

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

FUNDING RESEARCH, ADVOCACY, AND EDUCATION GCSAA/EIFG R4R



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

Are nematodes giving you headaches? Is the fear of fertilizer bans keeping you up at night? Do you want to attend a chapter meeting and be awed by a great presentation (other than the ones I provide)? If only there were an opportunity that could facilitate answers to these questions. But wait a minute! There is an answer!

That answer is Rounds 4 Research. In a previous edition of *The Florida Green*, and in my recent travels, I have discussed the basics of the GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf program and the great opportunity we have in Florida to raise some much-needed money. I want to illustrate ways that these funds can provide real solutions to the issues you are facing regularly.

The rewards will benefit the entire industry, not just one segment. Golfer expectations are still very high, and solutions to today's challenges can go a long way to maintaining their enjoyment of the game and subsequently your enjoyment of the profession.

As an industry, we enjoy a great relationship with the University of Florida. UF scientists are willing and able to conduct research on issues like nematode control, finding alternatives for MSMA and Methyl Bromide, as well as field studies on new chemistries. Unfortunately, there are limited resources to conduct the necessary research. In exchange for foursomes of golf at local facilities, funds could be generated to help raise the necessary dollars.

The fear of fertilizer bans and water regulations definitely keep me up at night. Just when you think you are winning, a new issue arises somewhere in the state. Right now the issue of fertilizer ordinances containing restrictive blackout periods is ongoing in Volusia County with the cities of Melbourne and Rockledge considering ordinances.

In my discussions with the chapters, I reference the \$38.5 million raised by the Conservancy in SW Florida to protect the Florida environment. By the way, the Conservancy views golf as a polluter and would enjoy very much taking us down. I am also aware that in Collier County there is a movement to reduce the amount of water that golf courses have available through their consumptive-use permits. I have been

told by as much as 50 percent. The price of a few foursomes of golf seems very little to pay to fight these issues, right??

I am considering taking up juggling flaming golf balls to keep everyone engaged when I speak at meetings. I will resume practice once my eyebrows grow back. As much as I know that all the chapters appreciate the professionalism of my presentations, wouldn't it be nice to attend a meeting with an authority on any issue with which you are currently dealing. Again, the funds generated from our Rounds 4 Research program can be directed for chapter education. One of the primary functions of the chapter is to educate their members and help them advance in their careers.

Here is what I now ask of you. Please take a moment and visit our website at <http://eifg.org/>. Review the R4R information and if you have any questions contact me (my information is included below). Our first auction this year is June 6-16 in conjunction with the US Open. Our second auction is Aug. 1-11 in conjunction with the PGA Championship. Please, Please, Please consider making a donation of at least a foursome to this very worthwhile cause. your donation is an investment in your future success.

Until next time,
Ralph Dain – GCSAA Regional Representative (FL)
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