

CHAPTER ROUND UP

Hurricanes Affect Chapter Events

CALUSA

We had some spotty tree damage around the chapter necessitating normal post-storm course-clean-up routines. Our November meeting was at The Golf Club of Cape Coral. The speaker, Jim Nucheren from Lexington, spoke on the rules of golf.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

We dodged major damage this year but trees are still dying from 2004 damage and so Husqvarna put on a three-hour chain saw safety and tree-cutting demonstration at our October meeting at the Rio Pinar C.C. Host superintendent Scott Hullinger still has plenty of pine trees in his roughs that are declining thanks to all the twisting and bending from Hurricane Charley in 2004. Husqvarna managed to take a few down



Chain saw safety and how to drop and trim trees were topics at a three-hour training session at the CFGCSA October meeting at the Rio Pinar C.C. in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

for Scott to demonstrate proper tree-felling techniques. It was obvious from the calculated, common-sense approach these experts took, that most of us don't know jack about the proper way to cut down a tree or trim a limb. Book these guys. It's a great session. Contact Robert Herring, Manager, Golf Operations at 800-438-7543.

COASTAL PLAINS

Our chapter met at Shane Bass's St. James Bay Golf Club in November. We have had a bit of shuffling of members, losing some and picking up new ones. While hurricanes raged west and south of us, we are in a bit of a drought in the Tallahassee area, picking up only minimal amounts of rainfall. Jeff Heggen at Hilaman GC reports his irrigation lake fell below pumping level in November.

EVERGLADES

Recovery from Hurricane Wilma is the top priority for Naples golf courses. The timing could-

n't be worse as our winter visitors are flocking back and the season begins. For the most part the golfers have understood. In many cases they also were affected by the storm's damage to electric service and general destruction of the landscape.

On a happier note we did have our annual Pro/Superintendent tournament Oct. 11 at the Shadow Wood Preserve. Many thanks to superintendent Eric Ruha and his assistant Kirk Kirkland for hosting the event and having the course in immaculate condition. Winners were:

Pro/Superintendent Division – 1. Kelly Kilpatrick & Dan Heslip (64); 2. Jim Torba & Jose Hernandez (66); 3. Tim Hiers & Steve Waugh (66); and 4. Don Burnett & Scott Schroeder (67). Pro/Vendor Division – 1. Lance Allen & Nolan Henke (65) and 2. Greg Wright & Chris Jensen (67). Low Pros were Jose Hernandez and Steve Waugh with 70s. Hernandez won on a match of cards.

North Florida

Congratulations to Lon Chatfield, CGCS, St. Johns G&CC and Lynn Davis, CGCS, Palatka GC for recently achieving their certified golf course superintendent status. We did not have a meeting in November as this is the traditional overseeding month in the region, so our October golf outing at Ken Arsenault's new Panther Creek course was our last get-together until the Christmas party at Steve Blanchette's Hyde Park G.C. Glad this summer is over. Our Annual Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship event will be at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC April 10.

PALM BEACH

Thirty-five assistant superintendents attended the hurricane-delayed FGCSA Assistant Superintendents Seminar hosted by Ed Miller and the Quail Ridge C.C. on Sept. 29. Ed Suarez, president of Integrated Employers Resources and Charlie Hoare and Richard Farrell of GSI Executive Search led the attendees through workshops on Interactive Leadership and Management Skills and Resume Building and the Interviewing Process. At the end of the session, those who brought resumes along had them critiqued by the folks from GSI.

We were the host site once again for the annual USGA Green Section Regional Conference at the Palm Beach Gardens Marriott on Nov. 10. Ten presenters were scheduled to be on hand for the full day of education – a good way to pick up .6 education points for PDI and CGCS. Many thanks to Eric Knudson for hosting our



Bob Boyan, assistant superintendent at the Tusawilla CC (Central Florida Chapter) shot even-par 72 to win the Individual Trophy at the FGCSA Golf Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Christmas golf outing and party at the Mizner C.C.

RIDGE

We were scheduled to have our traditional December meeting at the Harrell's Fertilizer plant in Lakeland on Dec. 8 and then give golf a rest as we head for the local bowling lanes where shooting over 100 is a good thing. The following Saturday, Mark Hopkins hosted our famous (or is it infamous?) Christmas party and golf outing at the Bartow Municipal G.C. Following a nine-hole golf game, all members and spouses were welcomed to the ensuing party.

SEVEN RIVERS

FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson

spoke at our Nov. 17 meeting at Mike Swinson's Hernando Oaks GC. The topic was Proactive Communications. Also included in the presentation was an update on other current issues facing our industry.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Lost in the massive regional destruction of the upper Gulf coast was the fact that our chapter also took two hurricane hits this season with Katrina and Wilma. All the usual tree- and power-loss-damage is widespread.

At courses where the loss of power severely affected the ability to irrigate, turf survival became touch and go. We did a lot of emergency watering with spray



The South Florida Team made it two in a row as they retained the FGCSA Team Championship Trophy. From left, Jason Bagwell, Seth Strickland, Kelly Cragin, Bob Harper and Joe Pantaleo. Photo by Joel Jackson.

rigs and any other creative way to haul water.

One positive highlight was our annual Missing & Exploited Children 2005

Benefit Tournament. We donated \$20,000 to this worthy cause. Thanks to everyone who helped, participated and sponsored this event.

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(Editor's Note: As one of the charter supporters and partners of the Florida chapter of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the SFGCSA's donations are approaching nearly a quarter million dollars after 21 years of giving to this worthy cause.)

Another highlight in this stressful year was that we brought the FGCSA Golf Championship Team Trophy back home from the tournament at Southern Dunes last fall. Jason Bagwell, Seth Strickland, Kelly Cragin, Bob Harper and Joe Pantaleo teamed up to make it a repeat victory.

SUNCOAST

Well Hurricane Wilma didn't hit us too

badly, but it nailed Pete Dye's home in West Palm Beach, causing him to cancel as our guest speaker for November at the Gasparilla Inn. Grateful thanks to our host Jeff Strother and especially Todd Lowe, USGA agronomist for stepping in on short notice as our speaker. Speaking of hurricanes, our chapter donated \$2,225 to the GCSAA Katrina Relief Fund.

Thanks to host Bill Tyde and the Mission Valley Club for hosting our annual Pro/Superintendent event in October. Winners were Shane Bebout and Jason Murray of the Foxfire GC and in the Supplier/Supplier Division, Lee Crosby of Harrell's and Kevin Wasilewski of Syngenta.



Bob Klitz, CGCS presents Nancy McBride, director of prevention education for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children with a check for \$20,000 from the SFGCSA. Photo by Bill McKee.

Robby Robertson was scheduled to host our Christmas Tournament Dec. 8 at his Bird Bay G.C. to end the year. Activities include some fun golf with nine holes of Cayman-ball golf,

dinner and then nine holes of glow-ball golf. The 2006 season began at the Bradenton CC as Renze Berg hosted our annual Vendor Appreciation Day on Jan. 23 and Joel Jackson, FGCSA



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director of communications was on hand to give us an update on industry issues.

In an online poll on our Web site, we asked, "What is your favorite part of attending a Suncoast GCSA Meeting?" The results are not surprising as networking with peers is perhaps one of the biggest benefits of attending monthly meetings: Socializing (networking) 43 percent; Education 20; CEU points 14; Golf 11; Lunch 11. Check it out at www.scgcsa.org.

TREASURE COAST

Slammed last year by Hurricanes Frances and Jean, Wilma also did a number on trees and power lines in our area this year. with many folks being out of power and phone service for more than a week. Our October joint meeting with the Palm Beach GCSA was cancelled and rescheduled for December at Rob Kloska's Jupiter Island Club. We managed to retain the cup in our annual Ryder Cup format golf challenge with a 4.5 to 3.5 victory, giving us bragging rights for another year. Also on the agenda for this meeting, FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson made a presentation on the FGCSA's Golf BMP manual and the mandatory BMPs legislation that was passed in the last session of the state legislature. He also gave an update on current issues facing our industry.

WEST COAST

The 41st Bud Quandt Benevolent Tournament was another super success. Many thanks

to Christi Haley and host Bill Kistler and the staff at Tampa Palms for having the course in great shape. Namesake host Bud Quandt was on hand to welcome everyone at the registration table. The team of Neiswender, Ayer, Rogers and Saputa won the event.

Superintendent Rodney Schultz was the host at our November meeting at the Northdale Golf & Tennis Club. Guest speakers on safety and compliance were Joan M. Spencer from OSHA and Jeff Wharton from American Compliance Technologies.

December 16 will bring our annual Vendor Appreciation Day event at the University of South Florida ball fields in Tampa. This is a free event. Superintendents are encouraged to bring their assistants and others interested in the golf industry.

Current FWCGC-SA projects include finalizing the Chapter Membership Directory, a new Web site design, credit-card billing for meeting registrations and setting up a 501(c)3 account.

FLORIDA GCSA

The fall board meeting scheduled for Oct. 28 was cancelled due to Hurricane Wilma. The meeting was rescheduled for Nov. 11 so the board could meet in time to decide on 2006 turf research proposals and submit necessary letters of support for co-funding from GCSAA. Some directors were still cleaning up from Wilma and could not attend, but were able to submit their input on the list of



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proposals via email and fax. The Florida Turfgrass Association has pledged to help fund these projects as well.

The 2006 FGCSA Superintendent Survey has been distributed to all members for completion, return and tabulation of results. Those who participate in the survey will receive the results.

The FGCSA was prepared to donate to the GCSAA Katrina Relief Fund in addition to several chapters submitting their own individual donations. However, the association will reevaluate the decision in light of the severe damage caused by Hurricane Wilma in south Florida. The five chapters that were most affected have been asked to canvas their

chapters for those who may need assistance including crew members at courses in hardest-hit areas.

Old School Ties Bind LCCC Alums to Event

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Hail to thee our alma mater... well thankfully the crowd of Lake City Alumni didn't break into song, but they did break into their wallets to sponsor and play in the 14th Annual Lake City Community College Alumni Endowment Tournament.

Each year since 1991, the graduates from the Lake City Golf & Landscape

Operations program have had a reunion in the form of a two-man scramble tournament to raise money for their school. We all know how much the Florida education budget has suffered and those cutbacks have reached into the collegiate ranks as well. For a program that literally has a worldwide reputation for excellent training of those who pursue a career in turf management, these alumni have stepped up to help with budget shortfalls.

This year WCI Communities, Inc. donated the use of its new Pelican Preserve course in Ft. Myers to host the event. In fact, many WCI superintendents, senior golf superintendents and regional agronomists came through the Lake City

program many moons ago. WCI courses around the southwest Florida area have been hosting this annual event for some time now, and by covering it, I have been able to play many a new course in the Ft. Myers - Naples area.

Pelican Preserve is the creation of Lewis "Chip" Powell, golf course architect and one-time superintendent himself. His credits include many courses across Florida and in central Florida, such outstanding tracks as the St. Cloud GC, Duran GC in Viera and the remodel of the Daytona Country Club. Powell also did the renovation of the famed Belleview Biltmore Hotel course in Clearwater and the remodeling job at the Sugar Mill CC in New

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Lake City Community College Tournament Committee, from left: Mitch Miller, Odell Spainhour, Roy Bates, Scott Hamm, Glenn Zakany, Celeste Langer, John Johnson and Mike Smith. These alumni and friends worked together to plan and host another great event. Attendance was a little off the normal, thanks to Hurricane Wilma's rampage across south Florida, but the Lake City CC Department of Golf Course Operations netted another huge donation from the tournament.

Symrna Beach. He also designed Walden Lake in Plant City and Big Cypress in Lakeland. He has been involved in 56 new designs and remodeling projects and, in addition, master-golf-community planning on 23 projects.

Pelican Preserve has generous greens with lots of movement to make the putts

challenging once you get there, but the variety of teeing locations means you can play your own game on this lovely course that roams about the wooded grounds of this over-55 golf community in Ft. Myers. If you want to take a look, take the Colonial exit off I-75 in Ft. Myers and go a couple of miles east. You can't miss it.



Rory Mudge, Grey Oaks GC (center) teamed with his pro Jim Jewell (not pictured) to win the LCCC Tournament A Flight. Congratulating Mudge are John Piersol, director of the LCCC Golf/Landscape Department (left) and Bill Gamble of Toro, the presenting sponsor of this year's event. Photo by Joel Jackson

Meanwhile par took a beating at the hands of the two-man scramble format with Rory Mudge and Jim Jewell from the Grey Oaks G.C. shooting a net 56 to win the event. The only chance my partner and I had was to win one of door prizes with the raffle tickets we bought. But the donations went for a good cause. Educating the next generation of golf course superintendents isn't a bad thing at all.

Power Pak Auctions Help Chapter Charities

Since 2003, Brian MacCurrach of Bayer Environmental Science has been playing the role of auctioneer at three of the major FGCSA Chapter events in his territory and the result has been more than \$30,000 raised in support of the Palm Beach Future of Golf, the Treasure Coast Blue Pearl and South Florida's Missing & Exploited Children tournament. All proceeds from the auctions

go to the charities of the various events.

MacCurrach said, "It's great to be a part of the association's fund-raising tournaments that help such worthy causes, and to see the competitive spirit of the superintendents as they bid against their friends and peers. I look forward to continuing Bayer's support of these events with new and different assortments of our products in our 2006 portfolio."

Tournament host Dale Kuehner, CGCS had the winning bid of \$2,800 which netted Colony West a bargain buy on five 50-lb. bags of Chipco TopChoice; ten 50-lb. bags of Allectus GC; one case of Chipco® Signature; one case of Revolver, one case of ProStar; one case of Dylox and one case of Finale.

The FGCSA and its chapters sincerely appreciate the participation and sponsorship by all of our industry partners in our efforts to support superintendent education, turf research and local charities. ■



M&E Chairman Bob Klitz, CGCS, left, helps Bayer's Brian MacCurrach kick off the 2005 M&E Power Pak auction at Colony West. Photo by Bill McKee.