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SPOTLIGHT



The Palm Beach Chapter won the 2009 FGCSA Team Trophy at Southern Dunes GC Sept. 26. Front row from left: Jeff Klontz, Deron Zendt (also individual winner) and Steve Bernard. Back row: Steve Wright, Jeff Veneklase, Kevin Downing, Mark Henderson, Steve Pearson and Mark Heater. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Golfing and Giving Wrap Up the Year

This Spotlight report is going to look more like a Palm Beach highlight film script. These folks are taking the fall season by storm.

It all began when the chapter defeated the SFGCSA to retain the Blackledge Trophy in the chapters' annual golf match at their September joint meeting at the Boca West CC. Then Deron Zendt from the Banyan CC in West Palm Beach won the FTGA and FGCSA golf championships back to back one week apart, also in September. Led by Zendt's score of 70, the Palm Beach No. 1 Team of Mark Henderson, Steve Bernard and Mark Heater fired the lowest-ever aggregate score of 293 to defend their FGCSA Team Trophy at the Florida GCSA Golf Championship at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City.

Then the Palm Beach chapter scored a golfing hat trick as they defeated the Treasure Coast GCSA for the Wagner Trophy at their annual joint meeting at the Jupiter Island

Club in October. Let's hope the streak continues as the FGCSA No. 1 Team of Zendt (FTGA & FGCSA winner), Mark Henderson (Poa winner), Jim Torba (Crowfoot winner) and Seth Strickland (Low average in all events) tee it up in the GCSAA Golf Championships in Palm Springs, CA in February.

After seemingly taking home all the



Peter Snyder officially began his duties as the new executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association at the Conference and Show Sept. 16. Photo provided by Leading Edge Communications.



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SPOTLIGHT

gold and the glory this fall, The Palm Beach Chapter also has a charitable giving side. The members chose two very worthwhile projects to give back to the community. The chapter sponsored a beautification project that included a butterfly garden and a colorful entry way for the Special Olympics complex in Lake Worth. PBGCSA board member Kevin Downing,

cgcs, designed and coordinated this project with the supportive efforts of Aiello Landscape and Ryan Golf.

The Palm Beach GCSA also reached out to the First Tee of the Palm Beaches. The facility is located at the Dwyer Park landfill in northern Palm Beach County and is dedicated to promoting the game of golf as a positive influence on the area's youth. The Palm

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY - FTGA REGIONAL SEMINARS

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 5 Tampa | St. Lawrence Parrish, 5325 N. Himes Ave |
| 6 Orlando | Valencia West Campus, 1800 S. Kirkman Rd |
| 7 Ft. Myers | Three Oaks Banquet & Conference Ctr, 20991 Three Oaks Pkwy |
| 12 Vero Beach | Richardson Center, Indian River State College, 6155 College Lane |
| 13 Lake Worth | Polish American Club, 4725 Lake Worth Rd. |
| 14 Plantation | Central Park, 9151 NW 2nd Street |
| 19 Ocala | Marion County Extension Service, 2232 NE Jacksonville Road |
| 20 Jacksonville | Duval County Extension Service, 1010 N. McDuff Ave |
| 21 Milton | Santa Rosa County Auditorium, 4530 Jimmy's Way |

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. at all locations. Get more detailed information at www.ftga.org

FGCSA CHAPTER EVENTS

JANUARY

- | | |
|----|---|
| 8 | Calusa GCSA Meeting, Coral Oaks G.C. |
| 11 | Central Florida/FTGA Research Tournament, Interlachen CC, Winter Park |
| 13 | Seven Rivers Meeting, Continental C.C. |

FEBRUARY

- | | |
|------|--|
| 8-12 | GCSAA Golf Industry Show (GIS), San Diego, CA |
| 11 | FGCSA GIS Reception, Solamar Hotel, Gas Lamp Quarter |

MARCH

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 8 | NFGCSA Florida Research Tournament, Pablo Creek GC |
| 15 | Ridge Invitational, Eaglebrooke G.C. |
| (TBA) | Everglades Naples Princess Sunset Cruise, Suncoast Scramble, South Florida Turf Expo and FGCSA Spring Regulator Tour |

APRIL

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Everglades Spring Symposium, Naples Beach Hotel |
| 12 | North Florida, Memorial Tournament, Marsh Creek GC |
| 19 | Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic |



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SPOTLIGHT



The SFGCSA celebrated the 25th M&E Tournament by donating \$25,000 to the Florida Chapter of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. From left, SFGCSA President Ted Hile, Nancy McBride and Nancy Sullivan of the NCMEC/FL and Kelly Cragin, tournament committeeman. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Beach chapter members are currently re-evaluating all equipment and programs used to maintain the turf and recently donated \$3,500 to refurbish many items. Craig Watson is coordinating these efforts as the facility's executive director. As a way of saying thanks, the First Tee will be sponsoring an educational program and skills challenge for many Palm Beach County golf course employees.

While the Palm Beach Chapter may have been hogging this Spotlight, it was hard earned and well deserved.

Meanwhile one of the oldest ongoing charitable tournaments hosted by superintendents, The South Florida GCSA M&E Tournament, celebrated its 25th anniversary this past October at the Carolina Club in Margate. This event has been raising funds for the National Center for

Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC/FL - Formerly known as The Adam Walsh Center/FL)

During 2008, NCMEC/FL was directly involved in 297 missing child cases and assisted in the recovery



Special Olympics Coordinator Richard Fleming, right, thanks Palm Beach board member Kevin Downing for the landscape beautification work at the Lake Worth complex.

of 113 children. The group also distributed more than 4,000 pieces of safety materials. Since the merger with NCMEC in 1990, Florida group has played a direct role in more than 2,500 missing children cases and has provided assistance in the recovery of more than 700 of Florida's missing children. This year the SFGCSA donated \$25,000 in honor of the 25th anniversary. The chapter has donated approximately \$500,000 for this worthy cause.

Congratulations to all our chapters for their local charity involvement. We look forward to reporting the results of the many holiday events that chapters will be holding in December. Happy holidays to one and all.

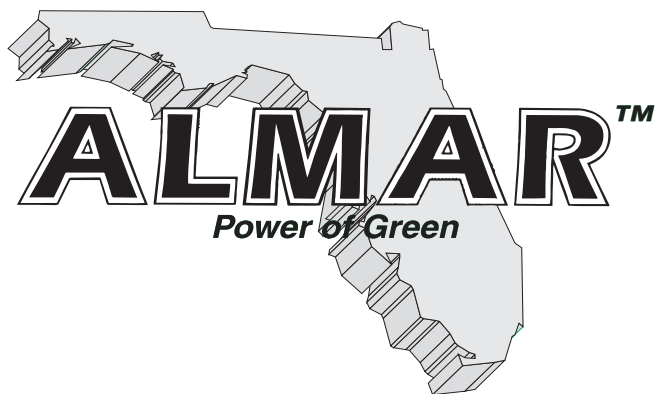


Founders of the SFGCSA M&E Tournament celebrate the event's 25th Anniversary at the Carolina Club. From left: Bob Klitz, Nancy Sullivan, Bill McKee, David Lottes, Bill Entwistle, Jr., Nancy McBride and Bill Entwistle, Sr. Photo by Joel Jackson.

And speaking of charitable giving, last but not least we'd like to recognize the Everglades GCSA for maintaining its annual Platinum Club status by donating \$5,000 to the GCSAA's

Environmental Institute for Golf. The FGCSA is currently in the annual Gold Tee Club. In cumulative giving to the EIFG over the years, the FGCSA is in the Presidential Club (\$100,000

to \$249,000); the EGCSA is in the Governor's Club (\$50,000 to \$99,000); the Palm Beach, South Florida and Treasure Coast chapters are in the Statesman Club (\$10,000 - \$24,999).



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Inaugural Wells Memorial Raises \$4,000 for Research

By Bobby Ellis

The Tom Wells Memorial Tournament was held at The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland, Oct. 1 to pay tribute to the late Tom Wells, who unexpectedly died Jan. 20.

Wells enjoyed the game of golf and was a great ambassador for the industry. His tremendous passion for the industry was evident by his numerous volunteer hours for various FGCSA chapters and the Florida Turfgrass Association, which he served as president in 2004-2005.

He received the 2009 Wreath of Grass award posthumously at the 2009 FTGA Conference and Show in September at Palm Beach Gardens. The Wreath of Grass is FTGA's highest honor for dedication and service to the turfgrass industry. The award was accepted by his son Scott on behalf of the family.

Scott Wells helped to organize this event and the family was on hand to thank everyone for their



IN MEMORIAM

The Tom Wells we all love and remember, left, as he congratulates Matt Taylor on becoming the FTGA president back in 2005.

support and participatioion to honor Tom's memory and his passion for the turfgrass industry. In conjunction with the Ridge Chapter, Scott plans to make this annual event to raise turf research funding.

The weather was perfect for the golf tournament and, thanks to Alan Puckett, the course was in excellent condition for the four-person

scramble. A good time was had by all, and in keeping with "The Ridge" tradition, a barbecue cookout and awards dinner was held afterwards.

The overall winning team was from the FGCSA Suncoast Chapter, consisting of Darden Nicks, Laurel Oaks CC; Tom Robertson, Bird Bay GC; and Bill Tyde, Mission Valley G&CC. First low net went to the team from Coastal Equipment: Natalie Roy, Gary Newcomb, Big Cypress Golf Club, Rafael Villegas and Wes Weathers of Mystic Dunes. Second low net went to Scott Wells, Marc Dull, Brad Mashburn, and Pete Schownir (obviously up and coming Ridge sandbaggers!).

The tournament committee would like to recognize the following sponsors and to say "Thank You" for helping make this first annual event a huge success:

The committee pays a special thank-you to the man-

agement team of The Club at Eaglebrooke; to Alan Puckett, golf course superintendent and his staff for a job well done; to Ray Cuzzone for donating his services for preparing the barbecue dinner, and to the many local courses and businesses that donated items for the raffle drawing.

The tournament raised more than \$ 4,000, which will be donated to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation in Tom's honor for the continuation of turfgrass research.

TOM WELLS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

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Scott Wells, Bobby Ellis and Alan Puckett

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The Suncoast team of (l-r) Darden Nicks, Tom Robertson and Bill Tyde journeyed up from Sarasota to honor Tom and ended up winning the scramble tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.