

# Best of both worlds

*The maintenance technician for the new FGCSA research green at the Fort Lauderdale REC likes the hands-on approach to turf research*

**M**arcus Prevatte admits he loves to play golf, but he's willing to give up some playing time in order to be involved with the FGCSA's new experimental putting green at the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center.

Prevatte was recently given the contract to maintain the green and help IFAS researchers at the center take care of other turfgrass plots.

"There are a lot of questions about putting turf that need to be answered," Prevatte says. "This green could provide some of those answers."

Dr. Monica Elliott, assistant professor of plant pathology at the center, estimates that

the green will be green by the Fourth of July. The irrigation system had been installed and fumigation, fertilization and planting were scheduled as this section of *The Florida Green* went to press.

The research green is not Prevatte's first experience with golf course maintenance. During his four years at Florida International University, where he earned a degree in biology, Prevatte worked at Palmetto GC in Dade County. He began as a night waterman and was a mower operator by the time he left.



"The research interests me," he said, "but I also enjoy being more active and I like working on a golf course. By maintaining the new test green, I'll be able to help the researchers with their experiments and also get some practical experience."

There's a bonus for Prevatte, 26, who is uncertain about his future.

"I enjoy research but I'm also considering becoming an assistant golf course superintendent. The work at the center lets me explore both areas and gives me a chance to meet people in the industry. Right now, this is the best possible place to be."

Prevatte, who is single and lives in South Miami, will tend the green about 30 hours a week. He is paid by the FGCSA from a special research fund raised specifically for building and maintaining the green and other turfgrass plots at the Fort Lauderdale REC.

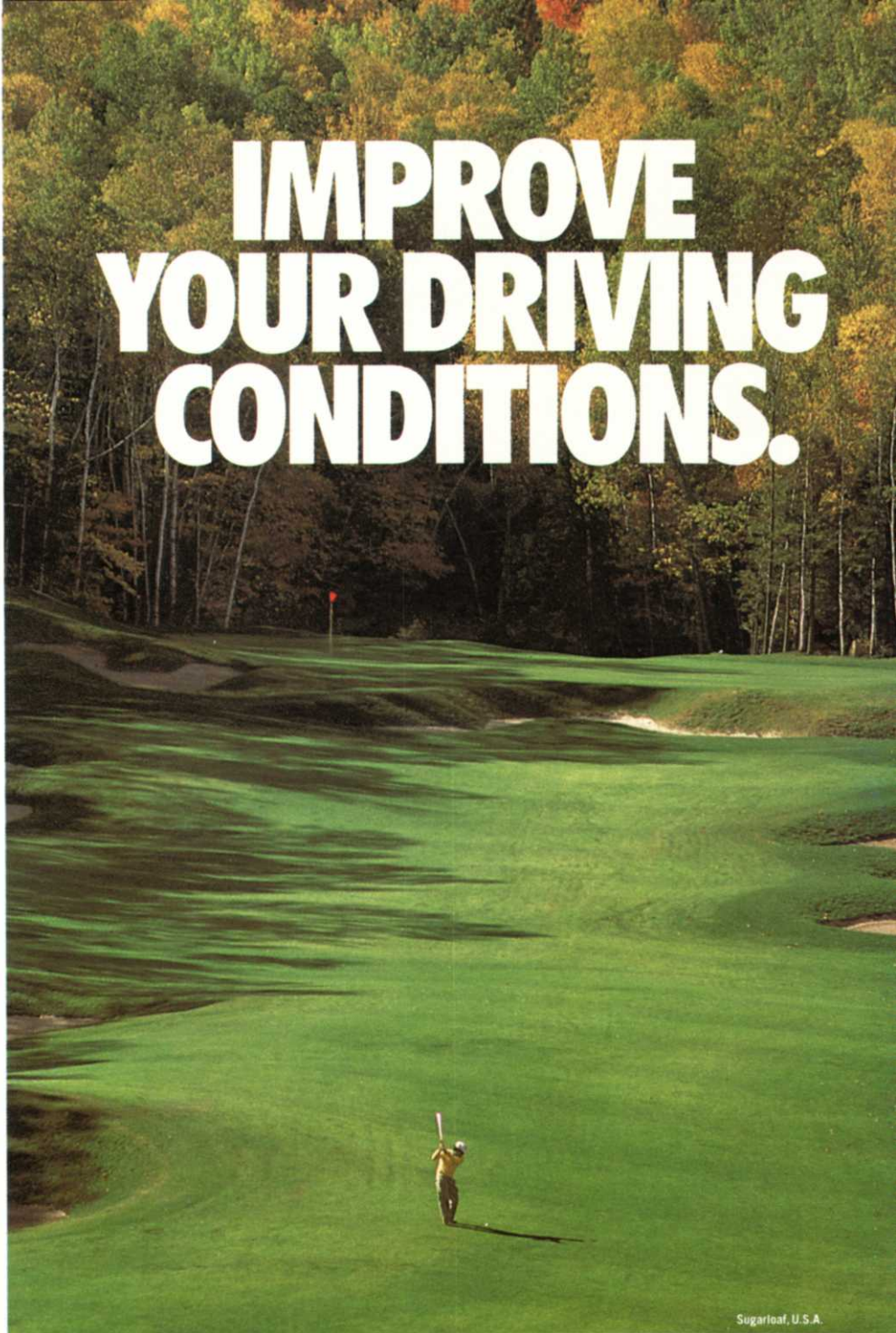
Kit Bradshaw

## South Florida Field Day yields \$14,000

A total of 144 superintendents and technicians plus 28 suppliers raised \$14,000 for turf research at the Third Annual South Florida GCSA Field Day April 12 at Rolling Hills Golf Resort in Fort Lauderdale.

In addition, many superintendents and technicians renewed their pesticide licenses and obtained CEUs for certification while suppliers showed off their hardware for two hours at an

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## Field Day

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indoor trade show and then demonstrated their heavy equipment for another two hours after lunch. Each distributor was allotted three minutes per machine (photo right). Attendance, limited to members of any FGCSA chapter, was up slightly over last year, according to Marie Roberts,



who serves both the state association and the South Florida chapter as executive secretary.

## Oliver wins Poa

Rain shortened the Everglades GCSA's annual Poa Annuu Classic at the Naples Beach Club to nine holes May 22, but David Oliver of Martin Downs CC in Stuart won low gross honors for his third major FGCSA title in less than 12 months. Oliver won last year's Crowfoot Open at Grand Cypress in Orlando and Transition Tournament at Palm Coast.



Team title went to the host chapter: Mark Atwood, Jack Simpson, Wayne Kappauf, Lou Conzelmann. Atwood (photo right) was Master of Ceremonies at

the banquet. Among the honored guests were (above, from left) GCSAA President Jerry Faubel, FGCSA President Joel Jackson and former GCSAA and FGCSA President Dick Blake.



## Central Florida mechanics meet

Golf course mechanics in Central Florida organized at the Second Annual Central Florida GCSA Field Day at Orange Tree CC in Orlando April 30. (Photo below) Cary Lewis, CGCS, of the CC of Orlando, addressed the organizational meeting which attracted 19 mechanics. The group will elect officers this month.



## Everglades honors Joneses

Dan and Irene Jones, (photo above recently retired editors of *The Florida Green*, were honored with a plaque and permanent invitation to the Poa Annuu Classic by Everglades GCSA President Mark Atwood (center) at the Poa banquet.