



# THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XXVII, PART IV, MARCH/APRIL 2011

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

## MARCH AND APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH 8TH

EVERGLADES GCSA EDUCATION AND DINNER  
THE CLUB AT PELICAN BAY

### MARCH 14TH

NORTH FLORIDA GCSA PABLO RESEARCH TOURNAMENT  
PABLO CREEK CC

### MARCH 17TH

SEVEN RIVERS GCSA MONTHLY MEETING  
OCALA GOLF CLUB

### MARCH 17TH

CALUSA GCSA MONTHLY MEETING  
SHELL POINT

### MARCH 24TH

SOUTH FLORIDA GCSA TURF EXPO  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, DAVIE

### MARCH 30TH

WEST COAST GCSA MONTHLY MEETING  
LARGO GOLF COURSE

### APRIL 11TH

NORTH FLORIDA GCSA MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT  
MARSH CREEK GC

### APRIL 18TH

SEVEN RIVERS GCSA JEFF HAYDEN MEMORIAL  
ENVIROTRON GOLF CLASSIC  
WORLD WOODS GC

### APRIL 21TH

EVERGLADES GCSA SPRING SYMPOSIUM  
NAPLES GOLF AND BEACH HOTEL

### APRIL 25TH

CALUSA GCSA AND SUNCOAST GCSA JOINT MEETING  
THE RITZ CARLTON MEMBERS GOLF CLUB

## Bob Randquist, CGCSA Elected GCSAA President



Above: Florida Superintendent Bob Randquist, CGCS (Dark Suit) is escorted to the stage by GCSAA Past Presidents to officially assume the office of President of the GCSAA. Left: Bob Randquist, CGCS from the Boca Rio G.C. in Boca Raton was elected President of the GCSAA at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in Orlando of February 11, 2011.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY GARY MYERS, CGCS

Positive Start for 2011

We just concluded the Golf Industry Show and our FGCSA Reception held at Disney's Epcot. From the comments I heard that night and emails received, it was huge success. All thanks go to Jennifer as she spent numerous hours preparing for the event. She began negotiating with Disney last summer to put together the room set-up, food and refreshments. She arranged the busing and logistics to get everyone to the event. She was diligent in sending out multiple communication keeping everyone informed. Her hard work created a fantastic event.

Congratulations to Robert Randquist, CGCS on becoming the President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association. Bob is a tremendous leader in our industry and asset to both GCSAA and FGCSA. We offer our support in any way needed during his tenure.

The attendance numbers for the Show were up and I hope this is another positive sign that the Industry is on the way up as well. The new format works well with the education on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and the Equipment Show on Wednesday and Thursday. This was the 31<sup>st</sup> consecutive GCSAA Conference that I have attended.

I look at the Conference as a "Must Attend" event. In my opinion, the benefits of attending justify the associated costs. The educational seminars, the educational



Gary Myers, CGCS

speaker sessions, the equipment and product show or just seeing fellow Superintendents you have come to know over the years are extremely beneficial. I truly believe that these benefits have attributed to my overall development as a Golf Course Superintendent. I am looking forward to going to Las Vegas next year where I spent 12 years of my career.

The GCSAA has been dealing with reduced attendance over the past few years mostly due to the economy. The local associations have also been dealing with reduced attendance to monthly events. Is this also due to the economy? It may be a small part but, I am not sure it is the main reason. Early in my

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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 April 15.

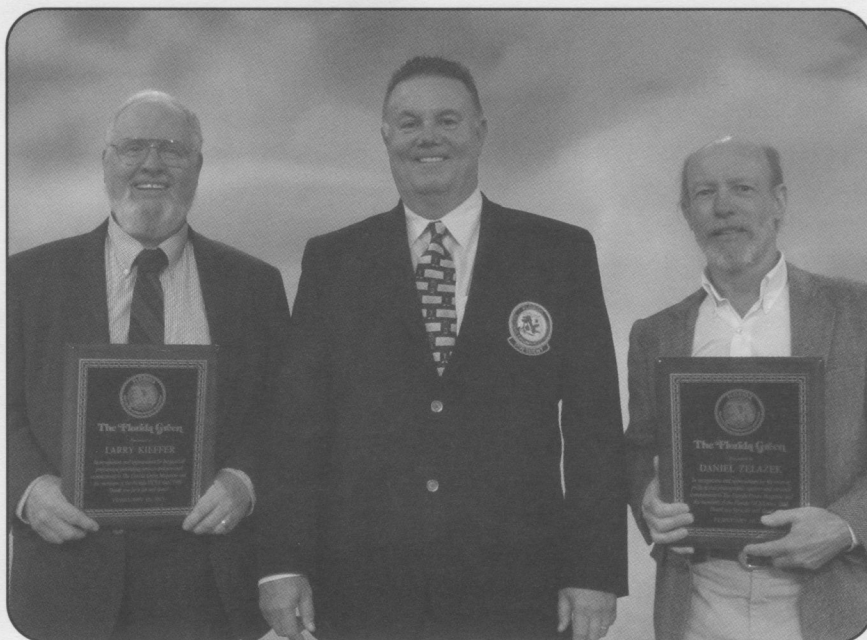
**...President's Message Continued**

career, Superintendents in my area looked forward to monthly events and the majority of the area courses were represented at those events. In those days, Superintendents and Assistants actually outnumbered vendors. We also looked at these as "Must Attend" events.

It was a chance, and still is, to see what the other courses were dealing with. We all have the same pest, weed and disease challenges and there are many options available to us to combat those challenges. To me, it is extremely beneficial to see the other courses and learn what products they are using and what kind of results they are having. It is a chance to talk to area Superintendents and develop that camaraderie with others. I have never been afraid to call a fellow Superintendent and discuss a problem I am having and asking for their advice. I'm just not sure that Superintendents feel the same way today.

I am sure everyone has a reason for not attending monthly events but, I am not convinced that the economy or lack of time are the main factors. I would encourage all of you to take a look at the benefits of attending local GCSA events. ■

*At the FGCSA Reception during the February Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FGCSA President Gary Myers, CGCS (center) helped recognize and honor the service and retirement of Larry Kieffer (left), Florida Green Publisher (20 years), and Daniel Zelazek, Florida Green Cover Photographer (30 years). Photo by Joel Jackson.*



**Calendar of Events continued from page 1**

**MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

FGCSA SPRING BOARD MEETING  
10AM, NAPLES GOLF AND BEACH HOTEL

**MAY 13-14<sup>TH</sup>**

EVERGLADES GCSA POA ANNUA AND GC HORN  
NAPLES, FL

**MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

WEST COAST GCSA CHAPTER CHAMPIONSHIP  
BELLEAIR COUNTRY CLUB

**MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

SEVEN RIVERS GCSA, UF/IFAS NORTH CENTRAL  
FLORIDA TURFGRASS FIELD DAY  
UF PLANT SCIENCE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION UNIT

**MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

TREASURE COAST GCSA BLUE PEARL TOURNAMENT

**JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

PALM BEACH GCSA FUTURE OF GOLF TOURNAMENT  
THE FALLS COUNTRY CLUB

**JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>**

SEVEN RIVERS GCSA ANNUAL MEETING AND VENDOR  
APPRECIATION DAY  
CANDLER HILLS GOLF CLUB

**JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>**

WEST COAST GCSA AND RIFGE GCSA JOINT MEETING  
GRASSLANDS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BY JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

**1. Legislative update:** Mike Goldie reports that several bills have been filed that address the local governments pre-empting the state's Model Ordinance. As usual expect lots of opposition and cities and counties fight for home rule. One of the bills seeks to give the Dept. of Agriculture absolute authority over fertilizer sales and applications just as it has for pesticides. It has always been implied, but never enforced. Mike says Ag groups hope Commissioner Putnam weighs in to make this happen.

FGCSA President Gary Myers, Government Relations Chairman Bill Davidson and I are planning a March 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup> trip to Tallahassee to engage House and Senate Committee leaders on the issues facing golf and the green industries. This trip will focus on the obvious impacts of fertilizer ordinances, water quality (NNC) and water restrictions and we will target appropriate Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environmental regulatory committees, but Mike Goldie also suggested we include, Small Business, Economic Development and Tourism Committees for the business aspect and impact that golf brings to the Florida Economy.

**EPA's Numeric Nutrient Criteria:** As the NNC lawsuits story plays out we are seeing the usual media inflammatory columns and articles saying Big Ag is fighting clean water and wants to continue its pollution of Florida's waters. No mention of Rule 5E passed in 2007 which reduced N and P content in all fertilizer blends sold in Florida by 30% and 70% respectively. Or no mention of the Fertilizer Task Force of ALL stakeholders from local governments, regulators, IFAS, environmental groups and industry which held 5-7 statewide public meetings for input, then unanimously gave consensus to a draft model ordinance which was given to the Legislature and passed. Now some media are calling it the ordinance drafted by agricultural interests. The slanting and prejudice in the media will not stop

and we must continue to work locally to relay the facts to our cities and counties and demand common sense and science in all regulations.

**Local Fertilizer Ordinances:** Meanwhile the march of local ordinance continues as St. Lucie County is nearing a vote, the City of Stuart is nearly through drafting and getting ready to vote on one and Collier County is considering three drafts, all of which contained language banning fertilizer applications to ALL turf in the County. No exceptions for Golf BMPs in the original drafts like many of the other ordinances. Members of the Everglades GCSA are working closely with county staff and commissioners to include sound science in their regulations and understand that golf courses are community businesses. It is cases like this when these "far out" bans with little or no regard to the real world consequences that each one of us needs to step up and write or call your commissioner and support sound science and best management practices in the laws.

**2. Association Business:** With the GIS coming to Orlando this past February, we saw a nice surge in membership in our new Industry Partner Program. There has generally been some positive buzz from both the PGA Merchandise Show and the GIS on things slowly turning around. Let's hope some of that positivity trickles down to the maintenance budget.

**FGCSA Website:** One of the features of the new FGCSA Website is Jennifer's ability to send out email blasts easily. We will try very much not to bombard you with emails, but we do ask that when you see one marked FGCSA Newsletter in your Inbox, don't just delete it as junk mail. Please open and check it out. It will save all of us time and effort. Thanks.

**3. Education:** The 2011 FTGA Regional Seminars will wrap up March 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> in Orlando and Vero Beach. The FGCSA/USGA Spring Seminar at the Poa Annua Classic will be on Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> in Naples. ■



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## **FROM JENNIFER'S DESK...**

Let me begin by extending a very sincere thank you to all of the FGCSA Reception Sponsors. Because of your sponsorship commitment, we are able to provide our superintendent members one night out of the year where they can gather and get reacquainted with colleagues and friends. This year was no exception – your sponsorship provided a truly magical experience at *Disney World's Resort® Epcot®* Theme Park. Thank you, thank you! Without your support an evening like this would not be possible.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to all you superintendents who RSVP'd for the event. I know this year's event was very unique, but your willingness to embrace the changes made my job much easier. We were able to accurately predict the number of guests and in turn were able to provide you an event that I hope you found very rewarding. Thank you for taking the time to read my e-mail newsletters and The Green Sheet; you helped make this event unforgettable.

Now that the GIS has passed, my regular duties will continue to keep me busy as we prepare for the Spring issue of the Florida Green, The POA Annual Seminar (please watch your inboxes for Newsletter announcements and registration forms for this year's event) and the Spring Board Meeting. Before I know it we will be in full swing with dues renewals and end of year reports. Where does the time go?! I look forward to working with you again this year. As always, be sure to contact the FGCSA office if I can be of any help. ■

## FLORIDA'S GIS WINNERS

### **Christopher Flynn, CGCS, Marriott's Grande Vista**

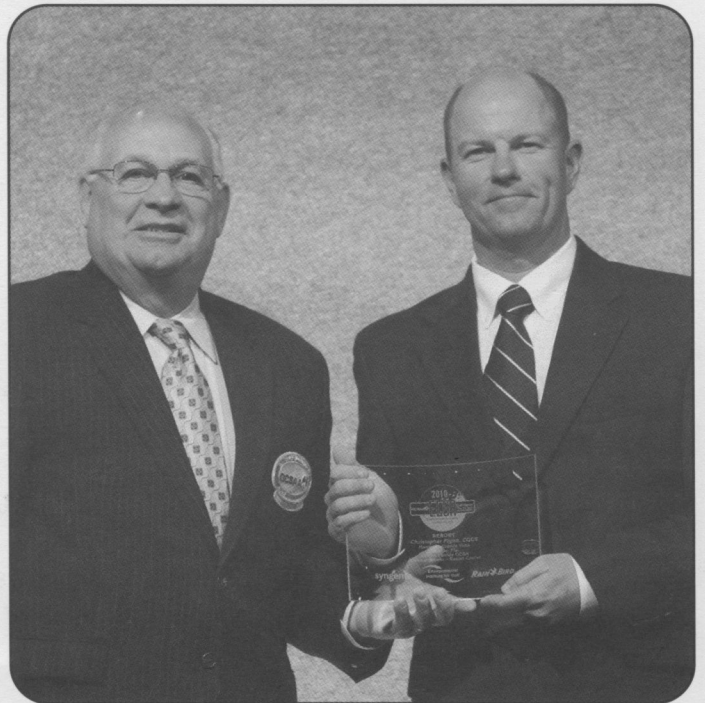
Flynn, a 13-year GCSAA member, is a GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at Marriott's Grande Vista, a resort in Orlando featuring towering pines, oaks and cypress trees surrounding the 9-hole, 2,300-yard, par-32 Grande Vista course, a 18-hole Grande Pines course, and a practice facility that is home to the Nick Faldo Golf Institute. Located at the headwaters of the Florida Everglades ecosystem, Grande Vista features 30 acres of native area, 10 acres of wetlands and 40 acres of ponds. Ten-foot-wide buffer strips of native grass along the in-play shorelines of the ponds protect the water, which is also tested twice-a-year to ensure maintenance practices are not negatively impacting water quality.

Flynn has created a Native Area Improvement Plan with two neighboring resorts that focuses on enhancements, outreach and educating guests. Grande Vista, which is a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, has partnered with the South Florida Water Management District to develop and build a nature trail that connects the resort to the adjoining conservation lands. Flynn also developed an initiative to become a designated property in the Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Green Lodging Program. He has a bachelor's degree in plant science from the State University of New York at Cobleskill, and is enrolled in the environmental management graduate program at the University of Florida. Flynn is the two-time defending recipient of the J. Willard Marriott Award of Excellence.

### **Thomas Vlach, CGCS, TPC Sawgrass**

Vlach, a 20-year GCSAA member, is a GCSAA certified golf course superintendent at TPC Sawgrass, a 36-hole resort in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., that lies on 400 acres of previous forest and swampland. TPC Sawgrass is home of the PGA Tour, the Players Championship, and the Nationwide Tour's Winn-Dixie Jacksonville Open Presented by Planters. Both tournaments combine to annually contribute more than \$6.7 million to charity. In 2008, Vlach and his staff added a transfer line from the reservoir lakes to the irrigation pond, virtually eliminating the facility's use of

*Continued on page 7...*



*GCSAA Past President Jim Fitzroy, CGCS (left) presents Chris Flynn, superintendent of the Marriott Grande Vista Resort in Orlando with his GCSAA/Golf Digest, Co-National Winner's Environmental Leaders Award for Resort Courses. Photo by GCSAA*



*Superintendent Tom Vlach, TPC @ Sawgrass (right) receives the other Co-National Winner ELGA Award for Resort Courses. Photo by GCSAA.*

...continued from page 6

well water from the Florida aquifer. The reservoir lakes collect drainage water from surrounding communities that would have previously drained into the Atlantic intercoastal waterway.

TPC Sawgrass is a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and Vlach and his staff work closely with the St. Johns County wildlife management department, as well as Beaches Emergency Aid and Kare Sanctuary. Vlach has a bachelor's degree in turf management from the University of Wisconsin. He is a past president of the Alabama GCSA and a past vice president of the Palm Beach GCSA. His staff regularly updates a blog with environmental information for golfers, and TPC Sawgrass leverages the national attention surrounding the Players Championship each year to highlight its environmental stewardship. Vlach hosts high school students from St. Augustine Tech each semester to provide hands-on experience with all aspects of the golf course management operation, including environmental stewardship, and his staff also provides facility tours to resort guests and a Jacksonville-based Autism awareness program. Tom started his superintendent's career at the original Winter Springs G.C. ■

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The award ceremony was held in Orlando, Florida on the eve of the GIS Show on February 8, 2011 where the Jacobsen dealer network had assembled for their annual meeting and dealer event.

Golf Ventures was also second out of 38 dealers to receive the Service Award. Thank You to our customers for helping us achieve this prestigious award!



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