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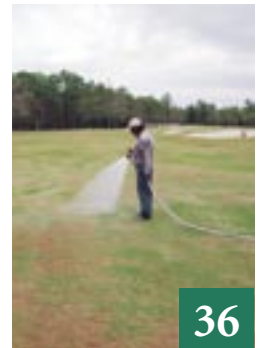
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SPOTLIGHT: RUNNING AWAY

Seth Strickland ran away with the GCSAA golf championship by shooting three rounds of 68, while long-time FGCSA Association Manager Marie Roberts ran away to Las Vegas to begin retirement. Architect Steve Smyers and FTGA Executive Director Casey Pace spoke at the annual Central Florida GCSA Research Tournament.

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COVER STORY: TIMUQUANA COUNTRY CLUB

Nestled on the banks of the St. Johns River a few miles south of downtown Jacksonville, Timuquana has maintained its classic Donald Ross design for 85 years. Now members are investing heavily in upgrades so that superintendent Chris Neff can maintain the design with modern equipment.

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HANDS ON: MAKING DO WITH LESS

If you are on a golf course in the South Florida Water Management District and have a Consumptive Use Permit to pump ground or surface water for your irrigation, you have been forced to reduce your monthly consumption by 45 percent under the current Phase 3 Emergency Drought Order.

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INDUSTRY NEWS: DEALING WITH WATER RESTRICTIONS

In the USGA Update, agronomists John Foy and Todd Lowe discuss the various levels (or phases) of restrictions, what you have to do and how best to cope with doing what's required.

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STEWARDSHIP: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

More than 120 Florida Golf Courses have been certified as environmental sanctuaries by Audubon International. They are listed in Stewardship, along with 11 certified environmental stewards who stand ready to assist any golf course work toward certification. Many are in the process.

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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 2008 - Ultradwarf and Seashore Paspalum Greens

Fall 2008 - Improving communication

Winter 2009 - Technician and Staff Training

Spring 2009 - Balancing the Budget

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.

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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For years, now, I have heard many very wise members of the FGCSA tell us that we need to get on the offensive when it comes to environmental issues before it is too late. I always listened but did my own thing, never really wanting to rock the boat.

Maybe I just did not know how to “go on the offensive.” Maybe I was on the offensive and just did not know it. Recently the need to go on the offensive has become very clear to me.

It is not too late, but most of us can see

that things are really changing quickly with the environmental movement. The push that started out years ago is snowballing into a very large swell and I am afraid most of us are missing it.

My 8-year-old son watches cartoons that

talk about man-made global warming, pollution etc. My high school son asks me questions about the same type of issues and when I read his textbooks, I really get concerned. My daughter, who started college this year, has turned “green” in the past six months, and is being inundated with propaganda.

They are being taught that global warming is man-made, how pesticides are polluting our waterways and how we don’t need lawns. They say rock gardens are just as aesthetically pleasing, and that if you install native plants with drip irrigation, there will be no more problems.

In our area, Lee and Collier Counties and the City of Naples are enacting fertilizer ordinances which contain some restrictions that are not based on science but emotion. The big question to all of these counties and municipalities is, “Who is going to monitor these programs?”

For the longest time, I have been receiving e-mails from Joel Jackson recounting what happened at this city council meeting or that meeting. I read them but they usually dealt with the lawn-care companies and homeowners. Last week I got an email from someone requesting information about golf courses and our BMPs and who monitors us. Do we report use and other factors? The wise men were right; it did not take long after local governments had regulated homeowners and landscape companies’ use of fertilizers to turn the spotlight on us.

Last week I was speaking to Shelly Foy with the USGA regarding Audubon International’s

program for golf courses. She was telling me that a large number of golf courses have signed up for the program, and continue to pay the fees each year but have never begun work on certification.

Here is the part where I don’t want to sound preachy but at least cautionary: I understand how time flies by and that time is also very precious. Nevertheless, the Audubon program might be a great way for our profession to regulate itself. The alternative might be the local government in your area. I know the program is not for everyone, but why not? Having been fortunate to work for two superintendents who believed in the program, and having seen both programs for golf courses firsthand, I can tell you it is not that hard.

The Audubon program is very easy because most of the things required to become certified are things that many of us do regularly. The program gives you a format and the tools to document it. Do not say it; I know what you are thinking: “This guy comes from one of those high-budget clubs in Naples; sure it is easy for them.” Well, many of the fully certified clubs in the state are not high-budget operations.

In the past 12 months have you reduced water usage by removing a sprinkler head and installing native plants? Are you in the process of designing new irrigation systems to increase efficiency? Do you use ET rates to calculate nightly irrigation run times or use mulch or pine straw in landscape areas to reduce water loss? If you answered “yes” to any of the questions, you are well on your way to fulfilling the requirements for water conservation, one of the five areas of concern for the Audubon program. As I said, most of the things in the program are things that we all do already.

OK! Done. No more. In the Stewardship section of this issue, I have included a list of current Florida stewards for the Audubon program. If you need any information or encouragement please contact any of them.

I procrastinated long enough about writing this Presidents Message. I wasted enough time thinking about what to write, and moved it forward in my planner again and again.

I didn’t want to come across as preaching or giving you the same information repeatedly. I have tried to plead my case about something I firmly believe in and maybe some of those who read this will do something about it.

As I said, it’s time to take the offensive.

Enjoy the rest of your season and let us hope for a quiet, rainy summer season.

It’s Clearly Time to Go on Offense



Matt Taylor, CGCS President

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CHAPTER ROUNDUP

Events Pick Up Speed Following the Golf Industry Show

CALUSA: Stuart Taylor will host our March meeting at his Plantation Golf Club in Fort Myers. Our guest speaker will be FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson, who will discuss current issues facing Florida golf course superintendents.

CENTRAL FLORIDA: The chapter raised \$3,800 at the 20th Annual FTGA Research Tournament in January at the Interlachen County Club in Winter Park. The event has raised more than \$80,000 for turf research. Thanks to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS and Club Manager Don Emery for the great golf, good food and gracious hospitality. Our next big outing will be the Superintendent/Vendor Tournament at Chris Cartin's Tusawilla CC March 31.

COASTAL PLAINS: Our external vice president Shane Bass, CGCS went to GCSAA headquarters in March to participate in the annual chapter leaders and executive meeting as FGCSA vice president. He will be joined by FGCSA secretary/treasurer Bill Kistler from the West Coast Chapter and FGCSA association manager Jennifer Innes.

EVERGLADES: We have joined other chapters in detailed discussions with the South Florida Water Management District to adjust the current method of allocating the amounts of water we can use during the busy golf season. No other industry has been cut back as much as golf, and we are not big water users



Guests and speakers at the 20th Annual Central Florida FTGA Research Tournament were (from left): Executive Directors Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired, Florida GCSA and Casey Wohl Pace, Florida Turfgrass Association. Golf Course Architect Steve Smyers, UF Turf Student Justin Toy and CFGCSA President Gary Myers, CGCS.

when measured against the other major water consumer groups. We are looking forward to our 2008 Spring Symposium April 17 at the Naples Beach Hotel with its usual star-studded agenda of top speakers.

NORTH FLORIDA: Fred Klauk has retired as head superintendent of the TPC course at Sawgrass; Tom Vlach, CGCS will be taking his place.

After the FTGA Regional Seminars and GCSAA Golf Industry Show in January, we will take a break in February to prepare for our annual Turf Research Tournament at Glen Klauk's Pablo Creek Club, and our 2008 Memorial Tournament at Greg Tharp's Jacksonville G&CC.

In May we will not have a meeting as we will be busy helping out at the TPC Sawgrass PGA Tournament.

PALM BEACH: We had a good response to our

Toys for Tots drive for the holiday, raising \$2,100 and 35 donated toys.

We are heavily involved with other South Florida chapters with the effort to get the SFWMD to modify their water-restrictions model and percentage of cutbacks. We have shown statistically that we are facing disproportionate cutbacks compared to other industries and user groups. Help us by attending our chapter meetings and event so we can all stay up to date on the issues.

RIDGE: Will the real winner of the Jack Harrell, Sr. Ridge Invitational please stand up? After a scoring committee session that would send shudders through the halls of the USGA Golf House, Mark Hopkins was declared the winner. But the real winners were the players who enjoyed a fun golf course, The Club at Eaglebrooke,

prepared by Alan Puckett and his staff and a barbecue dinner prepared by Ray Cuzzzone and last – but not least – the many local charities and turf research supported by the proceeds of the event.

SEVEN RIVERS: Bob Marrino had a nice write up recently in the *St. Petersburg Times* (http://www.sptimes.com/2008/01/16/Sports/It_s_all_about_pin_pl.shtml) about why superintendents move the cups around on the greens. Keith Kirchoffer and the Harbor Hills GC hosted our February Meeting with guest speaker Todd Lowe of the USGA Green Section. And in March, Mark Dixon hosted our annual Vendor Appreciation Day at the West End GC. Meanwhile we are getting ready to host our annual Jeff Hayden, Envirotron Classic in April to raise much-needed research funds for the projects we have under way

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Scott Scamerhorn (left) of the Ridge GCSA presents Mark Hopkins with a portrait of Jack Harrell, Sr. by David Pursell. Hopkins shot a 73 to win the Ridge Invitational at The Club at Eaglebrooke in Lakeland.

at the University of Florida.

SOUTH FLORIDA: What can we say? Seth Strickland, you are the man! As you may know by now Seth won the GCSAA National Golf Championship in January posting a 16-shot margin of victory. He shot three consecutive 68s to capture the title. Our traditional Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale REC is moving

to April this year due to school schedules. We expect another large turnout.

SUNCOAST: We celebrated our annual Superintendent/Vendor Appreciation Day at the Bradenton CC thanks to our host Renze Berg. We now focus on preparations for our big annual fundraiser, the Suncoast Scramble, to be held at Adam Wright's Laurel Oak

CC March 31.

TREASURE COAST: We will hold a budget survey meeting in March and we are busy lining up sponsors for our big bash, The Blue Pearl tournament in May.

WEST COAST: Our President Bill Kistler will be attending the GCSAA's Chapter Leaders and Executives meeting in Lawrence, Kan. in late March. And by the time this hits the news stand we will have completed our annual Benevolent Tournament at Andy Neiswender's Lake Jovita G.C., and Gerry Marquardt's hosting of our annual March meeting at his Largo GC.

FGCSA: The end of an era has finally come. 24-year veteran Association Manager Marie Roberts was honored, roasted and toasted at the FGCSA Reception in Orlando as she formally stepped down from the FGCSA, and went into semi-retirement. She will remain active, serving the Palm Beach and South Florida chapters.

If you have any FGCSA related questions, just look in the front of the magazine and you will see the contact information for our new

Association Manager Jennifer Innes. Jennifer hit the ground running last October and is our new Go-To Gal!

Executive Director Joel Jackson is a member of the South Florida Water Management District's Long Range Water Conservation stakeholder group, representing Sports and Leisure industries. The group will be submitting a list of practical water conservation measures applicable to various water user groups including the general public. Jackson was also on hand in Tallahassee in January when the Florida Consumer Fertilizer Task Group wrapped up its deliberations and voted unanimously on a set of recommendations for a model statewide fertilizer ordinance.

Congratulations to the following FGCSA members for receiving GCSAA 2007 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards: Fred W. Klauk Jr., TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, North Florida GCSA Chapter winner for Resort Facilities, and Jason M. Kubel, TPC Tampa Bay, Florida West Coast GCSA as the Merit Winner for Public Facilities.

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2008 Golf Industry Show Sets All Sorts of Records

GCSAA Golf Championships

Seth Strickland superintendent from Miami Shores Country Club in south Florida kicked things off by shooting a three-day total of 12-under-par 204, the lowest winning score in the 58-year history of this tournament, and a stunning 16-shot margin of victory – also the biggest in tournament history. To put it simply, Strickland owned the Tom Watson-designed Independence Course at Reunion Resort. Strickland is now a two-time champion; he won the event the last time it was played in Orlando, in 2005.

In other GCSAA golf results, the Florida No. 1 and No. 2 teams tied for second place, two shots behind the winning team from the Carolinas GCSA. And our No. 3 and No. 4 teams were only three shots back.

Bob Harper and Roy McDonald tied for 11th place in the competition. All in all a good showing by our most prolific golfers.

MONA FINISHES STRONG

This was Steve Mona's last Golf Industry Show as the CEO of the GCSAA. He deflected all attention from his departure and went about the business of GCSAA members in his usual professional manner. The GCSAA Board of Directors has narrowed down the search for Mona's replacement to three candidates. It will be interesting to see



Seth Strickland (left) from the South Florida GCSA ran away from the field in the 2008 GCSAA Golf Championship by shooting three rounds of 68. GCSAA President Ricky Heine presented Strickland with the trophy at the GIS Opening Session in Orlando Jan. 31. Photo by Bruce Mathews.

who becomes the next administrative leader for the GCSAA.

GREG THROWS GAUNTLET

Greg Norman, a passionate competitor on and off the golf course, was named the recipient of the 2008 Old Tom Morris Award emblematic of a person who has contributed notably to the game of golf. Norman, who also serves

as chairman of the GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf, didn't waste any time in throwing down the gauntlet and challenging the golf industry to focus on playable golf courses versus lush green golf courses.

Many in the industry are on board with the idea and the reasons behind it. The true test will be to see if high profile players and organizations will walk the

talk to help convert the millions of golfers to accept that brown can be beautiful too.

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Meanwhile overall attendance reached 25,737 beating last year's record of 23,099 set in Anaheim. Obviously the new GIS format and partnerships are working and bringing needed attendance. It

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Greg Norman (pro golfer, course designer, entrepreneur and environmental stewardship advocate) was named the Old Tom Morris Award winner for 2008 by the GCSAA. President Ricky Heine presented the award to Norman at the GIS in Orlando. Photo by Bruce Mathews.

appears the new show partnership will be extended to 2014, definitely a good sign.

8000 SEMINAR SEATS

In the education department over 8,000 seminar seats were sold, also a GCSAA record.



GCSAA CEO Steve Mona (center) in one of his last appearances as administrative leader of the association talking about the future of the GCSAA with Golf Channel's Adam Barr (right) and GCSAA President Ricky Heine during the GIS Opening Session in Orlando. Photo by Bruce Mathews.