

# 55th Annual Show Completes FTGA's Estero Run

**'Greatest Show on Turf' Moves to PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens Sept. 16-19, 2008**

*By Joel Jackson, CGCS (Ret.)*

There at the podium during the 2007 Awards Luncheon stood Ralph White, senior statesman of the FTGA. I met White when he worked for Southern Turf Nurseries when I was just a high school kid working a summer job on the Apollo Beach Golf Course near Tampa. Now, 47 years later, we have been colleagues in this great industry. White said he had missed only two of the 55 conferences over the years. He commented on past leaders and future generations of the turf industry in his impromptu remarks. He also lauded the FTGA for its trend of inclusion to make sure all sectors of the turfgrass industry are being represented on the board of directors. He praised the FTGA on its vision and direction.

This was the FTGA's last meeting at the Hyatt Coconut Point in Estero for awhile. Next year, the conference



*New 2007-08 FTGA Officers open Trade Show. From left: Secretary/Treasurer Greg Pheneger, Vice President Todd Himmelberger, President Darren Davis, Executive Director Casey Wohl Pace and Immediate Past President Jay McCord. Photo courtesy of The Marketplace.*

moves to the PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens. The dates are Sept. 16-19. The FTGA is trying to serve its members by making the education and networking accessible to as many members as possible.

This year the conference started off with some fun events — the fishing and golf tournaments. This year the golf tournament had special meaning for FGCSA members as the winner of the individual low gross event automatically gains a spot on the FGCSA's golf team to compete in the GCSAA National Golf Championship in Orlando in January. Seth Strickland from the South Florida GCSA and Miami Shores CC took home the trophy.

For those not playing golf, workshops and pesticide license classes filled the day Wednesday leading up to the annual Toro Corn Boil steak dinner that evening prepared by Wiley McCall and company from Environmental Turf. The rains held off and everyone ate his fill.

Thursday morning was full of concurrent education sessions for every sector of the turf industry. At the Awards Luncheon, former NFL All-Pro quarterback Jim Hart, now a Southwest Florida resident, entertained the crowd with a recap of his career and life experience from a "right time – right



*FTGA President Jay McCord (left) presents Roy Bates with the 2007 Wreath of Grass Award for Lifetime Service to the FTGA during the Awards Luncheon at the 2007 FTGA Conference and Show in Estero, FL. Photo courtesy of The Marketplace.*



*After his keynote address at the 2007 FTGA Awards Luncheon, All-Pro Quarterback Jim Hart spent an hour at the Trade Show signing autographs and chatting with NFL fans. Photo courtesy of Leading Edge Communications.*

place” perspective. Then the new FTGA officers and directors were installed, scholarships were awarded and Roy Bates received the Wreath of Grass Award after a friendly roasting from his longtime pal, Jerry Redden.

For me and the FGCSA, our new association manager, Jennifer Innes, made her public debut at our booth at the trade show and met lots of our members and other key industry folks. We made several promising advertising contacts for the Florida Green and got a chance to touch base with Hannes Combest from GCSAA as the national group fulfills its mission to be a solid resource for chapters and members to succeed. I met more turf industry professionals from other sectors such as parks and recreation and sports turf, which bodes well for the FTGA and for our united turf interests and issues in the state.



*Seth Strickland won the 2007 FTGA Golf Tournament at Bonita Bay West and a place on the FGCSA Golf Team for the GCSAA National Championships in Orlando in 2008. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*From left: During the Trade Show in Estero, Dale Mitchell and Richard Coyler from Golf Agronomic Supply and Handling presented President Darren Davis with a \$3,000 donation for the FTGA Research Foundation. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



# UF Turfgrass Faculty Back to Full Strength

## Former Extension Agent to Teach and Conduct Research in Golf and Sports Turf Management

GAINESVILLE – The University of Florida environmental horticulture department has hired Jason Dettman-Kruse as a turfgrass science assistant professor. Beginning August, he has been teaching several hands-on courses to Gainesville students and starting his research program on athletic fields.

Students in Dettman-Kruse's undergraduate courses will be using the Turfgrass Envirotron on campus and the Turfgrass Research Unit in Citra. In these facilities, students get to practice hands-on management of turf, including irrigation, mowing, topdressing, overseeding, and fertilization. He is also team-teaching a Landscape and Turfgrass Management class.

"Having worked in both the industry and as an Extension educator, I recognize the value of hands-on learning opportunities," said Dettman-Kruse. "I look forward to working with my colleagues and the industry across the state to help establish the Golf and Sports Turf Management Program at the University of Florida as one of the best in the nation."

Dettman-Kruse comes to UF/IFAS



*Dr. Jason Dettman-Kruse is the newest addition to the UF Environmental Horticulture Dept. He will specialize in sports turf management and will focus on developing students in all phases of turfgrass science.*

from the University of Wisconsin's Extension program, where he worked as an educator for the commercial horticulture industry. There he developed and taught curricula to Wisconsin's green industry on turfgrass identification, weed control, spreader calibration and pesticide application.

Dettman-Kruse received his B.S. in crop science from the University of Idaho, his native state. He earned

an M.S. in soil and water science at UF, studying the management of ultradwarf bermudagrasses, and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University. His research at Iowa involved the use of remote sensing systems in nutrient and water resources management.

Research will be a priority for Dettman-Kruse in his new position as well. His research program will focus on the management of athletic fields as related to player safety and site-specific management of soil and water resources in urban turfgrass systems.

"Turfgrass beautifies our environment and protects against injuries during athletic activities, while working to filter our air and water resources," said Dettman-Kruse. "My teaching philosophy is focused on creating a learning environment that combines traditional classroom and laboratory experience with a variety of hands-on learning activities and on-the-job training. Students successfully completing the Golf and Sports Turf Management program at the University of Florida will leave with the education and experience necessary to be successful turfgrass managers and good stewards of the environment."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Dr. Dettman-Kruse essentially replaces the position vacated by Dr. Grady Miller. We were lucky to fill the position before the recent budget cuts necessitated a university wide hiring freeze.*

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**2007 PLANTS OF THE YEAR**

The exotic Cardboard Palm wraps up our review of the 2007 Plants of the Year selections. These plants are selected annually by a panel who look for their native ability to exist in Florida's three geographic zones.

**Zamia maritima** (formerly *furfuracea*)

**Common Name:** Cardboard Palm

**Zones:** North protected areas, Central & South

**Mature Height and Spread:** 3.5 x 4-6 ft.

**Classification:** Cycad

**Landscape Use:** Specimen, foundation planting, container

**Characteristics:** Exotic-looking seed cones surrounded by tough green fronds arise through the green, cardboard-like fronds making this plant a standout in the landscape. New growth appears as light olive above the mature dark green leaves. This cycad is drought tolerant and also tolerates neglect well. Its use adds a tropical flair to virtually any landscape. It is exceptionally salt tolerant and tough, making it ideal for use in coastal regions.

**Possible Insect/Disease Problems:** Occasional scale or mealybug

**Propagation:** by seed



*Exotic-looking seed cones surrounded by tough green fronds arise through the green, cardboard-like fronds...*



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*It is interesting to note that no pathogens were found in many samples sent to the clinic. This result can be frustrating for a golf course superintendent who suffers turf damage or loss that is not caused by a pathogen.*

## Top Ten Florida 'Diseases'

By Todd Lowe

The University of Florida Disease Diagnostic Clinic was revamped last year, under the guidance of Dr. Phil Harmon, to provide golf courses with a Rapid Turf Diagnosis disease service for turfgrass managers. The new service has been a value to the golf course industry in our region, as it provides reliable and timely disease diagnoses and management suggestions. In its first year, the laboratory received 165 samples and has received 61 samples as of April this year. The results from those samples yielded the following results:

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Samples 2006</u>	<u>Samples 2007</u>
no pathogen.....	42	10
Pythium Root Rot.....	35	7
Rhizoctonia Lear/Sheat Spot.....	18	2
Bermudagrass Decline.....	17	3
Pythium Blight.....	16	16
Fairy Ring .....	13	0
Brown Patch.....	12	3
Dollar Spot .....	9	3
Take-All Root Rot .....	8	0
Bipolaris Leaf Spot .....	5	4
Anaerobic Soil.....	3	0

Other pathogens found included Nigrospora blight, Rhizoctonia circinata brown ring patch, Limonomyces pink patch, Fusarium blight, Michrodochium patch, gray leaf spot

It is interesting to note that no pathogens were found in many samples sent to the clinic. This result can be frustrating for a golf course superintendent who suffers turf damage or loss that is not caused by a pathogen. Samples are sometimes submitted following fungicide treatments, which can provide a false diagnosis. Oftentimes, other environmental, mechanical, chemical or climatic factors cause the damage and the problem cannot be easily fixed with a fungicide treatment.

A disease laboratory technician cannot determine whether turf loss occurred because of trees surrounding the putting green, improper drainage, or mechanic/climatic stress. Such factors can easily cause turf damage without the presence of pathogens and it may be necessary to conduct a Turfgrass Advisory Service visit by a qualified agronomist to assess the putting greens.

The clinic also provides updates on turfgrass diseases throughout the region. Dr. Harmon and associates also are receiving research funds from the USGA to study diseases on seashore paspalum. We appreciate the value that the University of Florida provides the turfgrass industry and the game of golf.

Updates on turfgrass diseases can be found at  
[http://turfpth.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass/rapiddiag\\_disease.shtml](http://turfpth.ifas.ufl.edu/turfgrass/rapiddiag_disease.shtml)