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# The Florida Green

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**ON THE COVER:** 17th hole Miami Beach Golf Club. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## FOREWORDS

### Progress, Presentations and Participation

They say time flies when you're having fun. I also know that time flies when you are busy. That's exactly how my year as president of the FGCSA has been: fun and busy. I set out with a few goals that I wanted to accomplish and I hope that even if those goals are not accomplished by the time my term ends in August, we at least will have a solid plan moving forward to complete them.

One main project we worked on diligently over this past year was the Golf BMP Certification Program. I cannot express my appreciation enough to all of those individuals who played such a vital role in helping to get the program up and running, especially Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Sunderman who prepared the final detailed draft of the program.

It was a long and tedious process to get where we are today, but we made huge progress. At our last FGCSA Board of Directors' Meeting in May, the program was unanimously approved. We will schedule regional seminars throughout the year to provide opportunities for all members and individuals in the industry to become certified in the Golf BMPs. We are working with the FTGA to offer the program at the FTGA Conference and Show in September.

This year I had the privilege of presenting several awards to some outstanding individuals who made significant contributions to our association and industry. Bill Kistler received the Distinguished Service Award for his numerous years of service on the West Coast GCSA, FGCSA BOD including his service as president of the FGCSA.

Dr. Jerry Sartain received the Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award for his extensive work in the field of soil and water management for turfgrass. Many of the fertilizer recommendations included in the Golf Course BMP Manual were from the work that Dr. Sartain has done during his 37 years as a professor at the University of Florida.

Also receiving the Marie Roberts Lifetime Service Award, much to his surprise, was Joel Jackson. Joel's accomplishments, work ethic, and passion for the FGCSA, golf and turfgrass industries go without speaking. He has been a constant



*Mark Kann,*  
FGCSA President

ambassador for this association for many years and I cannot express the appreciation and admiration that I have for Joel. Congratulations again to all of the recipients of this year's awards.

Starting in January 2013, Joel Jackson will be reducing his role with the FGCSA and will step down as the FGCSA's executive director after 14 years of dedicated service in that position. Joel has indicated his desire to reduce his responsibilities with the association and begin his retirement process. However, he will remain in place as editor of the Florida Green and will contribute to the Green Sheet and Website.

The FGCSA will begin a search for a new executive director and, during that time, we will be relying more heavily on the FGCSA BOD and Jennifer to keep the association moving forward and keep communication flowing. I know that everyone will miss all of Joel's e-mails, but I am confident that he will transition from that aspect of his job slowly! You can never say you were not informed of something happening in our industry. If you weren't aware, then you didn't read your e-mail!

I have been fortunate over the last year as president to work with some extraordinary individuals that have often made my job much easier. In particular, I would like to thank the current officers, directors and staff of the FGCSA for all of their hard work, time, and energy. I have been pleasantly surprised by everyone's involvement in helping us continue to improve as an organization and remain a leader in the golf course industry. We spent a lot of time and energy over this past year looking at the inner workings of our association and we made some good plans moving forward for the future. We need to continue working together to accomplish the goals of the association.



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*During the May FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples, President Mark Kann presented Past President Bill Kistler with the 2012 Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding and continuing service to the association. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

**Chapter Round Up**

Statewide spring events focus on member recognition, education and research donations and good fellowship. We begin by remembering a fellow member no longer with us.

**In Memoriam**

Thomas McCord 59, of Port St Lucie died Monday, April 23 2012 at Martin Hospital South in Stuart. Born in Olean NY, he was a member of the Treasure Coast GCSA for 20 years. Thomas most recently worked for Upstart Products. He was a Golf Course Superintendent for 25 years. He was a member of the Shriners, the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, and NRA.

Survivors include two sisters, Traci Cline of Edgewater. Kathy Grant of Haines City, and two brothers, Jeff McCord of Pacifica, CA, and Scot McCord of Wooster, OH. A memorial service was held at Piper's Landing, Palm City April 27 2012. Contributions in his memory can be made to: Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, 3030 North McMullen Booth Rd. Clearwater, FL 33761.



*2012 Suncoast Scramble (from left): Darden Nicks, Mark Todd, George Cook, State Senator Nancy Detert, FGCSA Vice President Nancy Miller, Nick Kearns and Zach Lane. Senator Detert and Nancy Miller were guest speakers at the March event at the Heritage Oaks G&CC. The SCGCSA also presented Miller with an FGCSA research fund check for \$2,500. Photo by Lee Crosby.*

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Tom Cowan (left) received the North Florida GCSA 2012 Keeper of the Green Award for Lifetime Service from his friend, George Clifton, at the North Florida Memorial Tournament in early April at the Marsh Creek CC in St. Augustine. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson and his wife Susie pose with the Marie Roberts Award for Lifetime Service presented to Jackson at the 2012 Past Presidents Dinner in Naples this past May. Jackson was standing by to take a photo of another presentation, when President Mark Kann revealed the surprise award.



In recognition of their longtime Diamond Sponsor status of the NFGCSA Memorial Tournament, (from left) NFGCSA President Mike Stevens and host superintendent Andy Maguire CGCS presented Bill Gamble of WescoTurf a painting of a Florida Keys beach house. The NFGCSA also donated \$1,500 to Florida Gateway College and \$500 to the First Tee of St. Johns County. Photo by Joel Jackson.

## 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST 24

FGCSA Golf Championship, Southern Dunes G.C., Haines City. This year the competition will include a Vendor Division. Chapters may field more than one team, and other less serious golfing FGCSA members are invited to participate on a space available basis. Look for details on our website.

### SEPTEMBER 24 – 27

FTGA 60th Annual Conference & Show  
September 24-27 - The Caribe Royale, Orlando  
Hotel group rate of \$99 (standard sleeping room) reserve hotel room online by 9/3/2012

### OCTOBER 5

(New Event!) North Florida Crash Hall Memorial Tournament. This event will include a 5th major golf-qualifying event for the 2013 FGCSA Golf Team now that the GCSAA Golf Championship has expanded state teams to five members. Check your emails and FGCSA website for more details.

# 2012 POA Annua Golf Classic & G.C. Horn Memorial Tournament

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*Champion Sponsor check presentation (from left): Jeff Brown, Golf Ventures; Glenn Oberlander and Jim Shaffer, SRGCSA; Debbie Nipper, Cary Lewis, Mike Swinson and Walt McMahon all with Golf Ventures. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*By capturing Low Gross honors at the 2012 Poa Annua Classic, Deron Zandt from the Banyan GC became the first qualifier for the 2013 FGCSA Golf Team to compete in San Diego next February at the GCSAA Golf Championship. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*NFGCSA President Bob Coffey, right, presented FGCSA President Mark Kann with a \$5,000 donation to the Florida GCSA's Research Fund during the FGCSA Spring Board Meeting in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*SFGCSA President Marcus Prevatte and Dr. John Cisar co-hosted the 22nd Annual South Florida Turf Expo at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center in March. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

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*Special thanks to Superintendent David Court, CGCS and all the volunteers who make this event a success.*





# Miami Beach Golf Club – A Piece of Florida History

By Joel Jackson

During the Florida land boom of the Roaring '20s, some of our historic hotels and golf courses were constructed, including — among many others — the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables and the Miami Beach Golf Club.

Our cover story course began its existence in 1923 as the Bayshore Golf Course built by developer Carl Fisher as part of his Alton Beach subdivision designed to attract wealthy winter residents from up North. It was still the Bayshore Golf Course in 1965, when I was a young commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard stationed at Base Miami Beach on Terminal Island just off the main ship channel into the Port of Miami.

My wife and I lived just a couple of miles south of the golf course on Jefferson Avenue in an efficiency apartment during the first two years of my Coast Guard service. Back then an efficiency apartment on South Beach was going for \$85 a month, but on a \$295 monthly salary, I guess it all balances out. So, while serving as base administrative officer for six months and a year and half as the operations officer on the Coast Guard Cutter Hollyhock stationed at Miami Beach, I played quite a few rounds of golf on the old Bayshore course; so this

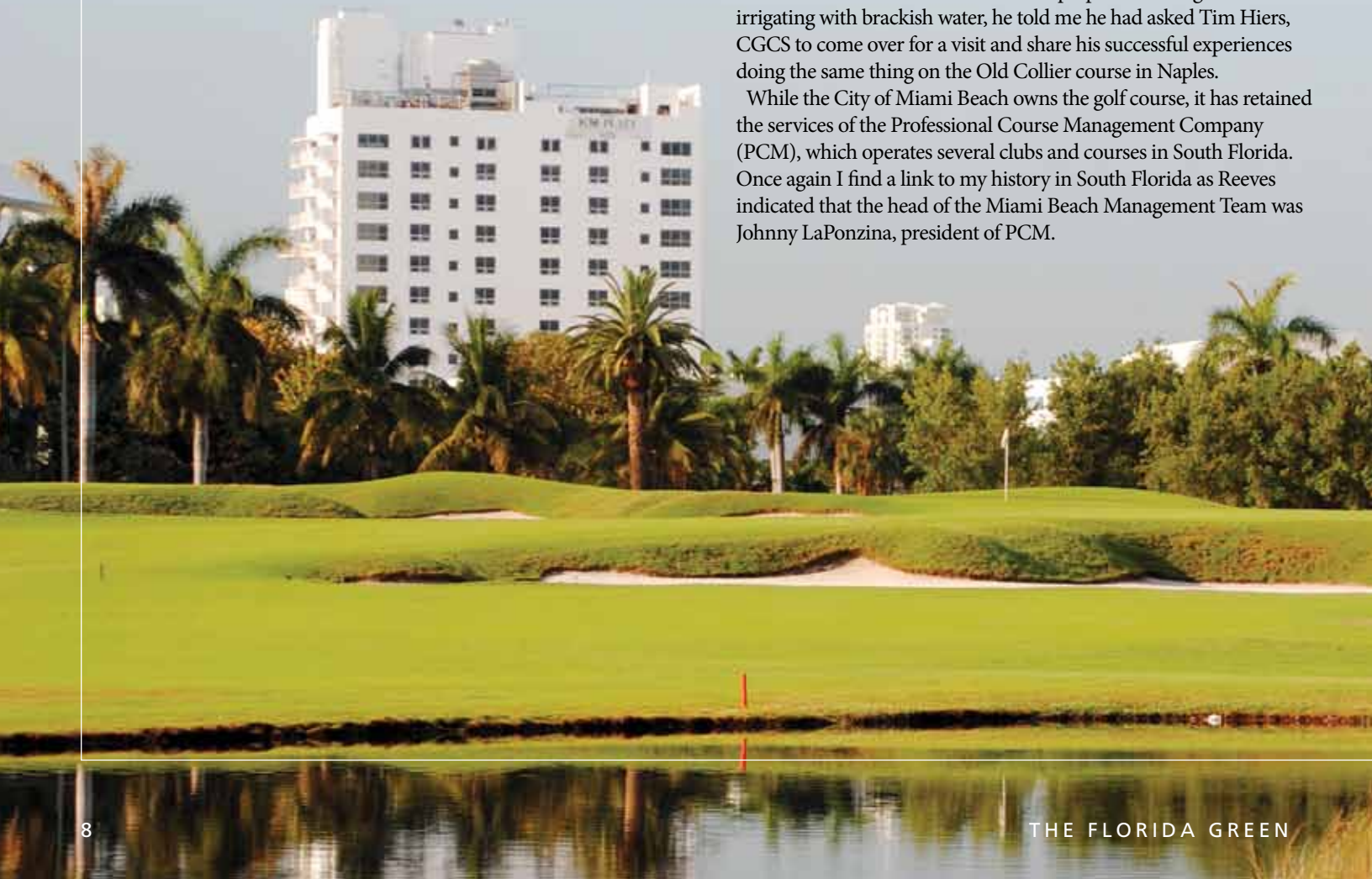
assignment was a bit of a homecoming.

Going back to the early 1940s, the old Bayshore course was rented by the U.S. Army for \$1 a year as a training ground and armed soldiers executed maneuvers amid smoke screens from grenades. Things haven't changed much as our host superintendent, Ricky Reeves, related a story about a golfing couple he observed one day "hitting the deck" and heard screeching tires as shots rang out during the filming of an episode of the TV show, "Burn Notice."

In 1944, after a failed attempt by some Chicago investors to convert the land to 650 upscale home sites, the city condemned the land and took over the golf course. In 2001 the whole golf course was stripped of grass and most trees, mounds were flattened and lakes were drained. Even the old clubhouse was razed and everything was redesigned and rebuilt from the ground up by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest. The new Miami Beach Golf Club opened for play in 2002.

In 2005 Reeves, the current superintendent, came on board to maintain the 120-acre property and oversaw the recent conversion from hybrid bermudagrass to seashore paspalum. The Salam variety is used on the greens and the rest of the course is planted in SeaIsle 1. As Reeves learns the ins and outs of paspalum management while irrigating with brackish water, he told me he had asked Tim Hiers, CGCS to come over for a visit and share his successful experiences doing the same thing on the Old Collier course in Naples.

While the City of Miami Beach owns the golf course, it has retained the services of the Professional Course Management Company (PCM), which operates several clubs and courses in South Florida. Once again I find a link to my history in South Florida as Reeves indicated that the head of the Miami Beach Management Team was Johnny LaPonzina, president of PCM.



## SUPERINTENDENT FACTS



**RICKY REEVES, Class A,  
Golf Course Superintendent.**

Photo by Joel Jackson.

**Originally from:** Born and raised in Plantation.

**Family:** Wife Pam, daughters Chelsea and Taylor.

**Education:** AA degree in business in 1983 with heavy elective horticulture course load.

**Employment history:** 2005– Present, Superintendent Miami Beach GC;

1996–2005 Superintendent Normandy Shores GC;

1993–96 Assistant Supt. Lago Mar CC.

1988–93 Landscape supervisor Lago Mar CC.

**Professional affiliations:** SFGCSA all aspects of the Board currently VP. Will become President in July 2012. FGCSA Board 2010 – Present. GCSAA member for 12 yrs.

**Goals/Accomplishments:** Continuously try to get better at what I do. There is always room for improvement.

**Personal philosophy of work:** Work smart, Be honest and communicate with those around you.

**Personal memorable moments:** Three moving and monumental dates to remember. On the good side, there's the birth of my kids. On the regret side, the untimely death of my lifelong friend in 2010. It is a reminder to me that you never know your life might end, so live it to the fullest the best that you can.

**Hobbies, interests, involvement:** Fishing, camping, golf and ping-pong. *(Ed Note: Reeves says he thought he was a pretty good self-taught table tennis player until he joined a local club and found out he was really still a rank amateur.)*



View from behind the 15th hole, a long dogleg par 5.

At left: 13th hole Miami Beach Golf Club. Photos by Joel Jackson.

LaPonzina became the first head golf professional at the Pembroke Pines Golf Club in the early 70s when I first got into the golf maintenance business. I helped finish construction on the course and stayed on the maintenance crew after it opened, eventually becoming a foreman before moving to Orlando and beginning my career at Disney World in 1974.

Meanwhile LaPonzina went on to found PCM in 1971 and built the portfolio of courses that included over 20 well-known public, semi-private, municipal and resort golf properties in South Florida. His goal was and is to make golf more affordable and enjoyable for the average golfer and help golf properties achieve their business goals. Recently LaPonzina was inducted into the South Florida PGA's Hall of Fame to recognize his business savvy, ideas, marketing strategies and influence in the South Florida Golf industry.

Reeves began his golf maintenance career literally at the grass roots level. He earned his AA degree in business from Broward State College, but had taken many horticulture classes along the way. After school he was working for a nursery that by agreement would use out-of-the-way areas on golf courses as tree nurseries. One day in 1988 while harvesting and moving trees for sale to a client, the superintendent of the Lago Mar CC said to Reeves, "I need a landscape supervisor for the course!"

In 1993 he moved up to assistant superintendent at Lago Mar and then took the superintendent position at nearby Normandy Shores GC in 1996, and in 2005 he came to the Miami Beach GC.

Reeves credits his parents with teaching him a good work ethic and Lago Mar superintendent Russ Jaynes and his assistant, Jeff Dodd, for lighting the fire in him that still burns today for working in the golf maintenance industry.



*View of the 8th hole from one of many native areas on the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

A couple of challenges Reeves faces with the conversion to paspalum is bermudagrass encroachment and maintaining healthy turf on the high side bunker edges. The bermuda encroachment in the far roughs is not much of a concern but some areas that are more in play have to be dealt with. Says Reeves, "Since we try to use as much brackish irrigation water as pos-

sible to keep costs down, some bermuda patches can't stand the salt build up and we have run some fresh water cycles in those zones to keep it green and playable. We are on a constant program to spray out and replace the bermuda when and where we can."

Reeves says that the bunker edge problem only kicks in when the higher-cut

turf on the bunker faces reaches close to 4 inches in length. They lose their vigor due to spotty irrigation coverage on the steep faces and so they have installed irrigation mist head systems on over 99 percent of the bunkers so far. This seems to help overcome the stress in those locations.

Since paspalum is an aggressive grower, Reeves maintains good ball roll on the greens by utilizing a combination of aggressive warm-season aerifying, verticutting and topdressing and a slightly more moderate version of the same during the cooler months. In conjunction with those activities, he spikes and or needle-tines biweekly year around, and triplex rolls five to six times per week as well. He applies 10 ounces of Primo per acre weekly except after aerifications until the holes are covered over.

The tees and fairways are also aggressively groomed and sliced as often as possible to keep the thatch under control and provide a good playing surface. Reeves primarily utilizes a foliar spray and fertigation program to apply the bulk of the nutrients for the whole course.

As for insect problems Reeves said, "We

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