



# Chapters' Spring Flings Raise Cash for Research, Education, Charities

*By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired*

There are so many major events each spring one superintendent asked me if I was on the "Events Tour." I did play in a few

*Dr. John Cisar leads a tour of the turf plots in Ft. Lauderdale the 2008 Expo raised \$25,000 for research operations at the IFAS center. Photo by Ian Maguire.*

golf tournaments, but I have zero FedEx points and will have to go back to Q-school again for next year. But seriously, many thanks to the turf research funds and donations raised and/or presented by the Everglades Poa Annuua, North Florida Memorial and Research Tournaments, Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, South Florida Turf Expo, Suncoast Scramble, Treasure Coast Blue Pearl events and a special donation from the West

*EGCSA President Corey McDonough, left, presented Seth Strickland with the Poa Trophy for winning the stroke play event at the 33rd Poa Annuua Classic.*







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**SPOTLIGHT**



*NFGCSA President Rip Phillips presents Lake City's John Piersol with a \$2,000 general scholarship donation at the annual North Florida Memorial Tournament.*



*FGCSA Education Chairman Mark Kann, left, with speaker Tommy Witt, CGCS at the GCSAA seminar. "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Superintendent" in Naples.*

**SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)**

Coast Chapter at the Spring Board Meeting.  
Networking and

socializing along with golf bragging rights were to be had as well: Rafael Villegas and Jason Throop



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## SPOTLIGHT



*Seven Rivers President Mark Kann (left) presents Envirotron Tournament Chairman Glen Oberlander an award for his many years of devoted service to the event.*



*From left: Joe Pantaleo was named the 2008 Distinguished Service Award winner by Matt Taylor, CGCS at the Past Presidents Dinner in Naples.*

### SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

Coggan, CGCS/MG; and took top honors at the Central Florida Chapter Championship hosted at the Isleworth G&CC by Geoff

Coggan, CGCS/MG; and Joe Ondo, CGCS and Fred Marshall, Space Coast Turf Supply, won the CFGCSA Superintendent/Vendor



Champion Sponsor Golf Ventures presents \$25,000 check to Seven Rivers GCSA. From left: Glen Oberlander, Mark Kann, Brad Reano and Debbie Nipper.



**SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)**

event at Chis Cartin's Tusawilla CC. The Treasure Coast GCSA's Blue Pearl was captured by the team of Jerry Freeman, Chad Kroeger, Jason Sprankle and Joe Bostic. Chapter Executive Assistant Barbara Tierney reported that this was the best year ever for fundraising. Seth Strickland kept his winning ways going by capturing the Poa Annuu Classic.

It was also time for some serious recognition for past and continuing service by FGCSA members around



FGCSA Matt Taylor receives a \$5,000 research check from NFGCSA President Rip Phillips at the Spring Board Meeting in Naples.



From left: WCGCSA President Bill Kistler presented a \$1,500 research check to Matt Taylor in Naples at the Poa Annuu Classic.



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**SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)**

the state. Steve LaFrance was named Greenkeeper of the Year by his North Florida peers at their annual Memorial Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC. Seven Rivers GCSA presented Glenn Oberlander with a plaque honoring his long-running tenure as the chairman of the Envirotron Classic Tournament. FGCSA and South Florida Past President Joe Pantaleo was named 2008 Distinguished Service Award recipient at the FGCSA Spring Past Presidents Dinner in May.

Education and outreach were also in full bloom with Tim Hiers and other Everglades superintendents hosting our annual tour of the Old Collier Golf Club



*Blue Pearl Winning Team, from left: Jerry Freeman, Chad Kroeger, Jason Sprankle and Joe Bostic. The event raised a record \$28,000.*

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*Dr. Tom Watschke discussed Plant Growth Regulators and Biostimulants at the Everglades Symposium.*



*From left: Everglades Symposium speakers and topics: Dr. Ali Haravandi – Living with Recycled Water, Dr. Tom Nikolai- attendee, and Dr. Bryan Unruh – Paspalum: Considerations for Success.*

**SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)**

for the Spring Regulator Tour. Central Florida hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar on ultradwarf greens management, and the Everglades GCSA hosted its annual Spring Symposium which brought in another stellar lineup of speakers from across the country. The FGCSA hosted a GCSAA Leadership Seminar in conjunction with the Poa Annua Classic in Naples with Tommy Witt, CGCS doing the honors as the



*From left: More Symposium speakers and topics: Dr. Eileen Buss - Pesticide resistance, Charlie Fultz – A Strategy for Working Smarter, Randy Cush – Understanding Pesticide Formulations.*

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FTGA Vice President Todd Himmelberger (left) and FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson (right) each receive \$5,000 research checks from Suncoast President Bill Tyde.

guest speaker on Enhancing the Value of a Professional Superintendent. The Calusa and Suncoast chapters also

announced that they will be holding a joint meeting next year and hope to make it an annual affair.



Steve LaFrance (center) from the King and Bear Course received the Greenkeeper of the Year award from Rip Phillips (left) and Andy Maguire at the NFGCSA Memorial Tournament.

And last but not least, the Coastal Plains chapter has announced that because of the small number of clubs

in their geographic area they cannot achieve independent chapter recognition by GCSAA. They will disband as

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a formal group but continue to meet as a group and become At Large members of the FGCSA next year.

I managed to make a few chapter presentations as part of my events tour by giving the North Florida, Suncoast and Calusa chapters updates on the legislative and regulatory issues facing our industry. It has been a season of challenges with the drought, water restrictions and local fertilizer ordinances which only highlight why it is so important to support our local chapters and state association.

– Photos by Joel Jackson

## Rick Tatum Dies in Boating Accident

Rick Tatum, 48, was killed in a boating accident near Marathon Key on the evening of July 2.

The boat containing Tatum and three others was struck by a second boat also containing four people. Tatum died at the scene from his injuries. All the others sustained injuries as well, with a second member of the Tatum party being airlifted to a hospital in Miami.

Tatum, who grew up in Southern California, was the director of golf course operations for the Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples. He graduated from the turf program at Michigan State University in 1987. His 20-year career in southwest Florida included working at The



A highlight of the Blue Pearl is the Bayer Power Pak auction. This year Roy MacDonald (right) from the Hobe Sound CC took the high bid and Brian MacCurrach from Bayer delivers the goods.

Club Pelican Bay, Bonita Bay Club, The Forest, Shadow Wood and Grey Oaks.

During the memorial service at Grey Oaks July 12, General Manager Jim Butler, who hired Tatum at The Forest CC and later followed him to Grey Oaks said, “During the final interview stage at The Forest I asked Rick, ‘Why should we hire you?’ Tatum’s terse reply, “Because I have a passion for grass.”

Tatum’s passionate lifestyle for his family, friends and his profession was highlighted by a dozen other speakers from family members to his friends in the golf business. They shared humorous and serious insights and anecdotes that defined his unique

competitive personality. A remembrance card bearing a photo of Rick and the message “Live Life Passionately. Rick Tatum. December 27, 1959 – July 2, 2008 captured the essence of his life.

Family friend, former superintendent and owner of G to Z Turf Services Glenn Zakany said, “I will miss his laugh and his favorite saying, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me’ when things didn’t go as planned.” Zakany also revealed that unbeknownst to anyone, Tatum had arranged to donate his body to the University of Miami Medical Center. The family found out later this act of kindness could help up to 75 people.

Tatum was an active member of the Everglades

GCSA and his service on the board of directors culminated with his presidency in 1999-2000. On Aug. 1 Grey Oaks will host a memorial tournament to raise funds to assist the needs of the family. Tatum is survived by his wife Sheryl and his three daughters: Sydney (14), Carly (16) and Jeanette (18).



Rick Tatum