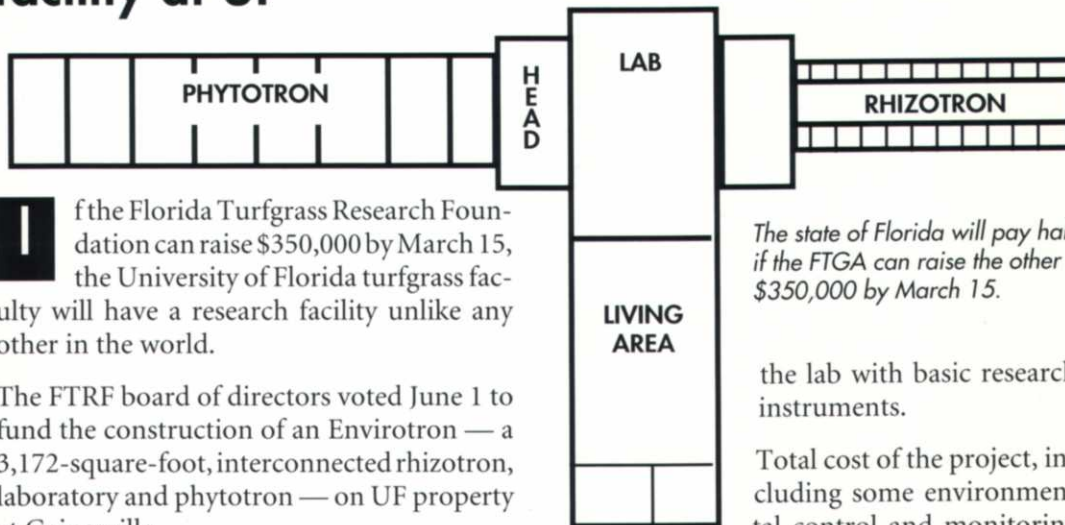


FTGA wants to fund world-class research facility at UF



If the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation can raise \$350,000 by March 15, the University of Florida turfgrass faculty will have a research facility unlike any other in the world.

The FTRF board of directors voted June 1 to fund the construction of an Envirottron — a 3,172-square-foot, interconnected rhizotron, laboratory and phytotron — on UF property at Gainesville.

“There are some phytotrons (elaborate greenhouses) around and quite a few rhizotrons (underground facilities for observing roots and soil), but I don’t know of another place in the world that has them both at one spot and all connected to a laboratory,” said Dr. Ed Freeman, a UF plant pathologist. “This facility would put us right at the top of the heap. We’re *very* excited.

“To have such a thing would be a significant achievement for the whole turf industry in Florida.”

In addition to the rhizotron, which will include living quarters for researchers conducting short-term projects or graduate assistants monitoring projects which require frequent checking, the board also voted to construct an automatic, retractable rain shelter for the rhizotron, to purchase turf maintenance equipment, to install an irrigation system and hazardous materials storage area, and to equip

The state of Florida will pay half if the FTGA can raise the other \$350,000 by March 15.

the lab with basic research instruments.

Total cost of the project, including some environmental control and monitoring equipment, will be \$700,000.

Under the current state guidelines, The Florida Capital Facilities Matching Trust Fund will match donations dollar for dollar, meaning that if the FTRF raises \$350,000, the trust fund will match the donation.

The money must be raised by March 15 in order for the trust fund to agree to match it before the Florida Legislature, which must then approve the project, convenes April 1.

If all goes well, construction could begin next summer and “we could be seeing some research results within three years,” said Freeman. “I’m no construction expert, but I don’t think it will take that long to build it and we have some projects waiting for the facility that could be yielding some results rather quickly.”

“I want to emphasize that fund-raising for this project will not take the place of our Arnold Palmer Endowment program, which is on schedule and will continue that way,” said Bob Yount, executive director of both the FTRF and FTGA.

“We have had some potential

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CORRECTION

It’s been spelled SARA, SERA and even CERA, but the correct spelling of the federal law requiring facilities which store hazardous materials to notify local emergency planning groups is SARA. The letters stand for Superfund Amendment Re-authorization Act. We picked one of the wrong spellings for a story in the last issue.

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donors who could help us in a large way who were looking for some bricks and mortar they could fund. This (the Envirotron) gives them that opportunity.”

According to Dr. Everett Emino, another UF turfgrass faculty member, the word “Envirotron” comes from the Latin *environ* — to encircle — and the Greek *tron* — instrument.

“We arrived at the name during a faculty meeting at which we were discussing the possibility of getting a rhizotron here,” said Freeman. “Then somebody — and I honestly can’t remember who it was — said we really needed a facility to study the complete environment surrounding turfgrass.

“And that’s how we coined the word, ‘Envirotron’.”

USGA Green Section makes Florida a separate region

Five years ago, Florida did not have a United States Golf Association agronomist to call its own.

Now the USGA Green Section has made Florida its seventh region, the only state to comprise a region on its own, and soon it will have two agronomists assigned to the state full time.

John Foy, hired in 1985 as the first Green Section agronomist in the Southeast Region assigned full-time to Florida, was named director of the new Florida Region April 16.

The Florida Regional office will stay

in Hobe Sound, where Foy will be assisted by an agronomist who was being hired as this section went to press.

“Two factors led to the decision to make Florida its own region,” said Foy. “First, the agronomic conditions and environmental problems in Florida are unique.

“Second, I made 186 official course visits last year and we could have made more if we had had another agronomist down here to make them.”

Foy’s appointment was one of six announced by the USGA Green Section in mid-April, highlighted by the promotion of Jim Snow, former director of the Northeast Region, to national director, succeeding Bill Bengueyfield who retired March 31.

Snow joined the USGA in 1976 as an



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