TREASURE COAST PRO/SUPT. **James** Callaghan Presented FGCSA **Presidents Award**

im Callaghan, winner of the FGCSA President's Award this year, was presented his award at the Treasure Coast Chapter's Pro/Superintendent event in September.

Jim came to Riomar Country Club in 1977 at the suggestion of Jim Moncrief, director of the USGA Green Section's Southeast Region. Jim worked under then superintendent Herman Morris for six months before Morris retired and Jim was promoted to golf course superintendent. Twenty-one years later, Jim is still going strong at Riomar.

Riomar is a unique, oldstyle Florida golf course located along the coast in Vero Beach with almost 2,000 feet of ocean frontage. The original nine holes were built in 1919 on virgin sand dunes and was designed by architect Harold Strong. The course was perhaps the first golf course built on speculation to attract real estate buyers to the Riomar area. This was a new concept at the time but one that we all are familiar with today. The second nine was built in 1962 and was designed by Ernest Smith of Tequesta.

During Jim's tenure, changes have been made to the golf course under the guidance of renowned golf course architect Joe Lee. As Lee stated, "We have put a new dress on the 'old lady'." Joe has also commented on Callaghan's ability "to grow grass on concrete."

Over the years Jim has

been busy preparing to deliver Riomar into the next millennium. A new, stateof-the-art irrigation system is being installed this summer and next summer will bring extensive regrassing of greens, tees and fairways. Jim is currently

researching the different turfgrass variety options available to the club.

In 1999 Jim was given a proclamation by the City of Vero Beach "In recognition of outstanding service to the community and for continuing efforts to

beautify and enhance our city."

Jim was one of the founding members of the Treasure Coast GCSA and served through all chairs of office including a term as president in 1982-83. Jim also served as the chapter



Serving Sunbelt States Since 1974 newsletter editor of The Treasure Coast Tide from 1980-88.

Throughout his career Jim has been available to help his colleagues. His advice to other superintendents, and his personal credo as evidenced by his tenure at Riomar is, "to develop good rapport with your members, be available to answer questions and be the source of information about course conditioning. Get to know your members and understand their views."

Jim is originally from Freeport, Long Island in New York. He graduated from SUNY at Farmingdale in 1972 with a major in turfgrass management. While at Farmingdale, Jim played on the golf team and their home course was Bethpage Black, the site of the 2002 U. S. Open.

"Bethpage Black was awesome and made me realize the shortcomings on my golf game," Callaghan recalls. Jim decided that spending more time on his studies should take precedence and it paid off.

He received a scholarship from the Long Island GCSA, two scholarships from Georgia and three scholarships from the GCSAA. He transferred to the University of Georgia and received a B.S. in agriculture in 1974.

Jim reflected that much of his success can be attributed to several mentors including the late Sid Brown, superintendent of St. George's G & CC in Stony Brook, N.Y., and George Kozelnicky, professor of plant pathology emeritus at the University of Georgia and a GCSAA Distinguished Service Award winner.

He credits Riomar's hard-working golf course maintenance staff for sticking it out with him through thick and thin. But most of all, he thanks his family for putting up with all the weird hours.

Jim and his wife Joanne, a Florida native, live in Vero Beach. They have two children, son Justin, 19, and daughter Jocelyn, 12.

BILL LANTHIER, CGCS Golf Ventures, Inc.

SOUTH FLORIDA GCSA EVENT

\$106,000 For Missing and Exploited Children

n Friday October 2, 1998, Colony West hosted the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association golf tournament to benefit the Florida Branch of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

This was the 14th annual SFGCSA golf tournament that has continued to provide support for abused or missing children and their families throughout Dade, Broward, Martin and Palm Beach counties.

The tournament was founded by David Lottes and Bill Entwistle Sr. as a way of

1999 FLORIDA GCSA RECEPTION

Friday, Feb. 12th, 1999 Omni Rosen Hotel, Orlando

Presented by The Kilpatrick Companies

Sponsored by:

· Platinum Sponsors: Rhone Poulenc, Club

Car, Golf Ventures, Harrell's Fertilizer, The Toro Distributors of Florida and The Florida Green magazine

• Gold Sponsors: Florida Coast Equipment, Lesco, Golf Agronomics, Novartis, and

United Horticultural Supply

Silver Sponsors: Quality Grassing, Valent, Bayer, The Scotts Company, NutriTurf, FMC, Turf Merchants, Laser Turf, Florida Superior Sand, Sullivan Electric, South Florida Grassing, DowAgrosciences, Howard Fertilizer, and AgrEvo.

By Invitation Only.

