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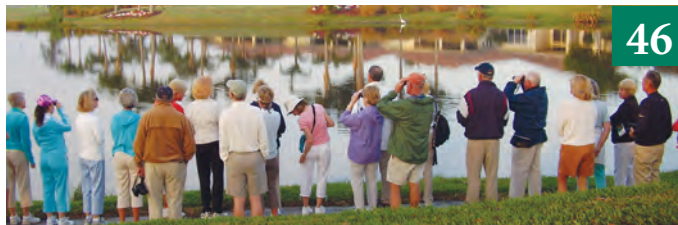
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SPOTLIGHT: THREE-PEAT FOR SFGCSA GOLF TEAM

The team of Jason Bagwell, Kelly Cragin, Bob Harper, Howard Hulesbosch and Seth Strickland carried the South Florida GCSA banner to its third consecutive FGCSA Championship at Southern Dunes GC, Haines City.

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COVER STORY: SEMINOLE GOLF CLUB

Seminole Golf Club on the Florida State University campus in Tallahassee and the Don Middleton Golf Complex, which is home to the school's premiere Professional Golf Management program, is a state-of-the-art learning laboratory for future golf professionals.

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HANDS ON: DISEASE ON THE RISE?

Based on some of the comments from superintendents and university turf pathologists, disease incidents appear to be on the rise on our turfgrasses just as we are making gains in cold tolerance, lower nitrogen requirements and better drought tolerance.

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INDUSTRY NEWS: TURF EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT

The Turf Equipment Management program at Lake City Community College will admit its 35th class next fall. Students can go one year for an applied technology diploma in turf equipment technology or stay for a second year and receive an associate in science degree in turf equipment management.

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RESEARCH: GOLF COURSE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE

The GCSAA Environmental Institute for Golf has released the first of four focused surveys addressing components and practices used on golf courses. It covers overall land-use characteristics and environmental stewardship.

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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.

Spring 2008 - Irrigation Management and Water Conservation

Summer 2008 - Ultradwarf and Seashore Paspalum Greens

Fall 2008 - Improving communication

Winter 2009 - Technician and Staff Training

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.

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.

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Well, it should be official by now that most of the state is tightening water restrictions as golf season begins. Collier and Lee counties have likely gone to Phase III, reducing water use by 45 percent by the time this goes to press. Residential landscapes may now be watered only one day per week. Other areas of the state are certainly not far behind. All facilities that have restricted consumptive-use water permits will be facing difficult times.

There is an old saying that “What does not kill you will make you stronger.” I believe this to be true. I also believe that much good can come from this drought in the long run, maybe because I

Less Water, More Golfers

know it will not last forever. We need to think seriously about how we can document and demonstrate ongoing water conservation and not just when it is a drought-response cutback.

One good thing that can come from this is that we all become better educators and communicators. We must improve the education of our staffs, teaching what we all know but might not have had to use for years: how to manage our turfgrass with less water than normal, the proper use of wetting agents and which varieties tend to hold more water.

We must also communicate more effectively with everyone involved at the club about what is actually involved with water restrictions. We must use every angle to continue to remind our members what we/they are faced with. We must communicate with the golf professionals, general managers, and assistant managers, use the club’s newsletter, club e-mail... anything that will get the word out, just in case someone has missed those brown fairways and roughs.

This situation is unlike others such as an outbreak of disease or other issue that might have been prevented. This is out of our hands, and hopefully presenting the facts over and over will show members and others that the water restrictions are a short-term event and not an excuse for conditions.

We must openly and honestly communicate what type of restrictions we are facing. Does your facility have effluent water that is or is not restricted? Are you solely reliant on surface water from your lakes or wells? We must help each other by being good stewards of our profession. Many in our area have only one source of irrigation water, that being surface water. Those clubs are going to be hit the hardest

in the beginning.

We all have been there – standing in the pro shop or out on the course and a member approaches and says, “Have you seen XYZ club? They are really in bad condition.” Here is the critical point. How do you answer? Hopefully you know enough about the club they are discussing and you can respond in a positive, truthful and supportive manner.

First we should ask if the facility is really in bad condition as the member says, or is it just dry grass? You know the XYZ club relies only on restricted surface or lake water. Since their normal supply has been reduced by 45 percent for the same period last year, which is why they are brown now.

God forbid, but water restrictions may be here to stay, given Florida’s growth and development demands. Maybe the time is now to begin planning for the future. Now may be the time to consider installing a new irrigation system or upgrading your existing system. Utilizing decreased spacing on irrigation head placement might be one option. Installing ET-based weather stations, or just installing newer technology sprinkler heads might help improve efficiency to stretch our water supplies.

Maybe it is time to look at reducing the amount of irrigated acres. This can be done in many ways but maybe the simplest is spraying out the turf, removing the irrigation and installing native plant material in out-of-play areas. They do not have to be large areas; many small areas that are truly out of play will add up quickly. Other ideas might be to install crushed shell or other ground covers that do not require irrigation. Either way, the projects can easily be sold on the number of gallons of irrigation that can be saved each year, not to mention the reduced man-hours and fertilizer and chemical costs to maintain these areas.

Beginning in December, the South Florida Water Management District began a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss long-term solutions to water issues. Joel Jackson, CGCS, our executive director, has been attending these meetings on our behalf. In the upcoming months you will begin to see what comes from these meetings which will certainly help to shape the near future for water use in this region.

Hopefully by being positive and proactive in dealing with the water restrictions, we will survive yet another season. If all of this fails, I remember the words of J. Mark Black, CGCS: “Matt, grass putts the best right before it dies.”

So we have that going for us.



Matt Taylor, CGCS President



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Donations Abound – Charities and Causes Benefit

CALUSA: Glenn McCandless hosted our Annual Christmas Charity Tournament at his Kelly Greens G&CC in December. All proceeds this year will go to the Hope Hospice.

CENTRAL FLORIDA: Jim Kernohan once again hosted the joint CFGCSA/CFTESTA meeting and golf outing in December at the MetroWest GC. In January, Stuart Leventhal and the Interlachen CC will host our annual FTGA Research Tournament. Thanks to Gary Myers, CGCS and Dale Stump for stepping up and running for president and vice president of the chapter for 2007-08. Brett Harris will continue to serve as the secretary/treasurer.

COASTAL PLAINS: Congratulations to Doug Abbuhl and the Seminole Golf Club for being the cover story for this Winter Issue of the Florida Green. FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson made a presentation on the various issues facing our industry at

our November meeting at the St. James Bay Golf Club.

EVERGLADES: We recently met with 100 club members and general managers to discuss the water restriction issue and the impact on area golf courses. So far we haven't made much progress with the SFWMD but we will keep trying. On a happier note, Mark Black and the Quail West G&CC hosted our annual Christmas tournament. All toys collected at the event were given to the Children's Home Society. Beginning in 2008 our monthly newsletter will go 100 percent electronic. No more hard copies of newsletters or announcements.

We were pleased to be able to make another Platinum Tee Club donation of \$5,000 to the GCSAA this year thanks to the support of all our chapter members.

NORTH FLORIDA: Congratulations to our golf team of Mike Shields, Matt Seibel, Bob Coffey and Ken Arsenault for



West Coast GCSA co-founder and legend Bud Quandt greeted all the players in his namesake tournament at Tampa Palms and helped each team's putt on the par-3, 17th hole. Photo by Christi Haley.



The Ridge GCSA presented Alan Puckett a Lifetime Service Award during the October meeting in Haines City in October. From left, Bob Solms, president; Puckett; Scott Scamerhorn, secretary/treasurer; Tom Barnett, external VP and Jim Rowland, vice president. Photo by Joel Jackson

winning Team Low Net at the FGCSA Championship in Haines City and coming in fourth overall in the Gross Division. Also Mike Shields came in second overall in the Individual Division. Kudos also go out to Clayton Estes for his article on renovation that was published in GCM magazine. A tip of the hat also to Alan Davalt for a job well done at Selva Marina until new superintendent Chris Durkee arrived. Welcome Chris.

PALM BEACH: Golf at the joint meeting with the Treasure Coast GCSA at the Jupiter Island Club was rained out and host Rob

Kloska said a make up day would be scheduled so we could hold our annual Golf Grudge Match. Not rained out were the presentations by Steve Pearson, Joel Jackson, John Foy and staff members from SFWMD.

Our November meeting was at Iron Horse CC, hosted Bill Jeffrey CGCS. The education was an open panel discussion on ultra dwarfs. The panel was made up of Frank McKee of Parkland GC, David Tandy of Delray Dunes GC, Steve Pearson CGCS of The Falls CC, Richard Green of The Fountains CC, Dr. John Cisar of the UF Ft. Lauderdale and John Foy of



Thanks for your helping hand

generosity and the loyal support from our sponsors.

The South Florida GCSA was able to donate \$23,000
to the Florida Branch of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
at our 23rd Annual Benefit for Children



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Special thanks to Dale Kuehner, CGCS, the Colony West C. C. and all of the volunteers who gave their day to help us with this worthy cause.



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SPOTLIGHT



WCGCSA President Bill Kistler, left, presented Richard Hagan with a plaque commemorating his 2007 Bud Quandt Scholarship presented at the Bud Quandt Tournament at Tampa Palms in October 2007. Photo by Chrisi Haley.

the USGA.

In December we held a golf outing only at Park Ridge GC; host was Larry Balko CGCS. Our Christmas party cruise will be on the Palm Beach Princess. The chapter is picking up the tab. All donations collected on the cruise will go to Toys for Tots. Jan. 9 chapter meeting at CC of Boca Raton; host will be Randy Bushway

RIDGE: We presented Alan Puckett with our Lifetime Service Award at the October meeting. At that meeting we also made a donation to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Polk County.

Harrell's Fertilizer once again hosted our December meeting at their plant. In true Ridge legend the "infamous" Ridge Christmas party was once again held at the Bartow Municipal GC, thanks to hosts Tom Barnett and Mark Hopkins.

SEVEN RIVERS:

In November we held our annual fishing tournament out of Crystal River. We almost had a full boat this year. I just wish the fishing were a little better. Apparently, they caught a bunch of fish the day before we went. Congratulations to Wilson Randolph and Chuck Fernandez, who took first and second place, respectively. Everyone had a good time and I'm sure no one left hunger or thirsty. Thanks to all who attended.

We held our December meeting at Juliette Falls in Dunellon. Steve Keller is the superintendent of the course, which just recently opened. Besides playing a new course, we are participating in Toys For Tots this year. People bringing toys were given a \$5 price break on the registration.



Thank You!

We would also like to thank all who participated and volunteered to make this year's event a success!

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At the Bud Quandt Tournament in Tampa, Bill Kistler, president of the Florida West Coast GCSA presents FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson with two checks, one for \$1,000 for the FGCSA Research Account and one for \$100 for the new Ag/Turf Awareness Campaign. Photo by Christi Haley.

We will not be having a regular January meeting due to the FTGA Turf Seminar in Ocala Jan 22 and the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show in Orlando at the end of the month. Hopefully, everyone takes advantage of these events being close by.

Mark Kann, President

SOUTH FLORIDA: The highlight of our fall calendar is always when Dale Kuehner, CGCS hosts the Missing & Exploited Childrens Tournament in October at the Colony West CC. This year we were very proud to deliver a check for \$23,000 to the organization. We have delivered around \$250,000 to this worthy cause over the 20-plus-year lifetime of this event.

Dr. Bert McCarty of Clemson University was the speaker at our November meeting at the Miami Beach CC hosted by Ricky Reeves. Dr. McCarty's topic was on new herbicides coming

out (also a little on old herbicides-MSMA) and side discussions on water problems in South Carolina and Georgia, gene stacking in turfgrass. We plan to send 2007 off in style with our annual Christmas party Dec. 8 at the Signature Grand in Ft. Lauderdale. The band Powerhouse will be back by popular demand.

SUNCOAST: Our annual Christmas Tournament was hosted by Tom Robertson at his Bird Bay G.C. on Dec. 20. Toys for Tots will be the charity for this year's event. Players donated toys as they signed in. In January we kick off the new year with our traditional Vendor Appreciation Meeting at the Bradenton CC hosted by Renze Berg. The golf outing will be the first qualifier in our annual Chapter Golf Championship series.

TREASURE COAST: Lucky for the Palm Beach Boys that the golf was rained

out at our annual joint meeting at the Jupiter Island Club. We were ready for them. Stay tuned for results from the re-match. Bobby Wallace's Grand Harbor Club is featured in the article by Shelly Foy in this issue's Stewardship section. Congratulations to Bobby and his members for supporting environmental stewardship in a very proactive way. We will not have a monthly meeting in January since many of us will be attending the GCSAA Green Industry Show in Orlando.

WEST COAST: This year we presented our Bud Quandt Scholarship to Richard Hagan at the October event. Joel Jackson, executive director gave a presentation on current golf industry issues. We also presented Joel with checks for the FGCSA Research Account and the PR Campaign for Ag/Turf

Awareness. In November, Kevin Sunderman hosted the meeting at the Isla del Sol GC. Tim Hiers, CGCS spoke about paspalum versus bermuda turfgrass. TPC Tampa Bay was the site for our annual Vendor Appreciation Day in December. Thanks to Jason Kubel for hosting this event.

FGCSA: Veteran staffer Marie Roberts along with rookie Association Manager Jennifer Innes co-piloted the Fall FGCSA Board Meeting in Orlando. Ever since then Jennifer has been taking on more and more of Marie's duties as they work through the transition period. Marie's official retirement date has been set as Jan. 31 at the FGCSA Reception in Orlando.

Executive Director Joel Jackson has been asked to serve on the South Florida Water Management District's Water Conservation Summit



Darden Nicks, treasurer of the Palm Beach GCSA presented Joel Jackson with a \$100 check at the joint Palm Beach/Treasure Coast meeting at the Jupiter Island Club. The funds are to support the Ag/Turf Awareness Campaign. Photo by Steve Pearson.



The Ridge GCSA joined the bandwagon by donating to the Ag Institute of Florida's Ag/Turf Awareness Campaign. Board member Alan Puckett presented a \$100 check to Joel Jackson at the October 2007 Ridge Meeting at Southern Dunes. Photo by Ward Pepperman.

panel. There will be a series of meetings from December 2007 to March 2008 for the panel to come up long range comprehensive and sustainable water conservation guidelines to present to the SFWMD Board of Governors in April.

Many thanks to all of our local FGCSA chapters that made additional donations to the Ag Institute of

Florida's Ag/Turf Awareness Campaign. This initiative will provide industry with positive messages to deliver to the public, politicians and media on the positive economic and environmental contributions of Florida's Ag and green industries. The original \$500 donation by the FGCSA was increased to about \$1,500, thanks to local chapter support.



Craig Weyandt, immediate past president of the FGCSA, left, received a "Thank You" plaque from Treasurer Bill Kistler at the Fall Board Meeting in Orlando for serving an extra term as president in 2007. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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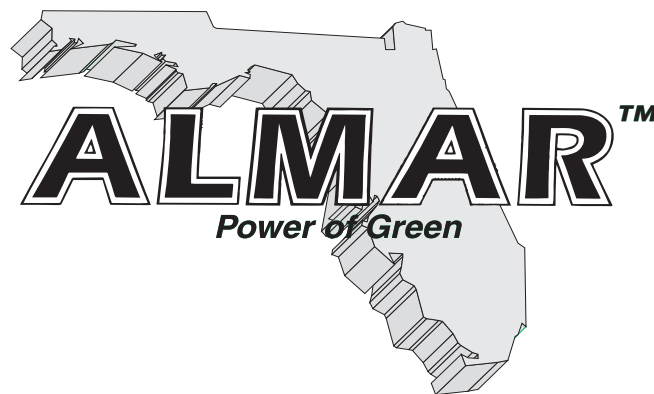
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FGCSA STAFF CHANGES

Hello from Your New Association Manager

This is my first official writing assignment for the FGCSA and I wanted to tell you a little about myself. I was born in Fall River, Mass. and moved to Jupiter when I was nine, and consider this the town where I “grew up.”

In 1994, I graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in psychology and a minor in communications and moved to Atlanta immediately thereafter. I married in 1996, to Robert, remaining in Atlanta until 2000 when we began inching our way back to South Florida with a three-year stop in Jacksonville and now, happily, to Jensen Beach.

I am the proud parent of a son, Stewart (10), and daughter, Clare (3). When I am not spending time with



Jennifer Innes is the new association manager for the FGCSA. Photo by Elizabeth Skiles.

my busy family, which also includes our 11-month-

old boxer, Jigsaw, I love to run, play tennis, read, listen

to music and putter with projects around the house.

Prior to accepting employment as the association manager for the FGCSA, I was employed as a program coordinator for the YMCA in Atlanta and an executive coordinator for Lanier Worldwide, also in Atlanta.

I took a brief break from the workforce to focus on my family, but stayed actively involved on various school boards and volunteering in the community.

I am very excited to be a part of the FGCSA. This position holds many opportunities, and I am looking forward to learning more about your industry and using my knowledge and expertise to benefit the members of your association.

Jennifer Innes

The Old Dog is Up to New Tricks

I am proud and honored to be named the executive director of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. I will still be responsible for the primary external communications of the association as I was as your director of communications since January 1998, and editor of our publications since 1990.

The working relationships I have established over the past 10 years with allied associations like the GCSAA, FTGA, Florida Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association, Florida Ag Council, Ag Institute of Florida, Pesticide Review Council, FLDER, FLDOACS, UF/IFAS, Turf and Ornamental Communicators Association and the International Network of Golf will continue as we address issues facing our profession

and the golf industry.

I will continue to spread the word about our issues and golf maintenance in general to the golfing public via regular articles in publications like Florida Golf Central Magazine and Golf Is Our Game.

But I will also direct my energies inward to help the FGCSA recruit and retain members and develop programs and services that will benefit all members and especially address career needs and volunteerism not only among superintendents but also assistants and turf students who are the future life blood of our organization.

I approach these changes with mixed emotions as my long time partner in crime, Marie Roberts, hangs up her FGCSA hat. She made me swear I wouldn't retire before she did, and I am happy to comply and continue

to help the association for years to come.

The good news is she will still be working for the South Florida and Palm Beach chapters,

so we will be able to tap into her experience as we move forward. In fact one of my goals is to establish at least an annual meeting of the local chapter administrative staff members so we can be a resource for each other as we serve your needs and make things run smoother for everyone.

I wish you all a very prosperous New Year.



*Joel Jackson
FGCSA executive director*