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COVER STORY: TPC AT TAMPA BAY

Seventeen years ago golf course architect Bobby Weed and player consultant Chi Chi Rodriguez designed a golf course that was destined to host one of the players' favorite annual events on the Champions Tour, the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am. The course won Chapter Awards for Public Courses in the annual GCSAA and Golf Digest Environmental Leadership in Golf Awards (ELGA) in 2005 and 2006.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: SERVE ON A COMMITTEE

Ever thought of serving on a GCSAA committee? What does it take and how do you go about being picked to serve on one. A veteran GCSAA committee member describes how to apply and what to expect.

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HANDS ON: LIFE WITHOUT NEMACUR

The widely used, industry-standard, chemical nematicide, fenamiphos – distributed by Bayer under the trade name Nematicur – will complete its three-year phase-out May 31.

42

INDUSTRY NEWS: GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

This year's Golf Industry Show Feb. 22-24 in Anaheim, Calif., achieved an all-time high of 23,109 total attendees, surpassing last year's figure in Atlanta by more than 4,000. The FGCSA golf team won the gross division of the national championship.

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INDUSTRY NEWS: OVERSEEDING IRREGULARITIES

Warm temperatures in early winter have had a significant impact on golf course playability. According to USGA agronomist Todd Lowe, overseeding consistency is a factor that the odd weather pattern affected.

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SPRING 2007

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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 2007 - Managing and Scheduling Overtime

Fall 2007 - Cultural Programs During Golf Season

Winter 2008 - In-Season Cultural Programs

Spring 2008 - Seashore Paspalum Update.

Please submit articles via e-mail 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 e-mail 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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If the only folks who show up are the ones against us and our products, how do you think the politicians are going to learn?

Do you watch sports on TV? I do, but not too much. I would rather participate in the sport or activity than watch it. Now I'm not saying that I won't sit and watch hours of the Masters or the super bowl on television, but I just can't seem to sit down and watch a sporting event for any amount of time without falling asleep. Heck, I've even fallen asleep at a Dolphins game but I'm sure you're not too surprised at that.

Now if I'm on the sidelines at one of my kids' sporting events, that's a little different. I watch every play with the enthusiasm of a 5-year old on Christmas morning.

Why? Because I am involved! I keep track

of the score, I cheer for our team and will even wear team colors to show my spirit. I guess I do this because it's a little different... it's closer to home if you know what I mean. I guess I would probably watch more sporting events if it

were a little closer to home, and I were more involved.

Here's an idea for a game that is close to home for all of us: What if you could play a game and the outcome of the game could be determined not only by the team with the best players but by the team with the most spirit. That's right. let's not only let the team play but get the fans involved too... all fans. It's their team against our team and their fans against our fans. Ok, the game is set but do we have to have a prize to play for?

I've got it. How about we play for NemaCur? No, can't do that one; we already lost it. How about we play for MSMA? No, that game is already being played and it's in overtime.

I've got it! Let's play for fertilizer!

What's that, you say? This game has already started! But how can that be? Some of the team members (you) aren't on the field yet? The players on the field are doing their best but we are greatly outnumbered. Most of the fans (your members) don't seem to know about the game at all.

How can we win this game – which will be determined by the involvement of the players and their fans – if we are so out-numbered? This really surprises me because if the team

and fans don't get involved soon, we're going to lose this game too. And it's a home game. I don't know about you, but I would hate to lose the ability to fertilize my home turf with what I need and when I need it.

The contest for the use of fertilizers (quick and slow release) is going on in just about every county in Florida. The fans (our members) don't even know that this is going on and, without their support, it will make it a lot harder for the team to succeed.

And this is not the only game being played. What about phosphorus?

There are counties trying to ban any use of phosphorus. If true, peer-reviewed science were being used, I don't think I would mind so much, but to blindly ban products that can be so important to our business is just wrong. How can the fans (our members) help?

Glad you asked.

Who do you think votes for these city and county commissioners? Who votes for these rules changes? Let them know the facts on turf and fertilizer use. Remind them that playing golf is game, but operating a golf course is a business. Show them the science and ask for their support to counter activists' wild claims at commission meetings and before they go to the polls.

I love analogies and this is the best one I could come up with to ask you to get involved. You don't have to stand on street corners and wave signs or picket city hall. Just educate your members, the folks you see every day on your golf course and ask your general manager to help spread the word to other GMs and you do the same through your superintendent chapter.

Yes, it would definitely help those few road-weary warriors out there who are trying to preserve products that we use every day if you attended some of the stakeholder meetings in your city or county. If the only folks who show up are the ones against us and our products, how do you think the politicians are going to learn? They are going to grease the squeaky wheel. It's time for us (for you) make some noise of our own: "Two bits, four bits, six bits a dollar! All for turfgrass stand up and holler!"

P.S. Just got a call from Coach Bruce Adams over at Team South Florida Water Management District. He wants us to get up a team to play the water restrictions game. Says it's important we show up for the scrimmage. Anyone willing to try out?

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Craig Weyandt
FGCSA President



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CHAPTER ROUND UP
**Classrooms,
 Showrooms,
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CALUSA

Thanks to USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe for his educational presentation in January at Jim Foster's Coral Oaks GC. We took a break in February for the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim. In March, our president, Ryan Willis, will host the meeting at Kings Gate GC. Our speaker will be Dr. Lee Berndt from Edison College, and our April meeting will be at Michael Pritchard's Westminster CC. Thanks to all the superintendents for volunteering to host meetings.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Thanks to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and the Interlachen C.C. for hosting our annual FTGA Research Fund Tournament. Introductory speakers for the business meeting included FTGA President Jay McCord and Executive



**TESTA Tours
 Three Clubs**

During the TESTA Tour, Bay Hill superintendent John Anderson (brown sweater) and equipment manager Albert Sizemore (orange shirt) talk about their equipment fleet and tournament preparations. Brad Reano (left) from Golf Ventures sponsored the Bay Hill stop on the tour. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Equipment managers and technicians from area courses get together to kick tires and talk shop during the 2007 Central Florida Turf Equipment and Service Technicians Association's Bus Tour of Orange Lake, Isleworth and Bay Hill maintenance facilities. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Matt Payne and Hal Richburg, CGCS from the Victoria Hills G.C. in Deland won the Central Florida Research Tournament at the Interlachen C.C. Photo by Joel Jackson.



From left, Joel Jackson, CGCS; Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Interlachen CC.; Jay McCord, FTGA President; and Matt Modica, Down to Earth Landscaping, at the CFGCSA Research Tournament in Winter Park. Photo by Casey Wohl Pace.

Director Casey Wohl Pace. Joel Jackson with the Florida GCSA gave an update on legislative issues and Matt Modica from Down to Earth Landscape gave a talk on the pros and cons on container vs. field-grown trees.

The Central Florida TESTA chapter held its annual maintenance-bus tour in March. Fifty-plus equipment technicians and a few superintendents toured the facilities at the Legends of Orange Lake, Isleworth and Bay Hill. The stops were hosted by John Deere, Toro and Golf Ventures/Jacobsen. Thanks to Chris Cartin for hosting our annual Superintendent-Vendor outing at the Tusawilla C.C.

Last but not least several of our chapters will once again be donning their NBC Sports caps and radios to act as spotters for the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill.

COASTAL PLAINS

Shane Bass, CGCS and Jeff Heggen will join FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS on this year's FGCS Capitol Hill trip to meet with legislators and allied associations in Tallahassee. They will be attending large functions put on by the Florida Pest Management Association and the Florida Farm Bureau to meet and greet officials and to show unity on common issues.

EVERGLADES

We will be hosting our all-day education bonanza, the Everglades Spring Symposium on April 12 at the Hyatt Coconut Point in Bonita Springs besides

the usual dynamite slate of speakers, symposium chairman Matt Taylor, CGCS has lined up golf media and communications guru Pat Jones as the keynote speaker. This should be a super event.

NORTH FLORIDA

Spring is a busy time with our annual Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Club and our Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship event at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC. Congratulations to Gina Williams on her new position as golf course superintendent at the City of Palatka Golf Club. Thanks to all who volunteered once again to serve as spotters for the television coverage of the TPC Tournament. This year the tournament will be in May as part of the new Tour format leading up to the FedEx Cup. The network makes a donation to the NFGCSA for the services of the 12-14 people who walk the course reporting on the players' scores and who is away or playing next.

PALM BEACH

Congratulations to Joe Hubbard and crew at Broken Sound for hosting the Champions Tour Allianz Tournament. That makes three tournaments in our chapter now including the Honda Classic at PGA National and the LPGA event at Trump National. Several of our members were eyewitnesses to the see-saw battle for Honda Classic as we did our annual stint as spotters for NBC's coverage of the tournament.

We bid a fond farewell to one of our legends of



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From left, Chad Kroeger, GCS at Tequesta CC presents Mike and Katie Ballard a \$10,000 check from the Palm Beach GCSA to help with expenses after their home was destroyed by fire. Photo by Steve Pearson.



Broken Sound superintendent Joe Hubbard, CGCS gets a photo-op with pro golfer Fuzzy Zoeller during a pre-tournament reception at the Allianz Championship, Champions Tour event held at Hubbard's club.

leadership with the departure of David Court, CGCS as he moves to the Seven Rivers Chapter to take over the Black Diamond Ranch golf courses. We presented David

with the FGCSA's President's Award for Lifetime Achievement for his long time service to our chapter. Good luck David and Janet. Thanks to the generosity

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of our members and other contributors, we were able to make a \$10,000 donation to Mike Ballard, GCS, of Wycliffe G.C. and his family to offset expenses caused when a fire totally destroyed their home this winter.

RIDGE

Jim Mendenhall and his team from Squamata Reptiles put on quite a show with their snake demonstration and safety talk at last month's meeting. Besides the smaller specimens, he showed a 6-foot diamondback rattlesnake and a 14-foot cobra.

We just held our annual Jack Harrell Memorial Ridge Invitational at Alan Puckett's Eaglebrooke

G.C. in Lakeland. We had great service from the golf and clubhouse staff. Ray Cuzzone got to cook the food in a kitchen for a change. After the divots settled, Scott Scamehorn won the tournament and the Jack Harrell trophy portrait. In the vendor net division, golf course architect Ron Garl, who just completed a renovation at Eaglebrooke, took top honors. Talk about local knowledge! FGCSA director of communications gave an update on the fertilizer ordinance issues facing counties and cities around the state.

SEVEN RIVERS

Florida DOACS held a public meeting at the UF/IFAS Plant Science Center in Citra on the new state



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The FGCSA Board held its 2007 winter board meeting at The King and The Bear G.C. at the World Golf Village. The FGCSA board holds one or two meetings per year around the state. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Fertilizer Rule and gave the participants a tour of the research plots so they could appreciate the science behind nutrient-management recommendations on turfgrasses. Our own Mark Kann is research coordinator for the turf plots, which include three golf holes and a nine-hole putting course. You really need to plan a chapter trip to this great resource for turf science which benefits all of Florida.

SOUTH FLORIDA

We are in our own version of March Madness down here in south Florida as we organize our NBC spotters for the Doral tournament and also prepare for our annual Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

SUNCOAST

We will be celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Suncoast Scramble at the Laurel Oak C.C. March 26. Best wishes to our External

Vice President Mike McCulloch as he moves from Jacaranda West C.C. down to the Cross Creek G.

C. in Port Charlotte. Mike will serve out his term on the board until new elections in May. Meanwhile thanks to

George Cook, Tim McKenna and others who have been monitoring the proposed fertilizer ordinance. We will hold a meeting March 13 to draft recommendations to the county. Thanks to Renze Berg for hosting our 2007 Superintendent-Vendor meeting at the Bradenton C.C. in January. In April we will meet at Bob Wagner's Coral Creek Club in Placida.

TREASURE COAST

Thanks to Scott Bell, CGCS at Red Stick G.C., the FGCSA and all the local chapters that donated funds to ship golf course supplies and used equipment to New Orleans to help re-supply the city-owned golf course.

WEST COAST

On Jan. 16 at Tampa



Scott Scamehorn, CGCS, Mountain Lake G.C. (left) shot a 70 to win the Jack Harrell, Sr. Ridge Invitational. Ridge GCSA President Bob Solms presents Scamehorn with the Jack Harrell, Sr. Trophy portrait drawn by David Pursell. Photo by Joel Jackson.