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4-0-0

Total Nitrogen (N).....4.00%
 2.25% Nitrate Nitrogen
 1.75% Urea Nitrogen*
 Iron (Fe).....2.00%
 2.00% Chelated Iron
 Manganese (Mn).....3.00%
 3.00% Water Soluble Manganese

Also contains non-plant food ingredients: Fulvic acid and kelp extract (Ascophyllum Nodosum).

*1.75% Urea nitrogen stabilized with dicyandimide and N-(n-butyl) N-(n-Butyl)- thiophosphoric tri amide.

12-0-10

12-0-10

Total Nitrogen (N).....12.00%
 2.0% Nitrate Nitrogen
 10.00% Urea Nitrogen*
 Soluble Potash (K₂O).....10.00%
 Iron (Fe).....1.00%
 1.00% Chelated Iron
 Manganese (Mn).....0.30%
 0.30% Water Soluble Manganese
 Zinc (Zn).....0.10%
 0.10 Water Soluble Zinc

Also contains non-plant food ingredients: Fulvic acid and kelp extract (Ascophyllum Nodosum).

*5.00% Urea Nitrogen Stabilized with dicyandiamide and N-(n-butyl) N-(n-Butyl)-thiophosphoric trimide.

7-7-7

7-7-7

Total Nitrogen (N).....7.00%
 1.0% Nitrate Nitrogen
 6.0% Urea Nitrogen*
 Available Phosphate (P₂O₅).....7.00%
 Soluble Potash (K₂O).....7.00%
 Iron (Fe).....1.00%
 1.00% Chelated Iron
 Manganese (Mn).....0.08%
 0.08% Water Soluble Manganese
 Zinc (Zn).....0.08%
 0.08 Water Soluble Zinc

*3.00% Urea nitrogen stabilized with dicyandiamide and N-(n-butyl) N-(n-Butyl)-thiophosphoric triamide.

Root Enhancer

Root Enhancer plus Fulvic acid

Iron (Fe).....5.00%
 5.00% Chelated Iron

Also contains the following components: Fulvic Acid derived from Leonardite shale and seaweed extract derived from Ascophyllum nodosum.

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Education and Support are Key to Our Success

by Joel Jackson

Golf Team's Victory Aids Turf Research

This past February, Florida Team No. 2 of Bob Harper, Jason Regan, Jim Torba and Deron Zandt won the Team Gross Competition held at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens. Besides their trophies, the victory is mostly about bragging rights for the year, but this year was a little different. The Toro Company made a \$500 Golden Tee Club donation to GCSAA's Environmental Institute in recognition of the national gross and net team winners. Congratulations to the team and thanks to Toro for adding this positive incentive and reward for playing the game we love.

From the Beltway to the Fairway

For over a decade now, the FGCSA has partnered with the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association and other commodity groups to sponsor a week-long tour of Florida Agriculture for EPA, Florida DEP, Florida DACS and Water Management District regulators every March. The 25-30 groups arrive in Ft. Myers on a Monday afternoon and are bussed down to the Old Collier Golf Club in Naples for a tour of the course and maintenance facility. Then we all sit down for a barbecue dinner in the crew break room. Host Tim Hiers, CGCS is aided by Ricardo Uriarte, course superintendent and 5 or 6 Everglades GCSA members to drive the multi-passenger golf carts and spread out among the regulators to answer questions and point out features of golf course operations, so the officials can get a real-world picture of golf course management.

Most of these regulatory staffers have a science background, but are not really familiar with how the tees, greens, fairways, roughs, native areas, etc all work together and where the maintenance emphasis lies. We see lots of "Aha moments" as myths and perceptions are clarified. Thanks to Darren Davis, Matt Taylor, Lou Counzelmann, Kyle Sweet and Jan Beljan for acting as guides this year. When

*Part of the group at the 2011 UF/IFAS North Central Florida Field Day.
Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS.*



(l-r) Brian MacCurrach (Bayer) and Greg Pheneger (Johns Island) with the Bayer Blue Pearl Power Pak. This year's auction won by Pheneger netted \$6,500 for the Treasure Coast chapter. Photo by Joel Jackson



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people ask, “where does our money go?” this is one of those government relations and outreach and education line items we feel pays dividends.

Continuing Education and Research

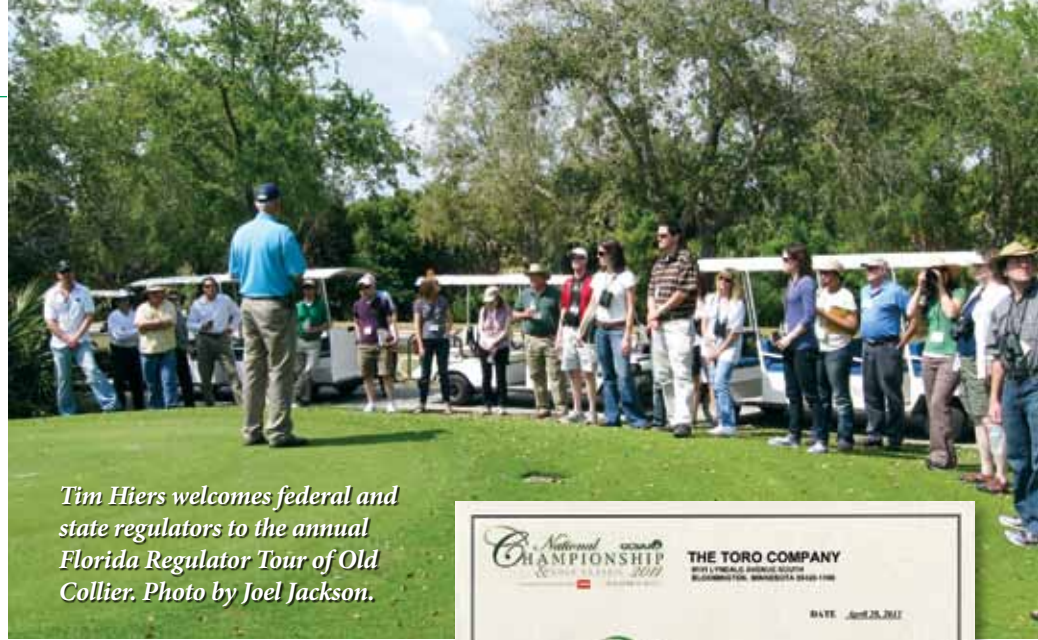
The Everglades Spring Symposium held every April at the Naples Beach Club is day full of continuing education that brings researchers, educators and even regulators to Naples for a day-long session on a variety of topics dealing with golf course management.

This year, part of the program was dedicated to the topic of BMPs as the state gears up for introducing a Golf BMP certification program in concert with the Florida DEP. Drs. Trenholm, Buss and Dukes spoke on nutrient management, insect control and irrigation BMPs.

This emphasis will continue at the Crowfoot Open in August and the FTGA Conference and Show in September.

On the regulatory side, Paul Mitola with FDACS talked about “Surviving an FDACS Inspection.” The short version – perceptions lead to complaints which lead to inspections, so document, document, document. Superintendents always want topics on turf problem-solving so the talks on “Optimizing Turf Performance” by USGA Aronomist Todd Lowe; “Herbicide Options in the Absence of MSMA” by Dr. Scott McElroy from Auburn and “Building a Fungicide Program” by Dr. Steve Kammerer from Syngenta filled the bill.

In May, the University of Florida held its annual North Central Florida Turf Field Day at the Research and Education Center in Citra. This is one of three



Tim Hiers welcomes federal and state regulators to the annual Florida Regulator Tour of Old Collier. Photo by Joel Jackson.

regional UF/IFAS Turf Expos held each year. The others are in Fort Lauderdale (March) and Milton in northwest Florida (June). Research and development doesn't get done without funding and each of these location receives support from industry and our association chapters. Of special interest this year were the drought tolerance and irrigation moisture management projects.

Also receiving a windfall of support this year was Florida Gateway College, formerly Lake City Community College. FGC is the home of one most successful Golf and Landscape programs in the country and many Florida superintendents are alumni. Program Director John Piersol recently shared the news that long-time Florida golf entrepreneur Frances Kayo Bowman left a \$100,000 endowment gift in his will. Combined with a \$12,500 gift from the Lake City Garden Club, the school's Scholarship and Program Enhance Endowment fund has grown to \$1,750,000.



The Toro Company donated \$500 to GCSAA's EIFG in the name of Florida's Golf Team.

While windfalls are wonderful, it is the steady, consistent support from our state and local vendors that keeps the stream of research funds flowing. Just one prime example is the Bayer Power Pak auction held each year at the Treasure Coast's Blue Pearl Tournament. Bayer donates a package of its products and Bayer regional rep Brian MacCurrach holds an auction for the whole bundle.

The money raised in the auction goes to the local chapter for its turf research and charitable programs.

This year Greg Pheneger from the John's Island Club won the bidding with \$6,500.

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SIXTEEN STITCHES ARE A REMINDER OF SHELLY'S BATTLE WITH MELANOMA.

MELANOMA

By Shelly Foy

Thank you to everyone who continues to work on environmental programs and projects on your golf courses. While I normally use this space to tout all the wonderful things you are doing, this time I want to talk about something else you should be doing, and I will tell it with a personal story.

A few weeks ago I went to my dermatologist for my check up. He said, "Shelly, everything looks fine. I will see you in six months." But for over a year and a half I have had my eye on a spot on my arm. It started out looking like a freckle (better word than age spot). This spot was getting larger and I brought it up to the doctor at every check up. His response was that it was nothing to worry about. This time I brought it up again, got the same response, but I pushed the point and finally got him to agree to biopsy it. His office called a week later, said it was an atypical mole and that I should come in and they would scrape it off. We did this and I thought everything was fine.

A few nights later the phone rang and it was my doctor. He told me that, first of all, we did not get it all, and secondly, the lab reported it was a melanoma. He said he could not remove it (due to the depth) and sent me to a plastic surgeon.

Sixteen stitches later, again I think all is well, and again my phone rings a few days later.

The surgeon told me it was the "bad kind" of melanoma (is there a good kind?) and that once again, we did not get it all. He told me that, because I was diligent and caught this early, they feel confident that it has not spread and that they will be able to remove it. He also told me that had we been having this conversation a year from now it would be a totally different story. I will be back in his office at the end of June for another procedure, hopefully to remove all of the melanoma.

The take-away message here is that this spot on my arm was not anything that dermatologists tell us to look for. It was not raised, did not have irregular edges, and honestly looked like a couple of age spots that had simply melded together. This was a spot that my doctor had routinely told me not to worry about for almost two years.

What you need to be on the lookout for is ANY spot on your body that changes in ANY way.

Ten years ago a friend had a spot on her arm, and by the time she got it checked out, it was an advanced melanoma and she died within six weeks. My mother told me that it was my diligence that saved my life by insisting the spot be checked. In reality, it was the memory of my friend who died too young and left two teenage boys behind.

I hope that everyone who takes the time to read this will immediately do three things. First, look at every spot on your body and ask yourself, has this spot changed at all? Second, pick up the phone and make an appointment with a dermatologist, and always make sure you wear sunscreen, a hat, and even a long sheet shirt while you are out on the golf course. Third, take a long look at your family and friends and not only encourage them to be diligent out in the sun and to have regular checkups, but also think about how tough it would be for them to get along without you.

For information on skin cancer and what you can do to protect yourself, please visit: www.cancer.org, www.melanoma.com, www.skincancer.org

EDITOR'S NOTE: Shelly, thanks for sharing your experience and reminding us to be good stewards of our own health.

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FIELD OBSERVATIONS



By *Ralph K Dain Jr.,*
GCSAA Regional Representative Florida

I hope that a good number of you know who I am by now. Whether you want to admit it or not is another question!

The editor of the *Florida Green* has graciously provided me with some space to communicate information and observations from my travels around the Sunshine State.

It is my intention to keep you apprised of what is going on both at the local level and nationally with the GCSAA. I am not sure exactly how much space I will be afforded. However, I do know Joel Jackson cannot queue up music like

the awards shows or Jeff Strother, past president Suncoast GCSA, did at their recent annual meeting when I went a little long. *Editor's note: We'll give you all the space you need. And yes, Ralph, no music, but I do get the final cut.)*

In my most recent chapter visits I have spoken about the FGCSA's efforts to initiate a certification program for the Florida Golf BMP manual. Matt Taylor, CGCS, envisioned this program nearly two years ago and we are hoping to unveil the initial testing at the Central Florida GCSA's Crowfoot Open Aug. 5. Some of the core topics were presented as part of the Everglades Spring Symposium to get the ball rolling.

The Florida Golf BMP manual has garnered numerous accolades at the national level and has thus far been instrumental in keeping golf out of the ordinances calling for additional fertilizer application restrictions in a number of locations. These ordinances do refer to the adherence to the Golf BMPs during local application blackout periods. Therefore it is critical that all of you be aware of these practices and diligent in documenting all the positive practices you employ at your facility.

If you need or want additional copies of the Florida BMP manual, please let me know and I will get them to you. I have seen the mother lode and IFAS has an entire pallet full of manuals available to distribute.

It is a good idea to share a copy of the manual with your owner, general manager, or committee members to help communicate your environmental stewardship efforts and the required practices if your city or county has a restrictive fertilizer ordinance.

I look forward to communicating to you one-on-one with my "Field Observations" for what I hope is a long, healthy time!! Until next time, I remain...

Ralph K. Dain Jr.
GCSAA Field Staff, Regional Representative Florida Region
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LIGHTS AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL



**GREEN SIDE UP
BY JOEL JACKSON**

If you are watching your investment portfolio, you are probably still in a state of uncertainty and anxiety over the nation's economic outlook. Certainly the golf industry isn't out of the woods yet, but at least some clearings are visible and there's room to stretch instead of always walking in the shadows.

After a couple of years of poorly attended events,

meetings and outings, reports of increased attendance at many chapter events are filtering through the grapevine. I know the Envirotron Classic was a 36-hole sell out, and attendance numbers from other early spring events was up over the past year or two. So there are some positive signs that people are tired of hiding in the cave and are craving continuing education and camaraderie.

There are encouraging signs from introductory programs like Get Golf Ready and news that individual facilities are getting more creative about welcoming golfers of all ages and abilities. Creative forward-tee installations by golf course architects are helping new golfers be more successful and enjoy the game while they develop their skills.

More clubs are setting aside tee times and days of the week where junior and beginner programs can get established. In one of the more extreme, but certainly unique, inventions for golfers

with limited physical abilities but still with the desire to be on the course with friends is a system called Ezee Golf. It consists of one special club that "fires" the golf ball 50 to 225 yards with power cartridges similar to a nail gun, and a wedge and a putter for the up-close chips and putts.

Certainly this isn't for USGA-sanctioned play and GHIN handicaps, but the majority of golfers are all about fun and friendship outdoors and not about placing a club championship trophy on the mantle. The game is finally making room for the "game" of golf and not just the competition to beat par or your opponent.

Recently, I played in two scramble tournaments at the International Network of Golf (ING) spring conference at the Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor. They have a full handicap pairs event to win a spot in the World Pairs Championship held in Scotland. But for the rest of us hacks there are scramble events.

Rather than the same old cruel and usual punishment of making me tee off from the blue tees where my drives become useless for the team, the golf committee said, "Let's have fun!" Seniors were invited to play from their tee of choice where they felt most comfortable.

I was not embarrassed to drive up to the forward tees and give it a whack. In fact, by doing so I had a real chance to contribute to the team and put a ball in the landing area where the A and B players drive. It let me enjoy the round a whole lot more than just saying, "Well, I don't need to hit on this hole."

We need to get more people engaged in the game for the industry's survival. It's refreshing to see golf courses, businesses and associations exploring new ways to get that done. ■



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