



President Matt Taylor
 Royal Poinciana GC
 PO Box 7039
 Naples, FL 34101
 239-261-4987

VicePresident Shane Bass, CGCS
 St. James Bay GC
 201 Crooked River Rd.
 Carabelle, FL 32346
 850-528-3839

Secretary/Treasurer Bill Kistler
 Tampa Palms G&CC
 5811 Tampa Palms Blvd.,
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 813-972-3375

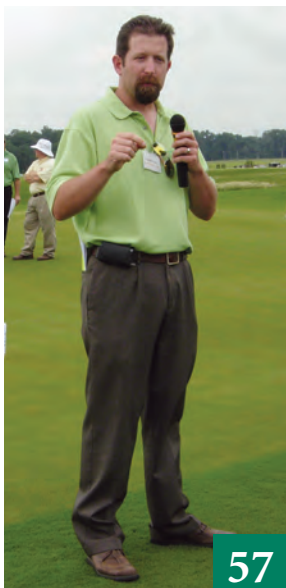
Past President Craig Weyandt
 The Moorings Club
 100 Harbour Drive
 Vero Beach, FL 32963
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DIRECTORS

CALUSA	Nancy Miller Maple Leaf G&CC 941-255-3677
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COASTAL PLAINS	Shane Bass St. James Bay GC 850-528-3839
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TREASURE COAST	John Curran Johns Island Club 772-231-1700
WEST COAST	Bill Kistler Tampa Palms G&CC 813-972-3375

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Joel Jackson 6780 Tamarind Circle Orlando, FL 32819 407-248-1971 voice/fax FLGrn@aol.com
ASSOCIATION MANAGER Jennifer Innes 1296 NE Oceanview Circle Jensen Beach, FL 34957 772-334-7515; 800-732-6053 (FL) fgsa@comcast.net



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SPOTLIGHT: FUN IN THE SUN

As the winter golf season wanes, so waxes the social season, as chapters squeeze in weekend fund-raising tournaments and professional education. The South Florida Expo and the North Central Florida Turfgrass Field Days showcased IFAS research.

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COVER STORY: LAKE WALES COUNTRY CLUB

Perched on the rolling sandy hills of the Central Florida Ridge, Lake Wales Country Club presents our second consecutive opportunity to showcase Donald Ross classic landmark of the 1920s.

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: THEY'RE STILL PRINTING?

Luke Cella, executive director of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents, exhorts his members to adapt the communication systems of today's digital-savvy younger generation. He makes a good case.

40

HANDS ON: ULTRADWARFS AND PASPALUMS

The point is to understand that when you change grasses, you must also change methods. You will still mow, water, fertilize, verticut and aerify, but there will be changes in how you do those things and why you must do them differently.

48

STEWARDSHIP: GOPHER TORTOISE NEEDS YOUR HELP

The gopher tortoise, *gopherus polyphemus*, belongs to a group of land tortoises that originated in North America 60 million years ago, thus making it one of our oldest living species. It needs our help and we're in a position to give it.

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AFTERWORDS: FAREWELL, GOOD FRIEND

Joel Jackson eulogizes Rick Tatum, superintendent at Grey Oaks CC in Naples, who was killed in a boating accident July 2.

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The Florida Green

SUMMER 2008

Published four times a year:
On the 25th of January, April, July and October

EDITOR **Joel Jackson, CGCS**
6780 Tamarind Circle
Orlando, FL 32819
407-248-1971 voice/fax
FLGrn@aol.com

PUBLICATIONS CHAIR **Shane Bass**
St. James Bay GC
201 Crooked River Rd.
Carabelle, FL 32346
(850) 528-3839

EDITOR EMERITUS **Dan Jones, CGCS**
Oviedo

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$20 for four issues. Contact the FGCSA office.

ADVERTISING: For rates and information, contact the FGCSA office at 800-732-6053

EDITORIAL: All inquiries should be directed to the editor, Joel Jackson, CGCS. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs cannot be returned.

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 2008 - Improving communication

Winter 2009 - Technician and Staff Training

Spring 2009 - Balancing the Budget

Summer 2009 - Current Cultural Practices

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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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Foy. John Foy is director, Florida Region, USGA Green Section; 561-546-2620; fax 561-546-4653 ; jfoy@usga.org

Gill. Butch Gill is sales representative, TMI Turf Merchants; 706-883-8970; butchgill1@aol.com

Jackson. Joel Jackson, CGCS is executive director, Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association; 407-248-1971; fax 407-248-1971; flgrn@aol.com

Novak. Jim Novak is public relations manager, Turfgrass Producers International; 800-405-8873; jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org

Sweet. Kyle Sweet, CGCS is superintendent, The Sanctuary Golf Club; 239-472-8612; fax 239-472-1488; ksweet@swfla.rr.com

Taylor. Matt Taylor is superintendent, Royal Poinciana Golf Club; 239-261-4987; mattt@rpgolfclub2.com

Walker. Jim Walker is superintendent, Briar Bay Golf Course; 305-235-6667; fax 305-971-8828; sujim@adelphia.net

Wiggins. Bill Wiggins is assistant superintendent, Naples National GC; 239-775-6652; fax 775-7839; bdwiggins@comcast.net

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Summer is certainly here with higher temperatures and humidity and less traffic on golf courses and roads... except for those of you in northwest Florida, who are well into your beach (and golf) season and are waiting for summer to end. The summer rains have begun. We appear to be receiving enough rainfall to turn the tide on the drought situation and give alarmists less to talk about.

May was a great month with many events including the EGCSA's Poa weekend held at the Naples Beach Club. It was great to see so many people and families enjoying the time together. Congratulations to the EGCSA board, which nicely managed not only the Poa but also the G. C. Horn tournament. Hats off to Seth Strickland

who secured a spot on the FGCSA golf team in the stroke-play tournament at Naples Grande. At the FGCSA Past President's Dinner, Joe Pantaleo was presented with the FGCSA Distinguished Service Award for his many years of service and leadership for the FGCSA and his local chapter.

In August, the FGCSA summer board meeting will be held at the Grand Cypress resort in Orlando in conjunction with the Crowfoot Open. If you have not been to this event, it really is a worthwhile weekend. At that time Shane Bass, CGCS will take over as the new FGCSA president and I will begin my year as past president.

I have often been asked how am I able to spend so much time working on association business, keep my job, have time for my family and find time for other activities. It is much easier to say (or in this case write) than do, but it seems to me to boil down to planning and relationships. The planning piece is more concrete. Daily planners, seminars and books help with time management. But building working relationships with people is the piece that requires constant diligence.

Relationships with people are keys to becoming successful and finding a balance of work, life and, in this case, volunteering. Developing relationships with staff is one of the many ways to stay employed for any length of time. By setting measurable goals for staff and monitoring those results, you teach not only accountability but your employees learn to think for themselves.

By teaching assistants to think for themselves, they develop and grow not only for themselves but also for the operation. Then when you are gone

for any reason, someone is there who can think things through and handle most situations. When your assistants go out for their first superintendent positions, you will have made them much more capable of succeeding.

Developing relationships with peers is also extremely important for success. It has been said to me many times that your toughest competition is your best friend. When I entered the business after college, what really helped me were the relationships I had developed in those first few years with other superintendents in the area. Many were peers of my mentors, and the knowledge gleaned from them was invaluable.

Taking time to visit similar courses in your region is important to keep you fresh; it also validates your management practices. Playing golf at local chapter events is one way to do this. Chapter meetings let you get away for a few hours, network and see other another golf courses.

Networking with vendors is just as important as with your peers. Suppliers are valuable personal and business resources, and relationships with them must be cultivated. Having a good relationship with a vendor can save your bacon in an emergency. Many were once superintendents and are still willing to help when you have a problem. They see many operations in a week and can keep you informed of new ideas and how others are dealing with the same problems.

It is certainly a two-way street with anyone who sells products. We are buying the products but many companies also support our profession with magazine ads and sponsorships of events.

Having strong relationships at work with management is also a key in the relationship-building process. Communicate with the professional staff as to when, where and why you are going off property, and it's critical to tell them who is in charge and how to get in touch with them while you are gone.

Having the same type of dialog with a green chairman or general manager is also important, but adding why it is a value to the club for you to attend a meeting or seminar is also helpful. By creating an operation with a talented, well-trained staff that is able to communicate the goals and objectives of the department – and having buy-in from the other departments and management – fosters an environment in which it is much easier to spend a few hours each week focusing on our industry's big picture instead of only focusing on the smaller-scale, day-to-day tasks. We need to take care of those daily details, but we also must keep an eye on the horizon and prepare for challenges coming our way.

It's All About Planning and Relationships



Matt Taylor, CGCS President

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THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS FOR MAKING THE 2008 BLUE PEARL THE BEST EVER!



Chapters' Spring Flings Raise Cash for Research, Education, Charities

By Joel Jackson, CGCS Retired

There are so many major events each spring one superintendent asked me if I was on the "Events Tour." I did play in a few

Dr. John Cisar leads a tour of the turf plots in Ft. Lauderdale the 2008 Expo raised \$25,000 for research operations at the IFAS center. Photo by Ian Maguire.

golf tournaments, but I have zero FedEx points and will have to go back to Q-school again for next year. But seriously, many thanks to the turf research funds and donations raised and/or presented by the Everglades Poa Annuua, North Florida Memorial and Research Tournaments, Seven Rivers Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, South Florida Turf Expo, Suncoast Scramble, Treasure Coast Blue Pearl events and a special donation from the West

EGCSA President Corey McDonough, left, presented Seth Strickland with the Poa Trophy for winning the stroke play event at the 33rd Poa Annuua Classic.





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SPOTLIGHT



NFGCSA President Rip Phillips presents Lake City's John Piersol with a \$2,000 general scholarship donation at the annual North Florida Memorial Tournament.



FGCSA Education Chairman Mark Kann, left, with speaker Tommy Witt, CGCS at the GCSAA seminar. "Enhancing Your Value as a Professional Superintendent" in Naples.

SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

socializing along with Coast Chapter at the Spring Board Meeting. Networking and

golf bragging rights were to be had as well: Rafael Villegas and Jason Throop

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SPOTLIGHT



Seven Rivers President Mark Kann (left) presents Envirotron Tournament Chairman Glen Oberlander an award for his many years of devoted service to the event.



From left: Joe Pantaleo was named the 2008 Distinguished Service Award winner by Matt Taylor, CGCS at the Past Presidents Dinner in Naples.

SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

Coggan, CGCS/MG; and took top honors at the Central Florida Chapter Championship hosted at the Isleworth G&CC by Geoff

Coggan, CGCS/MG; and Joe Ondo, CGCS and Fred Marshall, Space Coast Turf Supply, won the CFGCSA Superintendent/Vendor

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Champion Sponsor Golf Ventures presents \$25,000 check to Seven Rivers GCSA. From left: Glen Oberlander, Mark Kann, Brad Reano and Debbie Nipper.



SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)

event at Chis Cartin's Tusawilla CC. The Treasure Coast GCSA's Blue Pearl was captured by the team of Jerry Freeman, Chad Kroeger, Jason Sprankle and Joe Bostic. Chapter Executive Assistant Barbara Tierney reported that this was the best year ever for fundraising. Seth Strickland kept his winning ways going by capturing the Poa Annu Classic.

It was also time for some serious recognition for past and continuing service by FGCSA members around



FGCSA Matt Taylor receives a \$5,000 research check from NFGCSA President Rip Phillips at the Spring Board Meeting in Naples.



From left: WCGCSA President Bill Kistler presented a \$1,500 research check to Matt Taylor in Naples at the Poa Annu Classic.



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