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If you are planning your educational opportunities for your PDI education points, the FGCSA will once again host a GCSAA Leadership Series Seminar in May at the Poa Annua Classic in Naples. You need not register for the entire event to participate in just the education. Bruce Williams, CGCS, past president of the GCSAA will be the guest speaker.

Congratulations to Robert R. Bittner, CGCS at The Club Pelican Bay, Naples, Fla. for completing the renewal process for maintaining his status as a certified golf course superintendent with the GCSAA.

Bittner, a 24-year GCSAA member, has been at The Club Pelican Bay since 1990. He initially achieved his certification in 1992 and is among approximately 2,000 golf course superintendents worldwide to hold CGCS status.
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Thank you to all who participated in the tournament or donated raffle prizes to make this year’s event so successful.
6-Iron Ace nets BMW for Toro’s Gary Dorsch

Gary Dorsch, a regional field manager for the Toro Company, hit the 6-iron shot of his life on the Nov. 2 during the annual Lake City Endowment Tournament. The ball went into the cup and earned Dorsch a set of keys to a brand new BMW Z4 convertible.

Playing in the second-to-last group, Dorsch aced the 15th hole to win the hole-in-one prize that retails for about $40,000 and was offered by BMW of Fort Myers, which had insurance, of course. Another contestant ended up just inches from the hole. Ironically, only one hole-in-one was insured so any ace after the first one would win the player only a big bar tab.

After the tournament John Piersol, director of the Landscape and Golf Operations Department at the Lake City Community College, told the crowd that the cumulative funding spearheaded by this event and matched with state funds has meant more than $250,000 to the school. Piersol thanked the alumni, sponsors and participants who make this event so special for the school.

It turned out to be a doubly lucky day for Dorsch and his partner Steve Simpson as they ended up winning the Low Gross division, no doubt helped by that 1 on the scorecard. Maybe it ended up being a net zero if he got handicap strokes. Meanwhile Melanie Mark and Greg Plotner teamed up to take the Low Net honors.

Once again WCI Communities donated the venue. This year it was The Colony Golf & Bay Club in Bonita Springs. Host superintendent Scott Hamm and staff had the course in flawless condition. Chuck “The Hit Man” Hiter made an impressive encore presentation with his amazing ability to hit golf balls from the most precarious positions imaginable, and he kept the audience in stitches while the committee totaled up the golf scores.

Kudos also to the Tournament Committee for its work to put together another
El Camaleón Golf Course at the Mayakoba resort on the Riviera Maya just south of Cancun, Mexico is Greg Norman’s latest masterpiece. The 7,000-yard layout is unique, not just to Mexico but to the entire world of golf. The course bends through three distinct landscapes - mangrove jungles, limestone canals and stunning oceanfront stretches of sandy beaches. El Camaleón is also a world-class showcase for Seaside1 Seashore Paspalum. The tees, greens, fairways and roughs are all getting rave reviews. No wonder the PGA chose El Camaleón for its first-ever tour event in Mexico. If you’ve got water quality problems or poor soils, you should consider Seaisie1 even if you’ve got an inland location. Seaisie1 can tolerate most types of alternate water sources, including effluent, wastewater, gray water, brackish water and even ocean water for short periods of time with a careful management regimen. Seaisie1 can also handle multiple stresses like high salt levels, low-light intensity, waterlogging, and extremely high and low pH levels. When compared to other warm season grasses, Seaisie1 requires about a third less nitrogen and only minimal pesticide applications. It also withstands prolonged droughts a little better. If you like the way cool-season grasses stripe, you’ll love Seaisie1’s waxy leaves. Your golfers will, too, because they won’t be bothered by early morning dew anymore. Best of all, Seaisie1 has one of the most attractive, rich, dark-green colors of any of the warm season grasses. Make a date with a Seaisie1 grower near you and see for yourself why “The Shark” specified Seaisie1 Seashore Paspalum for his new dream course. For more information call 706 542-5640 or visit www.seaisie1.com.
brilliant reception and tournament: David Fry, COO/senior vice president WCI Communities; Scott Hamm - director golf development/superintendent, The Colony Golf & Bay Club; Glenn Zakany - owner, G to Z Turf Services, Inc.; John Johnson - project manager, RS Walsh Landscaping; Mike Smith, Odell Spainhour, Roy Bates and Celeste Langer.

Please see our Sponsor Thank-You ad on the adjacent page for all those generous vendors who helped to make this event a success.

John Piersol, 30-year veteran of Lake City's Golf Operations Department, thanks Scott Hamm, WCI director of golf development for hosting the 2006 tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Melanie Mark and Greg Plotner, both with IGM, teamed up to win the Low Net prize in the Lake City Endowment Tournament. Photo by Joel Jackson.
The 15th Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Golf Tournament at The Colony Golf & Bay Club

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G to Z Turf Services – Hot Dogs

WINTER 2007
South Florida Repeats State Championship

The South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association continues to dominate the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association’s annual golf championship by taking the Chapter Team and Low Medalist honors. It was the third team victory in a row and Bob Harper from The Club at Emerald Hills won his second title in his last three tries. The tournament was held at the Southern Dunes Golf Club on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Harper had to battle teammate Stephen Fox from the Ocean Reef Club and Everglades GCSA superintendent Jim Torba (Wilderness Club, Naples) in a playoff for the low medalist title. All three shot 72s for the 18-hole event contested with some very demanding pin placements. Harper birdied the first two playoff holes to win the title.

Using the best four out of five net scores, the South Florida team shot 301 to beat the closest pursuer of six chapter teams, Central Florida with 309. South Florida team members were Bob Harper, Seth Strickland, Stephen Fox and Jason Bagwell, Westview C.C. in Miami.

Harper’s individual victory qualifies him for the Florida GCSA team to compete in the GCSAA Golf Championship to be held in Palm Springs in February 2007.

Prior to the tournament Joe Ondo, CGCS (center) was recognized for his years of service as FGCSA golf chairman. Flanking him from left: Kevin Downing, CGCS and Joe Pantaleo on the golf committee and Ward Pepperman, host superintendent and Kevin Woodard golf professional at Southern Dunes GC. Photo by Joel Jackson

Winners of the 2006 FGCSA Golf Team and Individual trophies: from left kneeling are Jason Bagwell and Stephen Fox; standing are Seth Strickland, Bob Harper (individual winner) and team captain Joe Pantaleo. Photo by Joel Jackson.
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