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ON THE COVER: Hole No. 24, Pelican Pointe Golf Club, Venice, FL. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FOREWORDS

A Capitol Idea – Let's Advocate for Golf in Florida

On February 20th and 21st, Joel Jackson, Jennifer Bryan, Mark Kann, Ralph Dain (GCSAA) and I trekked to Tallahassee to represent the FGCSA at the second Florida Golf Day. Our entourage also consisted of representatives from the Club Managers Florida Chapter, the North and South Florida PGA Sections and the Florida State Golf Association. These five groups comprise the newly formed Florida Golf Alliance.

Also on hand to help pitch the economic and environmental impacts of golf to Florida were representatives from the World Golf Foundation, World Golf Hall of Fame, Golf 20/20, the PGA Tour, Rick McCord of the McCord Golf Academy at Orange Lake, the LPGA, the First Tee Program, the Golf Channel, and Susie Doyens representing the Special Olympics golf program.

Our goal was to raise the awareness of golf's economic contribution to the state, specifically: a large employer, a major tourist attraction and the home of golf in the U.S. We also wanted to put a face to the golf industry and develop relationships with governmental agencies to increase funding for golf tourism and provide data on the positive environmental impacts of golf courses.

On Wednesday, we met for an evening session to be briefed Thursday's agenda. We discussed our game plan and talking points and mingled and met the representatives and staff of our allied organizations as well as a few legislators who stopped by.

On Thursday, golf organizations set up information centers in the Capitol Rotunda to advertise our visit. "We Are Golf" flyers were posted throughout the building emphasizing golf's economic impact to the state and inviting legislators to participate in lunch-hour golf lessons and a putting contest between the House and Senate. In addition the Golf Channel aired an interview with Steve Mona on "Morning Drive" and ran several spots on Golf Day on the "Golf Central" show throughout the day.

Also on Thursday, a representative leadership group met with legislators and regulators. Each association assigned



Nancy Miller, CGCS,
President

one person to speak on their behalf, each as a part of the overall message. I was honored to represent you in discussing the FGCSA BMP certification program and the superintendents' commitment to environmental stewardship.

Next on the agenda was a productive round-table discussion with department heads from economic development, tourism and FDEP. Throughout the day, we met with Senate President Pro Tempore, Garrett Richter, Speaker Pro Tempore, Marti Coley and Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll.

Our message was this: Florida is the home of the PGA Tour, the LPGA, The First Tee, the World Golf Hall of Fame and the World Golf Foundation. We have more golf courses than any other state (approximately 1200). Golf's overall economic impact in Florida is \$13.8 billion dollars per year. The industry employs 167,000 Floridians with wage income of \$4.7 billion. Golf, from the pro tour to local tournaments, donates approximately \$312 million to Florida charities. Golf course maintenance is a science, which is based on best management practices for environmental stewardship and water conservation.

We garnered positive feedback and made several significant contacts. We received suggestions as to the kind of information the state needed to assist our programs. In addition to the Golf Channel's Morning Drive coverage of the event, they have aired clips of the event on Golf Central. A resolution declaring "Florida Golf Day" will be read during the full session.

Our next step is to strengthen the Golf Alliance, set priorities and develop a plan to work with the Visit Florida tourism program highlighting golf as a tourist destination. Working together to strengthen the golf industry as a whole will strengthen our association and our livelihoods.



FGCSA Members and Chapters in the Spotlight

Central Florida

On Jan. 7 the Interlachen CC in Winter Park hosted its 25th annual Turfgrass Research Tournament sponsored by the CFGCSA. On the program for the day, CFGCSA President Mike Gay talked about the reorganization plans for the chapter to reach out to the courses in the eastern region of central Florida. FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson talked about the local ordinances and the FGCSA Golf BMP program; GCSAA Regional Representative Ralph Dain discussed the Rounds4Research campaign being conducted by the Environmental Institute for Golf division of GCSAA.

Then Pete Snyder, executive director of the FTGA, gave a presentation dealing with the



Arlington Ridge GC Superintendent Ron Hibbard and Big Cypress GC Superintendent Gary Newcomb teamed up for a 63 to win the Turf Research Tournament at Interlachen CC in Winter Park. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Central Florida chapter and Florida's golf and turfgrass industries.

Following lunch, the attendees participated in a two-man scramble on the always-lightning-fast Interlachen greens. Arlington Ridge GC Superintendent Ron Hibbard and Big Cypress GC Superintendent Gary Newcomb teamed up for a 63 and won in a match of cards over Jim Ellison and Bill Sellers who also fired a superhuman 63.

On March 4 the CFGCSA held its Vendor Day at the Reunion Resort. Vendors set up booths in the conference center ballroom and superintendents, suppliers and guests were able to visit and network during two tradeshow-like sessions. Dr. Bryan Unruh, UF/IFAS, Ralph Dain, GCSAA, Kevin Sunderman, Florida GCSA, and Mike Gay, CFGCSA president and Rickey Craig, CFGCSA vice president gave presentations during the educational session. Following the education, the group reconvened to the trade show for more networking to wrap up the day.

GCSAA

At the GCSAA Annual Meeting during the February Golf Industry Show in San Diego, two Florida superintendents were recognized. Bob Randquist, CGCS, Boca Rio CC officially stepped down from the GCSAA Board of Directors and received his Past President's White Blazer. Meanwhile Darren Davis, Olde Florida GC was elected to a

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Roz and Stuart Leventhal, CGCS at the 25th Annual Central Florida Turf Research Tournament at Interlachen CC. Leventhal has hosted this event since its inception and was presented the FTGA's Wreath of Grass Award for his lifetime service to the turfgrass industry. Photo by Joel Jackson.

challenges facing Florida's golf industry and the need for funding research, education and advocacy to counter the emotionalism surrounding much of the local ordinances and battles against turfgrass in general. Snyder unveiled the new voluntary opt-out program of a .06 percent check-off donation to the new EREF (Environmental Research and Education Fund) program.

Next, Todd Himmelberger from the Syn-genta Company recognized host superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS by presenting him with the 2012 FTGA Wreath of Grass Award for his lifetime service to the



From left: FGCSA Vice President Kevin Sunderman congratulates Darren Davis on his election to a two-year term on the GCSAA Board of Directors at the GIS in San Diego. Coming off the board is Bob Randquist, CGCS who received his GCSAA Past President's white blazer during the Annual Meeting. Photo by Joel Jackson.

full two-year term as a director on the board. Darren had served a one-year appointed term in 2012.

Steven H. Huffstutler, GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Glen Eagle Golf & Country Club in Naples, has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with the GCSAA.

Huffstutler has been at Glen Eagle Golf & Country Club since 2003. A 16-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 2009. Approximately 1,600 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold CGCS status.



FGCSA President Nancy Miller, CGCS with Jeff Wright of Statewide Turf Equipment who donated back \$420 of his 50-50 FGCSA Benevolent Fund Raffle winnings at the FGCSA reception in San Diego. Photo by Joel Jackson.

FGCSA

FGCSA President Nancy Miller, CGCS covered the 2013 Florida Golf Day event in Tallahassee in her President's Message of this issue. Mark Kann also had scheduled individual meetings with select legislators or their aides. Meanwhile at our display booth in the rotunda, we met a few legislators who were passing by enroute to committee meetings, and we had a chance to give them a look at our BMP manual and a two-page list of economic and environmental bullet points. Many thanks to Erin Wilder and her Sod Solutions folks

for setting up a display of golf turf sod samples to give folks an up close look at "golf grasses."

Thanks to the support of our Industry Partners and Reception Sponsors we were able to host around 200 people at the FGCSA Reception during the Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Once again Jennifer found a great venue at the Palomar Hotel rooftop lounge. Jeff Wright with Statewide Turf

FGCSA President Nancy Miller, CGCS representing the FGCSA at the Golf Industry Roundtable Meeting in Tallahassee. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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SPOTLIGHT

Left: Allison Barrick thanked Suncoast VP Nick Kearns for the Suncoast Chapter's \$2,500 donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Right: Nicole Double of the All Faiths Food Bank told the audience at the Suncoast Scramble that the food and money they raised at the Suncoast Vendor Day in January provided 5,300 meals for people in need. Photos by Lee Crosby.



From left: A golf industry panel composed of Todd Lowe, USGA, Jim Demick, FSGA, Ralph Dain, GCSAA, Kevin Sunderman, FGCSA and Rich Smith, North Florida PGA Section held a Q&A session after their industry update presentations at the Suncoast Scramble in Sarasota. Photo by Joel Jackson.

In the next issue we'll report on the USGA Green Committee University series that began in mid March, but it and other March events are too late for this issue's deadline. We'll be highlighting other chapter events and news, as this is the beginning of a busy season for many traditional chapter events.

Help us put your chapter in the spotlight by sending a brief report and photos from your event. Please make sure those photos are at a high resolution so we can enlarge them to use in the magazine. So set those cameras and phones on the "High" setting when you take send them along to us. Thanks!



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Through online auctions of golf rounds, the Rounds 4 Research program raises funds to help address the critical shortage of resources for turfgrass research. To learn more, visit rounds4research.com.

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Special thanks to Superintendent Zach Lane and
the Laurel Oak CC for hosting this event



Pelican Pointe G&CC: Twenty-seven reasons to play golf!

On the southwest coast of Florida just below Sarasota, situated roughly halfway between Interstate 75 and the Gulf of Mexico, the LittleStone Management Group operates a 27-hole golf course complex in the residential-golf community of Pelican Pointe in Venice.

The Meadows and Preserve nines opened in 1995 and Hatchett Creek nine opened seven years later. The 40-acre Hatchett Creek Conservation area lies within the confines of the golf course and provides ample cover for a diverse

wildlife population, which utilizes the 40 lakes on the property. Residents and golfers who are birding enthusiasts must have a field day on the course. I know I enjoyed my bird and critter watching during my two visits to do the story.

Since this is a residential-golf community, home sites border many of the holes, but every hole is also bordered by a waterway or wooded native area, giving the course a very natural feel. The man in charge of keeping everything looking good and playing well is Dan

Haubein. Haubein rose to the rank of superintendent much like an enlisted person in the service who receives a battlefield commission – he earned it!

Haubein's dad is a retired navy master chief, who finished his naval career in the Jacksonville area and that's where Dan's golf career began almost by chance. Haubein explained, "After high school I enrolled in a manager training program with the Food Lion Corporation, but as an athlete, I really loved being outdoors. A couple of my high school buddies were

SUPERINTENDENT FACTS

Meet Dan Haubein

Originally from:
Bangkok, Thailand.

Family: Fiancee Amy and their dog Teak (a boxer and pit bull mix). Dan and Amy's wedding is scheduled for April 20th as we go to press.

Education: Graduated from Fletcher High School in Jacksonville Beach in 1992

Employment history: 1993 – 1996 Crew member at TPC Sawgrass; 1996-98 Irrigation Tech, Marsh Landing CC; 1998-2000 Spray Tech/Forman Hidden Hills CC; 2000-02 AS St. James GC; 2002-04 Superintendent St. James GC; 2004-07 Superintendent Crystal Lake CC/ Tam O'Shanter CC (36 holes); 2007-2008 AS Indian River GC with LittleStone Management. 2008 – Present Superintendent Pelican Pointe G&CC also with the LittleStone Group.

How did you get into the business: I was working for Food Lion and enrolled in a manager training program with them when a couple of ex-high school friends mentioned they were working at the TPC course in Ponte Vedra and mentioned there were openings on the crew. The rest is history.

Professional affiliations/awards: 8-year member of the GCSAA. Currently serving as the Secretary of the Suncoast GCSA. This year the Southwest Chapter of the North Florida Section of the PGA of America presented me with the Superintendent of the Year Award.

Goals/Accomplishments: One goal I've been thinking about is to have Pelican Pointe join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and become a certified sanctuary. On the accomplishment side, I'm proud to have taken several formerly contracted-out seasonal operations like aerifying, bulk fertilizing, etc. and brought them in-house and reduced operating costs. Also, we've fine-tuned the irrigation system to reduce run times and make the system more efficient environmentally and economically.

Personal philosophy of work: You have been put in to a position of leadership. Control your emotions and choose your words wisely. Your actions are a mirror image on your club, course and staff. Be open-minded and respect your staff. I would never ask anyone to perform a task that I haven't done or wouldn't do myself.

Hobbies and Interests: Fishing, hunting, golf, Tampa Bay Rays baseball and generally just enjoy life.



DAN HAUBEIN
Dan Haubein with his Superintendent of the Year Award. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The 9th tee complex with one of the 40 lakes on the course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Bottom right: Mind the gap! You have to thread the needle on your tee shot on No. 18. Photo by Joel Jackson.

working at TPC Sawgrass and mentioned they were hiring. I longed to be out in the fresh air and sunshine so I interviewed and went to work on the crew.

"I enjoyed the work. I listened and I asked lots of questions and they often gave me the tough jobs because they knew I would get it done. Following three years on the crew at TPC, I spent the next four years split between being an irrigation technician and a pest control spray technician. So I learned all the jobs on the golf course. During my spray tech days I was also the crew foreman. Nine years after starting at the





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