

Former FGCSA president to seek national office

LAKE BUENA VISTA — At the urging of the FGCSA board of directors, Cecil Johnston, immediate past president, has agreed to run for director of the GCSAA.

Johnston, superintendent of Avila CC in Tampa since 1987, and about half a dozen other superintendents from around the country will vie for three seats on the national organization's board of directors when it meets Feb. 19-26 in Orlando.

"Because golf is a year-around proposition in Florida, it is difficult for superintendents down here to take the kind of time away from their jobs that's necessary in order to be effective at the national level," said Dick Blake, who preceded Johnston as FGCSA president.

"Florida has more golf courses — and therefore more superintendents — than any other state. We deserve representation on the national board and I think Cecil will represent us very well."

Blake, superintendent of Bocaire CC in Boca Raton, himself served on the GCSAA board from 1966 to 1971, the last year as president. He was superintendent of the Mt. Pleasant CC in Boyleston, Mass., at the time.

"With the GCSAA holding its meeting right here in Florida, we'll never have a better opportunity to get one of our own elected," said Joel Jackson, newly elected FGCSA president.

The FGCSA board unanimously voted to nominate Johnston for the office at its



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Cecil Johnston, left, gets his crest for FGCSA Immediate Past President from Dick Blake, a former GCSAA president who urged Johnston to run for a seat on the national organization's board of directors.

annual meeting during the Poa Annua weekend at Grand Cypress Resort here.

Johnston, 39, is a *summa cum laude* graduate of Lake City Community College with an Associate of Science degree in golf course operations.

Before returning to Avila as head superintendent, where he had been assistant superintendent from 1983 to 1984, Johnston was head superintendent at Feather Sound CC in Clearwater.

"I enjoy the challenge of working on projects that help satisfy our common needs," he said in response to the nomination. "I feel we can find creative ways to grow as professionals and as an organization, and I would sincerely like to participate in the process. I feel that serving as a director of the GCSAA is the best possible way for me to contribute to our profession.

"My employers encourage my

participation in all professional association activities and I have a fine staff. I will have the time to serve."

Johnston has served on the GCSAA scholarship and research committee since 1988 and is also on this year's conference and show committee. He was president of the West Coast GCSA in 1987-88 and was editor of its newsletter from 1984 to 1987. In 1984, his newsletter won the GCSAA award as the "Best Limited-Resources Product."

Johnston also has served the Florida Turfgrass Association on the scholarship and research tournament committee in 1987-88, the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation funding committee in 1987-88, as a speaker at the 1987 FTGA conference and show and as moderator of the 1988 conference and show.

IFAS gets research green despite technician problem

FORT LAUDERDALE — There won't be anybody to maintain it, but by mid-October, the 20,000-square-foot research green at the University of Florida's Research and Education Center here should be completed except for grassing.

"We don't want to grass it until we have the technician on board to take care of it," said Kevin Downing, CGCS, director of golf and landscape operations at Willoughby GC in Stuart, and chairman of the FGCSA Research Committee.

Most of the labor and materials for the

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AUTUMN SPOTLIGHT Superintendents who will test the champions

Oct. 13-16 — **Larry Kamphaus**, Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista. Oldsmobile Scramble Finals.

Oct. 18-21 — **Larry Kamphaus**, Walt Disney World, Lake Buena Vista. PGA Tour Disney/Olds Classic.

Oct. 20-22 — **Thomas Crawford**, The Plantation, Venice. FSGA Life Begins at 40 Championship.

Nov. 3-5 — **Winfield Yount**, Suntree CC, Melbourne. Senior PGA Tour Fairfield Barnett Senior Classic.

Nov. 30-Dec. 3 — **Frank Cook**, Bardmoor CC, Largo. LPGA/PGA Tour JCPenney Classic.

Dec. 7-10 — **Jim Branstrom**, Palm Beach Polo & CC, West Palm Beach. PGA Tour Chrysler Team Championship.