# **GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW**

## From amusement parks to restaurants, there's excitement in Orlando

By JOEL JOYNER

ORLANDO, Fla. - Walt Disney World Resort, Universal Studios, Sea World and the Kennedy Space Center are all reasons that make visiting Orlando entertaining. As golf course superintendents arrive in the city for the 73rd GCSAA International Conference and Trade Show here, Feb. 3-10, they will find theme parks, restaurants, and entertainment complexes galore. After taking in enlightening educational seminars and spending time pounding the trade show floor, an evening out on the town will be in order.

#### ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEXES

Three entertainment complexes are located near the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC): Church Street Station; Downtown Disney Pleasure Island; and Universal's Citywalk and Pointe Orlando. Church Street Station features



Universal Studios, set in a 400-acre complex, features shows and rides based on blockbuster movies.

venues for line-dancing and billiards in The Cheyenne Saloon and Opera House. Dixieland jazz and cancan girls in Rosie O'Grady's Good Time Emporium and live music from the '50s to the '90s in the Orchid Garden Ballroom are also on offer. In addition to restaurants, shopping and hightech arcades are found at The Exchange.

Downtown Disney's Pleasure Island showcases the eras of the '70s disco, '80s beach club, and '90s dance club music. Live bands and a New Year's Eve party are held every night with a street party and fireworks. Home of the Disney Village Marketplace and the Pleasure Island plaza, Downtown Disney is also a shopping, dining and entertainment mecca. The West Side includes Bongos Cuban Café, an extension of the Cuban restaurant in Miami owned by Gloria and Emilio Estefan, as well as the Wolfgang Puck Café from the owner of Spago. The area

also offers The House of Blues and a Virgin Records megastore. **Universal's Citywalk** is a fairly

new complex with dancing at The Groove, relaxation at Pat O'Brien's



A view of the Hard Rock Cafe/Hard Rock Live in Orlando.

- an exact replica of the one in New Orleans - and good times at the NASCAR Café. The 30-acre entertainment district offers themed eateries, shops and bars.

The Pointe Orlando is a 17acre, 450,000-square-foot dining, shopping and entertainment complex along International Drive. There are more than 80 shops, themed restaurants and bars. WonderWorks, a science entertainment attraction in an upsidedown building is located at one end of the complex offering experiences of earthquakes and handson activities in the Bermuda Triangle Corridor, Mystery Lab and other venues. Visitors can have their picture taken with a 32-foot Raggedy Ann doll, select from over 70 different tequilas, and feast on stone crabs and crawfish at Monty's Conch Harbor or enjoy Cajun food at Lulu's Bait Shack.

Down the street from the OCCC on International drive, superintendents will find The Mercado. The festive marketplace features free live entertainment nightly. A collection of shops and restaurants, an international food court, and attractions like the Guinness World Records Experience and Titanic – The Exhibition – are the main attractions.

## Woods named Old Tom Morris Award recipient

ORLANDO, Fla. — Walter Woods, Esq., a former greenkeeper at St. Andrews, has been selected as the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 2002 Old Tom Morris recipient. The association's highest honor will be presented here at the President's Dinner Show, Feb. 8, during the GCSAA's 73rd International Conference and Show.

The award is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

In his 33-year career as a superintendent, Woods spent 21 years at the prestigious St. Andrews Links in Scotland where he hosted four Open Championships and 11 Dunhill Cups. He has served as chairman of the Elmwood College greenkeeping advisory committee for 16 years and was past president and director of education for the former Scottish & International Greenkeepers Association.

Woods, an honorary member of the GCSAA, also served as the first chairman of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA). Since retiring in 1995, he has been a consultant for the golfing industry and the European Tour.

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