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**COVER STORY: LAUREL OAK COUNTRY CLUB**

Eighteen years ago, Laurel Oak opened the Gary Player-designed West Course just a few miles east of Interstate 75 in Sarasota north of Bee Ridge Road. Five years later, the East Course opened in 1994. It was also designed by Player.

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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: GOLFERS' COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

Every golfer wants to play on quality turf. And certainly most golf course operators and owners want to have quality turf. And golf course superintendents work hard to achieve that. So why do these desires fail to get realized?

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Finding, retaining and managing a fluctuating multi-cultural workforce is just another challenge for today's superintendent. With continued reports of golf growth flat-lining, we asked our members to write about how they have been affected in the labor management department.

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**INDUSTRY NEWS: NEW SPRINKLER FOR BUNKER FACES**

A new genre of sprinkler is popping up on golf courses to address the problem of irrigating areas such as bunker faces, slopes, tee boxes and landscaped areas surrounding greens: Multi-stream, multi-trajectory rotating (MSMTR) sprinklers.

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**STEWARDSHIP: GREEN GOLFER CHALLENGE**

Audubon International, with support from the PGA of America and the USGA, has launched the Audubon Green Golfer program, which asks golfers to take the "Green Golfer Pledge." TaylorMade-adidas and 30 courses already have signed on.

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# The Florida Green

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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.

**Fall 2007** - In-season Cultural Programs

**Winter 2008** - Disease Management Strategies

**Spring 2008** - Irrigation Management and Water Conservation

**Summer 2008** - Ultradwarf and Seashore Paspalum Greens

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.

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*What was I supposed to do? Well, it's on the golf course and interrupting play... so I had to do something.*

I received a call from the golf shop last week and was told that there was a bird in the bunker on the 8th hole and he looked sick. The first thing I thought was, "Wait a minute. I'm in charge of the golf course, the clubhouse grounds, all common areas and now wildlife too?" I can't control the animals. What was I supposed to do? Well it's on the golf course and interrupting play so I had to do something.

When I first approached the bird he did not move except to open his beak and kind of snap at me. I moved closer to better evaluate what

was wrong but did so cautiously. If didn't mention it before, this was a very large bird!

My first thought was that it was a juvenile magnificent frigate. Anyway, I was able to get it to waddle out of the bunker but it was not doing any flying. I thought, "let nature take care of itself and

that maybe it's just tired." I called a friend at the Environmental Learning Center and she said that it was very possibly a migrating frigate and that it may just need to rest.

The next day I was met with the same news about the same bird in the same bunker. This time he looked really tired and did not want to move out of the bunker at all when I approached. My assistant, Scott Campbell, and I talked about it and agreed that if we did not do something this bird did not look like he was going to make it. He said he would take the bird to the Treasure Coast Wildlife Hospital about an hour away to see if they could save it. It wasn't easy but we managed to find a box big enough to contain the bird. After some wrangling around

we were able to capture the bird. Fortunately he settled down very quickly and Scott drove it to the hospital.

The next day we were eager to find out how the bird was doing and couldn't wait to call and check up on our feathered friend. To our pleasant surprise it was doing well and it was not a magnificent frigate but rather a northern gannet. The hospital personnel said that gannets dive in the water for their food and sometimes they dive very deep. Evidently on one recent dive, some fish thought the bird was food and bit it in the neck. They also told us that the bird was expected to make a full recovery.

The lesson I learned from this episode is that when golfers and employees alike turn to me about wildlife and the environment, it's a good thing and I should embrace the situation. The fact that they consider me the environmental expert on property is very positive and something that I can build upon.

I'm using this informal vote of confidence and credibility as a platform in our club newsletter to explain the facts about golf courses and water use, pesticides and other regulatory issues that are currently facing our industry. When you are the "go-to" guy at your course, don't miss the opportunity to do some in-house education that can enhance the public perception of our industry.

This is my last *Florida Green* President's Message and I want to say thanks to Marie and Joel for keeping me (us) on schedule. It has been an honor to serve as FGCSA president and thanks to all of you out there who make up the FGCSA through your local, state and national memberships. A special thanks to the officers and board of directors of the FGCSA and to the leadership of the local chapters. Your time and efforts spent in serving our members and supporting our profession have only made us better and help us to grow stronger.

## When You are the 'Go-To' Guy



Craig Weyandt  
FGCSA President

*The lesson I learned from this episode is that when golfers and employees alike turn to me about wildlife and the environment, it's a good thing and I should embrace the situation.*

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PALM BEACH CHAPTER

## Elections, Fund-Raisers Top Summer Agenda

### CALUSA

Our annual meeting and election of officers was held June 19 at the Kingsway CC and hosted by our chapter president, Ryan Willis, CGCS. Ryan and Kingsway will be the featured cover story article in the fall issue of the *Florida Green* magazine. Besides the meeting and election, members will take a short survey and then tee it up in our chapter golf championship tournament following lunch.

Many thanks to Michael Pritchard for hosting our April meeting at the Westminster County Club, and thanks to Nat Hubbard for presenting his program on "Why Greens Fail." We also appreciate Nancy Miller for hosting our May meeting at Maple Leaf G&CC and look forward to visiting Rick Cirino's Deep Creek G.C. in July.

### CENTRAL FLORIDA

Thanks to our members who volunteered their time to serve as spotters for NBC at the Arnold Palmer Bay Hill Invitational. Matt Beaver, Bay Hill assistant superintendent, got to fly over the course in a helicopter and get a bird's-eye view of the course during NBC's pre-tournament filming of the course layout. Matt shared a photo with the *Florida Green*.

Josh Czarnecki will host our Chapter Golf



*Aerial View of the 12th and 13th holes at Bay Hill during the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Photo by Matt Beaver.*

Championship at the Eagle Creek GC. We are looking forward to putting on those mini-verde greens.

Our annual meeting will be held in July at the North Shore GC and hosted by John Kennedy. Grand Cypress will once again host our annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot

Open Aug. 4 and 5. The tournament and awards reception will take place on Saturday and Tom Alex and his staff are sure to have the course ready to test all comers. On Sunday, there will be a two-man team shoot out and a fishing tournament on the East Course.

### COASTAL PLAINS

Shane Bass, CGCS at St. James Bay G.C. and Jeff Heggen at Hilaman Park G.C. pulled some government-relations duty for the FGCSA. Shane participated in the FGCSA's 2007 Capitol Hill visit and Jeff sat in on a public hearing on the state's urban fertilizer

## Thanks to all sponsors for their support!



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*Mark Kann, Seven Rivers GCSA, center, presented FTGA Past President Matt Taylor, CGCS and FTGA Executive Director Casey Pace a \$5,000 donation to the FTGA Research Foundation during the Poa Annuia Classic weekend in Naples this past May. Photo by Joel Jackson*

rule. Thanks guys for stepping up to help represent the interests of all Florida golf course superintendents.

**EVERGLADES**

We are pleased to report that the 2007 Poa Annuia Classic raised over \$50,000 in sponsorships, provided dinner for 300, raffled off \$4500 in cash and prizes, and hosted two golf tournaments with individual and team events. The G.C. Horn Memorial Endowment Tournament raised \$8000 directly for UF turf scholarships.

Our Vendor Appreciation Day was hosted by Kevin Leo June 13 at the Old Corkscrew Golf Club where lunch was free for vendors. We gave out souvenir tervis tumblers to everyone. We are sending out vendor appreciation gifts (Case knives) to those who supported the EGCSA with at least \$500 during the year.

Our Annual meeting will be July 12 at Twin Eagles. Thanks to Bob Volpe, CGCS for hosting the business meeting, election of officers and afternoon golf tournament.

**NORTH FLORIDA**

We didn't have any applicants for scholarships for our Memorial Tournament in April this year, so we donated \$2000 to the LCCC foundation with hopes of the state matching the funds for one turfgrass scholarship and one mechanic scholarship. At the Memorial held at the Jacksonville G&CC and hosted by Greg Tharp, we also presented the 2007 Keeper of the Green Award to brothers Fred and Glen

Klauk. These two gentlemen have been shining examples of industry leaders at TPC and Pablo Creek as they quietly go about their business of excellent turf management. Fred was prominently featured on the Golf Channel during this year's TPC Championship. Congratulations and thanks for your dedication to our profession.

Thanks also to the members who participated as spotters for NBC Sports. On Aug. 22 we will be hosting a GCSAA Regional Seminar. Topic and speakers are still TBA at this time.

**PALM BEACH**

Our summer season got off to a brown, dusty start with harsh watering restrictions from the South Florida Water Management District, which had us cutting way back to 45 percent on our irrigation schedules. We finally got some relief from Tropical Storm Barry in early June.

The Future of Golf Tournament changed venues

this year to the Ballen Isles, South Course hosted by Kevin Downing, CGCS. The Falls CC and Steve Pearson, CGCS, our gracious hosts for so many years, are taking a break this year to renovate the golf course. Local knowledge proved handy as Kevin and his team of John Foy, Marty Green and Steve Utrecht won the event.

We held our regular monthly June meeting at the Atlantis G. C. Thanks to Joel Tholund, superintendent. PBGCSA Vice President Brian Main will host our Annual Meeting and election of officers at his Aberdeen G&CC in July.

While Tropical Storm Barry brought needed relief to the turfgrass, it also postponed the annual PBGCSA Fishing Tournament. Braving the choppy waters, the One and Done boat captained by Mike Carver with fishermen David Tandy, Gary Chaney and Jason Maret had the biggest wahoo (52 lbs) and highest total weight (144.6 lbs). The Down and Dirty crewed by Chris Gast, Bill Lanthier, Bill Hughes and Tim Cann had the largest dolphin at 19.1 lbs. The largest kingfish (26.7 lbs) was landed on the Off Course with boat captain Billy Cevaal and mates Dave Mummert, Jode Wells and Terry Wells. Thanks to our sponsors and our seaworthy fishermen.

Palm Beach President Steve Pearson paid tribute and thanks to the sponsors and participants in both events for helping to raise money for the chapter's benevolent fund, turf research, junior golf and scholarships.



*North Florida President Lon Chatfield (left) presents John Piersol from Lake City CC with a \$2,000 check for scholarships. Photo by Shane Bass.*



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## SPOTLIGHT

### SEVEN RIVERS

The 2007 Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Golf Classic at World Woods was another smashing success thanks to the hard work by the Tournament Committee headed by Chairman Glenn Oberlander. Many thanks also to World Woods and host superintendent Jimbo Rawlings for providing such a great golfing venue for this fantastic fundraiser for turf research. As a result of this event, President Mark Kann was able to present \$5,000 checks to both the Florida GCSA Research Account and the FTGA Research Foundation, at the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples this past May.

We have had busy meeting schedule and we appreciate the clubs that have so generously donated their facilities for our 2007 meetings and golf outings like Candler Hills G.C. and Superintendent Andy Jorgensen for our May meeting and we look forward to our Annual Meeting at the Seven Rivers G.C. with host Brad Barbee. In July we are working with the UF/IFAS faculty to help put on the Summer Field Days July 17 at the Envirotron and on the 18th at the Plant Science Center in Citra. We will finish up the summer with a dual meeting with Westech in August at Hernando Oaks hosted by Mike McNeil.

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From left, Seven Rivers President Mark Kann, Golf Ventures Brad Reano and Walt McMahon and Envirotron Classic Chairman Glenn Oberlander pose for the \$25,000 Champion Sponsor check presentation at World Woods.



From left, Mark Kann, Seven Rivers GCSA president, presented a \$5,000 check for turf research to FGCSA President Craig Weyandt at the spring board meeting in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

**SOUTH FLORIDA**

We had another successful Turf Expo this March and were pleased to be able to donate a check for \$27,000 to

the FGCSA Research Fund at the spring board meeting in Naples. These funds have been used primarily for us to pay for the services of a

turf technician to help IFAS maintain the turf research plots in Ft. Lauderdale. We want to thank Gary Pederson for his years of service in the technician position. Gary is leaving IFAS to take a position with Steve Kuhn at the High Ridge CC in Boynton Beach. Next year the funds will be donated directly to IFAS for the care and maintenance of the plots using graduate turf students and other resources.

Thanks to Kevin Frost, CGCS at the Diplomat CC and Stephen Fox at Ocean Reef for hosting our May and June meetings. Thanks to our speakers for their interesting presentations: Brian MacCurrach with Bayer Environmental Science, “Modern Mole Cricket Management” and Steve Woodmanese, biologist with the Florida Native Plant Society, “Native Plant Equivalents.” Kelly Cragin is stepping up to serve as our external vice president while Jim Walker recovers from his medical procedures. Get well Jim.

**SUNCOAST**

We’re pleased to report that the Sarasota County Commission’s Emergency

Ordinance passed in late April contained language recognizing the Florida Golf BMP Manual and the Florida Green Industries BMP Manual for lawns and landscaping. Our whole purpose has been to make sure sound, peer-reviewed science is the basis for local rule making. Thanks to George Cook for his one-on-one meeting with commissioners to explain our position and for the others in our chapter who took the time to attend meetings and communicate with the commissioners.

Special thanks to the clubs and superintendents who agreed to host our April, May and June meetings: Bob Wagner at Coral Creek, Bob Gwodz at Sara Bay and Tom Hilferty at Tatum Ridge. Congratulations to Adam Wright for representing our chapter as the Cover Story for the summer issue of the Florida Green magazine.

**TREASURE COAST**

Our “summer” season kicked off with a GCSAA Regional Seminar on Advanced Weed Control at the PGA Club in Port St. Lucie presented by Dr. Fred Yelverton, NC State and Dr.



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