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### SPOTLIGHT: FTGA CONFERENCE & SHOW

Keynote Speaker Scott Burrows, son of former FGCSA President Tom Burrows and a former quadriplegic brought the crowd to its feet as he got out of his wheelchair and walked as he talked about determination and overcoming fear of failure.

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### COVER STORY: ROYAL POINCIANA GOLF CLUB

It takes more than skill and knowledge to direct the golf course operations at a 360-acre, 36-hole facility; it takes commitment, says Matt Taylor, CGCS.

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### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: WINNING ESSAY

Boca Greens Assistant Superintendent Brad Johnson is one of 50 assistants from around the country selected on the basis of their essays to attend the Green Start Academy in North Carolina, sponsored by John Deere Turf One Source and Bayer Environmental Sciences.

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### INDUSTRY NEWS: FTGA PICKS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The FTGA has selected Casey Wohl Pace, director of public affairs and chief of staff of Florida Citrus Mutual in Lakeland since 2003, to manage the organization. She began her career with the Florida Phosphate Council.

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### RESEARCH: EIGHT MAJOR STUDIES FUNDED

Allied turf organizations in Florida have announced eight new research projects at the University of Florida in Gainesville and Lake City Community College with \$150,000 in funding over two years.

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# The Florida Green

FALL 2006

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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.

**Winter 2007** - Fertility Programs

**Spring 2007** - Nematode Management without Nematicur

**Summer 2007** - Managing and Scheduling Overtime

**Fall 2007** - Cultural Programs During Golf Season

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.

Contact Joel D. Jackson, editor for more information. Mail: 6780 Tamarind Circle, Orlando, FL 32819. Phone or fax: 407-248-1971. E-mail: flgrn@aol.com.

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by LASTEQ

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Four years ago The Moorings Club was considering changing the grass on the greens from Tifdwarf to an ultradwarf grass. When I started doing the research on ultradwarfs I was told that this grass is different. That if you try to grow it the same way that you do Tifdwarf, you will kill it.

To help me understand and accept that we would be facing changes in our greens maintenance program, someone recommended that I read the book, "Who moved my Cheese?" If you're not familiar with this book, it is about

four mice that had their cheese moved. The story is very simple and quick reading. The book tells how the mice went about dealing with the change in their routines.

I'm not going to ruin the story and tell you the ending. I want you to read the book yourself to see who survives and how they do it. Suffice it to say that when your cheese

gets moved, there are a variety of behaviors and actions you can follow, and it's likely that changing the way you do things will be a necessity.

Enjoy this easy-to-read and understand handbook on how to face change. And speaking of change...

We have all heard the expression, "If you're not moving forward, then you're moving backward." Well, time is now to move forward and think outside the box; time for a change. The FGCSA needs to change to meet the needs of its members and to be an effective association in today's world.

Webster's defines change as "to give a different position, course, or direction to." While we must change certain processes, we will have the same purpose, which is to promote turf management as it pertains to the

golf course superintendent and to unify the golf course superintendents in the state of Florida.

One of the main forces behind this thinking is the impending retirements of our two long-time FGCSA staff members, Association Manager Marie Roberts (22 years) and Director of Communications Joel Jackson (10 years). We were very fortunate, actually just plain lucky, that these two very reliable, professional people agreed to work for us, and have applied themselves to doing the very best for us.

I look at the credentials of the newly hired executive director of the FTGA, Casey Wohl Pace, and see the experience and responsibilities she had in her previous positions within Florida's agriculture industry. This is the kind of person we need to think seriously about when it comes time to replace Marie and Joel.

To do that we will need to re-examine in detail our mission and goals and how we do things... from membership recruitment to membership services. We will need to examine and honestly assess the state and local chapter relationships and how to best serve the needs of Florida's golf course superintendents.

Right now GCSAA is exploring a new dues-pricing policy to avoid those big ugly \$50 increases that come along every few years. Did you know we haven't raised our FGCSA dues in 15 years? Nobody wants to think about it, but look at the work that Marie and Joel have been doing to enhance the effectiveness and reputation of the FGCSA with our allied associations, regulators and our professional education and documentation. Fortunately the Florida Green revenue has been picking up most of those expenses.

We need to look at future revenue sources. We must keep tweaking the operation. We can't keep relying on the way we have always done things. Times are changing. Needs are changing. People will come and go; it is a fact of life. It is our responsibility to set up and enact a sound process that will allow us to adjust to variables, so that if and when somebody moves our cheese we will be able to find it again, or just maybe find some new and better cheese.

## Forthrightly Facing Change



Craig Weyandt  
FGCSA President

*To do that (replace Marie and Joel) we will need to re-examine in detail our mission and goals and how we do things... from membership recruitment to membership services. We will need to examine and honestly assess the state and local chapter relationships and how to best serve the needs of Florida's golf course superintendents.*

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**CHAPTER ROUND UP**

# So Long Summer, Hello Fall

**CALUSA**

Thanks to Nancy Miller, Maple Leaf G&CC for stepping up to become our new external vice president and representative on the FGCSA board of directors. Thanks also to Terry Stoyer from the Fort Myers Eastwood GC for acting as our representative at the recent Fort Myers-Lee County Fertilizer/Red Tide Forum meeting. Terry is working with Kurt Harclerode, operations manager for the Dept. of Natural Resources on the Fort Myers Fertilizer issue. Super-Pro-Supplier Tournament at a later date.



*The Central Florida Meeting Site Calendar features photos of all the host courses for the year and a full membership directory. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**CENTRAL FLORIDA**

The second edition of the CFGCSA membership calendars for 2006-07 are out. The calendar shows pictures of the host clubs for each monthly meeting and the last two pages are a member directory. The meeting date each month is highlighted by



*2006-2007 FGCSA Board of Directors from left: Mike McCulloch, Suncoast; Kevin Downing, CGCS, Palm Beach; Nancy Miller, Calusa; Rip Phillips, North Florida; Mike Bellino, Central Florida; Bill Kistler, West Coast; John Curran, Treasure Coast and Mark Kann, Seven Rivers. Not pictured: Shane Bass, Coastal Plains; Wayne Kappauf, Everglades; Tom Barnett, Ridge and Jim Walker, South Florida. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

a red tab in the upper corner of the date box. In June we held our Chapter Golf Championship at the Harmony Preserve GC. Thanks to Jason Moore, GCS and the folks at Harmony for putting on a great event. Winners: Gross — Allan Lichter (74, first) and John Lammrish (74, second) and Net — Jason Throop (69, first) and Jim Purcell (69, second). Both winners were determined by a match of cards. Bran Reano won the Vendor Gross Division with a 75 and the Net Division winner was Matt Gregg with a 67.

See the write up of our big summer event, The Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open, and our sponsor thank-you ad elsewhere in this section.

**COASTAL PLAINS**

Congratulations to Shane Bass, CGCS from the St. James Bay Golf Club on two counts: first on the recent birth of his second son Ethan Oscar Bass — Ethan and mom, Karla are doing fine — and his election as

secretary/treasurer of the Florida GCSA. Shane may be in trouble though. He was on the road headed to the hospital from Orlando when the stork beat him to Tallahassee.

**EVERGLADES**

We will be hosting a GCSAA Regional Seminar, “Turfgrass Traffic Stress: Physiology and Management,” Sept. 6 at the Naples Beach Hotel. Thanks to Tim Hiers, CGCS and Darren Davis for sitting in on the Naples City Commission meetings concerning water quality in Naples Bay. With all the furor up in Sarasota over fertilizer use and water quality, Tim and Darren are bringing facts to the discussions. Thanks also to Wayne Kappauf, CGCS for volunteering to serve on the EGCSA board as external vice president to the Florida GCSA.

**NORTH FLORIDA**

Rip Phillips from the Windsor Parke Golf Club is our new external vice president and FGCSA direc-

tor. At the FGCSA summer board meeting in Orlando, Phillips presented a \$5,000 donation from our chapter which will be used for turf research and association operations. Congratulations to Mike Shields and Dana Anderson for qualifying for the BASF People vs. the Pros tournament at Pinehurst. Shields placed 5th overall in the 18-49 age division and Anderson placed 23rd in the 50-plus age division.

**PALM BEACH**

After many years of bad weather, the sun finally shone brightly on the PB-GCSA 2006 Future of Golf Tournament held on Saturday, June 10 at The Falls CC in West Palm Beach.

Once again, Steve Pearson, superintendent at The Falls CC, hosted a spectacular event. Competition was tight again with only three strokes separating first and sixth places! First Pplace went to the team of John Gallagher from Boca Woods GC and Harold Davis, Jude Eustaquio and Danny Evenly from Winston Trails

# The Future of Golf 2006

*Many thanks to our loyal sponsors who have helped us support junior golf, charities and turfgrass research. We would also like to thank Steve Pearson and the staff and management of The Falls C. C. for hosting this event over the years.*

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Zimmerman Tree Service



GC. One stroke back for second place was the team of Bob Harper, The Club at Emerald Hills, Justin DeLaski, Liquid Ag Systems, and Ed Gifford and Ed Kenny from Martin Downs CC. Longest Drive this year went to Brigid Braun, Precision Labs, on hole No. 13.

As usual, one of the highlights of the day was the raffle that was held immediately following the delicious lunch in the Clubhouse. The golfers have always supported this fund-raising event with just about every player purchasing raffle tickets.

Another great tradition at this fund-raiser was also a big success thanks to the generosity of Brian MacCurrach and Bayer Environmental Sciences for the Power Pak Auction that saw John Gallagher (first place winner) out bid his friends and peers to win the package of products offered this year with a bid of \$4,700! Bayer donates the entire proceeds to the PBGCSA and the charities they support. This is the fourth year of the program that sees Brian holding similar auctions at



*Mark Kann on the job for IFAS as the Turf Research Coordinator at the new Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra, FL just south of Gainesville. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

the Blue Pearl Tournament in Treasure Coast as well as the Missing and Exploited Children Tournament played in the South Florida chapter area.

This year's tournament brought in more than \$40,000. After expenses, the PBGCSA will donate the profits to turfgrass research and scholarship programs. Please see our sponsor thank-you ad for the people and companies that made this possible. Also see the results of our 5th Annual PBGCSA Fishing Tournament elsewhere in this section.

**RIDGE**

Generally "No news is good news," but you know with this bunch that they are up to something, and really it's usually good. Those Ridge Runners tend to stay under the radar. We do know that Tom Barnett will be their new external vice president serving as a director on the Florida GCSA board. We also know that they have been working very hard with the new First Tee Facility in Lakeland. They are just strong silent types. Wink. Wink.

**SEVEN RIVERS**

Congratulations to Mark Kann on his new position as turfgrass research coordinator at the G.C. Horn Field Turf Laboratory at the IFAS Plant Science Research and Education Center. That is university-speak for superintendent of grounds, which just happens to include three of the most important holes of golf in Florida, a nine-hole putting course and acres and acres of turf plots that hold great importance to all of us. We saw Mark in his new role at the IFAS Field Day and Grand Opening in July.



*North Florida GCSA member Mike Shields from the Naval Air Station GC in Jacksonville, placed fifth in the 18-49 age group at the BASF People vs The Pros tournament at Pinehurst in August. Photo courtesy of BASF.*

**SOUTH FLORIDA**

Congratulations to our traveling golf team as it once again dominated the state's golf events; this time taking the Crowfoot Open individual and team titles. Individual winner Seth Strickland then partnered with teammate Howard Hulesbosch to capture the new Golf Shoot Out held the day following the Crowfoot. But that is history and now we gear up for our big annual Missing and Exploited Children's tournament at Dale Kuehner's Colony West CC in October. We wish Jim Walker, our external vice president and FGCSA membership chairman a speedy recovery from his recent medical procedures.

**SUNCOAST**

We are busy keeping our eye on a new proposed fertil-

izer ordinance that would drastically reduce the nutrients and number of applications allowed on turfgrass. Thanks to George Cook for taking a leadership role in attending these meetings. We also appreciate Dr. Laurie Trenholm from the University of Florida for making factual best management practice presentations to the Sarasota County Commission on numerous occasions.

**TREASURE COAST**

This year's Blue Pearl was a fantastic success according to TCGCSA President Harry Hanson. He gave high praise to host superintendent Mark Heater and the Loxahatchee Club staff. The winners, besides local area turf and environmental programs, were Terry Kallam, Tom Phillips, David Tandy and Richard Green in the Gross Division. Best sandbaggers





Reprising their FGCSA Officer roles one more time are from the left: Vice President Matt Taylor, CGCS; President Craig Weyandt and Past President Joe Pantaleo. Not pictured: New Secretary/Treasurer Shane Bass, CGCS, who was on the road hurrying home to meet his brand new baby son Ethan. Photo by Joel Jackson

were Bill Lanthier, Roy McDonald, Bob Markut and Matthew Boyd. See our sponsor thank-you ad for a list of those companies who help us make a difference in our communities.

Things got even better for the Blue Pearl bottom line when Greg Pheneger from the Johns Island Club outbid his friends and peers, especially Ralph Dain from Myacoo Lakes CC for the Bayer Power Pak Auction package with a bid of \$5,100! That's \$9,800 to date that Bayer's Brian MacCurrach has donated back to the chapters this year to raise and there's still the SFGCSA Missing & Exploited tournament left in October. Thanks, Brian. Thanks, Bayer.

#### WEST COAST

After a very busy spring and a relatively quiet summer, we are looking forward to our 43rd Annual Bud Quandt Tournament over at Bill Kistler's Tampa Palms CC in October. This is our big fund-

raiser and we are looking forward to seeing everyone for a day of golf and fun.

#### FGCSA

At our Annual Meeting in July, the board approved a second term in office for the current President Craig Weyandt, Vice President Matt Taylor, CGCS and Immediate Past President Joe Pantaleo for two reasons. (1) Incoming Vice President Greg Kriesch decided that due to work responsibilities that for the good of the association he should resign from the board and (2) Since we are in the midst of enacting several of the strategic planning initiatives begun last year, it would be advantageous to keep experienced people on the board. The one addition will be Shane Bass, CGCS as the new secretary/treasurer.

Please see the Research Section to read about all the projects that the FGCSA in cooperation with our allied turf associations is funding.



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**FTGA CONFERENCE AND SHOW**

# Inspirational Speaker, New Executive Director Highlight Annual Show

There was nothing usual about this year's Florida Turfgrass Conference and Show at the Hyatt Coconut Point in Bonita Spring Sept. 12-15. Last year's staff was gone: Amanda Flenghi moved to New Mexico and Susan Feeney went back to school. Up stepped Mike Smith and Tom Wells to help run the FTGA office and help guide yet another conference and trade show to a successful completion.

Meanwhile the FTGA board formed a search committee to look for a qualified executive director to establish continuity and growth to the association's programs and goals. After defining the role, scope, competencies, goals and measurements of the position, the committee advertised the job. The committee received more than 44 resumes.

Jan Beljan, a member of the committee, reported to the summer board meeting that she was "blown away" by the experience and accomplishments of the whole field of candidates. Boiling down so many impressive candidates to four or five was not easy. After the face-to-face interviews, the committee offered the job to Casey Wohl Pace, a native of Sebring. We have published her resume to catalog the work she has done and the skills she brings to the FTGA.

Certainly introducing a new executive director was not business as usual at the FTGA conference, but the



*Made a quadriplegic following a car crash six years ago, keynote speaker Scott Burrows, son of former FGCSA President Tom Burrows, gave a dynamic and emotional presentation on overcoming the fears that cripple all of us. His message was validated as he rose from his wheelchair and finished his talk while walking about the stage. Photos by Joel Jackson.*

educational sessions were superlative — from the pesticide applicators license sessions to the specific problem-solving seminars on turfgrass. And that is normal for this event.

OK, I lied, the corn boil

*...the corn boil was great as usual, and the fishing tournament was bigger and better than last year and the Bay Island and Marsh Courses at Bonita Bay West were immaculate with the greens rolling fast and true...*

golf tournament.

Perhaps the next most unusual aspect of the conference was Scott Burrows, son of former FGCSA President Tom Burrows and keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon. By the end of his presentation, there were few dry eyes in the audience. A quadriplegic following a terrible car accident in 1984, Burrows talked from his wheelchair about overcoming the fears of failure that limit the human spirit and keep us from achieving the things we want most in life, including success in our personal and professional lives.

After six years of rehabilitation, Burrows has regained the use of his arms and he propelled himself around the stage. But then came the most amazing thing. As he scooted to the edge of his wheelchair seat, the audience gasped and leapt to its feet as this courageous young man rose to his feet and walked — albeit awkwardly — as he delivered the rest of his presentation.

was great as usual, and the fishing tournament was bigger and better than last year and the Bay Island and Marsh Courses at Bonita Bay West were immaculate with the greens rolling fast and true for those in the annual



## 13th Annual Treasure Coast GCSA's Blue Pearl

# Charity Golf Tournament



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Special thanks to Mark Heater and the Loxahatchee Club for hosting this event

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**2006-07  
Officers**

*Newly elected FTGA officers and new executive director, from left: Todd Himmelberger, secretary/treasurer; Darren Davis, vice president; Jay McCord, president; Matt Taylor, CGCS, immediate past president; and Casey Pace, executive director. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

In the final film clip, he was shown skiing down mountain slopes in Colorado. He plays golf and SCUBA dives. He is a member of the Million Dollar Council in insurance sales, a status reached by only 6 percent of his peers. He has written a book, “Conversations on Success,” and is a regular on the motivational speaking circuit.

Burrows reminded the audience that his return to near normal came at the price of six years of hard work, numerous setbacks and reassessments of his rehabilitation efforts.

He broke down his message to those who might wish to change their lives into three basic parts: Vision, Mindset and Grit. Like any goal or level of success you

must have a vision or dream of what you want. Then you must have a plan and stick to it. Your mindset does not mean set in your ways, it means having the ability to resist and not be consumed by anger when the original plan doesn’t go smoothly. Adapt, change, create Plan B but keep moving toward the goal. The road to get there just became a different path from the one you had imagined. And that will take grit and determination as in Burrows’s case more than 2,190 days of monotonous repetitive exercises to restore the brain-to-muscle communication system.

Burrows certainly put things into perspective for anyone willing to listen. We are all faced with problems, challenges or whatever you



*Erica Santella, left, regional technical director for TruGreen-Chemlawn and past president (1999-2000) of the FTGA, was presented the 2006 Wreath of Grass Award by another past president, Mark Jarrell, CGCS, for her leadership and advocacy for the turf industry. Santella has made numerous presentations to various city and county commission meetings where anti-turf ordinances are being proposed. Photo by Joel Jackson.*