

The Florida Green

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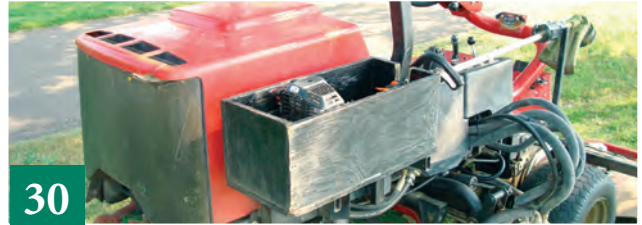
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As I write this message, Hurricanes Fay and Hanna have dumped rain all

over the state. I hope most of us got by with much-needed rainfall and not a lot of damage. We have made it halfway through another hurricane season thus far without any major storms hitting Florida. With our summer beach-vacation season up here in the Panhandle winding down and your fall golf season preparations under way, I hope Ike doesn't spoil that record.

With the year ending in exciting fashion with the Presidential election, government relations seems to be front and center with our association. As I go through hundreds of e-mails, the subjects are not that mole crickets are bad, or this disease is taking over, or this new mower is the way to go. It seems like year-round water restrictions on residents are getting tighter and we could experience some backlash on golf-course uses. The City of Sanibel is taking a second look at its fertilizer ordinance with respect to golf courses instead of the original mandate to just follow the new Golf BMPs for nutrient management. With restrictions on residents applying nitrogen or phosphorus during the rainy/growing season, what may be in store for golf courses?

Our executive director, Joel Jackson, tries to stay on top of these issues around the state. What we need, though, is for everybody to do his part locally. We all need to get more involved — including me. I see reports on meetings or letters being sent and it always seems to be the same names and faces that are carrying the load for all of us.

When grass-roots letter-writing efforts are called for, we try to provide talking points and templates so all you have to do is change the name and send it or email it. As far as attending commission meetings, hearings and forums, You do not have to go and argue with anyone; just being there means something. It's OK to go on the record with some facts. Trust me the environmental groups are usually there in herds with their emotional viewpoints, factual or not.

This is a challenge that goes out to everyone, including the guys out in the far west Panhandle. We might not have the problems that South Florida is facing with these issues right now, but trust me, they will be here before we know it. Get involved. This November is a good time to start. It is an election year. There are approximately 72,000

golf employees in the state. Make time for yourself and encourage your employees to vote. It will make a difference.

There are a couple of other items on our fall agenda:

First, the Fund Raising Committee with Tim Hiers, CGCS as chairman, is getting ready to roll out a pilot program of voluntary contributions to provide a stable, renewable funding source for our turf research projects. All golf courses will be able to opt in; more details will follow after the experimental trial period ends with about a dozen courses to check out the full process. The General Managers Association, our association, the FTGA and several industry partners are all on board with the idea. Stay tuned.

The second item is some changes to *The Florida Green* magazine. The fold-out cover has gone away as you can tell from this issue, and we are working on changing how we mail the magazine in the future..

With rising costs and economic pressure on our advertisers, these changes do not materially affect the magazine, but do lower costs to produce and distribute the publication.

One final note: last year was the first year I played in the GCSAA golf championships and I highly recommend it if you ever get the chance. You don't have to play like Seth Strickland in order to enjoy yourself. It gives you a chance to really network with people that you might never meet at the show. Try something new this year. The courses this year are in the Gulf Shores, Ala., area and the time to sign up is now.

I hope to see you all in New Orleans.



Shane Bass, CGCS
President

The Critics Have Spoken.

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Newly elected Florida GCSA officers, from left: Secretary/Treasurer Gary Myers CGCS, Walt Disney World, Central Florida GCSA; Immediate Past President Matt Taylor CGCS, Royal Poinciana GC, Everglades GCSA; President Shane Bass CGCS, St. James Bay GC, Seven Rivers GCSA formerly Coastal Plains GCSA; and Vice President Bill Kistler (A), Tampa Palms G&CC, West Coast GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson



The 2008-09 directors and their chapters includes, from left: Steve Pearson CGCS, Palm Beach; Kevin Sunderman (A), West Coast; Rip Phillips (A), North Florida; Tom Barnett (A), Ridge; Wayne Kappauf CGCS, Everglades; Kelly Cragin (A), South Florida, Mark Kann (A), Seven Rivers and Roy MacDonald (A), Treasure Coast. Not pictured: Nancy Miller (A), Calusa and Bob Wagner (A), Suncoast



From left: Capt. Bob Jacks, John Spiwak, Matt Schad, AJ White, Tim Whitaker, and Bill Rayside on the "Teri Ann" took the heaviest dolphin in the PBGCSA Fishing Tournament.

Summer Isn't Slow Season – It's GO Season

Golf rounds may be slow during the dog days, but summer projects are on GO at many courses as play traditionally slows down.

FGCSA activity also slows, except for The Palm Beach Futures of Golf and Fishing Tournament in June and Central Florida Crowfoot Open in August, two large fundraising and networking events.

In Palm Beach, the Future of Golf returned to Steve



Winning the Palm Beach Fishing Tournament Top Boat and Heaviest Kingfish prizes was the "One & Done" with, from left, Mike Robertson, Brian Sanders, Jimmy Lane, Captain Mike Carver, Jason Maret and David Tandy.



Crowfoot Committee Chairman and Host Tom Alex, left, roasted and toasted the 2008 Larry Kamphaus Award winner Stuart Leventhal, CGCS as Vilma Kamphaus joins in the presentation in August. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Winners of the Palm Beach Future of Golf Tournament at The Falls CC were James Ferber, Jeff Egolf, Frank McKee and Paul Crespo with a net score of 57.

Pearson at The Falls CC after a one-year hiatus for renovation.

Meanwhile, Admiral Ed Miller and Commodore Paul Crawford reported a great haul for the angling fleet that set sail from the Blowing Rocks Marina in Jupiter.

Monthly chapter meetings continued through the summer with annual meetings and election of local chapter officers in July.

Grand Cypress Resort Conference Center in Orlando was the site of the FGCSA summer and annual board meetings, including the election of officers, Aug. 8.

The 32nd Central Florida Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open golf tournament took place on the Grand Cypress New Course the next day, followed by the Awards Reception. Crowfoot Chairman Tom Alex (aka Don Rickles) emceed the reception and paid tribute to tournament namesake, the late Larry Kamphaus and his work, association and family values. Then Alex proceeded to roast and toast this year's award winner, Stuart Leventhal, CGCS from the Interlachen Country Club.



SFGCSA President Ted Hile, left, and Immediate Past President Jason Bagwell, right, present a \$25,000 donation from the proceeds of the 2008 South Florida Turf Expo to John Rowland and Dr. George Snyder from UF/IFAS for the Ft. Lauderdale REC.



Living up to their annual tradition of donating \$3,000 each to the FGCSA and FTGA turf research funds, GASH reps Richard Coyle, left, and Dale Mitchell delivered the FGCSA check to President Shane Bass CGCS at the summer board meeting at Grand Cypress in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

RICK TATUM

BENEFIT TOURNAMENT



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2008 CROWFOOT OPEN

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Superintendent Net: 1. Tom Alex, 2. Rafael Villegeas, 3. Joe Pantaleo and 4. Gary Newcomb

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Vendor Net Individual: 1. Chris Leahy, 2. Brad Reano, 3. Richard Coyle and 4. Chuck Garrett

TWO-MAN SCRAMBLE
Flight A: 1. Gary Dorsch and



Steve Bernard won the Crowfoot Open. Photo by Joel Jackson.

John Gamble; 2. Kevin Czerkies and Nicholas Czerkies

Flight B: 1. Don McCommon and Todd Walsworth; 2. Carl Benedict and Jim Kernohan.

Steve Bernard of the Adios Golf Club won the individual tournament with a score of 70. Bernard will join Seth Strickland, winner of the Poa Annuu Classic, on the FGCSA team to compete in the GCSAA National

Golf Championship in Gulf Shores, Ala. in February.

Fall began with the FTGA Conference and Show Sept. 16-19 and many chapters held no meetings that month so that superintendents could reserve "away" time to attend



FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson (left) presented Past President Craig Weyandt with a bound copy of the issues of the Florida Green for his second term as president as he now leaves the board. Photo by Shane Bass.

the major education and trade-show event, held this year in Palm Beach Gardens at the PGA Resort and Spa.

Mark Black Gets President's Award

The Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association gave the President's Award to J. Mark Black, CGCS July 10. He received the award at the chapter's annual meeting at Kensington G&CC. Black has been a superintendent in Collier County for more than 24 years. Currently at Quail West G&CC, Black began his career as an assistant to Dan Hall Jr. at Imperial GC in Naples.

A Lake City Community College graduate, Black landed his first superintendent's position as director of golf course operations for the Bonita Bay Group. He has said for more than 20 years that

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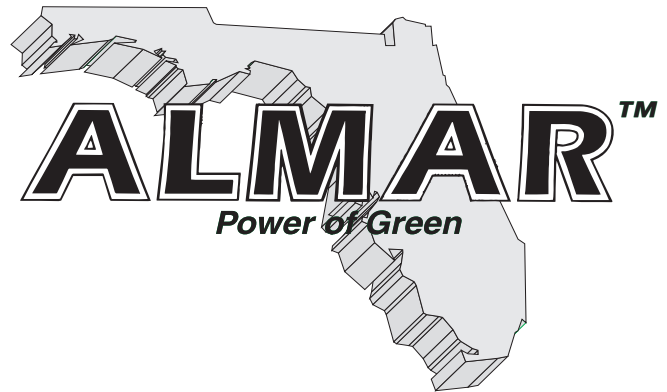
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Bill Gamble of Wesco Turf, a longtime friend who presented the President's Award to Black, praised the commitment and love he has shown for his family. His mother and wife, Sue, attended the award ceremony.

the key to his success was providing his members a course that was "tournament ready" every day. Quail West has hosted the PGA Champions Tour ACE Classic the past two years.

Equally impressive is the growing list of his assistants who have made their own marks on the industry. Among them are FGCSA Immediate Past President Matthew R. Taylor CGCS and the late Rick Tatum .

Active in all many superintendent organizations, Black is former EGCSA president and GCSAA committee member. He has spoken to groups on behalf of the USGA, GCSAA, The Club Managers Association and others.

Bill Gamble of Wesco

Turf, a longtime friend, presented the President's Award to Black.

-Wayne Kappauf



Shane Bass CGCS.

Shane Bass Wears Many Hats

Shane Bass, CGCS is wearing many hats these days.

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The wildflowers are in full bloom in the natural areas on the 16th hole. Photo by Shane Bass

Not only is he the new FGCSA president, he also happens to also be the superintendent and assistant general manager at the St. James Golf Club. You can also throw in “coach” if you count his son Bryce’s T-ball

and soccer teams.

Originally from Titusville, Bass now lives with his wife Karla and sons Bryce, 6 and Ethan, 2 just a block from his office on the St. James Bay property in Carrabelle.

Bass has a B.S. in psychol-

ogy from Florida State and a B.S. in ornamental horticulture from Florida A&M. He worked on the Killlearn CC in Tallahassee while getting his college degrees, but his original interest in the golf industry was sparked while working as a cart boy at the Royal Oaks CC in Titusville while in high school. Influenced by GM/pro Steve Hill, Bass originally went to FSU to become a general manager.

But while attending school he got a job on the Killlearn course to help prepare for an LPGA event. Working for superintendents Geri Bucheit and Floyd Robinson changed his mind and he went back to school at Florida A&M to get his horticulture degree.

Bass said of his mentors, “Floyd was old school and had been in the business for 30-plus years and Geri was a Texas A&M grad with lots of PGA and LPGA tournament experience. I had a great learning atmosphere of the old and new ways of doing things. I also owe a big debt of thanks to my parents who taught me never to quit on anything, no matter how difficult it might be.”

Bass has been at the St. James Bay Golf Club since 2001 and serves not only as the superintendent but also as the assistant general manager for the development. He says his biggest accomplishment to date was opening the golf course, getting his CGCS status and certifying

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