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Mark Kann, President

is finalizing a presentation that will incorporate much of the information needed for certification. The test for certification in the Golf BMPs is broken down into three sections. Superintendents will have the option of taking each section separately or all at once. Keep in mind that to take the full training and test in a day will take about 7-8 hours. It is our hope that, by the time you receive this issue, some superintendents will have had the opportunity to become certified through the process. The Seven Rivers GCSA will be sponsoring one of the first events that will provide a full day of Golf BMP training and testing on March 22. The session will take place at the University of Florida Plant Science Research and Education Unit in Citra. I hope everyone is taking advantage of the work on government relations being done by numerous individuals. The GCSAA has been extremely diligent at sending out action alerts and form letters that can be quickly filled out and sent to the appropriate legislators. Thank you to Chava McKeel and Ralph Dain from the GCSAA for their efforts on many of the issues affecting the Florida GCSA. I know that Ralph has made a great impact by attending chapter meetings and allowing members to email the letters at those meetings. We try not to bombard our membership with emails, so when you see an email from the FGCSA, please be sure to read it. We are only as strong as our membership, so please take the time to act when action is needed. Every letter counts!

Happy New Year

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season. I am sure there was quite a bit of money spent on presents, a great deal of food and drink consumed, and by now, even a few New Year's resolutions have already been broken.

Over the next few months there are a great deal of educational opportunities. The FTGA will be holding its Turf Seminars throughout the state. These seminars present a great opportunity to obtain some PDI points and CEU's, especially Core CEU's. For those able to make the trip, the GCSAA Educational Conference and GIS will be held in Las Vegas at the end of February. The event will include numerous educational seminars, workshops, peer interactions as well as the trade show.

We will be hosting the Florida Reception in the Jet Night Club at the Mirage Hotel on Thursday night, March 1. I can't promise that we will have all the fireworks we had last year, but there will be some great food, drinks, and fun!

The GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic will be held the week before the GCSAA Conference and Show. Good luck to the Florida Chapter Team of Steve Bernard, Bob Harper, Steve Wright, and Deron Zandt. There are new incentives this year to play in the event that will benefit GCSAA-affiliated Chapters. The first is the Chapter Team Competition which will split 75 percent of the entry fees between the gross and net winning teams' chapters. Second, the Toro Company has agreed to pay chapters \$200 per registered participant who has not played in the last two GCSAA Championships. There is no limit to the number of participants per chapter. Both incentives are great ways to make some money for your chapter.

We are continuing to make great progress with the Golf BMP certification process. We received a letter of accreditation from the Department of Environmental Protection in November. The BMP Testing Committee has met often and

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ON THE COVER: 17th Green, Miles Grant CC, Stuart. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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UF/IFAS Professor Emeritus Dr. George Snyder (right) received the FTGA Wreath of Grass Award from President Mac Carroway at the FTGA Conference in September. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Association Events and Awards Wrap Up 2011

Traditional fall events began closing out the final quarter of 2011 with the FTGA Conference and Show in Palm Beach Gardens, the Bud Quandt Tournament in St. Petersburg, and the Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament in Sunrise.

At the FTGA Conference at the PGA National Resort, the association's highest honor, the Wreath of Grass Award, featured two winners.

Professor Emeritus Dr. George Snyder was recognized for his decades of research

and teaching efforts at the University of Florida. Snyder's work in fertilizer and pesticide fate in Florida soils has provided key information for developing environmentally friendly management practices.

The second recipient was our own Darren Davis. The current president of the Everglades GCSA, Davis has a two-decade record of local, state and national committee and board service. He is a past president of the FGCSA, the FTGA and is an FGCSA Distinguished



Darren Davis (right), President of the EGCSA and Past President of the FGCSA was the second recipient of a Wreath of Grass Award at the FTGA Conference. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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*Special Thanks to Superintendent
Todd Ingram and the Ft. Lauderdale C.C.
for hosting the event*

FGCSA Past President Bill Kistler and Association Manager Jennifer Bryan at the FTGA Trade Show with the new Industry Partner brochures and posters. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Service Award winner. Davis is also currently a nominee for the GCSAA Board of Directors. Congratulations to Darren on his Wreath of Grass Award and best wishes for a successful campaign for a seat on the GCSAA Board.

While at the FTGA Conference, FGCSA Association Manager Jennifer Bryan and Executive Director Joel Jackson spent time thanking our current FGCSA Industry Partners for their support and also handing out information to prospective new advertisers and partners. The next big FGCSA event will be the annual FGCSA Reception at the Golf Industry Show March 1 in Las Vegas. The reception will be held at the Jet Lounge at the Mirage Hotel. Keep checking our FGCSA website: www.floridagcsa.com for registration and RSVP details.



The Suncoast GCSA was victorious in the Ryder Cup-style match with their West Coast GCSA hosts at their 2nd annual joint chapter meeting in September. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The West Coast GCSA had back-to-back events in September and October with the joint Suncoast/West Coast meeting at Kevin Sunderman's Isla del Sol GC in St. Petersburg and the 48th Annual Bud Quandt Research and Benefit Tournament at Mike Strube's Feather Sound GC in Clearwater. The West Coast GCSA played host to the Suncoasters by allowing them to win the joint meeting match-play golf event and trophy. Everybody was a winner at the Bud Quandt Tournament in October with food, fellowship and support for turf research and local charities.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

- 11 FTGA, Tampa
- 11Suncoast Vendor Appreciation Day, Plantation GC
- 12 FTGA, Ft. Myers
- 17 FTGA, Ocala
- 18SRGCSA Meeting, Continental GC
- 18SFGCSA Meeting, Crandon Park GC
- 25-28PGA Merchandise Show, Orlando
- 28 UF Turf Club Golf Tournament, Gainesville

FEBRUARY

- 7 FTGA, Orlando
- 8 FTGA, Lake Worth
- 8 SRGCSA Meeting, Williston Highlands GC
- 9 FTGA, Plantation
- 14 Florida Golf Day
- 21 FTGA, Milton
- 23 FTGA, Jacksonville
- 24-25 GCSAA Golf, Palm Springs
- 27-Mar 3 GCSAA GIS, Las Vegas

MARCH

- 1FGCSA Reception, Mirage, Las Vegas
- 20 ...EGCSA Education & Dinner Meeting, Pelican Bay
- 22SFGCSA Turf Expo, Ft. Lauderdale IFAS REC
- 22 .. Golf BMP Training & Exam Session, UF/IFAS, Citra
- 29Suncoast Scramble, TBA

APRIL

- 5 EGCSA Spring Symposium, Naples
- 16 SRGCSA Envirotron Classic, World Woods



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Ken Husillak with Citrus Seven Pump Services
for the food on the course

Bud Quandt for his continued service to the FWCGCSA

Mike Strube and the Feather Sound GC
for hosting the event

SPOTLIGHT

Another traditional October event is the SFGCSA's Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament hosted by the South Florida GCSA. This event has raised more than a quarter of a million dollars in its 27-year history and is a shining example of golf being a positive community asset. This year the SFGCSA raised \$25,000 to the M&E Foundation.

In FGCSA news, President Mark Kann, GCSAA Field Representative Ralph Dain and Executive Director Joel



GCSAA Field Representative Ralph Dain, Erin Boyd Wilder of Sod Solutions and FGCSA President Mark Kann and FGCSA Executive Director Joel Jackson (behind the camera) met with U. S. Senator Bill Nelson's Chief of Staff Peter Mitchell in Tallahassee to discuss national golf issues. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Palm Beach GCSA President Larry Balko presented M&E Chairman Joe Pantaleo with a check for \$1,500 at the M&E Foundation fund raiser. Photo courtesy of the SFGCSA.

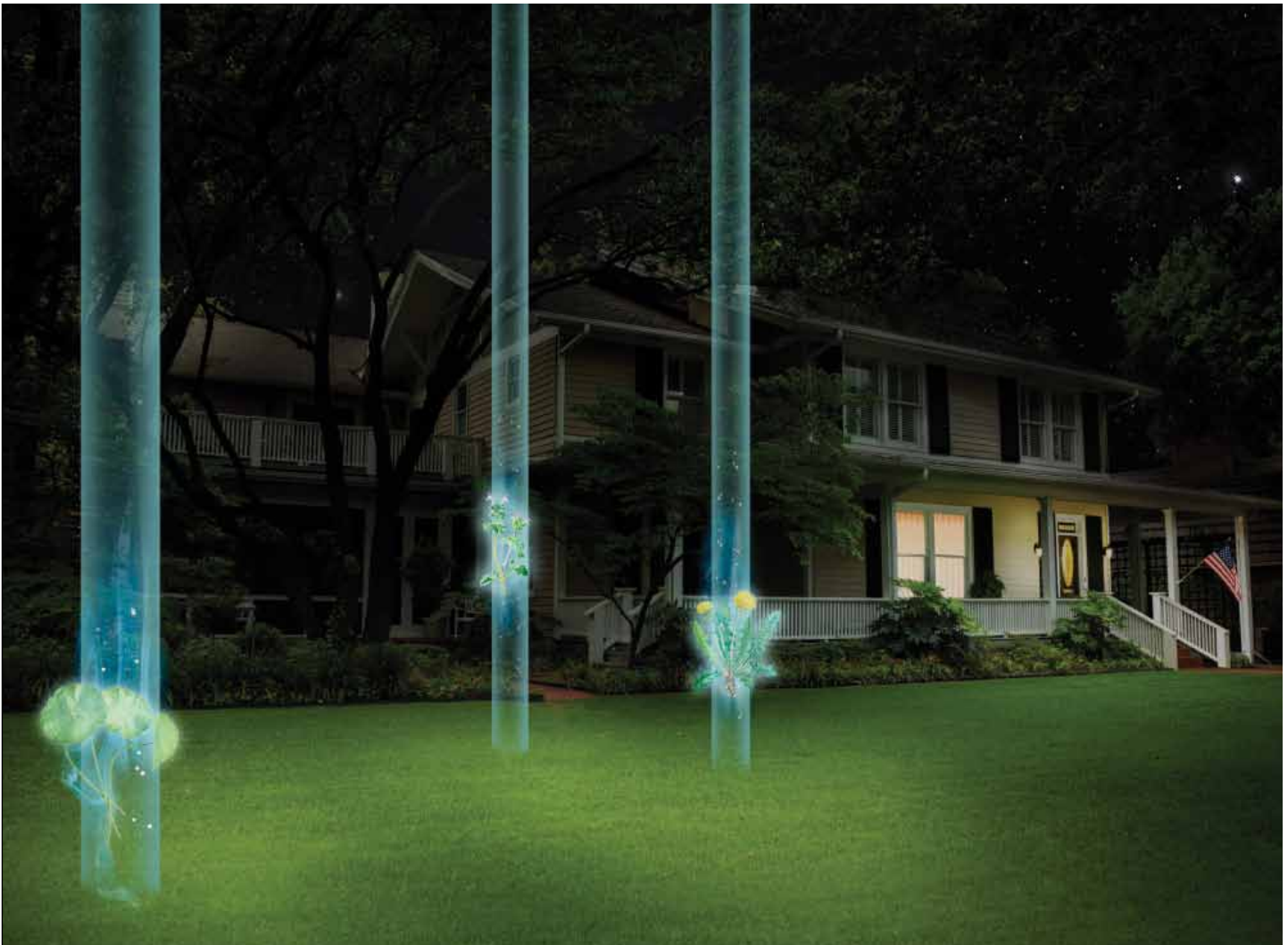
Jackson were accompanied by Erin Boyd Wilder of Sod Solution in an hour-long meeting with Peter Mitchell, the chief of staff for Florida U.S. Senator Bill Nelson in

Tallahassee in late September. The group discussed EPA's Numeric Nutrient Criteria and NPDES permitting process, the H2-B Worker Visa Program changes by the Department of Labor and the exclusion of the coverage of golf courses in the Federal Disaster Relief legislation. We hope the in-depth discussions will bear fruit in the upcoming senate deliberations.

In October the FGCSA Fall Board Meeting was held at the UF/IFAS Plant Science and Research & Education Unit in Citra, 20 miles south of Gainesville. The board took a quick bus tour of the property to get an appreciation for the full extent of the Agricultural and Green Industry research projects under way at the 1,000-acre facility. The board held a long range planning session to help define future operations and goals of the association.

FGCSA Officers and Directors on their tour of the UF/IFAS Research and Education Unit in Citra. Photo courtesy of UF/IFAS.





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Hydrocotyle spp. (Dollarweed), also called Pennywort, is a summer perennial weed common in Florida and Texas, among other warm season states. There are actually several species of dollarweed. Leaves are round in shape, approximately one inch in diameter. Weed leaves hold a bright green hue and are shiny, with scalloped margins.



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MILES GRANT COUNTRY CLUB

199 Years in the Making

*View from behind the 18th green.
Photo by Joel Jackson.*

The Miles Grant CC golf course opened in 1972, but the land on which it stands was part of a Spanish land grant from the King of Spain to settler Samuel Miles in 1813. Five square miles of land bordering the *Santa Lucia River* (now *St. Lucie*) was given as compensation for shipping and logistical support rendered by Miles to the Spanish territorial government.

When visiting the club back in October to interview superintendent Harry Hanson, CGCS for this cover story, I became

intrigued with the name of the club from the logo at the clubhouse entrance. It was a large oval with the name Miles Grant, the picture of an old sailing ship and the date 1813. Originally I surmised that the club's name was for a Mr. Miles Grant and a subsequent Google search didn't bear much fruit. When checking out the club's website and amenities, I noticed the Samuel Miles Tavern was included under dining options, and when I googled Samuel Miles and the year 1813 I hit paydirt.

Miles originally established a

sawmill on the property to produce building materials for the influx of settlers who soon followed and the colonization of the east central Florida coastal region was under way. Coincidentally, a sawmill was also a key factor in our story on the history of the Shingle Creek GC in the Fall *Florida Green*.

Nearly two centuries later, we find the established residential golf community of Miles Grant providing social and recreational activities to the folks living in the houses and condominiums bordering the golf course. There's

the 18-hole, par-64 golf course sporting two legitimate par-fives, five par-fours, 10 par-threes and one hole that can play as a par-four or five. Having ridden the course with Hanson, I can tell you it is a very challenging walk in the park. The course is perhaps a little more forgiving of errant shots since 2004, when the multiple hurricane hits destroyed over 300 trees.

ALSO, IN SIDE-BY-SIDE TEST-STRIP APPLICATIONS, HANSON REPORTS THAT THE NEW HERBICIDE, SPECTICLE, "WORKED QUITE WELL" IN PREVENTING GOOSE GRASS INFESTATIONS.

Since the course is bordered by residences, Hanson manages his maintenance programs judiciously to balance the aesthetics with the cultural needs of the turf. He uses a combination of organic and synthetic fertilizer blends applied lightly in more frequent applications, all dependent on soil-testing results. On average, greens are fed monthly and tees, fairways and roughs four-eight times a year. Total applied nitrogen and phosphorus fall well within the guidelines in the Golf BMPs and state fertilizer rules.

With an active golf program for the members, Hanson offsets the wear and compaction on the playing surfaces by hollow-tine aerifying the course three times a year. Hanson also lightly grooms and top-dresses the putting surfaces frequently for consistency. The putting surfaces are edged periodically and any Tifway 419 runners are pulled to control encroachment.

Since the golf course is located on a coastal sand ridge and susceptible to mole crickets and nematodes, Hanson ran a Curfew experiment to find an effective product he could rotate with Chipco Choice to control both pests. Keeping costs and the budget in mind, he now treats 10 acres per year with Curfew, alternating between front and back nine hot spots. He treats the remaining critical areas with Chipco Choice. Also, in side-by-side test-strip applications, Hanson reports that the new herbicide, Specticle, "worked quite good" in preventing goose grass infestations.

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View from the Miles Grant 18th tee. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The course has only “two” lakes — actually one that wraps around the 18th hole and also borders the 17th hole. The banks are maintained as a buffer zone to filter any possible runoff and protect the lake’s water quality. Because of the surrounding residential neighborhoods, wildlife consists mainly of a diverse bird population and small mammals like squirrels, fox, raccoon and (ugh) armadillos. I did see a pair of Egyptian geese waddling along



Pair of Egyptian geese waddling along shoreline buffer zone on No. 18. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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