



# Letter from the President



I would like to thank those of you that participated in the annual Bud-Quandt chapter fundraiser at Tampa Palms. Special thanks to Wesco Turf for being the signature sponsor, and to Harrells, Golf Ventures and Pro Source One for being Platinum sponsors. Special thanks to Bill Kistler and his staff for a wonderful day

Our November chapter meeting at The Dunes was well attended. I would like to thank Mark Guyer and his staff for a wonderful day. Barry Troutman presented the education for the day. He stressed the importance of BMPs and directed all of us to start going through the checklist in the BMP booklet that was provided to all who attended. If you do not have a copy of the BMP booklet, we still have a few copies left. Give me a call and I will get one to you.

Please support the raffle! The raffle tickets will be due December 15, 2009 at the Vendor Day. Only \$5 per ticket, and the chance to win a foursome at 20 different golf courses in the Tampa Bay area. Remember that we need to support the raffle in order to help offset the costs of events such as Vendor Day and the Chapter Championship.

Thanks to our grass roots efforts in making calls and writing letters to Congress, the efforts to slow the methyl bromide cancellation were successful. It is hoped that the EPA would now agree to a 3-4 year phase out schedule, but even in the worst case scenario, it is likely that the phase out would be no sooner than the end of 2011, with the end users able to use packaged material until supply is exhausted. This is one example of the importance of the GCSAA and staying involved with your local chapter.

December will be the last hard copy of the newsletter unless you request one. From this date forward, they will be e-mailed. In this economy we are trying to save as much as we can, while also supporting the move to a paperless system with less waste.

We are thinking about a round table discussion in January. If anyone would like to submit a topic they would like to have discussed, please let a board member know. January 5, 2010 is the F.T.G.A. seminar in Tampa at the St. Lawrence Hall. February 15 is the Benevolent Fundraiser tournament at East Lake Woodlands.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Duane VanEtten, FWCGCSA President

## Raffle Fundraiser



The FWCGCSA will once again hold a golf raffle to help offset some of our operating costs. We were able to raise over \$2,500 this past Spring to help fund events like our Vendor Day and Chapter Championship, and it is important to get as much help as possible to make this a successful raffle. Tickets will remain \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The original packets were distributed at the Bud Quandt Tournament, but plenty are still available! Tickets and funds will be collected at the Vendor Day event later this month, with the drawing will to be held the following week.



**BRING MONEY AND TICKETS TO VENDOR DAY!!** *If you are not able to attend, please contact a member of the Board so that we can pick them up before the drawing. If you need additional tickets to sell, please let us know ASAP!*

# FWCGCSA Heads North to Play in the Dunes

By Steve Hritsko

On Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Golf Course Superintendent Mark Guyer and the Dunes Golf Club played host for the November meeting. This jewel of a golf course sits just north of Weeki Wachee Springs, the historic home of Florida's mermaids. It could be easily mistaken for one of the courses at fabled Pinehurst with its abundant slash pines and sand dunes. Originally opened in the mid eighties as Seville Country Club, this Art Hills design is quickly gaining a reputation as a player's course and a must play when visiting the west coast. The day began with a continental breakfast and fellowship on the out door patio overlooking the newly renovated practice facility. The business meeting got us current on chapter operations, fundraising, and upcoming events. Barry Troutman, Ph D. Vice President of Technical Services for the Valley Crest Companies educated us on The Best Management Practices Manual for Florida Golf Courses. Barry stressed the importance of reading and understanding this manual as it was written as a helpful guideline for superintendents. The meeting was adjourned and the grill fired up by the friendly F & B Staff of the Dunes. A 12:30 shotgun start featured 32 players ready to test their skill on a perfect day for golf. The Dunes was once a test bombing range in the 30's and 40's for US pilots leaving behind many sand craters that were incorporated into the design. In 2007, Art Hills was called upon to tweak the original just a bit. A square tee box along with expansion of the sand dunes to accommodate additional drainage now gives the Dunes additional character not often seen on a public golf course. Did I mention the Greens? The tee shot here is not overly difficult with lots of room off the tee but the greens are treacherous. Art incorporated a lot of roll into the design of these large putting surfaces to mirror the surrounding, rolling terrain. Include fast and smooth into that equation and you have one unique track that is really fun to play.

Special thanks to Mark Guyer, his Assistant Roger Edwards, and the rest of the maintenance staff for the outstanding playing conditions. The course played fast and was as clean as any I've been on this year. **Great Job Guyer!!** A big shout out to GM and Director of Golf Jim Cocchi and his wonderful staff for having us for the day. Jim has always been a big supporter of the GCSAA and is seen at many of our events each year. **Thanks Coach!!** Finally, please be sure to RSVP for Vendor day next month. We may call upon some of you to invite your assistant as we need to pre-match a superintendent with a Vendor for the days two man 6, 6, 6 format.

**Have a Holiday and see you at TPC!**



**Above, Lunch is served! Below, Roger Edwards and Mark Guyer take a quick break to pose for a picture**



## GOLF RESULTS



Gross		Net	
1.	Eric Keister		Mike Zolman
2.	Jason Richards		Curt Lampe
3.	Duane VanEtten		Chris Leahy
Closet to the Pin			
#6	Jon Tutko	#13	Jon Tutko
#8	Eric Keister	#16	Mike Zolman

# Great News!!

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Thank you for being part of the grassroots campaign... our voices CAN make a difference!

## **Efforts to slow down methyl bromide cancellation successful**

*At a meeting Oct. 29, senior officials of the U.S. EPA assured GCSAA and manufacturers of methyl bromide (MeBr) that the agency would not cancel golf course MeBr use immediately and will work with the product registrants over the next several weeks to determine a phase-out schedule.*

*Manufacturers had asked for MeBr to be available until the end of 2014 to allow for suitable alternatives to be developed, but the EPA denied that request. It is hoped the agency will now agree to at least a 3-4 year phase-out schedule. But even in a worst-case scenario, it is likely the phase out would be no sooner than the end of 2011. It is also likely that under any phase-out plan, end users would be able to use any packaged material until the supply is exhausted.*

*GCSAA members wrote letters and made calls to Congress*

*urging their representatives to press the EPA to agree to a reasonable timetable for an orderly methyl bromide cancellation process. Thanks to these grassroots efforts by members, golf facilities will continue to have access to this important soil fumigant tool for the next couple of years.*

I want to personally thank all of you that supported the campaign and contacted your members of Congress. Our reports indicate that more than 400 messages (e-mails and faxes) were sent to Congress on this issue. This is the power of an organized grassroots effort!

We'll keep you posted on further developments.

Thanks again, Chava

Chava E. McKeel

Senior Manager, Information and Public Policy

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA)

<http://www.gcsaa.org/>

## Chapter Involvement More Important than Ever

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*Professional growth can also lead to new career paths*  
By Scott Wogomon As published in Syngenta's *Green Cast*

Heart of America GCSA President Scott Johnson will tell you just how important getting involved in your local chapter can be. And it's not just because he's served on the boards of three of them and is currently the president for the one that covers much of Kansas City and the surrounding area.

"You never know where the next job or the next opportunity will come from," says Johnson, a superintendent at Shadow Glen Golf Club in Olathe, Kan., since 2002. His previous employers include longtime PGA Tour stop Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, and former Champions Tour stop The Country Club of the South near Atlanta. "My first job as a superintendent came from a recommendation from another superintendent that I really didn't even know. But I played golf with him at a superintendents' monthly meeting. Whatever I did to impress him, I'm not sure...had I not gone and participated in a chapter meeting I feel almost 100 percent I would not have had that opportunity given to me. You never know where those paths are going to lead..."

### **Part of the education**

Johnson, 50 and a certified golf course superintendent through GCSAA, says the educational opportunities are another reason turf managers should spend time getting involved in local chapter activities. Those can include guest speakers at events, seminars and even Webcasts.

"I'm a believer in being involved and for me it's a learning experience," Johnson says. "Probably in any profession, but definitely in ours, you're always striving to learn or keep current on what's going on -- be proactive."

Johnson has served on the boards of North Texas and Georgia chapters, before moving to Kansas and working his way up through the board positions at the Heart.

"When I got here, my main reason (to get involved) was just to know the guys," says Johnson, who'd left Kansas in 1981 and really didn't have many superintendent contacts in the area on his return. "I wanted to get involved and it was a networking and educational opportunity for me...and giving something back."

### **Community involvement**

One of the ways superintendents give back on the local chapter level is by the numerous community involvement/enrichment projects they undertake each year. From helping local organizations with their athletic fields to delivering food to the less fortunate to working with junior golf programs as part of helping to grow the game, members of local GCSA chapters give their members ample venues to be involved.

"It's huge for us to take advantage of any opportunity to get in front of the community whether it's our booth at the golf show or doing some of the charity things or cleaning up the cemetery... things like that," Johnson says. "Those are just goodwill things that are important, not just as an association in giving back to the community, but they're enriching and building (for) each other as far as being a better person."

*Scott Wogomon is a free-lance writer in Tonganoxie, Kansas, and has worked on the maintenance staffs of three Midwest golf courses. The former sports editor was associate editor for GCSAA's Golf Course Management magazine and is senior writer for the Kansas Golf Association.*



*Signature*  
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*We would also like to thank all who participated and volunteered to make this year's event a success*

*Thank you to all of our generous sponsors:*

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**FWCGCSA Members Enjoying the Bud Quandt!**



# The Fair Way to Judge Golf...

**...As a model for life. If respect for our opponents, the rules, and spirit of the game are important values, then golf is an ethical model we should cherish.**

*By Robert Simon*

From the October 23, 2009 edition of the Christian Science Monitor, Clinton, N.Y.

When the great amateur golfer Bobby Jones called a penalty on himself for a rules violation no one else had observed, others praised him for his honesty. Jones is said to have replied that he might as well have been praised for not robbing a bank.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez recently condemned golf as a bourgeois sport that should not be added to the Olympics. And in a recent blog, New York Times ethicist Randy Cohen criticizes golf on ethical grounds, maintaining, along with President Chávez, that golf is an elitist sport with little or no moral worth.

According to Mr. Cohen, it is a game of the affluent and privileged, professional players are too conservative, and the game lacks diversity or social concern. He suggests that from a moral point of view we probably would be better off without it.

But at a time when many observers of contemporary sports are criticizing the effects of elite athletic competition on the ethics of competitors, golf is a counterexample to their concerns. In fact, other sports could learn a thing or two from the etiquette of golf.

Critics charge that too many sports programs lead to a diminished sense of responsibility among athletes. Authority is delegated to rules officials and coaches. Players often are reluctant to correct even an obviously incorrect call in their favor or question decisions of their coaches, even those that have ethical ramifications. After all, it's the referee's job to make the call and the coach's job to give orders.

Even worse, opponents are too often regarded as obstacles to be beaten down or reduced to mere barriers — something that stands between a team and a win — and not respected as fellow competitors who test our skills by providing a challenge.

And then there is golf.

Golfers follow a strict honor code that places the burden of following the rules on the player. Players are expected to call penalties on them-

selves. Golfers also have duties that require them to show courtesy to their opponents and act in ways that best allow their opponents to maximize their own opportunities to play well.

Golfers stand still when opponents are playing shots and must learn to show respect and courtesy to competitors. There is no trash talking in golf (with perhaps the exception of teasing among friends in recreational play).

While there have been cases of gamesmanship even at elite levels of competition, they stand out because of their rarity and relative mildness when compared with those that occur in other sports.

While other sports also prohibit competitors, even at the highest levels of competition, from cheating and attempt to require them to show courtesy and respect to opponents, golf achieves it.

Thus, it is hardly a coincidence that golf organizations donate more to charity than any other sports associations.

The PGA Tour alone donated more than \$124 million to charity in 2008. The PGA Tour, the satellite Nationwide Tour, and the senior Champions Tour have donated an all-time total of more than \$1 billion in charitable donations. Add the additional millions donated by the LPGA and donations from local and regional amateur tournaments in which golfers all over the country participate, and the impact of golf on charity is impressive.

Is golf an elitist sport?

To be sure, golf in the US has a historical association with exclusive country clubs. And although some golf organizations did not act quickly enough to remedy discriminatory practices in the past, and still may not have done enough to criticize remaining ones, there has been much progress in eliminating discriminatory barriers throughout the sport.

Today, most golfers play on public facilities. And many private courses, especially those away from large urban areas, are affordable to relatively large segments of the population.

Of course, golf still needs to become more diverse. But consider this: Golf originated in Scotland and was originally

played by shepherds and artisans — not the elite. Today, organizations such as the First Tee introduce golf to thousands of young people from diverse backgrounds, and often combine golf instruction with innovative educational programs. More good news on that front: Asian golfers from countries such as South Korea and Japan have enjoyed tremendous worldwide success, including many recent major winners on the LPGA from Asia and, of course, Y.E. Yang, who recently defeated Tiger Woods in the PGA Championship to become the first Asian winner of one of the men's major professional championships.

As a young golfer growing up on Long Island and learning to play in the late 1950s and early '60s, I often played with men and women, some of whom were three times my age. While my community was not racially diverse, my playing partners ranged from fellow students to physicians to owners of pizza stores to professional caddies.

Golf provided an education on how to get along with many different kinds of people with different political and social views, which we had plenty of time to discuss between shots. These conversations helped me learn to appreciate that I could disagree with my competitors politically while still respecting them as people and conducting our disagreement in a civil, reasoned manner. Because angry, distracted golfers tend to hit poorly, golf almost forced civility upon us.

If respect for our opponents, for the rules and spirit of the game, and for development of moral virtues such as civility and self-control are important values, then golf is an ethical model we should cherish. Golf should really be considered an ethical model for other sports.

We should try to emulate it, not only in athletics but perhaps also in education, where honor codes need to be respected, and especially in politics, where the practice of respect for our opponent seems to be in danger of extinction.

*Robert Simon is a philosophy professor at Hamilton College. He is a past president of the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport and author of "Fair*

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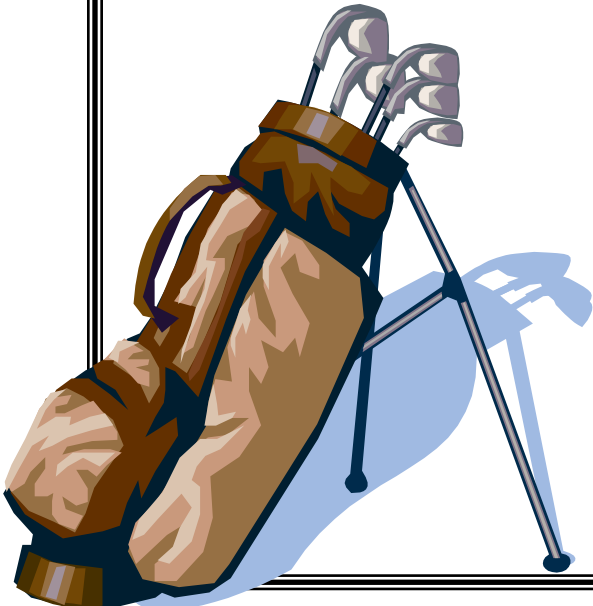
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**FLORIDA WEST COAST GOLF  
COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS  
ASSOCIATION**



# VENDOR DAY!

*Vendor Day is quickly approaching at TPC! This is the one time each year we thank the vendors that generously support the FWCGCSA. The cost for Superintendents is \$65.00 (also offsets the cost of vendors) plus a gift for a vendor.*



MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009

Registration: 10:30– 12:00

Lunch: 11:00 to 12:15

Shotgun: 12:30

Banquet: 5:00 p.m.

Price: No Charge for Vendors

Superintendents: \$65 + a gift for a Vendor

***Please RSVP for this event as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you!***