer not to use photos of superintendents in jeans, T-shirts or shorts; or wearing hats indoors, or shirts or hats that prominently display a company's logo. Hats worn outside, with your course's logo or the GCSAA logo, are acceptable.

The most useful pictures show superintendents in various aspects of their jobs, such as personnel training, irrigation, aerification, environmental preservation, group tours, tree and ornamentals care, wildlife conservation, business and financial planning, soil testing, renovations and any other duties that depict the superintendent's profession.

Please send photo donations to Christina Slape, *Newsline* editor, GCSAA, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859. 



*Tom Trammell, CGCS, Metrowest's Course Superintendent, stimps the 15th green as part of his crew works on the fairway and tee boxes.*

# Pot bunkers, storms and other challenges preparing for tournament play

BY CAROL BARFIELD

It was around midnight this past March when Tom Trammell, CGCS, knew for sure he had trouble on his hands.

The rain had been coming down in sheets for hours and now, as he rolled over in bed and checked the clock, it was showing no sign of letting up.

What the seasoned golf course superintendent knew for sure was this: His challenge to prepare MetroWest Golf Course for one of the club's largest and most attended events of the year had just

increased substantially as more than four inches of rain deluged the course in one night.

With the Celebrity Golf Association event just days away, the 86 bunkers that dot the course would not be pretty come dawn, to say the least.

"The rain? Yeah, it totaled some of our bunkers," Trammell said with a smile. "MetroWest has some wonderful hills on the course, but when the heavy rains ran off those hills into nearby bunkers, it

washed a few of them out. We had about 30 to 40 hours of extra work ahead of us to put it back into condition before our players and guests arrived. So we just got going. We rebuilt some faces and we had to resod bunkers lips," he explained.

Rebuilding parts of a golf course was not on Tom's list of things to do to prepare the course for a tour event, but he says that's just the point. "You have to stay on top of what you know is coming, because in this business there are just too

many unknowns.”

Getting MetroWest’s 220 acres of Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed course ready for the CGA event included putting up show fences and more than 12 miles of ropes, posting hole signage, erecting leader boards, and a host of other last minute necessities. The roping of the course may have been the most obvious change, but behind the scenes work on the greens, tees and fairways had been going on for some time.

Jim Karvellas, Commissioner of the CGA, said his staff had been meeting with Tom for more than a month, identifying course conditions that needed improvement and watching Tom coax and nurture Mother Nature along.

“We are always striving to keep our greens in top shape,” Trammell stated. “In this case, as we approached a transition period, we were working to keep the winter grass with us.”

Their special attention paid off, for when a host of celebrities, media and fans came together on the course March 21, the course’s eighteen varied splashes of emerald green were well appreciated.

“The players commented very positively on the greens,” explained Karvellas. “These are golfers *and* celebrities, so they have the opportunity to play the world’s finest courses. They openly said that MetroWest had some of the best winter greens they had seen all season.”

And just how fast were the greens to be cut for the CGA event? “The tournament organizers wanted them a bit faster than we normally keep them,” Tom said. While regular members and guests find the course greens running at 8 or higher, the MetroWest maintenance team was asked to have the greens stimping between 10.4 and 10.5.

With the day’s events beginning early each day, Tom was faced with the challenge of having the course prepared for play with first sun. MetroWest’s 50 acres of fairways posed a particular challenge, which the crew met with an unconventional solution. “Yes, we worked at night,” Tom recalled, laughing. How? “We had infrared sunglasses. . .” he attempts before a shy grin emerges. “With floodlights on the equipment, you can mow in

the middle of the night.”

The fairways, it turned out, were also well praised during the CGA event. Tom explained, “At MetroWest our fairways are seeded at a very high rate, then cut lower than three-eighths of an inch.”

The result on this one? Tournament players said they found MetroWest to have some of the truest fairways playing conditions they have ever seen.

Trammell admits that creating tournament playing conditions demands grueling hours and team commitment. It also takes a blend of scientific and creative problem-solving related to turf growth and maintenance. Yet the Florida native was all smiles as he recalled the event. “We loved it. It is a great motivator to have a challenge such as this. Our staff really came through,” Trammell said.

And what about Karvellas and his CGA event? “We’ve held our Central Florida tournament at MetroWest for two years now and our players love it here. We consider MetroWest our Central Florida home, and we’re looking forward to coming back,” he added.

Those words will be music to one course superintendent’s ears.

***Editor’s Note: Last year we did a series on the traditional LPGA, PGA and PGA Senior Tour sites. With the popular growth of the Celebrity Golf Association, it seemed only fitting to run this story submitted by freelance writer, Carol Barfield, to complete the picture. MetroWest was also one of the courses played in the GCSAA Golf Championships this past February. Congratulations, Tom!***

# Turf Trivia

## Temperature Modification

All plants play an important role in controlling climate. Turfgrasses are among the best exterior solar radiation control ground covers because of their capacity to efficiently intercept solar radiation.

Since turfgrasses effectively cover the ground surface, little radiation is lost or not utilized — and each blade of grass acts as an evaporative cooler. An acre of turf on a summer day will lose about 2,400 gallons of water through evaporation and transpiration to the atmosphere, which can dissipate approximately 50 percent of the sun’s heat.

When the temperature of the sidewalk or street is well over 100 F, the temperature at the surface of turfgrass areas will remain around 75 F. It has been estimated that on a block of eight average houses, front lawns have the cooling effect of about 70 tones of air conditioning (the average home-size central-air unit has a three- to four-ton capacity).