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COVER STORY: THE FALLS CC

The magnificent falls at The Falls Country Club are the club's trademark, but its biggest attraction may be an equally magnificent avian population, including a female snow goose who winters at the course every year.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS

An invitation to address an environmental-issues group on Shell Point's achieving certification in environmental planning and water management by Audubon International gave Mike Mongoven, CGCS, the impetus to learn one of the most useful tools in his computer: Power Point.

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HANDS ON: TREE PROGRAM

Architect Bobby Weed removed 800 trees when he renovated Timuquana CC in Jacksonville in 1996. That made only a slight dent in the forest that had grown up in and around the 1923 Donald Ross classic. With determination and fact-based persuasion, superintendent Chris Neff has convinced the club to remove more trees in a long-term tree-management program.

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An essay by a noted hydrologist points out how a lawsuit in Illinois involving atrazine may seriously threaten the nation's food supply... and turfgrass may be next.

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STEWARDSHIP: ENHANCING WILDLIFE HABITAT

Enhancing wildlife habitat on your golf course can actually enhance playability and golfer enjoyment if you think through the issues carefully and follow some sensible guidelines.

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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.

Summer 2006 - Managing Vertebrate Pests: Alligators to Moles

Fall 2006 - GPS: Bell, Whistle or Tool?

Winter 2007 - Fertility Programs - Using Organics

Spring 2007 - Nematode Management without Nema-cur

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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Don't you just love spring? The temperatures have warmed up and grass is growing consistently again, the birds are singing, only to be drowned out by the sound of hammers and construction equipment re-building the members' clubhouse that got destroyed in the hurricanes of 2004. Yes, you are not in that boat alone.

Like many others we are still recovering from the storms in 2004 and '05. I do hope everyone has recovered as best as possible. Just

Get Proactive On Fertilizer Regulation

think, it won't be long and you will be able to sit back and reflect on how you and your staff were able to overcome these challenges to make a terrific golfing season.

Speaking of challenges, another storm is brewing out there and it's not a hurricane.

This ill wind is coming from the activists who always blame golf courses and lawns for pollution. The recent trend is to blame phosphorus and nitrate pollution on turfgrass fertilizers. Ok, it's not new but you know what I mean. I'm hearing and seeing stories of county officials trying to ban synthetic fertilizers, trying to ban soluble fertilizers, trying to ban fertilizers totally.

We have to remind them again and again that properly applied fertilizers do not leach. Present them with the facts and help dispel the myths. Tell them how you really do it. Remind them that it is a business and that wasteful practices just don't make sense. Tell them how you properly apply products and do so with restraint in regards to water bodies and potential weather events. Tell them how you send in soil samples to labs that and match your fertilizer to the needs of your soils. Tell them how you watch the weather. I haven't met a superintendent yet who couldn't tell me the weather forecast for the next few days.

We have to know this information. It's our job. The problem is that most people don't know that we know and what we do.

You can sit back and wait until this blows over and try to repair the damage after it has been done. Remember the hurricanes? Or maybe, just maybe, you can do something about it. You know, take a little pre-

In other words, don't just talk the talk, but walk the walk. There are 67 counties and 440 municipalities out there that potentially could make laws regulating fertilizer use. Let's be proactive and combine our efforts to let everyone know about the true positive benefits of golf courses.

ventive action.

When you hear someone talking about all the alleged misuse of fertilizers and pesticides on golf courses or home lawns, or see a one-sided newspaper article, correct them! Write a letter to the editor. Tell the facts. If you have kids, go to their schools and talk to the students and teachers; get involved in the Audubon Program. Go to your local chapter meeting. Continue your education and reach out and educate others as well.

In other words, don't just talk the talk, but walk the walk. There are 67 counties and 440 municipalities out there that potentially could make laws regulating fertilizer use. Let's be proactive and combine our efforts to let everyone know about the true positive benefits of golf courses.



Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President

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Calusa GCSA's Greg Kriesch presents Jennifer Benton of the Abuse Counseling and Treatment Center of Lee County with a check for \$1,500 from the Calusa Christmas Tournament.

CHAPTER ROUNDUP
Winter's The Season of Hyperactivity

CALUSA

On Dec. 6, the Calusa CGCSA held its third annual Christmas charity golf tournament at Kelly Greens Country Club in Fort Myers. The CGCSA is comprised of golf course superintendents from Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Collier counties. As in the past, all proceeds from the tournament were donated to the Abuse Counseling and Treatment Center of Lee County Inc. ACT provides safe shelter, food and clothing for the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and their children. ACT also attempts to break the cycle of violence through educational programs in local schools and in our community. This year the Calusa GCSA was able to raise \$1,750. External Vice

President Greg Kriesch presented the check to Jennifer Benton of ACT at the conclusion of the event.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Tom Alex, director of golf and grounds of the Grand Cypress Resort,

was the guest speaker at our annual FTGA Research Tournament held at the Interlachen CC. The event has raised over \$60,000 for turf research over the years. The team of Nancy Henderson and John Lammrsh from LPGA International Club in Daytona Beach repeated as tournament winners.

Chapter President Chris Cartin hosted our annual superintendent/vendor meeting and golf tournament in February. The event took on a new name in honor of Duane Camps, who died last April. Duane was a sales rep from WescoTurf, the local Toro



In March, more than 50 Central Florida technicians and superintendents toured three local golf course equipment maintenance operations. Photo by Frank Eckert.

distributor. The event was renamed the Duane Camps Supt/Vendor Shootout. It was then altogether fitting and touching when Duane's son won the special Long Drive contest sponsored by Lake Masters and Mike Martin, and he also teamed up with Alaqua CC superintendent Jay Buccelato to win the Low Gross division in the Shoot-out. After golf and over a chicken wing dinner, the band Supt Up performed a song list of classic rock tunes.

Congratulations go out to Bob Karnes of Disney for pulling down a 2005 ELGA Merit Award in the Resorts Division up in Atlanta at the GCSAA Conference.

Our chapter and the Central Florida TESTA association of Equipment Technicians co-hosted a shop tour of three golf courses in March. A group of over fifty technicians and superintendents visited Orange Lake, Orange County National and Grande Lakes shops. Each stop was sponsored in order by Coastal Equipment/John Deere, Toro Dealers and Jacobsen dealers. The tour has grown in scope and size each year.



It was a repeat victory at the 2006 Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament for Nancy Henderson and John Lammrsh, CGCS from the LPGA International Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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The Supt Up Band, aka Uncle Freddy, entertained players and guests following the Central Florida supt/vendor “Duane Camps Shoot-out” at the Tuscawilla C.C. Band members from left: Steve Kulka, Mike Dean, John Kopak, Brett Harris and Steve Kress. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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SPOTLIGHT



Notables at the Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament from left: FTGA Vice President Jay McCord; host superintendent Stu Leventhal, Interlachen C.C.; guest speaker Tom Alex, Grand Cypress Resort; and CFGCSA President Chris Cartin, Tusawilla C.C. Photo by Joel Jackson



Bob Karnes, Walt Disney World (second from left), received an Environmental Leaders in Golf Merit Award in the Resort Division at the GCSAA Conference in Atlanta. The presenters, from left, GCSAA Director Mark Kuhns, CGCS, Barbara Booth, Golf Division director for Rainbird and Syngenta's Joe DiPaola. Photo by Joe DiPaola.

COASTAL PLAINS

Don Glaser hosted our January meeting at the Capitol City CC. Jeff Heggen did the honors in March at his Hilaman Park GC.

EVERGLADES

Our members kicked off the 2006 educational calendar by attending the FTGA Regional Seminar at the TECO Arena in January and then trekking up to Atlanta for the GIS. We held a joint meeting with the Calusa chapter in March at Edison College to visit Dr. Lee Berndt's golf operations program. In April we will have our annual Spring Symposium and Matt Taylor has lined up another spectacular lineup of speakers. We are also in full action

mode getting ready for the Poa Annuia Classic in May at the Naples Beach Club. Meanwhile Bill Davidson is planning to leverage our second appearance in the Naples St. Patrick's Day parade into another positive public relations event.

NORTH FLORIDA

Thanks to Paul Hammrick for organizing our chapter volunteers to work for NBC Sports covering the TPC Championship. March will be a busy month as Glen Klauk will be hosting our annual Research Tournament at Pablo Creek CC on the 13th. Then in April we will all gather at our annual Mike Richards Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC.

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improved pest resistance. And while it might green up a little later than some bermudas come spring, once it takes off it's very aggressive. Many superintendents feel this is a big plus when they're dealing with fluctuating spring temperatures. TifSport. Specify it by name for your new course or renovation project.

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PALM BEACH

We fielded a team of spotters and scorers to work with NBC Sports to broadcast the Honda Classic at Mirasol. March will be a busy month with our monthly meeting at Aberdeen CC and the South Florida Turf Expo a few days later. Plenty of PDI point opportunities.

We are currently supporting a membership drive by the Palm Beach Equipment Technicians Association. Encourage your technician to join. Contact Hass Mengloi, president at 561-541-9140 or 561-951-3767 or email to hassmengloi@adelphia.net.

RIDGE

The Ridge Invitational

was held March 6 at the Grassland CC. Thanks Roy Wilshire, CGCS for another great event.

SEVEN RIVERS

President Mark Kann hosted the third FGCSA Assistant Superintendent Seminar at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River in February. Tom Ginnetti and Ed Suarez from Intergrated Employer Resources, Inc. teamed up to give morning and afternoon sessions on hiring, communications, interviewing and leadership topics.

SOUTH FLORIDA

Our “spring thing” as always is a busy March with Doral Open — oops, I mean the Ford Championship at Doral — and Jim and Susi

Walker rounding up a team of spotters to work with NBC Sports. Tiger hung on for a repeat victory as a windy Blue Monster had the pros chipping out from behind the banyan trees. And soon after the tournament we will be hosting the South Florida Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Research and Education Station in Ft. Lauderdale.

SUNCOAST

Thanks to Renze Berg and the Bradenton CC for hosting our January Superintendent/Vendor Appreciation Day meeting and to Mel Hallack of Golf Ventures for the great barbecue spread. Mike McCulloch is ready for our return to Jacaranda West CC for the

2006 Suncoast Scramble in March. This is one of our major turf research fundraisers and we appreciate everyone’s support. We will be changing the site of our annual meeting and chapter championship to Imperial Lakewoods GC since Bob Gwodz will be busy with a reconstruction project at our traditional venue at the Sara Bay CC.

TREASURE COAST

First we are happy to report that we retained possession of the Cavanaugh & Wagner Cup from our joint meeting and golf match with the Palm Beach Chapter. Thanks Rob Kloska for hosting the event once again at Jupiter Island. Our January meeting was a dinner

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