

## Cognizant Classic in the Palm Beaches (PGA TOUR)

PGA National (The Champion) • Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. • Feb. 29-March 3, 2024

### Director of Agronomy & Champion Super Andrew Wilson, GCSAA

Years as GCSAA Member: 13

Years at PGA National: 6

Years as a Superintendent: 3

Previous Courses: Seminole Golf Club, PGA National  
Champion (assistant), Tequesta Country Club

Education: University of Minnesota

Professional Tournaments Hosted: Hosted or been an  
assistant for 10 television events (PGA TOUR),  
TaylorMade Drive for Relief, Jackson T Stephens Cup

For superintendent contact info, contact Mike Strauss,  
GCSAA at [mstrauss@gcsaa.org](mailto:mstrauss@gcsaa.org) or 785-865-8444

### Other Key Golf Personnel

Evan Doughty, Match and Staple Course Superintendent

Alex Lander, Equipment Manager

Jeff Cathey, Troon SE Regional Agronomist

Number of Employees: 19 on The Champion course

Number of Tournament Volunteers: 12

### Course Architect

Architect (year): Tom and George Fazio (1981)

Renovation Architect (year): Jack Nicklaus (2002, 14, 18)

### Twitter

Course - @PGANatl

Tournament - @the\_cognizant

GCSAA - @GCSAA

Tournament Fact Sheets for the PGA TOUR, LPGA, PGA  
TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry and Epson Tours and  
USGA and PGA of America championships can be found  
at: <https://www.gcsaa.org/media/tournament-fact-sheets>

### Tournament Set-up

Par: 35-36--71

Yardage: 7,147

Stimpmeter: 12

### Course Statistics

Average Green Size: 7,000 sq. ft.

Total Property Acres: 500 (120 Champ)

Acres of Fairway: 25

Acres of Rough: 65

Number of Sand Bunkers: 60

Number of Holes Water is in Play: 15

Soil Conditions: Loam

Water Sources: Canal

Drainage Conditions: Fair

### Turfgrass

Greens: TifEagle bermudagrass .120"

Tees: Celebration bermudagrass .450"

Fairways: Celebration bermudagrass .450"

Rough: Perennial ryegrass overseed 2-2.25"

### Additional Notes

- Hole No. 10 will play to a par 5 this year.
- Fairway lines were widened in May 2023 back to grassing lines from 2012-13. In all one acre of fairway grass was added since last year.
- El Nino weather pattern dropped 9.58" of rain on the course from Dec. 12-Jan. 31.
- El Nino has affected turfgrass in Florida with the cloudiest December since 1940 and cloudiest January since 1941. Turfgrass needs sun to survive.
- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive tournament Wilson has not had an assistant superintendent.

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Since 1926 the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to 20,000 members in more than 78 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and improve communities through enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf.

## **GCSAA Notes (PGA TOUR Only) (Primary Courses Only)**

### **2024 Tournaments by State (multiple events)**

- 5 – California
- 4 – Florida (1<sup>st</sup> of year and 1<sup>st</sup> of 4 straight)
- 4 – Texas
- 3 – North Carolina
- 2 – Hawaii
- 2 – Georgia
- 2 – South Carolina

### **2023 Longest Courses (7,500+)**

- 7,765 – Torrey Pines (Farmers Insurance)
- 7,670 – Puntacana Resort (Corales Puntacana)
- 7,596 – Plantation Course (Sentry TOC)
- 7,571 – Muirfield Village (the Memorial)
- 7,545 – Augusta National (The Masters)
- 7,538 – Quail Hollow (Wells Fargo)

### **2023 Shortest Courses**

- 6,828 – Port Royal (Butterfield Bermuda)
- 6,852 – TPC River Highlands (Travelers)
- 6,972 – Pebble Beach (AT&T Pebble Beach)
- 7,005 – Sea Island (The RSM Classic)
- 7,044 – Waialae CC (Sony Open)

### **2023 Largest Avg. Greens by sq. ft.**

- 8,722 – Plantation Course (Sentry TOC)
- 8,300 – El Cardonal (World Wide Tech)
- 8,000 – Port Royal (Butterfield Bermuda)
- 7,500 – Riviera (Genesis Inv.)
- 7,500 – Bay Hill (Arnold Palmer)
- 7,400 – TPC Summerlin (Shriners)

### **2023 Smallest Avg. Greens by sq. ft.**

- 3,500 – Pebble Beach (AT&T Pebble Beach)
- 3,700 – Harbour Town (RBC Heritage)
- 4,300 – TPC Southwind (FedEx St. Jude)
- 4,500 – Albany (Hero World Challenge)
- 4,500 – Oak Hill (PGA Championship)
- 5,000 – PGA West Stadium (American Express)
- 5,000 – Torrey Pines (Farmers Insurance)
- 5,000 – Muirfield Village (the Memorial)
- 5,000 – Colonial CC (Charles Schwab)
- 5,000 – TPC River Highlands (Travelers)

### **2023 Course by Greens Turf Types**

- 16 – Bentgrass
- 13 – Bermudagrass (after 5 straight on Poa)
- 11 – Poa
- 2 – Paspalum

## **GCSAA Superintendent Notes (PGA TOUR Only)**

### **Longest GCSAA Membership**

- 44 – Stanley Reedy, CGCS (Sanderson)
- 41 – Sam MacKenzie, CGCS (BMW Champ)
- 38 – Brian Sullivan, CGCS, MG (Am. Express)
- 37 – William B. Owen III (Masters)
- 35 – Roby Robertson, CGCS (Valero Texas)
- 35 – Kevin Welker, CGCS (World Wide Tech)
- 34 – Dale Hahn, CGCS (Shriners)

*Note: Avg. GCSAA membership years for host superintendents is 19.5.*

### **Superintendents by Alma Mater (if known)**

- 3 – Mississippi State
- 3 – Ohio State
- 3 – Penn State
- 3 – Rutgers
- 2 – University of Guelph (Canada)
- 2 – Michigan State

**Learn more about El Nino's effect on turfgrass from these blog posts from former GCAA president Darren Davis, the superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, Fla.:**

**El Nino and its effect on turfgrass management**  
<https://darrenidavisgcs.blogspot.com/2024/01/el-nino-and-its-effect-on-turfgrass.html>

**How does turfgrass eat?**  
<https://darrenidavisgcs.blogspot.com/2024/02/>