

**CHAPTER ROUND UP**

**The Beat Goes On**

Our chapters keep up the busy pace providing meetings, outings, education and worthy fundraisers all the while dealing with transition and alternating hot dry and wet weather this past spring. Now we're just entering the dreaded hurricane season. Let's hope we defy the odds miss the big ones this year.

**CALUSA**

May's meeting was at Maple Leaf Golf & CC; host superintendent was Nancy Miller; we had a turn out of 30 guest and members. Jim Mendenhall of Squamata Reptiles was our guest speaker. Jim displayed a variety of snakes and taught us the differences between poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. All in all it was an excellent presentation. On June 28 we will be holding our annual meeting and election of officers at Cypress Lakes Country Club. Host superintendent is Jeff Doyal. Laurie Frutchey will be host for our July meeting at the Lexington County Club, and Rick Cirino will host our August meeting and annual Yellow Ball tournament at the Deep Creek Golf Club. We will name the date and location for our big September fundraiser – The Super-Pro-Supplier — Tournament at a later date.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA**

This was the second year we hosted the Florida regional qualifier for the BASF's The People vs. The Pros Ultimate Championship. John Lammrish, CGCS and



*Morning session speakers at the Everglades GCSA Spring Symposium included, from left, Dr. Bob Carrow, Univ. of Georgia; Dr. Lane Treadway, NC State; and our own Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

the LGPA International Golf Club were the hosts. This year the event was opened to four-man teams from all 12 local chapters. This year's winners in both the Under 49 (Mike Shields from the U. S. Naval Air Station G.C.) and Over 49 (Dana Anderson, Magnolia Point G&CC) divisions were from the North Florida Chapter. Mike and Jason will be headed for Pinehurst, NC in August to compete with other qualifiers from around the country for a spot to play head to head against Retief Goosen and Gary McCord. Thanks to BASF for sponsoring an event that showcases superintendents and the work they do.

Jason Moore, Harmony Preserve GC, will host our annual Chapter Golf Championship in June, and July will herald the 30th edition of the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open. This year's agenda has changed to require less away time for attendees. The tournament and awards luncheon will be on Saturday, July 29th. For those wishing

to make a weekend out of it, a nine-hole shoot out and a fishing tournament will be held Sunday morning. All events will be at the Grand Cypress Golf Resort.

**COASTAL PLAINS**

We meet the second Tuesday of each month. Our upcoming meetings will be: June: Killearn Country Club, James Evans GCS;

July: Wildwood Golf Course, Steve Diffenbaugh; August: Golf Club of Summerbrook, John McGhee, GCS; October: Southwood Golf Club, Eddie Snipes, CGCS; November: St. James Bay Golf Club, Shane Bass, CGCS.

We are talking about dissolving our chapter and possibly joining the North Florida GCSA. We are contemplating this action because we will never have enough Class A members to affiliate with GCSAA and take advantage of their resources. We had talked to the Gulf Coast GCSA in the Panhandle, but they are not members of the Florida GCSA and we didn't want to sever that relationship.

**EVERGLADES**

Spring is always busy in Southwest Florida beginning with our Spring Symposium in April. Matt Taylor did a bang-up job of booking a host of speakers for this day-long education conference: Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS – Gadgets and Gizmos for the Superintendent; Dr. Bob Carrow, UGA – Reality Check



*EGCSA Symposium notables in the afternoon session, from left, speakers John Foy, USGA; Gary Grigg, CGCS/MG, Grigg Brothers Fertilizer; EGCSA Education Chairman Matt Taylor, CGCS; and Dr. Davis Daiker, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

for New Products and Technologies; Dr. Lane Treadway, NCSU – Diseases and Other Problems on Ultradwarf Turfgrasses. In the afternoon John Foy, USGA, gave a state-wide turf update followed by Gary Grigg, CGCS/MA – Foliar Fertigation and Dr. Davis Daiker – Arsenic Issues on Golf Courses.

Another successful Poa Annuu Classic took place this past May at the Naples Beach Hotel. The new dual format of medal play at Bill Davidson's Naples Grande Course and scramble play at the Beach Club has allowed more people to play golf and enjoy the weekend. Proceeds from this event allows the chapter to donate \$5,000 annually to the FGCSA and GCSAA.

Stephen Fox from the

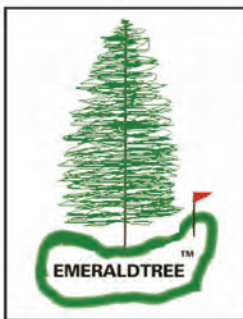
Ocean Reef GC on Key Largo was a repeat winner and his fellow South Florida GCSA teammates, Jason Bagwell, Bob Harper, Kelly Cragin and Seth Strickland, took the Chapter Team trophy. By virtue of his victory Fox has earned the first spot on the FGCSA Golf Team to compete at the GCSAA Championship in Palm Springs, Cal., in February.

Gentle breezes, lively music and good food at the traditional "Luau on the Lawn" put a nice finish to a week-end of meetings, education, networking, golf and family fun. Named the Poa Annuu Classic in 1975, this event has been held since 1970 when it began as a golf grudge match between the Everglades Chapter and the South

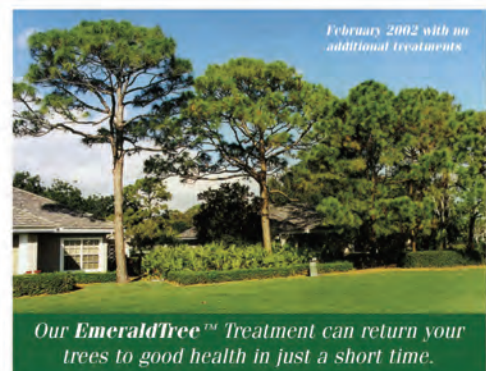
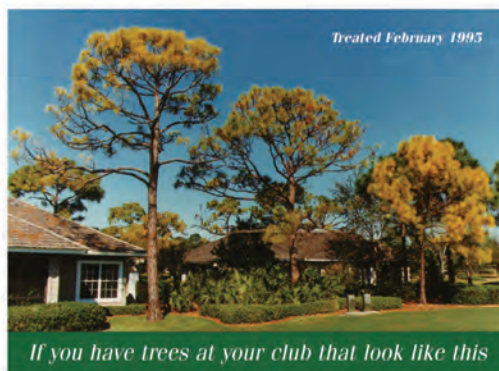


*Phil Donahoo from BASF, right, presents Mike Shields, superintendent of the Naval Air Station GC in Jacksonville with the first-place trophy for the Under 49 division in BASF's The People vs. The Pros Championship held at the LPGA International in April. Mike will have an opportunity to qualify for a spot to play Retief Goosen in an elimination tournament in Pinehurst, NC in August. Dana Anderson winner of the Over 49 division will also go to Pinehurst to try to play Gary McCord in the senior division. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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Florida Chapter. Our next big event will be our annual Vendor Appreciation Day in June at Naples Grande.

On the serious side, members Tim Hiers, Matt Taylor and Darren Davis are actively involved in representing area golf clubs in discussions with the Naples City Council on proposed new rules governing the use of fertilizers and pesticides. The focus is on water quality in Naples Bay. The EGCSA wants to ensure that local leaders are using good science and common sense in their deliberations.

**NORTH FLORIDA**

First, thanks to all the volunteers who helped as NBC



*From left, North Florida GCSA President Lon Chatfield with the 2006 Memorial Scholarship winners: Cameron Warner, Christopher Maynard and William Ray. Also present was John Piersol director of the Golf and Landscape Operations Program at Lake City Community College. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

spotters for the 2006 TPC tour event. We raised \$2,800 for the chapter.

Two big fundraisers transpire in our region in

the spring – the Annual Turf Research Tournament at Glen Klauk’s Pablo Creek Golf Club and the North Florida Memorial Scholarship Tournament at Greg Tharp’s Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. The Memorial is held in honor of Mike Richards, who worked with Tresca Industries and Alan MacCurach, who was a PGA Tour Agronomist. Both were vital resources for North Florida members.

This year’s scholarship winners: Cameron Warner, who works at The Ravines Golf Club (\$1,000), Chris Maynard from the Timuquana CC (\$1,000). Both of these students attend the Golf Operations program at Lake

City Community College. William Ray, who worked at Alltel Stadium and attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Additionally our chapter donated \$1,000 for scholarships to the LCCC Equipment Technicians Program. John Piersol and his staff will select a deserving student(s) in this program to receive these funds.

At the Memorial we also salute someone who has a long record of service to our chapter. This year Greg Tharp, CGCS, who has hosted this event for the past six years, was named Greenkeeper of the Year for his enduring service to the NFGCSA.



*Greg Tharp, CGCS, left, superintendent at the Jacksonville G & CC, was named the 2006 Greenkeeper of the Year by NFGCSA President Lon Chatfield at this year’s Memorial Tournament at Tharp’s club. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



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Joel Jackson, FGCSA Director of Communications was on hand to review current issues facing our industry.

## PALM BEACH

June is the month where the question "How low did you shoot?" turns to "How big was your fish?" as our chapter hosts it's annual fishing tournament. June is also the month for our big FGCSA Future of Golf tournament at Steve Pearson's The Falls CC. Thanks Steve for hosting this event year after year. You and your club do a great job to help us raise funds for Junior Golf, charities and turf research.

Thanks to the Bayer Power Pak Auction hosted by Brian MacCurrach at The Future of Golf Tournament, John Gallagher's winning bid of \$4,700 will be donated to the PBGCSA and the charities it supports. This is the first of three auctions that will be held in Brian's territory. The auction, which begins its fourth year, has raised more than \$37,000 for the Palm Beach, Treasure Coast and South Florida GCSA chapters. The Treasure Coast/Blue Pearl auction was to be held in June at the Loxahatchee CC and Brian hopes to go

well over the \$40,000 mark at that time. Meanwhile Gallagher was a double winner as his team also won the tournament. In the Bayer Power Pak, Gallagher picked up 10 bags of TopChoice and a case each of Allectus GC SC, Chipco Signature, Revolver, 26 GT, ProStar and Finale.

Special thanks to those PBGCSA members who gave up their free time to work for NBC at the Honda Classic. It's good PR for the chapter and our profession and it's also worth PDI service points. We'd also like to welcome the following new members to the chapter: Amy Volk Flowers, DGCM at Hunters Run; Charlie Hamblin, superintendent at Hunters Run; Steven Antal, superintendent at Kings Point and Scott Chastain, assistant superintendent at the C.C. at Mirasol.

Boca Rio superintendent Bob Randquist, CGCS, who is currently a GCSAA Director has announced his plans to run for re-election at the GCSAA annual meeting in Anaheim in 2007. We hope all of you will support Bob in his upcoming campaign. He is a worthy candidate who brings vision, focus and reason to the GCSAA Board

of Directors.

## SEVEN RIVERS

Once again we were able to raise significant funds for turf research at the 2006 Jeff Hayden-Envirotron Classic at World Woods this past April. Many thanks to the tireless efforts of our sponsors, committee members and volunteers and the staff at World Woods that help make this worthwhile event possible. We pay special thanks to Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen for their generous support of this event as presenting sponsors. We will be expanding the use of these funds to include funding of research at the new University of Florida/IFAS Pine Acres Research Facility.

The SRGCSA will be holding its annual meeting June 6 at Candler Hills GC in Ocala. Andy Jorgensen will be our host for the meeting. We will not be holding a July Meeting due to the UF Field Day July 19, which will be the grand opening of the new Pine Acres Research Facility.

We held our May meeting at Haile Plantation in Gainesville. Joe Holden was our host and Dale Gardner, publisher of *Golfweek's Super News* was our guest speaker.

A few waited out the rain that day and made it around the course for an enjoyable round.

Congratulations to our four-man scramble team for winning first place at the Poa Tournament in Naples. The team consisted of Mike McNeil, Rich Herber, Mike Swinson, and myself.

On a personal note, I will be assuming the position of turfgrass research coordinator at Pine Acres. Jan Weinbrecht will be retiring at the end of July, and I will be following in his footsteps.

*Mark Kann*  
President SRGCSA.

## SOUTH FLORIDA

We just hosted our big regional Turf Expo in Ft. Lauderdale. See the summary elsewhere in the Spotlight section. In April Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, assistant professor of agronomy UF/IFAS gave a presentation titled "Looking Ahead. Enhanced Management Through Breeding" at our meeting at Bill McKee's Oak Tree CC. We tee it up at John Anderson's Weston Hills CC in May and in June we make our annual trek to the Keys for our meeting at the Ocean Reef Resort where Jim Mendenhall

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*Stephen Fox from the Ocean Reef Club on Key Largo was the repeat winner of the low gross trophy at the Poa Annua Classic. Fox earns a berth on the FGCSA Golf Team for the 2007 GCSAA Golf Championship with this victory.*

and his team from Squamata Reptiles will put on their snake show. This is the fourth chapter meeting they have been to.

Congratulations to Alan Weitzel, recipient of the 2006 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award. Alan was a preeminent leader of our chapter during the days of the formation of the state-wide Florida GCSA. Thanks to his vision and leadership the formation of the state association moved forward. It was also during Alan's watch that the South Florida Green magazine was ceded to the state association. Alan knew that it could be a tool for uniting and educating superintendents around the state on common issues. Alan continued his involvement in



*From left: FGCSA President Craig Weyandt accepts a \$27,000 donation from South Florida GCSA President Kelly Cragin at the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples. The proceeds from the South Florida Turf Expo generate these funds for the salary for a technician to maintain the research plots at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

the golf industry as director of the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department overseeing the municipal courses.

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From left, Jason Bagwell, Westview CC; Bob Harper, Emerald Hills; and Seth Strickland, Miami Shores CC teamed with Steve Fox to capture the 2006 Poa Annuua Team Trophy for the South Florida GCSA.

He has also been instrumental in leading the effort for junior golf programs is South Florida.

**SUNCOAST**

Thanks to Mike McCulloch and the Jacaranda West CC for hosting our 2006 Suncoast Scramble. Next year will be our 25th anniversary for this fund-



From left, Suncoast President Chip Copeman presents checks for \$2,500 each to the FGCSA and FTGA Turf Research Funds at the 2006 Suncoast Scramble held at Jacaranda West. Photo by Lee Crosby.

raising and networking event. This year we donated \$2,500 each to the FGCSA and FTGA Research Funds.

Thanks also to Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications for his Issues Update and to Jim Mendenhall of Squamata Reptiles for his entertaining and educational presentation on snakes. The king cobra was a real show stopper. Thanks to George Cook for keeping an eye on the government-relations issues in our area. George recently attended a Green Industries Forum dealing with water quality in our waters in relation to fertilizer use on lawns and other turf areas.

**TREASURE COAST**

One of our key objectives this year has been to provide relevant activities for our members and also let them earn PDI points for their Class A status. In April we hosted two GCSAA Regional Seminars by Dr. Keith Karnok — “Managing Turfgrass Root Systems in the South” in the morning session and



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“Localized Dry Spots” in the afternoon. We will wrap up our major activities with our 13th Annual Blue Pearl Tournament to be held at Mark Heater’s Loxahatchee Club in June. Proceeds from this flagship event provide us with the resources to make contributions to the communities we live in and support the enhancement of the environment.

Next month TCGCSA President Harry Hanson will host the July meeting at his Miles Grant CC. Our speaker will be USGA Florida Region Director John Foy, who will speak about current turf issues in the state.

**WEST COAST**

Our Benevolent Tournament at Louis Devos’ Wen-

sworth Club raised around \$6,000. Most of these funds will be donated to cover continuing medical expenses for John Chevalier’s wife Christina who continues to recovery from surgery for multiple injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

We held the Chapter Challenge Cup at WCGCSA President Kevin Baldwin’s Diamond Players Club in Clermont and we are looking forward to the Pro/Superintendent event at Cypress Run in August. Besides hosting our Chapter Championship and a U.S. Open Regional Qualifier, Trent Inman of the Old Memorial Golf Club has volunteered to serve on our board of directors. Thanks, Trent, for stepping up.

Congratulations are in



*Jim Mendenhall from Squamata Reptiles in Spring Hill has put on four snake education programs for FGCSA local chapters this year. He gets the audience’s attention by wandering around the room with one of his “props.” Photo by Lee Crosby.*

order to the Andy Neiswender and Rory Harding families. Andy is a new dad to Rachel Luring Neiswender and Rory welcomes Kendall Marie Harding to the world. Both girls were born in May. Also congrats go out to Greg Plotner, CGCS, Champions Gate G.C. for achieving GCSAA certification as an Environmental Management

Specialist. Greg has been actively involved in all things environmental since his days at Tampa Palms G&CC. This program is open to all GC-SAA members.

**FGCSA**

We celebrated our Annual Past Presidents Dinner in Naples during the Poa Annu Classic. The guest of honor

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## SPOTLIGHT

was Alan Weitzel from the South Florida GCSA who was presented with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award.

Several counties and cities are focusing attention on proposals aimed at regulating not only the use of fertilizers on turfgrass but also product formulations and composition. We appreciate the teamwork and input of UF/IFAS and the Allied Associations like the FTGA, Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association and the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative for attending the various meetings around the state and keeping us informed of the outcomes.

FGCSA Director of Communications Jackson has been busy responding to reporters with emails to provide more background

and facts on the recent fertilizer articles in Sarasota as well as a Letter to the Editor in Orlando when a couple once again mistakenly labeled golf courses as big water users. Never let these old wives tales and false statements go unchallenged.

This spring FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson participated in a joint Project Evergreen – GC-SAA public relations effort on radio stations around the country. Jackson appeared on Ocala Live for 30 minutes answering questions about golf and the environment and the game itself.

After a successful restructuring of our reserve funds and budgets, work continues by the various strategic planning committees to forge a



*Craig Weyandt, FGCSA president, presents Alan Weitzel with the 2006 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the Past Presidents Dinner during the Poa Annua Classic in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

firm plan of action to guide the association in the coming years. The tedious hard work now will lay a foundation for

tomorrow's leaders to follow and help with the amount of time needed by our volunteer board members.

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Morning turf plot tours were just one of the highlights of the 19th SFGCSA Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Research Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale. Photo by Dara Park.

## SOUTH FLORIDA TURF UPDATE

# South Florida Expo Catches A Break Instead of A Breeze

By John Cisar, Ph.D.

Turf field-day season in Florida got off to a great start this year as the 2006 19th Annual South Florida Turf Expo at Ft. Lauderdale RED was a big success again!

This year the Expo caught a break and not a breeze as rains predicted for the day held off until late in the day. The tornado-like winds that had ripped the big-top tent into orbit in 2005 showed up this year in Pompano and spared us in Ft. Lauderdale. The 2006 South Florida Expo had another great turnout from the statewide turf industry with nearly 500 people attending (including *Florida Turf Digest* Publisher Liz Nutter!). A large number of vendors helped to sustain fundraising to support turf research at the FLREC. Turf managers were treated to a fine mixture of statewide turf program updates from IFAS

faculty, and practical industry workshops for mechanics, spray technicians, and irrigation personnel. In addition to vendor-sponsored workshops, demonstrations of equipment were provided by local distributors. Interested parties had the opportunity to compare hardware and be made aware of new technologies and innovations in the industry. The Expo offered numerous CEU opportunities including GCSAA credits and pesticide recertification.

Now an Expo tradition, a fantastic barbecue lunch was generously prepared and provided by Wiley and Nancy McCall of Environmental Turf. Every year the McCalls donate all their time and effort to come down south with their family — this year with their brand-spanking-new, one-of-a-kind, space-aged cooker — and put out the best fresh meal for everyone. The cooker can substitute for a jumbo jet it is

so big! And the food was fantastic. Thank you, Wiley and Nancy and Environmental Turf team!

Keynote addresses were provided by Dr. Billy Crow from UF in Gainesville and Mr. Jeff Michel of Bayer Environmental Sciences. Dr. Crow has an extension component to his job description with responsibilities in turf nematology. It was great to have Billy update us on turf nematodes and control options. Jeff provided a timely update on mole crickets with mole cricket activity heating up in south Florida. Dr. Ron Cherry, entomologist at the Everglades Research and Education Center also provided an afternoon presentation on chinch bugs.

Morning field tours included a visit with Dr. George Snyder, distinguished emeritus professor of soil science, who provided an update on soil-amendment impacts on bermudagrass establishment and maintenance.

Other IFAS Field Day turfgrass faculty presenters included Gainesville faculty, Drs. Billy Crow and Lawrence Datnoff; and FLREC turf faculty, Drs. Phil Busey, Robin Giblin-Davis and Cisar. This year graduate students — Mrs. Dara Park, Mr. Paucic McGroary, and Mrs. Claudia Arrieta — discussed their projects that have south Florida and/or FLREC components.

A featured program highlighted the efforts of some of the faculty of FLREC who do not directly work on turf but have direct relevance to many in our industry. Dr. Kimberly Moore led a tour of the annuals trial garden and Dr. Bill Howard led a discussion on scale insect pests. We

**Dr. George Snyder, distinguished emeritus professor of soil science, provided an update on soil-amendment impacts on bermudagrass...**

appreciate the efforts of all faculty and industry experts in providing topnotch education and CEU re-certification for our turf industry. A special thank-you is offered to Mike Orfanedes, Extension Agent for Broward County for providing an important update on tree and ornamental plant maintenance pre- and post-hurricane. After last year's hurricane events, there was a lot of interest in this subject matter.

Last but in no way least, we tip our hat to our great supporters from the turf industry who work so hard to all year to put on the south Florida Expo. The Expo is a great fundraiser to support turf research activities in south Florida! Many thanks to all the vendors both old and new and most have been with us since the beginning. Also, many thanks to the South Florida and Palm Beach Chapters of the Florida Golf Course Association and the Sports Turf Managers Association, Florida Chapter No. 1 for all their continuing sponsorship and/or support the Expo. The South Florida chapter is the official sponsor of the Expo and the chapter leads the effort in raising monies and increasing industry participation every year. We deeply appreciate the never-ending effort of SFGCSA President Kelly Cragin to put on a great event. ■