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## FGCSA Spring Seminar

### Education For Us and the Kids that ride the Yellow Bus

BY DARREN DAVIS

*Golf Course Superintendent  
Olde Florida Golf Club*

The EGCSA Spring Seminar was held Friday, April 25 at the beautiful, peaceful La Playa Beach Resort in Naples. The event was co-sponsored by the FGCSA and the FTGA. An outstanding lineup of speakers was on hand to give the audience of over 80 a very educational experience.

Six continuing education credits were granted for state pesticide license renewal

and .5 CEU's for GCSAA recertification. The funds raised in this event will once again be used to support local schools in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools — a program cosponsored by the GCSAA to help educate the youth on the environment.

The first on the list of speakers was Ken Mangum, CGCS, Atlanta Athletic Club and GCSAA director. The title of his presentation was, "The Golf Course Superintendent as a Professional." Ken informed the audience that he felt there were five areas to determine if you are a professional: attitude, performance, knowledge, image, and polish or "style." Ken began the presentation discussing these five areas.

To help illustrate the first one, attitude, he told a story of two boys who had gone to see a psychologist. The boys were put into separate rooms, each with a two-

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way mirror so the doctor could monitor them.

The first boy was put into a room full of wonderful toys, but instead of playing with the toys, he just sat and looked at them. After 30 minutes the doctor entered and asked the child why was he not playing with the toys. The child responded that he just knew when he started playing with them his mother would come and tell him it was time for dinner and he would have to put everything away.

The second boy was put in a room filled with horse manure. Within minutes of being in the room, horse manure was flying everywhere and he was covered from head to toe. After a few minutes, the doctor entered the room and asked what the child was doing. His response was that, with all of the horse manure in the room he just knew there had to be a horse to play with in there somewhere.

The point was you need to look at your own attitude and determine if you are an optimist or a pessimist.

Ken's presentation made each audience member take a look at him/herself and think how they present themselves and how they are perceived. He stressed that image is everything.

Ken also urged the audience to play golf whenever possible. To stress the need, he told another true story of how he was hired for his current position.

Several years prior to accepting his current job at the Atlanta Athletic Club he had played a round of golf with an

executive from the Goldkist Corporation. At that time the executive offered Ken employment with Goldkist. He declined because of his desire to remain a golf course superintendent.

Several years later Ken received a phone call from the same gentleman who was currently head of a search committee to find a golf course superintendent at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

In a very short period of time, Ken was hired. Ken felt it was certainly due in part to that round of golf several years prior, and how he presented himself at that time. Ken stressed the importance of playing golf, not only to see the golf course from a player's point of view, but equally important, because you never know whom you are going to run into on the course.

Ken ended his presentation with another of his numerous, funny stories that make you do a little soul searching, this one about a drive that Ken and his family took one Sunday afternoon after church.

They got behind a little old lady probably on her way to Sunday dinner after church. She drove a car with a bumper sticker that read, "Honk if you Love Jesus." Ken being a Christian, and a little bit of a jokester, honked his horn in response to the sticker.

The little old lady responded to Ken by extending her middle finger indicating to Ken what she thought of the horn blast. The point Ken was making is that it can take a lifetime to build a reputation, but only a minute to destroy it. So no matter how hard you work at being a

professional, you could blow it very quickly if you are not careful.

The second presentation was by John Piersol, director, Lake City Community College Landscape and Golf Course Operations program. John's presentation was on "Golf and Landscape Education—Where Are We Heading."

John has been at LCCC for 23 years and he gave some of the history behind the program. He stressed that we as industry have a large impact on the direction of the program. John told the audience what he felt makes the AS degree at LCCC unique.

Currently LCCC accepts between 30-32 students and is graduating 27-29 each year. John felt regardless of some of the grumbling in the industry that there will always be a place for a well educated, trained, turf professional.

By the time John's hour presentation was complete he had mesmerized most of the audience and had them saying Rah, Rah, Rah Lake City. He may have even had a few ready to re-enroll at Lake City and go through the program.

Gary Grigg was next on the docket and his presentation was titled "Low Input Management." This was a very timely presentation.

As most would agree, golf course superintendents are going to be required to maintain, or improve, the current standards of golf course maintenance, while at the same time do so with fewer inputs.

Gary felt the two driving forces behind low-input management are, a perceived dwindling of natural resources and

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*'The Golf Course Superintendent is going to have to be willing to devote time and effort to understanding the big picture — that is soil, turf, weather and how they relate as a whole.'* -Gary Grigg

the need to be environmentally sound. The challenge he felt was for golf course superintendents to maintain the current expectations while at the same time use fewer inputs.

The inputs that Gary felt we would be expected to use less of are things such as water, fertilizer, pesticides, and mowing frequency. Gary felt a key to this approach is to have a proactive plan.

"The Golf Course Superintendent is going to have to be willing to devote time and effort to understanding the big picture — that is soil, turf, weather and how

they relate as a whole," he said.

He challenged the audience to see how far they could go with fewer inputs without reducing quality. Gary felt most of us would be amazed to find out what we could do with less.

Gary agreed with a comment made by John Piersol in an earlier presentation in that the need for quality people will increase in the future, especially those that are well versed at low-input management.

After a short break, Dr. J. M. Vargas was next to speak. It was an honor to have Dr. Vargas, the recipient of this year's

GCSAA Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Vargas has been a professor of botany and plant pathology at Michigan State University for the past 25 years.

Speaking of the award Vargas said, "It really means a lot, because I work with superintendents and my best friends are golf course superintendents." This attitude was evident in his presentation, "Pesticides—The Rest of the Story."

Dr. Vargas began working on this presentation after he became irritated by the false reporting and partial truths portrayed about golf courses by the media.

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In particular he cited a radio spot he had heard by Paul Harvey denouncing golf courses as void of wildlife. Dr. Vargas showed many slides of wildlife and he explained his views on that subject. Obviously these views differed from Paul Harvey's false comments.

Vargas presented facts such as, "There are two million more song birds in the US than there were in the late 16th century." A fact obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Federation.

Dr. Vargas also stressed that there is a big difference in the "perception" people have and "reality," a case in point being pesticides. People are quick to jump up and down and scream that we should ban pesticides but in reality the same people are exposed to much more harmful compounds every day.

He blamed this situation partially due to the wording our industry uses to define plant protectants. We refer to them as pesticides yet the medical profession refers to the same chemicals as medicine.

A case in point is Miconazole or Micoazole. Both products are used to control fungus in some very sensitive areas of the human body. However, the chemical is the same one that golf course superintendents use to control fungus and is considered bad by many people.

Why is that? The same holds true for many prescribed antibiotics and other medicines. In fact, the same chemical that is in Quell, a medicine to control head and body lice, is in Lindane.

Would the average homeowner spray

***There are two million more song birds in the US (now) than there were in the late 16th century.***

Lindane on their head or body? Probably not.

Another good example of this is Ortho Sevin. Again, most people are scared to death of the "pesticide;" however, the same people will probably spray their dog with a "doggie spray" such as Sergeants Flea Spray. Again, it is the same chemical!

Naturally occurring plant toxins was another area that Dr. Vargas discussed.

He explained the naturally occurring method that plants use to defend themselves from pests. They develop natural resistance by incurring natural toxins inside themselves. However, these toxins are not regulated by the EPA.

Dr. Vargas gave the scenario that often a naturally grown "organic" food would be more dangerous than one treated with surface-applied pesticides. At least a surface-applied synthetic pesticide can be removed by washing.

One example he presented the audience with is the use of pepper — something many of us use every day, often to replace salt since we have been told salt is bad for us.

However, did you know that scientist have proven that the toxin in pepper "peperine" can be very toxic? It is a fact that when rats were fed 4 mg of dried pepper a day for 3 months, every rat developed cancerous tumors.

So do we just stop eating? Dr. Vargas was quick to say of course not.

He explained it is "dose that makes the poison." Many of the things we eat daily have LD50 numbers higher than many pesticides golf course superintendents use but it still takes high doses to be harmful.

One of Dr. Vargas' most convincing fact was on the chemical Alar. Many of us remember back a couple years ago when the "Alar" story aired on national television narrated by Meryl Streep.

Having an actor narrate a so-called serious story such as this should have thrown up a red flag, but to many it did not. For those of you who do not remember the story, it was alleged that we should all be concerned about a pesticide used by apple growers known as Alar. The story sent shock waves around the whole country.

However, there was one little fact left out of the story: for Alar to be dangerous, you would have to ingest 28,000 pounds a day for 10 years!

Back to the home state of Florida, the next speaker was University of Florida turfgrass breeder, Brian Scully. Brian explained where the University of Florida turf breeding program has come, and where it is headed. His breeding goal is to produce quality bermudagrass that re-

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quires reduced inputs, has a better adaptation to stress, and has as good or better turf quality.

The final presentation was given by Dr. Jeff Krans, Professor, Department of Agronomy, Mississippi State University. Dr. Krans is a graduate of Michigan State and has been teaching at Mississippi State University for 22 years.

Dr. Krans is also involved with turf breeding and will be releasing his most recent variety this fall known as MS-Supreme.

Dr. Krans began his presentation with an overview of how bermudagrass came to be in America to illustrate how far we have come in turf breeding. Dr. Krans was able to explain in easy-to-understand terms where the new varieties of ultra-dwarf bermudagrass are coming from.

Quite simply, all but one are found dwarf mutations on existing greens. MS-

Supreme is one of 89 selections that were found several years ago. After three or four years of testing these off types, the best — known as MSP40 — was decided upon to be released as MS-Supreme.

Interestingly MS-Supreme was selected from an existing Tifgreen green, whereas Champion and Floradwarf are both mutations found on a Tifdwarf green.

As most of you know, Tifdwarf was a chance mutation found on a Tifgreen green. Therefore, all three of these new ultra-dwarfs are essentially a mutation of Tifgreen.

TW-72, or Tifeagle, is a little different in that it is an induced mutation of Tifway.

Dr. Krans stressed that these grasses may not be for everyone. Regardless he felt that we are truly in a historic time since it has been over 30 years since we have had any new varieties of

bermudagrass for greens released.

The day ended in an open forum panel discussion excellently moderated by Tim Hiers, CGCS, of Colliers Reserve. The moderator and audience probed the panelist both individually, and as a group, on a variety of issues.

Continuing education is obviously vital to remain aware of trends and new items in the turfgrass industry. The EGCSA Spring Seminar once again provided an outstanding lineup of talented speakers that kept the audience entertained the entire day.

As I write this short summation of the days' events I think it finally hit home how much I had learned that day. For those of you that were unable to attend, I urge you to strongly consider a short drive over next year to our little slice of paradise. I can bet you will be a wiser golf course superintendent when you leave.

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## Jacobsen announces degree for turf equipment technicians

Jacobsen Textron will sponsor the turf industry's first two-year associate degree program for turf equipment technicians. The program will be offered at Texas State Technical College in Waco. Jacobsen has also established two annual scholarships for students participating in the program.

Developed jointly by Jacobsen's training staff and the college, the technicians' program combines a curriculum focused on a solid understanding of hydraulics, electrical and engine principles, along with hands-on training.

"Jacobsen chose Texas State Technical College because of its strong mechanics' program and an active advisory committee for its golf course and turfgrass management studies," said Tony Saiia, Jacobsen vice president of customer service & product support. "The school has excellent training labs, as well as several holes of golf which provide perfect 'real life' areas for learning about turf equipment."

Saiia added that program developers agreed that technicians and mechanics should have a clear understanding of the day-to-day demands of turfgrass maintenance, in addition to their technical equipment training.

"Our intention," said Wallace "Tinker" Clift, CGCS, who heads the Golf Course & Turfgrass Management program at the college, "is to meet the demands that the golf and grounds maintenance industry has placed upon us in recent years. We want these students to receive both technical training in the classroom and field experience in an approved work situation before they graduate."

Jacobsen has also established two annual scholarships to provide additional support for the program – the Wayne Snell Memorial Scholarship and the Steve Moffett Memorial Scholarship. They are named in memory of two turf professionals who were associated with Jacobsen



*A combination of classroom and hands-on training will stress hydraulics, electrical systems, engine principles and more.*

## Lake City CC GCO program

Florida's Lake City Community College's also has an Equipment Technician program. In fact, the one-year program annually graduates about 25 technicians, who have more than 100 job offers waiting for them. John Piersol, chairman of the LCCC program, said he receives calls each year from as far away as Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas and North Dakota from courses looking for trained technicians.

Piersol said he is happy to see the new program at Texas State Technical College and the development of the EETC's efforts to help organize a national effort in preparing qualified people for a rewarding career in golf course maintenance.

"As an industry we are definitely lacking in providing well-rounded technician training for the mechanics who must manage shops and repair today's sophisticated equipment," he said.

"Part of the problem is that educational institutions don't really understand the golf industry. It takes a lot of capital up front to outfit a proper teaching facility.

"Having the proper person head up the program is the final piece of the puzzle. He must be a very pro-active person with good organizational and managerial skills as well as the mechanical background."

Piersol knows that it will take a combined effort from all sectors of the industry to make some sort of standardized and officially recognized technician training a reality. He has suggested that maybe the GCSAA might act as an impartial facilitator for such an effort.

"We need to form partnerships with industry to develop a standardized curriculum that trains an individual for the total needs of a golf course shop operation from administration to welding," he said.

"We need to approach schools and help start the programs. In return it would only be fair that the golf industry should have a large say in who runs the program. We can't have the old high school shop teacher or votech auto mechanics/small engine repair teacher do it!"

Just as the superintendent's role has grown beyond "greenskeeping" over the years, so has the mechanic's role in running the shop. It's time to devote a little more thought to how these new equipment technicians and shop managers are to be trained for the future... and to support the process.

until their untimely deaths from illness last year.

Wayne Snell was Jacobsen's manager of product training and helped pioneer many of the training programs offered at the company. Snell was 40 when he died from a cerebral aneurysm November 2, 1996.

Steve Moffett was the president of S.V. Moffett Company, a Jacobsen distributor in West Henrietta, N.Y. Moffett was well-known for his educational interests and efforts in behalf of turfgrass students. He died October 31, 1996, from cancer.

The scholarships will be awarded to four students each year — two of the Wayne Snell Memorial and two of the Steve Moffett Memorial.

"Jacobsen is extremely proud to sponsor this new, two-year associate degree for turf equipment technicians," said Saija, "and we're excited about the scholarships. They are named for two friends of Jacobsen who believed in the power of education and who shared their knowledge with others to advance the turf industry. We're glad that Jacobsen can help carry on those ideals."

Besides assisting in curriculum development, Jacobsen is preparing recruitment materials for potential candidates to help them understand career opportunities in the turf equipment field.



**Industry leaders to  
sanction certification**

## **First EETC Board of Directors elected**

Virgil Russell, Executive Director of the Engine and Equipment Training Council, announced the election of the first EETC Executive Board and Board of Directors during the EETC's annual meeting in Dallas, May 5 and 6.

This Board represents a broad cross-section of our industry's educational and technical leadership, plus supporters from the educational field who support the industry's efforts in ensuring a future

supply of qualified technicians and improving current industry efforts in training and education.

The EETC's new president is Andrew Kuczmar, director, National Service Training for Echo, Inc. Vice president is Paul Scholten, manager, Service and Technical Publications for Kohler Company. Secretary is Chuck Bontrager, product training and education manager for MTD Products, Inc.

Treasurer is Bruce Radcliff, director of Customer Education, Briggs and Stratton Corporation. And advisor to the Executive Board is Tom Kane, assistant director, national training manager, Kubota Tractor Corporation.

General Board members include Clifford Kurkowski, president, Anoka Hennepin Technical College; Larry Case, national advisor and CEO, Agricultural Education/FFA Liaison, National FFA Center; Jerry Bernhardt, director of career and technology education, Windham School District, Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Tim Lawrence, director of business and industry partnerships, VICA;

Also Dave Krueger, technical manager, outdoor power equipment, Sears, Roebuck and Company; Dan Wallace, instructor, Outdoor Power Equipment Excellence Center, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology; Glen Whitt, dealer representative, Plano Power Equipment; Larry Frogge, distributor educator representative, Grayson Company; and Jim Starmer, distributor representative, Dixie Sales Company.

Other industry Board members include Brad Beck, supervisor, Service Publications and Training, Commercial Products Division, The Toro Company; Mark Erenz, technical service coordinator, Generac Corporation; Paul Jurgens, director of customer service, Exmark Manufacturing Company; Randy Richard, training specialist, John Deere Lawn and Grounds Care Division; and Ralph Sylvester, manager, Service Training, Jacobsen, Division of Textron.

With this broad base of support from both inside and outside our industry, and a commitment from all EETC members to "leave their egos on the doorstep,"

it would appear that the future impact of the EETC on our industry will be positive and substantial.

### **Position Statement**

The Engine & Equipment Training Council is a professional organization that promotes and supports the education and training of the outdoor power equipment service technician. As members of the EETC, we:

1. Promote and maintain documented high performance and ethical standards

- Maintain an industry-supported list of minimum competencies
- Use these competencies to validate materials

2. Support an industry-sanctioned certification process

- Basic entry level certification to be recognized as a sign of employability in the industry

- Recognize the manufacturer-specific training to be able to capitalize on foundation built through certification

- Respect the training methods of others and promote unity of effort

3. Encourage excellence in engine and equipment maintenance through education

- Serve as a resource for education institutions such as trade schools, technical schools, colleges and vocational clubs interested in supporting this industry

- Encourage educational institutions to use certification and EETC standards

4. Provide a common communication method mutually beneficial to manufacturers, technicians and customers

- Share competencies, training materials and programs with all members

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For more information about the EETC, contact Virgil Russell, EETC, 1946 S. IH-35, Suite 100-A, Austin, TX 78704-3693, Phone (512) 442-1788, Fax (512) 442-1789,

E-mail [opecert@io.com](mailto:opecert@io.com).

*Editor's Note: Mr. Russell writes that he has heard more interest from golf course technicians in Florida than any other state.*



## Advantages of 'going spikeless' touted at USGA Seminar in Orlando

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

From spikeless golf shoes to genetically pure turfgrass, the USGA Regional Seminar in Orlando had something for everybody. Good news and bad news. If you want to make a dramatic improvement to your greens inexpensively and quickly, then go spikeless! That was the gist of Chris Hartwigger's presentation.

The total book may not have been written on the long-range effects of spikeless golf shoes, but one thing is for sure: 1500 clubs — public and private — across America are gambling that it's the right thing to do. The most successful converts are at clubs that do their homework and educate the members well before issuing any ultimatums banning steel spikes.

Splitting the practice putting green in half and allowing only spikeless on one side and steel spikes on the other seems to be one of the most dramatic demonstrations to compare the effects of spike vs. spikeless in a simple, definitive way.

### Other highlights

- **Creating a Master Landscape Plan** - John Ribes, Landscape Architect of J. Roland Lieber, P.A. illustrated the importance of a landscape that enhances the golf experience from aesthetics to shot values and safety. Poorly planned



John Foy, Director of the Florida Region of the USGA Green Section, moderated the USGA Regional Seminar held in Orlando this past April. (Janlark file photo)

landscaping can interfere with air circulation, sunlight, irrigation, traffic flow and run up labor costs.

- **Protecting Natural Resources** - Dr. Charles Peacock, Professor of Turfgrass Science at North Carolina State University, calling for some ecology course requirements in future Golf Turf Management curriculums at programs around the country. Since environmental issues have grown in importance in our industry, maybe we should be training superintendents to better understand the total relationships and impacts of golf and the environment. 85% of the public doesn't care about golf, but they do care about drinking water. Risk Assessment. Common Sense. Best Practices. "Nature never breaks her own laws!"

- **Indian River Club and Audubon** - Bobby Ellis, CGCS, and Robert Swift, General Manager, took the group on a proactive trip on getting a development permitted and then devoted to an environmentally sensitive way of life. And guess what? It pays financial dividends and that makes for a win-win situation for everyone.

- **Paspalum, The Right Choice for the Environment** - Dr. Ronnie Duncan, Turfgrass Breeder, UGA revealed the many attributes of paspalum grass varieties that can perform in less-than-ideal conditions. A grass that welcomes low heights of cut, performs well in poor soils and can tolerate higher water salinity. Definitely a grass with a future niche in our world of limited resources. Major challenge - managing thatch. May be a price worth paying.

- **New High Quality Bermudagrass for Golf Courses** - Dr. Wayne Hanna, Research Geneticist, USDA presented a look at the new generation of bermudagrasses that are being selected in response to requests and demands for better performance under lower cutting heights.

- **Purchasing Genetically Pure Turfgrass** - Dr. Earl Elsner, Director Georgia Seed Development Commission, did a lot to explain the difference between mutations and contamination that have caused so much controversy lately. A rigorous state turf certification policy that is enforced will maximize the odds of a customer getting the turf he orders, but once the breeder foundation stock is planted, the turf is at the mercy of man and machine. Contamination is more of a risk than mutation and it can come from a variety of sources.

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## Legislative session addresses water, land use issues

BY MIKE GOLDIE

*FGCSA/FTGA Lobbyist*

The 1997 Legislative Session was unique in several ways. First, Republicans controlled both the House and Senate, a first in modern time. Second, it began and ended on schedule—6:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 a.m. Third, both chambers maintained a deliberate pace, controlling the passage of bills to such a degree that of 2400 bills introduced, approximately 250 passed. Leaders in both chambers kept their promise by limiting their agendas to education, economic development and no new taxes.

The following bills would be of interest to our members:

### Water:

CS/HB 715, 1249, 131, and 1339; Introduced by Rep. Laurent

This bill became the primary water-related legislation passed in the 1997 session. The bill is a combination of the pro-business "coalition" bill, the Governor's bill and legislation filed by the chairman of the House Water Resources Management Committee, Rep. John Laurent.

The bill is a compromise bill but it does substantially protect current water users. The bill does not contain a "local sources first" provision which would have been detrimental to counties like Pinellas and Hillsborough.

MFL are minimum flows and levels and WUP are water use permits, the new term for consumptive use permits.

CS/SB 1306 and 1934; Introduced by Sen. Latvala

This is the Brownfield Legislation. Brownfields are generally those industrial or commercial properties which have actual or perceived environmental contamination. Most of these areas are aban-

doned, and this legislation is an effort to put these areas back into productive use.

### CS/SB 1660

The bill indicates that power-driven farm equipment is to be included in the 3% rather than 6% sales tax rate. Power-driven is defined as moving or stationary equipment that is dependent upon an actual power source in order to perform its purpose, i.e. conveyors, augers and vacuum pumps. This corrects a DOR ruling that such equipment was taxed at 6% rather than 3%.

### CS/CS/HB 119 and 1577

This bill is important because of its philosophic direction. The bill directs state lands be managed under a multiple-use concept rather than just for conservation and preservation. As an example, the bill directs that all parcels over 1,000 acres contain an analysis of the multiple-use potential of the parcel to industry, the potential of the parcel to generate revenues to enhance the management of the parcel, including the use of private land managers. In addition, in such parcels, buffers may be formed around areas requiring special protection but the buffer shall not exceed more than 1/2 of the total acreage.

This bill, in one broad stroke, says state-owned lands should start to pay their way and can and should be used for agriculture, sub-agriculture, and water supply and storage.

Establishment and Implementation of MFLs (Minimum Flow Levels):

CS/HB 715, et al requires the Water Management Districts to consider changes and structural alterations to wetlands, surface waters, and groundwater, and the effects such changes have had on the water resource, when establishing MFLs.

This provision would require the WMDs to consider the effect of structural changes to water bodies, such as dams or channelization of rivers, as well as the impact of major flood control works such as the South Florida WMD's Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project.

In addition to considering the direct alterations caused by structural changes, the WMDs also would be required to

consider indirect changes, such as changes to groundwater levels or hydrologically connected wetlands. The committee substitute specifically states that the consideration in this subparagraph is not to be construed to grandfather-in significant harm caused by consumptive-use withdrawals.

CS/HB 715, et al also recognizes that some water bodies can never be restored to their historic hydrologic functions, or that it is not practicable or technically feasible do so.

In such cases, the WMDs and DEP would have the discretion to not set MFLs. The WMDs also are directed to not set MFLs for surface water bodies less than 25 acres in area, unless the surface water bodies, individually or cumulatively, have significant economic, environmental, or hydrologic value, or are unique natural resources.

Also exempt would be man-made water bodies—such as cooling ponds, drainage ditches, borrow pits and mining pits—that were constructed prior to a permitting program or are constructed pursuant to the conditions of a permit or a reclamation plan, unless they have a unique hydrologic value.

The WMDs are further directed to implement a recovery or prevention strategy if a water body falls below, or is projected to fall below, its MFL. The recovery or prevention strategy must include a timetable that will allow for development of additional water supplies to offset any reduction in permitted withdrawals. To the extent to which it is practical, the offset must be provided concurrent with any reductions in permitted withdrawals.

CS/HB 715, et al also extends the scientific peer review process to the establishment of MFLs in all five WMDs, not just three counties within SWFWMD, and makes several other refinements.

### WMD Accountability:

CS/HB 715, et al provides for staggered appointments of WMD governing board members.

Beginning January 1, 1999, in the first year of a governor's four-year term in office, the governor shall appoint three

members to the governing board of each WMD. In the second and third years the governor shall appoint two members to the governing board of each WMD, except for SWFWMD, where he or she shall appoint three members the SWFWMD board. In the fourth year the governor shall appoint two members of the governing board in each WMD, including SWFWMD.

CS/HB 715, et al also requires WMD Basin Boards to prepare post audits, and it requires each WMD to provide: 1) the tentative budget, 2) the adopted budget, 3) the past year's expenditures, and 4) the post audit to the governor, speaker of the house, president of the Senate, chairs of the legislative committees with substantive or appropriations jurisdiction, the secretary of DEP, and to each county in which it has jurisdiction.

### Duration of WUPs:

CS/HB 715, et al requires WUPs be issued for 20 years if there is sufficient information to provide reasonable assurance that permit conditions will be met. The bill allows the WMDs to require a 5-year compliance report when it is necessary to maintain reasonable assurance that the conditions of the permit can continue to be met.

The WMD may modify the permit after receipt of the compliance report. Permit modifications based on the 5-year compliance report shall not subject the permit to competition from other uses, if there is no increase in water allocation or permit duration and no change in water source other than a change requested by a WMD. The bill also clarifies that these changes shall not be construed to limit the WMDs' or DEP's existing authority to modify or revoke WUPs.

### Use of public lands:

CS/HB 715, et al would allow lands acquired under the CARL and SOR programs to be used for permissible water resource and water supply development projects if the following conditions are met:

- MFLs have been established for priority water bodies on the land;
- the project complies with consump-

tive use permitting criteria; and

- the project is compatible with the purposes for which the lands were acquired.

Water Resource and Supply Development:

CS/HB 715, et al defines "water resource development" as the formulation and implementation by the WMDs of regional water resource management strategies that range from data collection to construction of groundwater storage systems. Water resource development is declared to be the responsibility of the WMDs.

Also defined is "water supply development," which is the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of public or private facilities for water collection, treatment, transmission or distribution for sale, resale or end use.

Water supply development is declared to be the responsibility of local governments and of government- and privately-owned utilities, although the bill provides circumstances under which DEP and the WMDs can assist in such development.

The bill also clarifies existing water planning language and forges stronger links among the Florida Water Plan (currently called the state water use plan), the WMD district water management plans and the regional water supply plans.

The WMDs are directed to plan on a 20-year time frame the development, management and protection of water resources needed to meet the existing and reasonably projected future uses. When planning to meet these needs, the WMDs are directed to assure that water would be available to meet these needs during a 1-in-10 year drought.

WMDs are directed to initiate water resource development to ensure water is available for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and the environment, and participate in the following activities:

- formulate and implement regional water resources development strategies and programs;
- collect data and conduct research to improve the use of surface and groundwater resources for water supply pur-

poses;

- implement nonstructural programs to protect and manage water resources;
- provide for the construction, operation and maintenance of major public works facilities for replenishment, recapture, storage and enhancement of surface and groundwater resources;
- encourage and promote the development of new technology to maximize the reasonable-beneficial use of surface and groundwater resources;
- cooperate with and assist public and private utilities, regional water supply authorities and public service corporations in the development of water supply delivery systems.



## Key 1997 water Legislative action

### State water policy revised in 81 pages

BY TOM BENEFIELD, CGCS

*FTGA Director*

1997 saw a major effort in the legislature of our state government to attempt to come to grips with the water needs of the state and its citizens. House bill 715 is a cumbersome, awkward and somewhat meddlesome 81-page revision on state water policy.

It is at best an attempt to reign in so-called rogue water management districts and set standards to protect our water supply, and at worst a lost opportunity to curtail the unmanageable development of the state. For it is clearly evident that only a moratorium in new housing developments in certain areas of the state will allow for resolution of water deficits and creation of new supplies upon which future development could depend.

Some of the highlights of House Bill 715 are as follows:

- The water management district governing board has power to identify specific uses on designated bodies of water as "undesirable" and can deny permits requesting those uses. Translation: Lake Okeechobee water can now go to the Everglades instead of east coast well fields or drainage ditches.