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FGCSA Members and Chapters in the Spotlight

Central Florida

On Jan. 7 the Interlachen CC in Winter Park hosted its 25th annual Turfgrass Research Tournament sponsored by the CFGCSA. On the program for the day, CFGCSA President Mike Gay talked about the reorganization plans for the chapter to reach out to the courses in the eastern region of central Florida. FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson talked about the local ordinances and the FGCSA Golf BMP program; GCSAA Regional Representative Ralph Dain discussed the Rounds4Research campaign being conducted by the Environmental Institute for Golf division of GCSAA.

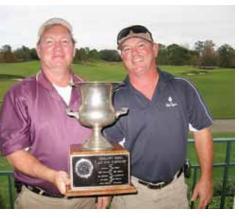
Then Pete Snyder, executive director of the FTGA, gave a presentation dealing with the



Roz and Stuart Leventhal, CGCS at the 25th Annual Central Florida Turf Research Tournament at Interlachen CC. Leventhal has hosted this event since its inception and was presented the FTGA's Wreath of Grass Award for his lifetime service to the turfgrass industry. Photo by Joel Jackson.

challenges facing Florida's golf industry and the need for funding research, education and advocacy to counter the emotionalism surrounding much of the local ordinances and battles against turfgrass in general. Snyder unveiled the new voluntary opt-out program of a .06 percent check-off donation to the new EREF (Environmental Research and Education Fund) program.

Next, Todd Himmelberger from the Syngenta Company recognized host superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS by presenting him with the 2012 FTGA Wreath of Grass Award for his lifetime service to the



Arlington Ridge GC Superintendent Ron Hibbard and Big Cypress GC Superintendent Gary Newcomb teamed up for a 63 to win the Turf Research Tournament at Interlachen CC in Winter Park. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Central Florida chapter and Florida's golf and turfgrass industries.

Following lunch, the attendees participated in a two-man scramble on the alwayslightning-fast Interlachen greens. Arlington Ridge GC Superintendent Ron Hibbard and Big Cyress GCSuperintendent Gary Newcomb teamed up for a 63 and won in a match of cards over Iim Ellison and Bill Sellers who also fired a superhuman 63.

On March 4 the CFGCSA held its Vendor Day at the Reunion Resort. Vendors set up booths in the conference center ballroom and superintendents, suppliers and guests were able to visit and network during two tradeshow-like sessions. Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS, Ralph Dain, GCSAA, Kevin Sunderman, Florida GCSA, and Mike Gay, CFGCSA president and Rickey Craig, CFGCSA vice president gave presentations during the educational session. Following the education, the group reconvened to the trade show for more networking to wrap up the day.

GCSAA

At the GCSAA Annual Meeting during the February Golf Industry Show in San Diego, two Florida superintendents were recognized. Bob Randquist, CGCS, Boca Rio CC officially stepped down from the GCSAA Board of Directors and received his Past President's White Blazer. Meanwhile Darren Davis, Olde Florida GC was elected to a



From left: FGCSA Vice
President Kevin Sunderman
congratulates Darren Davis
on his election to a two-year
term on the GCSAA Board
of Directors at the GIS in San
Diego. Coming off the board
is Bob Randquist, CGCS
who received his GCSAA
Past President's white blazer
during the Annual Meeting.
Photo by Joel Jackson.

full two-year term as a director on the board. Darren had served a one-year appointed term in 2012.

Steven H. Huffstutler, GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Glen Eagle Golf & Country Club in Naples,, has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with the GCSAA.

Huffstutler has been at Glen Eagle Golf & Country Club since 2003. A 16-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 2009. Approximately 1,600 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold CGCS status.



FGCSA President Nancy Miller, CGCS with Jeff Wright of Statewide Turf Equipment who donated back \$420 of his 50-50 FGCSA Benevolent Fund Raffle winnings at the FGCSA reception in San Diego. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FGCSA

FGCSA President Nancy Miller, CGCS covered the 2013 Florida Golf Day event in Tallahassee in her President's Message of this issue. Mark Kann also had scheduled individual meetings with select legislators or their aides. Meanwhile at our display booth in the rotunda, we met a few legislators who were passing by enroute to committee meetings, and we had a chance to give them a look at our BMP manual and a two-page list of economic and environmental bullet points. Many thanks to Erin Wilder and her Sod Solutions folks

for setting up a display of golf turf sod samples to give folks an up close look at "golf grasses."

Thanks to the support of our Industry Partners and Reception Sponsors we were able to host around 200 people at the FGCSA Reception during the Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Once again Jennifer found a great venue at the Palomar Hotel rooftop lounge. Jeff Wright with Statewide Turf

FGCSA President Nancy Miller, CGCS representing the FGCSA at the Golf Industry Roundtable Meeting in Tallahassee. Photo by Joel Jackson.





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Thank you very much for your Support!

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Your FGCSA/GCSAA team in Tallahassee. From left: Joel Jackson, Jennifer Bryan, Ralph Dain, Nancy Miller, CGCS and Mark Kann. Photo by Bill Miller.

Equipment won the 50/50 raffle for the FGCSA Benevolent fund and gave back \$420 to make the total raised for the fund over \$1,000. Jeff thanks for your generous gift.

On March 18, the FGCSA, in conjunction with the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, will hold its annual spring regulator tour of federal and state regulators at the Old Collier Club in Naples. This is the first stop on a weeklong tour of agriculture and green

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IVIAT	
May 7	Palm Beach GCSA Meeting, Atlantic National GC
May 16	FGCSA Board Meeting, CC of Naples
May 17	FGCSA/USGA half-day seminar, Naples Beach Hotel
May 17	Poa Annua Classic G.C. Horn Tournament,
	Naples Beach Hotel
May 18	Everglades Poa Annua Classic Tournament & Luau,
	Naples Beach Hotel
May 28	Suncoast GCSA Annual Meeting, Mission Valley GC
JUNE	
June 1	Palm Beach GCSA, Future of Golf Tournament, The
	Falls CC
June 4	Falls CC West Coast GCSA Championship, Bellaire CC
June 4 June 20	
	West Coast GCSA Championship, Bellaire CC
	West Coast GCSA Championship, Bellaire CC Everglades GCSA Assistant Superintendent Meeting,

industry operations in South Florida. Several area superintendents will attend to assist the tour and answer one-on-one questions from the regulators as they tour the course and maintenance facility.

Suncoast

The Suncoast Chapter kicked off the year in a very charitable fashion. In January at the annual Vendor Day meeting the chapter raised 377 pounds of food and \$800 for the All Faiths Food Bank. At the 30th Annual Suncoast Scramble at the Laurel Oak CC in Sarasota in March, Nicole Double of the Food Bank told the audience that amount of donated food and money translated to 5,300 meals.

One of the other annual beneficiaries of the proceeds from the Scramble event has been the Ronald McDonald House. Allison Barrick from that organization gratefully accepted a check for \$2,500 for that worthy cause. She talked about how the program worked to provide a place for relatives to stay when their children are in one of the local children's hospitals.

And last (but not least) the Suncoast Chapter also presented FGCSA Vice President Kevin Sunderman with a check for \$2,500 to the FGCSA Research Fund. Other speaking guests at the event were Rich Smith, North Florida PGA Section, Jim Demick, Florida State Golf Association, Ralph Dain, GCSAA Regional Representative, Kevin Sunderman, FGCSA Vice President and Joel Jackson, FGCSA Director of Communications. Attendance for the event was around 140-150 people.



At the 2013 Suncoast Scramble at Laurel Oak CC, Suncoast Vice President Nick Kearns presented a \$2,500 check to Kevin Sunderman for the FGCSA Research Fund. Photo by Lee Crosby.

SPOTLIGHT

Left: Allison Barrick thanked Suncoast VP Nick Kearns for the Suncoast Chapter's \$2,500 donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Right: Nicole Double of the All Faiths Food Bank told the audience at the Suncoast Scramble that the food and money they raised at the Suncoast Vendor Day in January provided 5,300 meals for people in need. Photos by Lee Crosby.



From left: A golf industry panel composed of Todd Lowe, USGA, Jim Demick, FSGA, Ralph Dain, GCSAA, Kevin Sunderman, FGCSA and Rich Smith, North Florida PGA Section held a Q&A session after their industry update presentations at the Suncoast Scramble in Sarasota. Photo by Joel Jackson.



In the next issue we'll report on the USGA Green Committee University series that began in mid March, but it and other March events are too late for this issue's deadline. We'll be highlighting other chapter events and news, as this is the beginning of a busy season for many traditional chapter events.

Help us put your chapter in the spotlight by sending a brief report and photos from your event. Please make sure those photos are at a high resolution so we can enlarge them to use in the magazine. So set those cameras and phones on the "High" setting when you take send them along to us. Thanks!

