

FLORIDA

TURF DIGEST

FLORIDA
TURFGRASS
ASSOCIATION

VOL. 42 / NO. 1

Winter 2024



El Niño Wreaks Havoc on Golf Courses and Sports Fields

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

2023 FTGA 70th Annual Conference Wrap-Up

A Walk Down the Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Interlachen
Turfgrass Research Golf Tournament Memory Lane

Tune Your Timing: Making the Most of POST
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FLORIDA TURFGRASS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2024
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CONTENTS



Cover Story

GOLF/SPORTS TURF

El Niño Wreaks Havoc on Golf Courses and Sports Fields

9



2024 Regional Turf Seminars

Education & CEUs

15



FTGA Membership

2024 Member Benefits and Applications

23

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

FTGA MEMBERS AND EVENTS

2023 FTGA 70th Annual Conference Wrap-Up 26

A Walk Down the Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Interlachen Turfgrass Research Golf Tournament Memory Lane 32

PEST, DISEASE, NUTRIENT

Tune Your Timing: Making the Most of POST Herbicide Applications ... 28

DEPARTMENTS

Board of Directors | Membership4

Industry Calendar4

Index of Advertisers4

President’s Message5

FTGA Association Partners Program6

Meet the New FTGA President 30

Women in Turf: Shelby Dubois 34



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Cover Photo: “At least El Niño provides some spectacular sunrises and sunsets.” Photo credit: Darren J. Davis, CGCS.

The *Florida Turf Digest* is a publication of the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation, which provides scholarships to students in turfgrass and related studies in addition to funding turfgrass research and education for the Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA). The FTGA serves its members in the industry through education, promotion and representation. The statements and opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the association, its staff, its board of directors, *Florida Turf Digest* or its editors. Likewise, the appearance of advertisers or FTGA members does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services featured in this, past or subsequent issues of this publication.

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FTGA MEMBERSHIP

The Florida Turfgrass Association is committed to provide services, communications and networking opportunities for professionals in and associated with the turfgrass industry.

Florida ranks No. 1 in the nation for turfgrass-related economic activity, with total revenues estimated at \$7.82 billion and a total employment of more than 173,000 jobs. Today, 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.

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- Membership Directory & Industry Guide
- E-Newsletter Industry Alerts
- Annual Conference
- Regional Turf Seminars
- Legacy Scholarship

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INDUSTRY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2024 Turf Seminars - Education & CEUS

- 13** Port St. Lucie
- 15** Lake Worth
- 20** New Port Richey
- 21** Plant City
- 22** Ft. Myers
- 27** Tallahassee
- 28** St. Augustine

MARCH

2024 Turf Seminars - Education & CEUS

- 19** Orlando
- 20** Ocala
- 28** 35th South Florida Turfgrass Field Day & Expo

DECEMBER

- 3-5** 71st Annual Conference

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INFORMATION, VISIT**



https://www.ftga.org/events/event_list.asp

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Pat Marsh

FTGA President

Moving Into 2024 After the Successes of 2023

In reflecting upon the achievements of 2023 within our industry, the strides made through cross-industry meetings, community projects and conferences, particularly the impactful Florida Turfgrass Conference, stand out. Commissioner Wilton Simpson's repeated message about the power of collaboration among organizations before facing legislature resonates strongly. The focus on moving "big rocks," such as achieving consistency in fertilizer ordinances across counties, illustrates a commitment to overcoming challenges strategically. Exploring avenues like extending exemptions and securing funding for the University of Florida to evaluate ordinances reflect a thoughtful approach to tackling industry issues.

Notably, the involvement of the Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA) in Florida Turfgrass Research and Foundation (FTRF) adds another layer of significance to the industry's progress. The FTGA was asked to participate in battery-powered equipment research (Landscape Equipment Sustainability Strategies: Do More with LESS) in collaboration with the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association; the University of Auburn; the University of Florida; and the University of Georgia underscores the commitment to advancing sustainable practices. This year's collaboration on a research project

aligns with the University of Florida's call for industry participation and showcases a proactive stance in embracing innovative solutions.

The engagement with Commissioner Simpson and Representative Keith Truenow, both as a keynote speaker and participant in a roundtable discussion, underscores the significance of having legislative support. Leveraging such opportunities not only provides insights into the workings of governance but also allows industry representatives to express their priorities effectively.

Addressing economic aspects alongside scientific considerations is a wise move, emphasizing the broader impact of the industry on local communities. The call to understand and engage those outside associations is a commendable effort to broaden the industry's influence and control its narrative. Recognizing the importance of numbers and memberships in shaping the industry's direction, there's a clear focus on growth and inclusivity.

As the industry moves into 2024 with upcoming seminars, the commitment to education and community involvement remains steadfast. The vision for a united industry, cognizant of its economic significance, is a promising foundation for continued progress and influence. 🌱

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PLATINUM



SILVER



BRONZE



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- Advocacy** participation on Legislative Day Support lobbying firm

PLATINUM PARTNER \$12,000

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 - Annual Meeting Lunches
 - Corn Boil Tickets
 - Opening Reception Tickets
 - Logo on specific item
- Advertising** recognition every issue
 - 3 1/3-Page Print Ads
 - Each Month Social Media Post
- Webinars** logo recognition in presentation
- Website** logo on home page recognition
- Advocacy** participation on Legislative Day Support lobbying firm

BRONZE PARTNER \$2,500

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- Turf Seminar** table at each location
- Annual Conference** up to 1 member
 - Annual Meeting Lunch
 - Corn Boil Tickets
 - Opening Reception Ticket
 - Logo on specific item
- Advertising** recognition every issue
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El Niño Wreaks Havoc on Golf Courses and Sports Fields

A ROUNDUP OF THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Photo credit: Pixabay.com

By Dr. J. Bryan Unruh, University of Florida

What a difference a year makes! Social media feeds are clogged with complaints about the current weather pattern. If you follow X or Facebook, you have heard the current mantra, “Let it stop raining!” We knew El Niño was coming, but few were prepared to deal with it if the posts are any indication. Whether it got lost in the fray of coping with drought conditions in Southwest Florida or the flooding in Southeast Florida, it has arrived, and it requires a pivot from opposite conditions on Florida’s west coast, to coping with more misery in the eastern region. (Figure 1.)

According to Dr. J. Bryan Unruh, the effects of El Niño



Figure 1. Rainfall across Florida in 2023 leading up to El Niño.

are particularly severe in South Florida. He says, “El Niño is never good for growing grass in South Florida, but it can be worse when the preceding summer conditions are not the best. South Florida had additional weather extremes that

likely resulted in stressed turf heading into the El Niño conditions—extremely dry on the southwest coast and extremely wet on the southeast coast.”

Golf course superintendents are bearing the brunt of El Niño’s rains because players want to play, and they seem not to understand why they can’t play even after a downpour. Dr. Unruh adds, “South Florida snowbirds are abundant this time of year, and they simply do not understand the impact that these conditions have on agronomics. They complain about plugged lies (soggy conditions), cart path-only rules, or that they can’t play because it’s raining.”

Certainly, Southwest Florida needed rain (that’s the “good” part). However, it’s severely affecting operations on golf courses and natural turf sports fields because play is affected, and that impacts the bottom line.

What Is El Niño?

Todd Lowe, M.S., Technical Service Manager, Green Solutions Team, Envu Environmental Science and former agronomist at USGA’s Green Section explains, “It’s a weather phenomenon caused when warm waters from the equatorial Pacific are pushed back into the U.S. It is cyclical; it comes around every few years and brings extended wetter and sometimes colder weather to our region. The previous major El Niño in Florida was in 2016 and prior to that was

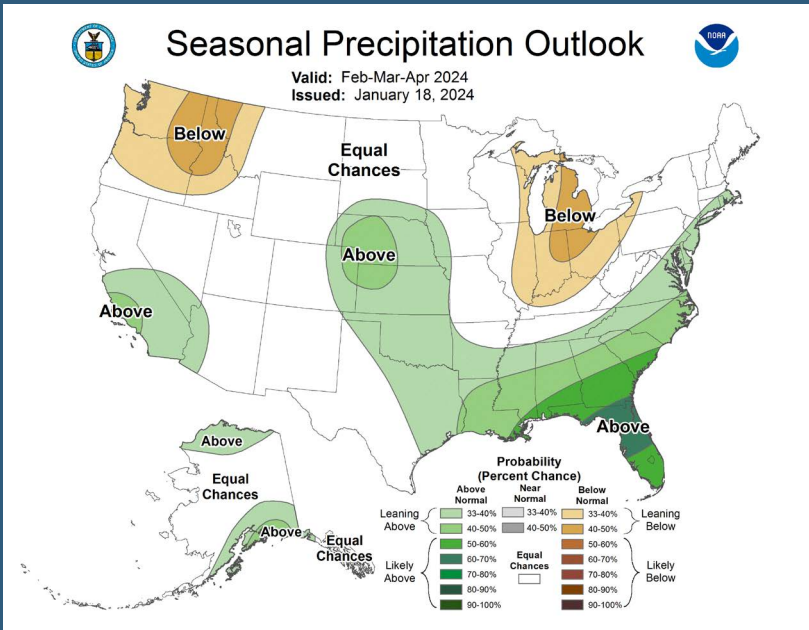


Figure 2. The band across most of Florida except South Florida and the western portion of the panhandle is forecast to receive 80–90% above normal rainfall. Photo courtesy of NOAA.

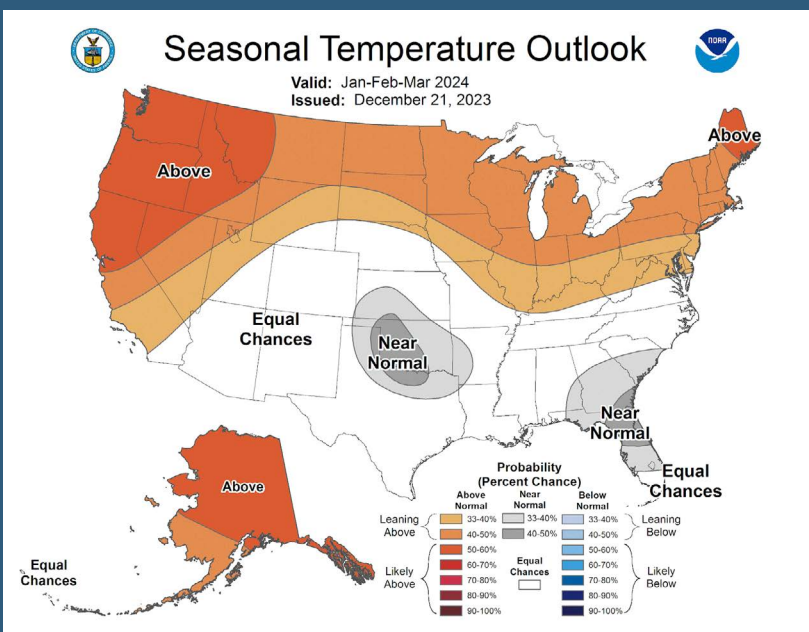


Figure 3. The seasonal temperature forecast for most of Florida is forecast to be above normal by 30–50%. Photo courtesy of NOAA.

1998. Both events brought considerable negative effects on turf quality and especially on golf course playing conditions.”

Alyssa Atwood, assistant professor in Florida State University’s Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science, part of the College of Arts and Sciences says, “El Niño events can last for several months up to a year or more and typically peak in the winter months of the Northern Hemisphere, so we’re likely to see El Niño conditions continue to strengthen over the coming months.”

El Niño’s Effect on Turfgrass

“Repeated rainfall events bring prolonged cloud cover (reduced sunlight), and the combination of increased rainfall, and reduced evapotranspiration (ET) brings prolonged soil saturation. Reduced photosynthesis and reduced rooting from saturated conditions bring weakened roots, which causes considerable turf stress, chlorosis and poor playing conditions,” says Lowe.

Dr. Unruh says, “In addition to low light (Figure 4.) due to cloud cover, increased precipitation leads to soil waterlogging, which is exacerbated by poor drainage due to soil compaction and compromised drainage systems (or none at all). This is magnified in South Florida due to the shallow water table.

“Saturated conditions coupled with warmer weather equals increased disease incidence. There are many reports of large patch (*Rhizoctonia*) and *Pythium* coming in. This leads to increased costs due to additional fungicide applications.”

Figures 5–7 compare the effects of various light levels on turfgrasses, ranging from higher on the left to lower on the right.

Dr. Adam Dale, associate professor, University of Florida, says, “There is no evidence of increased pest incidence due solely to El Niño. However, keep in mind that mole crickets, sod webworms, two-lined



Photo credit: Michael Seeley, Flickr.com

spittlebugs and others prefer wet conditions.”

All the contributors to this article mentioned the presence of large patch (Figure 8) as something to look for during this time. The left-hand half of the picture shows an area that was treated preventively. The right half, where large patch is evident, has not been treated.

Lowe says, “To maintain better turf, superintendents can raise mowing heights, but this causes slower putting speeds, so golfers see poorer conditions in El Niño winters. In addition to slower green speeds, we see more and larger ball marks, plugged fairway lies, more “mud” on the ball, poor turf color and more cart traffic damage. Newer turf is especially vulnerable to stress, and we can see more turf thinning on new playing surfaces.

The El Niño weather pattern presents enormous challenges for managing sports fields in Florida. As Dr. Jason Kruse, associate professor, University of Florida explains, “You can expect to see the same problems that affect golf courses on sports fields. In addition—and this is no small thing—sports field managers must pay careful attention to their scheduled use and associated traffic on the field.

“Careful scheduling and limiting field time is key. When Bermudagrass fields are not growing or are wet, damage will compound. I recommend pencil-tining during this time of the year over core aeration to open and get air down to the roots while also temporarily alleviating some compaction. Working closely with teams and stakeholders, sports field managers can balance field use and recovery time to maintain quality fields during El Niño conditions,” says Dr. Kruse.

“Conditions will improve as soon as we see more sunlight and the temperatures begin to rise. This generally occurs between mid-February to early March,” says Lowe.

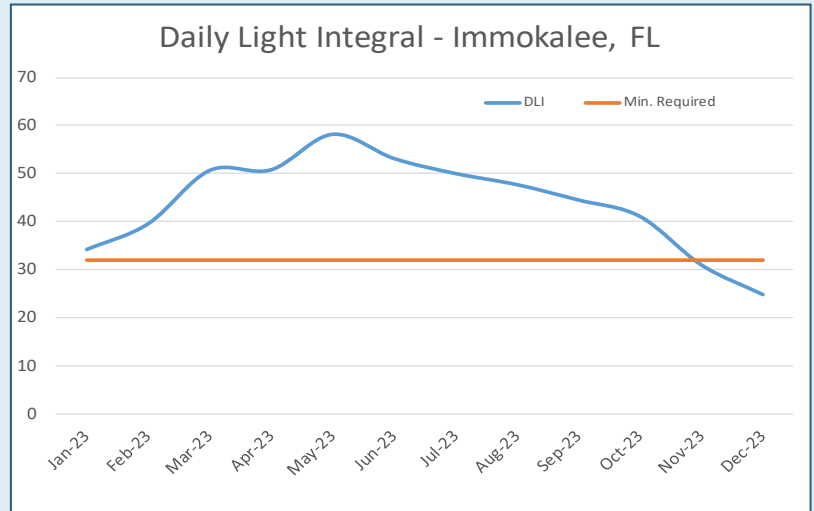


Figure 4. An example of reduced sunlight during El Niño. The Daily Light Integral dipped below the minimum in December. Graph courtesy of Dr. J. Bryan Unruh.

EL NIÑO RESOURCES

Climate.Gov El Niño and La Niña:

Frequently asked questions

<http://tinyurl.com/yuhvdmvw>

How Does Turfgrass Eat

Darren J. Davis, CGCS' blog

<https://darrenjdaviscgcs.substack.com/p/how-does-turfgrass-eat>

NOAA Three-Month Forecast Maps

<http://tinyurl.com/56ndjfcy>

(Select the range from the list)

Tips for Surviving El Niño

YouTube video by Todd Lowe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cCITG_KzfM

Dr. Unruh Also Recommends

El Niño and its Effect on Turfgrass Management

Article by Darren J. Davis'

<http://tinyurl.com/2v5pnkp8>

El Niño, It's Affect of Golf Courses and How Superintendents Are Dealing With It

You Tube video by Billy Davidson

<http://tinyurl.com/bpkd8tjs>

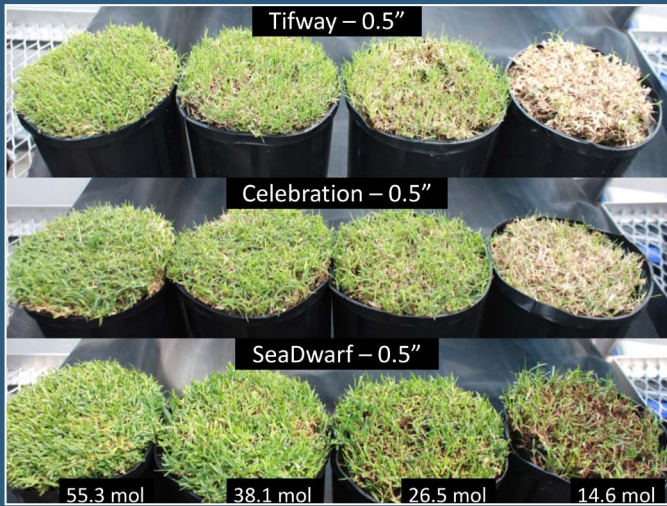


Figure 5.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

Figures 5–7 Compare the effects of various levels on turfgrasses, ranging from higher light levels on the left to lower light levels on the right.

Percentage of reduction of full sunlight in moles (light levels)

0%	55.3 moles
30%	38.1 moles
50%	26.5 moles
70%	14.6 moles



Figure 8. Large patch on bermudagrass fairway. Fungicide treated preventively on left, untreated on right. Photo courtesy of Todd Lowe.

What to Expect Going Into Spring

Professor Atwood says to expect a stormy spring. “As El Niño events persist into the spring months, their influence on weather continues. (Figures 2 and 3.) Spring can bring an increased likelihood of severe weather events such as heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and tornadoes in certain regions. The southern United States is vulnerable to these extreme weather events during El Niño years.”

This year, the models proved right. Darren J. Davis, CGCS, says, “Forecasters for the National Weather Service have said there is a greater than 55% chance (or higher) of a “strong” El Niño weather pattern and there is even a 35% chance that it ends up being one of the strongest ever, like the ones we saw in 2015–2016 or 1997–1998.” 🌱



Follow Darren's blog at <http://tinyurl.com/32sjw3b8>. He is very active on social media, and you'll find him on all the usual platforms and then some. His handle is @DarrenJDavisGCS across all feeds.

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2024 Regional Turf Seminars Education & CEUS

EDUCATION & CEUS

2024 Regional Turf Seminars

Make your New Year's resolution to start the new year immersed in learning. One of the primary ways the FTGA works to further the interests of its membership and industry professionals is through continuing education. A well-educated group of turfgrass professionals is better equipped to keep pace with the changing landscape, take advantage of new opportunities and provide leadership in battles that attempt to dismantle the industry.

In the new year, FTGA turns its attention to a season of learning. Each winter, it offers a series of one-day, intensive Turf Seminars. Members and industry representatives who attend learn about the latest research and practical applications from University of Florida faculty, extension agents and industry experts. Attendees can earn CEUs for their participation. The Turf Seminars also provide an opportunity to network and share ideas with colleagues and vendors.

PRICING INFORMATION

Pre-registration is required.

FTGA MEMBERS

- \$40 per person
- Groups 10+, \$30 per person

NON-MEMBERS

- \$75 per person

TURF SEMINAR LOCATIONS

The 2024 FTGA Turf Seminars will be held in 9 locations across the state. Light refreshments will be provided.

FEBRUARY

Port St. Lucie—Tuesday, February 13

Port St. Lucie Community Center | 2195 SE Airosa Blvd | Port St. Lucie, FL 34984

Lake Worth—Thursday, February 15

Polish American Club | 4725 Lake Worth Rd | Lake Worth, FL 33463

New Port Richey—Tuesday, February 20

Pasco-Hernando State College | 10230 Ridge Rd | R-151 A&B | New Port Richey, FL 34654

Plant City—Wednesday, February 21

Hillsborough Community College | Trinkle Center | 1206 N Park Rd | Plant City, FL 33563

Fort Myers—Thursday, February 22

Florida Southwestern State College | 8099 College Pkwy | Room U-102 | Ft. Myers, FL 33919

Tallahassee—Tuesday, February 27

Southwood Golf Club | 3750 Grove Park | Tallahassee, FL 32311

St. Augustine—Wednesday, February 28

St. John County Ag Center | 3125 Agricultural Center Dr | St. Augustine, FL 32092

MARCH

Orlando—Tuesday, March 19

Orange County Extension Office | 6021 S Conway Rd | Orlando, FL 32812

Ocala—Wednesday, March 20

Marion County Extension | 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd | Ocala, FL 34470



TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Dr. Bonnie Wells, UF/IFAS Brevard County	Guardians of the Greens: Recognizing Beneficial Insects in Turfgrass Management As natural enemies of pests, many beneficial insects play a crucial role in sustainable turfgrass management. This presentation will highlight the significance of scouting for beneficial insects as an integral component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. We will delve into the key identification characteristics of the most significant beneficial insects in turfgrass management, enabling turfgrass professionals to recognize and protect these key allies.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Yvette Goodiel, UF/IFAS Martin County Henry Mayer, UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County	Disaster Preparation for Green Industry Businesses & Employees Natural disasters can disrupt business operations, as well as personal lives. Results can include increased labor needs, material/equipment costs, loss of workdays, and mental distress. Preparing for disasters in advance can improve outcomes. We will share statistics on the impacts of natural disasters here in Florida and present some ways the green industry can build individual and business resiliency.
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Dr. Marco Schiavon, University of Florida	Water Issues: Too Bad, Too Scarce & Everything In Between Irrigation is the single most important maintenance practice to keep turfgrass alive, even in hot and humid climates where soil water holding capacity is limited. Moreover with water restrictions being progressively enforced, misuse of irrigation water has become a predominant issue for the turf industry. Misapplication of irrigation and fertilization may result in pest outbreaks that are difficult to control. This presentation will review irrigation and fertilization practices that result in best turfgrass health.
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, University of Florida	CitraZoy, a New Option for Lawns in Florida The presentation will provide a description in the development and testing of CitraZoy. Attendees will see data that shows the merits and attributes of CitraZoy compared to other cultivars of zoysiagrass.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, University of Florida	CitraZoy, a New Option for Lawns in Florida The presentation will provide a description in the development and testing of CitraZoy. Attendees will see data that shows the merits and attributes of CitraZoy compared to other cultivars of zoysiagrass.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dr. Marco Schiavon, University of Florida	Water Issues: Too Bad, Too Scarce & Everything In Between Irrigation is the single most important maintenance practice to keep turfgrass alive, even in hot and humid climates where soil water holding capacity is limited. Moreover with water restrictions being progressively enforced, misuse of irrigation water has become a predominant issue for the turf industry. Misapplication of irrigation and fertilization may result in pest outbreaks that are difficult to control. This presentation will review irrigation and fertilization practices that result in best turfgrass health.
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. Dr. John Rowland, USGA	Establishment of Warm-Season Putting Greens Varied levels of N and K were used during grow-in of bermudagrass, seashore paspalum, and zoysiagrass putting greens.
2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. Yvette Goodiel, UF/IFAS Martin County Henry Mayer, UF/IFAS Miami-Dade County	Disaster Preparation for Green Industry Businesses & Employees Natural disasters can disrupt business operations, as well as personal lives. Results can include increased labor needs, material/equipment costs, loss of workdays, and mental distress. Preparing for disasters in advance can improve outcomes. We will share statistics on the impacts of natural disasters here in Florida and present some ways the green industry can build individual and business resiliency.
3:00 p.m.	CEU Distribution

Topics and speakers are subject to change.

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Dr. Alex Gannon, Florida Turf Supply	Integrated Pest Management Strategies: Season of Pests This presentation will focus on the fundamentals of IPM and how to incorporate methods with spray techs and customers to reduce pest pressure in lawn and ornamentals. The presentation will aim to increase the understanding of disease and insects during the spring season.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dr. Pawel Petelewicz, University of Florida	Know Your Enemy – Identification of Problematic Species in Turfgrass This presentation will focus on an overview of key features allowing for proper identification of weeds in turfgrass scenarios. The emphasis will be on learning how to differentiate the most troublesome species based on their morphological characteristics, possibly using live examples. Short updates on research conducted at the UF will also be included.
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Dr. Samuel Doak	Basic Irrigation Principles Basic static and dynamic pressure, pressure loss and sizing pipe.
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. A.J. Lindsey, University of Florida	Potentially Reduce Fertilizer & Irrigation Inputs Sustainable and environmentally friendly management practices have garnered much interest within the turfgrass industry and the general public. Additionally, fertilizer and irrigation restrictions also have the potential to change and dictate management practices. This presentation covers some of the recent research trials conducted with soil amendments and alternative fertilizers. It will also explore how these can be incorporated into management practices to reduce overall fertilizer and irrigation use.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Dr. Alex Gannon, Florida Turf Supply	Integrated Pest Management Strategies: Season of Pests This presentation will focus on the fundamentals of IPM and how to incorporate methods with spray techs and customers to reduce pest pressure in lawn and ornamentals. The presentation will aim to increase the understanding of disease and insects during the spring season.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dr. A.J. Lindsey, University of Florida	Potentially Reduce Fertilizer & Irrigation Inputs Sustainable and environmentally friendly management practices have garnered much interest within the turfgrass industry and the general public. Additionally, fertilizer and irrigation restrictions also have the potential to change and dictate management practices. This presentation covers some of the recent research trials conducted with soil amendments and alternative fertilizers. It will also explore how these can be incorporated into management practices to reduce overall fertilizer and irrigation use.
Noon – 12:30 p.m. Dr. Pawel Petelewicz, University of Florida	(Re)intro to Herbicides – Reviewing Basic Concepts, Terminology and Possible Reasons for Failure This presentation will focus on an overview of basic concepts and terminologies regarding the use of herbicides in turfgrass scenarios. The emphasis will be on discussing the possible reasons for why herbicides may fail to provide successful control – both from plant biology and application procedure standpoint. This presentation will embrace the principals of IPM and herbicide resistance management. Updates on research conducted at the UF will also be included.
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. Samuel Doak	Basic Irrigation Principles Basic static and dynamic pressure, pressure loss and sizing pipe.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Dr. Samuel Doak	Golf Design Overview of design principles at the sink hole level.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Ryan Czaplowski, UF/IFAS Collier County	Soils of Southwest Florida This presentation will go over the soil types that are in Southwest Florida from Lee County down to Collier County. We will investigate how they formed through Florida’s history, what advantages and disadvantages these soils offer, and how to manage their disadvantages to grow turfgrass.
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Dr. Bonnie Wells, UF/IFAS Brevard County	Guardians of the Greens: Recognizing Beneficial Insects in Turfgrass Management As natural enemies of pests, many beneficial insects play a crucial role in sustainable turfgrass management. This presentation will highlight the significance of scouting for beneficial insects as an integral component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. We will delve into the key identification characteristics of the most significant beneficial insects in turfgrass management, enabling turfgrass professionals to recognize and protect these key allies.
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, University of Florida	CitraZoy, a New Option for Lawns in Florida The presentation will provide a description in the development and testing of CitraZoy. Attendees will see data that shows the merits and attributes of CitraZoy compared to other cultivars of zoysiagrass.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution

Tuesday, February 27

Southwood Golf Club | 3750 Grove Park | Tallahassee, FL 32311



TALLAHASSEE

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Mark Tancig, UF/IFAS Leon County	Label Reading Trivia This CORE presentation will review the parts of a label and safety data sheets (SDS) and then engage attendees by having them participate in a trivia-based recall of the information.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dr. Bryan Unruh, University of Florida	Turfgrass Fertilization Practices: Are We Missing the Mark? The turfgrass industry is driven by routine applications of inputs including water, nutrients, and pesticides. However, these inputs may or may not be necessary and may negatively impact the environment. A review of turfgrass fertility practices will be provided along with an overview of recommended changes in fertility practices.
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:40 – 1:30 p.m. Dr. Pawel Petelewicz, University of Florida	(Re)intro to Herbicides – Reviewing Basic Concepts, Terminology and Possible Reasons for Failure This presentation will focus on an overview of basic concepts and terminologies regarding the use of herbicides in turfgrass scenarios. The emphasis will be on discussing the possible reasons for why herbicides may fail to provide successful control – both from plant biology and application procedure standpoint. This presentation will embrace the principles of IPM and herbicide resistance management. Updates on research conducted at the UF will also be included.
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. Kevin Kenworthy, University of Florida	CitraZoy, a New Option for Lawns in Florida The presentation will provide a description in the development and testing of CitraZoy. Attendees will see data that shows the merits and attributes of CitraZoy compared to other cultivars of zoysiagrass.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution
3:00 p.m.	9-Hole Golf Tournament Registration for the golf tournament is located on the Registration Page. Southwood Golf Club is an extraordinary facility created by the St. Joe Company and one of the most celebrated layouts in Florida. Masterfully designed by PGA Tour legend Fred Couples and his renowned design partner, architect Gene Bates, Southwood Golf Club was designed to provide an enjoyable and challenging golf experience for players of all levels.

Topics and speakers are subject to change.

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Prissy Fletcher, UF/IFAS St. John's County	Turf Nutrition and Pathology – Managing Pests through Soil Diagnostic Pathogens of turf are difficult to manage, but especially so without understanding the environmental conditions that are favorable for their disease development. We can complement our turf nutritional program by using resources already at hand, such as soil fertility and irrigation water reports, to help identify what factors are contributing to the development of turf diseases. This talk will cover common soil types of Florida, a quick review of soil-nutrient interactions, examples of turf pathogens, and finally connecting the dots of nutrient deficiencies and toxicities to diseases and ailments in turf.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dr. A.J. Lindsey, University of Florida	Potentially Reduce Fertilizer & Irrigation Inputs Sustainable and environmentally friendly management practices have garnered much interest within the turfgrass industry and the general public. Additionally, fertilizer and irrigation restrictions also have the potential to change and dictate management practices. This presentation covers some of the recent research trials conducted with soil amendments and alternative fertilizers. It will also explore how these can be incorporated into management practices to reduce overall fertilizer and irrigation use.
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Paul Mitola, FDACS	Pesticide Safety for the Employee & Businesses
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. Bonnie Wells, UF/IFAS Brevard County	Guardians of the Greens: Recognizing Beneficial Insects in Turfgrass Management As natural enemies of pests, many beneficial insects play a crucial role in sustainable turfgrass management. This presentation will highlight the significance of scouting for beneficial insects as an integral component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. We will delve into the key identification characteristics of the most significant beneficial insects in turfgrass management, enabling turfgrass professionals to recognize and protect these key allies.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution

ORLANDO

Tuesday, March 19

Orange County Extension Office | 6021 S Conway Rd | Orlando FL 32812

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Hannah Wooten, UF/IFAS Orange County	Agroecology in the Landscape This presentation will introduce concepts of agroecology and ways to incorporate agroecological strategies in the landscape. While agroecology typically refers to food and agricultural systems, the urban landscape is where humans connect to green spaces often requiring heavy maintenance for ornamental quality. Agroecology goes beyond IPM taking a systems approach with a focus on productivity, diversity, and resilience. While typical pest control classes focus on managing and killing pests with chemicals, the agroecological approach will present strategies that enhance biological interactions in the landscape by augmenting and connecting diversity in the urban landscape.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dr. Bonnie Wells, UF/IFAS Brevard County	Guardians of the Greens: Recognizing Beneficial Insects in Turfgrass Management As natural enemies of pests, many beneficial insects play a crucial role in sustainable turfgrass management. This presentation will highlight the significance of scouting for beneficial insects as an integral component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. We will delve into the key identification characteristics of the most significant beneficial insects in turfgrass management, enabling turfgrass professionals to recognize and protect these key allies.
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Dr. Alex Gannon, Florida Turf Supply	Integrated Pest Management Strategies: Season of Pests This presentation will focus on the fundamentals of IPM and how to incorporate methods with spray techs and customers to reduce pest pressure in lawn and ornamentals. The presentation will aim to increase the understanding of disease and insects during the spring season.
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. A.J. Lindsey, University of Florida	Potentially Reduce Fertilizer & Irrigation Inputs Sustainable and environmentally friendly management practices have garnered much interest within the turfgrass industry and the general public. Additionally, fertilizer and irrigation restrictions also have the potential to change and dictate management practices. This presentation covers some of the recent research trials conducted with soil amendments and alternative fertilizers. It will also explore how these can be incorporated into management practices to reduce overall fertilizer and irrigation use.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution

TIME & SPEAKER	TOPIC
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Check-In
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Introduction
10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Maxine Hunter, UF/IFAS Marion County	Environmental Considerations for Turfgrass Managers In this session, we will cover environmental considerations with fertilizer, pesticide and fungicide applications.
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Dr. A.J. Lindsey, University of Florida	Potentially Reduce Fertilizer & Irrigation Inputs Sustainable and environmentally friendly management practices have garnered much interest within the turfgrass industry and the general public. Additionally, fertilizer and irrigation restrictions also have the potential to change and dictate management practices. This presentation covers some of the recent research trials conducted with soil amendments and alternative fertilizers. It will also explore how these can be incorporated into management practices to reduce overall fertilizer and irrigation use.
Noon – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. Dr. Pawel Petelewicz, University of Florida	Know Your Enemy – Identification of Problematic Species in Turfgrass This presentation will focus on an overview of key features allowing for proper identification of weeds in turfgrass scenarios. The emphasis will be on learning how to differentiate the most troublesome species based on their morphological characteristics, possibly using live examples. Short updates on research conducted at the UF will also be included.
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. Dr. Bonnie Wells, UF/IFAS Brevard County	Guardians of the Greens: Recognizing Beneficial Insects in Turfgrass Management As natural enemies of pests, many beneficial insects play a crucial role in sustainable turfgrass management. This presentation will highlight the significance of scouting for beneficial insects as an integral component of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. We will delve into the key identification characteristics of the most significant beneficial insects in turfgrass management, enabling turfgrass professionals to recognize and protect these key allies.
2:30 p.m.	CEU Distribution

2024 REGIONAL TURF SEMINARS CEUS

SEMINAR	FDACS									GCSAA	FNGLA
	CORE 487	CORE 482	PRIVATE APPLICATOR AG	ORNAMENTAL & TURF	LIMITED URBAN FERTILIZER	LIMITED LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE	LIMITED LAWN & ORNAMENTAL	COMMERCIAL LAWN & ORNAMENTAL	MAX CEUS EARNED PER SESSION		
Port St. Lucie	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	.40	5
Lake Worth	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	.40	5
New Port Richey	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	.40	5
Plant City	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	.40	5
Ft. Myers	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	.40	5
Tallahassee	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	.40	5
St. Augustine	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	.40	5
Orlando	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	.40	5
Ocala	2	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	4	.40	5

Topics and speakers are subject to change.



SAVE YOUR SEMINAR DATES:

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.FTGA.ORG
REGISTRATION FORMS ARE TO BE EMAILED TO: heather@ftga.org

Name _____ Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

TURF SEMINAR LOCATION AND DATES PRE-REGISTRATION CLOSES ON THE FRIDAY PRIOR TO THE TURF SEMINAR.

Port St. Lucie..... Feb. 13	Plant City..... Feb. 21	St. Augustine..... Feb 28
Lake Worth..... Feb. 15	Ft. Myers Feb. 22	Orlando..... Mar. 19
New Port Richey Feb. 20	Tallahassee Feb 27	Ocala Mar. 20

LIST ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

ATTENDEE – FIRST AND LAST NAME	FDACS PESTICIDE #	SEMINAR LOCATION	GOLF TOURNAMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

PRICING INFORMATION (PER ATTENDEE)

FTGA Member	Non-FTGA Member	Golf Tournament
\$40	\$75	\$25
\$30 (Group 10+)		

- Phone Registrations are not permitted. No walk-in registrations accepted.
- Lunch is provided at all turf seminars.
- CEUs are distributed at the end of the seminar.



PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment by check made payable to: **Florida Turfgrass Association** Check # _____

Please charge my: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code (3 digits on back) _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

Billing Address _____ Zip _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

REGISTRATION FORMS ARE TO BE EMAILED TO: Heather@FTGA.org

MAIL PAYMENTS TO:

PO Box 612
Highland City, FL 33846
 E-mail to: Heather@FTGA.org
 For more information or to register online,
 visit: www.FTGA.org

Become a Member!



CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations made 10+ days prior to the event will be granted a refund less a 25% cancellation fee. Cancellations made less than 9 calendar days prior to the event will NOT be provided a refund; only employee substitutions will be granted. Refunds will NOT be granted for not attending.





2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



The FTGA is committed to providing advocacy, communication, education, networking and research for professionals in and associated with the turfgrass industry.

This year, we're combining the membership drive with the Regional Turf Seminars and CUE Round Up Webinars registration so you can sign up for everything at the same time and not worry about missing deadlines. More information on the educational events will be forthcoming in early 2024.

ADD UP THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

The vision of the Florida Turfgrass Association is to:

- ✓ Administer strong leadership as a partner organization for its members in the turfgrass industry
- ✓ Support agronomic and policy research
- ✓ Provide relevant and accessible education
- ✓ Serve as an industry advocate for its members and their interests
- ✓ Provide in-person social and networking events
- ✓ Promote environmental stewardship through its established best management practices
- ✓ Elevate the professionalism of its membership

EDUCATION BENEFITS

For you, your staff and your company:

Knowledge, training, performance and efficiency benefits arising from focused education offerings at Turf Seminars and the annual Conference.

INDUSTRY BENEFITS

For you and your company:

- Networking, Social Engagement and FUN

For your children:

- FTGA Annual Legacy Scholarships

For you, your industry and its future:

- FTRF Industry Research
- FTRF Annual Industry Scholarships
- FTRF Emergency Benevolence Fund



71st Annual Conference

Save the Date!

DECEMBER 3-5, 2024 • WORLD EQUESTRIAN CENTER, OCALA, FL



2024 ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION APPLICATION

Application must be received by 3/15 to be included in the Membership Directory & Industry Guide

Business Contact Information

Full Name				
Company				
Address				
City		ST	ZIP	
Phone		Email		

Membership Type (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Active \$225	<input type="checkbox"/> Technician \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Not-For-Profit/Association/Municipal \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Retired \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Free
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Industry Category (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Architects/Consultants	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Products/Baits/Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Supplier
<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Protection/Nutrients/Soil Enhancements	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment/Irrigation/Drainage	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Superintendent
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn/Landscape/Pest Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal/Schools/Sports Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery/Sod Production
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Mgmt./Amendments/Sand	<input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Products/Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Association
<input type="checkbox"/> University/Extension		

TURF SEMINAR REGISTRATION (IN-PERSON) \$45 EACH

<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 13 Port St. Lucie	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 15 Lake Worth	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 20 New Port Richey
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 21 Plant City	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 22 Ft. Myers	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 27 Tallahassee
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28 St. AugusPne	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 19 Orlando	<input type="checkbox"/> Mar. 20 Ocala

CEU ROUND UP WEBINARS \$30 EACH

<input type="checkbox"/> July 16 Session 1 CORE Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> July 17 Session 2 L&O Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> July 23 Session 3 LUF Focus
<input type="checkbox"/> July 24 Session 4 Aquatics, NAW, ROW Focus

PAYMENT INFORMATION

FTGA Member Dues	\$	Check #		
Turf Seminar Registration	\$	Credit Card #		
CEU Round Up Registration	\$	Exp. Date	CCV Code	
Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation Donation	\$	Billing Zip Code		
Grand Total	\$			

GROUP MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION APPLICATION

Application must be received by 3/15 to be included in the Membership Directory & Industry Guide

Primary Business Contact Information

Full Name			
Company			
Address			
City		ST	
Phone		Email	

Group Membership Type (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Not-For-Profit/Municipal/Association	\$200	Includes 4 employees, add employees for \$35 each
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic	\$400	Includes 2 employees, add employees for \$100 each
<input type="checkbox"/>	Premium	\$825	Includes 5 employees, add employees for \$75 each
<input type="checkbox"/>	Premium-Plus	\$1,750	Includes 15 employees, add employees for \$50 each

Industry Category (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/> Architects/Consultants	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Products/Baits/Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Supplier
<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Protection/Nutrients/Soil Enhancements	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment/Irrigation/Drainage	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Superintendent
<input type="checkbox"/> Lawn/Landscape/Pest Control	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal/Schools/Sports Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery/Sod Production
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Mgmt./Amendments/Sand	<input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Products/Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Trade Association <input type="checkbox"/> University/Extension

Additional Members

Name		Address	
Phone		Email	
Name		Address	
Phone		Email	
Name		Address	
Phone		Email	

TURF SEMINAR REGISTRATION (IN-PERSON) \$45 PER PERSON

Feb. 13	Port St. Lucie	Feb. 15	Lake Worth	Feb. 20	New Port Richey
Feb. 21	Plant City	Feb. 22	Ft. Myers	Feb. 27	Tallahassee
Feb. 28	St. Augustine	Mar. 19	Orlando	Mar. 20	Ocala
Name		Location (s)			
Name		Location (s)			
Name		Location (s)			

CEU ROUND UP WEBINARS \$30 PER PERSON

July 16	Session 1 CORE Focus	July 17	Session 2 L&O Focus
July 23	Session 3 LUF Focus	July 24	Session 4 Aquatics, NAW, ROW Focus
Name		Session(s)	
Name		Session(s)	
Name		Session(s)	

PAYMENT INFORMATION

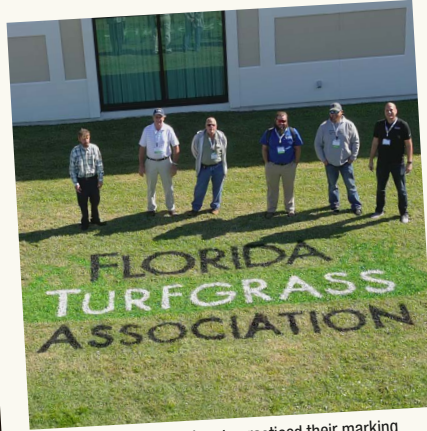
FTGA Member Dues	\$	Check #	
Turf Seminar Registration	\$	Credit Card #	
CEU Round Up Registration	\$	Exp. Date	CCV Code
Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation Donation	\$	Billing Zip Code	
Grand Total	\$		

MOMENTS TO RELISH

at the
70th Annual Conference



Meet the 2024-2025 FTGA Executive (front row L-R) President Pat Marsh, Vice President Eric Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer Mark Kann and Immediate Past President Jason Frank.
Board of Directors: (L-R second row) Peyton Edwards, TJ Shine and Steve Murray. (L-R third row) Kevin Wasilewski, Cal Leggett, Bryce Gibson, Cordel Dietzig, Lance Tibbetts, Bill Cohn and David Robinson, CGCA.



Sports Tour, participants practiced their marking and painting skills.



Dr. Barry Troutman (L) presents Adam Jones (R) with the Wreath of Grass.



Matthew R. Taylor, CGCS, presents Dr. J. Bryan Unruh with the President's Award.



Eric Dixon, Pat Marsh, Rep. Keith Truenow, Mark Kann, Jason Frank and David Shepp.



Cross-industry panel.

FTGA Golf Tournament Winners

Closest to the Pin #5
Jim Staub, 11'-7"

Closest to the Pin #12
Nick Wilson, 6'-10"

Closest to the Pin #10
Scott Tullis, 14'-3"

Closest to the Pin #15
Ricky Nix, 4'-7"



Cornhole Champs

Steve Barnes and Mark Tedders

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to David Rogers, Jeff Murphy and John Mascaro, who split the winnings of \$800+. A special thank you to John Mascaro, who donated his winnings to FTRF.



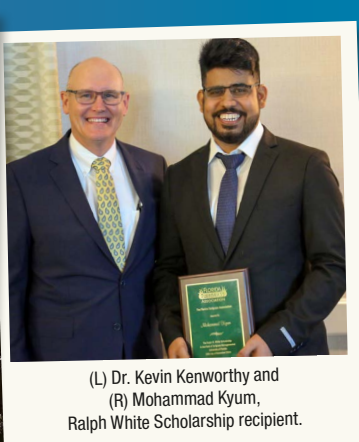
Dr. J. Bryan Unruh presenting his Golf BMP course along with (not pictured) Ralph Dain and Don Rainey and Dr. Bonnie Wells. Dr. Unruh also gave a presentation on Benchmarking BMPs - Documenting Evidence of Change during Golf Management Workshop.



FTGA President Pat Marsh and his wife Deborah.



(L) Dr. Marco Schiavon and (R) Fernanda Arevalo, Col. Frank Ward Memorial Scholarship recipient.



(L) Dr. Kevin Kenworthy and (R) Mohammad Kyum, Ralph White Scholarship recipient.



Past Presidents (L-R) Matthew R. Taylor, CGCS; John Mascaro; Andy Jorgensen, CGCS; Erin Wilder; Dr. Eric A. Brown; Lance Tibbetts; Jan Bel Jan, ASGCA; and Mac Briley.



Ken Morrow of the Turfgrass Group



Education



Dr. Adam Dale gave a presentation on Insect Integrated Pest Management.



Education



Matt Ayala and Peyton Edwards.



Mac Briley and Sid Sutton.



Steve Barnes (L) and Mark Tedders (R), Corn Hole winners.



Thank you, Envu, SiteOne and Syngenta, for bringing a taste of nostalgia to the Corn Boil. The dinner was especially delicious since it was grilled.

Many Thanks to our Generous Sponsors

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TUNE YOUR TIMING:

Making the Most of POST Herbicide Applications



By Aaron Hathaway, M.S., Nufarm

There are a number of principles that can help turf managers get more out of postemergence (POST) herbicide applications when they are necessary. Although none of the following principles on their own may make a huge difference in overall weed control for end-users, many of these applied together within weed control programs can help increase weed control efficacy and improve safety of desirable species.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION TIMING

Weeds are better controlled when they are young or immature for many reasons:

1. Young weeds have put relatively few resources into vegetative parts like roots, stolons and rhizomes that help weeds survive herbicide applications.
2. Waxy plant cuticles thicken over time, so newly emerged weeds often have thinner cuticles making it easier for herbicides to enter through the membranes and move to the active sites.

3. Young, newly germinated or emerged plants tend to grow relatively fast as they attempt to produce green foliage for photosynthesis. Herbicides, after moving through the cuticle into the plant, translocate much more effectively when the plant is growing. So, growth helps to increase herbicide efficacy.
4. Young weeds also tend to be small in size, which means herbicides don't need to move as far to get to active sites and complete coverage is easier to achieve as well.

For end-users, this means that understanding weed life cycles becomes more important especially for very difficult to control weeds. For example, doveweed is a very difficult weed to control with POST herbicides, and it tends to escape preemergence (PRE) herbicide applications because it germinates later than many other annuals in turf. As shown in Table 1, many POST herbicides can work well when applications are timed before doveweed matures.

Doveweed germinates from seed when soil temperatures reach 65–70° F in the spring. The control from even the first

Table 1: Doveweed Control With POST Herbicides*; McCullough, University of Georgia.

Treatment	Rate	2 WAIT**	3	5	7
----- percent control -----					
Manor	0.5 oz/A	96	95	100	100
Certainty	1.25 oz/A	100	91	99	100
Change Up + Manor	2 pt/A + 0.5 oz/A	86	90	97	97
Escalade 2	2.5 pt/A	99	96	97	96
Celsius	3.7 oz/A	100	97	98	96

*Treatments applied on June 12 and July 3, 2020 (repeat apps).

** WAIT = weeks after initial treatment.

of repeat applications was excellent with every treatment simply because the application was well-timed and attacked young doveweed plants that were vulnerable. Although it can be tough to get timing perfect, especially if you have many lawns to get to, the principle here can be powerful.

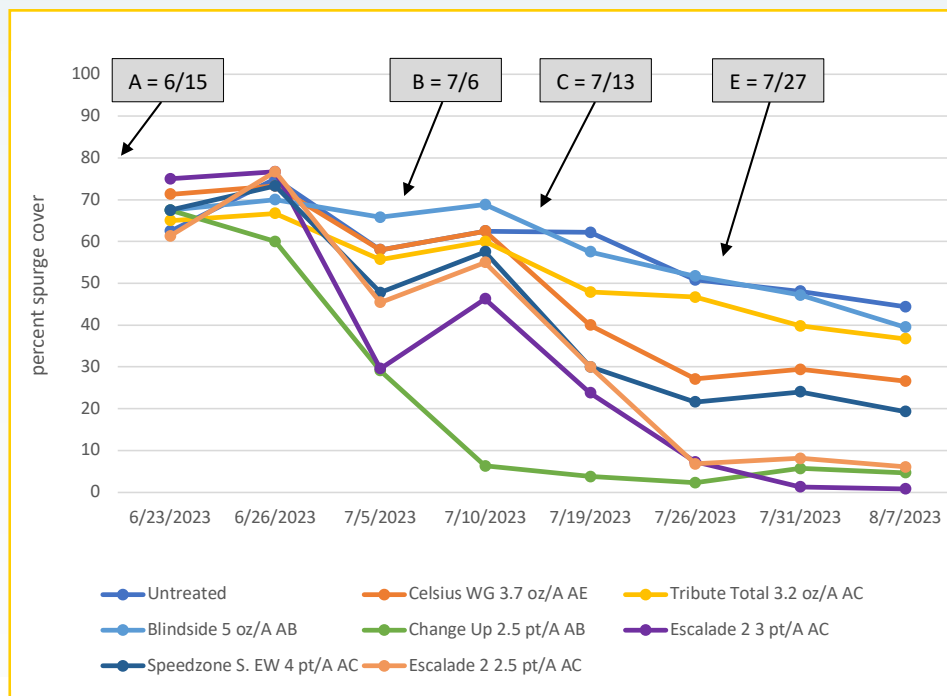
TIMING OF REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Annual broadleaf weeds can show up quickly—you may not see any weeds one week and come back the next to a healthy stand of spurge or yellow woodsorrel. Like doveweed, some of these summer annuals germinate late and avoid the preemergence barrier applied in the spring. Although they can be fairly easy to control if you catch them soon after emergence when they are young and growing, they are very difficult once they've become established. Once established, growth slows dramatically as these weeds simply wait to disseminate more seed for colonization the following year. Repeat applications are often necessary to control these more mature, slow-growing annual broadleaves.

The following trial (Figure 1) investigated repeat applications of many herbicides for the control of spurge in Bermudagrass. The initial treatments were applied on June 15, 2023, while the timing of the second applications vary (timings B, C and E) and were chosen based on labeled recommendations. Single applications of all treatments did not trend toward complete control of spurge in this trial, and the second application from only a few treatments finished the job.

Only repeat applications of Change Up, Escalade 2 at 2.5 pints/A and at 3 pints/A, and Speedzone EW at 3 pints/A (not graphed) reduced spurge populations to below 10%. Escalade 2 treatments provided a reduction in spurge to below 10% by 41 days after initial treatment (DAIT), but there

Figure 1: Spotted Spurge Control in 'Latitude' Bermudagrass; Petelewicz, University of Florida.



was some spurge recovery between evaluations on July 5 and July 10, which means the repeat application, which occurred on July 13, could have been more effective if applied earlier. Change Up, on the other hand, was retreated sooner so there was no recovery from spurge and much faster control. Only Blindside and Change Up were applied at timings A (6/15) and B (7/6; 3 weeks after [WA]), but the difference in control shows how products like Change Up, Escalade 2, and Speedzone EW that contain relatively more auxin mimics (2,4-D, MCPA, MCPP, dicamba, fluroxypyr, etc.) were more effective.

Timing of initial herbicide applications as soon after emergence of annual weeds as possible can provide excellent control from even a single herbicide application many times. For summer annuals like spurge or yellow woodsorrel, that means keeping an eye out for these small newly germinated weeds in the spring. For winter annuals, like common chickweed and henbit, that means careful scouting from October to December when these annuals could still be small. In cases

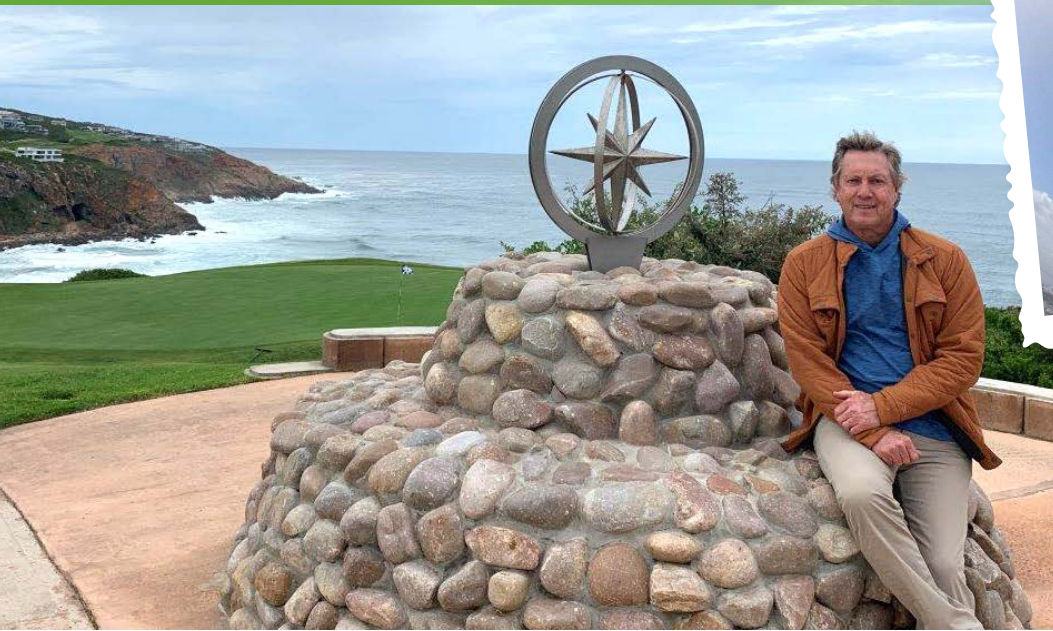
where best timing can't be achieved, it is important to realize a repeat application may be necessary on some tough weeds. Timing that repeat application sooner (3 WA) versus much later, as long as the label permits, could help to control those weeds in a more timely manner instead of staring at injured weeds for the following month. Applying an herbicide at the highest labeled rate can also help with control of more mature weeds, whether annual or perennial. 🌱



Aaron Hathaway started with Nufarm in February of 2019 and is a member of the Technical Services team for Turf and Ornamentals. Aaron spent the last 15 years conducting research and teaching at Michigan State University after completing his M.S. degree in Crop and Soil Sciences. He specializes in weed control in all turfgrass systems. He is addicted to weed control research as evidenced by the trials all over his yard.

Meet Pat Marsh

FTGA PRESIDENT



Left: Pinnacle Point Golf Course in South Africa, one of the top golf courses in the country.

Above: Paragliding in South Africa.

Like so many association members who had other aspirations before coming to the turfgrass industry, FTGA President Pat Marsh had thought about becoming an engineer one day. However, while still in high school, the golf bug bit him. Little did he know at the time that he would end up at the helm of one of Florida's premier associations in his chosen career.

"The summer before my senior year I went to Massachusetts to pick shade tobacco for the summer. A friend of the family was close to the general manager of Tampa Bay Golf and Racquet Club, and he told me if I completed the summer job, he would help get me a weekend job on the golf course. I completed the summer job, and he came through. I was put on tee markers and trash duty and learned to change pins, rake bunkers, etc. I liked it and worked there through high school until the summer came when I went to work full-time," says Pat.

"I got a Bright Futures scholarship and started college thinking I was going to be an engineer or something. I was an outdoor person, and the golf course just pulled me in. I haven't looked back. After six-plus years at two golf courses, I switched to lawn care and then started with LESCO in 1991."

Today, Pat focuses on strategy, sales and support at SiteOne Landscape Supply. He is also a conduit for the field teams with the company's category teams, which keeps him busy setting up training and promotions. He is also active in new product development and field testing.

"Sometimes, I am at the forefront of things. When you are successful at implementing new projects and programs, it's highly rewarding. In my current role, I am less involved in the day-to-day operations, and it has allowed me to meet and work with people on a more strategic, dynamic level. That allows me to continue learning from others in our industry."

When discussing the challenges facing the industry, Pat says,

"Labor and legislation—I've attended the Legislative Days on the Hill with both the Florida GCSA and FPMA. I was also active in attending county commission meetings around the state while fertilizer ordinances were being formulated.

In terms of labor challenges, I work with our team and customers on efficient ways to conduct business, not only in terms of products but also in the application of work methods to gain efficiency. For example, autonomous mowers are starting to gain traction in some areas due to labor constraints.

"Keeping up with changing chemistries poses another challenge. Some are regulated out of existence while major label changes can affect products' efficacies and cause product changes.

"One of the perks of my job is that it allows me the opportunity to be a part of organizations like the FTGA and participate in other meetings when our industry is the topic."

Pat's been around so long that he's forgotten when he joined the FTGA. He says, "I know I began attending the turf seminars and receiving CEUs in the late '80s. I joined because I could get CEUs. When fertilizer ordinances were starting, it was easy to see that organizations like the FTGA were desperately needed. Once you get involved, you realize the abundance of knowledge you can glean from the people with whom you come into contact.

"The networking opportunities alone are huge. I would like other companies and individuals to understand how important it is for our industry to be involved, not just from an education perspective but also from a legislative perspective where we have the opportunity and obligation to influence outcomes that benefit all stakeholders.

"There are people outside of the turfgrass arena who don't understand how we affect their lives for the better, and it takes our industry professionals to help control the narrative. Just as we need to be educated, we also need to educate others."

Pat was born in Sanford, Florida. He is married with three children and a grandchild, and his son is also in the industry. Anyone who follows Pat's X (formerly Twitter) feed knows he loves to travel, hunt, fish, play golf, ski, etc. "So I have enough hobbies. Some people say I'm pretty lucky. I seem to have a record of success on my adventures. I'm still waiting for that hole-in-one, though. It's coming!"

No, Pat, you're not lucky. You made your own luck.

"If I could advise those new to the industry, I would say, 'learn from other people, and share your experiences and knowledge with others.' All the smartest things I have ever said or done were borrowed from someone else. To the turfgrass veterans, I would say, 'Help the people who are starting off. Somebody helped you.' It's a crucial reason to be a part of any organization. It's more than an expression that a rising tide lifts all boats. And a healthy, cohesive industry is much stronger when we help that tide to rise." 🌱



Left: Pat and Deborah Marsh in Helen, Georgia, Christmas 2023. Above: Yellowstone National Park.

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*A WALK DOWN THE
Stuart Leventhal, CGCS,
Interlachen
Turfgrass Research
Golf Tournament*

MEMORY LANE

The Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Turfgrass Research Golf Tournament celebrated its 36th anniversary this year. It is a collaboration among FTGA, Florida GCSA and Interlachen Country Club. The 18-hole scramble consists of 40 two-person teams from each participating club—a golf course superintendent and a club official. According to Stuart, FTGA Executive Director Bob Yount, presented the idea to Interlachen. Later years introduced vendor participation with teams comprised of a vendor representative and a golf course superintendent. Proceeds from the event go to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation and are later distributed for studies, surveys and research projects.

The day begins with a briefing on research efforts, environmental issues and other industry happenings. Attendees from Central Florida GCSA, Florida GCSA and FTGA update the participants on their associations' happenings.

There were two memorable morning briefings. In 2013, Stuart received FTGA's highest honor, the Wreath of Grass award, for his outstanding service to the turfgrass industry. In 2018, Stuart retired and turned the tournament mantle over to Bryce Gibson, the new golf course superintendent who had served under Stuart as assistant superintendent. That year, Bryce was giving his introductory remarks when something caught Stuart's eye—the Interlachen team had entered the room. He thought, "That's odd." Then Bryce announced the tournament would bear Stuart's name from that day forward. Stuart says, "My first thought was that these events are often memorial events. Some of the newer Interlachen team members and tournament players may not know me, so I asked Bryce to inform everyone each year during his opening remarks that this is not a memorial tournament."

Stuart has played in the tournament for all 36 years but has never won—that is, until this year. He humorously noted, "Bryce had already won," but now Stuart walks among the champions.

The tournament has donated significant funds to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation. By 2013, the sum had topped \$100,000. By 2019, \$150,000 had been raised, and the tournament proceeds are on track to reach the \$175,000 mark in the next few years. With the constant flow of change, challenges and opportunities facing the golf sector, turfgrass research is vital to staying ahead of the game. FTGA and Florida GCSA and its chapters consider this research paramount to the future of the industry and the people of Florida. One such research project funded by FTRF is the ongoing Green Industries Economic Impact Study. Thanks to Stuart, Bryce and all who make this tournament possible and everyone who participates in this worthwhile event every year. 🌱



Gene Stys, superintendent at Indian River Colony Club, made a hole-in-one using a 6-iron on the par-3, 5th hole. Photo courtesy of Joel Jackson.



L-R: Chris Harder and John Lammrish show off their 2021 trophy.



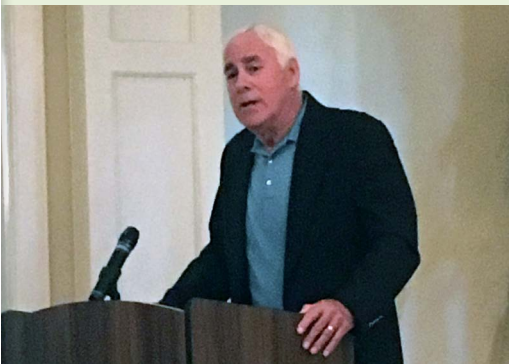
(L-R) Ryan Meyers and Charles Schaeffer took 1st place gross prize and are repeat champions from 2015. Not pictured: Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, and his partner Barry Herman took 1st place net prize.



(L-R) The Southridge Golf Club 2012 winning team: Jimmy Lawrence, golf course superintendent and partner Wayne Enders, golf professional. Photo courtesy of Joel Jackson.



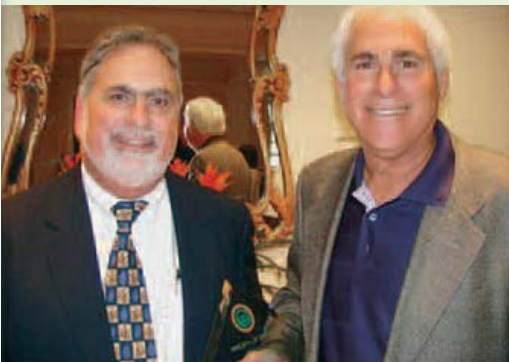
(L-R; 2018) Jennifer Bryan, Florida Golf Course Superintendents executive director; Bryce Gibson, Interlachen Country Club; Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Interlachen Country Club; Bob Yount, FTGA Wreath of Grass recipient; Andy Jorgenson, CGCS, On Top of the World Communities and FTGA president; Joshua Kelley, Hawks Landing Golf Club and CFGCSA president; and Heather Russo, FTGA executive director.



Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, addressing the crowd.



Lunch at the 2019 event.



Past President Todd Himelberger and Stuart Leventhal at the 2013 event.



Andy Jorgensen (R) presents a plaque to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, commemorating the tournament's name change in 2018 to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS, Turfgrass Research Golf Tournament in honor of his outstanding work over the years.



Forest Beeman of Beeman's Nursery, New Smyrna, spoke on plant material in out-of-play areas relative to BMPs at the 2024 event.



Dr. Kevin Kenworthy giving remarks at the 2019 tournament.



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WOMEN IN TURF: Shelby Dubois

By Dr. Bonnie Wells

Editor's note: This issue introduces a new recurring department, "Women in Turf." It highlights women's roles across the spectrum of the turfgrass industry and across the associations that support these professionals. Our thanks to Dr. Bonnie Wells, contributing editor, for suggesting and taking on this assignment.

Across the lush green landscapes, golf courses, sports fields, and sod farms of Florida, women are carving their niche throughout the turfgrass industry. Shelby Dubois, the assistant equipment manager at Longboat Key Club golf course on the Gulf Coast of Florida, is one such trailblazer. I recently had the opportunity to talk with Shelby about her career. She shared her journey into the turfgrass industry, discussed some accomplishments, challenges and aspirations, and shed light on women's dynamic role in shaping the future of turf management.

For 12 years, Shelby has been dedicated to working in the turfgrass industry, but her journey was not a calculated career move; instead, it began with an innate childhood fascination with cutting grass and disassembling machinery. She started her career as a groundskeeper but always found herself gravitating toward the equipment shop, so eventually, she turned a childhood interest into a flourishing career.

Shelby's commitment to sustainable turf management is evident in her role. When asked how she contributes to sustainable turf management, she replied, "When cutting units are ground and set up properly, not only will they last a long time, saving material and time, but the act of mowing stresses out the turf and machines less, requiring less agronomic inputs and saving fuel and electricity. I also prefer to use fuel additives and high-quality lubricants, which don't need to be changed often, and they help the machines

perform at maximum efficiency, saving fuel, and so will have a longer overall lifespan." Shelby's dedication to sustainable practices aligns with the industry's growing movement toward more environmental responsibility.

Shelby acknowledges the significance of electric and autonomous mowers, especially in the face of a shrinking labor force. The industry's shift towards sustainable practices, such as reduced irrigation and fertilizer inputs, aligns with her vision for a greener future.

To date, Shelby says her career highlights include "volunteering with 35 other women at the US Women's Open at Pebble Beach, working at the 2022 Pelican Ladies Pro Golf Association (LPGA) Championship, volunteering for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Equipment Manager Task Group and earning the GCSAA Equipment Manager Certification Program Level 2 (EMCP Level 2), in that order." These accomplishments highlight Shelby's commitment to excellence in turfgrass management.

One current project that Shelby is particularly excited about has been helping with getting Longboat Key Club's TurfRad program going, an innovative initiative scanning moisture beneath the surface for more efficient irrigation. She also worked toward perfecting cutting units to observe their effects on the United States Golf Association (USGA) GS3 smart ball, a device used to quickly gather key putting green performance metrics such as speed, firmness, smoothness, and trueness.

Shelby recognizes the turfgrass industry's pivotal role in Florida's economy, particularly tourism. By helping maintain world-class golf courses sustainably, Shelby actively contributes to the local economy by ensuring a lasting revenue source for communities across Florida.

To aspiring young women eyeing the turfgrass industry, Shelby's advice is straightforward: "Do it!" She advises to "embrace hard work, seek education, ask questions and engage with industry organizations like the GCSAA and Florida Turfgrass Association (FTGA)." She envisions a future where more women occupy diverse roles within the industry, from groundskeepers to equipment managers, superintendents, researchers and educators.

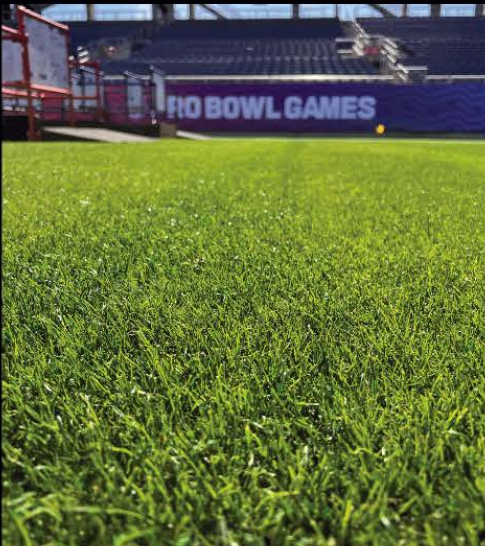
Shelby Dubois exemplifies the resilience and passion of women in the turfgrass industry. Her journey reflects women's strides in a traditionally male-dominated field, which she explains has not always been easy but nonetheless rewarding, no doubt. Shelby is paving the way for a more inclusive and sustainable future for turfgrass management. As she continues to break ground, Shelby encourages aspiring women to join her in shaping the sustainable future of the turfgrass industry.

For more insight into Shelby's role as the Assistant Equipment Manager for Longboat Key Club, follow her on X: @sdubois91. And please join me in congratulating her on being picked for the first "Florida Women in Turf" feature. 🌱



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