



Letter from the President



Did we skip spring and just go right into summer? No rain, temps in the upper 80's and lower 90's, water restrictions... maybe it's just me.

Congratulations to Jason Kubel and his entire staff and volunteers at TPC of Tampa Bay for another successful Champions tour event. Also, thank you to Chad Nixon and his staff for hosting our April meeting at Wentworth Country Club. Great job Chad.

It's that time of year again. Time for our annual membership renewal. Don't forget that starting this year we will be receiving our renewals from the FGCSA. This is for class A, SM, & C members only. Vendors will continue to receive their renewals from the West Coast Chapter (included in this mailing).

When you receive your renewal in the mail, make sure the checks are made payable to FGCSA. Be sure to let your accounting departments know about this change so they can make the checks out to the proper association. If you wish to pay by credit card at our next meeting, you can still do that as well. Once again the FWCGCSA will pay the difference in the \$10 increase in State dues. (final year of a three year increase). Thanks to your efforts with the "rounds of golf" raffle, we will be able to afford this once again this year.

Speaking of our next meeting, it will be Thursday May 21st at Belleair CC, hosted by Andy Neiswender.

On June 4th, WescoTurf will host a Rays baseball outing. Game time is 4 PM on Thursday. There will be a tail gate cook out in the parking lot. More details with location and times to follow. June 29th will be our annual meeting and election followed by our chapter championship at Old Memorial with Trent Inman, CGCSA, as host.

Bill Kistler GCS



In Memory

Our association lost two long term members this past month. Cliff Anderson, Sales Representative for Ducor International passed away on Friday, April 3rd due to heart failure. He was at one time or another affiliate member with every chapter in the state of Florida. He was always quick to respond on any chapter events and thought of all his customers as friends. He so loved his family and our profession. He will be sorely missed by all who came into contact with him, God Bless Cliff, Rest in Peace!!

On Friday, April 24th Walt Herbst, Assistant Superintendent at Belleair Country Club passed away from complications due to cancer. He was a 19 year employee of Belleair and worked for several of our members including Harvey Phillips, Rick Wahl and most recently Andy Neiswender. Walt was a hard worker and a true gentleman always willing to do whatever it took to get a project done. He loved plants and landscaping. He will be missed by his Family, friends and Belleair community but they know he is in a better place. God Bless and halleluiah Walt, You're healthy again!!

Annual Visit to Largo just Fine for FWCGCSA

By Steve Hritsko, Affiliate Representative

On March 25, 2009 the FWCGCSA returned again to Largo Municipal Golf Club for the monthly meeting. This was a second consecutive visit after a one year hiatus in 2007 due to a complete course renovation. This has been a long standing tradition for our association dating back to 1986 when Largo hosted us for the first time. Largo is operated by the city of Largo municipalities so they receive several rounds of golf throughout the year. This is family affordable golf and the staff here makes you feel like family. The day began with Golf Course Superintendent Gerald Marquardt welcoming us with coffee and donuts during registration. The business portion of the meeting sparked some discussion on how play has been and status going into the spring months. Our guest speaker this month was Vera Gas-

parini, Gulfcoast Area Manager for Quali-Pro, the largest post patented manufacturer of turf and ornamental chemicals. Vera did a nice job explaining how post patented products came to be and their place in the professional turf market. After the meeting an outstanding lunch was served in a nice outdoor atmosphere. Another tradition, the two man scramble format, dominated the afternoon golf. The course has certainly matured and was in great shape. Fast firm greens combined with challenging pin placements made for a wonderful round of golf. Congratulations to Jason Richards who had an Association first, a hole in one!! Thanks so much to all the folks at Largo and especially Gerald Marquardt. He and his staff always make us feel so wel-



come and again this year was no exception. We look forward to continuing this March tradition if Gerald will have us...

FWCGCSA Board

At the Chapter Championship next month, you will have the chance to meet and approve the new Board Members who have graciously agreed to volunteer their time in service to the Association. The following is a list of those who have volunteered:

Board:

Past President - Bill Kistler
President - Duane VanEtten
Vice President - Trent Inman
Secretary/Treasurer - Kevin Sunderman
Education - Wayne Darlington
Vendor - Steve Hritsko, Ken Husilak

Directors:

Membership - Doug Hughes
Vendor Day - Jason Kubel
Benevolent Tournament - Ron Padilla
Bud Quandt Tournament - Coby Sheppard
Golf - Andy Neiswender, Curt Lampe, Jason Richards

If you are interested in Board or Committee service, please contact Bill Kistler or send an e-mail to FWCGCSA@earthlink.net.

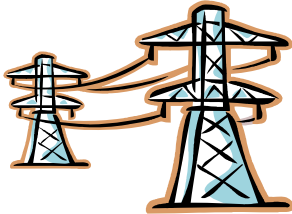
Please renew your membership...

Membership Renewals are now due! The process has changed a little this year as we try to streamline membership throughout the state. Vendors, your form will be included in the mail version of this newsletter. For all other members, you should have received your membership form from the FGCSA and your payment needs to be mailed directly to the state. **If you need to pay via credit card, please bring your membership form to the next meeting and we will take care of it for you. If you need a receipt for your renewal, please send us an e-mail and we will send one back to you via mail or e-mail.** *Please be sure to renew your GCSAA membership also.*

Our goal is to increase our membership numbers this year... brochures for new members are available on the website or we would be happy to mail you a few upon request. Please hand them to anyone in our industry that you come across who is not currently a member and encourage them to attend a meeting to learn more about the Association.

Your Energy Needed on the Energy Survey

We are encouraging all superintendents to complete the energy use and environmental practices survey to ensure adequate representation from all types of golf courses across the United States. If you have completed the survey, thank you for your support. If you have not started or finished your survey, please consider the following important points:



- **If anyone is having difficulty obtaining energy use data, or are unable to obtain the requested energy use data, they should skip the question(s) they are unable to answer and complete the rest of the survey. We are still able to use the information they provide, because we will analyze the data on a question by question basis.**
- **We have extended the closing date for the survey to May 19, 2009.**

To help us have an acceptable response rate for the survey we are asking superintendents to:

Submit the survey if you have not already done so. You can access the survey at <http://survey.ngf.org/81022/login.asp?code=1>

More details about this project are described in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

GCSAA will award 0.25 service points for a completed survey. In addition, those who submit their survey will be entered into prize drawings for GCSAA gift certificates.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Mark Johnson, GCSAA Senior Manager of Environmental Programs at mjohnson@gcsaa.org This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

Please help us serve you and your profession by completing the energy use and environmental practices survey.

Sincerely,

Clark Throssell, Ph.D., Director of Research
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America



THANK YOU

Florida Turf Support
for donating \$500 to
help cover the costs of
food at the April
Membership Meeting.
We truly appreciate
this generous donation.

Fundraiser a Success!

Approximately 750 tickets were sold with a profit of \$2,890. Thank you so much for your tremendous support of this fundraiser, both to those who donated golf and those who sold tickets... we are looking forward to making this an annual event to help offset Association expenses. Thank you again for your support!

The following is a list of the winners:

- **Tampa Palms** - Barney Rackley - sold by Barney Rackley
- **TPC** - Steve Duval - sold by Allan Brissenden
- **Candler Hills** - Jon Coderre - sold by Ron Bear
- **Summerfield Crossings** - Marc Dube - sold by Jason Hill
- **Dunedin Country Club** - Mike Cliggett - sold by Mike Cliggett
- **The Dunes** - Darren Elder - sold by Trent Inman
- **Cypress Run** - Andy Farmer - sold by Ron Bear
- **Isla Del Sol** - St. Timothy's Men's Club - sold by Trent Inman
- **Belleair Country Club** - St. Timothy's Men's Club - sold by Trent Inman
- **Old Memorial** - Christine Gosselin - sold by John Chevalier



Join your fellow Association members for a Rays Game, sponsored by Wesco Turf! Rays vs. Kansas City June 4, 2009 4:00 p.m. game with cookout prior Only 75 tickets are available, so RSVP now



Local Fertilizer Ordinances

By Kevin Sunderman, FWCGCSA External Vice President

Over the past several months, we have seen a push by the Sierra Club encouraging local municipalities to adopt fertilizer ordinances. Nutrient runoff is being cited as a major pollutant of our area waters and blamed for algae blooms including red tide. (There is no consideration being made for the reclaimed water being dumped into the bay or leaking septic tanks that are polluting the waters.) So far these ordinances have been aimed primarily at home lawns and non-recreational turf. However, we see these ordinances as a gateway to the regulation of golf course fertilization and a threat to our ability to grow healthy turf.

The basic principles of the proposed ordinances are as follows:

- No more than 2 applications of nitrogen per year with at least 50% being slow release.
- 4 pound per year limit on total nitrogen applied.
- No nitrogen can be applied or sold during the period of June thru September.
- No phosphorous can be applied without a soil test showing a deficiency.

Immediately, we can recognize that an ordinance with these stipulations would encourage over-fertilization in May and October. Nothing is taken into account for the grass' increased ability to absorb nutrients during the months when it is actively growing versus the cooler months. Also, we know that many soil tests of native Florida soils show sufficient amounts of phosphorous when in many cases it is unavailable to the plant.

Many of the Sierra Club representatives will agree that the biggest threat is posed by uneducated homeowners rather than professionals with training. There are a great amount of fertilizer and nutrient-rich grass clippings that end up on driveways, sidewalks and roads that washes into our sewers and eventually find their way into our waterways. While most professionals do their best to prevent this, many homeowners are oblivious to the effects of these actions. However, rather than educate homeowners and others applying fertilizer, the ordinances are being presented as the best and only solution.



The results of these proposals to the different municipalities have varied from one to the next. You are encouraged to find out what is happening in your neighborhood and get involved. While this only affects non-sports related turf right now, it is only a matter of time before golf is targeted. Ask yourself how well you could survive without being able to apply nitrogen in conjunction with your greens aerification or even losing the ability to spoon-feed your greens during the summer months. Do you want to let this happen? Get involved. Information and assistance can be obtained from FWCGCSA, FGCSA, and GCSAA, as well as many universities.

Wentworth Welcomes Back FWCGCSA



By Steve Hritsko, Affiliate Representative

On April 13, 2009 Wentworth Golf Club and Golf Course Superintendent Chad Nixon CGCS welcomed back the chapter for the monthly meeting. Wentworth was an annual stop for the chapter for many years when it hosted the annual Benevolent Tournament. It was nice to come back to this Steve Smeyers design which has stood the test of time with its small greens and tight tree lined fairways. Built in 1988, the development dead ended at the corner of East Lake Road and Tarpon Springs road. Later as the area grew, the road went through to Holiday and another Steve Smeyers design was built Crescent Oaks CC. Steve Later designed the host course of our chapter championship, Old Memo-

rial. The day began with fellowship and a continental breakfast followed by our monthly business meeting. Trent read off the successful results of our first chapter raffle featuring rounds of golf to chapter courses. The education portion of our meeting took a twist as we moved the meeting to the newly installed pump station. Bob Houle of DAF Services, INC discussed preventative maintenance practices on pump stations along with operational principals. It was very informative and we thank Bob along with Ken Husilak for suggesting this topic. A plentiful lunch was served in the classic brick Wentworth clubhouse. A clear blue sky awaited us as we

made our way out on the course for the afternoon shotgun start. The course was in wonderful shape coming out of a long cold winter. It was not overseeded this past winter so the greens were fast, full and very consistent. The day ended with fellowship and golf swing bashing on the patio overlooking the course. Thanks to the management at Wentworth for allowing us to have the course for the afternoon. Special thanks to Chad Nixon, his Assistant Dave Gower and the rest of the maintenance staff for a job well done. Chad lobbied his management to have us come and we appreciate so much his effort. See you at Belleair!!



WINNERS!

	Gross	Net
1st:	Kevin Stevens	Lucky Luchsinger
2nd:	Mike Clark	Rory Harding
3rd:	Kevin Wasilewski	Doug Hughes

To Do List!

- Turn in Renewal Form
- RSVP for May 21st Membership Meeting at Belleair
- Make plans to join your Association friends for the Rays Game & Cookout on June 4th

- Invite colleagues join the FWCGCSA
- Practice your golf swing in preparation for the Chapter Championship on June 29th at Old Memorial





**FLORIDA WEST COAST GOLF
COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS
ASSOCIATION**

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Contact Us at
fwcgcsa.earthlink.net

MAY CHAPTER MEETING

The May Monthly Chapter Meeting will be held at Belleair Country Club on May 21, 2009. The speaker will be Greg Moore, Distributor Manager for Plant Food Company, regarding Sodium Reduction Strategies.

Registration: 9:00—10:00

Meeting: 10:00—11:30

Lunch: 11:30—12:30

Shotgun: 1:00

Price: \$60.00

Please RSVP ASAP for this event!

