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#### INDUSTRY/USGA UPDATE: TURF PROGRAM AT FT. MYERS

From its modest beginnings in 1997, Dr. Lee Berndt has developed a very respectable program in teaching, extension and research at Edison Community College in Ft. Myers to support golf courses in southwest Florida.

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### The Florida Green SUMMER 2006

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**EDITORIAL:** All inquiries should be directed to the editor, Joel Jackson, CGCS. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs cannot be returned.

#### **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.

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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.

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

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by LASTEC

Today I had a great meeting with my staff. We all assembled in the break room to discuss ways that we could improve our operation. I also wanted to remind everyone of what I expected of them and re-enforce my goal of having everyone look forward to coming to work.

Communication is the KEY to SUCCESS I have this revolutionary notion that there is no good reason that one shouldn't happy at his job. If your staff doesn't enjoy it, then why would they do it? Please don't say it is for the money because there are way too many jobs out there that your staff members could be doing that pay as much — if not more than

- golf course maintenance.

I have staff members from Mexico, Nicaragua, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Columbia and even such exotic places as Buffalo, NY. Even with our language barriers we are able to communicate. Sometimes our communication is not always the best but we know how important it is to effectively communicate. It is the common thread that binds us together and allows us to accomplish our task; which is to produce a well-maintained golf course with an emphasis on environmental stewardship.

> Yes, even in this time-starved and information-overloaded era, communication is more important then ever. It is even more important today to effectively communicate with your staff, your green committee chairman, general manager and most important – your members.

But I'm always amazed when I talk with fellow superintendents about how their course is doing. I will talk about mole cricket problems or fairy ring that I have on my greens and it will just happen to be the same problem or problems that they have. It is from this communication that I often find a new control strategy or

product to assist in my pest problem. If nothing else, I find out that I am not alone.

Well tomorrow I head down to the Loxahatchee Club for the Blue Pearl Charity golf tournament hosted by the Treasure Coast GCSA. The Blue Pearl raises funds for children and environmental awareness in the Treasure Coast area. While I am pleased to be able to support one of the many fine charitable golf events Good communication takes effort, but the rewards are worth it... I'm glad I had the opportunity to communicate the issues and our goals and accomplishments with you in these messages. Thanks to the board for its support and our staff for their hard work. See you at the Florida Turfgrass Conference in September where we can do some more communicating one on one.

that superintendent's host throughout the state, I look forward most to the communications I'll have with other golf industry professionals.

The point is, what they say is true; growing grass is sometimes the easy part of our jobs. Communication is the key to being successful over the long run. And my run as FGCSA president will be coming to an end on July 29 at the annual meeting in Orlando. In my president's messages I've tried to communicate the importance of your participation in the association and what we are doing on the issues facing our industry.

Good communication takes effort, but the rewards are worth it. From a crew working together to groom a golf course to building cooperative turfgrass research efforts with our allied associations, we'd be nowhere without communicating effectively.

There is always room for improvement in the association and we can make it better with your input, so won't you please communicate with us?

It's been a privilege to serve as president of the Florida GCSA this past year. I won't miss the publication deadlines in the Florida Green and the Green Sheet, but I'm glad I had the opportunity to communicate the issues and our goals and accomplishments with you in these messages. Thanks to the board for its support and our staff for their hard work. See you at the Florida Turfgrass Conference in September where we can do some more communicating one on one.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Craig Weyandt* FGCSA President

The 24th Annual Suncoast Scramble



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#### SPOTLIGHT

#### CHAPTER ROUND UP

### The Beat Goes On

Our chapters keep up the busy pace providing meetings, outings, education and worthy fundraisers all the while dealing with transition and alternating hot dry and wet weather this past spring. Now we're just entering the dreaded hurricane season. Let's hope we defy the odds miss the big ones this year.

#### CALUSA

May's meeting was at Maple Leaf Golf & CC; host superintendent was Nancy Miller; we had a turn out of 30 guest and members. Jim Mendenhall of Squamata Reptiles was our guest speaker. Jim displayed a variety of snakes and taught us the differences between poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. All in all it was an excellent presentation. On June 28 we will be holding our annual meeting and election of officers at Cypress Lakes Country Club. Host superintendent is Jeff Doyal. Laurie Frutchey will be host for our July meeting at the Lexington County Club, and Rick Cirino will host our August meeting and annual Yellow Ball tournament at the Deep Creek Golf Club. We will name the date and location for our big September fundraiser - The Super-Pro-Supplier — Tournament at a later date.

#### **CENTRAL FLORIDA**

This was the second year we hosted the Florida regional qualifier for the BASF's The People vs. The Pros Ultimate Championship. John Lammrish, CGCS and



Morning session speakers at the Everglades GCSA Spring Symposium included, from left, Dr. Bob Carrow, Univ. of Georgia; Dr. Lane Treadway, NC State; and our own Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the LGPA International Golf Club were the hosts. This year the event was opened to fourman teams from all 12 local chapters. This year's winners in both the Under 49 (Mike Shields from the U.S. Naval Air Station G.C.) and Over 49 (Dana Anderson, Magnolia Point G&CC) divisions were from the North Florida Chapter. Mike and Jason will be headed for Pinehurst, NC in August to compete with other qualifiers from around the country for a spot to play head to head against Retief Goosen and Gary McCord. Thanks to BASF for sponsoring an event that showcases superintendents and the work they do.

Jason Moore, Harmony Preserve GC, will host our annual Chapter Golf Championship in June, and July will herald the 30th edition of the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open. This year's agenda has changed to require less away time for attendees. The tournament and awards luncheon will be on Saturday, July 29th. For those wishing to make a weekend out of it, a nine-hole shoot out and a fishing tournament will be held Sunday morning. All events will be at the Grand Cypress Golf Resort.

#### **COASTAL PLAINS**

We meet the second Tuesday of each month. Our upcoming meetings will be: June: Killearn Country Club, James Evans GCS; July: Wildwood Golf Course, Steve Diffenbaugh; August: Golf Club of Summerbrook, John McGhee, GCS; October: Southwood Golf Club, Eddie Snipes, CGCS; November: St. James Bay Golf Club, Shane Bass, CGCS.

We are talking about dissolving our chapter and possibly joining the North Florida GCSA. We are contemplating this action because we will never have enough Class A members to affiliate with GCSAA and take advantage of their resources. We had talked to the Gulf Coast GCSA in the Panhandle, but they are not members of the Florida GCSA and we didn't want to sever that relationship.

#### **EVERGLADES**

Spring is always busy in Southwest Florida beginning with our Spring Symposium in April. Matt Taylor did a bang-up job of booking a host of speakers for this daylong education conference: Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS – Gadgets and Gizmos for the Superintendent; Dr. Bob Carrow, UGA – Reality Check



EGCSA Symposium notables in the afternoon session, from left, speakers John Foy, USGA; Gary Grigg, CGCS/MG, Grigg Brothers Fertilizer; EGCSA Education Chairman Matt Taylor, CGCS; and Dr. Davis Daiker, Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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fine sponsors for their support of the 14th Annual Jeff Hayden-Envirotron Classic hosted by the Seven Rivers GCSA.

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#### SPOTLIGHT

for New Products and Technologies; Dr. Lane Treadway, NCSU – Diseases and Other Problems on Ultradwarf Turfgrasses. In the afternoon John Foy, USGA, gave a statewide turf update followed by Gary Grigg, CGCS/MA – Foliar Fertigation and Dr. Davis Daiker – Arsenic Issues on Golf Courses.

Another successful Poa Annua Classic took place this past May at the Naples Beach Hotel. The new dual format of medal play at Bill Davidson's Naples Grande Course and scramble play at the Beach Club has allowed more people to play golf and enjoy the weekend. Proceeds from this event allows the chapter to donate \$5,000 annually to the FGCSA and GCSAA.

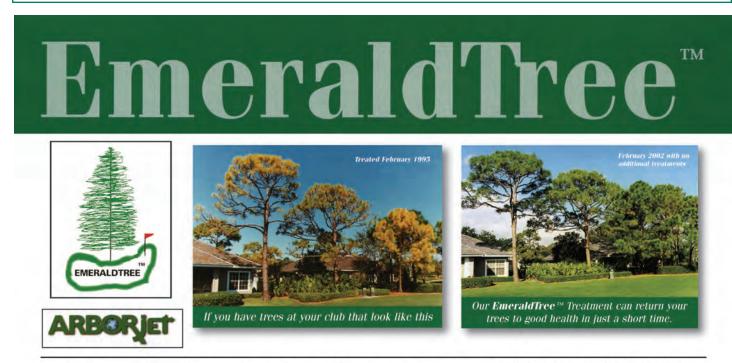
Stephen Fox from the

Ocean Reef GC on Key Largo was a repeat winner and his fellow South Florida GCSA teammates, Jason Bagwell, Bob Harper, Kelly Cragin and Seth Strickland, took the Chapter Team trophy. By virtue of his victory Fox has earned the first spot on the FGCSA Golf Team to compete at the GCSAA Championship in Palm Springs, Cal., in February.

Gentle breezes, lively music and good food at the traditional "Luau on the Lawn" put a nice finish to a weekend of meetings, education, networking, golf and family fun. Named the Poa Annua Classic in 1975, this event has been held since 1970 when it began as a golf grudge match between the Everglades Chapter and the South



Phil Donahoo from BASF, right, presents Mike Shields, superintendent of the Naval Air Station GC in Jacksonville with the first-place trophy for the Under 49 division in BASF's The People vs. The Pros Championship held at the LPGA International in April. Mike will have an opportunity to qualify for a spot to play Retief Goosen in an elimination tournament in Pinehurst, NC in August. Dana Anderson winner of the Over 49 division will also go to Pinehurst to try to play Gary McCord in the senior division. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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#### SPOTLIGHT

Florida Chapter. Our next big event will be our annual Vendor Appreciation Day in June at Naples Grande.

On the serious side, members Tim Hiers, Matt Taylor and Darren Davis are actively involved in representing area golf clubs in discussions with the Naples City Council on proposed new rules governing the use of fertilizers and pesticides. The focus is on water quality in Naples Bay. The EGCSA wants to ensure that local leaders are using good science and common sense in their deliberations.

#### NORTH FLORIDA

First, thanks to all the volunteers who helped as NBC



From left, North Florida GCSA President Lon Chatfield with the 2006 Memorial Scholarship winners: Cameron Warner, Christopher Maynard and William Ray. Also present was John Piersol director of the Golf and Landscape Operations Program at Lake City Community College. Photo by Joel Jackson.

spotters for the 2006 TPC tour event. We raised \$2,800 for the chapter. Two big fundraisers

transpire in our region in



Greg Tharp, CGCS, left, superintendent at the Jacksonville G & CC, was named the 2006 Greenkeeper of the Year by NFGCSA President Lon Chatfield at this year's Memorial Tournament at Tharp's club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the spring – the Annual Turf Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Golf Club and the North Florida Memorial Scholarship Tourament at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. The Memorial is held in honor of Mike Richards, who worked with Tresca Industries and Alan MacCurrach, who was a PGA Tour Agronomist. Both were vital resources for North Florida members.

This year's scholarship winners: Cameron Warner, who works at The Ravines Golf Club (\$1,000), Chris Maynard from the Timuquana CC (\$1,000). Both of these students attend the Golf Operations program at Lake City Community College. William Ray, who worked at Alltel Stadium and attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Additionally our chapter donated \$1,000 for scholarships to the LCCC Equipment Technicians Program. John Piersol and his staff will select a deserving student(s) in this program to receive these funds.

At the Memorial we also salute someone who has a long record of service to our chapter. This year Greg Tharp, CGCS, who has hosted this event for the past six years, was named Greenkeeper of the Year for his enduring service to the NFGCSA.



Thank you sponsors for helping us to bring friends and family to the Poa Annua Classic for over 30 years.

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Joel Jackson, FGCSA Director of Communications was on hand to review current issues facing our industry.

#### PALM BEACH

June is the month where the question "How low did you shoot?" turns to "How big was your fish?" as our chapter hosts it's annual fishing tournament. June is also the month for our big FGCSA Future of Golf tournament at Steve Pearson's The Falls CC. Thanks Steve for hosting this event year after year. You and your club do a great job to help us raise funds for Junior Golf, charities and turf research.

Thanks to the Bayer Power Pak Auction hosted by Brian MacCurrach at The Future of Golf Tournament, John Gallagher's winning bid of \$4,700 will be donated to the PBGCSA and the charities it supports. This is the first of three auctions that will be held in Brian's territory. The auction, which begins its fourth year, has raised more than \$37,000 for the Palm Beach, Treasure Coast and South Florida GCSA chapters. The Treasure Coast/Blue Pearl auction was to be held in June at the Loxahatchee CC and Brian hopes to go

well over the \$40,000 mark at that time. Meanwhile Gallagher was a double winner as his team also won the tournament. In the Bayer Power Pak, Gallagher picked up 10 bags of TopChoice and a case each of Allectus GC SC, Chipco Signature, Revolver, 26 GT, ProStar and Finale.

Special thanks to those PBGCSA members who gave up their free time to work for NBC at the Honda Classic. It's good PR for the chapter and our profession and it's also worth PDI service points. We'd also like to welcome the following new members to the chapter: Amy Volk Flowers, DGCM at Hunters Run: Charlie Hamblin, superintendent at Hunters Run, Steven Antal, superintendent at Kings Point and Scott Chastain, assistant superintendent at the C.C. at Mirasol.

Boca Rio superintendent Bob Randquist, CGCS, who is currently a GCSAA Director has announced his plans to run for re-election at the GCSAA annual meeting in Anaheim in 2007. We hope all of you will support Bob in his upcoming campaign. He is a worthy candidate who brings vision, focus and reason to the GCSAA Board of Directors.

#### **SEVEN RIVERS**

Once again we were able to raise significant funds for turf research at the 2006 Jeff Hayden-Envirotron Classic at World Woods this past April. Many thanks to the tireless efforts of our sponsors, committee members and volunteers and the staff at World Woods that help make this worthwhile event possible. We pay special thanks to Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen for their generous support of this event as presenting sponsors. We will be expanding the use of these funds to include funding of research at the new University of Florida/IFAS Pine Acres Research Facility.

The SRGCSA will be holding its annual meeting June 6 at Candler Hills GC in Ocala. Andy Jorgensen will be our host for the meeting. We will not be holding a July Meeting due to the UF Field Day July 19, which will be the grand opening of the new Pine Acres Research Facility.

We held our May meeting at Haile Plantation in Gainesville. Joe Holden was our host and Dale Gardner, publisher of *Golfweek's Super News* was our guest speaker. A few waited out the rain that day and made it around the course for an enjoyable round.

Congratulations to our four-man scramble team for winning first place at the Poa Tournament in Naples. The team consisted of Mike McNeil, Rich Herber, Mike Swinson, and myself.

On a personal note, I will be assuming the position of turfgrass research coordinator at Pine Acres. Jan Weinbrecht will be retiring at the end of July, and I will be following in his footsteps.

> *Mark Kann* President SRGCSA.

#### **SOUTH FLORIDA**

We just hosted our big regional Turf Expo in Ft. Lauderdale. See the summary elsewhere in the Spotlight section. In April Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, assistant professor of agronomy UF/IFAS gave a presentation titled "Looking Ahead. Enhanced Management Through Breeding" at our meeting at Bill McKee's Oak Tree CC. We tee it up at John Anderson's Weston Hills CC in May and in June we make our annual trek to the Keys for our meeting at the Ocean Reef Resort where Jim Mendenhall

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