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**SPOTLIGHT: HIGH HONORS**

The FGCSA's two highest awards were presented during festivities at the Poa Annua Weekend in Naples. David Court, CGCS, director of grounds and greens at the Boca Lago CC in Boca Raton and a past president of the association, was honored with the Distinguished Service Award. Marie Roberts, association manager, was honored with the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for service to the association by a nonmember. The award henceforth will be named in her honor.

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**COVER STORY: EAGLEBROOKE**

The Club at Eaglebrooke lies about six to eight miles due south of the heart of Lakeland and borders the newly dedicated 550-acre Lakeland Highlands Scrub Jay Preserve. Five years ago, Alan Pucket returned to his home town as superintendent at Eaglebrooke.

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**HANDS ON: ULTRADWARF MANAGEMENT**

Believe it or not, we are rapidly completing a decade of ultradwarf turf management. And no sooner are some superintendents getting comfortable in the new routines and requirements for this variety than seashore paspalum breaks onto the scene..

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**INDUSTRY NEWS: PASPALUM MANAGEMENT**

As alternative non-potable water is increasingly being used for irrigation on golf courses, water-quality challenges increase, either from escalating salinity and/or from nutrient load in effluent. Is seashore paspalum the answer to all our problems?.

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**OFFICIAL BUSINESS: BMP MANUAL**

With only one abstaining vote, the Florida House and Senate overwhelmingly approved Senate Bill 444 which calls for "Best Management Practice Mandatory Use and Enforcement" with regard to protecting "Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL) by Non Point Source Pollution."

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## CALL FOR ARTICLES

**Hands on Topics:** Share your best practices and tips for these upcoming topics. Photographs or slides are encouraged. Digital images that are 5 inches wide at 300 dpi or greater accepted...

Fall 2005 - **Bunker Design and Maintenance**

Winter 2006 - **The role of the Second Assistant Superintendent**

Spring 2006 - **Tree Management**

Summer 2006 - **Managing Vertebrate Pests: Alligators to Moles**

Fall 2006 - **GPS: Bell, Whistle or Tool?**

**Please submit articles via email if possible.** Attached articles should be saved in Microsoft Word or, if you use another word processor save it as a Text file before attaching or you may just copy and paste it into the email text box. Try to limit articles to 1500 words or less. The Florida Green pays \$100 per page and \$50 for 1-3 pictures.

**Digital photos** must be a minimum of 5 inches wide at 300 dpi for publication-quality reproduction.

**Conventional Photos:** Do not write on the back of prints. Attach a Post-it note with ID information. All slides and photographs should include identification of persons in the picture and the name of the photographer.

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It has been a tremendous privilege to serve as your president for the past year! The year got off with a real bang, experiencing such an unusual and crippling amount of hurricane activity throughout the entire state.

Early on, I said to myself, "How in the world are we going to get anything accomplished with so many of our members having to focus on their own personal and facility clean-up

## Strategic Plan is Key to Future

and rebuilding processes?" As expected, we got off to a very slow start to the year. But, like any great organization, the members help assure great success. After a few

expected board member changes during the stormy season, we settled down and made a very productive year of it after all.

I am very proud of all of your board members and their committees! They have all withstood the rocky start to the year, participated well, all culminating with our hosting of this year's Golf Industry Show in Orlando. It was a tremendous privilege to represent our industry and show them how valuable golf is in Florida.

When reviewing the performance objectives for the year, we made nice strides forward and I am sure that future leaders will further enhance these objectives. While all of the objectives were important: 1) Increase turf research funding; 2) Improve communication/coordination throughout chapters, GCSAA and allied associations; and 3) Improve and coordinate educational opportunities throughout the state, it wasn't until just recently at the Poa Annuu weekend that we addressed our final goal of 4) Ensuring our association is functioning efficiently and directed appropriately to the future.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We have talked a great deal during the year, pondering our future as an association. We dealt with our issues head-on by enlisting Hannes Combest from GCSAA to lead us through a half-day strategic planning session recently. Hannes was a wonderful facilitator with plenty of experience to draw on especially as it relates to similar associations around the country.

One of the underlying goals of this session was geared to the eventual retirement and replacement of our most valuable staff assets – Marie Roberts and Joel Jackson. Their tireless efforts are appreciated by all every day, but their imminent replacement could cause much uneasiness if we don't think ahead. Hannes began by allowing us to redefine our mission, which will be to promote golf course management as it pertains to golf course superintendents and to further unify superintendents in Florida.

The next portion of the session was to identify a 5- to 10-year vision of what our ideal association will look like. With input from all of your current and past leaders, we have tried to describe your association for future years to come.

- We will represent the interests of our members in the

legislative and regulatory areas and with help from allied organizations, elevate the professionalism of golf and our members.

- Communicate effectively with our members and other appropriate stakeholders in an effort to enhance our image as superintendents.
- Provide support to our local chapters, enabling them to grow and serve their own members.
- Provide quality education to our members and their staff, ensuring they continue to provide quality golf conditions in an environmentally safe manner.

Like any good vision, a plan to activate it is the real challenge for the future. Hannes helped us establish a set of goals to begin realizing our vision for the future. These immediate goals will be broken up into individual task groups made up of current board members, past presidents, staff members or any persons interested in growing our association stronger for years to come. The goals we have identified are:

- Develop an infrastructure to support the long-term vision of our association. Some of the discussions will center on what the responsibilities of the state and local chapters will be and how they integrate in the future.
- Develop a publications plan to lead the FGCSA into the future.
- Develop an educational plan that addresses leadership training, as well as regional turf related experiences.
- Develop a representation plan that will encompass advocacy, allied organization relations and public relations.
- Develop a membership plan and structure for the future.

There will certainly be a lot of soul searching during the next year, as we want to have this plan in motion by the spring of 2007. We will begin to make strategic planning a part of our regular board meetings, enlisting current and past leaders for their ideas and support.

***While all of the objectives were important: 1) Increase turf research funding; 2) Improve communication/coordination throughout chapters, GCSAA and allied associations; and 3) Improve and coordinate educational opportunities throughout the state, it wasn't until just recently at the Poa Annuu weekend that we addressed our final goal of 4) Ensuring our association is functioning efficiently and directed appropriately to the future.***



Joe Pantaleo  
FGCSA President



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Chapter Round Up

Calusa

In May we held our annual Cayman Ball Tournament at President Nancy Miller's Maple Leaf G.C.. Our speaker was Bill Schmidt from Golf Ventures who talked about the O. J. Noer Research Foundation. Our annual meeting and election of



By virtue of taking first place in the Poa Annua Classic, Steve Fox from the Harbor Course at the Ocean Reef Club, earned a spot on the 2006 FGCSA Golf Team. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Superintendent Steve Keller and General Manager Kurt Kuebler were kind enough to host our May chapter golf championship at the Isleworth Golf & Country Club, home course to several PGA Tour notables including Tiger Woods. The course underwent a major redesign last year by architect Steve Smyers.



Chuck "Net" Rogers, aided and abetted by his wife Sharon, won the two-person scramble event at this year's Poa Annua Classic in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

of the Poa Annua Classic in May, both held at the Naples Beach Club, we are having our Vendor Appreciation Day at the Bear's Paw C.C. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported these events.

This year's Poa had a different golf format with the "serious" golfers teeing it up over at Billy

many years, and it was our pleasure to recognize him for his time and efforts for our chapter and the industry.

In addition and in keeping with the original intent of this event, we are happy to announce that Hugh Wheat, a senior at Lake City Community College was the recipient of this year's Mike Richards



Golf Ventures' Don Delaney and Cary Lewis pose with the Champion Sponsor check to the Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic.



With her rubber chicken in tow, Dr. Patt Schwab prepares to deliver her "fun-based" leadership training seminar in Naples at the Poa Annua Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Special guests. Some of the founders of the Palm Beach GCSA's Future of Golf Tournament pose for a photo. From left: Mark Jarrell, CGCS; Fred Klauk, host Steve Pearson, CGCS; Gary Grump, Kevin Downing, CGCS and Glen Klauk. Photo by Ted Owen.

officers was slated for June 22 following a morning golf outing at Leonard Doyle's Cypress Lake C.C. Heron's Creek will host our July meeting and in August we will have a golf and fishing weekend in Clewiston on Lake Okeechobee.

Samantha Kriesch, Association Manager

Central Florida

Golf Course

Just when we wondered if we could top that outing, BASF will help us host the first regional "People vs. the Pros" qualifying tournament in Florida at our June meeting at Harmony Preserve G.C. in St. Cloud. Winners get to vie for a spot to play against Ben Crenshaw and Justin Leonard in a competition to be held later in the year in Texas.

Coastal Plains

We are sending our best wishes to Jeff Heggen on his recovery from his neck surgery. Jeff is at the Hilaman G.C. in Tallahassee and has been unselfishly serving as our external vice president for many terms, keeping us organized and involved in FGCSA projects and programs. Shane Bass at St. James Bay G.C. has agreed to step in and fill Jeff's shoes while he recuperates.

Everglades

After another successful spring season which included a standing-room-only Spring Symposium in April and the 30th anniversary edition

Davidson's Naples Grande course. Steven Fox from the Ocean Reef Club on Key Largo shot a 73 to win low medalist honors. Meanwhile the "hackers" played a two-person team scramble and the husband-and-wife duo of Chuck and Sharon Rogers, from the Saddlebrook Resort near Tampa won the low net title.

In the "did you know?" trivia category, EGCSA President Mark Black, CGCS, just happened to mention that 12 EGCSA superintendents have their boat captain's licenses. Now there's a new statistic for GCSAA to track. How many superintendents want to become general managers or boat captains? Sounds like a future article.

North Florida

We presented our 2005 Keeper of the Green award to Jay McCord of ProSource One at our 13th Annual Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC in April. Jay has been active in our chapter and the Florida Turfgrass Association for

Scholarship. Hugh is on the staff at the St. Johns G&CC.

Palm Beach

Our members got another look and feel of paspalum turf at our May meeting at Turtle Creek as host superintendent James Sprankle, CGCS had the course in great shape for the superintendent-supplier match-play tournament.

The Silver Anniversary Future of Golf Tournament was held June 4 at the Falls CC with Steve Pearson serving as host superintendent for the seventh year.

To celebrate the silver anniversary, the PBGCSA board invited several past board members who were responsible for the inaugural tournament in 1980. Kevin Downing (the "father" of the Future of Golf Tournament) as well as Gary Grump, host superintendent for that first event, and past board members Fred Klauk, Glen Klauk and Mark Jarrell were special guests this year.

The weather has always played a major role in this tournament



**13th Annual Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic**

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and the 25th annual was no exception. Eight straight days of rain would have been enough to dishearten any golf course maintenance crew but Steve and his crew were up to the task once again. Play went off as scheduled at 9 a.m. but that does not mean it was an easy task!

Competition was tight again this year with only four strokes separating first place and sixth place. The team from the Fountains CC took first place while second place was decided by a tie breaker won by the team from Adios GC. Longest drive was won by GCSAA champion Seth Strickland, and closest to the line was won by Dale Mitchell. Kelly Cragin, SFGCSA president, took one of the closest-to-the-pin competitions just 3 inches short of a hole in one.

The event brought in more than \$40,000. After expenses, the profit will go towards turfgrass research, junior golf and scholarship programs.

June will also be busy with our annual superintendent/assistant superintendent meeting at the Deerfield C.C. and our 4th Annual PBGCSA Fishing Tournament.

In July we will meet at Polo Trace for our annual meeting and elections. President Steve Bernard reminds everyone to consider hosting a meeting and to submit ideas for education topics for our meetings.

### Ridge

Our chapter has been very involved with a First Tee project in Lakeland. The community has come together behind this project and of course our chapter has played a prominent role and earned a lot of respect for our efforts. We encourage each chapter to consider supporting this effort as part of superintendents' efforts to help grow the game and ensure the future of our industry.

### Seven Rivers

After a busy few months of preparation for the Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Golf Classic, the SRGCSA is looking forward to a smooth transition and hurricane-free summer. Once again, the Envirotron Tournament was a huge success. On behalf of the chapter, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed this year.

Our May meeting was held at West End Golf Club in Gainesville. Our guest speaker for the day was Dr. Grady Miller from the University of Florida. Dr. Miller gave us an update on his research being conducted throughout the state concerning water use on golf courses. He also gave us an update on the construction of the new horticultural unit at Pine Acres. Once completed, it should be one of the most impressive turfgrass facilities of its kind.

Our June meeting will be at Ocala Municipal GC, July will be at Silverthorn GC, followed by Meadow Oaks G&CC in August. *Submitted by Mark G. Kann, External VP.*

### South Florida

Congratulations to Steven Fox, superintendent of the Harbour Course at Ocean Reef on Key Largo, for winning the Poa Annu Classic and a spot on the FGCSA Golf Team next February at the GCSAA Golf Championship in New Orleans.

Thanks to our sponsors and attendees, the 2005 Turf Expo in Ft. Lauderdale raised \$31,000 to help pay for the maintenance of the FGCSA Research Green at the IFAS Research and Education Center. Chapter president Kelly Cragin presented a check in that amount to the FGCSA Research Account at the spring board meeting in Naples. See Jim Walker's article on the Turf Expo elsewhere in the Spotlight section.

### Suncoast

Many thanks to Mike McCulloch and Jacranda West for hosting our 2005 Suncoast Scramble.

It was a great time and super success. Thanks also to Robby Robertson for all his efforts at the Scramble.

Our annual meeting and golf championship in May was at the historic Sara Bay Club and hosted by President Bob Gwodz. Officers elected for 2005-06 were Chip Copeman, president, Lemon Bay GC; Adam Wright, vice president, Laurel Oak CC; Bob Wagner, treasurer, Coral Creek Club; and Bill Tyde, secretary, Mission Valley CC. The golf tournament is one of three qualifiers to send a superintendent to the GCSAA Championships. Robby Robertson of the Bird Bay GC was the winner. Our guest speaker at this meeting was Jeffrey Kommick, an investment counselor.

In July we will charter a bus for a trip across the Skyway Bridge to St. Petersburg for a Devil Rays game against the World Champion Boston Red Sox.

### Treasure Coast

President Roy MacDonald reports that this year's Blue Pearl Charity Tournament at The Medalist Club raised close to \$18,000 to support environmental and turf research activities. Kudos to our sponsors and the Blue Pearl committee for their support and hard work. You can thank Barbara Tierney, Tim Cann, Kevin Downing, John Morsut, John Curran, Harry Hanson and Bill Lanthier for making the event a success. Special thanks to host superintendent Tim Rappach who had the course in wonderful shape - firm and fast.

Our next event will be a June pro/superintendent tournament at the Indian River Club in Vero Beach. Two-man teams of a pro and superintendent from the same club will play nine holes of alternate shot on the front nine and best ball on the back nine. It should be a fun way for two of the key people at a club to spend some quality time together away from the daily grind.

### West Coast

The team of Clark Webb, Brian Mortillaro, Scott Scamerhorn

and Bob Solms from the Ridge Chapter captured first place in our 2nd Annual Chapter Challenge held at Kevin Baldwin's Diamond Players Club. This event is a three-way competition among teams from the West Coast, Ridge and Central Florida Chapters.

Congratulations to Alan Brissenden, CGCS at the Dunedin C.C. for earning three GCSAA Environmental Management Specialist certificates in Employee Safety and Right to Know; Storage, Disposal and Recycling; and Integrated Pest Management. Previously Alan became certified in Golf Course Development and in Water Quality and Application.

Our next meeting will be our chapter golf championship, annual meeting and election of officers to be held at Cheval. We will also be having a vote on a by-laws change. We are also pleased to announce that our annual Bud Quandt Charity Tournament is now classified as a 501(c)3 entity and will be tax exempt for donors and supporters.

### Florida GCSA

Our spring board meeting was a full-day event this year as Hannes Combest from GCSAA joined us to facilitate a half-day strategic planning session to help us take a critical look and our current and future operations and goals. A new mission statement and long-range vision and goals were discussed to position the FGCSA to better serve its members today and in the ever-changing future. Paramount in the planning is to make sure we have a smooth transition in staff positions when Marie and Joel implement their retirement plans.

Also at the Poa Annu Classic, the FGCSA hosted a half-day seminar on Situational Leadership with the "guru of guffaw", Dr. Patt Schwab, who is known for her copious use of humor to drive home the serious business of leadership training. Dr. Schwab is the president of "Fun"amentally Speaking and is a



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favorite presenter of GCSAA seminars.

FGCSA Vice President Craig Weyandt, Polo Trace G&TC Superintendent Frank McKee, Association Manager Marie Roberts and Director of Communications Joel Jackson attended the first Chapter Leaders and Executives Symposium held in Lawrence, Kan. The goal was to find ways for paid staff members and volunteer chapter leaders to build more effective relationships and working strategies.

We will be hosting the second in a series of Assistant Superintendent Seminars on Professional Development Skills in the southeast region of the state in late summer or early fall. Stay tuned to the FGCSA Web site and Green Sheet newsletter for the final date and location.

Darren Davis and Joel Jackson were part of the GCSAA Strategic Communications Committee that met in Kansas City in late April. This committee is charged with helping the board of directors and GCSAA staff in defining and evaluating key messages that are consistent with mission, vision and strategic goals of the GCSAA to key audiences — primarily the members, but also including industry, owners and influential golfers, media, policy makers and others.

Our director of communications, Joel Jackson, completed the hat trick by making a third trip to Kansas in June to serve on the Publications and Online Use and Positioning Task Group. This group is just one of many task groups that will deal in specifics brought up in the strategic planning sessions. This governance model applies to all parts of GCSAA, not just communications, so that rank-and-file members will be identifying key issues and solutions to send to the board of directors for consideration and adoption into practice.

## FGCSA Honors David Court CGCS With 2005 Distinguished Service Award

During the 2005 FGCSA Past President's Dinner May 12 in conjunction with the Poa Annua Classic in Naples, President Joe Pantaleo named David Court, CGCS, director of grounds and greens at the Boca Lago CC in Boca Raton as the 2005 Distinguished Service Award honoree. Court's wife Janet was on hand to witness the ceremony.

Court, not unlike many of the former DSA recipients, is a past president of the FGCSA. He served as leader of the organization in 2002, and he is no stranger to handling a gavel as he served two complete tours of duty on the board of directors of the Palm Beach GCSA, culminating in the presidency twice — in 1988 and 2000. In between those years, he also served as the FGCSA education chairman from 1992 to 1995. Three years after his presidency, Court is serving on the FGCSA BMP Committee and is the chairman of the Irrigation section of the statewide Golf BMP Steering Committee.

But man does not live by association service alone; Court has been at the Boca Lago CC for 24 years, which speaks volumes about his approach to the business. Being at one of the few remaining courses that provides housing for the superintendent has its perks, as Janet also serves as his administrative assistant in his office.

Former Lake City Community College classmate Mark Henderson, now at the Gulfstream Golf Club in Delray Beach, speaks to Court's longevity, "Dave's a great listener and more patient than Job. I guess that leads to longevity in this business and probably in any other pursuit. Dave has influenced many in this business and hopefully many more to come." Henderson also

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David Court, CGCS, left, recipient of the 2005 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award with FGCSA President Joe Pantaleo. Photo by Joel Jackson.

commented on Court's service to the Palm Beach Chapter, "I'm proud to say I graduated with David at Lake City. Dave was always trying to find a way to get more superintendents to attend meetings. It was not easy, as you well know."

One of those people influenced by Court was current South Florida GCSA president, Kelly Cragin, who had this to say about his former boss and mentor, "I worked for David Court as his assistant at Boca Lago C. C. for about three and a half years and one of the many things I learned and admired about David was his ability to give the membership what they wanted. David was able to put his own ego in check, which can be a challenge for many people, and find a way to make their requests a reality.

"I know that many superintendents understand the ability that they possess to bring knowledge and experience to a club has to be joined with the desires of the membership. I realize that this is a simple idea we should learn early in this profession and obviously some of us are better at it than others. I believe David has a firm grasp of this concept and contin-

ues to put it in practice. David's capabilities are rewarded with support for him from the members and the proof is his employment at the same club for over 20 years."

Court is also an avid golfer, who plays his own course three times a month and on the fourth week he plays somewhere else to check out the competition. A couple of his memorable golfing highlights include playing in the John Deere Classic Pro-Am in 2000 and the LPGA's 50th Anniversary Founders Tournament. Court recalled, "The Pro-Am was just a small part of the overall event, but it was great being inside the ropes and I even matched birdies with the golf pro on the first hole. Then I got to play with LPGA pro Shelly Furlong and actor Jamie (Klinger) Farr from the hit TV show M.A.S.H. at the Palm Beach Par 3 course.

Paul Crawford, also a past president of the FGCSA and fellow Palm Beach Chapter member, praised Court, not just for his service, but for his overall demeanor as a person, "David court is one of the most deserving people for the DSA. He is a true gentleman, a great golfer and one of the nicest men I know. You must

also mention Janet his wife, as she is always at David's side, and they are a great couple, a real partnership. Janet actually knows the business because she works with David during the day. I cannot say enough about David Court. He is pleasure to serve on boards with, to play golf with or just to have a talk with, I am honored to call him my friend."

Court had this to say about receiving the DSA award: "I am truly honored to be selected this year and to join the list of outstanding persons who have been named before me. There are so many others among us that also deserve this honor that I am truly humbled to be selected. Thank you so very much to those who nominated me for this honor. I couldn't accept this award, this honor, without acknowledging the love, support and assistance from my family, especially Janet, who has been there with me every step of the way."

Court has two sons: Tibe (32) is married to Christina (three years now) and teaches speech and communications at Kyser and Everglades Colleges in the Fort Lauderdale area. Son Chris (30) is following in dad's footsteps in the golf business and is currently working under the tutelage of Bob Randquist, CGCS at the Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton. "That's nice that Chris wants to be in the business," Court says, "but I'm happy as long as they are both doing what they enjoy the most."

Current FGCSA President Joe Pantaleo has acknowledged on several occasions how the thoughtful approach Court took to his presidency and in dealing with the issues helped prepare him for his tenure as president. Their styles are not too dissimilar, and Pantaleo has been grateful for Court's input and continued committee service as a valuable resource to the association.

Thus it was with great delight that the FGCSA accepted and approved the nomination of David Court, CGCS for the 2005 Distinguished Service Award.

## Marie Roberts Lifetime Achievement Award

### Association Manager First Recipient of Award Named in Her Honor

FGCSA President Joe Pantaleo stood up at the Past President's Dinner at Zoe's Restaurant in Naples this past spring and asked the group for their attention. Everyone assumed it was time to honor the past presidents with a toast and thanks for their past and current leadership in the



Marie Roberts, FGCSA association manager, with FGCSA President Joe Pantaleo, definitely had no idea "her boys" planned to honor her with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her two decades of service. Photo by Joel Jackson.

industry and the association.

But he went on to announce that as of this night, the FGCSA was going award from time to time a Lifetime Achievement Award to persons who were not superintendents but who have had a meaningful and long lasting effect on the association and industry. Joe then turned the floor over to Tim Hiers, the first FGCSA president to make the presentation. It wasn't until Hiers was well into his speech at the Naples that Marie Roberts began to catch on,