

CHAPTER ROUNDUP

Events Pick Up Speed Following the Golf Industry Show

CALUSA: Stuart Taylor will host our March meeting at his Plantation Golf Club in Fort Myers. Our guest speaker will be FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson, who will discuss current issues facing Florida golf course superintendents.

CENTRAL FLORIDA: The chapter raised \$3,800 at the 20th Annual FTGA Research Tournament in January at the Interlachen County Club in Winter Park. The event has raised more than \$80,000 for turf research. Thanks to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and Club Manager Don Emery for the great golf, good food and gracious hospitality. Our next big outing will be the Superintendent/Vendor Tournament at Chris Cartin's Tusawilla CC March 31.

COASTAL PLAINS: Our external vice president Shane Bass, CGCS went to GCSAA headquarters in March to participate in the annual chapter leaders and executive meeting as FGCSA vice president. He will be joined by FGCSA secretary/treasurer Bill Kistler from the West Coast Chapter and FGCSA association manager Jennifer Innes.

EVERGLADES: We have joined other chapters in detailed discussions with the South Florida Water Management District to adjust the current method of allocating the amounts of water we can use during the busy golf season. No other industry has been cut back as much as golf, and we are not big water users



Guests and speakers at the 20th Annual Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament were (from left): Executive Directors Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired, Florida GCSA and Casey Wohl Pace, Florida Turfgrass Association. Golf Course Architect Steve Smyers, UF Turf Student Justin Toy and CFGCSA President Gary Myers, CGCS.

when measured against the other major water consumer groups. We are looking forward to our 2008 Spring Symposium April 17 at the Naples Beach Hotel with its usual star-studded agenda of top speakers.

NORTH FLORIDA: Fred Klauk has retired as head superintendent of the TPC course at Sawgrass; Tom Vlach, CGCS will be taking his place.

After the FTGA Regional Seminars and GCSAA Golf Industry Show in January, we will take a break in February to prepare for our annual Turf Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Club, and our 2008 Memorial Tournament at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC.

In May we will not have a meeting as we will be busy helping out at the TPC Sawgrass PGA Tournament.

PALM BEACH: We had a good response to our

Toys for Tots drive for the holiday, raising \$2,100 and 35 donated toys.

We are heavily involved with other South Florida chapters with the effort to get the SFWMD to modify their water-restrictions model and percentage of cutbacks. We have shown statistically that we are facing disproportionate cutbacks compared to other industries and user groups. Help us by attending our chapter meetings and event so we can all stay up to date on the issues.

RIDGE: Will the real winner of the Jack Harrell, Sr. Ridge Invitational please stand up? After a scoring committee session that would send shudders through the halls of the USGA Golf House, Mark Hopkins was declared the winner. But the real winners were the players who enjoyed a fun golf course, The Club at Eaglebrooke,

prepared by Alan Puckett and his staff and a barbecue dinner prepared by Ray Cuzzzone and last – but not least – the many local charities and turf research supported by the proceeds of the event.

SEVEN RIVERS: Bob Marrino had a nice write up recently in the *St. Petersburg Times* (http://www.sptimes.com/2008/01/16/Sports/It_s_all_about_pin_pl.shtml) about why superintendents move the cups around on the greens. Keith Kirchoffer and the Harbor Hills GC hosted our February Meeting with guest speaker Todd Lowe of the USGA Green Section. And in March, Mark Dixon hosted our annual Vendor Appreciation Day at the West End GC. Meanwhile we are getting ready to host our annual Jeff Hayden, Envirotron Classic in April to raise much-needed research funds for the projects we have under way



Scott Scamerhorn (left) of the Ridge GCSA presents Mark Hopkins with a portrait of Jack Harrell, Sr. by David Pursell. Hopkins shot a 73 to win the Ridge Invitational at The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland.

at the University of Florida.

SOUTH FLORIDA: What can we say? Seth Strickland, you are the man! As you may know by now Seth won the GCSAA National Golf Championship in January posting a 16-shot margin of victory. He shot three consecutive 68s to capture the title. Our traditional Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale REC is moving

to April this year due to school schedules. We expect another large turnout.

SUNCOAST: We celebrated our annual Superintendent/Vendor Appreciation Day at the Bradenton CC thanks to our host Renze Berg. We now focus on preparations for our big annual fundraiser, the Suncoast Scramble, to be held at Adam Wright's Laurel Oak

CC March 31.

TREASURE COAST: We will hold a budget survey meeting in March and we are busy lining up sponsors for our big bash, The Blue Pearl tournament in May.

WEST COAST: Our President Bill Kistler will be attending the GCSAA's Chapter Leaders and Executives meeting in Lawrence, Kan. in late March. And by the time this hits the news stand we will have completed our annual Benevolent Tournament at Andy Neiswender's Lake Jovita G.C., and Gerry Marquardt's hosting of our annual March meeting at his Largo GC.

FGCSA: The end of an era has finally come. 24-year veteran Association Manager Marie Roberts was honored, roasted and toasted at the FGCSA Reception in Orlando as she formally stepped down from the FGCSA, and went into semi-retirement. She will remain active, serving the Palm Beach and South Florida chapters.

If you have any FGCSA related questions, just look in the front of the magazine and you will see the contact information for our new

Association Manager Jennifer Innes. Jennifer hit the ground running last October and is our new Go-To Gal!

Executive Director Joel Jackson is a member of the South Florida Water Management District's Long Range Water Conservation stakeholder group, representing Sports and Leisure industries. The group will be submitting a list of practical water conservation measures applicable to various water user groups including the general public. Jackson was also on hand in Tallahassee in January when the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Group wrapped up its deliberations and voted unanimously on a set of recommendations for a model statewide fertilizer ordinance.

Congratulations to the following FGCSA members for receiving GCSAA 2007 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards: Fred W. Klauk Jr., TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, North Florida GCSA Chapter winner for Resort Facilities, and Jason M. Kubel, TPC Tampa Bay, Florida West Coast GCSA as the Merit Winner for Public Facilities.

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2008 Golf Industry Show Sets All Sorts of Records

GCSAA Golf Championships

Seth Strickland superintendent from Miami Shores Country Club in south Florida kicked things off by shooting a three-day total of 12-under-par 204, the lowest winning score in the 58-year history of this tournament, and a stunning 16-shot margin of victory – also the biggest in tournament history. To put it simply, Strickland owned the Tom Watson-designed Independence Course at Reunion Resort. Strickland is now a two-time champion; he won the event the last time it was played in Orlando, in 2005.

In other GCSAA golf results, the Florida No. 1 and No. 2 teams tied for second place, two shots behind the winning team from the Carolinas GCSA. And our No. 3 and No. 4 teams were only three shots back.

Bob Harper and Roy McDonald tied for 11th place in the competition. All in all a good showing by our most prolific golfers.

MONA FINISHES STRONG

This was Steve Mona's last Golf Industry Show as the CEO of the GCSAA. He deflected all attention from his departure and went about the business of GCSAA members in his usual professional manner. The GCSAA Board of Directors has narrowed down the search for Mona's replacement to three candidates. It will be interesting to see



Seth Strickland (left) from the South Florida GCSA ran away from the field in the 2008 GCSAA Golf Championship by shooting three rounds of 68. GCSAA President Ricky Heine presented Strickland with the trophy at the GIS Opening Session in Orlando Jan. 31. Photo by Bruce Mathews.

who becomes the next administrative leader for the GCSAA.

GREG THROWS GAUNTLET

Greg Norman, a passionate competitor on and off the golf course, was named the recipient of the 2008 Old Tom Morris Award emblematic of a person who has contributed notably to the game of golf. Norman, who also serves

as chairman of the GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf, didn't waste any time in throwing down the gauntlet and challenging the golf industry to focus on playable golf courses versus lush green golf courses.

Many in the industry are on board with the idea and the reasons behind it. The true test will be to see if high profile players and organizations will walk the

talk to help convert the millions of golfers to accept that brown can be beautiful too.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Meanwhile overall attendance reached 25,737 beating last year's record of 23,099 set in Anaheim. Obviously the new GIS format and partnerships are working and bringing needed attendance. It



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Greg Norman (pro golfer, course designer, entrepreneur and environmental stewardship advocate) was named the Old Tom Morris Award winner for 2008 by the GCSAA. President Ricky Heine presented the award to Norman at the GIS in Orlando. Photo by Bruce Mathews.

appears the new show partnership will be extended to 2014, definitely a good sign.

8000 SEMINAR SEATS

In the education department over 8,000 seminar seats were sold, also a GCSAA record.



GCSAA CEO Steve Mona (center) in one of his last appearances as administrative leader of the association talking about the future of the GCSAA with Golf Channel's Adam Barr (right) and GCSAA President Ricky Heine during the GIS Opening Session in Orlando. Photo by Bruce Mathews.

More than 900 say 'Farewell' to Marie

More than 900 FGCSA members, sponsors and guests bid Marie Roberts a fond farewell as she officially retired from service as the association manager of the Florida GCSA at the Florida Reception during the Golf Industry Show in Orlando Jan. 31.

Marie was joined by her daughters Suzanne Turner and Colleen Patterson and her son Mark as well as several close friends from the Stuart area to celebrate the occasion which was highlighted by some testimonial comments beginning with Past President Tom Burrows who originally drafted Marie into service back in 1984 by asking if she would mind typing a few letters for him. And the rest is a wonderful history and legacy of unselfish service to our association.

Matt Taylor (speaking for Tim Hiers), Paul Crawford, Greg Pheneger and Joel Jackson each paid tribute to Marie for various

aspects of her service and accomplishments on behalf of the FGCSA members. Jackson ended his "roast" of Marie with an ode to commemorate her tenure as association manager.

Thanks to the donations from the local chapters, Marie was given an all-expense-paid trip for two to Las Vegas. Special thanks to Gail Pheneger who rounded up dozens of family photos and pictures of Marie at FGCSA functions to create a Power Point slide presentation of the life and times of Marie Roberts.

While Marie has "retired" from FGCSA service, she will continue to provide executive administrative assistance to the Palm Beach and South Florida chapters.

She said, "I'm glad I have the chapters to work for. It would be too hard to just quit cold turkey and not be around all these great people I have met working for the FGCSA. Thank you all for what you have meant to me."



The Belle of the Ball Marie Roberts escorted by FGCSA President Matt Taylor and FGCSA Reception Chairman Paul Crawford as the guest of honor at her retirement celebration in Orlando.



Entrance to the FGCSA Reception at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando Jan. 31 The first hour was dedicated to honoring Association Manager Marie, who retired after 24 years of service.

Ode to Marie

*A voice of conscience, of thought and reason.
The glue holding us together, whatever the season.*

*Recorder of thoughts. Keeper of ledgers.
Historian for all of our timely treasurers.*

*Confessor, counselor, critic and voice,
To guide and remind us to make the best choice.*

*Professional, reliable and always steadfast.
A beacon, a rock for these 20 plus years past.*

*Always willing and giving and doing your best.
From early morning phone calls to last minute request.
Serving us with decorum and with humor and jest.*

*Time has flown so swiftly, all the work and the fun.
Marie, sweet Marie, you are our number one.*

Celebrating Two Decades of Turf Research Fundraising

Interlachen Country Club's golf course superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and club manager Don Emery welcomed 34 teams of golf course superintendents and club officials to the 20th annual Central Florida Turf Research Tournament benefitting the Florida Turfgrass Association's Research Foundation.

Leventhal reported that over \$80,000 has been raised by the event which is a cooperative undertaking by the Interlachen Club and the Central Florida GCSA. The club donates the use of the course, golf carts, greens fees and clubhouse meeting and dining facilities and the Central Florida GCSA picks

up the food costs for the luncheon. All net proceeds from the event are donated for turfgrass research projects.

After introductions and comments by host superintendent Leventhal, Gary Myers, CGCS, President of the Central Florida Chapter presented a \$1,500 scholarship to UF turf student Justin Toy.

Casey Wohl Pace, executive director of the FTGA and Joel Jackson, executive director of the Florida GCSA reported on association and turf industry news and events. Following those presentations, the keynote speaker was golf course architect Steve Smyers, who discussed his



At the CFGCSA Research Tournament, Justin Toy (left) received a \$1,500 scholarship check from CFGCSA President Gary Myers to assist him with his turf science studies at the U of Florida. Justin was a summer intern on the Palm GC at Disney.

recent renovations to the golf course.

Smyers gave a slide presentation to show how subtle changes to the course were made to change views and shot making values. The greens were re-worked to improve drainage and create new putting surface contouring and fairway problem areas had additional drainage added as well.

Competitors in the two-person team scramble event got to see all the changes

first hand after lunch as they experienced the "new" Interlachen. Hal Richburg and Matt Payne from the Victoria Hills Golf Club in Deland successfully defended their Low Gross Winner's title from last year. The playing conditions and club hospitality were superb as always. Special thanks to the entire staff at Interlachen for making this another great event which raised \$3,800 for turf research.

Golf Results

1st Flight Gross: Hal Richburg and Matt Payne

1st Flight Net: Kevin Rotti and Alan Self

2nd Flight Gross: Alan Lichter and Rodney Reiffsnider

2nd Flight Net: Steve Wright and Robert Anderson

3rd Flight Gross: Scott Fabulich and Harold Laymas

3rd Flight Net: Jason Morris and John Andal



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