



## Officers

**President Scott Bell**  
Bent Pine GC  
6001 Clubhouse Drive  
Vero Beach, FL 32967  
(407) 567-9422

**Vice President Greg Plotner, CGCS**  
Tampa Palms G&CC  
5811 Tampa Palms Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33647  
(813) 972-3375

**Secretary/Treasurer Dale Kuehner, CGCS**  
Colony West Country Club  
6800 NW 88th Ave  
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305-721-5980

**Past President Paul Crawford**  
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P.O. Box 997  
Palm Beach, FL 33480  
(407) 845-2395

## Directors

**Central Florida Joe Ondo, CGCS**  
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**Treasure Coast William Lanthier**  
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(407) 626-4345

**West Coast Chip Lewison**  
Dunedin CC  
(813) 733-1202

## Staff

**Association Manager Marie Roberts**  
1760 NW Pine Lake Dr  
Stuart, FL 34994  
Phone: Days (407) 692-9349  
(800) 732-6053 (Florida WATS)  
(407) 692-9654 (Fax)

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1995

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# The Florida Green

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**Editor Joel Jackson, CGCS**  
Disney's Magnolia G.C.  
Address Florida Green business to:  
6780 Tamarind Circle  
Orlando, FL 32819  
(407) 248-1971 Florida Green voice/fax  
(407) 824-6298 Work  
(407) 351-3729 Home

**Assistant Editor Mark Jarrell, CGCS**  
Palm Beach National G.C.  
7500 St. Andrews Rd  
Lake Worth, FL 33467  
(407) 965-0046

**Publications Chairman Greg Plomer, CGCS**  
Tampa Palms G&CC  
5811 Tampa Palms Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33647  
(813) 972-3375

**Business Manager Paul Crawford**  
Palm Beach Country Club  
P.O. Box 997  
Palm Beach, FL 33480  
(407) 845-2395

**Editor Emeritus Dan Jones, CGCS**  
Banyan GC  
West Palm Beach

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## Contributors to this issue

**Cover Photographer:** Dan Zelazek

**Cover Story Writer:** Joel Jackson, CGCS

**Hands On Package:** Joel Jackson, CGCS, coordinator;  
Janet Cushnaghan, photography

**Audubon Series:** Shelley Foy, coordinator;

**Environment:** C. Eloy Timmer

**Research Report:** Monica Elliott, PhD

**Spotlight:** Mark Jarrell, CGCS; Robert G. Klitz, CGCS;  
Joel Jackson, CGCS

**Afterwords:** Mark Jarrell, CGCS; Joel Jackson, CGCS

**Copy Editor:** Jennifer Jackson

## Production

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President ..... Larry Kieffer  
Project Manager ..... Philip Pettus

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*Mother nature  
throws many  
curve balls*

As we start a new year and some of us look forward to going out to San Francisco for the GCSAA Conference and Show to attend classes and to see the trade show, I look back at 1994 and one word comes to mind: perseverance.

Statewide the rains fell all summer and fall. Some folks got more than their share and most of us had well above normal amounts. Of course the timing of Tropical Storm

Gordon was perfect, arriving right in time for the start of the Florida golf season. Many of us on the East Coast had rainfall amounts that exceeded one foot from the storm. The bad news is that my golf course had areas, that I had never seen hold water before, flood and then take days to drain or evaporate. Of course the turf in these areas thinned out and as Murphy's Law would have it, the winter growth slowdown was rapidly approaching. The good news is not real good but it is that we are all experiencing the same problems that have resulted from the rains.

The golf course superintendents that I know will PERSEVERE through these tough times and help out fellow superintendents who are also battling these problems. I think that we all need to reflect and remind ourselves of the great industry that we are all fortunate to be involved with. In spite

of the weather that makes all of our jobs interesting, managing such a large tract of land, to such a high degree that we do, is truly an awesome task and one that is very gratifying. Helping to improve wildlife habitat and doing an environmentally responsible job while offering great golf conditions is something that we should all be very proud of. Mother nature throws many curve balls during a year, from tropical storms and hurricanes to unusual cold to wind, lightning and heavy rain. After she is done, we clean up the mess and continue on.

Everyone has their own reason or reasons for playing golf. As a matter of fact, I think that some people play golf, while others actually live golf. Some play golf solely for the competitive or athletic aspect. Others play as a form of relaxation and a way to commune with nature. Still others enjoy the social aspect of the game and their club. Those that I feel who live golf may actually live on a course, play many times per week and enjoy the social aspect of the game and their club. We are the main link who tie golf together. Without a properly managed golf course, the game and all the different facets of it would not be the same.

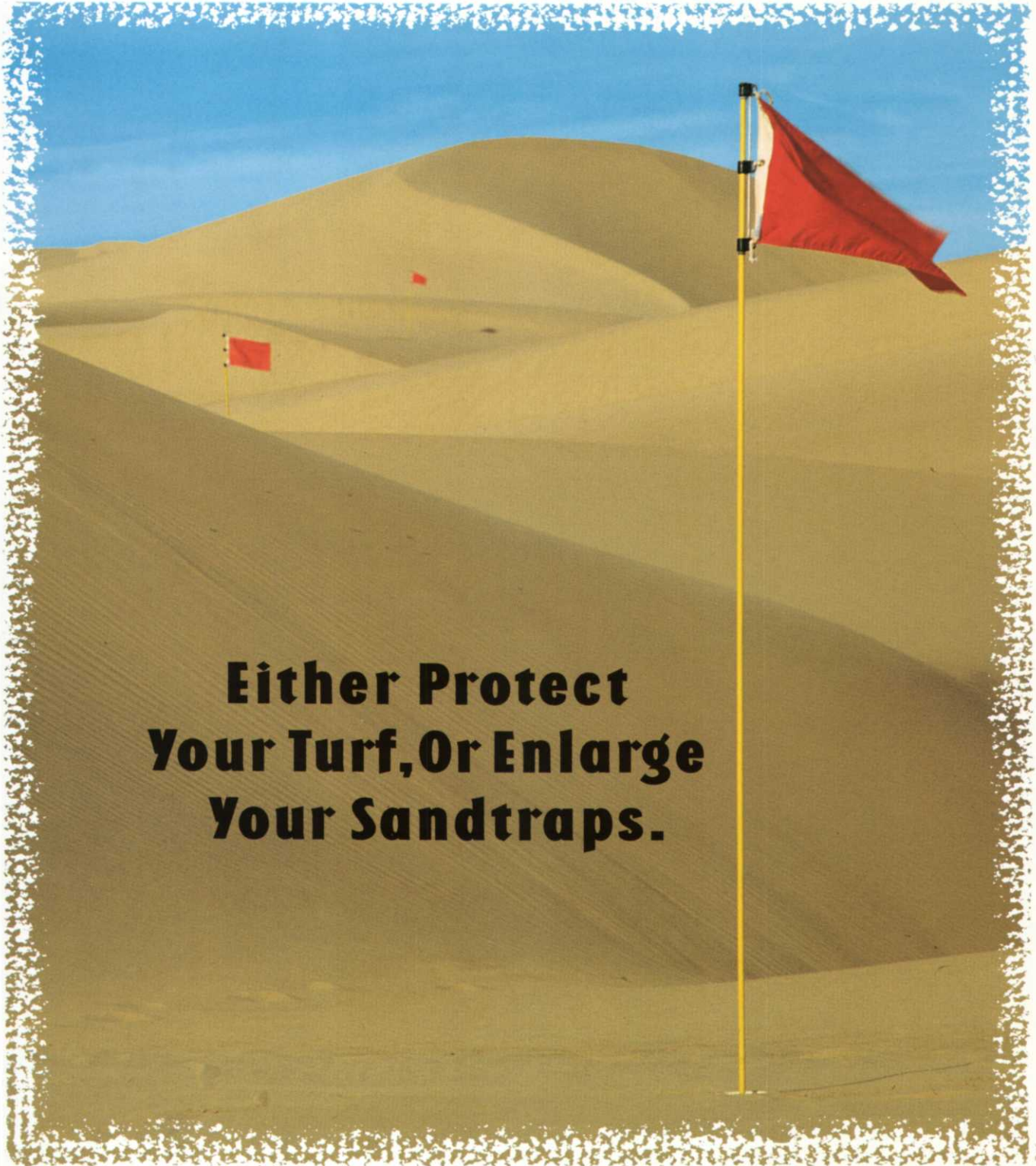
The next time that the weather treats you bad or when things are stressful and you are ready to give up, think of your job and the industry and your fellow golf course managers. Look at the big picture and appreciate your profession and all that it has given to you. 🏌️

**President's  
Message**



*Scott Bell*

Scott Bell, CGCS  
President, FGCSA



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has seen them all.**



*The 18th Fairway at The Bay Hill Club; Arnold Palmer and Superintendent Dwight Kummer*

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I hope that all of you had a wonderful and safe holiday season. After living in Florida for the past eight years, I still find it somewhat strange to celebrate the holidays without cold weather and some snow, but somebody has to do it and it might as well be me.

This past year was a very positive one for the FGCSA. We have seen an increase in

our research dollars due to some hard-nosed fund raising efforts. This gives the FGCSA an opportunity to actively participate in and support programs and projects important to the well being of the game of golf. We have also seen a bringing together of Dr. Nell's talented staff at the University of Florida to help solve the turf identity problems that we are now facing. Finally, we have seen the release of the all-important turf survey by the

Florida Turfgrass Association that shows just how valuable our industry is to the economy of Florida. With 1994 behind us and its successes still in view, we must now move on and try to be even more constructive in 1995.


A large obstacle that continues to potentially threaten our well-manicured golf courses is a lack of water or the threats of a lack of water. Our industry is looked upon by many as a water-waster and this image must change. The FGCSA must stand united behind the benefits of turfgrasses and continue to demonstrate to those concerned that golf courses are NOT wasting this valuable resource.

I actively attend water conservation meetings in the Tampa area and am appalled at the misconceptions that other

segments of the green industry have about turfgrass. Their biggest complaints are that turfgrasses use tremendous amounts of water and that it costs "mucho dinero" to maintain it. How can it be?! I actually sat in on a meeting where several individuals wanted to establish within an ordinance a limit on the amount of turfgrass that can be used in a landscape setting. If it's not grass, what will it be — concrete?! One can only have so many trees and shrubs.

Many of you have heard me talk about this important issue before and I sure hope you are listening to me now. Other segments of the green industry have consistent representation at these meetings and are aligned on their needs when it comes to water use and have proposed their own methods of water conservation. The turfgrass industry must do the same and do it now. The issues of water use on turfgrasses must be attacked before new laws are mandated and we find ourselves wondering what happened.

For those of you who have water use permits, take the time to review the permit and if you foresee any problems with your existing permit, start working on them now, not when it comes time for renewal. Changes in the permitting process are occurring and for some of us it will not be for the better. For those of you who are on effluent systems, your wake-up call is coming sooner that you would like it to. Better take a look at your contract because a new source of revenue has been found and guess what... it's your effluent water!

Water use on golf courses is going to be a hot topic in 1995 and the FGCSA as an association should be ready to justify our needs as an industry and be able to educate those "decision-makers" about our needs when the time comes. A state-wide effort is needed — let's all work together! 

## Water use is the hot topic for 1995

### Plotner's Page



Greg Plotner, CGCS Publications Chairman



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## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

# Ray Hansen rises to FGCSA pinnacle after only eight years in the state

BY MARK JARRELL, CGCS

It hardly seems possible that Ray Hansen has only been in Florida since 1986. In his eight short years in Florida, his accomplishments on behalf of the Florida GCSA were considered so significant that in 1994 his peers awarded him their highest honor — the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association's "Distinguished Service Award."

Ray characteristically down plays his contributions with a shrug of the shoulders and a remark like, "When you see something that needs to be done, you do it!" Those of us who have had the pleasure of working with Ray on the FGCSA Board and various committees recognize and credit him for his leadership in seeing that projects are initiated and followed through to their conclusions. Leadership is a rare quality, and Ray Hansen has it in spades. When Ray assumed the presidency of the Florida GCSA in August, 1990, the Florida Green cover story about him was appropriately titled, "He Gets the Job Done," and all who know him agree with this assessment.

His proudest accomplishment is the Florida GCSA's USGA spec green at the University of Florida's IFAS research station in Fort Lauderdale. This green is the direct result of another of Ray's inventions — the South Florida Turf Expo. Without the money generated by this Field Day, it is questionable whether or not enough funds would have been available to build the green and sustain its maintenance.

Ray's other contributions to the Florida GCSA include serving as our Voting Delegate at the GCSAA Conference and Show for two years; six years as Chairman of the Fort Lauderdale IFAS Advisory Committee, and various other statewide committees.

For all he's given to us in Florida, it appears Ray's time here is limited. In November, he resigned his position as

Golf Course Manager at Delaire Country Club and is actively seeking a job in the "snowbelt" to allow him the freedom of four months off in the winter for travel.

Once Ray leaves the state, it's possible that we'll see him back in Florida often during those long winters. He recently sold his home in Key Largo to his son, Kurt, and although his boat is on the market, it permanently resides with Kurt in the Keys. Deep sea fishing is one of Ray's passions, though a recent six-week trip to the Rockies for flyfishing may indicate a shift in priorities for shallower pursuits.

Ray also enjoys snow skiing, but the subject that lights up his eyes is Penn

State football. Ray graduated from Joe Duich's Penn State turf program in 1960 and has owned season football tickets for 35 years. He had plans to go to the Rose Bowl, and I expect by the time you read this article, Joe Paterno's team will have wasted Oregon and laid a claim to at least a share of the national championship, if not the title outright.

Nothing could cap 1994 for Ray any better. When asked what winning the Florida GCSA Distinguished Service Award meant to him, he replied, "It's the most important award I've ever received, right up there with going to the Rose Bowl!" (There was a twinkle in his eye



*Ray Hansen (left) receives the 1994 FGCSA Distinguished Service Service Award from Paul Crawford at the Crowfoot Open banquet.*



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Cypress' prostrate growth habit is apparent in these P.V.P. trials. One picture is worth 1000 words.

TMI will be happy to send you copies of the complete trial data for any of the trials we have mentioned below.

University of Florida 1991-92 Overseeding Trials Gainesville, Fla.		
	Mean Quality	
	Scores	Color
Cypress	7.2	7.8
Sabre	7.2	5.4

University of Arizona 1992-93 Overseeding Trials		
	Mean Quality	
	Scores	Color
Cypress	5.4	5.3
Laser	5.0	5.0

USGA Stimpmeter tests at University of Arizona revealed a higher average ball speed of 92 inches for Cypress; better than for Laser.

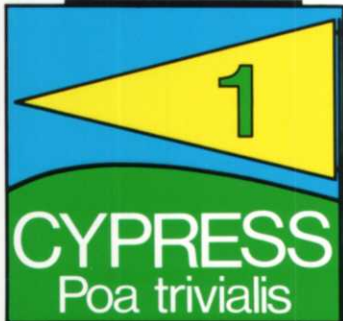
*"Although Cypress and Sabre Rough Bluegrass had equal seasonal Turf Quality Ratings of 7.2, the 'Cypress' cultivar had better color and less dollarspot disease in May."*  
Univ. of Florida Gainesville 1991-1992 overseed Trial.

Monthly and seasonal mean values for turf quality on cool-season grasses overseeded on a 'Tifdwarf' bermudagrass putting green from Dec. 1993 to Mar. 1994 at Gainesville, Fl.					
Turfgrass	Dec.	Jan.	Quality		Mean
			Feb.	Mar.	
Rating					
Cypress	6.8	8.2	8.0	6.8	7.25a
Colt	7.1	8.2	7.8	8.5	7.19a
PT-GH-92	6.3	7.8	8.0	7.1	7.19a
LPT-CT (Loft)	6.6	7.8	8.0	6.8	7.16a
PT-GH-89 C11 (Dark Horse)	8.1	7.3	7.8	7.0	6.97a
Danish Common	7.5	8.2	7.5	5.8	6.94a
LPT-HWY (Loft)	6.6	7.7	7.9	8.2	6.88a
Winterplay	6.6	7.5	7.8	6.3	6.88a

Quality mean based on eight visual ratings on a scale of 1-9 where 9 = best

Establishment rate of Poa trivialis varieties overseeded on dormant bermudagrass in Florida (data from Dr. A.E. Dudeck, Univ. of Florida)			
days:	7	14	21
—% ground cover—			
<u>1991</u>			
Cypress	2	23	79
Sabre	2	17	70
<u>1992</u>			
Cypress	87	93	86
Laser	36	58	83

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## President's Award

# Bill McKee —

## *Pennsylvania's loss is Florida's gain*

BY ROBERT G. KLITZ, CGCS

In July 1994, the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association chose Bill McKee of the Oak Tree Country Club to be the recipient of the President's Award. Bill has been working in South Florida for over 20 years and also had about eight years of experience in Pennsylvania. The purpose of this article is to give the other members of the organization some insight into a key figure in the South Florida community of superintendents.

As incoming President of the SFGCSA, I was given the honor of presenting this

award to Bill at the Crowfoot Open in August. Prior to the formal presentation, it was my pleasure to inform Bill that he had been selected by his peers for this prestigious and highly coveted award. When I told him that he had been chosen unanimously by the SFGCSA board, his emotional reply was, "Is everyone else dead?" After that response, I realized that I was not only going to have some good material for the Crowfoot "roast" presentation, but I might even be able to use some of the more tasteful material in a Florida Green article.

The illustrious Bill McKee was born and raised in Butler, Pennsylvania. Bill

started working at the Butler Country Club when he was 15 during summers while attending high school in nearby Saxonburg. After graduating from high school, Bill continued to work at Butler C.C. during breaks from college. Bill received a four-year degree in Pre-Law History from Grove City College in western Pennsylvania. While working on the golf course during a break in his final year of school, Bill realized that playing golf is listed in a golf course superintendent's job description but not in a lawyer's job description. Now I know Bill didn't just fall off the turnip truck, but did it take

## *Ray Hansen honored by peers with DSA*

from previous page

when he said it!).

Ray's Penn State ties are very important to him, and he has given back to the college by serving as President of the Penn State Alumni Association for the past two years. He credits Joe Duich and his informal classes as having the most influence on his career.

Ray's nearly 40-year career in the golf business has been very diverse. He started as a caddie at Ridgewood Country Club during high school in Fairlawn, New Jersey, also spending summers maintaining a pitch-and-putt course. This sowed the seeds, but a two-year stint in the Army, followed by two years pursuing a physical education degree at Panzer College, preceded his formal turfgrass education at Penn State.

His first job out of college was selling golf course supplies for a company called Person's Mill. He then accepted the job as superintendent at Essex Country Club in West Orange, New Jersey, where he had spent his summer internship while attending Penn State. Here he had the

unique opportunity of managing 18 holes of public and 18 holes of private golf course, at the same 36-hole facility. Four years later he became the general manager, responsible for the entire project. Ray considers this his most satisfying position.

Still, four years later, another challenge presented itself, and Ray left to build and manage the two sister resort communities of Lake Naomi and Timber Trails in the Pocono Mountains, including the construction of an 18 hole golf course. Though he enjoyed the challenges provided there, acting more as a city manager than a golf course manager, Ray was ready to move on when he finished putting his kids through college (Ray has a daughter, Cheryl, in addition to son Kurt). He arrived in Florida in January of 1986, surprising friend and PSU classmate, Tom Burrows. Four days later he secured the superintendent's position at Ocean Reef Club on Key Largo. He stayed there for four years then moved up to Delaire CC in Delray Beach staying there for four years until his resignation this past November.

Reflecting on his many years in the golf business, Ray feels the best thing about being a superintendent is the satisfaction of providing a quality golf course for peoples' enjoyment, and the worst thing is trying to do the necessary renovation work in the summer with members around.

Having experienced both warm and cool-season golf courses, Ray sees no particular advantage of one over the other—the differences more or less offset one another.

His advice to anyone contemplating a golf course management career: Serve an internship under a qualified superintendent and work your way up slowly. Not surprisingly, he considers the plethora of turf graduates competing for too few jobs as the biggest problem our industry currently faces. When asked how he'd like to be remembered, Ray answered, "As a superintendent that gave something back to the profession."

There can be no more tangible proof of that than the 1994 Florida GCSA Distinguished Service Award!