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FOREFWORDS THE YEAR IN REVIEW ................................................................. 6
President Darren Davis hails the FGCSA's solid achievements during the past year and urges all to pay close attention to the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative.

SPOTLIGHT HONORS AND FUNDRAISERS ........................................... 10
Fred Klauk named GOLFWEEK's Father of the Year, two Florida students win GCSAA Legacy awards, and research fund-raisers set records.

COVER STORY SANCTUARY IN THE CITY ........................................... 20
Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park, once a 300-acre spawning ground of annual muck fires, is now a certified wildlife sanctuary.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION ...... 36
The goal is not to make life more difficult for members, but to create meaningful learning experiences that will enhance a superintendent's ability to be successful.

HANDS ON DON'T BUG ME ................................................................. 44
Just when we get the turfgrass lush and healthy, the bugs move in for a feast. They can turn a velvety-smooth putting green into a ragged, pock-marked embarrassment.

INDUSTRY NEWS PASSING THE BATON ........................................... 56
Dr. John Cisar, coordinator of the UF/IFAS turfgrass program for the past two years, has passed the baton to a new Turfgrass Working Group chaired by Dr. Bryan Unruh.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS LICENSE TO DRIVE ........................................... 64
Superintendents should make sure they have the correct license to drive that pickup truck that they also use on the job. They may be in for a surprise.

STEWARDSHIP AUDUBON SANCTUARY PROGRAM .......................... 66
Legacy Club at Alaqua Lakes in Longwood has adopted the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools at Heathrow Elementary School.

TURF RESEARCH FTGA ANNOUNCES $97,000 FOR TURF RESEARCH ....... 68
The FTGA has funded nine projects, some of them multi-year projects, in addition to funds raised to support the Envirotron and a project funded by Florida sod growers.

SUPERINTENDENTS JOURNAL HOW! YMCA PROGRAM FOR FATHERS ...... 70
The YMCA Indian Guides/Princess program is designed to help fathers spend quality bonding time with their children.

AFTERWORDS PETER HUBER, MARK JARRELL, JOEL JACKSON .................. 74
About the use of trade names: The use of trade names in this magazine is solely for the purpose of providing specific information and does not imply endorsement of the products named nor discrimination against similar unnamed products. It is the responsibility of the user to determine that product use is consistent with the directions on the label.
Advertiser Index

Aerification Plus .................. 71  North Georgia Turf .................. 71
Almar Turf .................. 38  Novartis .................. 68
Ameraturf .................. 75  Nucrane Corp .................. Back Cover
American Cyanamid .............. 23,47  Nutri-Turf Inc .................. 45
Aquatrols .................. 7  Pike Creek Turf Farms .................. 57
Aventis Environmental Science ... 9  Regal Chemical Co .................. 39
Century Rain Aid .................. 51  Safety Storage .................. 59
Chemical Containers .................. 75  Seven Rivers GC SA .................. 15
Ducor International .................. 33  Smithco .................. 33,34
ER Jahna Industries .................. 27  South Florida Grassing .................. 31
Everglades GC SA .................. 17  South Florida Turf Products .................. 38
Floratine Products Group .................. 42  Southern Golf Products .................. 73
Florida Silica Sand .................. 16  Southern States .................. 60
Florida Turfgrass Association .... 11  Spread-Rite .................. 33
Golf Agronomics Supply .................. 29  Textron Turf & Specialty Prod .... 65
Green-Way .................. 40  Tifton Physical Lab .................. 76
Harrell’s .................. 19  Turf Merchants Ins Back Cover
Howard Fertilizer .................. 43,63  Tom Burrows Turfgrass Service .................. 79
Howard Fertilizer .................. 63  Toro Dealers of Florida Insert
International Seeds .................. 55  Tresca Industries .................. 65
Kilpatrick Turf ....... Inside cover, 1 United Horticultural Supply .................. 37
Laserturf .................. 79  Valent USA .................. 53
Lescos .................. 69  Van Waters & Rogers .................. 8
Milorganite .................. 61  Zeneca .................. 4,49,67

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Hey, why not? Sports Illustrated and People Magazine do it, so why not the Florida Green? This past year has been a very productive one for the FGCSA and I thought for my last Presidents Message I would highlight some of our accomplishments.

Foremost, I would like to thank the FGCSA board of directors, committee chairs, and our staff for all of the hard work this past year. Marie Roberts, who has been with our association for 15 years, continues to provide the FGCSA leadership with operational guidance and continuity. She is definitely responsible for keeping things running smoothly. Also on staff for his second year, is Joel Jackson, CGCS. Joel has served on the Florida Green since 1990 and was hired by your FGCSA Board last year to serve as the FGCSA director of communications in addition to continuing to serve as the editor of our award-winning magazine. Joel has provided the FGCSA with representation and communications in government relations, media relations and allied association affairs. Thank you Joel and Marie.

The Florida Green: Once again, for the ninth year our magazine, The Florida Green was awarded the Best Overall in Category by the Golf Course Superintendents Association at the Conference in Show in New Orleans.

The 1999 FTGA Conference and Show: The Florida Turfgrass Association, in an attempt to involve the University that is supported by the FTGA fund-raising efforts, moved the annual conference and show to Gainesville. The show was a success in many ways with the only negative being the poor attendance by golf course superintendents and others in the turfgrass industry. The 2000 FTGA Conference and Show will once again be held in Gainesville Aug. 14-16 and I am SURE that I will see each an every on of you there. Right?

University of Florida/IFAS: This past year we have seen a strong effort by the University of Florida, under the leadership of Dr. Mike Martin, VP of IFAS, to strengthen its bonds with the industry and provide more necessary research, better organization and communications.

Research: At the 1999 FTGA Conference and Show in Gainesville, the FGCSA presented a check to the FTGA for the Research Fund for $25,000 to help support research at the University of Florida. The funds were a combined effort among the local FGCSA affiliated chapters.

In addition to the $25,000 donation to the FTGA, the GCSAA was presented with the third of five annual $5,000 donations ($25,000 pledge) to support the GCSAA "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign. The campaign is raising funds that will support applied research on golf courses. The FGCSA also continued its charter membership in GCSAA Foundation’s Platinum Tee Club ($5,000) which also goes for scholarships and research.

These donations were above and beyond the funds generated to support the FGCSA’s Otto Schmeisser Research Green in Ft. Lauderdale where the FGCSA has a paid employee who assists the UF faculty in maintaining real world conditions on the green. The South Florida GCSA lead this effort with its annual Turf Expo, raising $26,000 to help pay for the on-site technician.

Meanwhile, the Seven Rivers Envirotron Classic raised $50,000 which went into a FTRF restricted account which supports equipment and research at the University of Florida’s Envirotron Research Laboratory.

Awards: The winner of the 1999 FGCSA Distinguished Service award were Dale Kuehner, CGCS at Colony West Country Club. This yearly award was established in 1985 and is presented to a golf course superintendent who has given his time unselfishly in promoting golf course management and unification of the FGCSA. Dale is most definitely a very deserving recipient! The 1999 recipients of the FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service were Paul Hickman, David Holler, Steve Pearson, Al Ross and Dale Walters. Congratulations guys!

1999 was also a great year for Florida golf course superintendents to receive national recognition. Gary Grigg, MG, CGCS was awarded the 2000 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award.
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during the Opening Session of the GCSAA Conference and Show in New Orleans. Also at the GCSAA show, Mike Blanchard, CGCS at Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club was presented with the GCSAA Leo Feser Award for the best article by a superintendent in Golf Course Management magazine.

Allied Associations: Mark Jarrell, CGCS at Palm Beach National GC, past president of the FGCSA, has served as president this year for the FTGA. Through Mark’s efforts, and the whole FTGA board the relationship between the FGCSA and FTGA is at an all-time high. Mark has done a tremendous job of keeping the communication channels open with the FGCSA and at the same time enhancing the FTGA’s role as an all-encompassing turfgrass association. I hope that each of you has read his editorials in the Florida Green and the FTGA’s Florida Turf Digest and will help us to unite as one strong organization of turfgrass professionals.

The biggest topic of discussion involving GCSAA this year has been the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). FGCSA’s Dale Kuehner and Bob Randquist have served on the Membership Standards Resource Group that has helped develop the program. If you are not aware of the PDI, you should be! No ifs ands or buts, this initiative has the potential to reshape how we are perceived in the industry and you need not only to be aware of the details but to provide input.

Government Relations: It has been a very busy year with regulatory issues. Chemicals such as Dursban, Orthene and Nemacur have come under attack due to the Food Quality Protect Act. Unless you have been hiding under a rock you should be aware of this issue and I hope that you have taken notice and acted when requested to do so. This issue and others threaten our ability to perform our job and it is up to every golf course superintendent to get involved. Please do not rely on others to always carry the load. Thank you for those who have taken the initiative and gotten involved in letter writing campaigns or making phone calls.

Thank you to each and every one of you who have helped make 1999 a banner year for the FGCSA. See you soon.

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around athlete, is 15 and just beginning to pursue competitive golf.

This isn’t Klauk’s first national exposure. In an NBC interview a few years ago, he struck a blow for all superintendents when he calmly countered the criticisms of the course conditions of a few disgruntled pros who had no idea or appreciation of the horrible weather conditions that challenged Klauk and his crew just prior to the event.

Congratulations, Fred, for bringing honor and recognition to the superintendents’ profession and showing the world we are fathers and family men with hopes, dreams and lives just like the superstars of the game.

**LEGACY AWARDS**

**GCSAA Honors**

**2 Fla. Students**

Two Florida students are among 10 children or grandchildren of GCSAA members to win 2000 Legacy awards from GCSAA

- Courtney Sue Caillavet will be attending the University of South Florida majoring in microbiology. Her father, Bayne Caillavet, golf course superintendent at Southern Dunes Golf & Country Club, Winter Haven, is a 10-year GCSAA member.
- Lisa Klauk will be attending the University of Florida majoring in engineering. Her father, Glen F. Klauk, golf course superintendent at Pablo Creek Golf Club, Ponte Vedra Beach, is a 20-year GCSAA member.

The competition offers educational assistance to the children and grandchildren of GCSAA members, which attracted 80 applications for the awards. The program, created in 1990, awards a $1,500 scholarship to each student recipient. The awards are funded by Novartis Corp. and administered by The GCSAA Foundation.

Winners were selected by an independent committee that consisted of two educators and one college administrator. Applications were judged on the basis of academic excellence, extracurricular activities and an assigned essay describing their parents’ or grandparents’ involvement in the golf course management profession.

The GCSAA Foundation enhances the game of golf through funding applied research and advanced education in golf course management. Since its