



By All Accounts - Except the Count That Counts...

FTGA Conference Scores high Marks

'But where WAS everybody and exactly why didn't they come?'

The numbers aren't all in yet for the FTGA Conference and Show, but it was obvious that attendance was less than expected, which is a shame, because everybody who came was pleased with the University of Florida location.

The campus was beautiful. Parking and access was free and easy while the students were on semester break. Hotels were 50 to 80 percent less expensive than Tampa. The classrooms and Touchdown Terrace were excellent. The tours covered turf plots and athletic fields.

The question association leaders and committee chairman are asking is, "Where was everybody and exactly why didn't they come?"

I didn't hear a single person attending the education and trade show voice a hard-core negative about the Gainesville site. The only obviously unhappy people were the vendors who pay for this show with their exhibitor fees. They want and need to get a better bang for their buck or they simply will stop supporting the show.

It is obvious everyone needs to do some candid soul-searching and identify why people aren't supporting this event in the numbers necessary to make it possible for the FTGA to function.

By all the accounts, the educational sessions got good reviews and were well attended. The show will be held in Gainesville again next year, Aug. 14-18.

Members need to speak up with constructive input to help leaders identify what needs to be done, whether it's the location, timing, content, or competition from other events.

Meanwhile, the event did fulfill its obligations by conducting the business of the association as a new slate of officers took the helm for the new year. Mark Jarrell, CGCS is the new president. Erica



From left: Secretary/ Treasurer Alan Puckett, Vice President Erica Santella, President Mark Jarrell, CGCS and Past President Scott Wahlin, CGCS were elected at the FTGA Annual Meeting in Gainesville. All Conference photos by Joel Jackson.



GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer Tommy Witt, CGCS presented a GCSAA/Etonic seminar on "Communicating with Your Employer."



Lisa Micunek, president of her company, Accent on Success gave a GCSAA/Etonic seminar on "Enhancing the Image of the Golf Course Superintendent."



Brad Kocher, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Maintenance for the Pinehurst Resort kicked off the Golf Concurrent Session explained the scope and detail of the preparations necessary for holding the 1999 U. S. Open .



From left, Mike Brown, Coastal Turf Company; Alan Puckett, Lake Region Y&CC; and Frank Cone, Legends Golf Course led a panel discussion of maintenance practices for the ultradwarf bermudagrass varieties.



Santella of TruGreen-Chemlawn is now vice president and Alan Puckett is secretary/treasurer. Scott Wahlin, CGCS becomes past president.

A lot of non-golf FTGA members complain that the FTGA is just another golf organization, but very few people from the other branches of the turf industry ever step up and volunteer their time.

This year a concentrated effort was made to recruit board members from the various other turf organizations and no one would make the commitment. So, I guess the old saying is true, "Associations are run by those who show up!"

UF President John Lombardi gave a tremendously inspirational and forceful keynote address at the Annual Banquet. The optimism and vision he projected stirred the audience to a standing ovation at its conclusion. Sadly, a few weeks later President Lombardi announced his resignation as president of the University. We will miss his vitality and his



From left, labor panelists Jerry Redden, Professional Turf Maintenance, Inc.; Lou Conzelmann, CGCS, WCI Communities; and Roy Bates, CGCS, Imperial Golf Club discussed tips and strategies to deal with current labor trends in the turf industry.

friendship. He never was a golfer, but he had learned to respect our role in the turf

industry and what it meant to the people and economy of Florida.



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News Off The Net

From the University of Florida's eHort News:

Awards

Dr. Robert Black, Dr. Grady Miller and Gerald Kidder have won the 1999 ASHS Extension Division Educational Materials Award in the category of Commercial Landscape Management for their Roadside Turf Management Guide. They were honored at the ASHS Extension Division banquet, which was held on July 30

Publications

Have you visited with the "Featured Creatures" of the Entomology and Nematology Department? This web site provides in-depth profiles of insects, mites, plant diseases, and other organisms that are of interest to Florida's residents. An associated purpose is to support professionals in agriculture, horticulture, and urban pest control. If you have items to add, contact Thomas Fasulo at fasulo@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu or visit <http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~insect/>

Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses (SP 141 \$20)

Completely updated for 1999, this indispensable reference features new photographs and a chapter on bermudagrass varieties. New information on putting green construction and IPM strategies also is included, to create current, research-based information available for professional golf course managers and field management staff, students, and regulatory agencies. Written by J. Bryan Unruh, extension turfgrass specialist at the West Florida Research and Education Center in Jay, and Monica Elliott, extension plant pathologist at the Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. To order, call (352) 392-1764 or (800)226-1764.

What's New?

University of Florida specialists are using a new system that uses digital cameras and the World Wide Web to send photographs of insects and diseased plants from the field to the lab for rapid diagnosis and identification. Researchers, extension agents and software developers with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural

Sciences developed the Distance Diagnostics and Identification System, or DDIS, to speed up identification of plant and animal physiological disorders. To view the entire release, go to: <http://www.napa.ufl.edu/digest/old/1998-99/webplants.htm> For more information contact: Fedro Zazueta (352) 392-0429

Take Note...

Dr. Phil Busey, Associate Professor at the Fort Lauderdale REC has assisted the designers of an exhibit titled, The American Lawn: Surface of Everyday Life which will be showing at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, September 3, 1999. Dr. Busey provided factual background and samples of various warm-season turfgrasses, which were used in the exhibit. For more information, call the museum at 954-525-5500 or visit: <http://www.floridaturf.com/americanlawn/>

MARIE NELSON
University of Florida

Florida Golf Course Owners Association

Congressman Bill McCollum acknowledged and praised the economic impact that the golf industry has on the state of Florida in his keynote address at the Florida Golf Course Owners Association state conference at the Wyndham Resort in Ft. Lauderdale. This was the first state conference for the Florida Chapter of the National Golf Course Owners Association.

McCollum discussed current issues pertaining to the day to day operations of Florida businesses and the community, as well as to keep children on the straight and narrow path for the good of our future.

A round table discussion of the current Americans with Disabilities Act proposed regulations jump started the FGCOA town hall meeting and was facilitated by NGCOA consultant Cynthia Smith.

The FGCOA currently has 136 members and was formed to keep Florida owners and operators on top of and in touch with the ever changing golf industry.

Ray Finch III, president of the Emerald Dunes Golf Group was named president of the FGCOA replacing Bill Stine, COO of Meadowbrook Golf Group, who completed his two-year term. Stine will take over as president of the NGCOA in January.

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6th Annual Harrell's Turf Academy held at Innisbrook Resort

Six years ago Harrell's Fertilizers started hosting an all-expense-paid, two-day turf academy and golf



GCSAA's CEO Steve Mona gave a "State of the Association" update.

championship for their customers. The event had been staged at the Grenelefe Resort in Haines City for the first five years and, due to a schedule conflict this year, it was moved to the Westin Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs. Nearly 350 attended this year's event.

The event includes a golf championship on the afternoon of the first day with a banquet, keynote speaker and product showcase in the evening. This year's after-dinner speaker was Bert Hamilton, one of the few survivors of the infamous Potomac River airliner crash in Washington, DC. Hamilton related the way divine intervention spared and changed his life.

Following a bountiful breakfast and product showcase at 6 a.m. on the second day, attendees split into groups to hear 11 speakers discuss late-breaking news and research data from the turf industry. At lunch, Steve Mona, CEO of the GCSAA, gave the audience a "State of the Association"

update. Following lunch graduation commenced with GCSAA and pesticide CEUs being distributed.



Affable host and founder of Harrell's Fertilizers, Jack Harrell, Sr. has been a friend and mentor to many Florida superintendents over the years.

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Tidings From The TC

UF to Offer Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree

FTGA Conference, Faculty Moves Also Conversation Topics in Academia

BY JOHN CISAR

University of Florida, Turfgrass Coordinator

FTGA a Blast

I had a lot of fun at the FTGA Conference and Show at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Aug. 9-12. I enjoyed the education and the new venues added a breath of fresh air. It was great to see old friends, make new acquaintances, and pick up some new tips.

Moreover, a lot of money was handed over for scholarships and research projects and I deeply appreciate the support given to our turf team. I hope we can build upon this to have an even better Conference and Show next year. I tip my hat to the FTGA and for putting on a first class event.

They're back

The turf team is just about at full staff right now. Monica Elliott, Robin Giblin-Davis (both at 954-475-8990), and Russell Nagata (please note that the EREC new phone and FAX are 561-993-1500 and 561-993-1582, respectively) have

returned from sabbatical leave.

She's here

I am pleased to announce two newcomers to the team. Dr. Laurie Trenholm is on campus since August. She has filled the lawn turf/landscape faculty (50% research/50% extension) position in Gainesville and will be in charge of the plots at the GC Horn Field Research Laboratory. As many of you know Laurie received her B.S. and M.S. from UF and spent the last three years in Georgia working on seashore paspalum management in Ronnie Duncan's and Bob Carrow's program at UG.

She'll be here

Also welcome aboard another Georgia escapee, Dr. Carol Stiles from Valdosta State. Dr. Stiles has accepted the turfgrass plant pathologist position at Gainesville. The position has 30% research/70% teaching responsibility. She will be conducting turfgrass pathology research and teaching a turf and ornamental disease course.

Dr. Stiles earned her Ph.D. from Washington State University, and held a post-doctoral position at Rutgers University before being appointed to Valdosta State. Dr. Stiles will be on campus Jan. 1 right after Y2K2.

Two turf faculty positions are in the process of being filled. Interviews are being set up for the new soils position at

the EREC in Belle Glade. The entomologist position at the Ft. Lauderdale REC is set to close this September.

He's going

It's my sad duty to inform you that after Dr. Robert (Bob) Dunn, professor, extension nematology may be retiring this fall. Bob has been a great supporter of the turfgrass industry in Florida. His leadership and program on turfgrass nematodes will be sorely missed. Please join me in wishing all the best to Bob and his family on their new endeavors in Virginia and the longest, healthiest, and happiest retirement.

I just heard that I was elected the C-05 Turfgrass Division of the Crop Science Society of America's national representative to the American Society of Agronomy.

New Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Program at UF.

This summer, the Board of Regents gave final approval for UF to offer the doctor of plant medicine program. UF is now proceeding with admission of students for the fall semester 2000. The DPM program is a three-year, post-baccalaureate, graduate, interdisciplinary and interdepartmental, professional practitioner's degree program.

It is a 120-credit, non-dissertation degree that will include a 30-credit internship. Its purpose is to educate and train

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Plant doctors are expected to provide a greatly needed truly expert service to commercial and urban plant growers, and to the agricultural and general economy of the state and nation. They will also help to protect our environment and water supplies of the areas in which they are employed.

practitioner plant doctors that will parallel the MDs and veterinarians of the sister professions. Graduates will be trained to diagnose, and offer recommendations for management-control, of anything that adversely affects plants: from weeds to diseases, and everything in between.

Plant doctors are expected to provide a greatly needed truly expert service to commercial and urban plant growers, and to the agricultural and general economy of the state and nation. They

will also help to better protect our environment and water supplies of the areas in which they are employed.

For more information about the program contact Dr. George Agrios, director, Doctor of Plant Medicine Degree Program, University of Florida, 1453 Fifield Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611-0680; phone 352-392-3631, Fax 352-392-6532, E-mail GAN@GNV.IFAS.UFL.EDU; web site: [Http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu](http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu).

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Golf Retirement Plan for Superintendents

TO: Affiliated Chapter Presidents and Executive Directors/Secretaries

FM: Don Bretthauer, Director of Member/Chapter Services

RE: GCSAA's newest member benefit: Golf Retirement Plus

Recent GCSAA studies show that 70% of golf course superintendents do not have access to a retirement plan through their golf facilities.

Why? Because the cost, tax and regulatory burdens are prohibitive for most "small businesses" like golf facilities.

That's why GCSAA recently partnered with the PGA of America and the CMAA to offer our members an easy and affordable new retirement benefit: Golf Retirement Plus.

Golf Retirement Plus gives our members a convenient way to save for retirement. And now, we're counting on your leadership to communicate this new benefit information to your members.

Golf Retirement Plus provides members with the following benefits:

- **Affordability:** GCSAA golf course superintendents and assistant superintendents only need \$50 to start an account. This low minimum requirement makes it easy and affordable for members to build a retirement account and save on a regular basis. Contributions can also be made at the member's own pace. A customized program - based on the member's situation - can tailor an investment schedule to fit any budget.
- **Accepts individual and employer contributions:** GCSAA members and their employers can contribute to their accounts. These contributions are tax-deductible for employers. Employers can add to employees' accounts, whether as a yearly bonus, employee-employer contribution match, or percentage of salary. And the employers won't have to worry about the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) concerns, tax liabilities, investment decisions or administrative burdens of maintaining their own plan. (Please note: members will be taxed on employer contributions.)
- **Convenience:** Saving for retirement is so important in our industry - that's why GCSAA teamed with the PGA and CMAA. And by including all three association members in one retirement program, employers will have the convenience of handling one program for all the key staff at their clubs.
- **Reliable provider:** The Golf Retirement Plus investment provider, Security Benefit Life Insurance Company (SBL), is one of the nation's top-notch annuity providers and is one of the most respected names in the industry because of its expertise in variable annuities and financial strength and stability.
- **Numerous investment options:** With SBL, members can choose among 10 various investment options, depending on their age and risk tolerance.
- **Personalized retirement counseling:** GCSAA members have a dedicated Golf Retirement Plus services team available to provide program or account information and answer any questions they may have. Golf Retirement Plus Specialists know the program inside and out and are just a toll-free phone call away at 1-877-RET-PLUS (1-877-738-7587).

If you have any questions about the program or about this memo, please contact me directly at (785) 832-4418. Additionally, I would like to hear what your members are saying about this program.

Orangebrook West Course Reopens Completing Phase 1 of 6-Year Master Plan

The City of Hollywood and Golf Hollywood, a local golf course management company, are finalizing preparations for the re-opening of the 18-hole, par-71 West golf course.

"West Brook," closed since late April 1999, received \$300,000 in improvements from a city public bond project. Sanford Associates prepared a West course master plan for all 18 holes and construction drawings for the front nine. Tifton Golf Services completed the project in July.

The scope of work included renovation of the entire greens complexes including new bunkers, and slope and green surface contour changes on holes 1 through 9 and the practice putting green.

USGA-spec greens were installed, and Quality Grassing sprigged the greens with Tifdwarf.

The summer season was busy on "East Brook," the par-72, 18-hole track that shares the 230 acres of city property with the West course. Orangebrook members and guests are excited about the changes that Sanford has made to the West.

Grand Opening of "West Brook" took place Sept. 1. The Grand Opening golf tournament and ribbon-cutting ceremony followed Sept. 9.

Golf Hollywood is very excited about the City of Hollywood's commitment to improve the golf courses at Orangebrook. In July, a capital construction surcharge was approved to generate fees for ongoing construction projects.

Upon completion of the six-year master plan, all 36 holes will have fairway drainage improvements, USGA-spec greens, new bunkers, new forward tees, and all existing teeing areas will be renovated.

ROBERT KLITZ CGCS
General Manager

UF Field Day/ Gulf Coast Turf Expo Draws Crowd to Panhandle



Over 300 golf course superintendents and other turf professionals from northwest Florida, southwest Georgia and southeast Alabama attended the combined UF Field Day/Gulf Coast Turf Expo at the WFREC in Milton this past June. All Expo photos by Joel Jackson.



From left, Dr. John Cisar, UF Turf Coordinator; Dr. Terril Nell, Dean of Environmental Horticulture; Dr. Bryan Unruh, Field Day Host and Organizer; and Dr. Richard Jones, Dean of IFAS Research survey the education, equipment demonstrations and product information booths at the Field Day.



Dr. Bryan Unruh, left, thanks Wiley McCall of Emerald Isle Turf, Inc. for providing the food for the Milton Field Day. Emerald Isle Turf, based in Punta Gorda, Fla has gone the extra mile this year by catering and cooking the food for the South Florida Turf Expo in Ft. Lauderdale and for the UF Field Day in Milton. That's a lot of miles on that barbecue rig.