

FIELD OBSERVATIONS



By *Ralph K Dain Jr.*,
GCSAA Regional Representative Florida

I hope that a good number of you know who I am by now. Whether you want to admit it or not is another question!

The editor of the *Florida Green* has graciously provided me with some space to communicate information and observations from my travels around the Sunshine State.

It is my intention to keep you apprised of what is going on both at the local level and nationally with the GCSAA. I am not sure exactly how much space I will be afforded. However, I do know Joel Jackson cannot queue up music like

the awards shows or Jeff Strother, past president Suncoast GCSA, did at their recent annual meeting when I went a little long. *Editor's note: We'll give you all the space you need. And yes, Ralph, no music, but I do get the final cut.)*

In my most recent chapter visits I have spoken about the FGCSA's efforts to initiate a certification program for the Florida Golf BMP manual. Matt Taylor, CGCS, envisioned this program nearly two years ago and we are hoping to unveil the initial testing at the Central Florida GCSA's Crowfoot Open Aug. 5. Some of the core topics were presented as part of the Everglades Spring Symposium to get the ball rolling.

The Florida Golf BMP manual has garnered numerous accolades at the national level and has thus far been instrumental in keeping golf out of the ordinances calling for additional fertilizer application restrictions in a number of locations. These ordinances do refer to the adherence to the Golf BMPs during local application blackout periods. Therefore it is critical that all of you be aware of these practices and diligent in documenting all the positive practices you employ at your facility.

If you need or want additional copies of the Florida BMP manual, please let me know and I will get them to you. I have seen the mother lode and IFAS has an entire pallet full of manuals available to distribute.

It is a good idea to share a copy of the manual with your owner, general manager, or committee members to help communicate your environmental stewardship efforts and the required practices if your city or county has a restrictive fertilizer ordinance.

I look forward to communicating to you one-on-one with my "Field Observations" for what I hope is a long, healthy time!! Until next time, I remain...

Ralph K. Dain Jr.
GCSAA Field Staff, Regional
Representative Florida Region
Phone 785.424.4306
Email rdain@gcsaa.org

Tifton Physical Soil Testing Laboratory, Inc.

Accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

Specializing in:

- Testing All Materials for USGA Golf Green Construction.
- Developing Putting Green Rootzone Mixtures that meet USGA Specifications.
- Recommending Topdressing and Bunker (Trap) Sands that meet USGA Specifications.
- Developing Sportsturf Rootzone Mixes with Optimum Physical Properties for Athletic Fields.

1412 Murray Avenue
Tifton, Georgia 31794



www.tiftonsoillab.com

T. Powell Gaines
(229) 382-7292