



# 2nd Annual Lake City Community College Tournament is huge success

One hundred thirty Superintendents, Suppliers, and Friends converged on the new Riverwood Golf club in El Jobean for the second annual Lake City Community Endowment Tournament at Riverwood.

With the completion of the back nine only thirteen days earlier, the format was an 18 hole, two man scramble. The Tournament raised \$5,001.00 needed for the Endowment Fund. \$500.00 was set aside for the Andrew Clarke memorial Scholarship Fund. Lake City Community College Staff was on hand to see all the students from the past.

Tournament chairman David Fry states that there should be more of these type of tournaments to help the school. We have already got a tentative date for early next year.

I would like to give a special thanks to all the sponsors

for their generous support, because without them, this couldn't be possible. Here are the results:

## A FLIGHT

- 1st. Glenn Zakany and Jim Osburn
- 2nd. Eddie Freeland and Chip Neptune
- 3rd. Larry (Craig) Nelson and Paul (Jed) Azinger
- 4th. Johnny V. and Chris McGill
- 5th. Troy Smith and Chris Pond

## B FLIGHT

- 1st. Kevin Powers and Dave Leichtman
- 2nd. Troy Futch and Darren Demmic
- 3rd. Bill Itachner and Paul Goff
- 4th. Taylor Ell and Bill Brooks
- 5th. Brad Foran and Jim Leech

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1993 FGCSA  
President's Awards

Hugh Bebout

Dick Blake

Don Delaney

Karl Jacob

Ed Ramey

# The FGCSA has its own 'Papa Bear'

*Though not a media legend, Hugh Bebout is the FGCSA's version of Norman Schwartzkopf*

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

Operation Desert Storm made General Norman Schwartzkopf a media legend. We learned the big, burly general's nickname was "The Bear" or "Papa Bear." Meanwhile, the FGCSA has its own version of "Papa Bear" in the person of big, burly Hugh Bebout. He may not be a media legend, but he certainly is a man to look up to in our business.

There are several parallels between the two men besides their imposing size:

- They lead by example.
- They display devotion to duty and attention to detail.
- They show genuine concern for the people who work with them.
- They understand the mission and they know how to accomplish results.
- They are consummate professionals.

***The FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service was established in 1990 to honor those superintendent pioneers who were instrumental in state and local affairs but who may no longer be actively involved in the FGCSA. Qualifications include 20 years or more of service to the turfgrass industry, 10 of which were as a superintendent.***

After 47 years in the business, Hugh Bebout still goes to the golf course seven days a week.

"Sometimes, it's just a ride-through on days off. I feel better the rest of the day if I've seen what's going on," he said

during a recent interview. "I'm still a hands-on type of superintendent. I guess that's a holdover from my beginnings in the '40s and '50s. The equipment and the procedures were all manual in those days."



*Hugh Bebout has the grip of a grizzly bear and the demeanor of Gentle Ben — and he earned The President's Award the old fashioned way . . . he earned it.*



# “Best overseeded grasses on the putting green were Sabre and Cypress cultivars of *Poa trivialis*”

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Cypress is available alone, or blended with Creeping Bentgrass and Streaker Redtop Bentgrass depending on customer preference.

Table 2. Monthly and seasonal months for turf quality of winter overseeded grasses 'Tifdwarf' bermudagrass putting green from December 1991 to April 1992 at Gainesville, FL.

Turfgrass	Month				Mean
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Sabre	7.8	8.2	8.4	8.0	5.5
Cypress	7.2	7.4	8.4	8.0	6.0
Cynopac	7.5	7.8	7.3	6.6	5.3
Pinnacle	7.8	7.7	7.4	6.8	4.5
Blend #1	7.4	7.4	7.6	7.3	5.0
Mix #2	7.2	7.6	7.5	6.9	5.3
GH-89	7.8	7.8	7.3	6.5	5.5
Southern Select	7.1	7.3	7.9	6.8	4.8
Mix #1	7.4	7.4	7.0	6.8	6.0
Leader Board	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.5	5.3
Medalist	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.5	5.8
Repell II	7.5	7.3	7.0	6.5	6.0
Essence	7.4	7.4	7.0	6.5	5.3
Cowboy II	7.2	7.2	7.0	6.5	5.8
Evening Shade	7.3	7.3	7.0	6.5	6.0
CBS II	7.5	7.5	7.0	6.5	6.3
Pennant	6.8	7.4	7.4	7.1	6.8
Mulligan	7.3	7.6	7.4	7.3	6.3
Ph.D	6.8	7.6	7.4	7.0	6.3
Pebble Beach	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.0	6.3
Sunrise Primo	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Prelude II	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Alliance	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Patriot II	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Turf Seed Blend #1	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Competitor	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
WX8-1	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
WX8-115	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
WX8-83	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Turf Seed Blend #2	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Palmer II	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Essence	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Pennacigle	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
CEO Blend	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3
Cross	7.0	7.3	7.4	7.0	6.3

Manual labor was no stranger to this farm lad from Decatur, Ind., including his bag-toting days as a caddie at the Willow Bend CC in Van Wert, Ohio, where his family had moved when he was 11 years old. After a couple of years of begging the superintendent for a maintenance position, he finally got his wish in 1946.

Hugh recalled, "I love the outdoors. After life on the farm, and seeing the work on the golf course, I knew this was what I wanted to do the rest of my life! I worked on the course for the next four summers and graduated from Van Wert High School in 1950."

"I wanted to move to either California or Florida to escape the ice and snow so I could work year-round on the golf course. The owner of Willow Bend, Mr. Gaylord Leslie, just happened to be friends with Mr. Bernie Powell, owner of the Bellevue Biltmore hotel in Bellair.

"Mr. Powell visited Willow Bend during the summer of 1950, and we talked about the possibility of my coming to Florida. That December, I reported to Harvey Meeks, the superintendent and worked with him for two seasons.

"I will never forget Harvey. He was a soft-spoken man who stood at the door of the maintenance building each morning and greeted every employee as he arrived."

"After two seasons at the Bellevue Biltmore, I entered the Army and spent a year and a half in Korea. In 1955, I returned to Willow Bend CC and became the superintendent in 1956. That same year I met and married my wife, Iola. We have four children, two boys and two girls, all golfers.

"Our eldest son, Shane, is my assistant superintendent here at Sunrise. Our other son, Duke, is a veteran of Desert Storm. He is currently in his second year at Shawnee State in Portsmouth, Ohio. He is also on the golf team.

"Our oldest daughter Pamela has given us a granddaughter, Feather. Pamela owns and operates a curio shop in Portsmouth. Our youngest daughter, Michelle, is a 10-handicap golfer. She is a professional waitress, and she had the pleasure of serving Jack Nicklaus during a visit to White Sulphur Springs in West Virginia.

"From 1956 to 1960 I attended several

**"Hugh had a knack for getting the most out of a crew. He could bring the best out in each person and help them find their niche where they helped the team the most."**

turf seminars at Purdue University under the direction of Dr. Bill Daniels. During these seminars, I met Dr. Burt Musser, director of agronomy at Penn State University.

"Dr. Musser once told me, 'Young man if you stay in this business for the next 10 years, you'll be able to name your own price!' Well, I stayed in the business, but let's just say the ladder of success has always seemed quite steep."

"In 1960 we moved to Largo and I worked another season at the Biltmore, this time under Harvey "Red" Phillips. Well his hair used to be red!

"Coincidentally, Harvey and I started at the Biltmore at the same time under Harvey Meeks. Red was the kind of guy who didn't believe in idle time during work hours. If it was raining, Red would have the crew re-stack the fertilizer. Red and I have been great friends through the years."

"In the spring of '61, I grew-in the East Bay CC in Largo. The following year, the PGA moved from Dunedin to their new headquarters in Palm Beach. I took over the Dunedin CC and spent the next six years there.

"It was during my tenure at Dunedin that I joined the Board of the West Coast GCSA. That was an exciting year. I became the secretary/treasurer of the West Coast and also won the annual FTGA golf tournament. I eventually served as vice president and finally president in 1967.

"I spent two years at the Pine Crest GC in St. Petersburg and then moved down to the Sara Bay CC in Sarasota in October 1970. I was there for some 17-plus years."

During his stay at Sara Bay, Hugh helped found the Suncoast Chapter of the FGCSA. He has been an active member ever since, serving on the golf committee for over 15 years. After he left Sara Bay, he grew in the Serenoa GC and then in 1990 he began his current position at

the Sunrise GC.

Besides conditioning golf courses, one of the things that makes Hugh proud is the number of people who have worked for him that have gone on to become Class A superintendents.

Bill Profit, who just recently retired, took over Willow Bend when Hugh headed south. Suncoast superintendents Gary Mull and John Roxburgh learned their craft under the tutelage of Royce Stewart at El Conquistador and Hugh Bebout at Sara Bay.

Gary recalls, "Sara Bay was a great traditional Donald Ross course, and I think Hugh was just the right type of person to bring it along. He always had a great attitude. He was a super teacher. He always took the time to answer your questions and show you things."

John echoed Gary's comments and credited Hugh with showing him the do's and don'ts of southern turf management.

"Hugh had a knack for getting the most out of a crew. He could bring the best out in each person and help them find their niche where they helped the team the most. He knew the value of surrounding himself with good people and he sought them out and trained them accordingly.

"I never felt like I was working for Hugh... I was working with him. He was always on the course doing something."

**Bob Allen, superintendent of the Hibiscus GC in Naples, worked with Hugh at Sara Bay and Sunrise for 10 years. Bob said, "I can sum up Hugh Bebout in four words: Tough, Fair, Friend, and Professional."**

Others who passed through the doors of a Hugh Bebout golf course include Mike Schroeder, Jim Sullivan, and one David Barnes. David is a former superintendent and is now with Agronomic Resources and a director of the Florida Turfgrass Association.



"I was a third-year Ag student at Gainesville in 1971," Dave recalled. "I was getting married and I needed work that summer. Hugh gave me a job, and he really put all that book learning into perspective for me. He was a no-nonsense, class act. He was always a gentleman. He was always upbeat. I can't ever recall seeing him get down over work problems."

From students of their craft to peers, Hugh has earned their respect over the years for his service to the profession and his willingness to share his knowledge and inventiveness with others.

Jim Miller, external vice president of the Suncoast Chapter and superintendent at the Waterford CC remembers his early days in Sarasota.

"I had just come to Foxfire CC from Gator Creek, which had been my only other southern golf course experience. Gator Creek had never overseeded and I didn't have any practical experience in overseeding a southern course.

"Sara Bay had the reputation for the best overseeded greens every year, so I gave Hugh a call. He didn't hesitate to share his whole program with me telling me the pros and cons of every step.

"My rookie overseeding year was proclaimed the finest ever at Foxfire by the members. That's the type of person we have all come to respect over the years."

Jim Svabek, superintendent of the Bradenton CC, had this perspective of Hugh and what he has accomplished, "Forget for a moment that he developed the mower-mounted, plug-pusher blade that helped revolutionize aerifying core removal. What Hugh Bebout did for superintendents in this part of the state is to elevate us from the old straw-hat image to that of a respected businessman.

"Hugh's physical stature and well-dressed appearance commanded notice and attention. With his neat appearance, good manners, and gentlemanly conduct, Hugh became a goodwill ambassador for the profession.

"To top it all off, he always had superbly manicured golf courses. I think he was the best overseeder I've ever seen. I know that he was one of the first people in our area to join the GCSAA and set an example for the rest of us. And you know what? He's just a plain, nice guy to boot."

Reflecting on his own career, Hugh credits growing up in the '40s and '50s with learning the virtue of hard work. "I guess besides seeing some of my co-workers succeed in the business," he said, "I like to bring a golf course up to its full potential.

"This past year we have completely renovated 14 greens to replace the turf and re-graded and re-contoured 6 fairways to solve a severe chronic drainage problem. We did it all in-house which saved us a lot of money, and gave us a lot of satisfaction."

When asked about the challenges of managing people in today's workforce, Hugh doesn't encounter many problems. "I turned over maybe 15 people in 18 years, and only one person in the last three years," he remarked. His formula is simple, "I treat people who work with me like human beings. I show them what I want done and I don't stand over them while they do it. If the results are not what I want, I show them again in more detail if needed. One thing that I think helps

our crew to be successful is that they are all golfers. We all play the game, and I think that helps instill pride in our work."

Hugh shared another of his secrets to success: communication. Hugh believes that communication must be one of the most important skills that a superintendent possesses.

Once again, he leads by example.

He takes his general manager and golf pro for a ride every day to point out any problems or unusual conditions on the course. He also accepts any comments about the course that may have passed through the pro shop.

When asked about receiving the President's Award, Hugh said, "It is a humbling experience to receive this award and have the honor to be mentioned alongside the other recipients."

Hugh, you have received this honor the old fashioned way... you earned it. Hugh Bebout, the man with a handshake grip of a grizzly bear and the demeanor of a Gentle Ben. He's our own "Papa Bear."



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LPGA star Nancy Lopez was one of many celebrities on the show floor.



Jim McCumber of McCumber Golf in Jacksonville strolls by the USGA booth, which was busy throughout the show.

## GCSAA Show continues to grow

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

The much-awaited GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show of 1994 got started with a big bang in the Big D. From the opening session, which featured motivational speaker Zig Ziegler to the elections at the annual meeting, this conference and show had plenty to offer the attendees.

The GCSAA golf championships started all of the events off, being played on superb courses with miserable weather. Some golfers at this event took



The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders are always a big hit with visiting conventioners... and Florida golf course superintendents were no exception.



This innovative top-dressing brush was voted best new product by a large, but unofficial group of Florida superintendents.

shelter from the brutal weather during their rounds by using the covers for the greens to stay warm.

From Austin they migrated to Dallas, home of the defending Super Bowl champions and NFL rushing champion and former Florida Gator Emmitt Smith.

Here the attendees took a record number of seminars to polish up on the newest and best information in the turfgrass industry. The environmental session was standing room only and has become one of the premier events at the conference.

The major news item of the week was the release of the GCSAA Mortality Study.

The first phase of the study yielded more questions than it did answers. The one aspect that is not in dispute, however, is the conclusion that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and that this was the largest single reason for deaths among GCSAA members looked at in this first phase.

One of the highlights for the Florida members was the reception on Friday evening. A record turnout was on hand to feast on Mexican cuisine and their favorite refreshments.

This event was well attended by guests from around the world. The new director and officers from GCSAA as well as new CEO and COO were on hand to see what these Florida members were all about.

The show was spectacular as usual. All



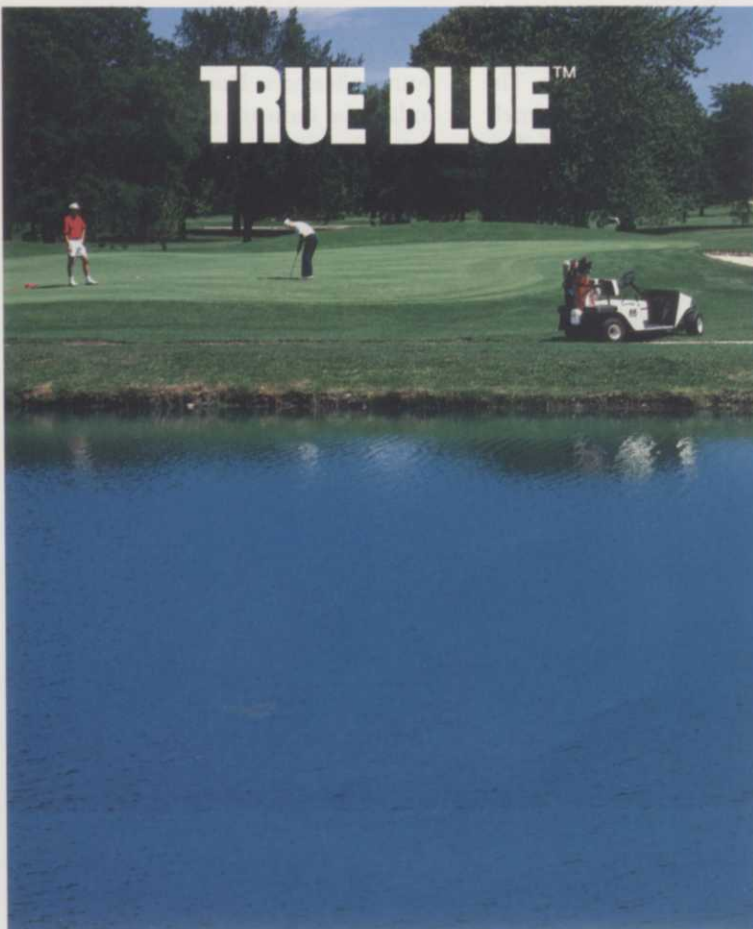
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Randy Waldron stopped by Lake City Community College's booth to chat with John Piersol.

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*We Appreciate the Support of All Our Sponsors*

Without sponsors, the Florida GCSA could never hold its highly successful annual reception at the national show.



FGCSA Executive Secretary Marie Roberts had no trouble finding takers of the latest issue of the Florida Green. She also talked to many new advertisers.

of the suppliers for the turf industry were on hand with their newest innovations and fresh ideas to help solve old problems. Lots of old friends met and chatted and many new friends were made along the way. It was a truly wonderful experience.

The annual meeting this year seemed to be one of the better-run annual meetings of the GCSAA in some time. The bylaw issues were disposed of in a timely manner with only two proposals failing

to get the two-thirds majority needed for passage. The new president is Joe Baidy of Pennsylvania, and our own favorite son, Gary Grigg from Naples, was elected vice president.

All in all, it was a great learning experience by all. If you are not a member of GCSAA and do not attend this conference and show, you are falling behind your colleagues. Don't hesitate to join today; the industry and you will be the better for it.



No visit to Dallas would be complete without the welcome sight of a police cruiser.



our statistical mortality study was not capable of supporting or refuting a cause-and-effect relationship between pesticides and cancer. Indeed, my recommendations about smoking cessation and minimizing pesticide exposures are prudent public health strategies for golf superintendents and the general public.

Mr. Harvey, I am very concerned about your misrepresentation of our study. The public does need to be informed about important environmental and occupational health issues. The media are important partners in disseminating accurate results of research studies. I request that you broadcast a corrected version of your commentary about our study. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Burton C. Kross, PhD, PE  
Principal Investigator  
and Associate Professor

cc: Dr. Leon Burmeister, Co-Investigator

## FTGA appreciates FGCSA's support

Paul Crawford  
President, FGCSA  
Palm Beach CC

Dear Paul:

I just received a copy of the *Green Sheet* from Carol Thomas and, much to my surprise, I was on the cover.

I appreciate and thank you for positioning me there and also wish to take a moment to thank you and all your members for their support of FTGA in the past. The hard work of FGCSA members does not go without notice and garners great respect from the green industry throughout the country.

The extra effort is like working a second job, and if one has never done it, it can be hard to understand. I have, and I appreciate the effort of your group and the membership.

I know I speak for everyone when I say thank you for your past and continued support and for placing me on the cover.

Sincerely,

Nick Dennis  
FTGA President

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*Transition in the tropical region*

I remember one winter as an assistant superintendent in South Florida taking messages for my boss from other superintendents in our area who were having problems with their greens.

I told them that I would be happy to have my superintendent call them back but he has told everyone else the same thing so far — let your overseeding go and grow bermudagrass.

It seems to me that overseeding in a tropical region is more of an insurance policy than anything else. If we do get the cold weather that seems to visit us about once every 20 years, you'll be in good shape. If it turns out to be a warm winter, grow the bermudagrass.

Other reasons that come to mind for overseeding this far south include masking contaminated putting surfaces, maintaining a very green color and having the status associated with bentgrass overseeding.

I do not like the whole idea of cultivating the current bentgrasses anytime anywhere in Florida, but the last time I wrote about this, it seemed rather controversial so I will avoid further discussion of the matter here and get to the point of this article.

When it was announced at our last chapter meeting that the topic of this issue of *The Florida Green* was transition, another form of transition came to mind.

Transition by definition is change and if any profession has been through

transition in recent years, it is ours.

The president of our chapter asked the floor for suggestions as to how we could get more superintendent involvement at our meetings.

“Figure out a way to do this job in less than 60 hours per week,” I thought.

“At the same time, figure out how we can sleep at night facing the alphabet soup of regulatory agencies with many regulators who seem to take pleasure in disrupting our day, and still find the time and achieve a state of mind conducive to the proper development of our families.

“If you can show superintendents how to do this they will come with bells on.”

I personally have attended our chapter meetings religiously and sought to be involved and active in our chapter only because I perceived this use of my time as a valuable investment.

There is no doubt in my mind that I was able to negotiate better deals with suppliers and obtain the help and counsel of my peers at a higher level than my counterparts who chose not to attend meetings or get involved.

But I must admit, it was very difficult at times to get the SFGCSA to the top of my priority list while facing a mountain of minutia.

There is no doubt in my mind that all of our superintendent members who chose not to attend the meeting were busily addressing concerns that seemed major. There is also no doubt in my mind that most of them will forget, in time, how they used their time that day.

On the other hand, I feel sure that as long as I am breathing I will not forget Tom Mascaro's talk, the interaction I had with people in my field whom I admire and respect and I know my club and



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