



tions as part of their basic membership package, but they also are known for their supervisor training sessions and seminars. All in all, I have found them to be a very worthwhile service."

Andrews continues, "I will miss talking to and listening to Whit but it is nice to know that the work he helped to start will continue."

"I think we would be providing a service to Florida superintendents to acknowledge Whit's contributions to our education and our clubs, and to let them know that the WCEA will continue."

Whit was the president and founder of the WCEA, which serves over 600 member companies in employer and labor relations.

He moved to Florida with 15 years of experience as director of employee relations with the Purolator Corporation and six years as human resource manager with Black and Decker Corporation.

He also taught high school for two years in North Carolina as well as serving as guidance counselor.

Whit received his B.A. degrees in economics and business administration from Methodist College in Fayetteville, N.C. and his graduate degree in counseling from North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Whit is survived by his wife, Jerri and daughters, Candice and Whitney.

Alan Weitzel: South Florida's Mister Golf!

BY JIM WALKER

*Manager, Superintendent
Palmetto Golf Course*

There are some people I have met who were born with silver spoons in their mouths. However, Alan Weitzel, who is this year's recipient of the Presidents Award, was born with a cup cutter in one hand and a trap rake in the other.

The eldest of five children, he was born in Caledonia, N.Y. to Robert and Josephine Weitzel, who still own and operate Caledonia Country Club just outside Rochester. Growing up as part of the maintenance crew and having started playing golf at eight years of age, Alan has had a life-long love affair with the game.

During high school at Caledonia Mumford Central, Alan played football, basketball and golf. He attended Cornell University and graduated with a B.S. in business administration and a minor in turfgrass science.

While at Cornell, he met Jacquie, his wife of 24 years, who was attending Ithaca College. Alan and Jacquie have two sons. Matthew (20) who is a junior at Miami of Ohio, majoring in biochemistry and preparing for medical school, and Todd (16), who is a junior at Miami Palmetto Senior High School. Matthew has the distinction of being the first



Alan Weitzel, tournament director of the Palmetto Jr. Open he founded 20 years ago, presents young Victor Billskoog with a trophy at this year's event.

person from South Florida to receive a Legacy Scholarship from the GCSAA. Like Alan, Matthew and Todd are avid golfers who grew up in junior golf programs, most of which Alan founded and ran.

Alan moved to Miami in 1972. His first job was as a front desk clerk at the Doral Hotel. About a year later, he became the assistant personal director.

In February 1974, Alan began his career with Dade County, when he was hired as the general manager of Crooked Creek Golf Course. In 1977, Alan was appointed the division head of all five county courses. They include Key Biscayne, site of the Royal Caribbean Classic Senior Tour event and Palmetto Golf Course, an 18-hole Dick Wilson-

designed championship facility.

Departmental reorganization in 1982 left Alan with two courses to run, Palmetto and Briar Bay, a nine-hole precision layout designed by Bruce Devlin and Robert Von Hagge. Additionally, Alan assumed responsibility for an entire district of parks covering 36 square miles in South Dade County.

In 1983, Alan formed Southern Golf Appraisals, a company with an eye on the quickly growing consulting market. With partner Dave Lottes, their first client was former Miami Dolphin quarterback Earl Morrall, who owned Arrowhead Country Club. They are currently the management team for Eco Golf Course, Holly-



wood Beach Golf Course, and Orange Brook Golf Course.

Alan began his involvement with the South Florida Superintendents Association in 1975. During his 10 years on the South Florida board of directors, Alan served in every capacity. During his presidency, the Palm Beach Chapter was formed, as was the state association. He sat on the first state board and was involved with the formation of the Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the IFAS Station in Ft. Lauderdale. He was also involved with the South Florida Green Magazine, started by Mike Barger and later edited by Dan Jones, becoming the statewide Florida Green magazine we know today.

During Alan's involve-

ment with the South Florida Chapter, his path crossed many other superintendents. Among them are Paul Turcotte, Dick Blake, Fred Klauk, Dick Lemmel, Dan Jones, Brad Kocher, Neil Kalin, Dave Lottes, and Bill McKee.

When asked about his time with Alan on the South Florida board, Bill McKee said, "Alan has been a key figure in the success of the South Florida Chapter. No one has given as much time and effort. Besides his hard work, Alan always had a good sense of humor and made being on the board with him a lot of fun. One of the things I remember most is how he could speak endlessly on state and national news and issues. No one has ever done more to make the South Florida

Chapter the successful association it is today."

Alan's long and dedicated involvement with the South Florida and State Associations was obviously more than enough to have him receive the Presidents Award this year, but his participation and promotion of junior golf is just as impressive.

He founded the Palmetto Jr. Golf Association in 1977, which is one of the largest, most successful and longest-running groups in South Florida. Still going strong 20 years later, this group is still touched by Alan's hand, providing camps, clinics, and tournaments to South Florida children. In 1979, the inaugural Palmetto Junior Open was held at Palmetto and Briar Bay for children 3-and-under to 17

years of age. This annual event is still continuing with Alan as Tournament Director.

In 1981 he helped form the Doral Ryder Pitch, Putt and Drive competition. In 1997 when the Ryder Corporation withdrew its sponsorship of the program and it looked as if the event's 16th year would be its last, Alan, with the help of John Kiskinis, recruited Supreme International, parent company of Munsingwear, to put up the \$50,000.00 required to keep the tournament alive.

Alan created the Dade County Youth Fair Tournaments in 1992, which also continue today. Also in 1992, Alan breathed life into yet another junior program. Seeing a need for underprivileged, inner-city

George Elliott of Addison Reserve Uses Georgia Grass on His Greens

Here's Why!

"I first visited Millhaven Plantation when I had to renovate the greens at Mayacoo Lakes Country Club back in 1993. I was very impressed with the quality of their Tifdwarf and had them send me down a batch of sample sprigs. The samples looked good, so I ordered 3,000 bushels of sprigs to renovate 18 greens. We hydro-sprigged those greens and were playing on them in less than 7 weeks. Here at Addison Reserve we already have 18 greens in place, and we're putting in another 9 - all certified Tifdwarf from Millhaven. We also used Millhaven's Tifway on most of our fairways. I think the entire course looks and plays great."



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children to have golfing opportunities, he won the support of the County Park Department and Black Women in Sports Association to fund a year-round golfing camp at Goulds Park in South Dade. He did all of this long before the "Tiger craze" became fashionable.

Alan's promotion of Junior Golf will never wane. He feels very strongly that Junior Golf is the cornerstone of golf's future success everywhere in the world.

If it sounds like I know Alan well and admire and respect him, you are correct. He hired me in 1978 to manage Key Biscayne, and from 1980 to 1990, I was his assistant, supervising golf and park maintenance operations. Like many others, I have learned some valuable lessons from him. I am proud to call him a true friend, and was honored to have had the opportunity to tell you about some of the major contributions he has made to the game we all love and earn our living through.

This quiet man with a dry, quick sense of humor, has touched so many lives through his twenty years of unselfish, dedicated commitment to the game in South Florida, it would take a book to list all he has accomplished. There is no doubt that all of us in the profession owe Alan a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done and will continue to do in the future.

Cheers, Alan! Let's hoist a frosty mug to the game we love, your continued work, success and health.

Gary Grigg wins 1997 Distinguished Service Award

BY MIKE MONGOVEN, CGCS

Ft. Myers C. C.

The FGCSA Distinguished Service Award was established in 1985 as a prestigious form of recognition for a deserving FGCSA superintendent. It is presented to a member who has performed outstanding achievements as a golf course superintendent. All three words — "Distinguished," "Service," and "Award" — have meaning for Gary Grigg.

Distinguished is certainly a word you can use to describe Grigg. He was president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1995-96. He has been a Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1977 and has been recertified 4 times. His work at GCSAA has extended to 15 different committees. The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association certified him as a Master Greenkeeper in 1997. He is one of only 14 Master Greenkeepers in the world.

Service is really the most significant word of Distinguished Service Award that describes Gary. A review of Gary's life reveals that service is not only a function of his professional life, but his entire life.

He grew up in a small community with many relatives. The area had a high Mormon population. The environment was like an extended family where everyone helped everyone



Gary Grigg recipient of the FGCSA's 1997 Distinguished Service Award with his wife, Coleen and grandson, Alec.

else. Gary has continued this credo throughout all aspects of his life. Awards of many different types have been associated with Gary and courses he has worked for. The list of award-winning courses he has helped build and grow in include some of the best-known on golf's "Top 100" lists. He ranks his service (43 years) to the Boy Scouts of America and the Mormon Church (LDS) as his most enjoyable.

Two of his sons — Jared and Aaron — became Eagle Scouts. Gary enjoys the fundamental principles and ideals taught by Scouting. He is grounded in family values and community spirit stressed by his church.

His service to fellow golf course superintendents started in 1970 as a board member of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents. Gary has served continuously as a director or officer of a golf course superintendents association for 27 consecutive years. He credits the "heritage of service" with which he was raised by his parents. Service to others was a virtue which was regarded highly by his parents.

While on the GCSAA board of directors he served with 18 different men for 9 years. He most enjoyed the camaraderie and the opportunity he had to meet people within our profession and allied organizations around the world.

While serving as president, he represented our profession, and the GCSAA membership.

Gary attributes much of his success to the support he has been given by his wife, Coleen, and their children Jared, Aaron, Jill, and Ryan. He has witnessed the requirements to succeed as a golf course superintendent shift to business knowledge with an emphasis on communication skills.

Golf course superintendents must be able to sell themselves and their value. The future of golf, according to Gary, is in the hands of the plant breeders. The demand for grasses that require less water & fertility, handle more salt, and become more hardy, will only grow.

Gary Grigg is very deserving of the FGCSA's highest award. His service to our profession has truly been distinguished.