

CHAPTER ROUND UP
**Classrooms,
 Showrooms,
 And Some Golf**

CALUSA

Thanks to USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe for his educational presentation in January at Jim Foster's Coral Oaks GC. We took a break in February for the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim. In March, our president, Ryan Willis, will host the meeting at Kings Gate GC. Our speaker will be Dr. Lee Berndt from Edison College, and our April meeting will be at Michael Pritchard's Westminster CC. Thanks to all the superintendents for volunteering to host meetings.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Thanks to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and the Interlachen C.C. for hosting our annual FTGA Research Fund Tournament. Introductory speakers for the business meeting included FTGA President Jay McCord and Executive



**TESTA Tours
 Three Clubs**

During the TESTA Tour, Bay Hill superintendent John Anderson (brown sweater) and equipment manager Albert Sizemore (orange shirt) talk about their equipment fleet and tournament preparations. Brad Reano (left) from Golf Ventures sponsored the Bay Hill stop on the tour. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Equipment managers and technicians from area courses get together to kick tires and talk shop during the 2007 Central Florida Turf Equipment and Service Technicians Association's Bus Tour of Orange Lake, Isleworth and Bay Hill maintenance facilities. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Matt Payne and Hal Richburg, CGCS from the Victoria Hills G.C. in Deland won the Central Florida Research Tournament at the Interlachen C.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.



From left, Joel Jackson, CGCS; Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Interlachen CC.; Jay McCord, FTGA President; and Matt Modica, Down to Earth Landscaping, at the CFGCSA Research Tournament in Winter Park. Photo by Casey Wohl Pace.

Director Casey Wohl Pace. Joel Jackson with the Florida GCSA gave an update on legislative issues and Matt Modica from Down to Earth Landscape gave a talk on the pros and cons on container vs. field-grown trees.

The Central Florida TESTA chapter held its annual maintenance-bus tour in March. Fifty-plus equipment technicians and a few superintendents toured the facilities at the Legends of Orange Lake, Isleworth and Bay Hill. The stops were hosted by John Deere, Toro and Golf Ventures/Jacobsen. Thanks to Chris Cartin for hosting our annual Superintendent-Vendor outing at the Tusawilla C.C.

Last but not least several of our chapters will once again be donning their NBC Sports caps and radios to act as spotters for the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill.

COASTAL PLAINS

Shane Bass, CGCS and Jeff Heggen will join FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS on this year's FGCS Capitol Hill trip to meet with legislators and allied associations in Tallahassee. They will be attending large functions put on by the Florida Pest Management Association and the Florida Farm Bureau to meet and greet officials and to show unity on common issues.

EVERGLADES

We will be hosting our all-day education bonanza, the Everglades Spring Symposium on April 12 at the Hyatt Coconut Point in Bonita Springs besides

the usual dynamite slate of speakers, symposium chairman Matt Taylor, CGCS has lined up golf media and communications guru Pat Jones as the keynote speaker. This should be a super event.

NORTH FLORIDA

Spring is a busy time with our annual Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Club and our Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship event at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC. Congratulations to Gina Williams on her new position as golf course superintendent at the City of Palatka Golf Club. Thanks to all who volunteered once again to serve as spotters for the television coverage of the TPC Tournament. This year the tournament will be in May as part of the new Tour format leading up to the FedEx Cup. The network makes a donation to the NFGCSA for the services of the 12-14 people who walk the course reporting on the players' scores and who is away or playing next.

PALM BEACH

Congratulations to Joe Hubbard and crew at Broken Sound for hosting the Champions Tour Allianz Tournament. That makes three tournaments in our chapter now including the Honda Classic at PGA National and the LPGA event at Trump National. Several of our members were eyewitnesses to the see-saw battle for Honda Classic as we did our annual stint as spotters for NBC's coverage of the tournament.

We bid a fond farewell to one of our legends of



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From left, Chad Kroeger, GCS at Tequesta CC presents Mike and Katie Ballard a \$10,000 check from the Palm Beach GCSA to help with expenses after their home was destroyed by fire. Photo by Steve Pearson.



Broken Sound superintendent Joe Hubbard, CGCS gets a photo-op with pro golfer Fuzzy Zoeller during a pre-tournament reception at the Allianz Championship, Champions Tour event held at Hubbard's club.

leadership with the departure of David Court, CGCS as he moves to the Seven Rivers Chapter to take over the Black Diamond Ranch golf courses. We presented David

with the FGCSA's President's Award for Lifetime Achievement for his long time service to our chapter. Good luck David and Janet. Thanks to the generosity

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of our members and other contributors, we were able to make a \$10,000 donation to Mike Ballard, GCS, of Wycliffe G.C. and his family to offset expenses caused when a fire totally destroyed their home this winter.

RIDGE

Jim Mendenhall and his team from Squamata Reptiles put on quite a show with their snake demonstration and safety talk at last month's meeting. Besides the smaller specimens, he showed a 6-foot diamondback rattlesnake and a 14-foot cobra.

We just held our annual Jack Harrell Memorial Ridge Invitational at Alan Puckett's Eaglebrooke

G.C. in Lakeland. We had great service from the golf and clubhouse staff. Ray Cuzzone got to cook the food in a kitchen for a change. After the divots settled, Scott Scamehorn won the tournament and the Jack Harrell trophy portrait. In the vendor net division, golf course architect Ron Garl, who just completed a renovation at Eaglebrooke, took top honors. Talk about local knowledge! FGCSA director of communications gave an update on the fertilizer ordinance issues facing counties and cities around the state.

SEVEN RIVERS

Florida DOACS held a public meeting at the UF/IFAS Plant Science Center in Citra on the new state



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The FGCSA Board held its 2007 winter board meeting at The King and The Bear G.C. at the World Golf Village. The FGCSA board holds one or two meetings per year around the state. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Fertilizer Rule and gave the participants a tour of the research plots so they could appreciate the science behind nutrient-management recommendations on turfgrasses. Our own Mark Kann is research coordinator for the turf plots, which include three golf holes and a nine-hole putting course. You really need to plan a chapter trip to this great resource for turf science which benefits all of Florida.

SOUTH FLORIDA

We are in our own version of March Madness down here in south Florida as we organize our NBC spotters for the Doral tournament and also prepare for our annual Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

SUNCOAST

We will be celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Suncoast Scramble at the Laurel Oak C.C. March 26. Best wishes to our External

Vice President Mike McCulloch as he moves from Jacaranda West C.C. down to the Cross Creek G.

C. in Port Charlotte. Mike will serve out his term on the board until new elections in May. Meanwhile thanks to

George Cook, Tim McKenna and others who have been monitoring the proposed fertilizer ordinance. We will hold a meeting March 13 to draft recommendations to the county. Thanks to Renze Berg for hosting our 2007 Superintendent-Vendor meeting at the Bradenton C.C. in January. In April we will meet at Bob Wagner's Coral Creek Club in Placida.

TREASURE COAST

Thanks to Scott Bell, CGCS at Red Stick G.C., the FGCSA and all the local chapters that donated funds to ship golf course supplies and used equipment to New Orleans to help re-supply the city-owned golf course.

WEST COAST

On Jan. 16 at Tampa



Scott Scamehorn, CGCS, Mountain Lake G.C. (left) shot a 70 to win the Jack Harrell, Sr. Ridge Invitational. Ridge GCSA President Bob Solms presents Scamehorn with the Jack Harrell, Sr. Trophy portrait drawn by David Pursell. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA Board meets with GCSAA Board

The GCSAA Board invited the Florida GCSA to attend its Winter Board Meeting held in Orlando. From left: David Downing, CGCS, secretary/treasurer; Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, immediate past president and Ricky Heine, CGCS, president from the GCSAA. Craig Weyandt, president; Joe Pantaleo, past president and Matt Taylor, CGCS, vice president from the Florida GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Palms we hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar: “IPM – Putting Together an Effective Plan for Your Course.” Attendance was good in part due to our discount registration fee for chapter members, with the chapter picking up the balance. Everyone was invited, but non-chapter members paid the normal seminar fee.

FGCSA

Our board of directors met with the GCSAA board at its winter meeting in Orlando in January. The GCSAA has been holding meetings around the country to get local chapters involved in the governance structure and to provide grassroots input on the issues and programs. This

push is to help GCSAA to serve its members through the chapters and to help chapters be as effective as possible.

All the candidates that the FGCSA supported for the 2007 GCSAA Board of Directors were elected at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in Anaheim. Congratulations to our own Bob Randquist, CGCS for winning a second term as director.

Congratulations are also due to our Florida No. 1 Golf Team of Bob Harper, Seth Strickland, Stephen Fox and Jim Torba for winning the Team Gross event. Harper finished tied for second. At our GCSAA reception, we raised nearly \$3,000 for the Benevolent Fund thanks

to Steve Ehrbar donating back his raffle winnings to the pot. Steve asked that his portion be used to aid fellow superintendent Mike Ballard, who lost his home to a fire.

GCSAA

Past President Bruce Williams, CGCS will be the presenter at this year’s GCSAA Leadership Series half-day seminar at the Poa Annuia Classic on Friday, May 11th in Naples. Williams will be speaking on “Mastering Your Communications Skills” – a real necessity in today’s world. Naturally PDI and Certification education points will be available

We held our own Winter Board Meeting at the World

Golf Village’s King and the Bear G.C. While we were conducting business inside, Jim Furyk was outside shooting Srixon commercials on the putting green. Inside the business included approval of a slate of research projects to be co-funded with the FTGA and GCSAA. See the Research Section for a breakdown of approved projects.

Additionally, chapters were reminded to announce the first FGCSA dues increase in 14 years to their members. Also a committee was formed to handle restructuring and reorganizing the staffing needs of the FGCSA with the pending retirement of Association Manager Marie Roberts in February.