

James B. Beard

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME IX, PART 2, MARCH/APRIL, 1993

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION



The FGCSA-hosted reception in Anaheim drew rave reviews from the more than 150 attendees. Not only did all of the candidates for the GCSAA board attend, but many people from other states also participated.

The hot topics of the evening were the proposed By-Law changes and the McLoughlin letter. Incoming President Randy Nichols and Vice President Joe Baidy are shown sharing their views on these issues with Bill Koonz, president of the National Irrigation Association.

The FGCSA appreciates the support of their friends who helped defray our expenses at the reception.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Mar. 2 USGA Green Section Conference, Palm Beach Gardens Marriott Hotel | Apr. 1 IFAS Field Day and SFGCSA Exposition, Ft. Lauderdale Research Center | Apr. 20 Suncoast Scramble Tournament, Venice G&CC |
| Mar. 4 USGA Green Section Conference, Orlando Marriott | Apr. 5 GCSAA Spray Technician Seminar, Grand Cypress GC, Orlando. Call the GCSAA at 913-832-4444 for details. | Apr. 26 2nd Annual Ridge Invitational, Grasslands G&CC |
| Mar. 9 North Florida chapter meeting, Orange Park CC, Pesticide Spill Seminar with 2 CEU's | Apr. 6 North Florida chapter meeting, Marsh Landing CC | May 15 FGCSA Spring Board Meeting, Naples Beach Hotel |
| Mar. 11 South Florida chapter meeting, The Clubs of Inverrary | Apr. 7 GCSAA Spray Technician Seminar, Ft. Lauderdale CC | May 15 G. C. Horn Tournament, Naples Beach Hotel |
| Mar. 13 First Annual Mike Richard Tournament, NFGCSA, Jacksonville Beach GC | Apr 12 - 13 47th Annual Southeastern Turf-grass Conference, Tifton, GA | May 16 FGCSA Seminar, Golf Course Renovation, Naples Beach Hotel |
| | | May 17 Poa Golf Tournament, Flamingo Lakes GC |

President's Message by Mark Jarrell, CGCS

Since my last President's Message, the GCSAA convention has come and gone and the By Law controversy decisively settled. As you will note from Tom Benefield's article on page 3, every By Law change proposal was soundly defeated except for ballot A, which was no more than a change in the wording of one of our statements of purpose in the Articles of Incorporation. The word "greenskeeping" was changed to "turfgrass management" and "environmentally sound management" was added to more accurately describe our methods. It also dropped the reference to financial support for disabled superintendents or the families of those who die.

So what happened? Why did this highly anticipated "mother of all battles" turn into a rout like the Super Bowl that followed it? If you had read the September issue of *Golf Course Management*, you would have believed the By Law changes were supported by everyone but us renegades from Florida and were a lead pipe cinch to pass.

It seems to me that it would be fair to characterize the results as a severe

backlash to some of the things that have been going on with GCSAA. The By Law proposals themselves were not the problem; the officers, directors and committee members who formulated these proposals and brought them before the membership were proposing what they thought best for our association. They worked hard on our behalf and should be highly commended for their efforts. Some of the defeated proposals had merit and modified versions will hopefully be seen in the future.

What actually caused this backlash and anti-GCSAA sentiment? Several things, starting with the above referenced article from the September *GCM*. I had no problem with Bill Roberts' words — he was simply presenting his point of view and did it honestly and effectively. But the accompanying one-sided testimonials were an insult to my intelligence. Obviously, there were dissenting views, and I am extremely disappointed that our own magazine cannot be depended upon to be objective and serve the entire membership. Media bias and hidden agendas have been the superintendent's nightmare for many years. We don't need it in our own publications.

Coupled with other recently overheard rumors and allegations, it

implies a deeper, more serious fundamental flaw in our power structure and checks and balances system. I am not a "GCSAA insider", so I am not in any position to judge the truth to these allegations. However, silence breeds mistrust, not trust and confidence. I would hope the new GCSAA Board recognizes the need to address these issues and not just sweep them under the rug.

What is the truth in the Jim McLoughlin case and is action now warranted for staff indiscretions?

Why do we need a full time attorney on staff and how is his performance reviewed?

Are we creating a rift with the USGA and, if so, is this in the best interests of our membership? How about *Golf Course News*?



Mark Jarrell, CGCS

Is it true that there has never been a meeting of the Board without the presence of one of the "Big Three" (Schilling, Green, Ochs)? If so, why?

These are some of the major questions making the rounds. I have no idea of the validity of any of them, other than my personal opinions expressed about the *GCM* articles. These issues need to be cleared up so we can move forward with the many positive advances and new directions GCSAA has initiated. I think this was the real message mandated to the Board by the defeat of the By Law proposals. The membership is crying out for responsiveness and accountability, and it would be a serious miscalculation to think otherwise.

President Randy Nichols and the Board have a formidable task before them. They need our help and not just our criticism. I, for one, appreciate the magnitude of their responsibilities and applaud their willingness to try to tackle them. Maybe some new committees are in order to share the burden of clearing the air of the controversies and restoring the confidence of the membership.

THE GREEN SHEET

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Deadline next issue, April 15.

The Green Sheet is a bimonthly FGCSA newsletter printed as follows: Jan./Feb., March/April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept./Oct., Nov./Dec.

From Where I Sit by Tom Benefield, CGCS

At the 64th Annual GCSAA Conference and Show in Anaheim, the proposed ByLaw amendments were soundly defeated with the exception of one amendment. As one of the Voting Delegates said, "we are sending the board a message on these proposals and the direction we want our association to go." Well send a message they did! Not only was the voting overwhelming against all but the one proposal, two of the board members running for reelection got caught up in the sour mood of the electorate.

It was by all measures a victory for the status quo, a stance our state had taken since day one. It seems that Florida was not the only delegation to have serious misgivings about the proposals. The one proposal to pass was Amendment A. This amendment changes the language in our preamble from "an association to promote the art of greenskeeping" to "an association for the promotion of turfgrass management...in an environmentally sound manner". This amendment passed with a margin of five to one.

As you will recall from our position statement, we had also decided to support two other amendment proposals, items D and F. These two amendments almost passed with each of them losing by less than 300 votes. Everything else, however, was not even close. All of the others had more than a two thirds majority against them.

Throughout the week leading up to the annual meeting, you could sense the mood of the members. As one member put it, "something smells fishy to me...It is as if the board wants no further input from the members". These sentiments were echoed from members across all sections of the country. The day of the annual meeting I was astounded at the number of members to

attend. It was surely the largest I have witnessed with standing room only. One thing you can credit the standards committee and board for was to get member turnout, although I don't believe it was the type they were looking for.

After the ByLaw proposals were taken care of, the election of officers was conducted. It is too bad for two former board members up for reelection they had to run this year. I think some people held them personally responsible for the proposed changes. At any rate, they did not get reelected. The newly elected officers and board are as follows:

1993 GCSAA Board of Directors:

President	Randy Nichols, CGCS	GA
Vice President	Joseph Baidy, CGCS	OH
Sec/Treasurer	Gary Griggs, CGCS	FL
Past President	Bill Roberts, CGCS	MI
Directors:	Bruce Williams, CGCS	IL
	Paul McGinnis, CGCS	AZ
	Dave Fearis, CGCS	KS
	George Renault, CGCS	MD

There is still one position open on the board and President Nichols will make that appointment sometime in the near future. There were many in attendance that suggested he not reappoint one of the two directors who were voted off the board. Unfortunately I think the delegates were getting the qualifications of the previous board members mixed up with their stance on the By Law proposals. I know both of these two members and I believe they are good men who were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Well, enough about this subject. Suffice it to say that we were right on line with the rest of the country without even considering any viewpoint other than that which came from our own Florida members. This is how it should be. We seek out our member comments, form a consensus, and vote our convictions for the good of all. By the way, we were again this year the largest voting block at the annual meeting — a major force in anyone's book.



Past President Ray Hansen queries incoming Vice President Joe Baidy on proposed By-Law changes.

PROPOSED FGCSA BY LAW AMENDMENT

The following proposed amendment to the FGCSA By-Laws will be voted on during the Spring Board Meeting to be held on May 15th.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP.

Add a Section 1A to read:

"Those superintendents wishing to be members of the State Association and residing in said state shall have the right to petition through a special member category (i.e., At Large Membership), of the FGCSA to the Executive Committee of the FGCSA for membership to said association. In order to qualify, applicants must demonstrate hardships that prevent them from joining their local chapter of the FGCSA. All rights, privileges and rules of the FGCSA will apply to these special memberships, except that of holding office."



The Winter 1993 meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was called to order by President Mark Jarrell at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 9th, at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Orlando.

All officers were present. Chapters not represented were Big Bend, Everglades, North Florida, Ridge and Seven Rivers.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Scott Bell submitted the minutes from the Fall 1993 Board Meeting. Minutes were approved. A discussion was held on the Financial Statements as submitted by Scott. A letter will be sent to those chapters who have not paid any state dues for new members reminding them that this needs to be done.

A discussion was held on the budgeted contribution to the Florida Golf Council which is going through a transition. Mark Jarrell recommended that we do not give the donation at this time because of our other obligations, in particular, the FTGA lobbyist. If the Council returns to being the organization that it was originally intended to be, then we might want to reconsider giving them a donation at that time. Mark will write a letter to Jack Mathis explaining our position.

At the last board meeting, the FGCSA committed to 50% of the cost of the FTGA lobbyist. The West Coast chapter has already donated \$2,500 towards this commitment. Since the monthly retainer for Mike Goldie is \$2,000 from October through March, the FGCSA will send a check to the FTGA for \$3,000 which would be our share for the first three months of his contract. Thank you Florida West Coast superintendents!

The FGCSA will make a \$5,000 donation to be earmarked for the Long Term Exposure Study at the GCSAA Platinum Tee Club reception in Anaheim.

The expenses for expanding the FGCSA Research Green at the Fort Lauderdale site were discussed. Mix was bought at cost from Golf Agronomics for \$7,700

and the labor and construction was billed at a discount by Quality Grassing for a cost of \$4,500. Therefore, the total cost of the expansion was \$12,300, not including Marcus Prevatte's time and expenses in planting the new area. The Financial Statement shows an anticipated income of \$3,000 but the Research Committee decided not to charge the sod companies for this program. Five sod areas have been planted with 3 more to be done later in the spring. Mark noted that there will be a total of 11 or 12 different sods when the program is in full swing.

HURRICANE ANDREW RELIEF FUND: Chapters have responded throughout the nation for a total of \$20,000. Billy Entwistle reported how grateful the superintendents have been who have received help for their employees. Many of these crew members were living in their cars because they had been renters and were hit hardest by the storm. The SFGCSA will continue to disburse all available funds.

Joe Ondo suggested that the FGCSA come up with a Master Plan to be distributed to all local chapters outlining what projects are being supported by the FGCSA. Scott Bell will draft a letter to be sent to all local chapters.

AWARDS: John Gallagher reminded all External Vice Presidents to get their Distinguished Service Award and Presidents Award nominees in to the FGCSA office before the Poa Board Meeting. We will send a reminder out to all chapters stating that these nominations must include written qualifications of the nominees.

BY-LAWS: John Gallagher submitted an amendment to the FGCSA By Laws regarding a new membership category. It will be published in the March issue of the Green Sheet and voted on at the Poa Board Meeting. (See Page 3 for wording of this proposed amendment).

FLORIDA GREEN: Tom Benefield, Editor, submitted a report on the current status of the Florida Green. The Hurri-

cane issue (Winter 1993) is at the printer and will be distributed to all members before the GCSAA Convention. We will have a slight profit on this issue which was delayed to allow additional time for ad sales. Tom suggested that all superintendents should ask their local suppliers to advertise in the Florida Green. Media kits, including advertising rates and production schedules are available from the FGCSA office.

Paul Crawford is handling the financial end of the magazine while Tom continues to head the editorial side. The Florida Green reserve will now be placed in a separate checking account for Florida Green expenses. Future issues will include themes to help superintendents in writing articles. Tom submitted the fee schedule for these articles along with a production and editorial calendar for the next year. Articles for the Spring issue will be due by March 15th. Send articles to Marie at the FGCSA office.

Janlark Communications continues to publish the magazine. It is hoped that we will continue to be able to use their services for a long time to come.

GREEN SHEET: Tom Benefield continues to serve as Editor though a suggestion was made that the Publications Chairman serve as editor in the future. Golf Ventures has committed to underwriting the costs of the Green Sheet through the July/August issue. We would like to continue this type of yearly contract with other advertisers. If this does not work out, then we will have to consider having a different sponsor for each issue. Reports of local chapter events are needed for the Green Sheet. There is no payment made for articles appearing in the Green Sheet.

EDUCATION: The GCSAA Regional Seminar held in November was a success with a \$100 rebate check (based on 42 paid attendees) received by the FGCSA for co-sponsoring the seminar. It was decided that we will continue to co-sponsor these seminars on a yearly basis, rotating between Palm Beach, Orlando and Everglades area.

CROWFOOT: Joe Ondo reported that negotiations are underway to have this year's Crowfoot at one of the new Disney courses during the first week in August.

FTGA TOURNAMENT: Joe Ondo has suggested that the FTGA allow more than one team from each chapter to participate in the FTGA Superintendents Championship.

GCSAA GOLF TOURNAMENT: Since we have had some cancellations, the FGCSA team will now consist of Mark Henderson, Joe Ondo, David Oliver and Gary Smither.

FTGA: Mark Jarrell submitted an update on the FTGA with details of their current financial statements. Jerry Reddin has stated that while they will continue to support all current research projects, they will not fund any new projects at this time. Mark distributed reports on the status of the turfgrass survey, which will be the most comprehensive study ever done. The MSDS binder program has been a success.

REBATES: The DowElanco portion of the rebate program had to be submitted to the main office by the end of the year. Even though 115 courses signed up for the program, only a few courses actually qualified by purchasing all three products. The CibaGeigy portion of the program is also having trouble with courses not qualifying for the same reason.

Kissimmee Electric has come up with a 2% rebate for all work done on golf courses to be given to the FTGA.

Mark Jarrell mentioned that we are still looking for ways to get suppliers to offer blanket rebate programs for product sales in the state of Florida.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: Tim Hiers gave his report on pesticide mixing/loading station being built at Johns Island for a cost of approximately \$12,600. Tim is using Oklahoma State blueprints with a recapture system. He will be glad to share his knowledge of

this program with any superintendent wishing to build a station.

Tim presented a Comprehensive Safety and Health Manual from Compliance-Masters which is available for \$500. Tim considers this to be the finest manual available today and recommended to the board that we support some type of purchase plan. After a discussion, the Board decided that the FGCSA could not endorse the manual or enter into any type of advertising program but will recommend it to local External VP's.

Tim also spoke on an upcoming Audubon Regional Seminar to be held in the spring of 1994 and a seminar the Ag Institute gave in September. He gave a synopsis of a productive meeting held between the DER in Tallahassee and Tim Hiers, Tom Benefield, and Mark Jarrell regarding recycled water use.

GCSAA: Tom Benefield discussed the FGCSA position statement for the GCSAA proposed ByLaw changes as printed in the Green Sheet. He has received the confidential questionnaires from all GCSAA candidates stating their views on several subjects. Tom and Mike Perham will interview candidates before suggesting who will receive the FGCSA block of votes in Anaheim. Mark Jarrell then noted the superiority of our Voting Delegate system over that of individual voting.

Paul Crawford reported that we have received \$2,000 in donations from suppliers who will be helping to underwrite the cost of the FGCSA Cocktail Reception to be held on January 27th.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE: Mark Jarrell read an update from Dr. Monica Elliott on the research begin done. Results of the Synthetic Nitrogen Source study will be ready to be printed in the Spring issue of The Florida Green. It was noted that the Ft. Lauderdale station could be in danger of being taken over by Florida Atlantic University.

Mark reported on the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and the problem of attracting endangered species which might limit spraying of chemicals within a certain area. Mark and Kevin Downing will contact Ron Dodson about this potential problem.

NEW BUSINESS: Paul Crawford noted the poor attendance at this Board Meeting with particular reference to the three chapters who have missed the last three board meeting. These chapters have had no representation on the board for almost a year and it is assumed that their members are getting no information on the activities of the FGCSA. It was suggested that a letter be written to these chapters urging them to become involved with the FGCSA by attending the Poa Board meeting.



John Gallagher explains a proposed By-Law change while others wonder if he is going to eat all the cake he asked for.

Equipment Request

The following list of equipment has been requested by Dr. Terril Nell for the University of Florida G. C. Horn Memorial Turf Plots at the Gainesville campus. If necessary, the equipment will be picked up and delivered to Lake City Community College for total rebuild before being taken to Gainesville. Please call Marie at the FGCSA office (1-800-732-6053) if you have any of the following pieces of equipment to donate.

1. Sod cutter with cut-off
2. Self-propelled core aerifier (e.g., GA-30)
3. Utility truck or Work vehicle truckster plus spray unit, topdressing unit, and core harvester (e.g., Cushman or Workman)
4. Triplex greensmower
5. Self-propelled three reel triplex fringe or tee mower
6. Heavy duty commercial model vertical mower
7. Pull-behind 3 gang fairway-type reel mower
8. Walking tee mowers (2)
9. Commercial model front mounted 52 to 62" rotary mower (e.g., Groundsmaster)
10. Three point hitch 60 to 72" three blade rotary grooming mower (e.g. Woods)
11. Rear mounted PTO driven sickle bar mower
12. Walking greensmowers (2) (e.g., Toro Greensmaster 105 or Jacobsen Green Mower)
13. Walk-behind Rotary mower (21") with clean housing for grass harvesting (2)



**6th Annual SFGCSA
Exposition /University of
Florida Field Day
April 1, 1993
Fort Lauderdale**

See enclosed brochure for details.



Joe Ondo, FGCSA Golf Committee Chairman, explains to Joel Jackson why Florida did not win the GCSAA Tournament.

GCSAA Golf Tournament Results

San Diego area golf courses were host to this year's GCSAA Tournament and weather was again a factor. Mother Nature gave the area about 20 inches of rain in the 3 weeks before the tournament. Carlton Oaks was declared unplayable so the championship flight played both days at Steele Canyon CC. The weather was perfect and the golf course in great shape.

Dick Stuntz from Alvamar CC in Kansas was the 1993 champion, posting rounds of 75 and 72 to win by one shot. Low Florida players were Mark Henderson at 151 and Dave Oliver at 153. California won the low gross team title and Florida finished 5th overall.

In the second flight, Florida players in the top ten were Prentis Knotts finishing 3rd and Chuck Blankenship finishing 9th. Hope to see more Florida superintendents in Austin, Texas in 1994.



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