

**CHAPTER ROUND UP**

**Preparation Begins for The Season**

**CALUSA**

Jeff Cathey hosted our November meeting at the Colonial CC. Our speaker was Dr. Terence Fullerton from DowAgro Sciences. His topic was Soil and Plant Analysis in Fertility Management. In December we will hold our annual Christmas-Charity Tournament at Glen McCandless's Kelly Greens G&CC for the benefit of The Abused Counseling Treatment Center of Lee County. Last year we were able to donate \$1,750 to them. To kick off the new year, James Foster will our January meeting at the Coral Oaks Golf Club. USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe will be our speaker

**CENTRAL FLORIDA**

Hal Richburg, CGCS hosted our October meeting at the Victoria Hills Golf Club and Jeff Wharton gave a presentation on OSHA Safety Compliance. In December Jim Kernohan was slated to host our annual joint CFGC-SA and TESTA meeting and golf outing at the MetroWest Golf Club. Meanwhile Interlachen Country Club Superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS has been preparing for our annual January FTGA turf research fundraiser. This event invites superintendents and club officials to hear a guest speaker on current issues and then square off in a two-man scramble event.

**COASTAL PLAINS**

External Vice President Shane Bass, CGCS an-



*Drs. James A. Murphy, Rutgers and Roch E. Gausson, Nebraska presented the Everglades GCSAA Regional Seminar on identifying and managing traffic stresses on turfgrass. Photo by Joel Jackson*

nounced the chapter's 2007 meeting schedule: January – Capital City Country Club, April – Hilaman GC, July – Seminole GC, November – St. James Bay GC.

**EVERGLADES**

We recently renewed our GCSAA Platinum Tee Club membership with a \$5,000 donation to the Environmental Institute for Golf.

We also hosted a GC-SAA Regional Seminar in September, which was well attended. The topic, Turfgrass Traffic Stress: Physiology and Management was presented by Dr. James A. Murphy, Rutgers and Dr. Roch E. Gausson, Nebraska. The professors had some interest-

ing takes on the interaction of the various types of stresses from foot traffic, the obvious golf carts and our own equipment. They mentioned a traffic research project done on poa annua, which might be something to consider doing at the new University of Florida Plant Science Center near Gainesville.

Turf research project – evaluated HOC, frequency of mowing (single vs. double) and rolling (every other day) or not. The goal was to determine best ball roll without lowering height of cut to maintain or improve overall plant health.

Superintendent David Fenton of Quail Creek Country Club will host our annual

Christmas Charity Tournament, a two-man scramble, for our continued support to the Children's Home Society.

**NORTH FLORIDA**

Congratulations to Jay McCord on becoming the new FTGA president. For those in the North Florida area needing pesticide license CEU's, Eddie Lambert of the St. Augustine Technical Institute will be holding a Core, Turf & Ornamental and Limited Lawn Care & Commercial Landscape course Feb.15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 904-829-1041 to reserve a spot.

Congratulations also to Brad Tucker on his new superintendent position at Plantation Bay.

Mark your calendars for a couple of our big events: The Annual Research Tournament at Pablo Creek will be held March 12 and the Annual Memorial Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville Golf & Country Club will be held April 9.

**PALM BEACH**

Bob Randquist, CGCS hosted our annual joint meeting with the Treasure Coast GCSA. Steve Mona, CEO of the GCSAA was the guest speaker. We won bragging rights and the coveted Cavanaugh/Wagner Cup for the first time in three years. It was a good day all round.

Wrapping up 2006 we will have our Dec. 4 Christmas Golf Outing at the Mizner Country Club – thanks to Erik Knudson for hosting the event. Our annual Christmas party will once again be held at the Delray Beach Marriott.

To kick off 2007 the Country Club of Boca Raton will host our Jan. 24 meeting



*From left: GCSAA Director Bob Randquist, Boca Rio G. C.; Steve Mona, CEO, GCSAA and Palm Beach GCSA President Steve Pearson, CGCS at the Palm Beach – Treasure Coast Joint Meeting. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

where all Class A, SM and Class C members are invited and urged to attend.

**RIDGE**

Our next meeting will be on Dec. 7 at the Harrells fertilizer plant, the meeting will start at 10 a.m. with lunch and bowling to follow. Our member-vendor meeting will be at Lone Palm on Jan. 29, with a GCSAA-approved educational discussion on reptile identification. Registration will be 9:30-10, with lunch and golf to follow.

The Ridge invitational will be in early March and the venue is the Grasslands C.C.

A special thanks needs to go to Ward Pepperman and the staff at Southern Dunes for hosting our October meeting and to Syngenta for providing an outstanding educational session. Steve Kamerer spoke on effective nozzle use for various applications.

**SEVEN RIVERS**

Congratulations to Superintendent Jim Murphy and the Masters and Memorial Courses at Eagle Ridge G. C. for becoming certified as Audubon International Silver Signature Sanctuaries.

We held our 4th Annual Fishing Trip in November.



*PBGCSA Winners of the Cavanaugh-Wagner Cup. (From left) Kneeling: Mark Henderson and Steve Bernard. Standing: Steve Wright, Frank McKee, David Court, Steve Pearson and Brian Bowles. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



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## SPOTLIGHT

The weather was outstanding and we caught our normal abundance of fish. Many thanks go out to Jim Shaffer and Rory Harding for helping to make the trip a success. As usual no one left hungry or thirsty and everyone had a great time. Fisherman Pete caught the biggest fish and Wilson Randolph came in second place.

The December meeting was held at Brooksville Country Club once again with Barry Greenwalt as host superintendent. They had their grand opening in November for the newly renovated nine at the course. As I mentioned before, we play there every year, but each time something is different.

We would like to thank Mike Sbarro for stepping up to serve as membership director for the chapter. Mike is filling the vacancy left from John Cunningham's departure. Mike is currently working on finishing up the membership directory, so that we may send it out before the beginning of the year.

*Mark Kann, president*

### SOUTH FLORIDA

Our golf team rocks! Congrats to Seth Strickland, Bob Harper, Jason Bagwell and Stephen Fox along with Joe Pantaleo for winning their second consecutive FGCSA Golf Team title and to Harper for winning the low gross competition to earn a spot on the FGCSA National Golf Team in Palm Springs next February.

We'd like to welcome our newest members: Matt Brecht, Ph.D with Syngenta; Pat Kearney with DuCor/Disbrow; Riaan Potgieter,

Weston Hills C.C. and Anthony Ursoleo, Plantation Preserve.

Thanks to Jim Goins for hosting our November meeting at the Hollybrook G&TC. Dr. Dale Sansan, director of research & development for PBI Gordon, talked about "The effects of water quality on insecticide and herbicide efficiency." Our annual Christmas party will be at the Fort Lauderdale Sheraton.

Happy New Year everyone.

### SUNCOAST

This year wrapped up in a flurry of meetings and outings including the 7th Annual Grounds Management Seminar at the Selby Botanical Gardens. We partner with the UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension Service to provide quality education. This year's topics included Easy Color in the Landscape by Rick Schoellhorn, New Management Tools for Turfgrass Managers by Bert McCarty, Turf Fungicides by Phil Harmon, Aquatic Plant Management by Ken Langeland and Pesticide Storage Facilities by Peggy Dessaint. On the social side we had a football trip to the Tampa Bay Buccaneer - Washington Redskins game and a Christmas Dinner Cruise followed by our annual Christmas Part at the Bird Bay Golf Club on Dec. 7.

### TREASURE COAST

The joint meeting with Palm Beach was a great event and very informative with the comments by Steve Mona from GCSAA despite the fact we have to let the PBGCSA hold "our" Cavanaugh/Wagner cup for

a year. Our next meeting is scheduled for Gary Chaney's The Majors Golf Club Jan. 16 where we will have two speakers: Jim Mendenhall on Reptile Identification and Safety and Bert Ruege, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services on Fertigation Inspections and Obtaining Fertilizer and Seed Purity Tests.

**WEST COAST**

Thanks to Bill Kistler at Tampa Palms for hosting our 43rd Annual Bud Quandt Research Tournament. We had 104 golfers and raised \$6,146. Next on the agenda was our Vendor Day Dec. 19 at the University of South Florida. On Jan.16 it will be back to Tampa Palms for a GCSAA Regional Seminar



*Tournament namesake Bud Quandt, a veteran West Coast superintendent helps Chapter Administrator Christi Haley at the registration table for his research tournament at Tampa Palms. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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**Team Aeri-fine**

From left: Keith Nicoletta, Gary Newcombe, Tim O'Neil and John Reiley (standing) shot a score of 57 to win the 43rd Annual Bud Quandt Tournament.

Photo by Joel Jackson.



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**FGCSA**

The FGCSA Golf Committee members decided that good deeds shouldn't go unrewarded and so at the 2006 FGCSA Golf Championship at the Southern Dunes G.C. in Haines City, Kevin Downing, CGCS and Joe Pantaleo presented "Golf Chairman for Life" Joe Ondo, CGCS with a token of our appreciation for his service in organizing FGCSA golf events and team selection and record keeping.

In the government relations arena, FGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Shane Bass, CGCS and Director

of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired have represented golf course superintendents at two Florida Fertilizer Rule Making Workshops, one in Tallahassee and most recently in Bartow. See the Official Business section for a more detailed report on this issue.

It is time to consider nominations for FGCSA Honors and Awards. Chapters should send their nominations along with supporting documentation of why the named person deserves consideration for the award. The eligible awards are Distinguished Service Award, Presidents Award and The Marie Roberts Award. See the FGCSA Membership Directory for qualifications and past winners.

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Florida's own GCSAA Director Bob Randquist, CGCS left greets the Florida delegates attending the October 2006 GCSAA Delegates meeting in Kansas City: Front row – Dale Kuehner, CGCS, Nancy Miller, Brian Main and Eric Reiter. Back row – Darren Davis, Bill Kistler and Rip Phillips. Photo by Joel Jackson.

*It is time to consider nominations for FGCSA Honors and Awards. Chapters should send their nominations along with supporting documentation.*

If you are planning your educational opportunities for your PDI education points, the FGCSA will once again host a GCSAA Leadership Series Seminar in May at the Poa Annu Classic in Naples. You need not register for the entire event to participate in just the education. Bruce Williams, CGCS, past president of the GCSAA will be the guest speaker.

Congratulations to Robert R. Bittner, CGCS at The Club Pelican Bay, Naples, Fla. for completing the renewal process for maintaining his status as a certified golf course superintendent with the GCSAA.

Bittner, a 24-year GCSAA member, has been at The Club Pelican Bay since 1990. He initially achieved his certification in 1992 and is among approximately 2,000 golf course superintendents worldwide to hold CGCS status.



Joel Jackson, CGCS (left) and Bob Solms represented the Central Florida and Ridge chapters at the GCSAA Delegates meeting in Kansas City.

Photo by Rip Phillips.

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**15TH ANNUAL LCCC ENDOWMENT TOURNAMENT**

# One for the History Books

## 6-Iron Ace nets BMW for Toro's Gary Dorsch

Gary Dorsch, a regional field manager for the Toro Company hit the 6-iron shot of his life on the Nov. 2 during the annual Lake City Endowment Tournament. The ball went into the cup and earned Dorsch a set of keys to a brand new BMW Z4 convertible.

Playing in the second-to-last group, Dorsch aced the 15th hole to win the hole-in-one prize that retails for about \$40,000 and was offered by BMW of Fort Myers, which had insurance, of course. Another contestant ended up just inches from the hole. Ironically, only one hole-in-one was insured so any ace after the first one would win the player only a big bar tab.

After the tournament John Piersol, director of the Landscape and Golf Operations Department at the Lake City Community College, told the crowd that the cumulative funding spearheaded by this event and matched with state funds has meant more than \$250,000 to the school. Piersol thanked the alumni, sponsors and participants who make this event so special for the school.

It turned out to be a doubly lucky day for Dorsch and his partner Steve Simpson as they ended up winning the Low Gross division, no doubt helped by that 1 on the



Chuck "The Hit Man" Hiter put on a dazzling and dizzying display of golf ball whacking to entertain the crowd while the scores were being tabulated. Photo by Joel Jackson.

scorecard. Maybe it ended up being a net zero if he got handicap strokes. Meanwhile Melanie Mark and Greg Plotner teamed up to take the Low Net honors.

Once again WCI Communities donated the venue. This year it was The Colony Golf & Bay Club in Bonita Springs. Host superintendent Scott Hamm and staff had the course in flawless condition. Chuck "The Hit Man" Hiter made an impressive encore presentation with his amazing ability to hit golf balls from the most precarious positions imaginable, and he kept the audience in stitches while the committee totaled up the golf scores.

Kudos also to the Tournament Committee for its work to put together another



Gary Dorsch (right) carded a BMW-winning ace to help partner Steve Simpson to also win low gross at the 15th Annual Lake City Endowment Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.



# SPOTLIGHT

brilliant reception and tournament: David Fry, COO/ senior vice president WCI Communities; Scott Hamm - director golf development/ superintendent, The Colony Golf & Bay Club; Glenn Zakany - owner, G to Z Turf Services, Inc.; John Johnson - project manager, RS Walsh Landscaping; Mike Smith, Odell Spainhour, Roy Bates and Celeste Langer.

*Please see our Sponsor Thank-You ad on the adjacent page for all those generous vendors who helped to make this event a success.*



John Piersol, 30-year veteran of Lake City's Golf Operations Department, thanks Scott Hamm, WCI director of golf development for hosting the 2006 tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Melanie Mark and Greg Plotner, both with IGM, teamed up to win the Low Net prize in the Lake City Endowment Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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## South Florida Repeats State Championship

The South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association continues to dominate the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association's annual golf championship by taking the Chapter Team and Low Medalist honors. It was the third team victory in a row and Bob Harper from The Club at Emerald Hills won his second title in his last three tries. The tournament was held at the Southern Dunes Golf Club on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Harper had to battle teammate Stephen Fox from the Ocean Reef Club and Everglades GCSA superintendent Jim Torba (Wilderness Club, Naples) in a playoff for the low medalist title. All three shot 72s for the 18-hole event contested with some very demanding pin placements. Harper birdied the first two playoff holes to win the title.

Using the best four out of five net scores, the South Florida team shot 301 to beat the closest pursuer of six chapter teams, Central Florida with 309. South Florida team members were Bob Harper, Seth Strickland, Stephen Fox and Jason Bagwell, Westview C.C. in Miami.

Harper's individual victory qualifies him for the Florida GCSA team to compete in the GCSAA Golf Championship to be held in Palm Springs in February 2007. Joining Harper on the Florida team so far will be fellow south Floridians Stephen Fox, Ocean Reef who won the Poa Annuu Classic in May,



*Prior to the tournament Joe Ondo, CGCS (center) was recognized for his years of service as FGCSA golf chairman. Flanking him from left: Kevin Downing, CGCS and Joe Pantaleo on the golf committee and Ward Pepperman, host superintendent and Kevin Woodard golf professional at Southern Dunes GC. Photo by Joel Jackson*

and Seth Strickland, Miami Shores G.C., who won the Crowfoot Open in July. The fourth team member will be the superintendent with the lowest scoring average in two out of three of the statewide qualifying events.

Congratulations to Golf Course Superintendent Ward Pepperman for having the course in terrific shape for the event and to Head Pro Kevin Woodward and his staff for scoring and operational assistance. This is the 11th year that Southern Dunes has hosted the event.

Prior to teeing off, FGCSA Golf Committee members Kevin Downing and Joe Pantaleo presented perennial Golf Chairman Joe Ondo, CGCS an award for his many years of continuous service organizing FGCSA golf events, tracking qualifying scores and submitting the paperwork for the Florida team that competes in the GCSAA Championships every February.



*Winners of the 2006 FGCSA Golf Team and Individual trophies: from left kneeling are Jason Bagwell and Stephen Fox; standing are Seth Strickland, Bob Harper (individual winner) and team captain Joe Pantaleo. Photo by Joel Jackson.*