TURFGRASS DIGEST

VOL. 39 / NO. 5

Fall 2021







Congratulations to Tim Cann and his team!

2021 Florida Celebration®

Golf Course of the Year





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(Continued on page 6)



President's Message

By Dr. Eric A. Brown, FTGA President

Fall Conference and Prescription for Success

i, folks! It has been a pleasure serving as the president of the Florida Turfgrass Association. We culminate 2021 with optimism for the future and a Fall Conference for education, networking, relationship building and maintenance. Make friends before we need friends. Keep friends and partners forever.

Although the last few years have been somewhat surreal, the strength of our association has prevailed. The words, "I'll see you at the FTGA conference" are resounding as they have in the past. I ask for your support for continued abutment that is required to buttress the mission and purpose of our distinguished association.

Our scholarship committee has been generous for helping students of turfgrass along their journey in 2021. Our recently minted Legacy Scholarship is a refreshing wrinkle to the return on investment of our association. These monies make an impact.

The new slate of incoming directors is a strong group, representing the future leaders for all segments under our umbrella. I see the

"Make friends before we need friends. Keep friends and partners forever."

future and it is bright! The more individuals put in, the more we all get out. I thank all members and volunteers for the dedication and contributions of time and capital.

Congratulations to our 2021 Wreath of Grass recipient Will Nugent, President of Bethel Farms. Will represents the character and quality worthy of the FTGA's highest honor. Will, thank you for a career of support and mentorship to our humble association. May this award be a measure of appreciation to your offerings we have received.

Thank you to our membership and sponsors. Our noble and honorable association cannot thrive without your loyalty and support. Thank you, Heather Russo Berg, for your planning acumen and administrative abilities. Best wishes to all as we close out another year and engage in our annual conference. I have received much from my experience as president and hope to continue the journey with you for many years to come. ©



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(Continued from page 4)

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From the Executive Director

By Heather Russo Berg, Executive Director

It's All About Gratitude

"An attitude of gratitude creates blessings. Help yourself by helping others. You have the most powerful weapons on earth – love and prayer." —Mother Teresa

s we enter the last quarter of a year, it is an important one for the association. This is the last issue of the *Digest* this year. I hope each of you found the issues to be informational, to help you within your profession or learn a little more about our members. Thank you to the advertisers for your support through print advertisement. We strive to make each issue better than the previous one; therefore, if you have any suggestions on content or want to highlight an unsung hero or member, reach out to myself or MJ. A huge thank you to MJ, FTGA editor (and my saving grace) for the countless hours put into the magazine to make each one more outstanding.

The annual conference will be coming soon, and I am very eager to see our members in person. Seats are limited for each educational workshop and for the Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch. Make sure to register prior to October 22 to receive the early-bird pricing. Registration is available on our website. If you are leery about attending the conference in-person, there is a webinar registration package. This will provide you with the ability to watch the educational workshop from your computer. Thank you to the sponsors for your support to make the conference another successful one.

I am grateful for our current board of directors, and especially the executive committee, as we each worked together to get through another crucial year. A special thank you to Bill Kistler, Ian Rodriguez, Dave Dymond and Paul Bispham Jr. as working with you over the years has been instrumental, and I also want to thank you for mentoring me. I am looking forward to the 2021–2022 board of directors Bill Cohn, Cordel Dietzig, Bryce Gibson, Dave Robinson and Nate Watkin, who will be elected during the Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch.

During the Annual Meeting and Awards Lunch, join us to see this year's Wreath of Grass Recipient and Scholarship Winners. Congratulations are in order for Will Nugent, president and CEO of Bethel Farms, as our Wreath of Grass Award recipient. The FTRF provided three student scholarships from the University of Florida, Patrick McLoughlin and Jose Suazo Mejia received the Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship and Alejandra Sierra received the Ralph W. White Scholarship. The FTGA Legacy Scholarship was awarded to Emma Mulcahy, who is attending the University of South Florida (Go Bulls), the daughter of Jason Mulcahy with FMC. Congratulations to you all, as your hard work and dedication is well deserved.

Last but not least, thank you to the FTGA members. Without your support through membership, the association would not be able to publish a quality magazine, offer scholarships, and provide numerous educational events and research. The 2022 membership dues announcement will be coming soon to your inbox. I urge you to make a donation to the FTRF as this will help to continue to fund future research and scholarships.

I wish you all a wonderful remaining 2021 and I hope you are ready for 2022! Best wishes to you all. ۞

SAVE THE DATE NOVEMBER 9-11, 2021

68 TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE



1500 MASTERS BLVD CHAMPIONSGATE FL 33896



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- Past President's Breakfast
- CORE & Turf CEU Workshop & Lunch
- Golf Tournament & Lunch
- Sports Turf Tour & Lunch
- Opening Session
- Opening Reception
- Corn Boil & Corn Hole Tournament

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

- Education Full Day
- Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch











FTGA's 68th Annual **CONFERENCE & AWARDS**

he FTGA Conference is returning with an outstanding lineup of presentations. We look forward to seeing you in Orlando for two jam-packed days of learning, networking and catching up with friends and colleagues. For those who cannot attend the conference, we are hosting an online webinar, so you don't have to miss a minute of education. See the complete menu of networking events in the summer issue of Florida Turf Digest. We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday, November 9

Noon — 4:00 p.m. Registration 4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m. FTGA Board FTGA Board of Directors Meeting

FTGA Board Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 10

7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Registration

8:00 a.m. — 9:30 a.m. Past Presidents' Breakfast 11:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Golf Tournament & Lunch

— 4:00 p.m. CORE & Turf CEU Workshop & Lunch Noon

— 4:00 p.m. Sports Turf Tour & Lunch Noon

6:00 p.m. — 6:30 p.m. Opening Session 6:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m. Opening Reception 7:00 p.m. — 10:00 p.m. Corn Boil Dinner

Thursday, November 11

7:30 a.m. — 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast

7:30 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. — 10:50 a.m. Education Workshops

11:15 a.m. — 1:15 p.m. Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch

1:30 p.m. — 4:20 p.m. **Education Workshops**

OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE 1500 MASTERS BLVD **CHAMPIONSGATE FL 33896**





WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP & FVENTS

WEDNESDAY	ALL TOPICS AND SPEAKERS A	ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
TIME	CORE CEUs & TURF WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	BOX LUNCH	
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Pollinator Protection in Pest Management Programs - Reducing pesticide exposure to non-target organisms is a top priority in pest management programs. Pollinating insects such as honeybees provide important landscape ecosystem services, but pesticides turfgrass managers use to control pests could have detrimental effects on pollinators if proper precautionary measures are not in place. This talk will cover the considerations and steps needed to take in protecting pollinators in pest management programs. During this presentation, hear why pollinators are important, get an explanation about pollinator protection boxes and precautionary statements geared toward pollinator protection on pesticide labels as well as receive outlined steps needed to take to minimize pollinators exposure to pesticides.	Dr. Bonnie Wells <i>UFIIFAS Brevard County Extension</i>
1:20 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.	Prevention and First Aid for Pesticide Poisoning - The goals for this presentation are to give pesticide safety information and education, including the discussion on PPE and spill kits; recognize the signs of pesticide poisoning and know the first aid treatment for it; and know the importance of a pesticide first aid kit and what it should contain. Miche UFIIFA Count	
2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	BREAK	
2:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	BugShots: Florida's "Most Wanted" Turfgrass Pests - Are you a victim of turf pest damage? Or just an investigator wanting to identify a pest properly in a lineup? If yes, you are in luck! Victims and investigators unite in this discussion to get a detailed look at BugShots, a photographic presentation of turfgrass management professionals most wanted pests! We will discuss turfgrass insect and nematode pests that have been wreaking havoc on lawns, sod farms, athletic fields, and golf greens across Florida. Detailed information will be given for accurate identification purposes, and recommendations on how to prevent and manage these pest infestations will be addressed.	Dr. Bonnie Wells <i>UFIIFAS Brevard County Extension</i>
3:10 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Turfgrass Fertilization in Florida - Sandy Florida soils can lead to nutrient leaching and product loss. This session will cover the best management practices for turf health and outline how to properly fertilize turf and maximize absorption.	Tina McIntyre UF/IFAS Seminole County Extension

THURSDAY WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

ALL TOPICS AND SPEAKERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TIME	ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS CULTIVAR WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	An Overview of St. Augustinegrass Cultivars and How to Differentiate Them - An overview of the St. Augustinegrass cultivars produced in Florida, including strengths, weaknesses and key characteristics.	Dr. Kevin Kenworthy University of Florida
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	An Overview of St. Augustinegrass Cultivars and How to Differentiate Them - This presentation will focus on explaining practical methods for differentiating St. Augustinegrass cultivars, using key morphological features. This will include a hands-on opportunity for participants to see and try to identify several St. Augustinegrass cultivars. (Live plants will be provided.)	Jamie Buhlman University of Florida
TIME	IRRIGATION WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	The Hidden Issues of Irrigating With Non-Potable Water Sources - Non-potable water not only includes reclaimed or treated water, but also stormwater, water from lakes and ponds, and even some wells because it is not suitable for drinking. In many areas, regulations require the source for irrigation water be the lowest quality available to the site because of the increasing demands on the potable water supply. Even without regulatory mandates, these sources can provide an increased level of resource stewardship and lower operational costs. The use of these non-potable sources can come with an increased number of complications that can be detrimental to the performance of the irrigation system if not identified. The course helps the landscape and irrigation contractor recognize and deal with these potential obstacles.	Kurt Thompson K. Thompson & Associates, LLC
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	The Essentials of Irrigation Scheduling - Irrigation scheduling is more than entering a default 45-minutes for the turf and 15-minutes for the shrubs, to run three times per week. A proper irrigation schedule requires accurately replacing the water used by the plants that does not get replaced by rainfall. It needs to maintain healthy plants and soils, while being efficient with the water. This workshop teaches the irrigation and landscape professional the fundamentals of creating an irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of the site and how to make the adjustments to keep up with the ever changing conditions in a landscape. It uses a simplified worksheet to quickly and accurately put the numbers together.	Kurt Thompson K. Thompson & Associates, LLC
TIME	ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS LUNCH	
11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch	
TIME	LANDSCAPE & SOD MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Lethal Viral Necrosis: A Viral Disease Affecting Floratam St. Augustinegrass in South Florida - Lethal viral necrosis has become problematic on Floratam St. Augustinegrass in several communities in South Florida. Infection with sugarcane mosaic virus leads to death of Floratam lawns. We will discuss how the disease is spread, where it currently occurs and the best options currently available to deal with the disease in affected lawns and communities.	Dr. Phil Harmon <i>University of Florida</i>
2:20 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	Turfgrass Weed Research, Extension Program and Research Update - This presentation will encompass a brief introduction of Dr. Pawel Petelewicz, the new member of the University of Florida's Turfgrass Science team and the vision and perspectives for the new Turfgrass Weed Research and Extension Program. The main focus will be on the highlight of ongoing research 1) on post-emergence control of sedges in St. Augustinegrass turf and 2) post-emergence control of goosegrass in bermudagrass turf. Topics covered during this presentation will refer to the challenging weed species control, including cultural practices and the use of herbicides, turfgrass crop safety and resistance management in weeds.	Dr. Pawel Petelewicz <i>University of Florida</i>
3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Turfgrass Species and Cultivar Selection for Insect Pest Management - Several insect pests attack and damage turfgrasses in Florida, which can reduce turf health and lead to substantial maintenance inputs. Some insect pests will generally feed on any turfgrass species while others are fairly specialized on one or a few species. Similarly, varieties within a single turfgrass species can vary greatly in their susceptibility to insect pests. To effectively and efficiently manage turf insect pests, it is important to understand host plant preferences and the relative susceptibility of different turf types to key insect pests. During this session we will discuss current knowledge, recent evidence, and ongoing research into the susceptibility of various turf species and varieties to key insect pests.	Dr. Adam Dale University of Florida

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THURSDAY WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

ALL TOPICS AND SPEAKERS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

	ALL TOPICS AND SPEAKE	RS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
TIME	ATHLETIC FIELD MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Maintaining Park and Rec Fields Outside the Box - The challenges of dealing with balancing field use/ maintenance and scheduling, as well as working collaboratively with other municipalities over the years, whether it is the sharing of equipment or the sharing of ideas to help problem solve. Rick will also discuss the challenges of the city's current fertilizer and pesticide ordinance while still providing safe playable athletic fields.	Enrico (Rick) Peruzzi City of South Portland
2:20 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	Developing Turfgrasses for Athletic Fields - Creating a turfgrass to accommodate the playing conditions of different sports while meeting the expectations of managers and players alike across the world may be more difficult than explaining theoretical quantum physics. Well, maybe not but tweaking a new hybrid to be wear tolerant, fast recovering, dense and safe for a wide range of athletes of varying skill levels is a daunting task. In this presentation we will dive into the tools and procedures we use in Tifton to initially screen hundreds of turfgrasses every year before then relying on other specialists to help us fine-tune our research for the ultimate selection new sporting grasses.	
3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Wear Tolerance and Divot Recovery of Select Bermudagrass Cultivars - This presentation will discuss recently conducted research comparing the wear tolerance and divot recovery of seven bermudagrass cultivars in North Central Florida. We will take a look at differences in fall dormancy and spring green-up.	Dr. Jason Kruse University of Florida
TIME	GOLF MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Managing the World's Largest Golf Community - In this presentation, attendees will learn to manage the daily golf operations, how to meet expectations from a course agronomic and renovation perspective. Also, discuss managing future growth and development with golf course construction, industry relationships as well as district ownership and managing water and environmental needs throughout the community.	Rickey Craig The Villages
2:20 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	University of Florida Bermudagrass Cultivar Evaluations - Several new bermudagrass cultivars are available and commonly used on golf course fairways. However, little is known about their cultural requirements or how these cultivars perform under lower inputs regimes. The presentation will cover management practices, including irrigation, fertilization and aerification to achieve best performance of new cultivars and industry standards.	
3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	New Turfgrasses for Golf Course Putting Greens - One of the more challenging tasks a turfgrass breeder can undertake is the development of grasses intended to thrive at a 1/10th of an inch or less! Tifdwarf and TifEagle may have never come to market without the help of golf course superindentents. One of the most dynamic and fun pieces of our research program during the past 10 years has been the collaborative work at over 10 golf courses to install research trials that are maintained at the same intensity as the other 18 putting greens. This has been instrumental in the identification of new hybrids and their best management practices that will hopefully impact our industry in the near future.	Dr. Brian Schwartz University of Georgia
TIME	WATER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Municipal Watering Restrictions & Your Lawn - Research was conducted to determine the effects of municipal watering restrictions on warm season turfgrass species. The presentation will make comparisons between warm season species, and subsequently, between cultivars within a species. Attendees will learn which levels of watering restrictions maintained acceptable quality and which levels led to a loss of quality.	Dr. Kevin Kenworthy University of Florida
2:20 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	Research Update for Amending Residential Landscapes With Compost - UF/IFAS has been researching the use of compost as a soil amendment for water conservation in new residential landscapes. This presentation will provide background on the need for this research, an overview of early research, an update of recent results and on-going research projects. Technical tools and resources for amending soils with compost will also be covered.	Dr. Eban Bean University of Florida
3:10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Update on Smart Controllers and Water Conservation in Landscapes - Smart irrigation controllers have been commercially available for more than 20 years. They have been extensively tested in Florida for their water conservation potential. This talk will give an overview of the technology, summarize testing in Florida as well as trends across the U.S. It will also detail best practices of installation to ensure optimal water conservation.	Dr. Michael Dukes <i>University of Florida</i>







ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 30, 2021

DON'T PAY
Non-Member Prices! Join the FTGA today and save on your conference registration.

Name Company Mailing Address City/State/ZIP Business Phone Email To ensure an accurate head count, please check all the events below that you will attend: CORE & Turf Workshop or Sports Turf Tour Opening Session Opening Reception Corn Boil & Corn Hole Tournament Continental Breakfast Educational Workshops Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch Early Bird (until 10/22/2021) On-Site (effective 10/23/2021) To ensure an accurate head count, please check all the events below that you will attend: CORE & Turf Workshop or Sports Turf Tour Opening Session Opening Session Opening Session Opening Session Opening Session Opening Reception Corn Boil & Corn Hole Tournament Early Bird (until 10/22/2021) On-Site (effective 10/23/2021) ThursDay REGISTRATION PACKAGE #3 To ensure an accurate head count, please check all the events below that you will attend: Early Bird (until 10/22/2021) On-Site (effective 10/23/2021) On-Site (effective 10/23	COMPANY CONTA	ACT PERSON:	
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Cancellation Policy Cancellations made after 10/1/21 will not be provided a refund; only employee substitutions will be granted. Refunds will not be granted for not attending.

Á LA CARTE OPTIONS	Early Bird (until 10/22/2021)	On-Site (effective 10/23/2021)
☐ CORE & Turf Workshop & Lunch	\$30	\$50
☐ Golf Tournament	\$125	\$150
☐ Sports Turf Tour	\$30	\$50
☐ Opening Session		REE
☐ Opening Reception	\$50	\$75
☐ Corn Boil & Corn Hole Tourname	****	\$125
☐ Continental Breakfast	\$30	\$50
☐ Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch		\$75 \$50
☐ Thursday Workshop & Refreshme	ents \$30	\$50
CHOOSE ONE (based on your pac	kage choice):	
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GOLF REGISTRATION:	Handicap	Scramble Individual
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Player 4		
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Á La Carte Options	Total \$	
GRAND TOTAL	\$	
PAYMENT INFORMATION		
Check #		
OR Credit Card #		

_____ Security Code _ Exp. Date ___ Billing City/State/ZIP_

SUBMIT REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Contact: Heather Russo Berg

(863) 688-9413 | heather@ftga.org

Mail Registration:

Florida Turfgrass Association

PO Box 14836, Bradenton FL 34280

Online Registration:

www.FTGA.org - on the homepage under Calendar

PHONE REGISTRATIONS ARE NOT PERMITTED.



- ✓ PACKAGE(S)
- ✓ MEAL(S)
- ✓ EDUCATION WORKSHOP(S)

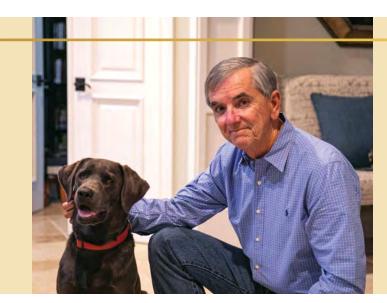
✓ GOLF HANDICAP

Or the registration form will be returned!





Will Nugent Honored With FTGA Wreath of Grass Award



resident and CEO of Bethel Farms (https://bethelfarms.com) Will Nugent has been a long-time FTGA member and will be presented with the Wreath of Grass, Florida Turfgrass Association's highest award, during the 68th Annual Conference & Show Awards Lunch. The coveted award pays tribute to individuals who have shown consistent, outstanding service to the Florida Turfgrass Association and to the turfgrass industry as a whole.

Executive Director of Turfgrass Producers of Florida (TPF) Betsy McGill says, "Will Nugent has been a consistent, encouraging, collaborative presence to so many people in many different segments of the industry, for researchers and the Extension at University of Florida, and for both TPF and FTGA."

As CEO of Bethel Farms, Will has proven to be an exceptional collaborator and innovator, not only in marketing but also e-commerce and other areas, and he is well respected for his proactive involvement in the industry. One such example is work with the regional water management district to help them understand industry and production issues and to develop strategies for water conservation and sustainable farming.

Nugent is known throughout the industry for his leadership and success in incorporating those traits as guiding principles of the Bethel Farms culture. In addition, he has shown commitment toward the industry through his support of FTGA and his charter membership in Florida Sod Growers Cooperative (FSGC) in 1989, now Turfgrass Producers of Florida (TPF). He's been described as "a man of character," and that applies to his dealings with family, friends, employees and colleagues. His character derives from a strong grounding in faith.

Will served multiple terms on the FSCG Board of Directors and held two terms as president. In 2008, he received the Award of Merit for his contributions to the association. He later represented Florida on the Turfgrass Producers International board of directors as president of that organization, and most recently, on the formation committee for a proposed Sod Industry Checkoff.

He forged one of the first partnerships with Sod Solutions on behalf of FSGC/TPF and continued to help bring new turf to Florida. That collaboration increased revenues for the association and allowed it to grow into a thriving organization. He has consistently offered land and expertise to University of Florida researchers as they've conducted numerous projects and initiatives ranging from pest and disease management to new cultivar breeding.

What started as a high school romance blossomed into a family business. Will met Kim Bethel in high school, and they've been together ever since. Will and his wife, Kim, both work at Bethel Farms. Their children joined them in working on the farm.

Bethel Farms' mission is "honoring God by serving our customers with excellence, innovation, integrity, and teamwork." The farm's vision is "to lead the sod industry through our continual investment in people, products and performance...We never quit." Its core values are "safety, service, integrity, innovation." These words also reflect the character of Will Nugent.

Congratulations to Will on a well-deserved award. His contribution to the turfgrass industry will leave a lasting mark and set an example for generations to come. 🗘

FTRF Scholarship Recipients Honored

he Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation (FTRF) has announced that four Florida students will receive scholarships for the 2021–2022 academic year. Three recipients attend the University of Florida and are preparing for careers in turfgrass management. The fourth student is attending the University of South Florida and preparing for a career in marketing. These students were selected based on their academic record, leadership capabilities and extra-curricular activities. The FTRF is a tax-deductible, 501(c)(3) and is funded through its member's membership contributions. To date the FTRF has awarded \$235,000 in scholarships.

Patrick McLoughlin Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship

Patrick McLoughlin, University of Florida, has been awarded the Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship for \$500. After earning a B.S. in horticultural sciences at Cornell University, and an M.S. in horticultural sciences at Mississippi State, Patrick has turned his focus to turfgrass science in working toward his Ph.D. while working on irrigation projects at UF's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center (FLREC).

Although Patrick is relatively new to the turf sciences, he has recently finished 80% of an aerification trial funded by the Florida GCSA and will present a paper in Utah at the ASA/CSSA/SSSA Conference in Utah.

Dr. Marco Schiavon, University of Florida, says, "Data from [Patrick's] Ph.D. research will greatly benefit both the landscape and the golf industry as he will work with several different turfgrass species including St. Augustinegrass and bermudagrass. In addition to his graduate work, Patrick oversees several of our turfgrass experiments at the FLREC. During his relatively short time under my supervision, Patrick was also able to showcase the results of the research he is conducting during the Sport Turfgrass Managers Association meeting that was hosted At FLREC in July."

Jose Suazo Mejia Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship

Jose Suazo Mejia, University of Florida, has been awarded the Col. Frank Ward Memorial for \$500. Jose earned his bachelor's degree in Honduras and is currently working on a master's degree with a focus on turfgrass breeding and serves as a graduate assistant in the turfgrass breeding program.

He wasn't aware of the importance of the turfgrass industry before moving to America, and he says, "I was fascinated by the amount of work done, not only by producers but also by people on their homes to have a healthy lawn. This pride and enjoyment of keeping a nice turf is something very characteristic of American culture, which I have been able to understand and appreciate with my time here. With more restrictions regarding the management of lawns, it is our work as researchers to keep alive cherished practices like turf production by adapting to more sustainable practices and cultivars."

Jose is working on breeding projects, including a goal of developing low maintenance turfgrass germplasm with improved aesthetic value, under the guidance of Dr. Kevin Kenworthy. Halfway through his master's studies, he has decided to continue his post-graduate education and earn a Ph.D. in turfgrass breeding.

Dr. Kevin Kenworthy says, "Despite the challenges of moving far from home and enduring a pandemic, Jose has made tremendous progress with his degree. He has shown both persistence and determination to complete a research proposal, initiate research projects, and collect data. Jose's research goal is to develop low maintenance turfgrass germplasm with improved aesthetic value."

Emma Mulcahy FTGA Legacy Scholarship

Emma Mulcahy, University of South Florida, has been awarded the third FTGA Legacy Scholarship for \$500. Her father, Jason Mulcahy, is an FTGA member. She is currently working on a bachelor's degree. During high school, Emma was enrolled in a dual program, attending high school and Daytona State College concurrently. She graduated high school and earned an Associate of Arts degree, six months early with a near-perfect GPA. She is a member of the National Honor Society and established Creek Against Cancer, a cancer awareness club while finishing her studies.

Elain Tolvo, Emma's Spanish 3 teacher, has this to say about Emma, "While Emma was also dual enrolling last year, she still came to my class on time, cheerful and ready to learn every day. She was dedicated, motivated and growth minded as she learned Spanish in my class. She also took the initiative and responsibility to take Spanish 4 online while taking Spanish 3 Honors. I will always remember Emma as an exceptionally respectful and pleasant person to work with.

"Emma is also a very generous and compassionate human being. She is deeply committed and dedicated to different Cancer organizations to raise awareness in her school and community. She was also involved in several clubs and the National Honor Society, which is a very demanding club in our school in academics and community service.

"It is rare to witness an honest teenager who works hard and chooses to learn things for herself rather than take short cuts just for a grade. It is students like Emma that motivate teachers like me to keep teaching in our constant changing world!"

Alejandra Sierra Ralph W. White Scholarship

Alejandra Sierra, University of Florida, has been awarded the Ralph White Scholarship for \$500. She earned an undergraduate degree in Honduras and was a faculty member at Zamorano University before earning a master's degree from the University of Florida. She is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program, working with St. Augustinegrass varieties, with an emphasis on UF's newest commercial release, CitraBlue. She is working under the guidance of Dr. Marco Schiavon at UF's FLREC.

"The turf industry is constantly growing. This growth is accompanied by greater customer demands and if we add to this the environmental requirements and the impact of climate change, we realize the need to develop research work aimed at solving current challenges," says Alejandra.

"During my doctoral studies in turf management, I hope to contribute solving some of these challenges by developing research that allows defining management protocols for CitraBlue St. Augustinegrass. In different regions of the state. Additionally, I hope to be able to carry out research oriented to the optimal use of resources."

Dr. Marco Schiavon says, "[Alejandra] has been an assistant professor at Zamorano University for the last 15 years. Under my supervision Alejandra will further pinpoint best management practices for CitraBlue, the newest St. Augustinegrass cultivars available in the market, and will investigate the interaction of water quantity and N amount that are needed to sustain turfgrass quality and functionality in Florida lawns.

As an assistant professor at Zamorano, one of the biggest University in the Caribbean regions, Alejandra has trained a generation of environmentalists, horticulturalists and agronomists for Central America. I strongly believe that Alejandra can be a great asset for the turfgrass industry and turfgrass science where white men presence is predominant. Alejandra has a huge potential to contribute to diversity and reach out to the highest number of people in this industry." ②



arbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club Director of Golf Tim Cann and his golf course maintenance team were selected by Sod Solutions as the "2021 Florida Celebration Golf Course of the Year" Award recipients. The award is given annually to talented maintenance professionals who display excellence in maintaining Celebration® or Latitude 36° Bermudagrass golf courses and sports fields. The award is presented annually at the Florida Turfgrass Association Conference & Show.

Featuring 18-hole courses from Pete & P.B. Dye and Joe Lee, Harbour Ridge offers a quiet sanctuary to contrast a very busy southeast Florida. Developed in the mid-1980s, both courses feature wall-to-wall Celebration Bermudagrass on the tees, roughs and fairways.

Cann, the club's director of golf, has been a golf course superintendent for more than 29 years. When renovating, he explained they were looking for a

turfgrass that over time would aggressively take over any previous bermuda remnants on the course. Celebration has done that job quite well and exceeded their expectations.

"The grasses we had in the past weren't as resilient. They would fail under the environmental conditions we had in the wintertime. The Celebration doesn't go through that same failure that the other grasses have," says Cann.

Previous winners of the award include, Florida Atlantic Softball Stadium, The Country Club of Naples, Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, The Club Pelican Bay in Naples, Admiral's Cove in Jupiter, Orlando FC's Exploria Stadium and North Palm Beach Country Club.

View a profile on Harbour Ridge and learn more online at https://SodSolutionsPro.com/2021-course. Congratulations to Tim and his crew. O

TURF LIFE®





By David Nowakowski, Harrell's, LLC

TGA supports many different sectors of the green industry: golf, landscape, sod and sports. Since they all manage turfgrass, one might think they all have the same issues. This is a partly correct statement, the issues are similar; it is to what degree of each issue that's the difference. All sectors deal with customers, employees, maintenance of the specific environment and mother nature. As I have worked in and with some of these sectors, I thought that their main issue would have been the same across the board. However, this is not the case. We will explore what landscape and sod sectors feel is their number one challenge.

LANDSCAPE MARKET

The landscape industry's frequency on single-customer interactions tends to be daily or weekly, this consists of servicing the account, walk throughs, HOA board meetings and digital communications. Therefore, having meaningful and successful experiences with the customer determines if you succeed or fail.

"Having a successful customer interaction depends on realizing that our industry is a relationship business, not a service maintenance business," states John Kraynik, director of Agronomy at Paradise Lawns and Landscaping. "We are tasked with creating trust and comfort for our customers. This is achieved by training our specialists (managers and technicians) to communicate with the customer through the idea of education, and why and how turfgrass and ornamentals react in certain

situations. We are teaching to create an experience that creates a partnership." Along with verbal communication with a customer, the ability to utilize University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS)

materials and Extension offices proves to be very helpful. You can learn more about UF/IFAS at https://ifas.ufl.edu.

Joseph Berkowitz, Fertilization and Pest Control Division Manager, Baker Commercial Landscaping, states, "Training and education are the biggest hurdles we manage, whether that entails educating our customers or our employees. Customers will use the internet to get part of the info. Sometimes it is helpful; other times, it can lead to a misunderstanding of the issue and how cultural or agronomic practices effect the landscaping." Berkowitz also says, "Training is continuous for our employees, which includes in-person FTGA and IFAS seminars, virtual Harrell's seminars and online CEU courses. Educating our customers consists of attending HOA board meetings to present information, on-site training of specific situations and explanation of how to achieve their desired outcomes."

Training needs to be continuous. Everyone throughout the organization and customer base must stay consistent, support the plan and be open to receiving new information. One of the hardest parts of any plan is sticking to it, being consistent. If you started a monthly or quarterly training, stick to it long term. Also, with an ever-changing environment, being open to new ideas and information helps with achieving success with your customers.

SOD MARKET

The sod producer I spoke with has training and education as something they focus on, although that is not their main area of concern. Labor force issues is one of the biggest issues they address. The increase seen in construction throughout Florida, has proven to be



a challenge with hiring and retaining employees. The construction increase helps with moving inventory. Unfortunately, it also helps to move employees over to the construction industry. The "do more with less" mentality can be achieved through efficiencies created by certain technologies. Automation of equipment has helped with relieving some pressure with these labor issues. One can visit any number of sod farms and find automatic stackers in operation, possibly running two shifts or multiple stackers to meet market demand. This helps to reduce the need of employees to cut and stack sod pallets, freeing them up to complete other tasks on the farm.

Efficiencies are also achieved with the technology used within the spray application equipment. Another farm is currently using GPS and tip-by-tip shutoff, reducing overlap, saving time and product. This sod producer stated an agronomic efficiency they take advantage of, is using a long-term fertilizer during their production cycle to help with fewer trips over a given plot. They first complete their cost analysis of all these efficiencies and determine that within a certain period, they recoup all the initial startup costs and realize savings in labor. The savings can be seen in labor dollars with these efficiencies, it is then translated into a number of employees needed.

BOTH MARKETS

What was interesting to understand, was that even though these two sectors both manage turfgrass in a given environment, their focus on a main issue was different. Whatever the specific issue, landscape managers and sod producers have a plan to achieve their goals. Landscape has a large need for education and training, which can be solved with numerous platforms. Sod producers need specific technologies and techniques to help them increase their efficiencies, which come from many manufacturers working alongside them. What does not differ between sectors are the three things you need for success: the right people; the right equipment; and a clear, concise plan that everyone understands. No matter which market you are a part of, if you have these three things, then you already have all the makings you need for a firm foundation in the coming season.

About Harrell's LLC: In addition to being one of the nation's largest distributors of branded fungicides, herbicides and insecticides, Harrell's produces top-quality, custom blended fertilizers, specialty liquids, and wetting agents. Harrell's guarantees stringent quality control procedures, tight manufacturing specifications and careful selection of raw materials for each product that carries the Harrell's name. They are also the owner, world-class formulator and sole world distributor of POLYON®, the industry's superior controlled-release fertilizer technology. Visit their website at https://harrells.com and follow them on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/HarrellsLLC and on Twitter at https://twitter.com/HarrellsLLC. ②



David Nowakowski is a Lawn Care Operator, Sports and Sod Territory Manager at Harrell's. He is responsible for helping his customers create agronomic solutions and programs. David is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University, where he earned his B.S. in Turfgrass Science. He is also a Certified Sports Field Manager from the SportsTurf Managers Association.



By Valerie Smith, Content Strategist, Sod Solutions Inc.

ith the changing of the seasons also comes the changing of temperatures, weather and soil conditions. It's important that you also adjust St. Augustinegrass maintenance throughout the different seasons as the turf and environment will have different demands. Read below for a compiled list of generic tips to help St. Augustinegrass transition into the colder months ahead. Look for additional information on each tip below in Marketplace on page 31.

START PREPARING ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS LAWNS

FOR FALL with the playlist of six different videos on St. Augustinegrass fall maintenance: mowing, irrigation, fertilization, weed control, insect control and disease control. (https://bit.ly/3maJxsX)



Use the icon in the upper right-hand corner of the video playlist to skip ahead or navigate to different videos.



1. Reduce Mowing for Deeper Roots

When it comes to mowing St. Augustinegrass, a typical height is about 2-4 inches. This can,

however, alter for different cultivars of St. Augustinegrass. Palmetto St. Augustinegrass, for example, performs best in the fall at a height of about 2-2.5 inches while CitraBlue performs best at a height of 2-3 inches. However, during the fall, you should maintain a height that's slightly higher than that of the summer. This encourages deeper root growth so that turf survives during winter dormancy when temperatures get cooler. The roots are what keeps the grass alive underground while the blades above ground endure harsh temperatures.



2. Water Less as Temperatures Drop

In the fall, you'll want to water St. Augustinegrass less as temperatures begin to drop as too much water can lead to disease. It generally only needs about 1 inch of water weekly including rainfall. You will actually





Reduce irrigation as the temperatures drop.

want to water a little less than this during the fall months. Temperatures are changing around this time of year and so are soil conditions. Fall is one of the best times of the year for disease to start appearing—especially when overwatering and shade from fall leaves combine. Disease can be caused by a number of things, but it's usually caused by overwatering, changing temperatures and shade.

Regardless of disease outbreaks, you'll still want to instruct homeowners to water lawns to prevent drought stress while the grass is actively growing. Even though St. Augustinegrass will begin to enter stages of dormancy toward the end of the fall season, light watering will prevent dehydration. Watering it in the early morning will decrease the risk of certain turfgrass diseases.

3. Fertilize Lawns with the **Right Nutrients**

Fertilization differs this time of the year compared to the active growing seasons (spring and summer). As previously stated, outdoor temperatures are starting to change—so are soil conditions. Turf is a living thing that needs specific nutrients at this time. Depending on your service area, St. Augustinegrass will likely enter a state of dormancy.

Sod University recommends two different fertilizer options for the fall; however, you will only need to use one of the two options for fall fertilization. The Lawnifi Fall Fertilizer Box, in particular, has three separate bottles of liquid fertilizer in it that helps lawns recover from the hot summer temperatures it just endured as well as prepare for the cooler temperatures ahead.







Crabgrass.







4. Control Weeds with a Pre- or **Post-Emergent Herbicide**

St. Augustinegrass has just made it through the summer months when herbicide applications damage grass due to hot temperatures. Now that it's starting to cool down, you can apply both post-emergent and pre-emergent herbicides without risking any damage to the lawn if applied properly. You may even notice that the weeds from summertime are starting to die off. Unfortunately, there are winter weeds that will start to pop up when the months are cooler. We recommend applying a pre-emergent during the fall to prevent winter weeds.

Some hard to control weeds that may appear around this time include Poa annua, sedge, crabgrass, goosegrass, chickweed or henbit. There's a difference between pre- and post-emergent herbicide control for weeds. A post-emergent herbicide controls any current weeds you are experiencing whereas a pre-emergent herbicide, as its name suggests, serves to prevent weeds from appearing.

Fall is actually the best time to apply a pre-emergent—especially if winter weeds have been a big problem in the past years. You can also do this in the springtime around March or April. Check out some of our recommended pre-emergent products below and be sure to read labels thoroughly before application. To learn more about pre-emergent applications in the fall and how to identify common lawn weeds, see the resources in Marketplace on page 31.

Pictured from top to bottom: Poa annua, nutsedge, crabgrass, goosegrass, chickweed and henbit.

5. Keep an Eye Out for Insect Infestations

It's better to apply an insecticide as a preventative as opposed to having to resolve an infestation once damage has already occurred it's probably less expensive too. Apply a broad-spectrum insecticide to prevent any harmful insects from taking over St. Augustinegrass. Although there could be a variety of insects invading lawns at this time, the main ones most universities recommend you look out for in St. Augustinegrass are chinch bugs and grub worms. Sod webworms, fall armyworms and mole crickets can also be a problem in St. Augustinegrass lawns at this time. If you detect insect activity, treat with an insecticide labeled to treat that specific pest. Be sure to **read product labels thoroughly before application.** If you use a granular variety, water the lawn immediately after application to help with absorption.

Pictured in the sidebar on page 23, from top to bottom: A chinch bug, grub worms, a sod webworm, a fall armyworm and a mole cricket.

6. Prevent Disease Outbreaks as **Temperatures Change**

We recommend applying a systemic fungicide at preventative rates around the beginning of the fall season or right beforehand. This helps the grass enter colder months in a healthier condition by keeping disease outbreaks at bay.

If you've had a problem with lawn disease around this time before, you may need to make multiple applications of the systemic fungicide in affected areas. If spring dead spot was a problem during the spring, apply a fungicide at high rates to the problem area(s). Spring dead spot is caused by disease

that damages grass during the winter—you just can't see the damage because the grass is brown and dormant until the spring when everything greens up again. Applying a fungicide at a preventive rate will keep it from coming back. Consider mapping those areas because fungicide treatment can be expensive.

If you use a granular variety, water the lawn immediately after application to help soil absorption. Above all, read product label instructions thoroughly before application for detailed instructions.

Tip: Remove any dead leaves

As dead leaves accumulate on the ground during the fall, they create shady, darker spots on the lawn. Light cannot reach these areas and moisture becomes trapped. This quickly damages the grass underneath these spots. When warm season grass goes dormant, it can be difficult to notice any discoloration after the leaves are removed. Come springtime, you will notice the damaged areas while the rest of the grass turns green again. Depending on how many trees are nearby, consider raking once a week.



An image of large patch.

Lastly, lawn patch work and light top dressing with a sand and topsoil mix is a great way to recover any weak areas in lawns that were caused by the summer heat. If you notice any hot spots, apply a light layer of top dressing to help it recover. O



Valerie Smith is the Content Strategist with Sod Solutions *Inc. and the writer for the Sod Solutions educational lawn* and garden blogging platform Sod University. Sod Solutions has helped successfully develop and release over 20 different turfgrass varieties to the market over the past 27 years including Palmetto and CitraBlue St. Augustine, EMPIRE®

and Innovation™ Zoysia and Celebration® and Latitude 36®. Sod Solutions is based in the Charleston, South Carolina, area.



Chinch bug.



Grub worms.



Sod webworm.



Fall armyworm.



Mole cricket.

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Erin's sod genes run back to her great, great uncle, Ed Finlayson.



2013 Field Days



Erin as FTGA President, opening the 2013 Conference and Tradeshow.



MEMBER PROFILE:

Erin Wilder

TGA Past President Erin Wilder grew up in Monticello, Florida, and is a seventh generation agricultural family. "As a child, I spent weekends and summers on my grandparents' farm, pitching in where they would let me. In 1987, my father diversified our row crop and cattle operation, adding sod to our family farm, now known as Boyd Sod Farm in Monticello," she says. Today they still manage over 2000 acres, consisting of row crops, sod and timber managed by her uncle. Erin says her parents, Hines and Janegale Boyd, still operate a portion of the farm with her brother, raising Iberian pigs. When Erin was 21, she officially worked at the family sod farm for a time.

Erin's route to the turfgrass industry wasn't linear. "I always wanted to work with children, so I studied psychology in college at Florida State University," she says.

The Long and Winding Road to the Sod Industry

While at the university, she had her first introduction to agriculture on a professional level while working in public relations for the Florida Watermelon Association.

After college, Erin went to Washington, D.C., where she interned for Florida Senator Bill Nelson. Then it was back to Florida to work on her master's degree; this time, she took a different detour—in the direction of the sod industry. She came full circle, landing at home to work on the family farm in sales and marketing. Erin is a sales and marketing natural, and she found her niche. In the first year, she increased sales by 109%. While she was setting monster sales records, she was also working for the Boys Club and the Girls Club, on alternating days, fulfilling her dream of working with children.

That's when her uncle asked her to manage the entire sod operation, which she did until she decided at age 24 to spread her wings and strike out on her own. She had decided that she wanted children and would need a life with a little more flexibility and a better work-life balance, but she didn't want to walk away from sod.

"At the time, I was on the Florida Sod Growers' Coop Board, and I mentioned to the board members that I was looking to break into the industry outside of the family farm. It was suggested I speak with Tobey Wagner, president of Sod Solutions Inc." While managing Boyd Sod Farm, Erin had licensed to grow Palmetto® St. Augustine and EMPIRE® Zoysia. Growing proprietary grasses was nothing new to her family; her father was the first to license to grow El Toro Zoysia in the south after its release in 1986.

Erin joined Sod Solutions in 2006. While working there, she became a class VII graduate of the Wedgworth Leadership Program. That's where you'll find her today, wearing multiple hats—marketing, education, management, etc.

Erin's Contributions to FTGA

The year 2003 was a big year for Erin. Fresh out of college, she joined FTGA, took some marketing courses, and went to work full time. Before joining



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the FTGA board in 2011, Erin ran FTGA's Young Professionals. At the time, there was a large influx of under-40 members, and Erin was instrumental in integrating those members into the industry and association culture. She served a year as FTGA president, starting in 2013. In addition, she has twice served as guest editor for the fall sod issues of Florida Turf Digest.

While you may think that all of the above contributed to Erin's career in the turfgrass industry, it did, but there's a secret to her career launch. Erin's sod genes run deep. She says, "My great, great uncle, Ed Finlayson, was a county agent and the individual who brought (Pensacola) bahiagrass back to the state of Florida to feed the cattle. This was a big pivot in the bahai world. He was long-time president of Florida Farm Bureau, and during his tenure, the headquarters was built in Gainesville, Florida.

Today, Erin has her hands full professionally and personally. In addition to her career responsibilities, board committees and community involvement, she and her commercial real estate attorney husband, Bedford, are raising two beautiful children, ages 2 and 5. Imagine that when you've had a tough day at work. ۞



2015 FTGA Tradeshow with former Commissioner of Agriculture of Florida, Adam Putnam.



TPI Armadillo Races.



The Wilder family, 2021.



Marketplace

Ideas, People, Events, Products, Promotions, Sound Bytes, Etc.

PEOPLE & ACCOLADES



Betsy McGill with Past President Mac Carraway.

Unsung Hero: Betsy McGill, Turfgrass Producers of Florida

Florida Turfgrass Producers of Florida Executive Director Betsy McGill has been a member of the agriculture industry since 1998 and part of the turfgrass family since 2003. She works diligently in the background without any thoughts of recognition or fanfare for her work. We are overdue in passing the baton of Unsung Hero to her.

Born in southwest Mississippi, she made Florida her home in 1998. Betsy's Mississippi roots run deep. She says, "My family has lived in the same area since about 1820. Several cousins still live on the same parcel of land my grandfather farmed for over 60 years."

She first left Mississippi to attend Southeastern Louisiana University, where she earned a B.A. degree in history and a teaching certification in elementary education. After graduation, she worked for a regional hospital in community education before moving to Colorado, where she served as a professional relations coordinator for two major laser vision correction institutions.

When Betsy made Florida her home in 1998, she began working for the Gulf Citrus Growers Association in Member and Industry Relations for four years before settling in at what was then Florida Sod Growers Cooperative and is now Turfgrass Producers of Florida (TPF) in 2003. Today, as executive director of TPF, she is the only employee. That's because she can do the work of two or more people.

In fact, Betsy works tirelessly for the turfgrass industry at large. She has served on the FTGA Board of Directors, on the board and president of the Agriculture Institute of Florida (now Agriculture Communicators of Florida), on the EREF board, on committees to develop the Best Management Practices for Florida Sod programs with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Office of Agricultural Water Policy (both the original manual in 2008 and the current revision) and on several advisory committees for the University of Florida.

"I work for some of the best people in the world. They're committed to the industry and highly supportive of the association as a way to address issues collaboratively. In fact, many of the people I work with have been members for as long as I've been with the organization (and some much longer). It's truly like working for great friends," says Betsy.

What Betsy doesn't say is that she is a highly valued friend of the industry and FTGA members. Her continual service and friendship as expressed through works led her to receive FTGA's highest award for service to the industry, the Wreath of Grass, in 2013.

Like many FTGA members, Betsy had other plans for her career route. She says, "I originally went to the university to study music, intending to become a concert pianist—until they showed me to the practices rooms and informed me that I'd be expected to put in at least six hours a day there. My 17-year-old self quickly decided that there were other ways I'd rather spend those 42 hours a week!"

We're delighted that Betsy took a path a little better traveled, and we're thankful that we can call her friend—a friend who doesn't wait to be asked for help but jumps in wherever she sees a need.



Betsy on the Maine River.

EDITOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Submissions for Marketplace

You may notice we often highlight the same companies in Marketplace. We would like to print your company news, but we need to know about it to print it. We are once again inviting you to submit entries to heather@FTGA.org or editor@FTGA.org for inclusion in Marketplace on a first-come, space-available basis.

Correction

Last issue, we failed to include a last-minute correction in Dr. Billy Crow's article, "Diagnosis, Nematodes," and we extend our apologies to Dr. Crow. We swapped the photos of root-knot and sting nematodes without swapping the captions. The photos with corrected captions are:



Sting nematodes spend their entire life in soil and are best diagnosed using soil extraction. Photo credit: Dr. Billy Crow.



Root-knot nematodes spend most of their life inside of roots and are best diagnosed using mist extraction. Photo credit: Dr. Billy Crow

Visit Dr. Crow's Nematode Assay Lab webpage https://bit.ly/3F9w0PW.

PEOPLE

Congratulations, Dr. Bonnie Wells



Dr. Bonnie Wells, University of Florida Extension won the Best Feature Story Communications Award (State and Regional Award Winner) from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA). The winning article was "The Curious Case of the Bermudagrass Mite," her article that appeared in the 2020 Summer issue of Florida Turf Digest.

We did not have space to run Marketplace in the last issue, so we

want to take this opportunity to say a proper thank-you to Dr. Wells for her help on this year's summer issue as guest editor as well as her contribution of another great article.

Thank You, Erin Wilder



Once again, we would like to thank Past President Erin Wilder for serving as our guest editor this issue. How she finds the time to work full time, take care of two small children and lend to

us at the same time remains a mystery, but we're thankful for her service.

Everglades Equipment Group Names Site Manager for Launch in Homestead



Florida-based Everglades Equipment Group, the largest John Deere dealer in the state, has expanded its presence into Miami-Dade County with a store location in Homestead. The move

will bring a new level of customer service and equipment excellence to the area. Everglades will begin its operations in a temporary space at 1995 NE 8th St. in Homestead, from which it will move into a new permanent site in November of this year

Homestead native, Bobby Doyle, will serve as site manager. He previously owned and operated two small businesses and has 15 years of experience in the agricultural equipment industry.

"I am proud to serve the Miami-Dade community in this new role, and am honored to work for Everglades," says Doyle. "The South Florida community has unique needs, and our Everglades team is trained and prepared to meet and exceed expectations for the long haul.

Bayer Welcomes Adam Ellison To Turf and Ornamentals Team as Area Sales Manager

•••••



The Turf and Ornamentals business of Bayer has tapped veteran golf course superintendent, Adam Ellison, to serve as area sales manager in Central Florida. Ellison brings more than 10 years of experience as a golf course superintendent to this role. He is responsible for managing customer and distributor relationships in the golf and lawn and landscape sectors.

"A long-time superintendent, Adam is an excellent addition to the Bayer Turf and Ornamentals team," says Mike Ruizzo, southern region manager for U.S. Turf and Ornamentals. "He fully understands the quality service and products that superintendents and lawncare operators need to achieve their best. We are excited for our customers to see his knowledge and passion."

Ellison most recently served as a Class A golf course superintendent at Grasslands Golf and Country Club in Lakeland, Florida. He has also worked at various golf clubs in Florida during his career. Ellison holds a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Eastern Kentucky University and is an Eagle Scout. He lives in Lakeland, Florida, with his wife and daughters and enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and outdoor activities.

"I have always admired Bayer products and am honored to join the team," said Ellison. "I am thrilled to bring the quality service superintendents and lawncare operators expect from Bayer to help them achieve consistently beautiful and healthy turf."

Lawn of the Future? **Q&A** with Dr. Phil Dwyer, Scotts **R&D Principal**



So many brands, products and ideas claim to be the something "of the future." Car of the future. Home of the future. Breakfast of the future. It's a buzzy phrase, but we're looking to go beyond the buzz. We're excited to chat with Phil Dwyer, head of research at Scotts®. Phil is here to talk about a true innovation and the future of lawns.



- **Q.** Hi Phil, let's jump right into Scotts ProVista™. Take us back to the inspiration and years of development of this grass.
- A. The inspiration for Scotts ProVista started with time and sustainability.

In talking to homeowners, we understood that people are really limited with the amount of free time they have to work on the yard. They want to enjoy their outdoor spaces, but they just don't have a lot of time for maintenance. Even professionals—hired by these homeowners—struggle to find time or labor to service all their clients to the level they desire.

And even with all the work that needs to be done, many people recognize the importance of the environment and how much we need to focus on sustainability for the future.

So the Scotts R&D team went to work, and after more than 20 years of dedication to this project, we developed a lawn solution that requires half the mowing and less inputs, which of course saves time and also is more sustainable for the planet.

- Q. What makes it possible for people to mow half as often with ProVista?
- A. We took the most popular variety of St. Augustinegrass for home lawns, 'Floratam,' and made it much, much better. Specifically, we reduced the speed and amount of vertical growth. So, the grass grows slower and requires less mowing.

It sounds simple, but our turfgrass experts spent years developing and testing hundreds of varieties to make sure we delivered the best turfgrass possible.

- **Q.** What else can you tell us about ProVista?
- A. As a result of the reduced vertical growth, ProVista is able to re-use its energy to thrive in both sunny and shaded areas and to maintain great density and color with less fertilizer. As well, the grass can be kept completely weed-free—professionals can remove invasive, grassy weeds like common Bermudagrass without harming the turf.

All these benefits add to the sustainability story professionals can share with their clients. Homeowners can spend more time

cooking on the grill or kicking the soccer ball around with the kids, and they can help with sustainability at the same time. Professionals can serve more clients and get more referrals from the beautiful lawns they maintain.

- **Q.** A lawn of the future?
- A. You could certainly say so. We would prefer to call it true innovation. And it's available today.
- Q. How can our readers get this new grass?
- A. Scotts ProVista St. Augustinegrass is available as sod throughout Florida from a network of the state's best sod growers.
- Q. What can you tell us about the breakfast of the future?
- A. Ha-ha, breakfast is an important meal, but I'm strictly a turfgrass expert. We're excited to share this product with your readers and their customers. Scotts ProVista is an eco-conscious lawn designed for today's homeowner and for your reader's business, so it's really a win-win all around.



RESOURCES

Fall St. Augustinegrass Maintenance Tips from Sod Solutions Sod University



These resources accompany the article "Fall Maintenance Tips for Your St. Augustinegrass Lawn" on page 18, and they contain in-depth information of each topic.

Tip 1. Mowing Heights

Lawn Mowing Guide - https://bit.ly/3kSC3LA

Tip 2. Water Less as Temperature Drop

How to Manage Falling Leaves https://bit.ly/3zXJrd0 Lawn Irrigation Guide - https://bit.ly/3CXGyLk

Tip 3. Fertilize Lawns with the Right **Nutrients**

Fall Fertilizer Box - https://bit.ly/3mcgjmB Eliminating Hot Spots - https://bit.ly/3F5Nxnl

Tip 4. Pre- and Post-Emergents

How to Use Pre-Emergents in the Fall https://bit.ly/3F5NXda

Tip 5. Insect Infestations

Insect Identification - https://bit.ly/3kTcDNX Grub worms - https://bit.ly/39NyzE3

Tips 6. Prevent Disease Outbreaks as **Temperatures Change**

Beware of Late Fall Fungus for Warm Season Lawns - https://bit.ly/3F3z77b Lawn Disease Control https://bit.ly/3D6m0Aq

STEALS & DEALS

Harrell's Early Order Program



Visit https://harrells.com/Products/EOP to learn more or contact your Harrell's representative.

Sod Solutions



Visit https://sodsolutions.com/fall-pre-emergent and use the promo code FALLWEEDS to receive a 5% discount.

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Army Corps to change approach at Lake 0.



After months of evaluation and public input, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is modifying its management of Lake Okeechobee water discharges. The change primarily affects how and when lake overflows are allowed to spill into surrounding water bodies. For residents of South Florida, the Corps says the revisions will improve water quality in estuaries and rivers while reducing harmful algal



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blooms. The plan still faces several months of additional public input and refinement before it takes effect, and it's slated to undergo another rewrite near the end of this decade upon completion of the Everglades Agricultural Area reservoir.

Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Facility Opens



In August, Gov. DeSantis was joined by leaders in the state's efforts to combat red tide to celebrate the ribbon cutting of the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Facility at Mote Marine Laboratory. This cutting-edge experimental facility at Mote Aquaculture Research Park in Sarasota will allow scientists to test compounds and technologies prior to pilot field implementation.

"The new Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Facility at Mote Marine Lab will provide scientists the ability to research red tide, and hopefully lead to new technologies that prevent and mitigate harmful blooms. I am proud that we were able to create this facility through a state partnership between FWC, DEP and Mote Marine, and I look forward to putting it to work," said the governor during his remarks.

View a video of the governor's remarks at https://bit.ly/3FhKxEz.

Early Bird Registration for the **68th Annual Conference** ends October 22

SOUND BYTES

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation **Commission Red Tide Tracker**

https://bit.ly/2ZLYk5l



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IN MEMORIAM

FTGA is saddened by the recent deaths of our members. We express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Russ Cooper, Jim Mantey and Keith Vinson.



RUSS COOPER

Russ lived in Franklin County, Florida, and was a golf course superintendent at Killearn Country Club and a valued FTGA member. Unfortunately, we have no further information to pass along at this time other than our deepest sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues.



IIM MANTEY

James "Jim" Robert Mantey passed away peacefully at his home in Boca Raton, Florida, on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, following a courageous battle with cancer. He was 80. With a charitable heart, a joy of humor, and endless love of family and friends, Jim touched the lives of all who knew him.

Born June 6, 1941 in a small town outside Denver, CO called Fort Morgan. He earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and went on to pursue an MBA in finance from Wharton.

Jim moved to South Florida with his family in the early '70s, and in 1982, purchased a Toro distributorship in Miami called Hector Turf. He had a true passion for the business and remained President and CEO until his death. He had been a long-time FTGA member.

A funeral mass was held at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Boca Raton on Saturday September 18th at 9:15am.



FTGA member Keith Dustin Vinson, age 43, passed away Friday, September 3, 2021, in Sebring, Florida. He was born May 3, 1978, in Lake Wales, Florida, to Paul Vinson and Donna Teal. He had been a lifelong resident of Avon Park and was director of farming for the Southwest Florida Farm, the Loving Group.

Keith is survived by his mother, Donna Teal Massey, of Avon Park, Florida; father, Paul Vinson, of Avon Park, Florida; and brother, Wayne Vinson (Holly), of Keystone Heights, Florida. Keith was a loving uncle to Jagger, Havanna and Raegan Vinson. We know that Keith is now with his twin brother, Heath, and is loved here on earth as well as in Heaven.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. at Avon Park Lakes Baptist Church.







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Complete weed control - including invasive, grassy weeds

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Our lawns are more important than they have ever been. Homeowners need them to become soccer fields and outdoor living rooms. They don't want to spend time taking care of them. That's why they hired you.

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- More differentiation and referrals resulting from fewer issues and more clients satisfied with the beauty and sustainability of their lawn and the success of your team

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