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The Florida Green

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ON THE COVER: 16th Hole, The Great Wave, Aberdeen G&CC. Photo courtesy of Premier Aerials International.

FOREWORDS

President's Message

After the winter we just had, we probably need to look into renaming the issues of our magazine. By the time this Spring issue reaches you, it may feel a whole lot like summer. Hopefully, everyone will take advantage of the warm weather and have their courses in great shape a little earlier than normal. Those of you in South Florida probably didn't have much of a break down there, so you have been going strong all winter long, I'm sure.

I hope that everyone who made it out to Las Vegas for the GCSAA Conference and Show had a good time and made it back safely and with a little bit of money left over. Congratulations to the Florida GCSA Golf Team of Deron Zandt, Bob Harper, Steve Bernard, and Steve Wright for winning first place in the Team Championship.

Thanks to all who attended the Florida Reception, especially our Industry Partners and Reception Sponsors, for making the event possible. Hopefully, everyone enjoyed the food, drink, and mingling with their colleagues. Thanks to the generosity of our attendees, we were able to raise more than \$1,000 for the Benevolent Fund. Lastly, I would like to congratulate Darren Davis who was appointed to the GCSAA Board of Directors to fill a one-year term as Director.

I heard a story on the radio a few weeks ago on the way home from church. The lesson was a bit off topic, but it got me thinking in a different way. The woman spoke about walking along the beach one morning. As she strolled with her feet just barely in the water, she came upon a small pool of water on the beach. In that pool, a small fish was struggling to get back into deeper waters. The fish was waiting for a big wave to come along and set it free.

Suddenly, a bird swooped down out of the sky and nearly grabbed the fish.

The woman telling the story said that sometimes people hang out in the shallow waters and wait for that big



Mark Kann,
President

chance to come along. The problem is that as long as you hang out in the shallow water, you are more susceptible to predators.

The woman was talking about people getting involved in different groups. Too often, people just belong and do not participate. When they just belong and don't get involved, other groups can attack.

We have been a proactive association for a long time and we need to continue that attribute. We have been able to keep ahead of most of the attacks from our critics due to staying engaged on the issues. We were one of the first groups to create a Golf BMP Manual and now we are serving as a model for other associations to follow. We are close to moving yet another step ahead with our Golf BMP Certification Program. The program will be voluntary, but in order to stay ahead of the attacks, we need massive participation. We are finalizing details and hope to begin testing soon.

We need everyone to stay abreast of events happening in their local areas. The sooner we know about local issues the sooner we can act as an association. When we send out e-mail alerts and requests to contact your local legislators, we need your help. We need your participation!

In this age of mass communications, we maintain an updated website and have even established a page on Facebook. We have been posting news, links, and photos of various events taking place involving our Association and our membership. Check us out on Facebook!



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From left, FGCSA Voting Delegate Dale Kuehner, CGCS; GCSAA Director Darren Davis and GCSAA Past President Bob Randquist, CGCS at the conclusion of the GCSAA Annual Meeting and Election of Officers in Las Vegas. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The Florida GCSA Scores in Three Big Events

Recent February and March events brought good news and results for all the members of the Florida GCSA. On Feb. 14, a delegation of leaders of the major state and national allied golf associations met in Tallahassee to witness the proclamation of Florida Golf Day.

Besides being a springboard for improved coordinated relations among all golf associations at the state level, the event gave the Florida golf industry a chance to meet en masse with government agency leaders to discuss the huge economic impact and environmental benefits that golf brings to Florida's economy and natural resources.

The ceremonial house and senate resolutions on Florida Golf Day were nice,

and the governor's press conference put an official seal on a day full of meetings and displays at the state capitol. Perhaps the most satisfying was the Business Roundtable meeting in which the allied association and state department heads met and exchanged facts and promises of improved cooperation going forward.

Members of the golf and turf industry attending the event included FGCSA officers Mark Kann, president, Nancy Miller, CGCS, vice president and Executive Director Joel Jackson; GCSAA's Field Representative Ralph Dain; USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe and FTGA Executive Director Pete Snyder. At the national level GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans



Mark Kann, Nancy Miller, CGCS and Joel Jackson (back left) sat in on the Florida Golf Day business roundtable meeting, where Rhett Evans, GCSAA CEO, Steve Mona, World Golf Foundation, and Drew Bartlett, Florida DEP, praised the FGCSA and superintendents for their environmental stewardship efforts. Photo courtesy of Capitol Alliance Group.

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TriEst Ag Group, Inc.



Thanks to all of our
**Industry Partners and
Reception Sponsors** for a
wonderful event in Las Vegas!

and World Golf Foundation head, Steve Mona did an excellent job of highlighting the impact of the contributions that golf course superintendents and their associations make to the success of the golf industry.

On March 2, the GCSAA's Annual Meeting and Election of Officers took place in Las Vegas during the 2012 Golf Industry Show. Everglades GCSA President and Florida GCSA Past President, Darren Davis, was running for a seat on the GCSAA Board of Directors in a field of four candidates, which included two incumbents seeking re-election, for two spots on the board. Darren finished in a strong third place more than 3200 votes ahead of the fourth-place candidate.

Because the newly elected Secretary/Treasurer Keith Ihms, CGCS had one year remaining on his director's term, incoming GCSAA President Sandy Queen, CGCS held a quick caucus of GCSAA board members and he appointed Darren to fill that vacancy. Congratulations to Darren for running a strong race in a tough election cycle, with outstanding incumbents seeking re-election. Congratulations also to now Immediate Past President Bob Randquist, CGCS who has done an excellent job representing the GCSAA and Florida during his service on the GCSAA Board.

The only sad news for the FGCSA coming out of these recent events is that FGCSA Past President and long time GCSAA Voting Delegate for Florida, Dale Kuehner, CGCS has announced that he and his family will be leaving Florida at the end of March to return to Pittsburgh, PA to run the family-owned golf course up there. Dale's service and commitment to the South Florida GCSA in hosting many of the successful annual Missing & Exploited Children Tournament at Colony West and his dedicated service to the Florida GCSA all these years is deeply appreciated and will be missed. Congratulations and good luck Dale.

Before the education and elections rolled out at the GIS, the Florida GCSA golf team of Steve Bernard, Bob Harper, Steve Wright and Deron Zendt won the overall Team Championship in the 2012 GCSAA Golf Championship. We don't have a team photo from the event, but you've seen them all throughout 2011 as they won their individual qualifying events. Congratulations guys! ■

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**MAY**

- May 2** West Coast GCSA Social Meeting, Courtside Grill near Feather Sound
- May 17-20** Everglades GCSA Poa Annua, Naples Beach Hotel & Club
- May 17** Florida GCSA Board Meeting
- May 18** FGCSA/USGA Poa Seminar, Naples Beach Hotel & Club
- May 22** Treasure Coast GCSA, Blue Pearl Tournament, Quail Valley GC
- May 22** Suncoast GCSA Annual Business Meeting, Sara Bay CC

JUNE

- June 5** FWCGCSA Chapter Championship, Old Memorial G.C.
- June 14** EGCSA Vendor Appreciation Day, Colliers Reserve
- June 21** Seven Rivers Chapter Meeting, Candler Hill G.C.

JULY

- July 1** Florida GCSA Membership Renewal
- July 10** EGCSA Annual Meeting and Golf Outing, Grey Oaks – Pines Course
- July 11** FWCGCSA Annual Roundtable Discussion, Beef O'Brady's, Odessa

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The Aberdeen Golf & Country Club: It's A Family Affair!

By Joel Jackson, CGCS



Hole #4, Beauty & The Beast. A par 5 with a tempting island fairway shortcut. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The Aberdeen golf course, an interesting and unique Desmond Muirhead design which opened in 1983, is located in south-central Boynton Beach in southeastern Palm Beach County. This country club community lies almost midway between the Atlantic Ocean beaches to the east and the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge to the west.

And wildlife is no stranger to the Aberdeen golf course. Superintendent Brian Main, who has been at the helm of the golf and

grounds maintenance staff since 2003, reports an impressive list of waterfowl, shore and wading birds, burrowing owls, Egyptian geese, bald eagles, osprey, hawks, iguanas, alligators, rabbits, squirrels, and even armadillos. One day while riding the course, he came across a gathering of more than 200 anhingas with wings spread on one side of a hole and more than 100 sea gulls on the other. Golf course green spaces truly are effective wildlife habitats in urban areas.

Each hole on the course has a name, which itself is not unique — many courses have named their holes, such as Augusta National with its holes named after flowers, shrubs and trees. At Aberdeen, the holes' names are a little more evocative, such as *Grasping Hands*, *The Dragon*, *The Mermaid*, etc. The club has Muirhead's notes explaining his thinking and the symbolism of the features on each hole. *The Mermaid* is in the World Golf Hall of Fame and an aerial photo of the hole is



featured in this issue.

In the aerial photo on page 10, see if you can find the mermaid's head, tail, scales and a couple of fish swimming with her.

The course has not undergone any substantial renovations other than the conversion of the greens complexes in 1998 to TifEagle ultradwarf to eliminate the off-type grass contamination in the putting surfaces.

Brian says each year he tries to introduce a new feature for the members. Over the years he has made it a project to burn in stripes to give it that neat

SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Originally from:
Carrollton, Ohio

Family: Wife, Andrea.
Twin 4-year-old
daughters: Isabella and
Savannah and my dog, a
boxer named Apollo.

Education: 1998,
Associate Degree in
Applied Science in
Turfgrass Management from North Carolina State University.

BRIAN MAIN,
Superintendent Aberdeen G&CC

Photo by Joel Jackson.

Employment: 2003 – present, Superintendent Aberdeen G&CC; 1999-2003, Golf Course Superintendent, Emerald Dunes GC, West Palm Beach, FL; 1998-99 Assistant Superintendent Emerald Dunes GC; 1997-98 Spray Tech, Lochmere GC, Cary, NC; 1998 Intern, Greenwich CC, Greenwich, CT; Grounds crew, Carroll Meadows, Carrollton, OH.

Professional Affiliations & Offices Held:

GCSAA: Chapter Delegate 2006-07; Member of 2008-09 Nominating Committee. **Florida GCSA:** Board of Directors and Research Committee Chairman 2011-12. **Palm Beach GCSA:** President 20007-08, Vice President 2006-07 & 2010-11; External Vice President 2011-12. Board of Directors 2005-06; Future of Golf Committee 2005-09. **Tournament Volunteering:** 97th PGA Championship, Winged Foot GC, Mamaroneck, NY and 2006 Honda Classic, CC of Mirasol, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Career Path: Like many, I worked on a course in Ohio while in high school. It didn't really click as a real career until I was in North Carolina and two mentors, Donald "Bert" Totten and Danny Gwynn, CGCS showed me a different path. It was one that demonstrated the passion for the profession and how success was achieved through commitment, dedication and continuing education. After moving to Florida, Steve Bernard and Tyler Warner were instrumental in my maturation as a more effective leader and planner. My current GM/COO Michael DiPietro has been a vital cog in my career at Aberdeen. He exposed me to the internal workings of the club, which I had not experienced before. I cannot begin to describe the valuable knowledge and perspectives I have gained from him.

Hobbies & Interests: I am an avid home brewer. I love mountain biking, skiing, golf and family activities.





Neat fairway stripes point to the 18th hole and the Aberdeen Clubhouse. Photo by Brian Main.

ABERDEEN GOLF & COUNTY CLUB



Aberdeen G&CC Golf & Grounds Maintenance Staff. Photo by Joel Jackson

Location: Boynton Beach

Ownership: Member equity

Playing policy: Private. Average number of rounds: 38,000/year; 18 holes, 7,016 yards, Par 72,

Slope & Rating: 74.5/137

Unique course design by Desmond Muirhead with holes like the Mermaid, Marilyn Monroe, Florida Keys, Thread the Needle and Grasping Hands to name a few. The course opened in 1984.

Management Team: General Manger & Chief Operating Officer Michael DiPietro; Club President Richard Kaplan; Green Chairman Jerry Rozenzweig; Club Manager Sean Lutwin; Head Golf Professional Jackie Cort; Golf Operations Manager Wally Martin and Golf Course Superintendent Brian Main

Major projects: Removal of off-type contamination on greens

Total acreage: 150. Acreage under maintenance: 135 (course 100, club grounds 35).

Greens: 3 acres. Turf type: TifEagle. Avg. Size 6,200 sq. ft.. HOC 0.105 in. September–May; 0.120 in. June – August. Green speed goals: 10. No overseeding.

The Tees, Fairways & Roughs are all Tifway 419 and are not overseeded. Tees: 2.75 acres. HOC 0.550 in. Fairways: 35 acres. HOC 0.650 in. and Roughs: 60 acres, HOC 1.75 in. in summer and 2.0 in. during the season.

Native areas/beds: 15 acres. Most areas are mulched, some Wedelia groundcover

Bunkers: 64. Machine raking w/Toro Sand Pro 3040. Sand Type: G-Angle.

Lakes/Ponds: 7 lakes covering approximately 45 acres. Maintained by Advanced Aquatics Co.

Irrigation System: Reclaimed water. Controls: Toro Site Pro Central and OSMAC field satellites. 750 heads

Water Restrictions: No restrictions on the course. We irrigate the pool deck area with potable city water, so we follow the 2-days per week schedule.

Water Conservation: Irrigate using ET rates and regularly use a soil probe to check moisture level in greens root zones. Daily field inspection of heads, nozzles and programs. We adjust run times based on turf and weather conditions. Created various programs to customize water delivery to specific areas. We hand water isolated dry areas and use wetting agents monthly on tees and greens.

Staff including superintendent: 21 (20 full time and 1 part time) on the course and 3 full time for the club grounds. Weekly hours: 40 hrs. ST and 1-2 hrs. OT

Key staff: 1st Assistant Angela Wilson, 2nd Assistant Jose Andujar; Equipment Tech Sonny Rosado; Pest Control Tech Hector Segura; Irrigation Tech Revoque Lafontant; Admin Assistant Ellen Spellacy and Club Grounds Foreman Lucio Carranza.

Meetings/Communications: Quarterly crew safety meetings and general meetings as needed. Quarterly Club Management, Golf and Green Committee meetings. Monthly Financial meetings.

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overseeded appearance when, in fact, no overseeding is used on the course. This past year he installed a “first” or “intermediate” cut around the fairways and approaches to give it that tournament look and feel.

The members appreciate the attention to detail that the maintenance staff puts into the course. I saw several golfers filling divots in the fairway and rough as we rode around.

“The members do a great job of policing divots and ball marks,” Brian said. “We appreciate that. It keeps the course playable for everyone and makes our job that much easier so we can focus on the important agronomic practices to keep the turf healthy.”

While riding the course with Brian, he mentioned the photo of the Egyptian geese published in the *Winter Florida Green*.

“We have four families of the Egyptian geese on the course,” he said. “I discovered a new nest in the green’s bunker on the 8th hole and told the crew to avoid the area. The female defended her nest aggressively when I wandered too close to inspect the bunker. Then the male came flying in and honking to the rescue. The members are also advised to avoid the area during the nesting season.”

And speaking of a “tournament look,” the maintenance department uses an “inside-the-ropes” approach for grooming, conditioning and weed- and pest-control programs. The reasoning is sound operationally and for cost control.

“We try to use our labor and



#11, *The Mermaid*. Can you find her tail, scales, head and fishy friends?
 Photo courtesy of Premiere Aerials International.

financial resources for the biggest bang for the buck,” says Brian. “This isn’t a new concept. Everyone has had to manage his budget wisely so we focus on the greens, tees and fairways first and then the roughs.”

I was impressed with the tee complexes and Aberdeen’s approach to the whole “Play it Forward” initiative so golfers new to the game and longtime veterans can have a wide selection of tee — or should I say “course” — options. And to make it even more inviting to juniors, beginning golfers and perhaps seniors who can’t hit it

so far anymore, the club has a “course within a course.” Called the Desmond Muirhead Course, it is an executive length par-3 course with a separate forward teeing area designated in each fairway by a large gold in-ground plaque, similar to a yardage marker. There is a corresponding gold marker on the cart path to indicate the tee location. The Muirhead yardages are also listed on the scorecard.

The regular tee markers are not the usual dogmatic black, blue, white, gold and red with all the historic connotations. Instead, you are welcome to play the Maroon,