

# FLORIDA

TURF



DIGEST

VOL. 40 / NO. 5

Fall 2022

## COLLABORATIVE BREEDING SUCCESS

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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SUSTAINABILITY  
THROUGH UNITY

# 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2022

OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE · CHAMPIONSGATE, FL

When Institutions Have  
a Common Goal

Also in this issue:

Hurricane Ian Relief

Prescription for  
Healthy Palms

EREF Update





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Jupiter, FL

## James Sprankle

Superintendent

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– James Sprankle, Superintendent – Loxahatchee Club



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# FLORIDA TURF DIGEST

FLORIDA TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2022  
VOL. 40 / NO. 5

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## President's Message

By Lance Tibbetts, FTGA President

# The Best-Laid Plans...

Just as our conference planning kicked into high gear, Mother Nature had other plans in mind. Along came Hurricane Ian with the fury of a lion. He ripped into Florida's West Coast, decimating Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, and the barrier islands. Our hearts go out to all who were severely affected, and we want to thank our board members, association members and staff, and industry professionals who lent a helping hand to those in need. Gov. DeSantis worked to restore the bridges to the barrier islands so the residents could receive help from the mainland.

At FTGA, we are working toward getting back to normal. We know it won't be an easy road for many of you. However, the cleanup for those less affected has gone extremely fast, and we wish the same for all.

In 2017, after Hurricane Irma, the board of directors set up a Benevolent Fund through Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation to aid those affected by a crisis. We encourage you to make a donation if you can. For those who need a little extra assistance, we are offering up to \$250 to help those who qualify. Please visit <https://www.ftga.org/page/BenevolenceFund> to make a donation or submit a request for funds.

As we attempt to transition back to some form of normalcy, we turn the association's attention to membership and the 69th Annual FTGA Conference, November 8–10 at the Omni Championsgate Resort. The room discount has expired, but you may still be able to get a room on a space- and rate-available basis. There are also many hotels within a short distance of the Omni ChampionsGate.

We have an excellent menu of educational presentations this year, with a very special keynote speaker: Dr. Brian Lapointe, Research Professor in the Marine Ecosystem Health Program at Florida Atlantic University (FAU)—Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) in Ft. Pierce, Florida. He is internationally renowned for his research on water quality and harmful algal blooms in tropical and subtropical seagrass and coral reef ecosystems.

This year, we have upgraded the Corn Boil, our premier networking and fun event. We will hold it outdoors in a beautiful setting, weather permitting. In addition, three grill teams will cook the entrees: Carolina Fresh Farms, Envu and SiteOne Landscape. The last-quarter membership drive is still in effect. See page 15 in this issue for full details. Remember, even with a discounted membership, you receive the full member discount on the conference. Give us a try; you'll like us.

In closing, I would like to thank you for entrusting me with the honor of serving our association as your president. It's been both a challenging and rewarding year, and it's been worth it every minute. Over the past few years, we have survived COVID together, and will survive Hurricane Ian together. The saying, "Never give in; never give up," comes to mind. Let's remember that as we face the year ahead. Let us concentrate on our successes and work together to ensure more of them in the future. I know that with your continued support, we can keep our industry as one of Florida's leading industries, ensuring our individual success stories. I'm not going anywhere. As I turn over the gavel to your new president, I will continue to do my part for years to come. 🌱

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(Continued from page 4)

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## From the Acting Executive Director

By Mac Carraway, Acting Executive Director

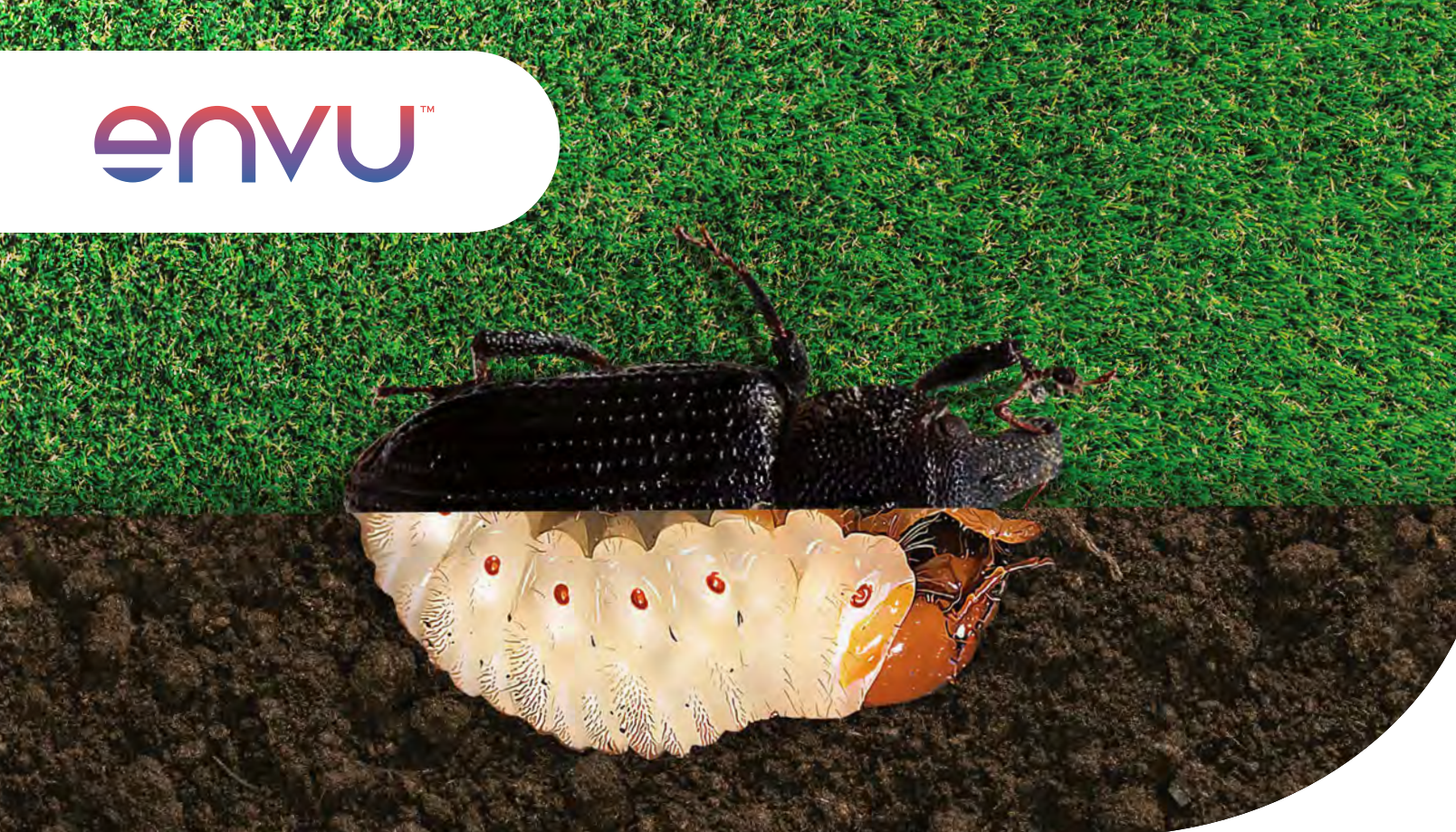
Where does a year go? Yikes. It seems like not that long ago, I was driving around the state to attend the FTGA's excellent Turf Seminars. It had been a while since I had done that, and it always serves as a reminder of how important face-to-face contact is in our industry. The conversations among attendees and between them and our awesome sponsors are essential to problem-solving, professional growth and industry solidarity.

Speaking of our sponsors, I have been thinking a lot about them, both in terms of the Turf Seminars and the Annual Conference. And I mean "a lot." Having been a member of the FTGA for 17 years, having served on committees, on the board, as president, and now, as the acting executive director, I have seen a lot of our sponsors and have seen them in action.

Let me share with you a few things about them:

- They are intensely loyal to the FTGA through good times and bad. I think back to the obvious upheavals like the Great Recession and, more recently, the COVID pandemic. There have been other economic ups and downs with the FTGA and many other trade associations over the years as well. Through all that, it has been humbling to see the commitments from sponsors keep coming in year after year. There are many stalwarts, as well as those who may only sponsor certain things. In all, *they are our champions*.
- They are *great people*. I know from my own interactions with our sponsors that they are regular people, nice people and people of integrity. They understand how hard it can be to run a turf-related business (they do it too), how the industry can be a target of false narratives and just how plainly difficult the work can be. They strive to help, to offer solutions and to be there to help keep the wheels on.
- They are *smart people*. One of my favorite parts of the Turf Seminars is the time when our sponsors get a few minutes to talk about their products and services. Even in that brief time, you get a preview of their efforts, their research, their investments, their field work and their commitment to making things better and easier for our members. They are the face of ingenuity and soldiers in a constant effort to work better and smarter.
- Finally, *they understand the idea of survival in the long game*. Growing grass, caretaking a golf course or sports field, and caring for residential greenspaces is not for short-timers or the faint of heart. Add to that the almost constant drone of activist complaints and related attacks on agrichemicals and water use. Our sponsors are neck-deep in all of that, fighting the good fight in their own shops and shoulder-to-shoulder with their association partners.

I trust you will take these thoughts at face value. Please reflect for at least a few moments on how important our sponsors are to the FTGA and to your work. Then...take the time to THANK THEM—as I do from the bottom of my heart. 🌱



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# COLLABORATIVE BREEDING SUCCESS:

When Institutions  
Have a Common Goal





Photo Credit: Dr. Kevin Kenworthy

*By Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, University of Florida (UF) IFAS and Dr. Ambika Chandra, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, a member of the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS)*

By the late 1960s, things looked bleak for Texas sod producers. Lawns and sod fields were being ravaged by what was eventually identified as St. Augustine Decline (SAD), a viral disease first diagnosed in 1955 on switch grass in Kansas, and by 1966, in St. Augustinegrass in Texas.

SAD-infected cultivars turned a mottled yellow, often followed by rapid decline, necrosis of blades and stolons, and eventually death. The virus spread easily via mowers and equipment, and no effective treatments could be identified.

Researchers felt it likely that St. Augustine Decline would make its way to Florida, where the SAD-susceptible cultivars ‘Bitterblue’ and ‘Floratine’ were widely used. It became clear that identifying or developing resistant cultivars was critical.

Breeding a new turf cultivar can be a slow process,

often taking a decade or more. Breeding programs can also be limited in their ability to screen plants across a wide range of environments, which can add years to the evaluation process and may result in releases that are limited in their use across different geographic regions. But if institutions pool resources and material, the process is not only more robust but can take significantly less time. This is exactly what occurred between the University of Florida and Texas A&M in response to the St. Augustine Decline crisis.

A massive screening effort of experimental lines of St. Augustinegrass from Florida and Texas was initiated in greenhouses in 1968, followed by field experiments in 1969. The most promising experimental lines were planted in SAD-affected lawns throughout Texas in 1970 and 1971.

A few of these lines remained free of SAD across all



Dr. Ambika Chandra



Lazer™ zoysiagrass



Dr. Kevin Kenworthy  
Photo credit: Erin Wilder

testing locations, including one which originated from a seedling developed in 1960 at the University of Florida. This seedling would eventually be released in 1973 as ‘Floratom’, which became the foundation of Florida’s sod and landscape industries and is still widely used almost 50 years later. (Read on to learn more about Floratom’s fate in Texas.)

The longevity of Floratom is an ongoing reminder that collaboration often equals success and that positive things happen when producers work together for a common goal. This continues to be true in breeding-improved turfgrasses for use across the southern United States, as collaborations are actively underway between TAMUS and UF.

Dr. Kevin Kenworthy (UF turfgrass breeder since 2004) worked in the TAMUS breeding program before pursuing his Ph.D. Because of this relationship, TAMUS shared some of its extensive worldwide collection of zoysiagrass with UF. As a result, many of the advanced zoysiagrass lines in the UF program can trace back to TAMUS. One of the original lines shared with UF, ‘DALZ 1308’, was recently commercialized by TAMUS as ‘Lazer™’ zoysiagrass for use on golf course putting greens. Years of evaluation at UF (2005–2016) contributed to the TAMUS decision to release DALZ 1308. This is the first putting green zoysiagrass that was experimentally tested as part of its development in Florida. Lazer™ has exceptional density, dark green color and is well-adapted for use on putting greens in Texas

and Florida (2013 warm-season putting greens National Turfgrass Evaluation Program; NTEP).

In 2007, Dr. Ambika Chandra assumed leadership of the TAMUS turfgrass breeding program. Beginning in 2010, Dr. Chandra initiated a collaborative research effort that included TAMUS, UF, Oklahoma State University, The University of Georgia and North Carolina State University. These institutions acquired federal funds to begin collaborative breeding efforts to address water use and drought responses in warm-season turfgrasses. Given their associated large turfgrass and sod industries, population growth and water use issues, the evaluations in Florida and Texas have proven to be critical locations for assessment of drought. Collaborative evaluations in these environments with differing climates and types of drought (i.e., short-term in Florida compared to long-term in Texas) have served to shorten the time needed for release. Associated with these efforts are the release of ‘DALSA 0605’ St. Augustinegrass by TAMUS (commercialized as ‘TamStar™’) and ‘FSA 1602’ St. Augustinegrass by UF (commercialized as ‘CitraBlue™’). In addition, UF released four zoysiagrasses that were collaboratively evaluated in this project. One of these, ‘FAES 1307’, is being commercialized as ‘CitraZoy™’ Due to collaborative research, the drought responses of these releases are well documented, and their use will increase the sustainability of the turfgrass industry. In addition, UF released four zoysiagrasses that were collaboratively

evaluated in this project. One of these, 'FAES 1307', is being commercialized as 'CitraZoy™'. A more direct contribution of TAMUS towards UF's development of 'CitraZoy™' is that one of its parents is one of the TAMUS lines shared with UF in 2004.

St. Augustinegrass is immensely important to the sod and landscape industries of Florida and Texas. Even so, St. Augustinegrass has recognized pest problems such as chinch bugs and grey leaf spot as well as sensitivity to drought and cold stress. Breeding for improvement of St. Augustinegrass is limited because we have limited genetic diversity in our breeding programs and because different races of St. Augustinegrass have different numbers of chromosomes. Differences in chromosome numbers between parents reduce the chances of making successful crosses for improvement of traits.

To help overcome this breeding barrier, Dr. Chandra's program at TAMUS pioneered the embryo rescue technology in St. Augustinegrass that increases the probability of producing seedlings from parents with different numbers of chromosomes. The use of this technology resulted in the development of drought-resistant St. Augustinegrass hybrids like 'DALSA 1618', which performed in the top statistical group in the 2016 St. Augustinegrass NTEP trial. DALSA 1618 was one of the most drought-resistant entries tested between the five above universities. It has since been commercialized as 'Cobalt™' and is in the early stages of evaluation and expansion with Florida sod growers.

Dr. Kenworthy's program adapted these techniques for use in the program at UF. However, TAMUS has taken its ability to produce hybrids from distant relatives a step further. St. Augustinegrass belongs to the genus, *Stenotaphrum*. A relative within the genus is pembagrass (*Stenotaphrum dimidiatum*). Pembagrass is resistant to chinch bugs, grey leaf spot and sting nematodes. Normally it is not possible to make crosses between pembagrass and St. Augustinegrass; however, TAMUS created several hybrids between these species using embryo rescue. Making hybrids between two distantly related species can increase genetic variation and increase the potential for improvement of the desired species. In this case, the goal is to transfer favorable traits from pembagrass into St. Augustinegrass. Unfortunately, pembagrass is very susceptible to cold, and these hybrids struggle to survive winters in Dallas, Texas, where the TAMUS program is located.

Because much of Florida's climate is subtropical, these hybrids developed by TAMUS could have

significant merit for use in Florida. In 2017, 125 of these TAMUS hybrids were planted by the UF turfgrass breeding program along with five St. Augustinegrass cultivars. Several of these hybrids performed well; however, we have determined that they are still too similar to pembagrass and not commercially viable. The current plants need to be backcrossed with St. Augustinegrass. This process will make the next generation more like St. Augustinegrass and less like pembagrass. UF and TAMUS are entering an agreement that allows UF to cross the original hybrids to back to UF St. Augustinegrass lines. Time will tell, but we hope one of the backcross progeny will be well adapted for commercial production in Florida and contain the few desirable traits from pembagrass.

The University of Florida and Texas A&M University are competitors. This is easily observed on athletic fields and in claims of academic prominence between institutions. The turf breeding programs also compete. Both programs want to produce cultivars that are profitable for producers, are climate resilient and serve to increase the sustainability of the turfgrass industry. However, history proves that collaborative approaches are the keys to success. Just as a UF line screened by TAMUS for SAD resistance resulted in the release of Floratam, the two universities continue to work collaboratively to bring new options to the market.

How did Floratam fare in Texas? According to Dr. Chandra, Floratam never became as popular in Texas as it did in Florida because it is sensitive to cold stress and experienced significant winter kill, especially in north Texas. 🌱

This article first appeared in the Winter 2021 issue of *Clippings*, the official publication of Turfgrass Producers of Florida, and was updated in October 2022.



*Dr. Kevin Kenworthy is a professor at the University of Florida. He serves as the lead investigator for warm-season turfgrass development and works closely with the Turfgrass Producers of Florida. You can contact Dr. Kenworthy by email at [kenworth@ufl.edu](mailto:kenworth@ufl.edu).*



*Dr. Ambika Chandra is a professor at The Texas A&M University System. Her primary responsibility and research interest is breeding (applied and molecular) and cultivar development of warm- and cool-season turfgrass species for use in home lawns, athletic fields and golf courses. You can contact Dr. Chandra at [Ambika.Chandra@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ambika.Chandra@ag.tamu.edu).*



SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH UNITY

# 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

FLORIDA  
TURFGRASS  
ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 8-10, 2022

OMNI CHAMPIONSGATE • CHAMPIONSGATE, FL

## THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS



## CONFERENCE SPONSORS



# 2022 CONFERENCE AGENDA

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Golf BMP Education  
 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. FTGA Board of Directors Meeting  
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. FTGA Board of Directors Dinner

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. FTGA Registration  
 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast **\*\*New\*\***  
 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Scramble Golf Tournament  
 Noon – 4:00 p.m. Sports Turf Tour  
 Noon – 4:00 p.m. CORE & Turf CEU Workshop  
 6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Opening Reception  
 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Corn Boil  
 • Cornhole 50/50 Challenge  
 • 50/50 Raffle

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. FTGA Registration  
 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast with Vendors  
 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. FTGA Past Presidents' Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Educational Workshops  
 • Athletic Field Management Workshop  
 • Golf Management Workshop  
 • Landscape & Irrigation Management Workshop  
 • Sod Management Workshop  
 11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch  
 1:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. Water Issues Roundtable

## 2022 CONFERENCE CEU INFORMATION

CEU WORKSHOPS	FDACS									GCSAA	FNGLA
	482 CORE	487 CORE	PRIVATE APPLICATOR AG	ORNAMENTAL & TURF	LIMITED URBAN FERTILIZER	LIMITED LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE	LIMITED LAWN & ORNAMENTAL	COMMERCIAL LAWN & ORNAMENTAL	MAX CEUS EARNED PER SESSION	MAX CEUS EARNED PER SESSION	MAX CEUS EARNED PER SESSION
GOLF BMP WORKSHOP	2	2	4	4	1	0	0	4	7	.60	8
CORE & TURF CEU WORKSHOP	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	.30	4
LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION WORKSHOP	0	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	.20	2
ATHLETIC FIELD WORKSHOP	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	2
GOLF WORKSHOP	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	.20	2
SOD WORKSHOP	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	2
WATER ISSUES ROUNDTABLE	0	0	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	.30	2

## TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

TIME	GOLF BMP EDUCATION	SPEAKERS
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Introduction	Ralph Dain GCSAA
8:15 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.	Environmental Concepts	
8:35 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.	Environmental Monitoring	
8:55 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Design & Construction	
9:15 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.	BREAK	
9:25 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	Irrigation	Don Rainey UFIFAS
10:20 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Nutrition & Fertilization	Dr. J. Bryan Unruh University of Florida
11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK	
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Turfgrass Pest Management	Dr. J. Bryan Unruh University of Florida
12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Pesticide Management	
1:00 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.	Lake & Aquatic Plant Management	Dr. Bonnie Wells UFIFAS Brevard County Extension
1:55 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.	BREAK	
2:05 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.	Cultural Practices	Ralph Dain GCSAA
2:50 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Maintenance Operations	
3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Test	Dr. J. Bryan Unruh University of Florida

## WEDNESDAY WORKSHOP

TIME	CORE & TURF CEU WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	BOX LUNCH	
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	<b>Pesticide Licenses, Updates on Certification &amp; Training Standards</b> - This presentation will discuss the process of getting and keeping a pesticide license in the state of Florida. Category distinctions will be discussed as well as the logic behind why licenses are needed in the first place. Finally an update will be provided about the status of the Certification and Training updates by EPA and what it means for Florida applicators.	<b>Dr. Brett Bultemeier</b> <i>University of Florida</i>
1:20 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.	<b>How Pesticides Breakdown Naturally in the Environment</b> - This presentation will discuss Florida soil types and physical properties, along with the biological and chemical processes that start to work on pesticide molecules. This information will train applicators how to assess common ingredients and their longevity in soils, and how to prevent pollution of these chemicals in the future to protect Florida's natural resources.	<b>Prissy Fletcher</b> <i>UF/IFAS St. John's County Extension</i>
2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	BREAK	
2:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	<b>Viral Update: SCMV &amp; Lethal Viral Necrosis of St. Augustinegrass</b> - Review of the distribution and symptoms of the viral disease of St. Augustinegrass, mosaic. Results of ongoing and plans for future research will be presented on screening efforts to continue to identify tolerant varieties, potential RNA interference technologies and more.	<b>Dr. Phil Harmon</b> <i>University of Florida</i>
3:10 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Nematode Diagnosis &amp; Management on Turfgrasses &amp; Ornamentals</b> - Overview of the kinds of nematodes that are common problems on turf and ornamentals in Florida. Learn how to recognize nematode symptoms, collect nematode samples, interpret nematode lab reports and manage nematode pests.	<b>Dr. Billy Crow</b> <i>University of Florida</i>

## THURSDAY WORKSHOP & EVENTS

TIME	LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	<b>Maximizing Irrigation Efficiency in Planting Areas</b> - Learn how to optimize irrigation efficiency through design, best practices and proper product application, and minimize water waste while maintaining optimal plant health.	<b>Brian Walker</b> <i>FIS Outdoor</i>
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	<b>Insect Integrated Pest Management on Landscape Plants</b> - During this session, we will discuss pest and beneficial insects that commonly occur in urban landscapes. We will also discuss how to identify these organisms, the biology and management of the most common and difficult to manage pests, and factors that contribute to pest outbreaks. We will discuss the biology and management of both lawn and ornamental plant insects and the latest integrate pest management research from the University of Florida. Finally, we will discuss emerging insect pests of ornamental plants and recent research from UF on how to manage them most effectively and sustainably.	<b>Dr. Adam Dale</b> <i>University of Florida</i>
TIME	ATHLETIC FIELD MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	<b>Maintaining Engineered Infield Soils on Baseball &amp; Softball Fields</b> - This session attendees will learn how to switch from a native soil infield material to an engineered infield soil. Discussion will be of the pros and cons, challenges and successes of maintaining an engineered infield soil.	<b>Rick Perruzzi</b> <i>City of South Portland</i>
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	<b>Field Painting 101 &amp; Logo Stencil Basic Training</b> - Spend some time learning about what goes into field marking paint that sets it apart from other typical coating such as wall paint or pavement paint. We will explore Pioneer Athletics' line of natural grass and synthetic turf paints in both bulk and aerosol options and how they are applied by machine. Finally, we will get our hands dirty by learning some basic logo stencil painting techniques.	<b>Brett Hoyer</b> <i>Pioneer Athletics</i>
TIME	GOLF MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	<b>Benchmarking BMPs - Documenting Evidence of Change</b> - BMPs are aimed at reducing environmental impact of golf course management. Attendees will gain perspective on how best to document the impacts of their management practices and to assess whether improvements are warranted. Additionally, learners will be introduced to easily adopted, low-cost fertilizer and pesticide use best management practices that can be implemented on their facility.	<b>Dr. J. Bryan Unruh</b> <i>University of Florida</i>
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	<b>New &amp; Upcoming Tools for Nematode Management on Golf Course Turf</b> - The University of Florida's research indicates that use of the same nematicide over and over on turf can lead to nematicide resistance. Learn about how the current nematicides, and soon-to-be-labeled nematicides, work against each of the major nematodes impacting golf turf in Florida. Also, learn how nematicide rotations using different nematicide classes can be implemented to reduce the incidence of nematicide resistance.	<b>Dr. Billy Crow</b> <i>University of Florida</i>
TIME	SOD MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP	SPEAKERS
9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.	<b>The Life Cycle of a New Turfgrass: From Development to Market</b> - This presentation will cover the process of bringing a new turfgrass to the market, starting with initiation of the development and research phases. It will include the practice of working with land grant universities to introduce new breeding programs and gather the necessary industry support and funding for the development and research of new turfgrasses. The criteria for selecting new turfgrasses will be explained, and examples of several grasses and their paths to the market will be provided.	<b>Mark Kann</b> <i>Sod Solutions</i>
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	<b>Disease Management Strategies for Sod Producers</b> - This presentation will focus on common diseases that affect sod with emphasis on currently available fungicide products and the diseases they control.	<b>Dr. Phil Harmon</b> <i>University of Florida</i>
TIME	ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS LUNCH	
11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch	

# THURSDAY WORKSHOP & EVENTS

TIME	WATER ISSUES ROUNDTABLE	PANELISTS
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Dr. Lapointe will address his extensive research into the sources and causes of nutrient pollution throughout Florida, with an emphasis on coastal estuaries and waters. He has sampled and performed isotopic testing of these waters to isolate causal factors, particularly related to nitrogen and phosphorus, and he has studied the genesis of harmful algae blooms (HABs) in particular. His work seeks to differentiate inputs from urban fertilizer, septic tanks, sanitary sewer discharges and municipal wastewater, and to assist in developing best practices and public policy to combat adverse outcomes to natural systems.	<b>Dr. Brian Lapointe</b> <i>Florida Atlantic University</i>
2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Adam directs quality assurance for one of the country's largest lawn-care operators and will be addressing a variety of topics associated with his duties, which directly impact turfgrass industry professionals across the board. He will address caretaking practices for turfgrass in the post-blackout world, including nutrient and irrigation management as well as mitigation strategies for stressed turfgrass and landscapes.	<b>Adam Jones</b> <i>Massey Services</i>
3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	<b>BREAK</b>	
3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Brian is an experienced water issues attorney now in private practice but having spent considerable time as counsel for the South Florida Water Management District. He is an expert in water law and is the lead counsel for the industry group, the Environmental Research & Education Foundation Inc. He will be addressing a wide variety of water-law topics impacting industry professionals including the authority of local governments and water management districts to regulate industry activities, their related enforcement powers and practical strategies for the development of best practices in response to public policy and environmental regulation.	<b>Brian Accardo</b> <i>Manson, Bolves, Donaldson, Varn PA</i>

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**\*\*November 1 begins the 2023 membership billing. Full member pricing goes in effect, no discounts are offered.**



# Attendee Registration Form

**DON'T PAY Non-Member Prices!**  
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## COMPANY CONTACT PERSON:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

## FULL REGISTRATION PACKAGE #1

To ensure an accurate head count, please check all the events below that you will attend:

- Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast
- Opening Reception
- Corn Boil & Cornhole Tournament
- Continental Breakfast with Vendors
- Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch

	Early Bird (until 10/28/2022)	On-Site (effective 10/22/2022)
<input type="checkbox"/> FTGA Members	\$275	\$350
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members	\$350	\$425

## WEDNESDAY REGISTRATION PACKAGE #2

To ensure an accurate head count, please check all the events below that you will attend:

- Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast
- CORE & Turf Workshop or Sports Turf Tour
- Opening Reception
- Corn Boil & Cornhole Tournament

	Early Bird (until 10/28/2022)	On-Site (effective 10/22/2022)
<input type="checkbox"/> FTGA Members	\$150	\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members	\$225	\$300

## THURSDAY REGISTRATION PACKAGE #3

To ensure an accurate head count, please check all the events below that you will attend:

- Continental Breakfast with Vendors
- Educational Workshops
- Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch

	Early Bird (until 10/28/2022)	On-Site (effective 10/22/2022)
<input type="checkbox"/> FTGA Members	\$75	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Members	\$100	\$125

**Cancellation Policy** Cancellations made before 10/1/22 will be granted and will incur a 25% cancellation fee. Cancellations made on and after 10/1/22 will not be provided a refund; only employee substitutions will be granted. Refunds will not be granted for not attending.

## À LA CARTE OPTIONS

	Early Bird (until 10/28/2022)	On-Site (effective 10/22/2022)
<input type="checkbox"/> BMP Golf Workshop	\$80	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> CORE & Turf Workshop & Lunch	\$30	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast	\$30	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament & Lunch	\$135	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Turf Tour & Lunch	\$30	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Opening Reception	\$50	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Corn Boil & Cornhole Tournament	\$100	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> Continental Breakfast with Vendors	\$30	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch	\$50	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Education Workshop	\$30	\$50

## CHOOSE EDUCATION (based on your package choice):

- Wednesday Workshops: (Choose One)**
- CORE & Turf Workshop
  - Sports Turf Tour
- Thursday AM Workshops: (Choose One)**
- Athletic Field Management
  - Golf Management Workshop
  - Landscape & Irrigation Management Workshop
  - Sod Management Workshop
- Thursday PM Workshop:**
- Water Issues Roundtable

## GOLF REGISTRATION:

	Handicap	Scramble
Player 1 _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Player 2 _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Player 3 _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Player 4 _____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

## CALCULATION INFORMATION

Package # _____	Total \$ _____
À La Carte Options _____	Total \$ _____
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
 OR Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 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.**



BE SURE TO CHOOSE YOUR:

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

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## ADAM JONES Awarded the FTGA 2022 Wreath of Grass Award



**M**assey Services and the Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) announced that Massey Services Vice President and Director of Quality Assurance, Adam Jones, will be honored with the FTGA Wreath of Grass award.

Distributed annually since 1960, this award is FTGA's highest honor and recognizes individuals who have shown outstanding service to the association and the turfgrass industry.

"Adam has been a tireless advocate for the green industry," said Mac Carraway, acting executive director for the Florida Turfgrass Association. "His early involvement in the creation of the Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) and his ongoing support and leadership have been absolutely critical to its mission. As a relentless student of the industry and its practices, he is able to bring the facts about our work to the table."

Jones has served as a mentor for the FTGA for more than 25 years. He has spoken at numerous public hearings regarding green industry issues and has assisted EREF and others with efforts to provide statistical facts regarding green issues. In 2016, while serving as the president of the Florida Pest Management Association (FPMA), Jones helped integrate FTGA efforts so the two associations could approach state regulators with a powerful and unified message.

"Adam exemplifies the values of our company and our industry," said Tony Massey, president and CEO of Massey Services. "He has a clear and consistent focus on impacting positive change that will result in quality customer service. His contributions have made a significant impact on our landscape service, which focuses on an environmentally responsible, agronomic program. We congratulate Adam on this well-deserved recognition."

Jones becomes the 100th recipient of this award, which will be presented at the association's 69th Annual Conference at the Omni Champions Gate Resort in Kissimmee, Florida on November 10th.

## FTRF Scholarship Recipients Honored

The Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation (FTRF) has announced three Florida students will receive scholarships for the 2022 academic year. Two recipients attend the University of Florida (UF) and are preparing for careers in turfgrass management. The third student is attending the University of North Florida and preparing for a career in sports management. These students were selected based on their academic record, leadership capabilities and extra-curricular activities. The FTRF is a 501(c)(3) foundation and is funded through FTGA membership dues and member contributions. To date, the FTRF has awarded \$243,500 in scholarships.



**FERNANDA AREVALO**  
Ralph White Scholarship

Fernanda Arevalo, University of Florida, is awarded the Ralph White Scholarship for \$1,000. She chose to study turfgrass because, "Turfgrass science is highly overlooked, and there is a world of opportunities in the research of turfgrass." She is inspired by the vast availability of data and wants to be part of helping to improve turfgrass management. Arevalo received the Best Undergraduate Dissertation at the Department of Environmental Science in Sustainability at the Zamorano University. Currently, she is working under the guidance of Dr. Marco Schiavon at UF's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.



**PABLO AGUSTIN BEORI**  
Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship

Pablo Agustin Beori, University of Florida, is awarded the Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship for \$1,500. After Beori received his master's degree in 2019, he decided to continue his education and pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Florida. He has been directing his research program and graduate studies to evaluate plant systems that offer reduced water and fertilizer inputs while still maintaining aesthetic and functional performance. Beori won first place in the graduate student poster competition at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA 2021 International Annual Meeting for his presentation, "Alternative Landscape Conversions vs. Turf-Dominated Lawns: Evaluating Ecosystem Services and Public's Perception." He is working under the guidance of Dr. J. Bryan Unruh at UF's West Florida Research and Education Center.

Evaluating Ecosystem Services and Public's Perception." He is working under the guidance of Dr. J. Bryan Unruh at UF's West Florida Research and Education Center.



**ADAM CHESTER**  
FTGA Legacy Scholarship

Adam Chester, University of North Florida, is awarded the third FTGA Legacy Scholarship for \$500. His father, Thom Chester, is an FTGA member. Adam graduated from high school with a 4.386 GPA and was an IB Diploma Programme Candidate. He plans to receive a bachelor's degree in sports management and pursue his education to earn a master's degree in Athletic Administration.

The Florida Turfgrass Association was founded in 1952 and is dedicated to education, research and the promotion of environmentally responsible and scientifically based management practices for the turfgrass industry. Florida ranks No. 1 in the nation for turfgrass-related economic activity with total revenues estimated at \$7.82 billion and total employment of more than 173,000 jobs. The FTGA continues to advocate for and promote the turfgrass industry with extensive research, continuing education and opportunities for turfgrass professionals to network with their colleagues.

## President's Award

# DR. J. BRYAN UNRUH

## The first recipient of the President's Award



In 2022, the FTGA Board of Directors added a new award to the Annual Conference. The President's Award was established to recognize an outstanding industry member or facility. The categories for nominations are:

**Sports Field of the Year**

**Golf Course of the Year**

**Lawn Care Operator of the Year**

**Advocacy Award**

**Research/Innovation Award**

**Environmental Stewardship**

**Industry Support**

The FTGA Board of Directors unanimously voted Dr. J. Bryan Unruh with the University of Florida as the first recipient of the President's Award.

Dr. Unruh's efforts to promote and improve upon the Florida Golf BMP Certification Program have continued to bring light to the environmental stewardship of the Florida golf course industry to legislators and the general public. The passing of House Bill 967 provides an exemption for BMP-certified golf course superintendents from certain local training and ordinances relating to water and fertilizer uses. This is a major victory for the Florida golf course industry and sets a precedent for other turfgrass-related industries to follow in the area of environmental stewardship and advocacy.

Join us during the Annual Meeting & Awards Lunch during the association's 69th Annual Conference.

**COUNTRY CLUB  
OF FLORIDA  
Awarded  
“2022 Florida  
Celebration  
Golf Course  
of the Year”**



**C**ountry Club of Florida Director of Golf, Jeff Klontz and his golf course maintenance team were awarded the “2022 Florida Celebration® Golf Course of the Year” Award. The award is given annually to talented maintenance professionals who display excellence in maintaining Celebration, Latitude 36® or NorthBridge® Bermudagrass golf courses and sports fields.

The award is presented annually at the Florida Turfgrass Association Conference, which will be held at the Omni ChampionsGate Resort on Nov. 8–10 in Kissimmee, Florida. Sod Solutions looks forward to presenting Klontz with this award.

“This recognition means a lot to me. I’ve put a lot of effort into it since 2006. Starting off, I told the membership they’d be happy with Celebration, and they continue to play and be happy with it and the playing conditions that go along with it,” Klontz said.

2006 was the year that the Country Club of Florida began using Celebration. It has become the standard bermudagrass for golf across the country and in other parts of the world for its traffic tolerance and divot recovery, purity and color.

Klontz has worked at the club, located in Boynton Beach, since November 1982. His wife Denise is the secretary at the Country Club and their son, Jeffery is the agronomy superintendent. During his 40 years on the job, Klontz says that Celebration has been the best grass they’ve used, and he looks forward to using it into the future. He recalls when they redid the clubhouse in 2003, he put a sample area of 1000 sq. ft. of Celebration outside by the grilling area and it thrived in the shade of the trees.

Then in 2004, he put several samples of Celebration on the golf course to see how it handled traffic and performed for a year. “It was important for me to select a grass that I

could test with our environment and weather conditions. That and seeing how it performed on a golf course on Florida’s west coast were instrumental decision factors,” Klontz said. The golf course architect, Lester George, was on the greens committee and was also influential in their decision to switch to Celebration.

“Celebration takes traffic extremely well in the summertime. It’s aggressive. We think it does a good job with keeping other off-type grasses from getting into the fairways and on the property. That was probably one of the number one reasons that I picked it,” Klontz said. “We’re looking at a grass possibly that could be on this property in the fairways up to 30–35 years and I think that’s extremely unusual.”

He shared that their club members love this bermudagrass and are happy with its density. “They get a lot of ball roll when they’re playing in the wintertime. The divot recovery is good and, most importantly, I think just the traffic that it can handle through the peak time of the golfing season.” He said the members used to complain about mud on their ball but not since they switched to Celebration.

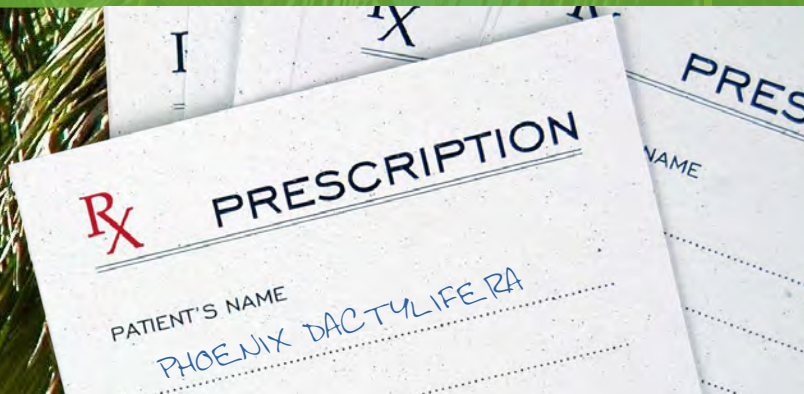
Country Club of Florida’s peak season is the end of October–April of next year before they close for another renovation, fraize mowing the fairways.

Previous winners of this 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, North Palm Beach Country Club and Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club.

For more info on this Celebration course, click here: <https://sodsolutionspro.com/case-study/country-club-of-florida>. Visit their website <https://www.ccfgolf.com/>



# Prescription for Healthy Palms



By Dr. Michael Orfanedes, Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent, Broward County

**S**outh Florida is known for its lush, tropical-looking palms. To keep them looking their best, most palms need timely maintenance, especially fertilization. Are your palms yellow, stunted and/or lacking vigor? If so, here are some timely tips to restore their health.

## Palms are more like turf than trees

Most species of palms need routine fertilization when planted in South Florida's high-pH, lime rock soils. Do not use a turf fertilizer on your palms because the mix of nutrients is not appropriate. University of Florida's IFAS recommends using a controlled-release palm special fertilizer: 8-2-12+4Mg is one example (<https://bit.ly/3DJQkUv>). Read the label to make sure the product features slow-release nitrogen, potassium and magnesium with micronutrients in a water-soluble form such as a sulfate or chelate (iron only). Spread 15 pounds of 8-2-12 +4Mg per 1000 square feet of plant bed evenly around the base of your palm(s) from the trunk out to the drip line. Do this four times per year (once every three months).

## After applying the fertilizer

Immediately after application, wet the fertilizer granules thoroughly to solubilize them. If the fronds on the top of your palm are stunted and/or frizzled, they may also benefit from a head drench using a micronutrient product called "Techmangam." Most arborists can provide this service. Recovery may take three months or more. Severely yellow and/or stunted palms may not recover and will likely need to be removed and replaced.

## Pruning practices

Palms benefit from other proper maintenance practices that homeowners and property managers should know about. Avoid over-pruning palms (<https://bit.ly/3MIItCiB>). Removing too many green fronds reduces photosynthesis and the amount of food the tree can manufacture to sustain itself. Repeated over-pruning all too frequently leads to early decline. It also predisposes the bud, or growing point of the palm, to damage by high winds.

2022

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Nutrient-deficient foxtail palm with narrow crown shaft and stunted foliage.



Too many green fronds were removed from these palms. This practice weakens the tree.



This palm is planted too deeply, and the base of the trunk shows no flare.



This palm tree is planted correctly. Notice the base of the trunk flares out at the soil line, and the tops of adventitious roots are visible.

Contrary to the pruning practices some landscape maintenance companies provide, green fronds originating at or above the horizontal (e.g., 9:00–3:00 positions on a clock) should not be removed.

### Additional recommendations

Make sure your palms are not planted or mulched too deeply and avoid overwatering. These practices can lead to root suffocation and decline. The base of the trunk should flare out and be visible at all times. Do not let mulch come in contact with the trunk. If the base of your palm trunk looks like a telephone pole in the ground, remove some of the mulch and/or soil to expose the flare.

By following these simple guidelines—planting at the correct depth, not over-mulching or overwatering, providing timely fertilization with a palm special product and not removing too much green foliage, chances are good that your palm(s) will be healthy for many years to come. 🌴

*Dr. Michael Orfanedes is a Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent IV, ISA-certified arborist and LIAF-certified landscape inspector providing educational programming for UF/IFAS Extension in Broward County.*

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## THE TABLES MAY BE TURNING

By **Mac Carraway**, Contract Executive Director,  
Environmental Research & Educational Foundation

It is inevitable in the life cycle of an organization that strategies evolve to reflect changes in its operating environment. That environment is impacted by physical things such as water quality, by economic things such as the costs/availability of labor and materials, and by politics and policy. As a policy organization, the first and last of these have the most impact on EREF.

- Wastewater systems (systems that are supposed to manage the effluent from treated sewage) are failing, leaking and creating horrific discharges at an alarming rate across the state. The size and scope of some of these events are in the millions of gallons. The results—swimming restrictions, boil-water notices, and yes, harmful algae blooms (HABs)—are not surprising. These events have been a BIG problem for years but have been kept under the radar by a “distracted” media and a regulatory environment that, until recently, has failed to hold local governments financially accountable for these events.

- Recent research repeatedly points to septic systems and wastewater systems as a persistent and large-scale root cause of HABs and nutrient loading in Florida’s waters—something EREF has been saying for more than ten years. The inconvenient reality for proponents of fertilizer bans and blackouts is that they have done nothing other than nibble at the fringes where we were all in agreement in the first place—the public (not professionals) needed to be educated on how to use fertilizer and to manage greenspaces responsibly.
- Local governments continue to ignore upgrading wastewater systems because they have let the deferred maintenance become so enormous, that raising the resources (e.g., fees and taxes) needed to fix it will get them “unelected.”

It shouldn’t be a surprise that local elected officials want the public and the media to look the other way. Most often,

that means pointing the finger at managed greenspaces—lawns, landscapes, golf courses, sports fields and parks. Blaming fertilizer is easy. It is a distraction the media and much of the public continue to fall for, and it is the ultimate tool for “kicking the can down the road.”

But the consequences of the kick-the-can strategy are coming home to roost. Deferred maintenance always, and I mean always, shows up in bad ways. The frequency and severity of wastewater spills in Florida is the living and disgusting proof, and it is going to get worse before it gets better.

There is fortunately some evidence that the tables may be turning:

- Media coverage of these events is getting better and more persistent
- Regulatory penalties for spills and accountability for cleanups are getting tougher
- The public is wising up that they have been misled by local governments and their activist cronies

It is also delightful to see that some of those same activist cronies are turning their anger toward local governments. As we say in the South, it’s about dang time. Bless their hearts.

One final hair-raising example should not go unnoticed. You may have heard a lot of self-congratulations coming out of Miami-Dade County for the passage of its fertilizer restrictions last year (April 2021). You may not have heard about the financial bailout and the reprieve given to them by the Florida legislature in 2021, allowing them several additional years to continue pumping millions upon millions of gallons of nutrient-rich wastewater effluent DIRECTLY INTO THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. These are called “direct ocean outfalls.” Google it. I would not wager five dollars on the prospects of them meeting the legislative timeframes. And let’s be crystal clear: If our industry engaged in anything even fractionally of this scale, it would be the end of the world as we know it.

We remain hopeful that leadership will emerge. Some will be courageous local and state legislative leaders. Some will be outspoken researchers. Some will be enlightened regulators. As to the green industry, our house is already in good order, driven by peer-reviewed research, doing the right things out-of-pocket because it’s right, and looking after Florida and its water resources because we live here and because we love it. 🌱



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## ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS

**Local governments exploit their home rule authority to regulate the green industry unfairly and unscientifically.**

**There are no checks and balances on local government regulation and overreach.**

**The green industry is routinely scapegoated to cover for local government failures and inactions to address root causes.**

**Environmental activists enable local governments for their own financial benefit.**

**It will take action and involvement by everyone in the green industry to push back on these harmful outcomes.**

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# HURRICANE IAN RELIEF

Emergency Loan Programs for Small Businesses Impacted by Hurricane Ian

By Scott Jackson, UF/IFAS Extension Bay County

Both the state and federal governments have emergency loan programs for small businesses impacted by Hurricane Ian. The table below provides basic information on three of the loan programs and links to information on how to apply, eligibility and program requirements, and other important information. The table also includes locations where small business operators can visit in person for help with the application process. If you have limited internet access, you can get additional information by phone as well.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program      1-833-832-4494  
 SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center      1-800-659-2955

Program	Description	Loan Details	Additional Information & How to Apply	In-Person Help with Applying
<b>Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program</b>	Short-term, zero-interest working capital loans to bridge the gap between the time a disaster impacts a business and when a business has secured longer term recovery funding such as federally or commercially available loans, insurance claims or other resources.	Max Amount: \$50,000  Loan Term: 1 year  Interest Rate: 0%	Additional Info and Application Link <a href="https://sforce.co/3TP4c5i">https://sforce.co/3TP4c5i</a> or call 1-800-659-2955	Small Business Development Center Offices and Business Recovery Centers (BRCs) <a href="https://bit.ly/3NijtCH">https://bit.ly/3NijtCH</a>
<b>SBA Physical Disaster Loan</b>	Loans for impacted small businesses located in declared disaster areas to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment. Businesses of any size are eligible. Private, non-profit organizations are also eligible.	Max Amount: \$2 million (between both SBA Programs)  Loan Term: Up to 30 years  Interest Rate: Varies	Additional Info and Application Link <a href="https://bit.ly/3fgmfSZ">https://bit.ly/3fgmfSZ</a> or call 1-800-659-2955	Business Recover Centers (BRCs) and Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in impacted areas. BRC Location Lookup <a href="https://bit.ly/3sAIV11">https://bit.ly/3sAIV11</a> DRC Location Lookup <a href="https://bit.ly/2NHKHcv">https://bit.ly/2NHKHcv</a> You can also text 43362 and type DRC (your ZIP Code); for example, DRC 12345.
<b>SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan</b>	Loans for impacted small businesses located in declared disaster areas that are unable to meet obligations and pay ordinary and necessary operating expenses. Provide working capital to help small businesses survive until normal operations resume after a disaster.	Max Amount: \$2 million (between both SBA Programs)  Loan Term: Up to 30 years  Interest Rate: Up to 4%	SBA Loan Website Additional Info from SBDC <a href="https://bit.ly/3zr5f3d">https://bit.ly/3zr5f3d</a> or call 1-800-659-2955	Business Recover Centers (BRCs) and Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) in impacted areas. BRC Location Lookup <a href="https://bit.ly/3sAIV11">https://bit.ly/3sAIV11</a> DRC Location Lookup <a href="https://bit.ly/2NHKHcv">https://bit.ly/2NHKHcv</a> You can also text 43362 and type DRC (your ZIP Code); for example, DRC 12345.

Information Compiled by: Andrew Ropicki, Marine Resource Economics Specialist, UF/IFAS Extension Florida Sea Grant

Nearly all the dragonfly's head is its eye, so they have this incredible vision that encompasses almost every angle except right behind them. Craig Weyandt, Florida Turf Digest's contributing photo editor, shot the dragonfly early in the morning on top of the 18th tee. He says, "Dragonflies will wait for the sun to dry their wings in the morning. While this dragonfly waited for the sun to rise, I approached it from behind and took the photo."



# Marketplace

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

## UNsung HERO SPOTLIGHT



### Spotlight on Jamie Buhlman, Agricultural/Food Scientist, University and former Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation Scholar Recipient

Please tip your hat to Jamie Buhlman. Jamie is a biological scientist in the UF/IFAS Agronomy Department working with Dr. Kevin Kenworthy's turfgrass breeding program. She graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in plant pathology in 2015 and began in her current position with Dr. Kenworthy in 2017. She lives in Gainesville with her husband and

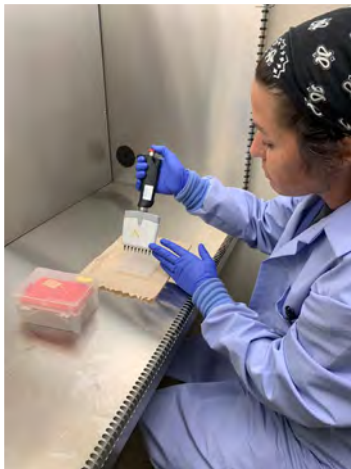
Moxie, her Great Pyrenees.

Jamie was first employed in an hourly position with Dr. Kenworthy in early 2015 and worked exclusively for a graduate student conducting DNA analysis. The project was completed by the end of 2015; Jamie graduated and moved on to other things. Coincidentally, on that same day in 2017, it was determined that

the graduate student needed to conduct more DNA research, and Jamie called to ask if any assistance was needed. She was welcomed back with the stipulation that she work in other areas of Dr. Kenworthy's program. After a few instances of working with Jamie in the field, Dr. Kenworthy recognized that Jamie was fully competent working outdoors.

Jamie is a rare breed; someone who can both strap down pallets of sod and extract DNA from plants. When Dr. Kenworthy learned that she grew up on her mother's farm in Polk County, he offered her a permanent position to help lead his program, oversee hourly employees, and have an opportunity to obtain a master's degree. Jamie has since become a fixture at FTGA and Turfgrass Producers of Florida meetings and is highly recognized for her expertise, work ethic and communication skills.

She completed her master's degree in 2021. Her research allowed her to become a recognized expert in St. Augustinegrass cultivar ID, resulting in the development of a user-friendly dichotomous key and frequent requests to provide seminars on the topic. Dr. Kenworthy describes Jamie as the smartest and hardest-working person in the room with tons of grit and perseverance. She shows great care and concern for her employees working through the heat of the summer and keeps them productive through her positive and infectious personality. Jamie does a lot of work for our industry and is highly deserving of recognition as an Unsung Hero.

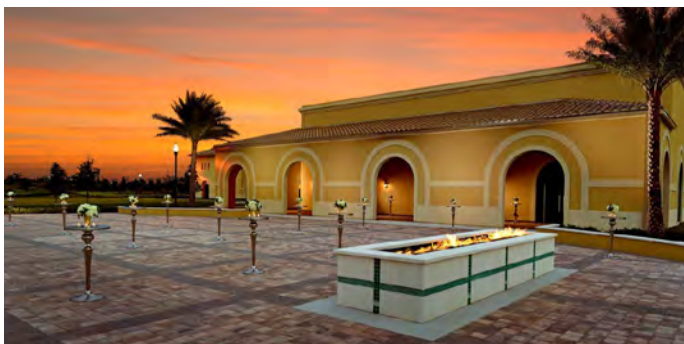


**FTGA NEWS**

**FTGA 69th Annual Conference Update**

Just because we focus on education in this issue does not mean we don't know how to have fun. The conference is loaded with networking opportunities and fun. The Corn Boil is the premier, fun networking event on the agenda, and it doubles as a fundraiser for the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation (FTRF).

If Mother Nature allows, the Corn Boil returns to the great outdoors. Three grill teams will prepare your dinner: Carolina Fresh Farms, Envu and SiteOne Landscape. There's nothing like the smell of grilling steaks against the backdrop of a Florida sunset surrounded by friends and colleagues.



After dinner, open your wallet if you would like a chance to split the large pot in the 50/50 raffle or join a team in the cornhole competition. All proceeds go to FTRF for turfgrass research and scholarships, two vitally important avenues to keep our industry on the leading edge of innovation.

**FTRF Benevolent Fund**

In 2017, FTGA set up a benevolent fund for just such a time as this to help those who are affected by a disaster. We want to help as many people as possible. If you are able to donate to the fund, you will not only receive a tax deduction, but you'll know that every penny of your donation will reach a recipient in need.

Qualifying FTGA members can submit a request. The fund will be dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis to those who meet the requirements.

To donate or to submit a request for funds, visit <https://www.ftga.org/page/BenevolenceFund>. Thank you for supporting those who were adversely affected by Hurricane Ian.

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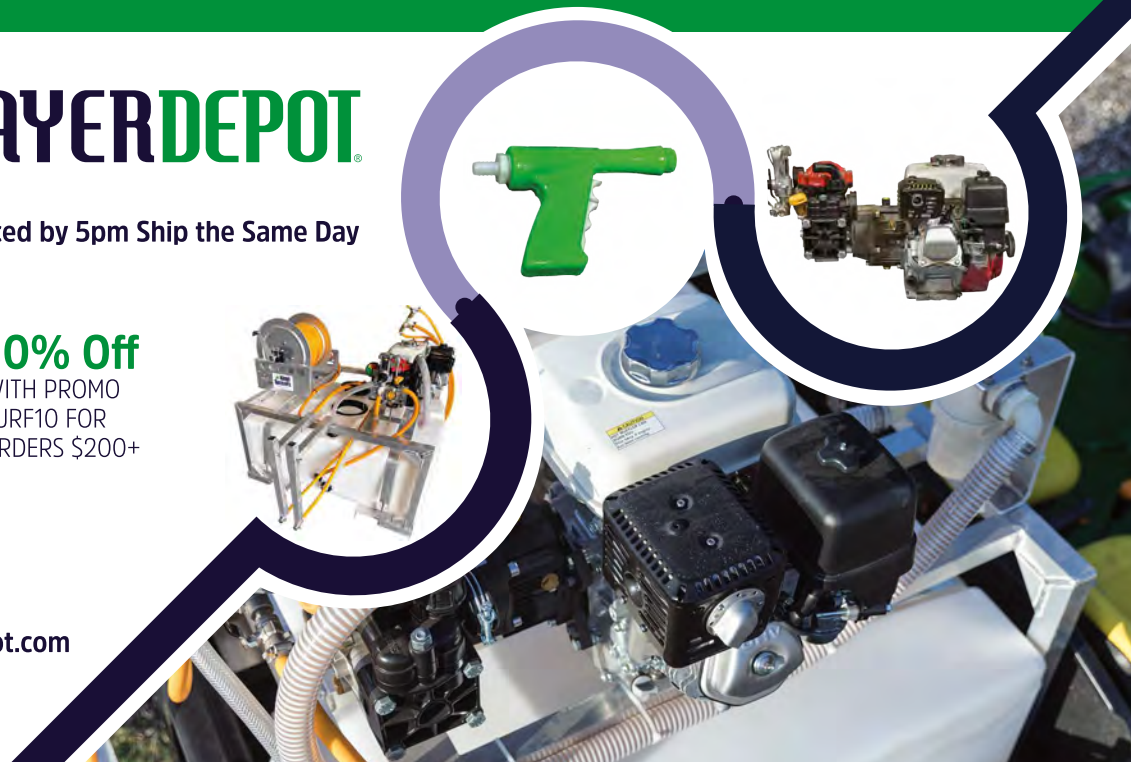


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▶ PEOPLE

People Helping People

The minute Hurricane Ian passed and it was safe to move around, help poured in from those across the state and beyond. Industry professionals from all sectors took the time to help friends, neighbors, first responders and complete strangers in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane.

We can't name everyone, but we'd like to give a special hat tip to Betsy McGill and Heather Russo Berg, who helped clean out a home; Andy Englebrecht and his entire crew made up of staff from several companies, who fed first responders; and Lance Tibbetts and crew who distributed emergency necessities.

In addition, at least one professional golfer got involved. The Family Compassion Center was on hand to help people in Arcadia. The Center was established by PGA champion and TV golf analyst Paul Azinger and his wife.

We work with the most giving, service-to-others people in the greatest industry in our state.

Thank You to Our Guest Editor

Many thanks to Erin Wilder for once again serving as our guest editor this issue.



Dr. Aaron Palmateer Joins the Harrell's Team

Harrell's has announced the addition of Aaron Palmateer, Ph.D., to its roster of directors of Agronomy. He will provide invaluable technical support to horticulture customers and the company's reps while helping to innovate new product opportunities designed to address the

most challenging horticultural issues as they arise.

Regarding the golf industry, Dr. Palmateer said, "Golf courses have plants too, and I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues who support the turfgrass industry by providing expertise on managing pests and diseases of ornamental plantings on and around golf courses."

"We are excited to add another industry-leading Ph.D. to our Research & Development team. Aaron brings a wealth of knowledge to our Ornamental division that we have never had before! We are looking forward to an exciting future, one in which Aaron will play a significant part." Said Jack Harrell III, regarding Dr. Palmateer joining Harrell's.

Read more: <https://harrells.com/.../harrells-welcomes-aaron-palmateer>.



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## EDUCATION

### Certificates and Certifications for Landscape Professionals

Depending on the type of work you do, there are a variety of qualifications and certifications for landscape professionals. Many professional organizations offer specialized certification and training. These are the most common two:

#### Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) training certificate

The Green Industry Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) training is overseen by the Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ program and teaches proper landscape maintenance practices to landscape professionals. GI-BMP training includes landscape management, irrigation, fertilization and pesticide application information. The GI-BMP certificate is required for those who seek a state-limited commercial fertilizer applicator license, but it is beneficial for all landscape professionals.

**For more information:** <https://bit.ly/3zigKKv>

**Training Schedule:** <https://bit.ly/3TMcbAo>

#### Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional (FFLCP)

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program offers a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Certified Professional (FFLCP) designation to individuals who have completed the required training in FFL principles and are familiar with the latest UF/IFAS recommendations. These trained professionals have demonstrated the ability to recognize and address common landscape issues by using environmentally sustainable landscape management practices that help preserve and protect Florida's water and natural resources.

**For more information:** <https://bit.ly/3f9lha6>

**FAQs:** <https://bit.ly/3f9nP9e>



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