

THE GREEN SHEET



VOLUME XII, PART 1, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1996

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

FLORIDA SUPERINTENDENTS TO HOST GCSAA 67TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & SHOW



FEBRUARY 5 - 11
ORLANDO

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 9	IFAS seminar, EGCSA, Sheraton Harbor, Ft. Myers	Jan. 25	PBGCSA Assistants Day, PB Community College	Apr. 15	USGA Regional Conference Orlando
Jan. 9	TCGCSA chapter meeting, Orchid Island, Vero Beach	Jan. 26 - 27	Jacksonville Horticultural Trade Show, Jacksonville Agricultural Fairgrounds	Apr. 18	USGA Regional Conference Palm Beach Gardens
Jan. 10	SFGCSA chapter meeting, Pembroke Lakes G&RC	Feb. 5 - 11	GCSAA Conference and Show, Orlando	Apr. 22	Envirotron Tournament, World Woods GC
Jan. 13	FGCSA Board Meeting, Bay Hill Club	Feb. 9	FGCSA Reception, Omni Rosen Hotel, Orlando	May 18 - 20	Poa Tournament, Naples Beach Hotel
Jan. 17	FTGA Turf seminar, Lake Worth	Mar. 4	EGCSA chapter meeting	June 14	EGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar, Colliers Reserve
Jan. 18	FTGA Turf seminar, Fort Myers	Mar. 4	5th Annual Ridge Invitational Tournament	Aug. 3 - 5	Crowfoot Open, Walt Disney World
Jan. 19	FTGA Turf seminar, Sanford	Mar. 11	U of F 1996 Turf Field Days, Gainesville campus	Aug. 27	FGCSA/GCSAA Regional Seminar, Palm Beach
Jan. 22	CFGCSA Envirotron Tournament, Interlachen	Apr. 12	Everglades spring seminar, Vanderbilt Beach, Naples	Sept 14 - 18	FTGA Conference & Show, Tampa Convention Center

President's Message by Greg Plotner, CGCS

Hello and Happy New Year!

I would hope that everyone can reflect back on 1995 and reminisce on some positive things that occurred during the year. If one finds it difficult to come up with anything good, don't feel like you are alone, my list is pretty darn short and I would imagine that goes for a lot of other turf managers in the state. Take the time to think about those positive occurrences though, one learns a lot from past experiences.

With weather conditions being so brutal in most parts of Florida during the past year, Mother Nature placed an unnecessary burden of problems upon most of us. With the skies now clear and the growth conditions much improved, golf courses are being "whipped back into shape" for the onslaught of winter play. Given a little good weather, isn't it amazing what superintendents can do — and given a little bad weather, isn't it a shame that superintendents are the ones who get the blame. For all of you, my friends, I hope that those extra hours

you have spent repairing what Mother Nature destroyed, did not go unnoticed.

On a different note my good friend Tom Benefield, External Affairs Chairman for the FTGA, has brought to my attention that 1996 will be a major year for Florida legislative activity on water issues (imagine that, after all the rainfall in 1995!). Seriously though, some bullet items that need watching this year are as follows:

- Revisions of the Water Shortage Rules by the Water Management Districts
- Restricting Water Use Permits, in particular length of duration and allocations
- Potential changes in the responsibilities of the Water Management Districts.
- Additional responsibilities and authorities on water use could be shifted to the counties and/or municipalities. Politicians in the Florida legislature are pushing for greater local control..



Greg A. Plotner, CGCS

- The resurrection of the 10 cent water use tax is likely to occur this calendar year.
- Water rights of property owners is expected to be a major concern this year.
- A potential creation of "areas" of special concern by municipalities is possible. In these "areas", municipalities could force designated users to use reclaimed water.
- Discussions on who determines the cost of reclaimed water and what that cost might be are likely to occur this year.

As one can see, many of the aforementioned items, if not all, impact the golfing industry in Florida. Benefield and I both agree that it is time for someone to monitor these types of activities on a full time basis. Mike Goldie, our lobbyist in Tallahassee, has his hands full up there and can't be asked to monitor the activities of the Water Management Districts and the Dept. of Environmental Protection as well as the Florida Legislature. A "water rights watchdog" is needed.

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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. All photos must be black and white. Items must be for the good of the association.

Deadline next issue: February 15.

The FGCSA and the FTGA are looking for assistance in this matter and there are firms available to give us the type of monitoring services that we need. The FTGA has already gone ahead and approved a proposal from MacVicar, Federico & Lamb, contingent on co-funding by the FGCSA for the proposal.

This proposal is available for anyone who desires to review it. All one has to do is contact Marie at the FGCSA office and she will forward a copy of the proposal to you. Upon its review, if anyone should have any comments or concerns, please contact me. This proposal will be discussed and voted on at the next FGCSA board meeting. The meeting date is January 13th in Orlando. Call Marie for details.

I cannot stress the importance of someone monitoring and advising on the technical and the political issues that arise in the various planning and regulatory agencies throughout the state. The FGCSA needs to endorse such a proposal just as the FTGA has already done. I do not need to tell anyone about the importance of water use on golf courses. Let's protect our rights to water use by hiring a "watchdog". I would hope everyone agrees that it is time to do so!

In Memory

Paul Nevers, 1994 recipient of the FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service, passed away on December 17th.

Paul began his golf career as a caddy in the 1930's. After a distinguished stint in the Merchant Marines during World War II, Paul returned to Sylvania Country Club in Ohio where he took over the golf course until he was 28 years old. Paul came to Florida and was active in golf course construction until he became superintendent at The Country Club of Naples in the early 60's. He remained the superintendent there until his retirement in 1987.

Our condolences go to his wife, Evala, and their three daughters.

Important FGCSA Meeting Set for January 13th

The FGCSA will hold an important Board Meeting at noon on Saturday, January 13th, at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando. Many critical issues will be discussed and voted on at this meeting which will have future repercussions for all Florida superintendents and our local superintendent chapters. We are looking for a large turnout and hope that all chapters will be represented by concerned members.

One of the items on the agenda will be the FTGA "water rights watchdog" proposal as reported by Greg Plotner in the Presidents Message. This item will warrant significant discussion. Another important discussion will concern our proposed negotiations with the Internal Revenue Service in regard to taxation on advertising income in our three publications.

Another discussion will be needed to review the FGCSA stand on the GCSAA By-Laws that will be voted on at the GCSAA Convention in Orlando. These changes are listed on page six of this Green Sheet. The FGCSA voting delegate carries the votes of all the local Florida chapters so if anyone has a concern on any of these proposed ByLaw changes this is the time to voice those concerns. Please mail or fax your concerns to the FGCSA office so that we may include them in the agenda package for the meeting.

And, of course, the most important and far reaching discussion will be on the GCSAA affiliation agreement. Each local chapter must decide if they wish to continue to be an affiliated chapter of the GCSAA or use the umbrella affiliation under the FGCSA. This will not be an easy decision for our local chapters to make as is evidenced by the amount of discussion that has already taken place on the subject. The new GCSAA Affiliation Agreement carries with it certain financial obligations that each affiliated chapter must adhere to. Some of these yearly fees include Corporation tax (Florida's yearly incorporation fee is \$130.00) and, since all chapters must be tax exempt, each chapter will probably need a tax firm to file the yearly IRS reports.

The re-affiliation process would begin January 1, 1996, with chapters having until January 1, 1997, to complete the process before affiliated chapter benefits would be suspended. All Florida superintendents are urged to contact their local chapter officers to keep current on how your chapter stands on this decision. We will have a GCSAA officer at this meeting to answer questions that are pertinent to Florida.

These are but a few of the items that will be voted on at this board meeting. Please contact your local External Vice President to arrange transportation to this meeting. We look forward to a large turnout for this meeting. Help your local chapter by being an informed member!

Florida's DNA Project Receives First GCSAA Chapter Cooperative Research Grant

The GCSAA Foundation's board of trustees approved \$10,000 per year for two years for the FGCSA's DNA fingerprinting of bermudagrass cultivars. This project has already begun at the University of Florida Gainesville and Fort Lauderdale campuses. The project has been co-funded by the FGCSA and the FTGA. This grant by the GCSAA is the first under the new Chapter Cooperative Research Program. Thanks go to Kevin Downing, FGCSA Research Committee Chairman, and Roy Bates for proposing that the FGCSA submit the request for funding to the GCSAA.

January Brings Excellent Educational Opportunities for Florida Superintendents

Southeast Florida Turf Conferences

The FTGA is sponsoring the First Annual Southeast Florida Turf Conference at three locations in southeast Florida on three consecutive days. Dates are Wednesday, January 17th at The American/Polish Club in Lake Worth; Thursday, January 18th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fort Myers; and Friday, January 19th at the Seminole Community College in Sanford.

The conference is intended for everyone in the turfgrass business with an expected attendance of more than 400 turf professionals. The conference is approved for CEU's towards the renewal of Pest Control Operators, Restricted Use Pesticide Applicator Licenses, as well as Commercial Lawn & Ornamental licenses.

Speaking at all three locations will be Dr. Al Dudeck on "Turf to Know and Grow", Dr. Monica Elliott on "Turf Diseases - Fact or Fiction", Joe Dipaola on plant growth regulators and Ronald Schwalb who will speak on D.O.T. regulations.

The 1:00 p.m. slot will be filled by Robert Haehle on General Maintenance Practices for Ornamentals at the Lake Worth seminar while Geri Cashion will speak on Least Toxic Approaches to Landscape Challenges in Fort Myers and the Sanford audience will hear Catherine Neal on Fertilizing Lawns and Landscape. A discussion on Environmentally Sound Landscape Management will be presented by the responsible County Extension agent at each of the three locations.

Registration fee for the seminar is \$20.00 per person which includes lunch. Deadline date is January 8th and is limited to the first 400. Contact the Florida Turfgrass Association at 407-856-5767 for further information.

The Everglades GCSA is sponsoring their annual IFAS seminar on Tuesday, January 9th at Sheraton Harbor, Fort Myers. The program begins with an 8:15 registration and will conclude at 3:20 p.m. Speakers include Burt McCarty who will discuss Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses followed by an update on the Audubon Sanctuary Program given by Darren Davis. Dr. Monica Elliott will do an update on Bermudagrass Disease to finish the morning program. The afternoon discussion gets off to a thought provoking presentation by Phil Brantley on Bermudagrass Varieties, is DNA Testing the Answer? followed by two University of Florida professors, Dr. Robin Giblin-Davis on nematodes and Dr. Jerry Sartain on nutrient management, N-K ratio. For more information on this seminar, contact Darren Davis at 941-353-4441.

The Everglades chapter is also sponsoring a Spring seminar planned for April 12th at La Playa on Vanderbilt Beach in Naples. This will be a heavy duty seminar with an impressive list of participants including Dr. Charles Peacock of North Carolina State, Dr. Pat Cobb of Auburn University and Paul Latshaw, who has hosted all three U. S. majors. Darren Davis asks everyone to mark their calendars now for this important educational opportunity.



North Florida GCSA Presents \$3,000 Scholarship

The North Florida GCSA awarded the 1995 Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship to Martin (Woody) Woodward during the November 14th chapter meeting at Windsor Parke Golf Club. The \$3,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a student pursuing an agronomic course of study.

Woody is a second year student at Lake City Community College. Mr. Woodward was selected based on his excellent academic record and his service with the student chapter of the Florida Turfgrass Association. Woody, originally from Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, is currently living in Lake City with wife Kelly and their two daughters. Woody will graduate in May 1997 and plans to pursue a career in golf course turf management. The NFGCSA is proud to have made this presentation and wishes Woody and his family much success.



Greg Tharp, right, Chairman NFGCSA Scholarship Selection Committee, presents check to Woody Woodward while President Kim Shine looks on.

Florida Golf Courses Continue to Lead the Way in Audubon Society Certifications

Olde Florida Golf Club Achieves Certified Sanctuary Status

The Olde Florida Golf Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System, a program of the Audubon Society of New York State. Olde Florida is the fifth in Florida and among the first fifty golf courses in the nation to receive the honor.

Olde Florida Golf Club joined the program in 1993 which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance wildlife habitat and protect natural resource. To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas.

Darren Davis, golf course superintendent at Olde Florida, noted that golf courses have countless benefits that the general public are not aware of. For example, golf courses serve as homes for all types of wildlife. Through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, superintendents can step forward and show others their environmental commitment.



Public involvement is one of the six categories to becoming a Certified Audubon Sanctuary. One method of involving the public is to educate school children on the benefits of golf courses. Superintendent Darren Davis leads a recent school tour at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples

Central Florida GCSA Sponsors Annual FTGA Research Tournament

The CFGCSA will sponsor their annual FTGA Research Golf Tournament on January 22, 1996 at Interlachen Country Club with Stuart Leventhal once again serving as host superintendent. The days activities will begin with a 9:45 registration followed by a strong educational program headed by John Foy, USGA, and Dr. Grady Miller who will give an informative Envirotron update. The proceeds from the Tournament go to support the programs at the Envirotron on the University of Florida Gainesville campus.

The Golf Tournament will take place immediately after lunch with a two man scramble, using full handicaps. Registration fee is \$150.00 for each two man team. For those who do not have time to stay for golf, the educational program and lunch fee is \$30.00 per person. Registration deadline is January 15th. If you need a registration form, please call the FTGA office at 1-800-882-6721 or contact one of the committee members — Joe Ondo, Brian Jenkins or Kevin Rotti.

Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Courses in Florida

Tampa Palms GC
Loblolly Pines GC
Hole-in-the Wall
Olde Florida GC
Bonita Bay - Bay Island
Bonita Bay - Creekside
Bonita Bay - Mars

1996 Florida Reception in Orlando

The 1996 Florida reception at the 67th International GCSAA Convention will be held on Friday night, February 9th, at the Omni Rosen Hotel beginning at 8:00 p.m. All Florida superintendents are invited to attend this reception. You do not have to be registered for the Conference in order to attend the reception though we certainly hope that all members will make a special effort to participate in all of the educational activities available during the Convention.

This year the reception will be our biggest yet thanks to the generosity of the following sponsors. If you are a Florida turfgrass supplier and your name is not on the list, it is not too late to contact the FGCSA office to be involved in this spectacular event. Everyone will be there!

For the second consecutive year, Vigoro Industries is at the top of the list of sponsors for this great event.

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Proposed Amendments to GCSAA Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation

The Standards/Bylaws Committee has recommended twelve proposed amendments to the bylaws and one proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. Of these, there are four that will have a substantive effect on the association and are, therefore, likely to spark a lot of discussion.

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Application for Membership

This proposed amendment states that effective July 1, 1997, all Class A and B superintendents applying for membership living in the United States, must also be a member of an Affiliated Chapter. This is for new members only; all current Class A and B members would be grandfathered by only requiring new Class A and B applicants to meet this requirement.

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Membership Classes

Class C members would not be allowed the right to vote. If this amendment is passed, a ballot will be placed before the membership that would call for the reduction of Class C membership dues to one-half the rate of Class A and B membership dues.

ARTICLE IV CHAPTERS

Section 3. Affiliation

Section 4. Procedures for Probation, Suspension and Revocation

Section 3 mandates that all current chapters must sign the newly approved chapter affiliation agreement no later than January 1, 1997. Section 4 allows for disciplinary actions to be taken against chapters in accordance with the proposed affiliation agreement.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Procedure

This proposed amendment changes the procedure by which amendments can be made to the bylaws. This proposal would allow the Standards/Bylaws Committee to reject any proposed amendment to the bylaws that they do not believe should be placed on the ballot at the annual meeting.

A full text of these and all other proposed Amendments is printed in the December issue of GCSAA Newslines. They will be voted on at the Conference.

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