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## Florida Superintendent Gary Grigg now president of GCSAA

It took awhile, but the state with the most golf courses in the USA finally is home to the President of the GCSAA. Our congratulations to Gary Grigg, CGCS on his recent election that culminates 5 years of service on the board of directors and 24 years as a member of GCSAA.



Gary Grigg, CGCS

Gary is currently the superintendent of the Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples.

In a phone interview after the election Gary reiterated his pledge to carry out the three mandates endorsed by the current GCSAA Board of Directors: (1) Communicate the positive impact of golf on the environment; (2) Enhance the image of the golf course superintendent; (3) Work with chapters to serve members.

There are several initiatives in place that are making items one and two a reality: Publications, support for the NY Audubon Sanctuary Program, and the new ESPN TV show *Par for the Course* are some ways these things are happening. Item three is undergoing a rigorous committee review right now. There is a lot to do to re-establish the proper affiliations with all the listed member Chapters and the GCSAA.

Gary has a busy year ahead and we wish him and the entire GCSAA success as we chart the course for an exciting future. With high hopes and support we welcome Gary and his vision and leadership to Florida.

— Joel Jackson

## Florida Green rates best in GCSAA GCSAA Chapter Publications Contest

The winners of the GCSAA Charter Publications Awards as announced in San Francisco:

### Category 1

**Best overall:** (Tie) *The Grass Roots*, Wisconsin GCSA, Monroe Miller, editor; *Through The Green*, Georgia GCSA, Karen White, editor.

**Runners-up:** *The Newsletter*, GCSA of New England, Michael Nagle, CGCS, editor; *Tee to Green*, Metropolitan GCSA, Tim Moore, editor.

### Category 2

**Best Overall:** *The Florida Green*, Florida GCSA, Joel D. Jackson, CGCS,

editor. (Editor's Note: Contest entry, Summer Issue 1994 . Tom Benefield, CGCS, was the editor of record.)

**First Runner-up:** *The Greenerside*, GCSA of New Jersey, Illona F. Gray, editor.

**Second runner-up:** *Northern Ohio Turf*, Northern Ohio GCSA, Daryl C. Decker, CGCS, editor.

### Category 3

**Best Overall:** *California Fairways*, California GCSA, Helen M. Stone, editor.

**Runner-up:** *A Patch of Green*, Michigan & Border Cities GCSA, Paul T. Kolbe, editor.

## Eighth Annual SFGCSA Exposition

### 450 attend IFAS Field Day in Fort Lauderdale

*Please turn page for photo report*

New attendance records were set as more than 450 people registered for the IFAS Field Day/Eighth Annual SFGCSA Exposition held at the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale campus on Thursday, March 16th.

Attendees were separated into two groups, landscape maintenance and golf course personnel. It was standing room only for the third year in a row as University of Florida professors gave their morning lectures. Then the golf course crowd moved to the turf plots where six major turfgrass equipment companies demonstrated 42 categories of maintenance equipment worth more than \$4 million.

With eight years of experience behind them, the South Florida GCSA superintendents were able to pull this demonstration off in less than two hours. that is really "moving 'em in

and moving 'em out" thanks to Master of Ceremonies, Bob Klitz, CGCS, President of the South Florida Chapter.

The rest of the day included table-top presentations by thirty-two turf related companies followed by an outstanding barbecue under the big top. The afternoon program consisted of on-site presentations of current research projects being done on the bermudagrass plots at the Research and Education Center.

Preliminary figures indicate that close to \$20,000 will be raised for the FGCSA research green thanks to the donations of the suppliers supporting the day's events. The Board of Directors of the SFGCSA would like to thank Dr. Monica Elliott and all the suppliers who made this event such a success.

*Marie Roberts, Association Manager*

## Everglades GCSA Spring Seminar

### Turf experts speak to 75 superintendents

#### Spring Seminar

The Spring Seminar held by the Everglades Chapter had a power-packed line-up of speakers. The seminar was held at the Worthington Country Club in Bonita Springs. Approximately 75 golf course superintendents were in attendance.

**Gary Grigg**, newly elected President of the GCSAA led off the day with a review of the last 12 months and of the new leadership team. He also laid out his agenda for his Presidency. His three major goals are to communicate the positive impact golf courses have on the environment, enhance the image of the golf course superintendent, and work with chapters to assist members.

**Shelly Foy** discussed the reasons why golf course superintendents should be involved in the New York State Audubon Sanctuary System for Schools. This forum gives us a great opportunity to make sure children are getting the facts and also is a means to reach teachers, parents, and administrators. All proceeds for the seminar will go to sponsor schools in Collier, Lee, and Charlotte Counties. As Shelly stated, "Let's make kids the winners today!"

**Ron Dodson**, president of the NY State Audubon, reviewed the most frequently asked questions about the Sanctuary Program.

1. NY State Audubon was formed in 1897 with Teddy Roosevelt as its initial president. It was organized to promote conservation using positive efforts.

2. The different Cooperative Sanctuary Programs are an effort to expand communication between different groups.

3. There are 35 different Audubon Societies across America. All with different views and goals.

4. Each participant in the Cooperative Sanctuary program determines how and to what extent the program will run.

5. The goals of the NY Audubon are the same today as they were in 1897. Its main objective is to supply materials to promote conservation by using positive efforts.

6. The programs will increase public awareness of the value of golf courses

7. Clubs certified in the program can focus on educating the community and engage in or host research that will scientifically prove the positive value of golf courses for wildlife habitat.

**Dr. Al Dudeck** reviewed the turfgrass certification program established by the state of Florida. The initial turf within the program is FloraTex bermudagrass. the program was formed by the Florida Foundation Seed Producers and it licensed the FTGA to oversee the program. Only one grower was authorized to grow foundation grass. The program will be monitored by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. It has strict laws in place to prosecute the unlawful distribution of FloraTex. The most important ingredient of the program is the golf course superintendent who must demand certified turf and also help police unethical vendors.

**Dr. Clark Throssel** of Purdue University discussed water quality and the impact it has on golf courses. he defined salt as any negative ion except OH, combined with any positive ion except H +.

Managing salt is best achieved by:

- (1) Making efforts to insure good drainage,
- (2) Planting salt tolerant species,

*Please see Page 26*

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# Scenes at the Eighth Annual SFGCSA Exposition





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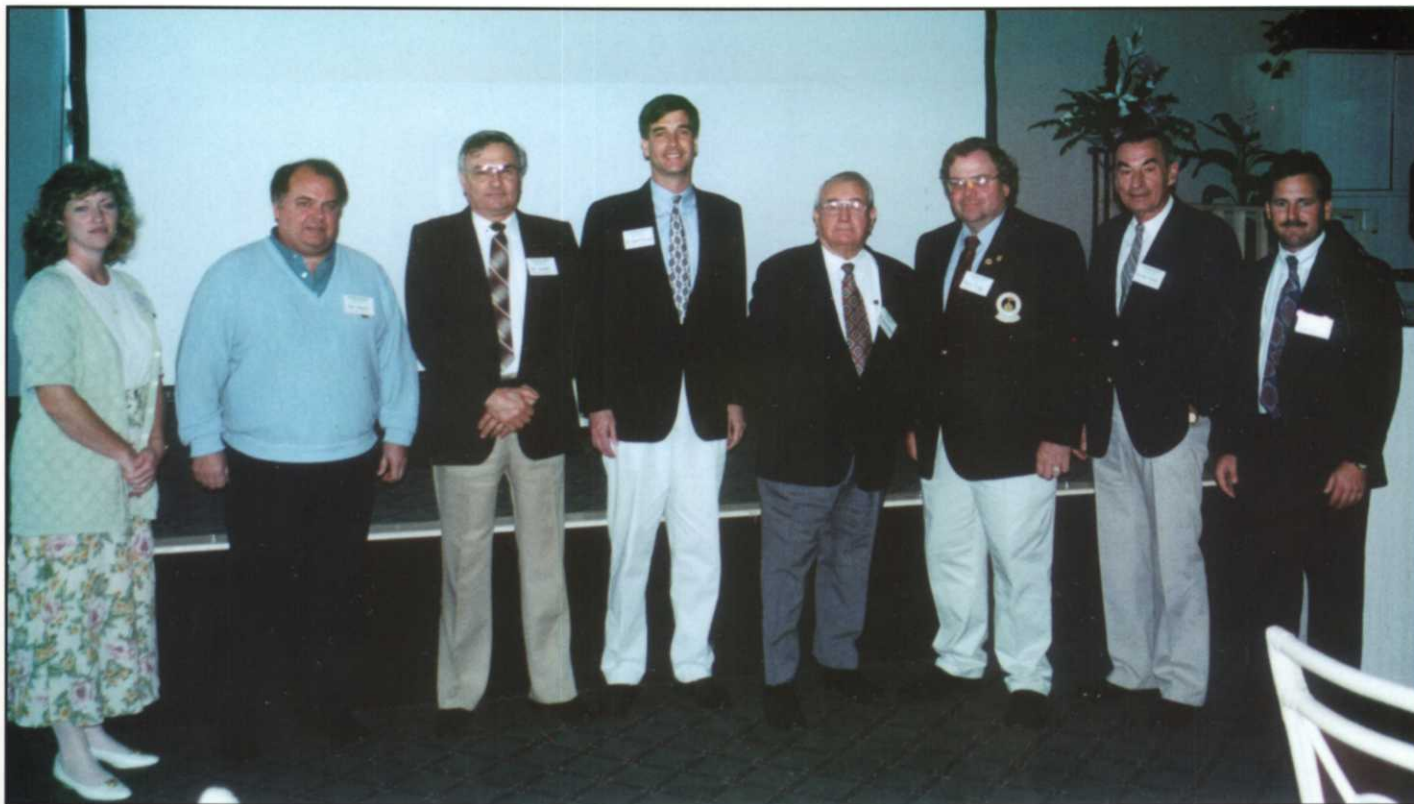
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EGCSA Seminar seekers, from left, are Shelly Foy, Ron Dodson, Dr. Al Dudeck, Dr. Clark Throssel, Dr. Jim Watson, Gary Grigg, Dr. Joe Duich and Wayne Kappauf.

## Everglades hosts power-packed line-up

*continued from Page 23*

(3) Leaching excessive salts, and

(4) Managing the available water sources. He also pointed out that gypsum can help sodium problems but not other salt problems.

**Dr. Joe Duich** of Penn State University discussed putting green speed. He revealed that the stimpmeter was originally meant as a means to measure uniformity of the greens on a course. Good players like fast greens because it limits the number of players who have a chance to win. The fanatical demand for fast greens has been caused by such dramatic improvements made on all other areas on the golf course.

Dr. Duich reviewed his finding on the different methods used to decrease ball deceleration. Double cutting has been the most desirable method of increasing speed, and it has been the most widely used.

The perception that dry greens are faster did not hold up to scientific analysis:

Light frequent topdressing can increase stimp readings by six inches or more.

Wetting agents do not speed up greens.

Brushes do not speed up greens, but they do make the putting surface more true.

Rollers can increase speed by two feet, but the effect will not last until the next day.

In addition, Dr. Duich gave some tips to making more

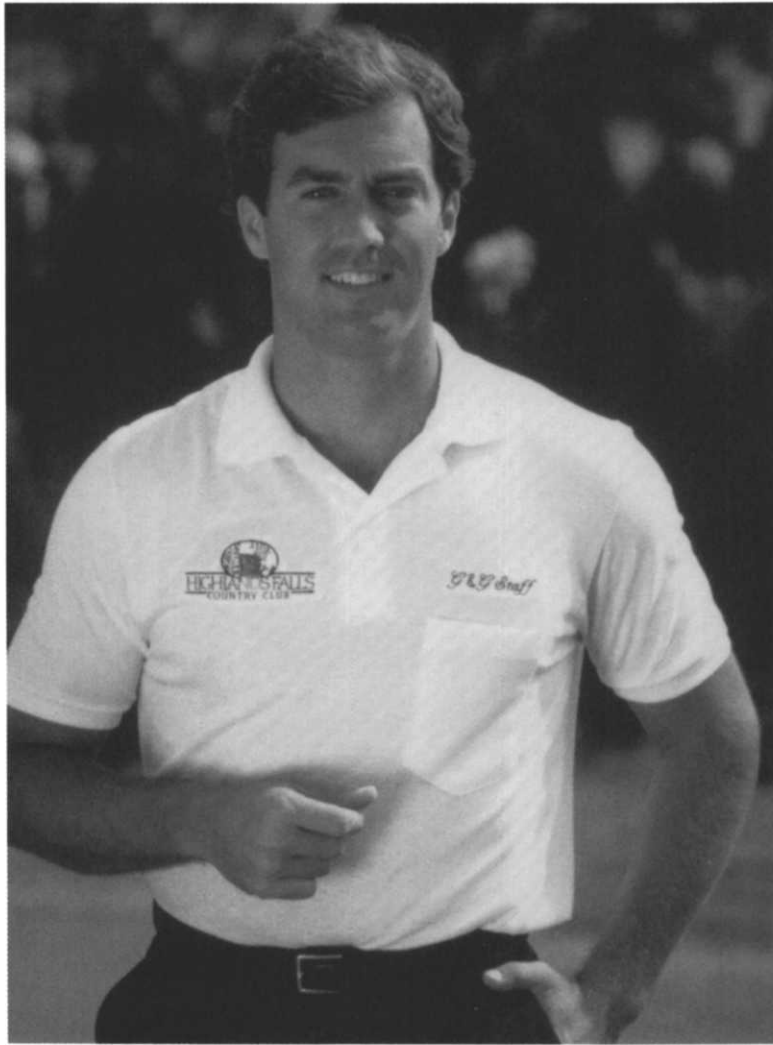
accurate stimpmeter readings: Consistently measure in the same area on a green, and make sure that the distance in one direction is not more than 20% greater than the opposite direction.

Dr. James Watson of the Toro Company reviewed environmental concerns for the golf course industry. He was encouraged by the most recent Environmental Summit. He reviewed the positive attributes of turfgrass. These benefits are even a greater reason why golf course superintendents and developers must continue to do the right thing. We must limit disruption of native materials during construction of golf courses. Applying pesticides and fertilizers must be done judiciously and always according to the label. We must establish Integrated Pest Management programs and pest damage thresholds. Be precise with irrigation and diligent in our efforts to reduce water consumption.

As golf course superintendents it is our responsibility to become more proactive in our efforts to change the public perceptions of golf.

All of the speakers focused on what we as golf course superintendents can do to enhance our image and that of golf. Hopefully, their combined wisdom will be manifest in many positive results.

*Mike Mongoven, CGCS  
Assistant Director of Golf  
City of Fort Myers*



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COVER STORY



*The Sanctuary  
at Wulfert Point*

**The tee shot carries over native area on the seventh hole.**







# *A sanctuary and a golf course wrapped in a wildlife preserve*

BY JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

A golf course sanctuary wrapped in a U.S. Wildlife Preserve might seem to some to be like the old saying, “a riddle wrapped in an enigma wrapped

in a paradox!” To those of us who have witnessed the tremendous diversity of wildlife on our golf courses, the term, sanctuary, is perhaps indeed a most accurate description.

Last year when Dan Jones told me there was a new 18-hole private club on Sanibel that we might want to consider for the magazine, I was amazed. I knew South Seas Plantation resort had a nine-hole course on the tip of Captiva Island just north of Sanibel, but I wasn't aware that there were two other public access courses, Beach View and The Dunes, on Sanibel. And now a new private, 18-hole, championship-length course. It

was hard to imagine.

Many of you may know Sanibel Island as the sea-shell-collecting capitol of Florida. What you may not know is that they have some of the most rigid rules about any type of development in the state. There are no towering condominiums or gaudy signs of rampant commercialism like those

found in most of our coastal areas. No McDonald's or Burger King's. There are, however, over 40 award-winning restaurants from The Mucky Duck to Windows Over the Sea.

Jerry's, the main grocery store, is hard to spot hidden in a grove of trees. Everything is low key, low profile, slow paced and quality driven. It is one of the few places left where one can truly enjoy a Florida barrier island environment.

Wulfert Point is credited as Sanibel's first settlement. The Calusa Indians called it home for nearly one thousand years as recently as 800 AD. It wasn't until around 1887 that the first modern homesteader's began arriving raising citrus and vegetables. Disastrous hurricanes in 1910, 1921, and 1926 finally ended these efforts and the farms were replaced by Clarence Chadwick's lime and coconut groves. This small agricultural community had a school, a post-office store and about one hundred citizens for a brief history of little more than forty years.

Nearly 70 years later, the owners of the Wulfert Point area had to overcome some stiff opposition to exercise their private property rights to develop the area. After much negotiation, the permits were granted. In return the developers had to build a wastewater treatment plant to serve Captiva and Sanibel Islands; design the course to retain run-off from the development; and then deed a strip of land around the development to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which puts The Sanctuary technically within the boundaries of the John “Ding” Darling Wildlife Preserve.

Getting the development approved and constructed was a challenge in itself. And now Tim



**Wulfert Point is credited as Sanibel's first settlement. The Calusa Indians called it home for nearly one thousand years as recently as 800 AD. It wasn't until around 1887 that the first modern homesteader's began arriving raising citrus and vegetables.**