



THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XXVIII, PART III, MAY/JUNE 2012

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

SPRING DONATIONS ARE IN THE AIR



2012 Suncoast Scramble (l-r): Darden Nicks, Mark Todd, George Cook, State Senator Nancy Detert, FGCSA Vice President Nancy Miller, Nick Kearns and Zach Lane. Senator Detert and Nancy Miller, CGCS were guest speakers, and the SCGCSA presented Miller with a FGCSA research fund check for \$1,500. Photo by Lee Crosby.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2

WEST COAST GCSA SOCIAL MEETING
COURTSIDE GRILL NEAR FEATHERSOUND

MAY 14

PALM BEACH GCSA MONTHLY MEETING
HIGH RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

MAY 17 - MAY 20

EVERGLADES GCSA POA ANNUA

MAY 17

FGCSA BOARD MEETING AND
FGCSA PAST PRESIDENT'S DINNER

MAY 18

FGCSA POA SEMINAR
NAPLES BEACH HOTEL AND GOLF CLUB

MAY 22

TREASURE COAST GCSA BLUE PEARL
TOURNAMENT
QUAIL VALLEY GOLF CLUB

MAY 22

SUNCOAST GCSA ANNUAL MEETING
SARA BAY CC

JUNE 2

PALM BEACH GCSA FUTURE OF GOLF
TOURNAMENT
THE FALLS

JUNE 5

WEST COAST GCSA CHAPTER
CHAMPIONSHIP
OLD MEMORIAL GOLF CLUB

JUNE 7

RIDGE GCSA INVITATIONAL
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS GOLF COURSE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY MARK KANN

May is almost here and normally, I'd be gearing up to start core aerifying up here in North Central FL. Like I said, normally. Actually, I'm gearing up for a second time to aerify this year. Where did the winter go? And, soon, we'll all be saying, where did the spring go?

As I mentioned in my previous message, the tournament season is upon us. I hope everyone will take advantage of these many events to participate in some capacity. Whether it be as a golfer, sponsor, or a volunteer – everyone can help make each event a success! I am looking forward to participating in the 19th Annual Jeff Hayden Memorial Envirotron Golf Classic tomorrow. I've been volunteering for this event for the last 12 years and have enjoyed every minute of it. Did I mention I have only played in the tournament once? It's a lot of work but it is definitely worth all the work. My many thanks go out to all the volunteers that help make these great events succeed.

I hope everyone will seize the opportunity to attend all or a portion of the Poa Annuu Weekend in May. This annual event includes a seminar on Friday morning, the GC Horn Memorial Tournament on Friday afternoon, and the Poa Tournament on Saturday morning. The weekend is capped with a luau on Saturday evening. It's a great opportunity for some education, golf, and enjoying some food and drink with your colleagues. Prior to all these events, on Thursday we will be holding our Spring FGCSA



Mark Kann

BOD Meeting and our Past President's Dinner where we will award this year's recipients of the Distinguished Service and Marie Roberts Lifetime Achievement Awards. It is sure to be memorable.

I have mentioned the Golf BMP Certification Program many times throughout the year. We needed to go back and really develop a set of guidelines for running the program and we hope to have them finalized at the Spring BOD meeting. Again, we want to make sure we do this right. This mission has been at the top of my list of priorities, so we are chugging along as quickly as possible. Many people have given so much to make this program what it is. Thank you to all that have contributed so much of their time.



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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 June 15.

The Green Sheet is a bimonthly FGCSA Newsletter printed as follows: Jan/Feb, March/April, May/June, July/August, Sept./October, November/December.



FROM JENNIFER'S DESK:

It is hard to believe that we have just about completed another membership year of the FGCSA! Most of you will be attending your chapter's annual meetings and year end events in June as this year's activities come to an end. Our new fiscal year and membership period begins on July 1st!

Membership Renewal Forms and e-mail reminders will begin to clutter your mailboxes to renew your membership. Don't overlook these renewal forms. Get them filled out and mailed back to your local chapter or the FGCSA. The earlier you get these renewal forms in, the more assured you will be to remain on the mailing list of the Florida Green and Green Sheet as well as get listed in the FGCSA Directory. Please be sure to take the time to completely fill out your membership renewal forms; especially if your class status has changed or your place of employment. Without this information, you will miss out on receiving important information from the FGCSA.

Also, this is a great time to log onto the FGCSA website and update your personal information there, too. If you have never logged on to the website, please use the first initial of your first name as your login id and your last name as your password. You will be able to change your password once you have logged on for the first time. The website is kept up to date with association wide chapter information along with links to registration information, job postings, on-line payment information and membership renewal forms. If there is something else you would like to see on the website, please let me know.

As Manager of your Association, my job is to ensure the FGCSA has another successful year, so please get your membership renewal forms completed. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. Your feedback is important. fgcsa@comcast.net or 800-732-6053

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



Tom Cowan (left) was roasted and toasted by his friend George Clifton as he was presented with the 2012 Keeper of the Green Award at the NFGCSA Memorial Tournament at Marsh Creek C.C. in St. Augustine. The North Florida chapter also donated \$1,500 to the Florida Gateway College General Scholarship Fund and \$500 to the First Tee of St. Johns County.

Calendar of Events continued from page 1

JUNE 14

EVERGLADES GCSA VENDOR APPRECIATION
COLLIER'S RESERVE

JUNE 16

PALM BEACH GCSA FISHING TOURNAMENT

JUNE 21

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

JULY 1

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – ALL CHAPTERS

JULY 10

EVERGLADES GCSA ANNUAL MEETING
GREY OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

JULY 11

WEST COAST GCSA ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
BEEF O'BRADY'S

JULY 23

PALM BEACH GCSA ANNUAL MEETING
BROKEN SOUND CLUB



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Joel Jackson, CGCS

Regulatory Issues

Water Restrictions: I checked all the Water Management District websites on April 15th and the current status report is: St. Johns River WMD – Stay within your permit. Southwest Florida WMD – Has declared a Phase 3 Water Shortage Alert, and South Florida WMD's latest Water Watch notice says also to stay within your Water Use or Consumptive Use Permit.

The Southwest Florida site says golf courses are to water fairways only once per week and greens and tees no more than three times per week. However, I have heard conflicting reports that letters from SWFWMD directing golf courses to go to a link that says in part that courses should follow irrigation BMPs. To be on the safe side, everyone one should either call or go online to find out what sub-regions within the district may be required to do. Each district has regions that may enact more or less stringent restrictions based on water levels. So check with your local water management district office to make sure you are in compliance with current water shortage orders if any are in effect in your sub-region of the district.



Twenty regulators from EPA, DEP, and Florida Water Management Districts are welcomed to Old Collier by host Tim Hiers, CGCS on March 19th as part of the annual FFVA Spring Regulator Tour of Florida Agriculture. Other tour hosts included Ricardo Uriarte of Old Collier, Kyle Sweet and Jacob Craft from The Sanctuary G.C. Ornithologist George McBride and Joel Jackson, CGCS.

Federal Rules: The **National Pollution Discharge Elimination System** (NPDES) is largely resolved in that only applicators of pesticides used for aquatic weed and mosquito control are primarily affected and must submit Notice of Intent applications for permits. Golf courses that are applying pesticides only to turfgrass (terrestrial applications) do not have to have apply for a Permit. However, if you have an accidental spill or discharge to waters of the state you will have to file a report.

Numeric Nutrient Criteria and the **H-2B Worker Visa** issues are not fully resolved as challenges and appeals go back and forth. The EPA was leaning toward partnering with Florida's DEP to allow that state agency set nutrient criteria numbers based on their extensive sampling, monitoring and evaluations of various water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, bays, etc.) in the various basin regions. However, activists once again complain about the slower moving process and demand via legal action through the courts that EPA criteria be applied ASAP.

In this and the H-2B Visa issues, grass roots action and advocacy efforts have made Congress take notice and discussions continue to hopefully resolve these matters in a fact based, common sense fashion that does not cripple local economies and businesses. One troubling factor was the apparent lack of knowledge of the impact or concern over the H-2B visa issue by many club managers around the state. You might want to copy or print out some of the GCSAA Take Action alerts that have been emailed to all FGCSA members and show your club manager the talking points.

FGCSA & Chapter News: We're in that time of year for annual chapter/state events so clear your calendars and make time to participate in such worthwhile events like the **Everglades Poa Annuia Classic** May 17th – 20th, which includes the FGCSA Spring Board meeting and the USGA/FGCSA Seminar on Friday, May 18th at the Naples Beach Club. Then there's the **Treasure Coast Blue Pearl Tournament** on May 22nd at the Quail Valley Club, which raises funds for environmental programs and education in the east coast region. The **Florida GCSA Golf Championship** is moving to August 24th at Southern Dunes GC and The **Florida Turfgrass Conference** will be held in September at the Caribe Royale Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, FL. A new

Continued on page 5...

...continued from page 4.

North Florida GCSA event will debut in October this year to provide a 5th golf qualifier now that GCSAA has expanded the national teams to five players. And The **Central Florida Crowfoot Open** will be moving to a December date. More information will be forthcoming on those events and dates.

Florida Green Magazine: The summer issue will feature Ricky Reeves and the Miami Beach G.C. as the cover story. The Hands On topic will be: Growth Regulator Programs and Products. We all know about Primo, but how much, how often and exactly where are you applying it or other products to help turf health, appearance, moisture management and clippings removal in the grass growing warm season. See what tips your peers have for making growth regulators part of your management program.

In the Fall issue, we will visit with Bill Davidson, CGCS at the Country Club of Naples and Hands On will explore: Developing Your Assistant, Foreman and Technicians We'd like to hear about your training and continuing education programs for these key people at your facility. Article Deadline – August 31, 2012. Look for the Fall Call for Articles details coming soon on our website at www.floridagcsa.com.

NFGCSA Memorial Winners shooting a 59 (l-r): Chris Neff, Tom Brennan, Rocky Fraleigh and Bill Burgstiner (not pictured).



SFGCSA President Marcus Prevatte and Dr. John Cisar co-host the 24th Annual South Florida Turf Expo in Ft. Lauderdale on March 22nd. The SFGCSA and Palm Beach GCSA led the funding for the construction of the Otto Schmiesser Research Green at the IFAS Research and Education Center.





USGA® Regional Meeting

A Multi-Speaker Presentation in collaboration with the FGCSA

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Where: Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club

Time: 7:30-8:00.. Registration

8:00.....Seminar begins

9:30-9:45..15 min. break

10:45-11:0015.. min. break

Noon.....Seminar Ends

SPECIAL NOTE

An entry to the Poa Annuu Classic or to the G.C. Horn Memorial Tournament is not required to attend this seminar. However, the seminar will end at noon so that attendees may play in the Horn Tournament. If you **do** plan to register for one of these golfing events, you may pre-register for this seminar on the same form sent by the Everglades GCSA Poa Committee. Registration to the seminar is open to all FGCSA members and guests, and any interested parties in the golf course industry.

Overnight accommodations can be made directly through the Naples Beach Hotel Group Reservations at 1-800-866-1946.

This seminar has been approved for .35 CEU's by the GCSAA for Education Points. Any questions on the seminar should be directed to the FGCSA at 1-800-732-6053. Or

COURSE CONTENT

Participants will be able to:

- Learn to make informed decisions on treating the irrigation water and/or soil for salinity and sodium concerns
- Learn a simple guide to making fertility plans based on soil tests
- Learn key agronomic practices for producing healthy turf and optimizing playing quality of the golf course
- Learn what factors impact playing the game when marking the course
- Learn to identify pest damage when the pests aren't there
- Learn to make the best selection of appropriate pest control treatments
- Learn from case studies of a new putting green fertilization program that allows increased mowing heights to be maintained while increasing putting speeds and improving turf health
- Receive an update on current GCSAA programs and activities

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Getting Back in Balance and Optimizing Playing Conditions: Focusing on proven agronomic practices will always be the best strategy for dealing with today's challenges and optimizing the playing quality of the golf course

John H. Foy, Director, USGA Green Section

The Superintendent's Role: Factors that impact enjoyment and playing of the game when setting up and marking the golf course
Kathy Gordon, Director, Southeastern Regional Affairs, USGA

Damage Detective: How to figure out what is eating your turf, ornamentals or house, even if the pests aren't around!
Lee Bloomcamp, Syngenta Professional Turf and Landscape

GCSAA Update
Ralph Dain, GCSAA Field Staff, Regional Representative (FL)

Paradigm Shift: A different strategy for increasing green speeds and smoothness while improving turf health: Learn from three case studies of South Florida golf courses that have made the switch to granular low-rate nitrogen programs that allow superintendents to raise mowing heights and reduce stress while increasing putting speed.
Todd Lowe, Senior Agronomist, Florida Green Section

Soil Test Interpretation Simplified – Part 2: Soil test interpretation for turf managers that don't have time to ready hundreds of soil tests!
Brian Whitlark, Agronomist,

FGCSA EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Cost: Pre-registration = \$50 per person At the door = \$60.00 per person
Deadline for Pre-registration: May 11th. Credit card payments accepted online at www.floridagcsa.com/poa
Please make check payable to the FGCSA and mail to:
Florida GCSA, PO Box 65, Jensen Beach, FL 34958 (800)-732-6053

NAME: _____
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BUSINESS PHONE: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

The consequences of high temperatures on golf courses

Here's what superintendents are doing to manage turf in extreme heat conditions.

Prolonged periods of high temperatures – and in some cases excessive rainfall – and high humidity have made life uncomfortable for golfers and golf courses alike, with Mother Nature holding all the cards for true relief.

It is beginning to look like 2011 could be a repeat of 2010 when conditions for managing golf courses were extreme.

"The simple fact is the cool-season turfgrasses such as bentgrass, fescue, bluegrass, annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) and others are stressed when temperatures climb and humidity is high," Bob Randquist, CGCS, and president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, said. "Golf courses in many parts of the country experience this every year, however what made the situation so dire last year were the high levels of extended heat and humidity, and the sizeable part of the country affected (Midwest, Mideast, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic). We are already seeing this is an issue that could potentially match the conditions of last year."

Why heat stress is so difficult on golf course turf

According to Randquist, golf facilities and those entrusted with managing the golf course – golf course superintendents – are not alone in this battle with the elements. However, the nature of their product makes their challenge greater.

"Certainly homeowners, athletic fields and businesses suffer turfgrass damage brought on by these kinds of conditions," Randquist said. "What makes it more difficult for golf facilities

are the mowing heights are much lower and traffic is much heavier. That just adds to the stress on the turfgrass."

Randquist indicates that golf course superintendents are addressing the issue with a variety of management practices to make sure turfgrass survives. While there may be some short-term impact on playability of the course, the alternative is the loss of grass, the closure of the course and the additional costs of re-establishing playing surfaces (primarily putting greens).

He also cautioned golfers from thinking that water, whether from rain or irrigation, is the answer to the ills. There is a difference between heat stress and drought stress. Adequate irrigation will alleviate drought stress. Adequate irrigation will not alleviate heat stress. It is not only possible, but likely, for a turfgrass plant to be adequately watered and still suffer from heat stress under extended periods of high temperatures. Managing turf under heat stress Randquist indicated that during periods such as this, it becomes easy to compare golf course conditions and pressure decision makers into actions that might prove detrimental to the long term health of the playing surface. "We know the weather conditions will become more agreeable. What is important right now is to manage the golf course in a manner so that turf can be kept alive until that point. Relying on the expertise of the golf course superintendent and understanding the focus in on the long term is the best guide for facilities."

Among the practices that superintendents are implementing to manage golf courses include:

- Raising the mowing heights of playing areas, most notably

putting greens.

- Alternating daily practices of mowing and rolling putting greens, with consideration to skipping a day if the schedule of play allows.
- Forgoing double mowing, topdressing, verticutting or grooming greens.
- Watering to provide adequate soil moisture, but not over watering as saturated soil will cause the turfgrass to decline rapidly.
- Hand watering as much as feasible. If a green has a dry spot or two, superintendents will hand water the dry spots only and will not water the entire green. When the entire green shows stress from a lack of water, superintendents use the overhead sprinklers and water the entire green.
- Avoid aerifying using large diameter tines that penetrate deeply into soil and remove a core of soil. If a superintendent feels the putting surface is sealed, venting using small diameter solid tines or other similar technique is employed.
- If fertilizer is required, small amounts of fertilizer are applied via a sprayer and observation of the response occurs before fertilizing again.
- Monitoring and adjusting golf car traffic patterns to minimize stress to turf.

*Provided by the
Golf Course Superintendents
Association of America*

Lakeland: 800-330-8874

Jupiter: 888-222-7072



GOLF VENTURES EXPANDS JACOBSSEN AND ALLIED EQUIPMENT TERRITORY

Golf Ventures is proud to announce the addition of Alabama, Georgia and Panhandle of Florida to our existing Jacobsen and Allied equipment territory in Florida. Please see our website for a complete map of our territories.

NEW PRODUCT LINE-COOL TOPS

Golf Ventures also has a NEW product line, CoolTops which works comfortably in Florida heat with the ROPS mounted electric fan that can be mounted to your tractor or mower. Stay protected from the sun, dust, and insects with a canopy that provides shade and cool, clean air! Call your equipment territory manager for more details.



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