

THOMAS VLACH

Certified Golf Course Superintendent

Summary of Qualifications

- Experienced Superintendent with CGCS status since 1996 from GCSAA; youngest member to become certified.
- Directly involved with over 30 professional events, which includes many PGA tour events such as The Players.
- Highly-effective communicator with all involved in club and public; remain on the cutting-edge in regards to reports to membership, meetings with staff, and course conditions updates via club website, blog, and twitter.
- Thorough knowledge and field experience in all aspects of golf course construction; completed both new construction and renovation work with architects Rees Jones, Pete Dye, and Ron Forse.
- Developed business acumen that transcend agronomy; strong ability to adhere to budget constraints and get the most out of resources provided.
- Leadership and management talents that include working with staff to solve problems and produce results.
- Successfully develop and mentor management staff to meet club demands and industry standards; 9 former Assistant Superintendents have improved their career status to Head Superintendents at other clubs.
- Recipient of numerous industry awards and recognition; won National Award for Resort Category by ELGA (Environmental Leaders in Golf) from GCSAA in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

Professional Experience

**GREY OAKS COUNTRY CLUB
DIRECTOR OF GOLF COURSE & GROUNDS**

**NAPLES, FL
MAY 2018–PRESENT**

54-Hole private facility with \$9.1M operating budget and staff of over 80. Recipient of several awards, the most comprehensive property in the area including 70,000+ rounds.

- Lead a complex operation that includes managing all three courses, two driving ranges, botanical island, bee hives, grass tennis court, horticulture team, and 2 Property Owners Associations with additional 25+ staff.
- Identified on-going problematic issues on 36 of 54 greens; used soil boring and chemical analysis techniques.
- Extensive financial analysis of entire operation for locating potential savings, including improved equipment leasing/purchasing of a large fleet.
- Successful project management: 14 miles of drainage installation in-house, USGA Green recommendations on previously built greens, and infrastructure improvements where needed to improve performance.

Currently embarking on a 54-hole master plan by Andrew Green; working toward acquisition of the club's water rights from South Florida Management Company.

**TPC SUGARLOAF
DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY**

**DULUTH, GEORGIA
AUGUST 2015–MAY 2018**

27-Hole private club designed by Greg Norman. Home of the Mitsubishi Classic, a Champions Tour event.

- After successfully completing numerous renovations to TPC Sawgrass, was tasked to undertake the complete transformation of TPC Sugarloaf; executed a \$20M, 3-year renovation with incredible results.
- Aggressively implemented new agronomic programs to deliver championship conditions on a daily basis.
- Developed recruitment programs to attract top talent; utilized latest industry technology for advanced operation.

**TPC SAWGRASS
DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY**

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA
MARCH 2008–AUGUST 2015**

36-hole resort facility designed by Pete Dye and opened in 1979. The Stadium course is the home for golf's fifth major, The Players Championship. The operating budget at the time was \$5.3M with staff of 90.

- 2012 TPC Operation of the Year Award; recipient of national TPC Platinum awards each year from 2009-2014.
- Responsible for the diligent and successful management of 3 different operating budgets and staff, including near-constant construction and renovation project scheduling and implementation.
- Inter-phased with Tour Agronomy, Rules, Championship Management, Club GM, and Commissioner Tim Finchem; also interacted with NBC Sports and Golf Channel during The Players each year.
- Successfully planned and/or completed numerous projects; includes master plan renovation of Valley Course of \$7M with new USGA greens converted to Celebration, new irrigation and bulkheads; Stadium Course regrassing and rebuilding of numerous greens with Pete Dye, and installation of greens heating and air conditioning units.
- Delivered massive improvement to maintenance infrastructure; renovated facility, drainage on Valley Course, spectator mounds, 5 new spectator bathrooms, rebuilt bulkheads, new wash rack and plant protectant facilities.

**GREYSTONE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
DIRECTOR OF GOLF MAINTENANCE**

**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
MARCH 1999–MARCH 2008**

36-hole private club designed by Bob Cupp and opened in 1991 as a single 18-hole layout. It was then added to by Rees Jones in 2000 under my tenure at the club as a \$12M project. It featured an operating budget of \$2.9M, a capital budget of \$350K, and staff of 61 at that time.

**PINE TREE GOLF CLUB
DIRECTOR OF GOLF MAINTENANCE**

**BOYNTON BEACH, FLORIDA
APRIL 1994–MARCH 1999**

18-hole private club designed by Dick Wilson. A Golf Digest Top-100 club. Conducted \$2.4M reovation during my tenure that resulted in USGA spec greens, restored bunkers, new irrigation, and a new short game area.

**TWIN RIVERS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT**

**OVIEDO, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 1992–APRIL 1994**

**TPC SAWGRASS - STADIUM COURSE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
INTERNSHIP**

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA
MAY 1991–NOVEMBER 1992
SUMMERS 1989, 1990**

Education & Licensure

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

1991

B.S. in Agriculture, Soil Science, Specialization in Turfgrass Management
– Magna Cum Laude Graduate

STATE OF ALABAMA HOME BUILDER LICENSE

LICENSED SINCE 2008

Professional Affiliations

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MEMBER SINCE 1987

Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1996 -- Election Committee 2001, 2002
Scholarship Committee 2003 -- Site Design, Planning, and Construction Committee 2004
2014 Environmental Leader in Golf Award -- 2014 Golf Industry Show Speaker

FLORIDA TURFGRASS GROWERS ASSOCIATION

1992–1994, 2008–PRESENT

NORTH FLORIDA GCSA

MEMBER SINCE 2008

ALABAMA GCSA

1999–2008

Chapter Delegate and Voting Appointee to GCSAA 2000 - 2008 -- Board Member 2000
Secretary & Treasurer 2001 -- Scholarship Chairman 2001 -- Vice President 2002
President 2003 - 2005 -- Past-President 2006

PALM BEACH GCSA

1994–1999

Board Member 1995 -- Chapter Newsletter Editor 1996 -- Secretary & Treasurer 1996,
1997 -- Vice President 1998

FIRST COAST TECHNICAL COLLEGE STEERING COMMITTEE

Tournaments

THE PLAYERS

TPC SAWGRASS STADIUM COURSE

PGA Tour, 1989 - 1992, 2008 - 2015

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CLASSIC

TPC SUGARLOAF

2016 - 2017

WEB.COM TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

TPC SAWGRASS VALLEY COURSE

Web.com Tour, 2013 - 2014

BRUNO'S MEMORIAL CLASSIC

GREYSTONE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Champions Tour, 1999 - 2005

WINN DIXIE JACKSONVILLE OPEN

TPC SAWGRASS VALLEY COURSE

Web.com Tour, 2010 - 2012

HONDA CLASSIC

TPC EAGLE TRACE

PGA Tour, 1984 - 1988

SENIOR PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

TPC SAWGRASS VALLEY COURSE

Champions Tour, 1988

CADILLAC NFL CLASSIC

TPC SAWGRASS STADIUM & VALLEY COURSES

Champions Tour, 1992