

GGEF: Moving Forward with Projects and Purpose

Mike Waldron, GGEF Chairman • Executive Director, Georgia State Golf Association

The last several months have been busy for the Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation (GGEF), and I want to bring the GGCSA membership up-to-date on the funding that we have approved and the expansion of the outlook of the Foundation.

Several of the GGEF trustees, including vice chairman Tim Cunningham (Coosa Country Club), secretary/treasurer Harold Franklin (Fields Ferry Golf Club), Richard Staughton (Towne Lake Hills Golf Club) and myself joined with executive director Tenia Workman to visit turf research professors at the University of Georgia in Griffin to review research that GGEF has been requested to fund as well as research that is already being funded by the Foundation.

Drs. Clint Waltz and Paul Raymer presented the work that has gone on in developing new research putting greens of various ultradwarf bermudagrasses. The Foundation was asked to assist in funding \$6,000 toward the completion of the planting of these greens. After reviewing the area and some of the early results, we agreed to recommend to the full board that this project be supported, which it has been for 2010. The trustees also toured the research lab of Dr. Jack Huang, who is currently studying methods to facilitate biodethatching, which the Foundation has supported for the past two years.

We then visited the new classroom building at the Griffin campus. It became apparent that this could serve not only the students but others in the various industries aligned with the

research performed at Griffin. Therefore, we have developed the first GGEF-sponsored golf course management training seminar which will be conducted on March 25. There will be no registration charge for GGCSA superintendent and assistant golf course superintendent members. Please take this opportunity to hear from Drs. Waltz, Raymer, Huang, Carrow and Burpee on the various research and management programs before taking an extensive field tour of the various plots, the greenhouse and the new maintenance building.

At the January GGEF board meeting, the full board discussed a new mission statement for the Foundation. Mission statements should resonate both with the membership and with the constituencies that an organization hopes to affect. The previous mission statement was more of a declaration of what the Foundation is as an adjunct of the GGCSA. It stated: *The purpose of the GGEF is the for the advancement of education and research in the field of turfgrass improvement and management.*

While the board of trustees believes that this mission statement is still a mainstay of what the Foundation is, it also believes that an expansion of ideas and focus is necessary to tell the story of the superintendent's stewardship of our natural resources. In addition, it is important to awaken and enlighten those who may not understand all that is involved in our efforts and to encourage support from our allied partners and others that may have an interest in assisting us with our other purposes. To address these concerns, the new mission statement is as follows: *The Georgia Golf Environmental Foundation promotes sustainable environmental stewardship.*

A sub-committee that includes GGCSA president Anthony Williams and GGEF trustees Brad Owen and Randy Nichols will work on developing

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a new vision for the Foundation and present it at the next meeting in May. All of this will be presented to the GGCSA membership at the Summer Conference at Jekyll Island.

On the horizon for the Foundation are two important fundraising events that are key to the ongoing success of the GGEF: The Rounds4Research project and the annual Spring Classic (April 20 at the Piedmont Driving Club). We hope that all of you will be able to support the mission and purposes of this outstanding Foundation through your participation.

It is an honor for me to lead the GGEF in 2010. The GGCSA is a most dedicated membership of professional golf course managers, and the board of trustees looks forward to a great year in serving you. ●

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GGEF

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