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*There's the
Rules of Golf ...
and then there's Ridge Rules!*



FGCSA Board meets with GCSAA Board

The GCSAA Board invited the Florida GCSA to attend its Winter Board Meeting held in Orlando. From left: David Downing, CGCS, secretary/treasurer; Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, immediate past president and Ricky Heine, CGCS, president from the GCSAA. Craig Weyandt, president; Joe Pantaleo, past president and Matt Taylor, CGCS, vice president from the Florida GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Palms we hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar: “IPM – Putting Together an Effective Plan for Your Course.” Attendance was good in part due to our discount registration fee for chapter members, with the chapter picking up the balance. Everyone was invited, but non-chapter members paid the normal seminar fee.

FGCSA

Our board of directors met with the GCSAA board at its winter meeting in Orlando in January. The GCSAA has been holding meetings around the country to get local chapters involved in the governance structure and to provide grassroots input on the issues and programs. This

push is to help GCSAA to serve its members through the chapters and to help chapters be as effective as possible.

All the candidates that the FGCSA supported for the 2007 GCSAA Board of Directors were elected at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in Anaheim. Congratulations to our own Bob Randquist, CGCS for winning a second term as director.

Congratulations are also due to our Florida No. 1 Golf Team of Bob Harper, Seth Strickland, Stephen Fox and Jim Torba for winning the Team Gross event. Harper finished tied for second. At our GCSAA reception, we raised nearly \$3,000 for the Benevolent Fund thanks

to Steve Ehrbar donating back his raffle winnings to the pot. Steve asked that his portion be used to aid fellow superintendent Mike Ballard, who lost his home to a fire.

GCSAA

Past President Bruce Williams, CGCS will be the presenter at this year’s GCSAA Leadership Series half-day seminar at the Poa Annuia Classic on Friday, May 11th in Naples. Williams will be speaking on “Mastering Your Communications Skills” – a real necessity in today’s world. Naturally PDI and Certification education points will be available

We held our own Winter Board Meeting at the World

Golf Village’s King and the Bear G.C. While we were conducting business inside, Jim Furyk was outside shooting Srixon commercials on the putting green. Inside the business included approval of a slate of research projects to be co-funded with the FTGA and GCSAA. See the Research Section for a breakdown of approved projects.

Additionally, chapters were reminded to announce the first FGCSA dues increase in 14 years to their members. Also a committee was formed to handle restructuring and reorganizing the staffing needs of the FGCSA with the pending retirement of Association Manager Marie Roberts in February.

golf



2007 FGCSA RECEPTION

*GCSAA said "The Answer is Anaheim"
The question was where is the FGCSA Reception?*

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Number 12
Par 5, 495 yards
TPC at Tampa Bay
Photo by Daniel Zelazek



TPC AT TAMPA BAY

Champions Tour Stop, Environmental Leader

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

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. Additionally under the guidance of golf course superintendent Jason Kubel, the course has won consecutive Chapter Awards for Public Courses in the annual GCSAA and Golf Digest Environmental Leadership in Golf Awards (ELGA) in 2005 and 2006.

According to Kubel, the course

does more than 42,000 rounds per year and the highlight of the season is February, when the Champions Tour comes to town for the Pro Am event. "We draw as many spectators as a regular PGA Tour event," said Kubel. "This year senior 'rookie' Nick Price played the event.

"In the celebrity category, Bill



This steep-faced bunker on No. 14 is among the fairway bunkers slated for reconstruction to improve drainage and prevent washouts. Photo by Daniel Zelazek.

Most notable was Nicklaus remembering Kubel from the construction of the King and the Bear courses at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine.

Murray also played this year. Other entertainers who have played include Kevin Costner, Huey Lewis, Mark Wahlberg and Kevin Sorbo of Hercules fame. We also have a strong showing from the sports ranks with Emmitt Smith, Phil Simms, Joe Theisman, Ronde Barber and Derrick Brooks.

“The field is usually 70-80 players and includes approximately 16 celebrities. There is quite a scramble by the celebs to shoot well enough to make the cut and play on the third day. This is the first year we will be telecast live in High Definition on NBC. Most of the Champions Tour events are carried on the Golf Channel so this was a nice boost for us to be on network TV.

“With a \$2.6 million purse, we have one of the strongest fields of the year behind the majors, of course. Outback Steakhouse does such a great job of hosting the tournament that the event

is perennially voted number one on the tournament in several categories. The winner also gets the unlimited use of an Outback Steakhouse card.”

The event originally was called the Verizon Classic and Kubel recalls fond and bittersweet memories of those days when Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus teed it up. Most notable was Nicklaus remembering Kubel from the construction of the King and the Bear courses at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. Kubel also remembers how the crowd gravitated to wherever Palmer was playing on the course during the practice rounds. Sadly on the first day of competition, the King threw his back out on his tee shot on the first hole and had to withdraw.

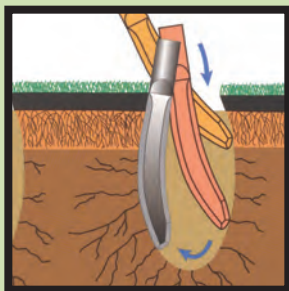
Besides working with the King and the Bear in St. Augustine in 2000-01, Kubel served as an assistant superintendent at the Isleworth G&CC



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COURSE FACTS



TPC Tampa Bay Maintenance Staff

TPC at Tampa Bay

Location: Lutz

Ownership: PGA Tour

Stats: 18 holes; 6,898 yards; par 71

Genealogy: Designed by Bobby Weed and player consultant Chi Chi Rodriguez; construction by PGA Tour;

Opened: 1991

Management Team: Brady Boyd, general manager; Justin Wink, head golf professional; Jason Kubel, golf course superintendent

Acreage under maintenance: 152

Greens: Tifdwarf; avg. 7,000 sq.ft., total 4.0 acres; green speeds: 9-10, 10-11 for tournaments. All greens are overseeded with 3-way blend of *Poa trivialis* @ 20 lbs/M maximum.

Tees, Fairways and Roughs: Tifway 419 hybrid bermudagrass overseeded with Champion GC ryegrass. Tees 6 acres, HOC .425" overseeded @ 600 lbs/acre. Fairways 41 acres, HOC .475" overseeded @ 500 lbs/acre.

Roughs 101 acres, HOC 2.0" May-Oct, 3.0" Nov-April, overseeded @ 400 lbs/acre.

Bunkers: 80, sand type GA26 or USGA Spec. Raking: combination of hand and machine raking. John Deere Hydro-Pro with tines and scarifiers. Broom attachment during dry conditions. Hand rake all for tournaments.

Natural areas: 22 acres of wetlands, cypress bayheads and native areas consisting of cypress trees, mulch, ferns and native grasses.

Waterways: 17 lakes and ponds covering 22 acres managed monthly by Lake Masters. Hand removal of invasive plants quarterly.

Irrigation: Source – deep well; PSI Constant Speed Pump Station; Toro Site Pro/E-Osmac controller. 1,100 heads @ 75-ft. spacing. Fertigation system.

Staff: Total including superintendent, 22 including two part-time; Weekly budgeted hours - 935 ST and 83 OT. No seasonal variation of labor.

Key team members: First Assistant Brad Shaeffer, Second Assistant James Pichler, Equipment Manager Jeff Young, Pest Control Tech Mike McNamara, Irrigation Tech Mark Batchelor and Admin Assistant Kathy Amick.



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View of the 18th green from the TV tower just before the Outback Steakhouse Pro Am tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

under Buck Buckner from 1995-98 and got to watch another modern legend, Tiger Woods, hone his game and play “fun” golf with buddy Mark O’Meara. Says Kubel, “It was fun to meet some of these golfing legends and nice that they remembered you, but you have to keep all that fame and glory in perspective and remember that they are really just normal folks like you and me.”

Kubel says he loves the energy and action of tournament preparations. He also has a passion for taking seriously the role of environmental steward. Kubel says, “It’s not hard! Like anything, if you work smart and have a plan, it just becomes your normal operating routine. Adopting IPM strategies and following BMPs isn’t rocket science, most of it is basic good housekeeping. Keeping good records and keeping the shop neat and clean sets an example for your staff, visitors and regulators. It’s scary when you go somewhere and see 6-foot-high dog

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