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SPOTLIGHT: DAVIS HONORED WITH DSA

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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..

Spring 2005 - Successful In-House Projects.

Summer 2005 - Ultradwarf Greens Management

Fall 2005 - Bunker Design and Maintenance

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.

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At our recent fall board meeting I asked by a show of hands how many of our 12 chapter executives did not experience hurricane damage at their home courses. Not surprisingly, only one person raised his hand. This further substantiated how widespread this bout with Mother Nature's destructive forces has taken place. In the near future I am sure we will all look at the storm season in a different light.

The end of the hurricane season coincides with the return of our members to our clubs. Hopefully, they have seen a snapshot of the events that transpired last fall and are being

patient with our efforts to get back to some sort of normalcy. I hope everyone is beginning to put all of this behind them and enjoy this holiday season, which has quickly sneaked up on us. Spending time with family and friends is a sure way to help heal wounds and begin to look toward a strong beginning for year 2005.

The next time we will all be together is in Orlando at the 2005 Golf Industry Show in early February. This should be an exciting event with so much available to us in one short week; whether it be the wonderful educational opportunities, the world-class trade show or the networking with other turf professionals and our peers. We

hope you take advantage of this unparalleled opportunity right in our own backyard. I personally look forward to seeing all of you at our FGCSA Reception at the Rosen Centre Hotel on Thursday, Feb. 10. Located just next door to the Convention Center, this event should be very convenient for all to attend. With the show being so large, it sure is nice to know that we can all be together for a short time in one room. It is always one of the highlights of the week for me, and I hope to see many of you there!

With the beginning of a new year comes the excitement of the pursuit of new goals and challenges. One of our biggest goals is to increase funds to be used for turf research. As many of you know, most of the turf research funding is generated from within our own profession. Many chapters have their own fundraisers, set aside funds from their chapter's operating budgets or receive donations from turf supplier companies for much-needed research projects. While these are greatly appreciated and I hope they continue, we have been trying to look "outside the box" to take turf-research funding to an uncharted level. The time is now. We all know that water use is currently a hot topic for the future. The elimination of chemicals, such as Namacur and methyl bromide with no proven alternative products available, and the tightening of governmental regulations on our industry have caused us to think responsibly about future advancements in turfgrass research and breeding.

Coincidentally, the University of Florida is nearing completion of a new turf research station at Pine Acres, just south of Gainesville. More than 25 acres of this site have been dedicated to turf. This site can be a huge help in pursuit of our research goals provided we can supply adequate funds for new turf breeder, Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, as well as other much-needed research projects that will

help us in the future.

We have two exciting opportunities to greatly enhance our current turf research funding. With the assistance of our lobbyist, Mike Goldie, and his legislative relationships in Tallahassee and throughout the state, we are ready to unveil a Matching Fund Challenge Grant Program. When approved, the state government will match each dollar generated for turf research. We are thrilled about this program and have solidified our desire to remain in close contact with our local and state political leaders on all golf and turf related

...we have been trying to look "outside the box" to take turf-research funding to an uncharted level. The time is now. ...water use ... the elimination of chemicals with no proven alternative products available, and the tightening of governmental regulations ...have caused us to think responsibly about future advancements in turfgrass research and breeding.

issues. Thanks to Mike Goldie for all he has done for us, and we look forward to the approval of this program soon.

Another wonderful concept to strengthen our turf research funding was unanimously approved recently by your board of directors. One of our fellow superintendents, Tim Hiers, brought a novel idea to the table. We have worked our tails off trying to raise funds and have overburdened ourselves and our turf suppliers for monies in the past. Why not tax ourselves? Other industries have done it very successfully and we feel we can, too. Our initial thinking is to charge ourselves \$1.50 for each ton of fertilizer purchased throughout the state. In this way, we apportion only a small amount but, spread out over a large area, this can add up quickly. Coupled with the proposed matching-grant program, this could take turf research funding to much deserved and needed levels.

While there are many details yet to be worked out, this wonderful concept is just what we need to kick start the research goals we desire. Should this program take off as we expect there are many other spin-off ideas that can follow closely behind to further turf research in Florida.

While turf research is an important goal of ours for this year and beyond, there are many other exciting challenges we will pursue. Enhancing and organizing our educational opportunities throughout the year, working closely with all related organizations, and strategically planning for the future are only some of the additional pursuits we have targeted for our continued strength and growth. I look forward to a productive 2005 and hope you all do, too.

Looking Forward to 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Joe Pantaleo
FGCSA President



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Fulfilling Own Philosophy Earns DSA for Davis

Darren Davis' success isn't a fluke of destiny, but rather a product and fulfillment of his philosophy and work ethic. As the incoming president of the FGCSA in 1999, he said in an interview for the *Olde Florida* cover story, "Effective superintendents today don't just happen. They are the sum total of not only formal and on-the-job turf education, but also the intangibles of curiosity, a love for the outdoors and the traditions of the game of golf. Successful superintendents don't sit idly waiting for things to come to them. They get



Darren Davis has been at the *Olde Florida Golf Club* since 1992. His top priority is the golf course, and he uses the ideas and information from his travels and association participation to make it even better. Photo by Bruce Mathews.

out and seek knowledge and new ideas. They interact and participate. Relationships with other people in the industry are key factors in making a good superintendent."

In a section on advice to young superintendents he said, "Obtain a formal education. Do not get wrapped up in titles. Set goals and plan your future. Do whatever it takes to obtain your goals regardless of the personal sacrifice. Once you become a superintendent, don't forget those who helped you get there. Don't walk around with blinders on. Travel, even if just locally, and meet and get to know your peers. Don't be afraid to share

your knowledge and experiences. Expand your horizons whenever possible. Make yourself a well-rounded golf course superintendent."

All that makes for great quotes and sound bites, but it wouldn't be worth the paper it's printed on unless the author of those words actually lived by them and walked the talk. In Davis' case that's exactly what he's done. And because he has, the Everglades GCSA nominated him for the FGCSA's Distinguished Service Award for 2004. And it precisely because he delivered on his own advice that he was selected by the board of directors to receive that honor.

Anyone who has ever read a *Florida Green* magazine should know by now that Davis has a permanent feature called "Super Tips" in which he shares the tips and ideas he has gleaned from his globe-trotting travels. But most of them come from his neighboring golf courses in the Naples area or his own shop, hence his advice to at least get out and visit with your local neighbors in the golf community. He has been a regular contributor to the "Superintendents' Videomagazine," a VHS/CD-format educational and informational instrument.

His willingness to share his experiences via GCSAA's *Golf Management* magazine has earned him an unprecedented two Leo Feser Awards (1997 and 2001) for his articles. In 1996 he earned a GCSAA National Steward Award. Counting his volunteer activities serving on boards and committee for the EGCSA, FGCSA and GCSAA, Davis has devoted much of his free time and energy in the promotion of our profession and in the workings and progress of our associations. A couple of his peers had this to say about Davis and his qualifications for the Distinguished Service Award:

"Darren is energetic,



Greg Pheneger presented Darren Davis, right, with the 2004 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the Past Presidents Dinner during the 2004 *Poa Annua Classic* in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

enthusiastic, available, willing to step out of the box, not satisfied with the status quo and always pursuing excellence. Above all this he is willing to share his experience and expertise with anyone that will ask. I have watched Darren grow as a person and a golf course superintendent and he is an asset and credit to our industry and profession."

— Tim Hiers
The Old Colliers Club

"As a golf course superintendent, Darren has continuously been involved with the FGCSA and EGCSA from the very start of his introduction to southwest Florida. His commitment to these associations has helped bring and additional awareness of the South to the GCSAA as he has interacted with several facets of the national organization.

"Although it may seem far reaching to think of the local benefit it from an individual such as Darren, it is actually the local area he has served

that has benefited. Southwest Florida is home to several high-profile clubs that are on the cutting edge of golf turf management. Any increased exposure, increased research and increased interest from such high profile industry representatives such as Steve Mona had been of great benefit to EGCSA. Undoubtedly Darren played a huge role in this.

At the same time Darren has continued to elevate the role of the golf course superintendent as an integral and very important aspect to any club. He strives for excellence both on the job and his association involvement and he delivers the results."

— Kyle Sweet
Immediate Past President, EGCSA.

Davis is a goal-oriented person. In 1999, he said he had accomplished many of his early career goals and that he would be reassessing his personal progress and making a new list of goals and then create a plan to achieve them. A man of his word,

Davis is not resting on his laurels or waiting for things to come to him. Not satisfied with his two-year technical certificate in turfgrass management from Penn State, Davis is currently enrolled at Florida Gulf Coast University and is majoring in communications.

For all his volunteer work that has accolades from his peers, his number-one job and top priority has always been his role as director of golf course operations at the Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, where he has applied his professional work ethic for more than 12 years through construction, grow-in, years of improvements and a complete regrassing renovation. He applies the tips and ideas he shares with us to create time and labor savings on his own course. We just happen to be lucky to go along for the ride via his articles.

Outspoken but thoughtful in his comments Davis continues to serve on FGCSA committees and helps to keep the association making progress in its organization, operation and services to its members. For his

unselfish service and dedication to his profession and his willingness to share his knowledge with others, we say "Well done," and congratulate him on his well-deserved Distinguished Service Award.

Joel Jackson

2004 LCCC Endowment Tournament Nets \$18,000

This year's 13th annual event held at WCI's Hammock Bay G&CC promises to net close to \$18,000 for the alma mater of many of the Florida golf course industry's superintendents and suppliers. This year's participants were treated to a round of golf on a wall-to-wall, 100-percent seashore paspalum golf course, which earned positive reviews from the players.

There were some great raffle prizes including three-day, two-night stays at nearly a dozen resorts from the Florida Keys to Colorado by



Cary Lewis, left, and Bill Schmidt shot a 62 to capture the low gross honors at the 13th Annual LCCC Endowment Tournament. Photo by Robert Toski.



Steve Pope and Mitch Miller used their handicaps to win the low net honors at the LCCC Endowment tournament at Hammock Bay G&CC. Photo by Robert Toski.



Flanking the ice sculpture of the LCCC Endowment Tournament logo, which was the center of attention at the event, from left: LCCC alumni Glenn Zakany, David Fry, John Johnston and Scott Hamm, who have been instrumental in organizing the annual LCCC Endowment tournament. Photo by Robert Toski.



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way of West Virginia, and scores of complimentary golf rounds from top Florida golf courses. The top golf winners were Cary Lewis and Bill Schmidt taking the low Gross Honors and Low Net Honors going to Steve Pope and Mitch Miller.

Most who have played this tournament in the past 12 years know that this fundraiser puts money back into the Lake City Golf Operations that were eliminated by previous state budget cutbacks. Thanks to your support and our generous sponsors, we have donated more than \$125,000 as of this event.

Special thanks to our hard-working tournament committee: David Fry, Glenn Zakany, Scott Hamm, John Johnson, Odell Spainhour, Roy Bates, Mike Smith, Celeste Langer and course superintendent Rodney Whisman. Thanks to our friends from Hammock Bay Golf & Country Club: Bob Radunz, Cory Schaub, Robert Gowett, Robin Strob

for helping to make our outing a special day for all LCCC alumni.

**Chapter Round Up
Hurricane Recovery,
Fundraisers Mark
Fall Schedule**

Calusa

After a couple of hurricane postponements, we held our September Superintendent/GM-Club Official outing hosted by Laurie Frutchey at the Lexington CC. Al Kinkel, chief operating officer of Lexington gave a great presentation on "What It Takes to Be a Success In Golf Course Management, From Manager to Leader." In October we had 62 players show up for our annual Su-Pro-Liers outing at Heritage Palms, and despite the hurricanes the course looked great thanks to Greg Kriesch and staff. Our annual Christmas party in December at the Kelly Greens GC netted a \$1,100

donation to the Abused Counseling Treatment Center of Lee County. If you are looking for news and meeting information about the Calusa chapter be sure and check out our new website at www.calusagcsa.com.

Central Florida

Superintendents and equipment managers held a joint meeting/golf event at the Metrowest GC on Dec. 6 to raise money for the chapter's benevolent fund. Former Ridge superintendent Ray Cuzzone provided the barbecue lunch. Thanks to host Jim Kernohan and his staff the course was in great shape.

Coastal Plains

At our September meeting we had Joe Gallagher from A.G. Edwards speak about retirement planning for golf course superintendents. In November, Joel Jackson FGCSA director of communications gave an update on statewide issues. Joel was also up to

do the Florida Green Winter 2005 cover story interview with our host Shane Bass at the St. James Bay G.C. [Everglades](#)

Our busy fall schedule included our Pro/Super tournament in October at the Hideout Golf Club. Thanks to our hosts, superintendent Alberto Quevedo and golf professional Gene Fieger for putting on a great event. In November we held a golf outing at Tim Hiers's The Old Colliers Club and had a chance to check out the seashore paspalum turf.

The Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association hosted its annual Christmas Tournament and Gift Drive on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at the Quail West Golf and Country Club, Bonita Springs. J. Mark Black, CGCS, EGCSA president and director of maintenance operations at Quail West, hosted the outstanding event for a record group of 132 players. The two-man scramble format was fun for all

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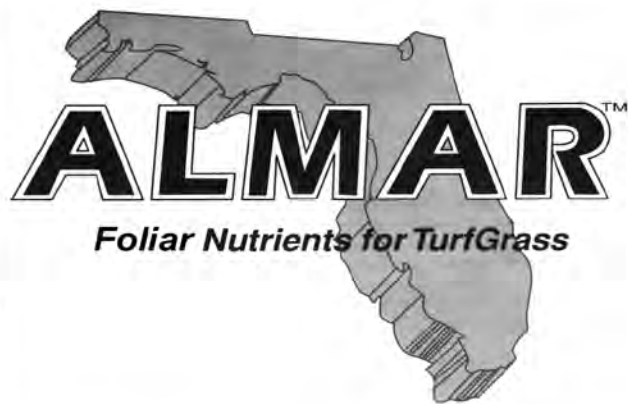
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We had a blast. Hope you did too.

and the golf course was in superb condition.

For the fifth year, the gift drive was very successful with more than 300 toys donated to benefit the Children's Home Society of Southwest Florida. All of these gifts were donated by the tournament participants and are distributed throughout Southwest Florida to provide a merry Christmas to children and their families in need.

North Florida

This fall we had a golf outing at the Deerwood Club and our Christmas outing at the Hyde Park GC in Jacksonville. Happy New Year everyone.

Palm Beach

We are sad to announce the sudden passing of Norm Pilote, superintendent of Frenchman's Creek in Palm Beach Gardens. Norm was 50 years old and was struck down by



EGCSA President Mark Black, CGCS, with Erin Sweeney, Katie Black, Simon Greer of the Children's Home Society of Southwest Florida at the 5th Annual Christmas Tournament. Photo by Kyle Sweet.

a heart attack. Our condolences go out to Norm's family and friends. December was a busy month with our annual Miami Dolphin football trip, and our Christmas Party (88 members and guests showed up to welcome the holidays), then we had our traditional golf outing with the South Florida GCSA at TPC Eagle Trace. We will finish up the year with a holiday golf outing at the



Superintendents Tim Hiers, CGCS and Darren Davis pitch in to help out at the FGCSA display for the Collier County School's annual Career Fair held at the Golden Glades High School in November. Sixteen professional categories to raise occupational awareness were highlighted at the event including Agriculture and Horticulture. Photo by Joel Jackson

Abacoa GC. We will kick off 2005 with a superintendents-only meeting at Emerald Dunes in January.

Ridge

Greetings from Ground Zero. The Ridge Chapter is beginning to see the light at the end of the



From the left, USGA's Florida Region Director John Foy and Agronomist Todd Lowe were joined by Boca Rio's Superintendent Bob Randquist, CGCS as moderators for the 2004 USGA Regional Conference held in Palm Beach Gardens. Photo by Joel Jackson.

tunnel. With the exception of a couple of courses, we are pretty much up and running again. Because of the recent turbulent summer we haven't had much time to take care of a lot of chapter business, however, we did see a little sunshine at our November meeting. We were pleased to award Danny Hidayad, a turf and ornamental student at Florida

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Southern College, with our first Jack Harrell Sr. Memorial Scholarship. Danny is an excellent student and very deserving of the scholarship. We will be holding our annual Harrell's plant tour and steak lunch in December and our January Superintendent/Vendor meeting will be at the Lone Palm Golf Club in Lakeland.

Seven Rivers

In November we held our 2nd Annual Fishing Tournament in Crystal River and the great weather helped provide a higher fish count than last year. We had a great turnout for our December meeting at the Brooksville CC. Tim Williams from Gatorland gave an entertaining and informative program on gators and snakes. As we close out 2004, we are already planning for the Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Classic in hopes of raising even more funds for turfgrass research.



The Ridge GCSA presented its first Jack Harrell, Sr. Memorial Scholarship to Danny Hidayad, who attends Florida Southern College in Lakeland. From left: Ridge Secretary/Treasurer Jim Rowland, Director Roy Wilshire, CGCS, President Tom Barnett, Danny Hidayad and Director Alan Puckett.

South Florida

With more than 152 golfers teeing it up in our 20th Annual Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament at the Colony West C.C. in October, we were able to surpass our target goal of \$20,000 to \$22,000. Perpetual Chairman of the event, Bill Entwistle, Jr., reflected on the long history of the event which began in 1984. Our chapter has now raised



The South Florida Chapter celebrated the 20th anniversary of its annual Missing and Exploited Children's tournament by raising more than \$20,000 for the 2004 event. The committee cheerfully presented a check for \$22,000 to Nancy McBride, Executive Director of the Florida Branch of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

more than \$206,000 for this worthwhile cause.

After we wrap up the year with our holiday golf outing at TPC Eagle Trace in December, we will be looking forward to the FTGA Regional Conference in January to kick off the new year. We are already making plans for the SFGCSA Turf Expo to be held in March at the UF/IFAS Research

Center in Ft. Lauderdale.

Suncoast

Congratulations to Stephen W. Wood, CGCS, golf course superintendent at El Conquistador Country Club, Bradenton, for completing the GCSAA Environmental Management Program by earning the six required specializations. Of



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