

GCSAA ends LPGA staff agronomist position

While the GCSAA is ramping up its new field staff program, it's pulled the plug on another program: the GCSAA/LPGA staff agronomist position, a project the association started in conjunction with the LPGA in July of 2007. John Miller, CGCS, who held the position of LPGA staff agronomist, accepted the job of GCSAA field staff representative for the Great Lakes region last month.

"I'm sad (about the end of the LPGA position), but we accomplished what we set out to do," Miller said. "It was a sign of the times — there was no money to fund the position anymore.

GCSAA decided not to renew the contract."

Miller said his favorite thing about the LPGA position was being able to work with superintendents around the globe to make their golf courses the best they could be.

"I was an extra set of eyes that could help out," Miller said. "But it turned out I learned as much from (the LPGA Tour superintendents) as they learned from me."

Miller was wasting no time getting started with his new position. On the day Miller was reached by *Golfdom* in late December, he had already attended an Ohio holiday party for local superintendents.

"I'm really excited about this new position. GCSAA has been working hard on this field staff project, and it seems to be going over well with the membership," Miller said. "I think it'll be fun to take the knowledge that I have — I'm a past chapter president — and working with other chapters to see what their challenges are." ■



John Miller

Carolinas golf industry gives to research

The Carolinas golf industry has announced grants of almost \$100,000 to turfgrass researchers whose work helps underpin the game's \$8-billion economic impact in the region. The grants to Clemson and North Carolina State universities are the first generated by Rounds4Research, an annual online auction of tee times across the region.



Nearly 700 tee times were available to the highest bidder in last year's auction. This year's auction runs April 10 to 17 at www.Rounds4Research.com.

"We are extremely pleased and proud to be able to provide this landmark support," said Tim Kreger, executive director of the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association, which administers the program. "The golf industry is suffering in this recession just like the universities but we are determined to be part of the solution."

To share your industry news, email Seth Jones at sjones@questex.com.

Fort Collins CC super earns DSA award

Grant Yaklich, Fort Collins CC superintendent and former Rocky Mountain Regional Turfgrass Association president, was presented with the RMRTA Distinguished Service Award recently. As superintendent of the Links at Sierra Blanca, Yaklich improved the course's *Golf Digest* ranking from 10th to 6th while at the same time reducing water consumption by 54 percent. Yaklich has been in the turfgrass industry for 27 years, with the last 12 years at Fort Collins CC.

Grant Yaklich, Fort Collins (Colo.) CC superintendent

