

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.

Panel urges FGCSA to hire technician as subcontractor

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green have been donated and the South Florida GCSA will pick up the tab for the balance.

Clearing will be done by Lee Billberry & Associates of Lakeland; coarse sand for the choker layer was donated by Central Florida Turf of Avon Park; American Peat of Oxford is mixing the soil, while Rain Bird and Toro irrigation components have been donated by, respectively, Boynton Pump and Hector Turf.

Labor and supervision have been donated by High Ridge CC in Lantana, Willoughby GC and Palm Beach National GC.

Downing said a technician will be hired "as soon as we can work out the details."

The details that must be worked out involve the mechanism for paying the technician.

The University's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, which operates the Fort Lauderdale REC, does not have money in its budget to pay for a technician to maintain the research plot at normal putting conditions. IFAS personnel estimated the cost at \$30,000 per year, counting supplies, equipment, administrative costs, and insurance as well as salary and fringe benefits.

At their May meeting, FGCSA board members voted to ask the Florida Turfgrass Association's Research Foundation to fund the technician through its Arnold Palmer Endowment Program, using \$13,000 which had been donated specifically for that purpose by the South Florida GCSA plus another \$14,000 which South Florida superintendents had raised for the project and had not yet turned over to the FTGA.

The FTGA demurred, however, citing the stringent legal constraints of its 501-C(3) tax status, which prohibit it from spending money on equipment, labor or personnel.

"We're going to ask the FGCSA Board to fund the technician directly on

a sub-contract basis — the same way we pay our executive secretary," Downing said.

"The FTGA (research grant) Awards Committee seems perfectly willing to fund proper research on the green. They just have to stay within their legal boundaries. They can't pay for labor; they have to pay for research."

The FGCSA board will consider the matter at its October meeting during the FTGA Conference and Show in Tampa.

Longtime Poa Annuia host dies at Beach Club home



Henry Watkins

NAPLES — Henry Watkins Jr., 64, operator of the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club and longtime host of the Poa Annuia Classic each May, died June 30 in his penthouse apartment overlooking the club.

The Watkins name is synonymous with the development of modern Naples.

He was instrumental in adding the Granny Horn Memorial Scramble to the Poa weekend to raise money for graduate scholarships for turfgrass students in honor of the famed University of Florida turf educator. The event raised more than \$5,000 earlier this year.

Watkins is survived by his wife, Mary; two sons, Henry of Bronxville, N.Y. and Michael, now manager of the Beach Club; two grandchildren; and a sister, Sally Fitzgerald of Richmond, Va.

Architect Edmund Ault dies; Famed for public courses

Edmund B. Ault, 81, one of the pioneers in designing economical municipal and public golf courses, died Aug. 13 after suffering a heart attack. He



Edmund Ault

was 81.

The Maryland architect, president of Ault, Clark & Associates of Wheaton, placed a premium on visibility and challenge.

"When a golfer makes a par, he should feel he has accomplished something," Ault

was fond of saying.

Among his designs are the Country Club of Las Vegas; Palmetto at Myrtlewood GC, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Carrollwood Village, Tampa, Fla.; TPC at Avenel, Potomac, Md.; and Toftrees GC, State College, Pa.

A native of Washington, D.C., Ault received a degree in construction engineering from Columbia Technical Institute in Arlington, Va. He was elected a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in 1973 and a fellow in 1984.

Poster illustrates Dye's two-tee system for women

CHICAGO — The American Society of Golf Course Architects is offering an illustrated poster explaining the two-tee system for women.

Text for the poster was written by Alice Dye, the two-time USGA Senior Women's Amateur champion and the only female member of the ASGCA. She explains the current research, why the system is gaining momentum, how to create new forward tees, and the cost of construction.

Illustrations show exactly how the two-tee system should be implemented, both on existing courses and new courses.

"Men have a choice of playing from different teeing grounds to accommodate their various abilities," Dye points out.

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