

# THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME VIII, PART 2, MARCH/APRIL 1991 *1992*

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

## 1991

### DSA Award winner

*Cecil Johnston, CGCS, winner of the 1991 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award, was presented with his plaque at a Feb. 14 reception at the New Orleans Hilton during the the GCSAA 63rd Annual International Golf Course Conference & Show. Johnston, right, now employed at Bangplee Country Club in Thailand, received the plaque from 1991 FGCSA President Ray Hansen. More photos, page 6. Photo by Mike Bailey.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |          |  |             |  |          |   |
|----------|--|-------------|--|----------|---|
| March 3  | GCSAA sponsored, "Technical Training for Spray Technician," Bear Lakes CC, West Palm Beach | March 15-17 | National Golf Foundation symposium, "Obstacles Overcome by Successful Golf Course Operators," Marriott at Sawgrass Resort, Ponte Vedra Beach | April 14 | Everglades Chapter meeting, Del Vera GC                   |
| March 10 | Everglades Chapter meeting, Windstar G&CC, Naples  | March 23    | West Coast Chapter meeting, River Hills CC   | April 15 | Central Florida Chapter meeting, Deland CC                |
| March 10 | USGA Green Section Regional Conference, Omni Hotel, West Palm Beach                        | April 9     | Otto Schmeisser Research Green Exposition, Dr. Joseph Vargas featured speaker, Rolling Hills Golf Resort, Fort Lauderdale                    | April 27 | Everglades Chapter golf tournament, Fiddlesticks CC       |
| March 12 | USGA Green Section Conference, Orlando Marriott Hotel                                      | April 9     | Everglades Chapter Spring Seminar, Dr. James Beard, featured speaker, Bonita Bay Club  | April 28 | Florida Agribusiness Computer Short Course, Sanford       |
| March 12 | South Florida Chapter Meeting, Redlands CC   | April 13    | Southeastern Turfgrass Conference, Tifton, Georgia   | April 30 | West Coast Chapter meeting, Lansbrook GC                  |
| March 13 | Treasure Coast Chapter Meeting, Martin Downs CC, Stuart                                    |             |  | May 7    | IFAS Field Day, University of Florida, Gainesville campus |
|          |  |             |  | May 17   | G. C. Horn Tournament, Naples Beach Hotel                 |
|          |  |             |  | May 18   | Poa Golf Tournament, Flamingo Lakes GC                    |

# THE GREEN SHEET



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**Deadline next issue, April 5**

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Tom Benefield, CGCS

## President's Message

## Show members that you care about them

Just another typical day on the job. Member/guest 8:30 shotgun on the East, Ladies Day 18 & 9 holers on the North also a shotgun at 8:30 and regular tee times on the South. Temperatures in the low 80s, humidity 40% and the wind out of the east at 5-7 mph; one of those days that make Florida famous.

As I sit going over the daily schedules, the phone rings. "It's Ned," my secretary tells me, "he would like to talk to you for a few minutes." "Hmm", I say to myself, "he must be back in town and probably wants to play golf."



Tom Benefield

"I'll take this call," I reply to Anna. "Tom, how are you," Ned starts off. "Listen, I'm in town for a few days, actually about ten, and I want to play out there. When are you going to be spraying again?"

You see, Ned is allergic to several different fungicides and he always calls me before he makes his tee time and course selection to avoid coming in contact with the chemicals. I first met Ned a couple of years ago when he called as he had today inquiring about our plans to spray fungicides. He is what you would call, "one of our better members". Always supportive, never negative, never demanding that we alter our plans, simply asking for information that could prevent us both from having potentially severe problems.

I have always appreciated this type of attitude and have been more than happy to answer his questions. I have, upon occasion when conditions and schedules allowed, altered my spray schedule to permit Ned to play his favorite course.

As Ned was thanking me for my help, he told me of an incident at another course he belongs to up north that made me feel uneasy. He spoke of how the other superintendent was irritated that he would call and often reluctant to either take his call or tell him of his spray plans. To put it in Ned's words, "the guy was always too busy or so I'm told."

"Unbelievable," I think to myself. How can any golf course superintendent with the responsibility of applying pesticides be "too busy" to speak with a member who has a legitimate inquiry? Especially one that has to do with a person's health and safety and personal liability of the superintendent.

Instead of building bridges, one superintendent is burning them before the ink on the blueprint dries. How people like this stay in the business is far beyond my comprehension.

The sad part is that for every one of these types, it will take fifty people like me to convince Ned to have positive feelings about golf course superintendents.

We who are charged with the health and protection of crew members and the golfing public are always harping on how tough environmentalists and regulators are on us. It is readily apparent that in some situations the public's skepticism and criticism is well-founded.

We are, at times, our own worst enemy. By the very nature of our daily actions do we give the impression that our profession is of uncaring and selfish immaturity. We cannot overcome negative perceptions from the public when we fail to create good impressions to even our own members.

We must overcome this attitude. The FGCSA is taking steps to help our members come to terms with these issues. Government Relations liaison, Tim Hiers, has developed a program that can be initiated by every superintendent to come into compliance with the state and federal pesticide and safety regulations. Tim's "Compliance Certification" is a 15-step program designed to help superintendents avoid costly liability for their clubs as well as ourselves.

Perhaps the most important aspect

of the compliance program is that if we can get everyone to participate and take these steps, we can set an example not only golf courses around the country but also for the agricultural industry that is in desperate need of a program to follow.

If we can get members to complete this audit, it will show to the regulating bodies and the public that we are committed to preserving our environment and the future of golf courses.

This is not the time to sit idly on the sidelines hoping someone else will make the big play to win the game. This game, you see, cannot be won by big plays. It is like Big Ten football — a game of 3 yards and a cloud of dust that is only won when everyone does their share.

The audit will not be easy. It will require that you change some of your practices and institute new policies. However, a large portion of the audit is probably already being performed at your facility and once you review the remaining items and take the appropriate action steps, you will see it was not as difficult as thought.

As Ned winds up his call with me, he makes me feel better about my profession when he says that my attitude is more of the norm than that of my northern counterpart.

He actually speaks very highly of several superintendents by name and course and I can tell this is a friend of the superintendents and, very gratefully, I have had the opportunity to meet him.

For you see, Ned is not just another golfer. He has become a friend and friends are something we can never have enough of.

We need more Neds in this business. They aren't going to pop out of thin air. We are going to have to work hard to build a sense of trust with these people. A relationship is like a vegetable garden. It must be carefully cultivated and nurtured.

Perhaps one of the first steps is the audit. Certainly by completing it you will show your members that you do care. Once they believe that, then anything is possible.



## Two USGA Green Section conferences planned for March

The United States Golf Association in cooperation with the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Florida State Golf Association will be conducting two Green Section Conferences in Florida. The dates and locations of these conferences are:

**Tuesday, March 10, 1992:** The Omni Hotel (formerly called the Royce Hotel), 1601 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, Florida, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 12, 1992:** Orlando Marriott Hotel, International Drive, Orlando, Florida, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Highlights for this year's conference will include:

- ♦ **Jan Beljan**, Fazio Golf Course Designers, who will speak on "Removing the Stigma of the Red Tee."

- ♦ **Dr. John Cisar**, IFAS Fort Lauderdale, who will give an update on the USGA research project on the FGCSA Research Green.

- ♦ **Dr. Tom Latta**, AmerAquatics, who will speak on golf course aquatic management,

- ♦ **Dr. Leon Stacey** of Georgia and **Lee Bloomcamp**, Mobay, will speak on mole cricket management and fire ant control

- ♦ USGA speakers **Roger Harvie** and **Chuck Gast** will give an update on what's new in 1992 while **Larry Adamson** will give the audience a behind the scenes look at USGA championship administration

CEUs will be awarded to members of the GCSAA, CMA and PGA. This year the USGA has received approval from the Florida Department of Agriculture for 4 CEUs toward a restricted pesticide applicator license for a portion of the program.

Brochures for the Green Section Conference were mailed to all FGCSA members in early February. Please call Shelly Foy with the USGA to pre-register (407) 546-2620.



# Florida Golf Council will discuss possible merger with FTGA

## MINUTES OF FGCSA WINTER 1992 BOARD MEETING

The Winter 1992 meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors at Bay Hill Club in Orlando.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** Paul Crawford submitted the minutes to the fall 1991 Board Meeting and the current FGCSA financial statements. Both reports were approved.

**FGCSA JACKET:** Scott Bell said that he had made inquiries about obtaining another dealer for the FGCSA blazer. After a discussion, it was decided to stay with green, even though the shade will change from time to time. Scott will find a manufacturer who offers a similar shade in his current line and obtain a sample for the next board meeting.

**AWARDS:** Scott Bell said we need to be more specific on the qualifications for nomination to the President's Award. The board approved a motion stipulating that in addition to having 20 years experience in the turfgrass industry, a nominee must have spent 10 of those 20 years as a golf course superintendent.

Scott also said that since there are many non-superintendents deserving of recognition, the board may want to consider another award to honor anyone.

**BY-LAWS:** John Gallagher presented a proposed amendment to Article III, regarding officers and directors. Sections 1, 2 and 8 would be changed to separate the position of Secretary/Treasurer into two positions thus increasing the number of Officers on the Executive Council to five. It would allow for a fifth vote in case of a tie.

External Vice Presidents were charged with bringing this proposed amendment to the attention of their local chapter members. Voting will take place at the spring board meeting so that it can be implemented this year.

He suggested that two new people could be elected at the annual meeting,

one for secretary and one for treasurer.

**PUBLICATIONS:** Mark Jarrell reported on how our publications have been affected by the recession. He said the Publications Committee will meet to decide what changes, if any, need to be made. A discussion was held regarding the decision to go to six issues this year. The Committee will look into the dollar amount of advertising revenue. Subscriptions and the mailing list were also discussed. Mark said the Committee would look at each option and report back to the board at the spring meeting.

Mark also mentioned that not all chapters had gotten back to him with the name of the person who would act as liaison between the chapters and the FGCSA publications.

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** Marie Roberts reported that the 1992 Directory has not been affected by the recession with a total of 53 advertisers supporting the Directory.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:** Bobby Brantley, Florida Golf Council, spoke on a program called "Save our Homes" which proposes a 3% cap per year. He warned that if this were established by the Florida Legislature, it would only apply to homesteads, not golf courses. He suggested that considering that growth will continue, the dollars would have to come from somewhere. The most logical place would then be business — that is, golf courses.

The Florida Golf Council has received only 39 renewals for membership from golf courses around the state. It is very important that the membership solicitation gets to the right person at each club. It is apparent that golf course owners are not supporting the association as well as their own employees who have sent personal checks to the FGC.

Bobby said he expected to get a good percentage of the 40 golf courses in Duval County to join the FGC due to the tremendous amount of help that the council was able to give in that area to get property assessments rolled back. However, instead of joining the council, they decided to form their own association.

So rather than being rewarded for their efforts, the council has suffered a

loss. They had planned to start a campaign to form local chapters of the FGC around the state but Bobby is now wary of this because of the Duval County decision.

Bobby's purpose in addressing the Board was to get direction as to the future of the FGC. He said that it has been suggested by Bob Yount that it might fit within the FTGA package. The FGC will meet with the FTGA to submit a proposal to have the FGC merged into the FTGA.

Tim Hiers then spoke on governmental regulatory agencies. He read an article from the "Journal of Pesticide Reform". He said that if your golf course establishes the Drug Free Workplace program they will qualify for a discount on their Worker's Compensation.

Tim urged all board members to work on getting their club to fulfill the Minimum Compliance Audit proposed last spring. Greg Plotner said the West Coast chapter has formed a committee to comply by getting speakers to their chapter meetings who will go over each of the 14 points individually. Even though a financial commitment might be necessary to comply with some of the points on the audit, the first 12 points are required by law.

PenniMarie O'Brien, Missimer & Associates, discussed the mix/load program. Tom Benefield mentioned that literature on the mix/load stations are available from the FGCSA office. Tim Hiers said that St. John's Water Management District has funds available to fund up to 90% of the cost to build a mix/load chemical station. Superintendents in the St. John's area are encouraged to contact the SJWMD to obtain the necessary forms.

Tom Benefield discussed the groundwater contamination project being pursued by the USGS. Pebble Creek and Buckhorn Springs in Hillsborough County and Gary Smither's courses in Sarasota will be part of this program.

**EDUCATION:** Rick Walker said he has spoken to the GCSAA about a regional seminar for this year even though we were too late to have our dates printed in their yearly schedule. The 1990 semi-



Willie, Does THIS FEEL  
LIKE BERMUDA OR ZOYSIA?

nar in Orlando was well-attended. The seminar held in conjunction with the Poa will focus on groundwater and/or other environmental issues.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Tom Benefield led a discussion on a dues increase to be effective in July. The board decided that since dues were not raised last year, we should at least increase dues to equal increases in the cost of living. A motion was approved to recommend a \$10 dues increase to take effect July 1.

**GCSAA:** There will be a reception to present the DSA to Cecil Johnston in New Orleans on Friday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Hilton Hotel. The presentation will take place at 6 p.m. Reception is open to Florida members and guests. The board recommended a 50-percent guarantee to the hotel.

**VOTING DELEGATE:** Tom Benefield requested that anyone who

has feelings one way or the other about the candidates for GCSAA office to call him before the convention.

The budget includes a \$5,000 donation to the GCSAA. A motion was approved to give our annual contribution of \$5,000 to the GCSAA Platinum Tee Club to be distributed through the Chester Mendenhall Memorial Fund.

**CROWFOOT:** Joe Ondo reported that the Crowfoot will probably be held at Bay Hill or on one of the Disney courses.

**POA:** Buddy Carmouche said that the Poa will be held on the third Monday in May at Flamingo Lakes and the G. C. Horn Tournament will continue to be on the previous Saturday at the Naples Beach Hotel.

**FTGA:** Mark Jarrell submitted a report on how much the FTGA has

improved in the past few years. He urged all those who were not members to judge the FTGA by its current merits and reconsider their decision. The FTGA decided to go through with absorbing most of the costs of a statewide survey rather than waiting for the Department of Agriculture to come through. It will be the most comprehensive turf survey undertaken.

**CERTIFICATION:** Dale Kuehner is working with Florida Atlantic Vocational School on getting a course together that would use the GCSAA Certification Test as the final exam.

**FUND RAISING:** Greg Plotner submitted a package to cover the nitty gritty of running a successful golf tournament for chapters that currently do not hold an annual event. The chapters who do run a tournament have always had a good turnout with high proceeds.

**RESEARCH:** Ray Hansen said the Research Committee along with several superintendents met with four sod companies this past week to talk about putting surface quality. Poor quality Tifdwarf has caused some superintendents a great amount of grief recently. The company spokesmen present said they would be willing to send their grasses to IFAS anonymously for comparison testing on our Fort Lauderdale research green. The intent would be to find the superior grass at putting green heights. The committee will meet again after details of this proposal are worked out.

**SURVEY:** To date there are 140 responses, but many of these do not include answers to the questions on fertilization.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Tom Benefield said Nucrane Machinery has made a very generous donation of equipment to the FGCSA Otto Schmeisser Research Green in Fort Lauderdale. They have donated a riding greens mower, a turf vacuum and a walk-behind aerifier.

**The FTGA Golf Tournament** will be revamped to include a President's Cup which will allow 4 entries from each of the FGCSA chapters.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.





## GCSAA's 63rd Annual Conference & Show



A record-breaking crowd of golf course superintendents from around the world gathered at the New Orleans Convention Center, Feb. 10-17, for the International Golf Course Conference & Show. GCSAA officers, above, cut the green ribbon to open the show. From left, they are Gary T. Grigg, CGCS, director; William Roberts, CGCS, vice president; Steve Cadenelli, CGCS, president; Randy Nichols, CGCS, secretary/treasurer; Randall P. Zidik, CGCS, director. Left, internationally-renown golf course architect Robert Von Hagge, spoke on golf course designs and features during an individual seminar.

Photos by Mike Bailey

## Two NGF symposiums will take place in March

The Marriott at Sawgrass Resort in Ponte Vedra Beach will be the site of one of two National Golf Foundation symposiums on golf course operations March 15-17. Entitled "Obstacles Overcome by Successful Golf Course Operators," the symposium includes sessions on creating customers, increasing play, marketing the facility and knowing customers and the factors that influence their decisions. The symposium will encourage interaction between presenters and attendees. It will be preceded by a golf outing and will offer informal opportunities to network with speakers and seminar participants.



## THE JOB SCENE

### Job Changes:

- **Dick Herr**, CGCS, formerly of Jupiter Hills CC has accepted the position as superintendent at Country Club of Orlando.
- **Ken Andersen**, CGCS, has moved from the South Florida area to become superintendent at Burnt Store CC in the Everglades chapter.
- **John Majewski** is the new superintendent at High Ridge CC in Boynton Beach.
- **George Elliott** has moved from Cypress Links GC to become superintendent at Mayacoo Lakes CC in West Palm Beach.
- **Bill McQue**, formerly of Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo, and currently at TPC in Memphis, has accepted the position as superintendent at Hunters Run GC in Palm Beach.

## Southeastern Turfgrass Conf. slated in Tifton, April 13-14

The 46th Annual Southeastern Turfgrass Conference will take place April 13-14 in Tifton, Georgia.

The Monday, April 13 program:

1. Golf tournament at Spring Hill Country Club sponsored by Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association beginning at 1 p.m.
2. Registration and inspection of Experiment Station turfgrass research plots at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for those not playing golf.
3. Fish fry lunch at Spring Hill Country Club sponsored by Southern Turf Nurseries.
4. Research putting tournament and barbecue at Tifton Family Golf Course sponsored by Tifton Turf Farms at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday's schedule is an all-day educational program for golf course superintendents. Lunch is jointly supplied by Southern Turf Nurseries and Tifton Turf Farms.

Programs and pre-registration forms may be obtained by calling the University of Georgia at 912-386-3353.



## New laws may affect industry

By PenniMarie O'Brien  
Missimer & Associates, Inc.

The Florida Legislature in Tallahassee is now considering several new laws that affect the golf course industry.

Once bill is the reorganization of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. How does this affect us?

If Governor Chiles signs a letter of intent to restructure DACS, the Bureau of Pesticides may also undergo changes. This department will have its own inspectors to visit RUP licensed facilities. Inspections would be concerned with pesticide purchases, storage, management, handling and mix/load areas. In the past, the feed, seed and fertilizer inspectors handled this area.

Richard Budell, chief of the Bureau of Pesticides, said there will be an increased emphasis on pesticide handling and application practices during these inspections.

A second area of concern is the proposed pesticide mix/load regulation that is in its fifth draft.

This regulation is also from the Bureau of Pesticides, and will be enacted within the next two years. Its purpose is to change the practices of pesticide management and the design of mixing/loading sites that may result in soil, groundwater and surface water contamination.

Bill Becker, agricultural engineer at UF's IFAS, has designed specifications for "pesticide mixing-loading facilities that would be used to comply with some of the provisions of the law." These specifications can be obtained from the external vice-president of your local chapter.

In a meeting with Steven Dwinell of the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation in Tallahassee, Becker said "the specifications can be scaled down to each individual facility depending on the usage of pesticides, and they are fairly easy to read."

Pesticides, or any type of contamination for that matter, can be costly to clean-up or remediate. To save time, money and headaches, superintendents



### Nucrane presents equipment

*Nucrane Machinery has recently donated a John Deere 2243 riding greens mower, a turf vacuum and a walk-behind aerifier to the FGCSA for use at the Otto Schmeisser Research Green in Fort Lauderdale. Accepting the gifts are, FGCSA Vice President Mark Jarrell (left), President Tom Benefield (center-left) and Dr. John Cisar of the UF-IFAS team that does the research. Presenting the equipment is Nucrane General Manager Mike McLaughlin, (center-right). Nucrane Machinery is the exclusive distributor of John Deere golf course maintenance equipment in South Florida and Palm Springs, Calif.*

should see if their facility complies with new and old regulations. Many superintendents are actively taking that leadership role in our industry.

Budell and Dwinell both strongly urge each facility to comply with all pesticide management regulations to avoid possible heavy fines — which could amount to as much as \$10,000. Questions about pesticide waste management can be directed to Mr. Steven Dwinell at (904) 488-3601.



### Everglades chapter seminar will have renown experts

The Everglades Golf Course Superintendents Association announces the Everglades Chapter Spring Seminar to take place Thursday, April 9, at Bonita Bay Club. The all-day seminar begins at 9 a.m. with updates from John Foy of the USGA and Bob Rehburg, president of the FTGA.

**Dr. James Beard**, Texas A & M University, will speak on "Water Conservation and Turfgrass" and "Bermudagrass Greens Management." **Dr. Bert McCarty** of the University of Florida will speak on "Herbicides and New Compounds."

The afternoon session features **Dr. William Hagland**, Washington State University Nematologist, who will speak on "New Technologies in Nematode Control." **Dr. Wayne Hannah**, USDA Research Geneticist is also a part of this impressive program speaking on "Bermudagrass Breeding and Quality Analysis."

The Everglades chapter will be sending complete details to all FGCSA members before the end of the month. If you would like to receive a brochure, please call Steve Ciardullo, Everglades chapter president, at (813) 482-6818.



## Otto Schmeisser Research Green Exposition

**Date:** Thursday, April 9

**Place:** Rolling Hills Golf Resort, Fort Lauderdale

**Schedule Of Events:**

**8 a.m. - Educational Session:**  
Dr. Joseph Vargas, Michigan State University; Dr. Robert Dunn, University of Florida

**10 a.m. - Showroom opens**

**1 p.m. - Equipment demonstration on golf course**



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## Exposition slated at Otto Schmeisser Research Green

*Details on Page 7*

## Dr. James Beard heads up seminar in Naples

*Details on Page 7*

FGCSA Secretary  
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