

# 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–DECEMBER 2020**

*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 reonvation 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 FLORIDA PESTICIDE LICENSE**

**LICENSED SINCE 2018**

## *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 - 2018

### **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