

Elections, Fund-Raisers Top Summer Agenda

CALUSA

Our annual meeting and election of officers was held June 19 at the Kingsway CC and hosted by our chapter president, Ryan Willis, CGCS. Ryan and Kingsway will be the featured cover story article in the fall issue of the *Florida Green* magazine. Besides the meeting and election, members will take a short survey and then tee it up in our chapter golf championship tournament following lunch.

Many thanks to Michael Pritchard for hosting our April meeting at the Westminster County Club, and thanks to Nat Hubbard for presenting his program on "Why Greens Fail." We also appreciate Nancy Miller for hosting our May meeting at Maple Leaf G&CC and look forward to visiting Rick Cirino's Deep Creek G.C. in July.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Thanks to our members who volunteered their time to serve as spotters for NBC at the Arnold Palmer Bay Hill Invitational. Matt Beaver, Bay Hill assistant superintendent, got to fly over the course in a helicopter and get a bird's-eye view of the course during NBC's pre-tournament filming of the course layout. Matt shared a photo with the *Florida Green*.

Josh Czarnecki will host our Chapter Golf



Aerial View of the 12th and 13th holes at Bay Hill during the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Photo by Matt Beaver.

Championship at the Eagle Creek GC. We are looking forward to putting on those mini-verde greens.

Our annual meeting will be held in July at the North Shore GC and hosted by John Kennedy. Grand Cypress will once again host our annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot

Open Aug. 4 and 5. The tournament and awards reception will take place on Saturday and Tom Alex and his staff are sure to have the course ready to test all comers. On Sunday, there will be a two-man team shoot out and a fishing tournament on the East Course.

COASTAL PLAINS

Shane Bass, CGCS at St. James Bay G.C. and Jeff Heggen at Hilaman Park G.C. pulled some government-relations duty for the FGCSA. Shane participated in the FGCSA's 2007 Capitol Hill visit and Jeff sat in on a public hearing on the state's urban fertilizer



Mark Kann, Seven Rivers GCSA, center, presented FTGA Past President Matt Taylor, CGCS and FTGA Executive Director Casey Pace a \$5,000 donation to the FTGA Research Foundation during the Poa Annuia Classic weekend in Naples this past May. Photo by Joel Jackson

rule. Thanks guys for stepping up to help represent the interests of all Florida golf course superintendents.

EVERGLADES

We are pleased to report that the 2007 Poa Annuia Classic raised over \$50,000 in sponsorships, provided dinner for 300, raffled off \$4500 in cash and prizes, and hosted two golf tournaments with individual and team events. The G.C. Horn Memorial Endowment Tournament raised \$8000 directly for UF turf scholarships.

Our Vendor Appreciation Day was hosted by Kevin Leo June 13 at the Old Corkscrew Golf Club where lunch was free for vendors. We gave out souvenir tervis tumblers to everyone. We are sending out vendor appreciation gifts (Case knives) to those who supported the EGCSA with at least \$500 during the year.

Our Annual meeting will be July 12 at Twin Eagles. Thanks to Bob Volpe, CGCS for hosting the business meeting, election of officers and afternoon golf tournament.

NORTH FLORIDA

We didn't have any applicants for scholarships for our Memorial Tournament in April this year, so we donated \$2000 to the LCCC foundation with hopes of the state matching the funds for one turfgrass scholarship and one mechanic scholarship. At the Memorial held at the Jacksonville G&CC and hosted by Greg Tharp, we also presented the 2007 Keeper of the Green Award to brothers Fred and Glen

Klauk. These two gentlemen have been shining examples of industry leaders at TPC and Pablo Creek as they quietly go about their business of excellent turf management. Fred was prominently featured on the Golf Channel during this year's TPC Championship. Congratulations and thanks for your dedication to our profession.

Thanks also to the members who participated as spotters for NBC Sports. On Aug. 22 we will be hosting a GCSAA Regional Seminar. Topic and speakers are still TBA at this time.

PALM BEACH

Our summer season got off to a brown, dusty start with harsh watering restrictions from the South Florida Water Management District, which had us cutting way back to 45 percent on our irrigation schedules. We finally got some relief from Tropical Storm Barry in early June.

The Future of Golf Tournament changed venues

this year to the Ballen Isles, South Course hosted by Kevin Downing, CGCS. The Falls CC and Steve Pearson, CGCS, our gracious hosts for so many years, are taking a break this year to renovate the golf course. Local knowledge proved handy as Kevin and his team of John Foy, Marty Green and Steve Utrecht won the event.

We held our regular monthly June meeting at the Atlantis G. C. Thanks to Joel Tholund, superintendent. PBGCSA Vice President Brian Main will host our Annual Meeting and election of officers at his Aberdeen G&CC in July.

While Tropical Storm Barry brought needed relief to the turfgrass, it also postponed the annual PBGCSA Fishing Tournament. Braving the choppy waters, the One and Done boat captained by Mike Carver with fishermen David Tandy, Gary Chaney and Jason Maret had the biggest wahoo (52 lbs) and highest total weight (144.6 lbs). The Down and Dirty crewed by Chris Gast, Bill Lanthier, Bill Hughes and Tim Cann had the largest dolphin at 19.1 lbs. The largest kingfish (26.7 lbs) was landed on the Off Course with boat captain Billy Cevaal and mates Dave Mummert, Jode Wells and Terry Wells. Thanks to our sponsors and our seaworthy fishermen.

Palm Beach President Steve Pearson paid tribute and thanks to the sponsors and participants in both events for helping to raise money for the chapter's benevolent fund, turf research, junior golf and scholarships.



North Florida President Lon Chatfield (left) presents John Piersol from Lake City CC with a \$2,000 check for scholarships. Photo by Shane Bass.



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SPOTLIGHT

SEVEN RIVERS

The 2007 Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Golf Classic at World Woods was another smashing success thanks to the hard work by the Tournament Committee headed by Chairman Glenn Oberlander. Many thanks also to World Woods and host superintendent Jimbo Rawlings for providing such a great golfing venue for this fantastic fundraiser for turf research. As a result of this event, President Mark Kann was able to present \$5,000 checks to both the Florida GCSA Research Account and the FTGA Research Foundation, at the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples this past May.

We have had busy meeting schedule and we appreciate the clubs that have so generously donated their facilities for our 2007 meetings and golf outings like Candler Hills G.C. and Superintendent Andy Jorgensen for our May meeting and we look forward to our Annual Meeting at the Seven Rivers G.C. with host Brad Barbee. In July we are working with the UF/IFAS faculty to help put on the Summer Field Days July 17 at the Envirotron and on the 18th at the Plant Science Center in Citra. We will finish up the summer with a dual meeting with Westech in August at Hernando Oaks hosted by Mike McNeil.

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From left, Seven Rivers President Mark Kann, Golf Ventures Brad Reano and Walt McMahon and Envirotron Classic Chairman Glenn Oberlander pose for the \$25,000 Champion Sponsor check presentation at World Woods.



From left, Mark Kann, Seven Rivers GCSA president, presented a \$5,000 check for turf research to FGCSA President Craig Weyandt at the spring board meeting in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

SOUTH FLORIDA

We had another successful Turf Expo this March and were pleased to be able to donate a check for \$27,000 to

the FGCSA Research Fund at the spring board meeting in Naples. These funds have been used primarily for us to pay for the services of a

turf technician to help IFAS maintain the turf research plots in Ft. Lauderdale. We want to thank Gary Pederson for his years of service in the technician position. Gary is leaving IFAS to take a position with Steve Kuhn at the High Ridge CC in Boynton Beach. Next year the funds will be donated directly to IFAS for the care and maintenance of the plots using graduate turf students and other resources.

Thanks to Kevin Frost, CGCS at the Diplomat CC and Stephen Fox at Ocean Reef for hosting our May and June meetings. Thanks to our speakers for their interesting presentations: Brian MacCurrach with Bayer Environmental Science, “Modern Mole Cricket Management” and Steve Woodmanese, biologist with the Florida Native Plant Society, “Native Plant Equivalents.” Kelly Cragin is stepping up to serve as our external vice president while Jim Walker recovers from his medical procedures. Get well Jim.

SUNCOAST

We’re pleased to report that the Sarasota County Commission’s Emergency

Ordinance passed in late April contained language recognizing the Florida Golf BMP Manual and the Florida Green Industries BMP Manual for lawns and landscaping. Our whole purpose has been to make sure sound, peer-reviewed science is the basis for local rule making. Thanks to George Cook for his one-on-one meeting with commissioners to explain our position and for the others in our chapter who took the time to attend meetings and communicate with the commissioners.

Special thanks to the clubs and superintendents who agreed to host our April, May and June meetings: Bob Wagner at Coral Creek, Bob Gwodz at Sara Bay and Tom Hilferty at Tatum Ridge. Congratulations to Adam Wright for representing our chapter as the Cover Story for the summer issue of the Florida Green magazine.

TREASURE COAST

Our “summer” season kicked off with a GCSAA Regional Seminar on Advanced Weed Control at the PGA Club in Port St. Lucie presented by Dr. Fred Yelverton, NC State and Dr.



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A shot of some of the players enjoying The Blue Pearl's new venue this year, the McArthur G.C. on May 8 in Hobe Sound. Photo by Barbara Tierney.

Bert McCarty from Clemson. We followed that up a few weeks later May 8 with our big annual chapter fundraiser of each year, The Blue Pearl. Thanks to superintendent Chris Dearsio and the McArthur Golf Club for hosting the 14th Blue Pearl tournament.

President Harry Hanson will host our annual meeting and election of officers at the Miles Grant CC in June. Look for the date of our August golf outing hosted by Tim Cann, CGCS at Harbour Ridge G.C. And it's not too soon to mark your calendars for our Treasure Coast and Palm Beach joint chapter meeting and golf

challenge at Jupiter Island hosted by John Foy of the USGA.

WEST COAST

Trent Inman, CGCS will host our chapter golf championship at Old Memorial G.C. in June. On July 24 we will host our second GCSAA Regional Seminar in 2007 at the Tampa Palms G&CC: Organic Approach to Golf Course Maintenance with Dr. Frank Rossi and Jeff Carlson, CGCS. In August Duane Van Etten will host our annual Pro/Superintendent Golf Tournament at his Cypress Run G.C.

FGCSA

This is the busy time of year for chapter secretaries and treasurers as they send out, collect and post dues notices and payments in order to report current members so they can be included in the annual FGCSA Membership Directory. Association Manager Marie Roberts sympathizes with superintendents who have "real jobs" when it comes to shuffling chapter paperwork and meeting necessary deadline, which is why we urge all chapters to hire and retain administrative help so processing new member applications and existing member renewals doesn't become such a burden. About half of our chapters have hired someone to help with newsletters, Web sites and paperwork handling. We hope to organize and hold an annual meeting of these administrative assistants to see how we can help each other serve our members better.

The FGCSA board has appointed a search committee to look for a new state staff member to come on board by this fall to train with Marie and assume her position when she retires, which will be around

the beginning of 2008. Resumes will be accepted in the coming months and interviews set up with the top candidates for August or September.

We hosted a GCSAA Leadership Series seminar at the Poa Annua Classic in Naples in May. Bruce Williams, CGCS presented "Mastering your Communications Skills" and noted that in his experience many more superintendents lost their jobs from poor communication rather than poor turf conditions. At the Past Presidents Dinner held on May 10th after the spring board meeting, Past President Greg Pheneger was given the 2007 Distinguished Service Award for his leadership and service in helping with the FGCSA's strategic planning and sound financial management.

Shane Bass, CGCS joined Joel Jackson, CGCS and Mike Goldie in visiting with Dale Dubberly from the Florida Dept. of Agriculture on the state's urban fertilizer rule and attended the FPMA luncheon with guest speaker Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson during the FGCSA Legislative trip to Tallahassee in March.

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Distinguished Service Award Goes to Pheneger

The Florida GCSA recognized the professional and volunteer services of Past President Greg Pheneger (2003) by presenting him the 2007 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the annual Past Presidents Dinner held during the Poa Annuu Classic in Naples each May.

Pheneger, currently manager of golf course operations at the Johns Island Club in Vero Beach, is the son of a retired club professional so he became involved in the golf industry at a very early age. He also credits Luke Majorki, superintendent of PGA National for demonstrating a very strong work ethic early in Pheneger's career. But another thing Pheneger learned from Majorki was that family came first. Pheneger's family includes his wife Gail and sons Alec and James, and enjoys quality time with them in family vacations and sports activities.

Pheneger graduated from Ohio State University and took an assistant superintendent job at the



Greg Pheneger, manager of golf course operations, Johns Island Club, Vero Beach.

PGA National Golf Club in 1980. He rose through the ranks at PGA National becoming the director of golf course maintenance from 1988 to 1993 at which time he took his current position with Johns Island, managing the club's three golf courses.

Pheneger says his training at PGA National – helping to prepare for the 1983 Ryder

Cup, eight PGA Seniors Championships from 1985-1993 and the 1987 PGA Championship – helped prepare him for overseeing the maintenance and renovations of the North, South and West Courses in Vero Beach.

From 1998 to 2001 Pheneger served the Treasure Coast GCSA in all executive offices and as the chapter

delegate to the GCSAA. After two years as a director on the FGCSA Board, he became secretary/treasurer and eventually president in 2003-04. While in his role as secretary/treasurer, Pheneger guided the association in adopting progressive operating and financial plans that laid the groundwork for the association to prosper and grow.

Pheneger continues to serve the FGCSA directly as a consulting member of the Long Range Planning Committee. After a few years off from volunteer board service, Pheneger was tapped to serve on the Florida Turfgrass Association's board of directors. He will be nominated for secretary/treasurer of that organization at the annual meeting in September at the FTGA Conference and Show in Bonita Springs.

Pheneger's thorough preparation, attention to detail and his professional conduct in his work and volunteer service for the Florida golf industry earned him the Distinguished Serviced Award.

Congratulations, Greg, on a job well done.

- Joel Jackson

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PICS FROM THE POA

Another Weekend in Paradise

The 37th edition of the Everglades Poa Annua Classic was another weekend in paradise as superintendents, suppliers and their families gathered once again at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club in Naples in May. This year all golfers got to enjoy the superb playing conditions of the Naples Grande Golf Club. The G. C. Horn Endowment Tournament was held at the new venue on Friday following the GCSAA Seminar by Bruce Williams, CGCS in the morning at the hotel's conference center. On Saturday the fun loving golfers played a scramble event at the Naples Beach Golf Club, while the serious golfers vying for spots on the FGCSA Team returned to Naples Grande to play a low medalist event. Here are some photos from the weekend's activities.



Greg Pheneger received the 2007 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award from current President Craig Weyandt at the Past Presidents Dinner May 10 in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

During the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting, President Craig Weyandt recognized Suncoast External Vice President Mike McCulloch's service of two consecutive terms as director on the FGCSA board with a plaque as Mike leaves the board. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Ryan Costello, GCS of the Audubon C.C. played his way to low gross winner and a spot on the FGCSA team in the GCSAA Golf Championship next February in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA Education Chairman Mark Kann and guest speaker Bruce Williams, CGCS nonverbally communicate thanks to GCSAA and BASF for sponsoring Williams' "Mastering Your Communications Skills" seminar in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.