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Stephen Fox from the Ocean Reef Club on Key Largo was the repeat winner of the low gross trophy at the Poa Annua Classic. Fox earns a berth on the FGCSA Golf Team for the 2007 GCSAA Golf Championship with this victory.

and his team from Squamata Reptiles will put on their snake show. This is the fourth chapter meeting they have been to.

Congratulations to Alan Weitzel, recipient of the 2006 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award. Alan was a preeminent leader of our chapter during the days of the formation of the state-wide Florida GCSA. Thanks to his vision and leadership the formation of the state association moved forward. It was also during Alan's watch that the South Florida Green magazine was ceded to the state association. Alan knew that it could be a tool for uniting and educating superintendents around the state on common issues. Alan continued his involvement in



From left: FGCSA President Craig Weyandt accepts a \$27,000 donation from South Florida GCSA President Kelly Cragin at the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples. The proceeds from the South Florida Turf Expo generate these funds for the salary for a technician to maintain the research plots at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the golf industry as director of the Miami-Dade Parks and Recreation Department overseeing the municipal courses.

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From left, Jason Bagwell, Westview CC; Bob Harper, Emerald Hills; and Seth Strickland, Miami Shores CC teamed with Steve Fox to capture the 2006 Poa Annuua Team Trophy for the South Florida GCSA.

He has also been instrumental in leading the effort for junior golf programs is South Florida.

SUNCOAST

Thanks to Mike McCulloch and the Jacaranda West CC for hosting our 2006 Suncoast Scramble. Next year will be our 25th anniversary for this fund-



From left, Suncoast President Chip Copeman presents checks for \$2,500 each to the FGCSA and FTGA Turf Research Funds at the 2006 Suncoast Scramble held at Jacaranda West. Photo by Lee Crosby.

raising and networking event. This year we donated \$2,500 each to the FGCSA and FTGA Research Funds.

Thanks also to Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications for his Issues Update and to Jim Mendenhall of Squamata Reptiles for his entertaining and educational presentation on snakes. The king cobra was a real show stopper. Thanks to George Cook for keeping an eye on the government-relations issues in our area. George recently attended a Green Industries Forum dealing with water quality in our waters in relation to fertilizer use on lawns and other turf areas.

TREASURE COAST

One of our key objectives this year has been to provide relevant activities for our members and also let them earn PDI points for their Class A status. In April we hosted two GCSAA Regional Seminars by Dr. Keith Karnok — “Managing Turfgrass Root Systems in the South” in the morning session and



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“Localized Dry Spots” in the afternoon. We will wrap up our major activities with our 13th Annual Blue Pearl Tournament to be held at Mark Heater’s Loxahatchee Club in June. Proceeds from this flagship event provide us with the resources to make contributions to the communities we live in and support the enhancement of the environment.

Next month TCGCSA President Harry Hanson will host the July meeting at his Miles Grant CC. Our speaker will be USGA Florida Region Director John Foy, who will speak about current turf issues in the state.

WEST COAST

Our Benevolent Tournament at Louis Devos’ Wen-

tworth Club raised around \$6,000. Most of these funds will be donated to cover continuing medical expenses for John Chevalier’s wife Christina who continues to recovery from surgery for multiple injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

We held the Chapter Challenge Cup at WCGCSA President Kevin Baldwin’s Diamond Players Club in Clermont and we are looking forward to the Pro/Superintendent event at Cypress Run in August. Besides hosting our Chapter Championship and a U.S. Open Regional Qualifier, Trent Inman of the Old Memorial Golf Club has volunteered to serve on our board of directors. Thanks, Trent, for stepping up.

Congratulations are in



Jim Mendenhall from Squamata Reptiles in Spring Hill has put on four snake education programs for FGCSA local chapters this year. He gets the audience’s attention by wandering around the room with one of his “props.” Photo by Lee Crosby.

order to the Andy Neiswender and Rory Harding families. Andy is a new dad to Rachel Luring Neiswender and Rory welcomes Kendall Marie Harding to the world. Both girls were born in May. Also congrats go out to Greg Plotner, CGCS, Champions Gate G.C. for achieving GCSAA certification as an Environmental Management

Specialist. Greg has been actively involved in all things environmental since his days at Tampa Palms G&CC. This program is open to all GC-SAA members.

FGCSA

We celebrated our Annual Past Presidents Dinner in Naples during the Poa Annu Classic. The guest of honor

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was Alan Weitzel from the South Florida GCSA who was presented with the 2006 Distinguished Service Award.

Several counties and cities are focusing attention on proposals aimed at regulating not only the use of fertilizers on turfgrass but also product formulations and composition. We appreciate the teamwork and input of UF/IFAS and the Allied Associations like the FTGA, Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association and the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative for attending the various meetings around the state and keeping us informed of the outcomes.

FGCSA Director of Communications Jackson has been busy responding to reporters with emails to provide more background

and facts on the recent fertilizer articles in Sarasota as well as a Letter to the Editor in Orlando when a couple once again mistakenly labeled golf courses as big water users. Never let these old wives tales and false statements go unchallenged.

This spring FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson participated in a joint Project Evergreen – GC-SAA public relations effort on radio stations around the country. Jackson appeared on Ocala Live for 30 minutes answering questions about golf and the environment and the game itself.

After a successful restructuring of our reserve funds and budgets, work continues by the various strategic planning committees to forge a



Craig Weyandt, FGCSA president, presents Alan Weitzel with the 2006 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the Past Presidents Dinner during the Poa Annua Classic in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

firm plan of action to guide the association in the coming years. The tedious hard work now will lay a foundation for

tomorrow's leaders to follow and help with the amount of time needed by our volunteer board members.

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Mirasol's Most Popular Pairing



Talk to Tad Altman, superintendent of the Arthur Hills-designed Sunset Course and the Tom Fazio-designed Sunrise Course at the Country Club at Mirasol in Palm Beach Gardens Florida, and you'll get a brand new take on the Honda Classic's most popular pairing. "Most folks think that the thousands of spectators who come out every year, are here to watch the golf, but if you ask me, they come to look at my grass! Our picture perfect TifEagle greens and lush TifSport fairways and roughs are as sweet as Tiger's swing. And equally hard to take your eyes off of."

Altman's specialty is building challenging courses, and the pros love these two. More importantly, so does the membership. And why not? As Altman said in a recent interview, "We could do a PGA tournament here any week of the year, with just a week's notice." Altman comes from a Tifdwarf/Tifway background, but he's sold on the superiority of these two new and improved bermudagrass varieties. "Nothing can touch TifEagle for playability. And I'll put my TifSport tees, fairways and roughs up against anybody's." For more information about these two "UGA Turfgrass Team" releases visit:


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Morning turf plot tours were just one of the highlights of the 19th SFGCSA Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Research Education Center in Ft. Lauderdale. Photo by Dara Park.

SOUTH FLORIDA TURF UPDATE

South Florida Expo Catches A Break Instead of A Breeze

By John Cisar, Ph.D.

Turf field-day season in Florida got off to a great start this year as the 2006 19th Annual South Florida Turf Expo at Ft. Lauderdale RED was a big success again!

This year the Expo caught a break and not a breeze as rains predicted for the day held off until late in the day. The tornado-like winds that had ripped the big-top tent into orbit in 2005 showed up this year in Pompano and spared us in Ft. Lauderdale. The 2006 South Florida Expo had another great turnout from the statewide turf industry with nearly 500 people attending (including *Florida Turf Digest* Publisher Liz Nutter!). A large number of vendors helped to sustain fundraising to support turf research at the FLREC. Turf managers were treated to a fine mixture of statewide turf program updates from IFAS

faculty, and practical industry workshops for mechanics, spray technicians, and irrigation personnel. In addition to vendor-sponsored workshops, demonstrations of equipment were provided by local distributors. Interested parties had the opportunity to compare hardware and be made aware of new technologies and innovations in the industry. The Expo offered numerous CEU opportunities including GCSAA credits and pesticide recertification.

Now an Expo tradition, a fantastic barbecue lunch was generously prepared and provided by Wiley and Nancy McCall of Environmental Turf. Every year the McCalls donate all their time and effort to come down south with their family — this year with their brand-spanking-new, one-of-a-kind, space-aged cooker — and put out the best fresh meal for everyone. The cooker can substitute for a jumbo jet it is

so big! And the food was fantastic. Thank you, Wiley and Nancy and Environmental Turf team!

Keynote addresses were provided by Dr. Billy Crow from UF in Gainesville and Mr. Jeff Michel of Bayer Environmental Sciences. Dr. Crow has an extension component to his job description with responsibilities in turf nematology. It was great to have Billy update us on turf nematodes and control options. Jeff provided a timely update on mole crickets with mole cricket activity heating up in south Florida. Dr. Ron Cherry, entomologist at the Everglades Research and Education Center also provided an afternoon presentation on chinch bugs.

Morning field tours included a visit with Dr. George Snyder, distinguished emeritus professor of soil science, who provided an update on soil-amendment impacts on bermudagrass establishment and maintenance.

Other IFAS Field Day turfgrass faculty presenters included Gainesville faculty, Drs. Billy Crow and Lawrence Datnoff; and FLREC turf faculty, Drs. Phil Busey, Robin Giblin-Davis and Cisar. This year graduate students — Mrs. Dara Park, Mr. Paucic McGroary, and Mrs. Claudia Arrieta — discussed their projects that have south Florida and/or FLREC components.

A featured program highlighted the efforts of some of the faculty of FLREC who do not directly work on turf but have direct relevance to many in our industry. Dr. Kimberly Moore led a tour of the annuals trial garden and Dr. Bill Howard led a discussion on scale insect pests. We

Dr. George Snyder, distinguished emeritus professor of soil science, provided an update on soil-amendment impacts on bermudagrass...

appreciate the efforts of all faculty and industry experts in providing topnotch education and CEU re-certification for our turf industry. A special thank-you is offered to Mike Orfanedes, Extension Agent for Broward County for providing an important update on tree and ornamental plant maintenance pre- and post-hurricane. After last year's hurricane events, there was a lot of interest in this subject matter.

Last but in no way least, we tip our hat to our great supporters from the turf industry who work so hard to all year to put on the south Florida Expo. The Expo is a great fundraiser to support turf research activities in south Florida! Many thanks to all the vendors both old and new and most have been with us since the beginning. Also, many thanks to the South Florida and Palm Beach Chapters of the Florida Golf Course Association and the Sports Turf Managers Association, Florida Chapter No. 1 for all their continuing sponsorship and/or support the Expo. The South Florida chapter is the official sponsor of the Expo and the chapter leads the effort in raising monies and increasing industry participation every year. We deeply appreciate the never-ending effort of SFGCSA President Kelly Cragin to put on a great event. ■

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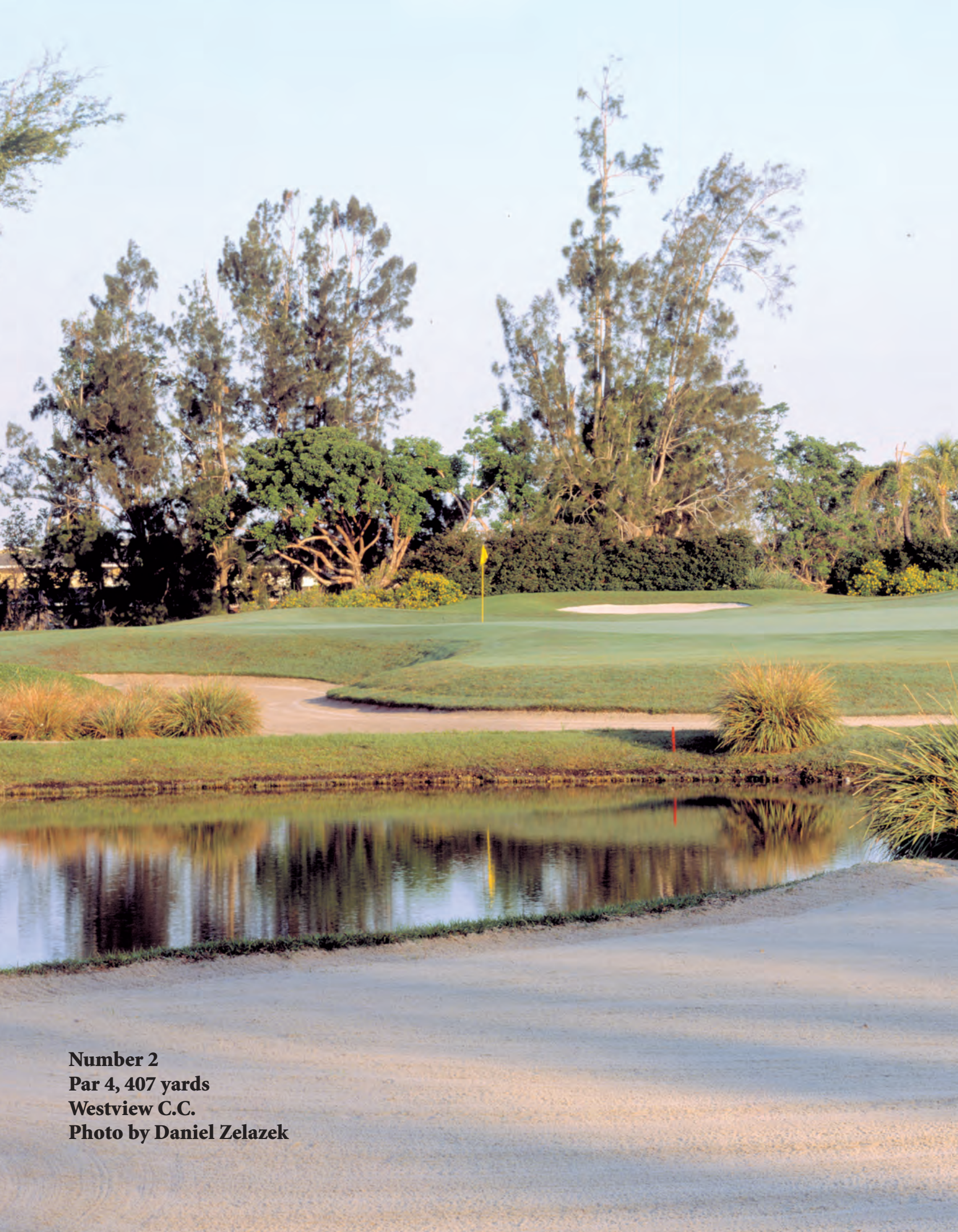
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