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**SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)**

the state. Steve LaFrance was named Greenkeeper of the Year by his North Florida peers at their annual Memorial Tournament at the Jacksonville G&CC. Seven Rivers GCSA presented Glenn Oberlander with a plaque honoring his long-running tenure as the chairman of the Envirotron Classic Tournament. FGCSA and South Florida Past President Joe Pantaleo was named 2008 Distinguished Service Award recipient at the FGCSA Spring Past Presidents Dinner in May.

Education and outreach were also in full bloom with Tim Hiers and other Everglades superintendents hosting our annual tour of the Old Collier Golf Club



*Blue Pearl Winning Team, from left: Jerry Freeman, Chad Kroeger, Jason Sprankle and Joe Bostic. The event raised a record \$28,000.*

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*Dr. Tom Watschke discussed Plant Growth Regulators and Biostimulants at the Everglades Symposium.*



*From left: Everglades Symposium speakers and topics: Dr. Ali Haravandi – Living with Recycled Water, Dr. Tom Nikolai- attendee, and Dr. Bryan Unruh – Paspalum: Considerations for Success.*

**SPOTLIGHT SCRAPBOOK (cont)**

for the Spring Regulator Tour. Central Florida hosted a GCSAA Regional Seminar on ultradwarf greens management, and the Everglades GCSA hosted its annual Spring Symposium which brought in another stellar lineup of speakers from across the country. The FGCSA hosted a GCSAA Leadership Seminar in conjunction with the Poa Annua Classic in Naples with Tommy Witt, CGCS doing the honors as the



*From left: More Symposium speakers and topics: Dr. Eileen Buss - Pesticide resistance, Charlie Fultz – A Strategy for Working Smarter, Randy Cush – Understanding Pesticide Formulations.*

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FTGA Vice President Todd Himmelberger (left) and FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson (right) each receive \$5,000 research checks from Suncoast President Bill Tyde.

guest speaker on Enhancing the Value of a Professional Superintendent. The Calusa and Suncoast chapters also

announced that they will be holding a joint meeting next year and hope to make it an annual affair.



Steve LaFrance (center) from the King and Bear Course received the Greenkeeper of the Year award from Rip Phillips (left) and Andy Maguire at the NFGCSA Memorial Tournament.

And last but not least, the Coastal Plains chapter has announced that because of the small number of clubs

in their geographic area they cannot achieve independent chapter recognition by GCSAA. They will disband as

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a formal group but continue to meet as a group and become At Large members of the FGCSA next year.

I managed to make a few chapter presentations as part of my events tour by giving the North Florida, Suncoast and Calusa chapters updates on the legislative and regulatory issues facing our industry. It has been a season of challenges with the drought, water restrictions and local fertilizer ordinances which only highlight why it is so important to support our local chapters and state association.

– Photos by Joel Jackson

## Rick Tatum Dies in Boating Accident

Rick Tatum, 48, was killed in a boating accident near Marathon Key on the evening of July 2.

The boat containing Tatum and three others was struck by a second boat also containing four people. Tatum died at the scene from his injuries. All the others sustained injuries as well, with a second member of the Tatum party being airlifted to a hospital in Miami.

Tatum, who grew up in Southern California, was the director of golf course operations for the Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples. He graduated from the turf program at Michigan State University in 1987. His 20-year career in southwest Florida included working at The



A highlight of the Blue Pearl is the Bayer Power Pak auction. This year Roy MacDonald (right) from the Hobe Sound CC took the high bid and Brian MacCurrach from Bayer delivers the goods.

Club Pelican Bay, Bonita Bay Club, The Forest, Shadow Wood and Grey Oaks.

During the memorial service at Grey Oaks July 12, General Manager Jim Butler, who hired Tatum at The Forest CC and later followed him to Grey Oaks said, “During the final interview stage at The Forest I asked Rick, ‘Why should we hire you?’ Tatum’s terse reply, “Because I have a passion for grass.”

Tatum’s passionate lifestyle for his family, friends and his profession was highlighted by a dozen other speakers from family members to his friends in the golf business. They shared humorous and serious insights and anecdotes that defined his unique

competitive personality. A remembrance card bearing a photo of Rick and the message “Live Life Passionately. Rick Tatum. December 27, 1959 – July 2, 2008 captured the essence of his life.

Family friend, former superintendent and owner of G to Z Turf Services Glenn Zakany said, “I will miss his laugh and his favorite saying, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me’ when things didn’t go as planned.” Zakany also revealed that unbeknownst to anyone, Tatum had arranged to donate his body to the University of Miami Medical Center. The family found out later this act of kindness could help up to 75 people.

Tatum was an active member of the Everglades

GCSA and his service on the board of directors culminated with his presidency in 1999-2000. On Aug. 1 Grey Oaks will host a memorial tournament to raise funds to assist the needs of the family. Tatum is survived by his wife Sheryl and his three daughters: Sydney (14), Carly (16) and Jeanette (18).



Rick Tatum

2008 JEFF HAYDEN MEMORIAL  
Environtron Golf Classic



The 16th annual edition of this premiere event was made possible by generous contributions from the following industry partners.

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The Seven Rivers GCSA also wishes to express its thanks to management and staff of the World Woods Golf Club for helping to host this event.



**Number 5**  
**Lake Wales C.C.**  
**Par 3, 142 yards**  
**Photo by Daniel Zelazek**





## LAKE WALES COUNTRY CLUB

# Mutual respect, teamwork abound

*By Joel Jackson, CGCS, Retired*

The Lake Wales Country Club is located a few miles east of U.S. Highway 27 on Florida Route 60 in eastern Polk County. Perched on the rolling sandy hills of the Central Florida Ridge, the club is yet another historical

golfing landmark of the 1920s.

How ironic that our 2008 spring and summer cover story selections by the North Florida and Ridge chapters should put two 1923 golf courses designed by Donald Ross back to back. The hallmark parkland-type layouts are similar in some

traditional ways, but the geography and topographical features render them unique.

The property was purchased in 1980 by the Ben Hill Griffin Company and, ever since, the company has been dedicated to making improvements to serve the members. In 1983 a new

## COURSE FACTS

### Lake Wales Country Club

**Location:** Lake Wales

**Ownership:** Ben Hill Griffin, Inc.

**Number of Holes:** 18; 6,857 yds; Par 72; Slope/Rating: 128/72.7

**Designed by:** Donald Ross. Established: 1923.

**Management Team:** Chairman of the Board, Ben Hill

Griffin III; President, Hill

Griffin; General Manager,

PGA Master Professional Bob

Forward; Executive Assitant,

Lynne Tucker; Chef, J. R.

Rawlins; Director of Tennis, Joe

Hight and Golf Course

Superintendent, Jim Rowland,

Class A GCSAA Member

**Major renovations:** 1985

enlarged tees; 1987 renovated

greens with Classic Dwarf; 1998

renovated greens (TifDwarf)

and bunker complexes;

2001 & 2002 renovated tee

complexes and in 2007 added

new tournament tees to holes

2,6,9,11,13,14 and 18; and 2008 enlarged practice range

tee and grassed with Celebration bermudagrass (all work

from 1998 on was done by Highland Golf or in-house)

**Total acreage under maintenance:** 120

**Greens:** TifDwarf; avg size: 5,500 sq. ft. acres: 2.25; HOC:

5/32 in.; Green speed goal: 10 Overseeding: Poa trivialis at

10 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.

**Tees, Fairways and Roughs:** Tees are Tifway 419, 2.5

A; HOC 9/16"; overseed tees with ryegrass at 300 lbs/A.

Fairways 34 A of a mix of Tifway 419, Ormond and some

common bermudagrass; HOC 9/16"; overseed with 400

lbs/A of ryegrass. Roughs 80 A; HOC 2.0" in winter, 2.5"

in summer; No overseeding this year.

**Bunkers:** 74 bunkers. Sand type: Native Central Florida Ridge sand. Machine raked with Jacobsen unit.

**Waterways:** 5 lined ponds with total area of 5 acres. One pond is 3.5 acres and is adjacent to residential area and maintained by aquatic maintenance company.

**Irrigation:** water source

– Deep well. Equipment – 2

40-hp pumps with a 15-hp jockey pump. 600 heads.

Controls – Toro Varitime II

System. Fertigation system.

**Water Management and Conservation practices:**

Follow SWFWMD guidelines

**Staff:** Total including

superintendent 13 (8 full time

and 5 part time). Full time

staff is budgeted 40 hours per

week and part time staff 30

hours per week.

**Maintenance staff members**

and years of service are: Golf

Course Superintendent/Greenkeeper Jim Rowland (24);

Mechanic Specialist Assistant Rich Lengyel (12); Chemical

Technician/No. 1 Assistant Donald Gandy (15); Assistant

Mechanical Specialist Bryan Witt (11); Horticulturist

Donnie Davis (5); Irrigation Specialist Glenn Tower (3);

No. 1 Maintenance/second Assistant Al Laroche (25);

No. 1 Equipment Operators: Wayne Demott (11); Frank

Martin (20); Charlie Finch (5) and Keith Smith (2); No. 2

Equipment Operators/Laborers: J. Roy Rowland (2) and

Charlie Hurst (1).

**Communications:** Daily assignment review as needed.

Weekly update meetings.



*Long time members of the Lake Wales Country Club Staff*

**...the orange and blue tee markers... were a sure sign of a Bull Gator booster at work.**

clubhouse was built, and a series of course projects began in 1985 to improve the greens, tees, bunkers and practice areas. Last year seven new back tees (orange) were added to give the course more length in order to host top-flight state tournaments. I noted the orange and blue tee markers as I rode the course with Superintendent Jim Rowland for this story. It was a sure sign of a Bull Gator booster at work.

The Lake Wales layout is a little more wide open than it used to be thanks

(or no thanks) to Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Jeanne in 2004. You may not remember that Lake Wales was virtual ground zero for all three as they criss-crossed Florida; their tracks all intersected at Lake Wales. Rowland said they lost around 500 trees overall. The only evidence of those stormy days is a few leaning trees selectively left as a reminder of that historic year.

Any course on Florida's central sandy ridge has two issues with water – removal and retention; one good and