

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XXII, PART I, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



Hard work by the 2006 Lake City Community College Endowment Committee pays off in a successful 2005 event at WCI's Pelican Preserve GC. From left: Mitch Miller, Odell Spainhour, Roy Bates, Scott Hamm, Scott Zakany, Celeste Langer, John Johnson and Mike Smith.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 16 18th Annual CFGCSA Research Tournament, Interlachen GC

Jan. 17 Treasure Coast GCSA meeting, Evergreen GC

Jan. 25 Seven Rivers GCSA chapter meeting, Royal Oaks GC

Jan. 25 Palm Beach GCSA chapter meeting, CC @ Boca Raton

Feb. 6 - 11 Golf Industry Show, Atlanta

Feb. 9 FGCSA Reception, Hard Rock Cafe, Atlanta

Feb. 20 CFGCSA Supt/Vendor, Tuscawilla GC

Mar. 6 Ridge Invitational, The Club at Eaglebrooke

Mar. 13 North Florida Research Tournament, Pablo Creek CC

Mar. 23 SFGCSA Exposition and Field Day, UF Fort Lauderdale REC

Mar. 25 Everglades GCSA event, Naples Princess

Apr. 6 Everglades Spring Symposium, Naples Beach Club

Apr. 10 Mike Richards Tournament, Jacksonville G&CC

April 17 Tentative Date for Seven Rivers GCSA Envirotron

FTGA Regional Turf Conferences:

Jan. 10: Camp Downs, Orlando
 Jan. 11: St. Lawrence Parish, (Higgins Hall), Tampa
 Jan. 17: PolishAmerican Club, Lake Worth
 Jan. 18: Tree Tops Park, Davie
 Jan. 19: Germain Arena, Estero
 Jan. 25: Duval County Extension Office, Jacksonville
 Jan. 31: UF/PJC Campus, Milton

Contact the FTGA at 800-882-6721 if you have not received a registration form for the Conference in your area or register online at www.ftga.org.

President's Message Craig Weyandt

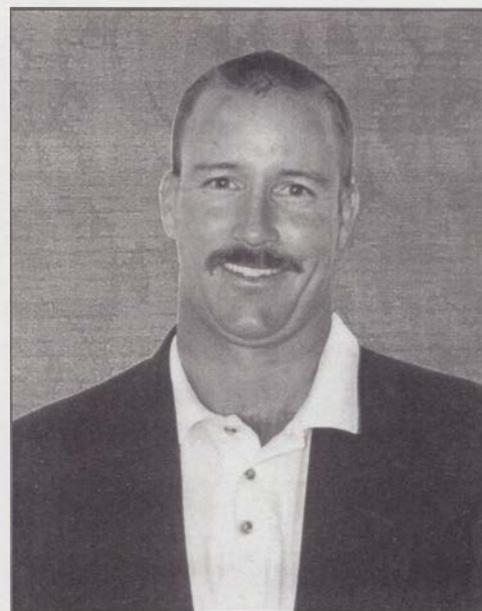
In December I attended the joint chapter meeting of the Treasure Coast GCSA and the Palm Beach GCSA at the Jupiter Island Club. The host was Rob Kloska and the guest speakers were Joel Jackson, CGCS (Director of Communications FGCSA) and GCSA Director Bob Randquist, CGCS (Boca Rio Golf Club). I really appreciate Rob for hosting yet another meeting. I have lost count on how many he has hosted. If you have never hosted a meeting, get involved and make this the year. Not only will you benefit from the experience but I'm sure your members will appreciate sharing their facility with other turf professionals.

Bob Randquist spoke first about PDI (Professional Development Initiative). Bob was very helpful in explaining PDI to everyone. He said that the majority of superintendents have been working on retaining their Class A membership but there are some that have done

nothing. The first group of superintendents to go through this process will be due July 1, of 2006. This first group will need only 3 points to maintain their Class A membership. If the points are not achieved their membership classification will then be changed to SM which is superintendent member.

All you have to do to see when you need your points and how many is to log onto the GCSAA website (www.gcsaa.org) and look under My Member Central. My deadline is July 2007 and I will need to have 4 points. Bob explained just by going to the GIS you earn 1.5 education units. As you can see it is not that hard to maintain your Class A membership but the responsibility relies on you.

Joel spoke on the hot topics of MSMA and Phosphorus. The EPA is conducting its required review of MSMA and is in the re-registration process now. I know I use it on crabgrass and tropical Signalgrass every summer. We don't want to lose this very effective product so make sure that you follow the label,



Craig Weyandt

especially when mixing small quantities. We have all seen phosphorus in the newspapers and on television with agriculture taking the major blame. Well guess what category we fall under? Please make sure that if phosphorus is in your blend that you really need it. Base your decision on a good soil test, not just because you have always done it that way. Like Joel says, "We all have to not only talk the talk... but walk the walk."

THE GREEN SHEET

Editor:

Joel Jackson, CGCS
(407) 248-1971 (fax/phone)
e-mail: FLGrn@aol.com

News Coordinator:

Mrs. Marie Roberts
1760 NW Pine Lake Drive
Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 692-9349
(772) 692-9654 (fax)
(800) 732-6053 (Florida Wats)
e-mail: fgcsa123@bellsouth.net

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All material submitted for printing will be edited at the discretion of the editor. Material must be typed or clearly printed. Photos are encouraged. Items must be for the good of the association.

Deadline next issue: February 15.

FGCSA Board Meeting to be held January 20th

The Florida GCSA Winter Board Meeting will be held on Friday, January 20th at Grand Cypress Villas Clubhouse in Orlando.

All Officers and External Vice Presidents are urged to attend or be sure that an appropriate substitute will represent your chapter at the meeting. We will be asking for volunteers to work at the Atlanta Reception front table as well as at the Benevolent Fund raffle table.

What's Up D.O.C.?

by Joel Jackson

No, you're not experiencing déjà vu. MSMA really is still in the news and the lead off report under government relations. The sinister sensational usage of arsenic and the fear factor surrounding this naturally occurring element is irresistible to the media.

1. Government Relations: MSMA (Arsenic)

The Naples News ran another arsenic/golf course story on Sunday, December 11th. One significant fact that was missing is the parts per billion and parts per million distinctions between water and soil concentrations and health effects. Printing 6300 parts per billion sounds infinitely more severe than .63 parts per million, and ppm is the yardstick for soil contamination. Oddly enough samples collected at a local public park yields high arsenic levels in locations where MSMA has not reportedly been applied. They use reclaimed water for irrigation and are next door to a "golf course," hence assumptions flow faster than the facts.

I received a call from EPA last week as they are in the re-registration process for MSMA. I was asked what would be the affect of banning MSMA from use on greens. Consensus among your peers is that it would not be a big deal in the total scheme of things.

I urge you to continue to monitor and reduce your use of MSMA and document that reduction in your records and in written statements like your environmental plan. For those who suffer with Tropical Signalgrass, John Foy reports that Carl Benedict at Orange County National GC has taken out signalgrass with three applications of sodium bicarbonate. Carl reports that a single application of sodium bicarbonate (in the form of baking soda) will turn the plant bright orange in 24 hours. On days 2, 3 & 4 the plant turns brown and melts out. Sometimes 2 or 3 applications may be necessary because it is critical to coat every blade with the fine powder. Missed areas will stay green. Benedict says after first buying small boxes off the shelf, he went through his F&B manager and purchased large drums from SYSCO. Benedict also says the weeds

should be damp from dew or a light irrigation syringing. I would think a small sprayer with water would work. Initially it is labor intensive, but Benedict reports an 80% control rate. He says the 419 blades do fold and roll but bounce back quickly. He has also used the bicarbonate on patches on greens adjacent to collars with similar results. Several clubs have stopped using it due to bank loan requirements and under duress from local officials due to high arsenic levels, regardless of the true source.

Methyl Bromide – Follow up on our Critical Use Exemption Applications – Part 2. A call to Drs. Haydu and Hodges who did our Golf Economic Impact Study yields no data that could be used to identify and substantiate a "significant market disruption" if methyl bromide was not available for golf course use. That litmus test is one of the key issues in the application. Anecdotal evidence of lawsuits over contaminated grasses, possible lost revenue from delayed openings, possible increased pesticide and fertilizer costs during grow-in are hard to quantify and apply across the whole industry. Subjective turf quality judgments and possible related superintendent terminations exist already and we still have methyl bromide. The same is true with competition for customers in the current market.

I would argue that the pre-plant fumigation with MeBr is safer environmentally in terms of worker safety; effectiveness and the reduction of "possible" increased use of conventional pesticides during grow-in, but those observations do not fit the question of "significant market disruption." People will still play golf.

Phosphorus: Included in Governor Bush's plan for the restoration of the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Basin is a reduction in the use of phosphorus in agriculture and urban fertilizers. As often happens, the political policy makers at first said "zero" phosphorus, but after some factual input from the Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, the terminology was changed to "low" phosphorus use. How low can you go? Well that will remain the \$64,000 dollar question. Suffice it to say that each stakeholder group will have to take a look at how much and when P is applied.

Our northern cousins had to battle a ban on P in landscape and golf course use and a compromise was reached by having superintendents attend a one-day training session to become "certified" in applying fertilizers. My suggestion is that you take a hard look and your nutrition programs and make sure you can justify your current use of P. Is it out of habit and former successful programs or out of a definite scientific need for the amounts you are using, or can you cut back and still achieve the same results? Have you tried or experimented on some test plots? You might want to start checking now. I'm sure we will be involved in setting some workable limits in the near future and we will need your input.

Our major fertilizer companies attended the first FFAA meeting on this subject and have pledged to cooperate, so the initiative is in motion.

2. Allied Associations: FTGA: You will probably hear this message or a similar version from other sources, but I may be scooping the FTGA with this short report. I attended a recent FTGA board meeting in Orlando and the good news continues to grow as financial stability has been achieved. A reserve funds account, a key operational factor for non-profit groups, has been established and is well on its way to meeting it's 50% of operating costs goal.

Turf research funding is strong and several projects the FGCSA is backing have been approved for joint funding with the FTGA in addition to several of FTGA's own projects approved for the benefit of all turf industry sectors

GCSAA: Next year on July 1st, just about seven months from now, the first group of Class A superintendents hit the deadline for renewal of their Class A status. This first group needed to earn 3 points to remain a Class A. All the points can be education, but a minimum of 1.2 points need to be GCSAA approved education. This includes local meeting education, regional seminars, college courses, GCSAA web casts and online education. Service points include meeting attendance even if it only a golf outing, community or church service, association service on committees or

...Continued on the top of page 6

The rescheduled Fall 2005 meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was called to order by President Craig Weyandt at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 11th at the Omni hotel in Champions Gate.

Due to the Hurricane Wilma, Craig Weyandt and Greg Kriesch were the only officers present. The other two officers and many of our Externals were unable to attend. Not represented were Central Florida, Everglades and Palm Beach chapters.

Others attending the meeting were Joel Jackson - Florida Green editor; Bobby Ellis, GCSat Champions Gate; Bruce Witt, instructor at Lake City CC; and Marie Roberts.

Greg Kriesch presented the minutes from the Summer Meeting which were then approved.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEES: Craig Weyandt, Chairman of the Infrastructure Committee reported that he is in need of an additional board member on his committee. Anyone interested in helping out with this project is urged to call him. Since everyone is so busy right now, Craig asked that all SPC Chairmen have a meeting with their Committee members (either by e-mail or in person) before the Winter Meeting to create an outline of the goals of their Committee.

AUDUBON CONSERVATION COUNTRY CLUB: Craig presented a letter from Kevin Fletcher, Audubon International, asking that the FGCSA make a \$1,000 contribution for 2005-2006 as we did last year. After a discussion, a motion was made and approved to continue our support of the Audubon Conservation CC by sending a \$1,000 check.

Craig then introduced Bruce Witt, instructor at Lake City CC, who presented an outline of a research project he is planning that deals with the management of multi cultural staffs. By completing an extensive survey over the summer months, Bruce plans to develop an educational program on this subject that could be presented to FGCSA chapters with GCSAA education points. He also plans to publicize the results in a Florida Green article. The FTGA has pledged 50% of his budget and the CMAA is planning to donate 25% to the project which leaves the remaining 25% (\$3,500) for the FGCSA. After Bruce finished his presentation and de-

parted, a motion was made and approved to support the project for \$3,500.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The First Quarter financial statements were explained by Greg Kriesch and approved. The Morgan Stanley Account has now increased to \$168,000 with the Bank Reserve Account at \$56,000.

RESEARCH: Craig explained that the reason we were having this Fall board meeting even though several board members were unable to attend is because we are in a time crunch with the GCSAA Call for Research Proposals deadline coming up within the next week, November 17th. Letters of support from each chapter must be sent to the GCSAA by November 29th. Since the FGCSA would like to fund some relevant research projects this year, we want to submit them to the GCSAA for co-funding before the deadline. He also noted that even if the projects do not receive co-funding, he asked the board to be prepared to fund the projects on our own even if the GCSAA turns them down.

A discussion was held concerning the 18 grant proposals that were submitted to the FTGA Research Foundation by our University of Florida researchers. Each chapter External was asked to rank their top three choices and discussions were held on the pros and cons of each of their top proposals. The results of this discussion, resulted in the following four proposals being approved by the FGCSA for submission to the GCSAA for co-funding. The proposals that were rated highest were:

- (1) "Evaluation of Soil Moisture and Evapotranspiration Irrigation Control to Reduce Turfgrass Irrigation Water Use," submitted by M. Dukes and G. Miller. Grant request is \$11,500 for a two year project.
- (2) "Field Evaluation of Bioherbicidal Control of Tropical Signalgrass," submitted by C. Stiles and R. Charudattan. Grant request is \$23,094 for a two year project.
- (3) "The Billbug Species Complex, Seasonality, and Management in Florida", submitted by E. Buss. Grant request is \$13,900.
- (4) "Root-Knot Nematodes on Turf in Florida," submitted by W. Crow. Grant request is \$20,800 for a two year study.

A motion was made to approve all four of these proposals for submission to the GCSAA for co-funding. The motion was approved. Craig then reminded all Externals that their chapter should write a letter of support and send it to the GCSAA before the November 29th deadline. If anyone needs help writing their letters, please contact Craig or Joel. Craig emphasized that these Letters of Support carry a lot of weight with the GCSAA committee members so again urged all chapters to do their part in supporting these University of Florida researchers.

D.O.C. REPORT: Joel discussed the progress of the MSMA (arsenic) situation and noted that superintendents need to re-evaluate their use and need for MSMA since we are in a no win situation at present.

He then discussed his reaction to the negative reply from the EPA regarding our Critical Use Exemption Application. He has contacted Dr. Unruh and Steve Godbehere from Hendrix and Dail and discussed their answers to the EPA's questions. Joel will continue to communicate with the EPA.

Joel reported on the slow progress of the BMP manual and fears it may still be a year before it is published.

Joel then discussed the recent GCSAA Voting Delegate meeting. With the first group of superintendents up for renewal, it seems that although many Florida superintendents have made progress on their PDI, few have actually taken the time to go on-line to record the points they have earned this year. Mark Kann asked how a non-affiliated chapter such as Seven Rivers or the Ridge, can sponsor a GCSAA education program at their chapter meeting. Joel will contact GCSAA and pass the information on. Other items discussed at the Delegates meeting were the honorariums that are presented to GCSAA Board Members and Past Presidents.

PUBLICATIONS: Joel reported that both the Fall issue of the Florida Green, the November/December Green Sheet and the 2006 Membership Directory have not been printed as yet due to the hurricanes. The Florida Green should be mailed within the next two weeks and the Green Sheet should go out early next week but the Directory will probably not be ready for shipping until the end

of November, at best. Marie Roberts reported that again this year, we have secured a few more advertisers for the Directory.

AWARDS: Chairman Greg Kriesch asked Externals to submit their chapter's nominations for the 2006 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award by the Winter meeting (some-time in late January). This will allow the officers to select the candidate immediately after the Winter meeting so that the presentation can be made at the Presidents Dinner during the Poa Weekend in May.

Chapters are also encouraged to nominate one of their chapter members for a Lifetime Achievement Award. These awards are to acknowledge one of your long-time superintendent members (20 years in the turfgrass industry) who has contributed his time generously to the betterment of your chapter. FGCSA will have a plaque made for your chapter to present and the nominee will receive a write up in the Florida Green.

BY LAWS: Mark Kann discussed the possibility of a ByLaw Amendment to change ARTICLE I. Section 2 of our ByLaws to restate the purpose of the FGCSA to be more in line with what was discussed at our May Strategic Planning Meeting. The change is actually very slight but Section 2 would be restated to: "The mission of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association is to promote the golf course management profession and to unify golf course superintendents in Florida." In addition we will be sure that the Class B member is changed to Superintendent Member in all parts of the By Laws as well as our SOP Manual.

According to our ByLaws, this amendment must be submitted to the Executive Committee 90 days prior to the board meeting and also presented to the membership thirty (30) days prior to that meeting. Since there is not enough time to submit this amendment at the Winter Board Meeting, our target will be the Spring Board Meeting. This means that the amendment needs to be printed in the January/February issue of the Green Sheet which will fulfill both the 90 days and the 30 day requirement. Marie Roberts and Mark Kann will work together on this to be included in the January Green Sheet.

EDUCATION: The rescheduled Assistants Seminar was held at Quail Ridge CC in

Boynton Beach on September 29th. The seminar was very well received by the 35 assistants attending the presentation.

The Poa seminar will be a GCSAA SLS co-sponsored program to be held on Friday morning, May 5th, 2006 at the Naples Beach Hotel. The speaker will be Bree Hayes with a \$50.00 seminar fee.

MEMBERSHIP: Chairman Jim Walker reported that the cut-off date to be listed in the FGCSA Membership Directory was September 5th. All chapters were reminded to continue sending the names of new members in to the FGCSA office.

GOLF: This year's FGCSA Tournament was held at Southern Dunes with Bob Boyan, Assistant at Tuscawilla GC, taking the low gross honors. The team from South Florida won the event with Jason Bagwell, Seth Strickland, Kelly Cragin, Bob Harper and Joe Pantaleo representing South Florida.

Members of the Florida team playing in the 2006 GCSAA Championship will be Bob Boyan, Steve Bernard (Crowfoot Open winner), Stephen Fox (Poa Classic winner), and Bob Harper, low average.

FTGA: As everyone knows, the FTGA Show this year was a great success with lots of relevant and interesting educational seminars and good time had by all. The Show returns to the same location next year.

GCSAA RECEPTION: The 2006 Florida reception will be held at a restaurant in the downtown Atlanta area. The reception will be held Thursday, February 9th. It is planned to be in walking distance to some of

the headquarter hotels and will continue the tradition of being the best chapter reception at the GCSAA. We will again have a drawing to support the FGCSA Benevolent Fund. At the Winter Board Meeting, we will be asking for volunteers to man the raffle table

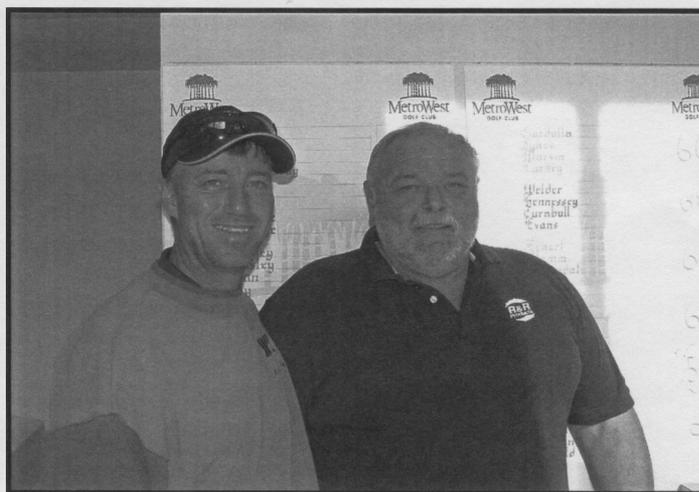
It was reported that Gene Stys, GCS at Indian River Colony whose daughter is suffering from a serious brain tumor requiring aggressive treatment, has received financial help from GCSAA as well as help from the Central Florida GCSAA. It was noted that the FGCSA needs to establish written Guidelines for Requesting Funds from the FGCSA Benevolent Fund. Suggested Guidelines will be presented by the Fund Raising Committee at the Winter Board Meeting.

HURRICANE RELIEF: Craig discussed the GCSAA Relief Program and noted that several FGCSA chapters have made a contribution to that fund. He also mentioned that some Florida chapters have started their own Hurricane Relief Fund targeted towards maintenance crew personnel who work at a member's golf club.

NEW BUSINESS: Mike McCullough presented a brochure from the Florida Adaptive Golf program that provides training and support for physically challenged persons who wish to play golf. When it became unclear exactly what type of help the program was seeking, no motion was made.

WINTER BOARD MEETING: The Winter Board Meeting was tentatively set for Friday, January 20th or Friday, January 27th, at a golf course in the Central Florida area.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.



CFGCSA President Chris Cartin, and CFTESTA President Pat Ray preside at a joint meeting of local superintendents and turf technicians at Metro West GC.

Continuation of D.O.C. column from pg. 3

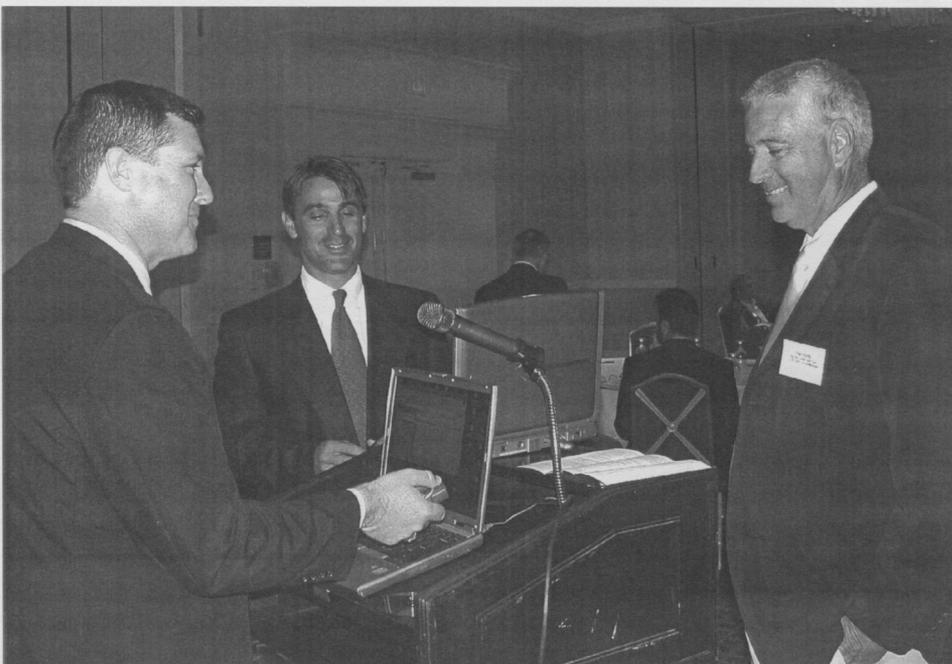
boards, writing articles for newsletters or magazines, and more. If you take a couple of seminars in Atlanta you'll be done. If you attended two or more GIS Conferences the last three years, you're done. Just make sure you and GCSAA are on the same page and contact Scott Woodhead at GCSAA (800) 472-7878 and go over your transcript online at GCSAA (www.gcsaa.org) to make sure all the things you have attended have been logged in. Just doing the PDR (Professional Development Resource – a self evaluation of your skills and professional development needs) earns points...it is your responsibility to check, even if the chapter volunteered to do it. Stuff happens and you are ultimately the person responsible for your own career. Right?

GCSAA Member Voting: If you want to have a say in the governance of the GCSAA, you have three choices: (1) If you have not already assigned your voting proxy to your local chapter or the FGCSA, you can show up at the annual meeting in Atlanta and cast your vote; (2) Assign your proxy to your local chapter or (3) Assign it to the FGCSA.

I just received the roster of all Florida GCSA members and many are represented by their chapter or the FGCSA, but a significant number of you are still listed as independent. All fine and good, but unless you stand in line at the polling booths and actually participate in the voting process in Atlanta your vote is wasted. I can tell you from attending several of the Annual Meetings, that the number of solo, independent voters in the lines is very few. Please consider assigning your voting proxy to the FGCSA or local chapter so that your vote can be cast on the issues. Call Marie Roberts (800) 732-6053 for information on how to get your proxy assigned.

3. Education: In light of the above reminder on PDI and Class A, be aware there are a number of GCSAA educational web casts online between now and the deadline. These are relatively inexpensive (\$25-\$30) and require no travel. Also coming up are the annual FTGA Regional Seminars in January and February. Go back and review the local chapter meetings you attended and make sure you receive the education and/or service points to which you are entitled.

USGA Regional Turf Conference in Palm Beach Gardens



Todd Lowe, USGA Agronomist (left) goes over Power Point procedures with speakers John Cunningham, CGCS of Black Diamond Ranch and Tim Hiers, CGCS from the Old Collier GC at the USGA Conference. Lowe spoke on Effective Written Maintenance Standards; Cunningham discussed how his club enacted a "No Shade" policy; and Hiers talked about making the maintenance complex into an asset.



Pat O'Brien, USGA Agronomist from the Southeast Region, Lee Bloomcamp from Syngenta and John Mascaro of TurfTec International were among the speakers at the USGA Regional Conference. O'Brien discussed new technology in drainage projects; Bloomcamp talked about the rumors and reality of pesticide resistance; and Mascaro presented a new edition of the Photo Quiz pictures initiated by his father, Tom Mascaro.

Newly Certified Members

Congratulations to the following three Florida superintendents who completed the GCSAA Certification process in November.

Kyle Nygaard, CGCS, Everglades Chapter:

Kyle grew up in Minnesota and received his Horticulture and Turf degree from North Dakota State. He moved to Florida in 1994 to work as foreman at Vineyards CC. Three years later he accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent at Royal Wood G&CC in Naples. In 2000, Kyle was promoted to Superintendent. Kyle is an active member of the Everglades GCSA. He is married to Allison who is expecting their first child in March.

Lynn Davis, CGCS, North Florida Chapter:

Lynn is one of our superintendents who has been interested in golf since his teenage years when he had a part time lawn care and irrigation business. He graduated from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in 1995 with an Associates degree in Environmental Horticulture. After graduation, he took a position at a private club in his home town of Albany, GA. He later tried his hand at sports turf management but decided golf turf was more enjoyable. He worked for Emerald Pointe at Lake Lanier Islands and credits Bill Knox, Director of Golf for helping him along the way. His first Florida job was as Superintendent at Palm Harbor GC and then on to Cypress Knoll. After two years, he became superintendent at the City of Palatka and just recently has added the roll of General Manager. He enjoys spending his free time with his wife, Suzy, who is the Director of Parks and Recreation for the county and his 4 year old daughter, Megan.

Kevin Frost, CGCS, South Florida Chapter:

Kevin began his career at Gasparilla Inn GC in Boca Grande and at Gator Creek GC in Sarasota before attending college. While attending Lake City CC he worked at Laurel Oak CC until he received his degree in 1996. Kevin became Assistant Supt. at Cypress Links GC in Jupiter for one year. From that beginning he went on to be superintendent at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens; Indian River Club in Vero Beach and then on to Troon Golf first at Westin Innisbrook Resort in Palm Harbor. Since 2003 he has held the superintendent's position at The Diplomat in Hallandale Beach. Kevin is married to Christine and they have 2 children, Alex and Autumn.



2006 Florida GCSA Reception -- Thursday, February 9th

The FGCSA will hold its annual Reception on Thursday night, February 9th at the Hard Rock Cafe, 215 NE Peachtree St. in Atlanta from 7:00 p.m- 10:00 p.m. Invitations will be mailed to all FGCSA members in January. Reception Chairman Paul Crawford promises that the Atlanta reception will continue the tradition of being the best chapter reception at the GCSAA Convention. Mark your calendar now!

Even if you are not going to the Show, there is still time for **any affiliate** to be listed as a sponsor at the reception. We sincerely appreciate the support of all our sponsors. Those companies who have already committed to the reception are:

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Special thanks to the FGCSA

*Chapters who have generously
contributed to the reception.*

NOTE: It is not too late for any affiliate to be acknowledged as a sponsor of the reception. Please call the FGCSA office at 1-800-732-6053 to sign up as a Reception Sponsor.



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FGCSA

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