

TURF NEWS

ROUNDUP

USGA grants \$151,000 for research at FGCSA green at Fort Lauderdale

If you build it, they will come.

The USGA Research Committee last month legitimized the two-year effort of the FGCSA to build a research green at the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center by awarding two research grants worth \$151,000 for work at the facility.

Drs. John Cisar and George Snyder will get \$135,000 for a three-year study of mobility and persistence of pesticide and Dr. Monica Elliott received \$16,000 to study the organism that causes bermudagrass decline.

The projects were two of 18 approved by the USGA panel for its special \$2.8 million environmental research program. The committee considered 25 pro-

posals in the final screening at Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs early in December.

The committee also approved another \$758,000 in grants under the USGA's regular research program. No Florida projects were under consideration for regular funding.

"The fact that a USGA-spec green was available for pure research played a role in the committee's decision," said John Foy, Green Section Regional Director for Florida. "So did the fact that Florida has more golf courses than any other state.

"But basically, they were just solid research proposals that met the criteria for the special environmental research program."

The USGA had solicited project proposals in three areas: golf course benefits, alternative pest management, and pesticide and nutrient fate. The Cisar/Snyder and Elliott proposals were the only Florida projects to make the list of 25 finalists.

The largest grants of \$500,000 each went to two joint ventures, each involving three universities.

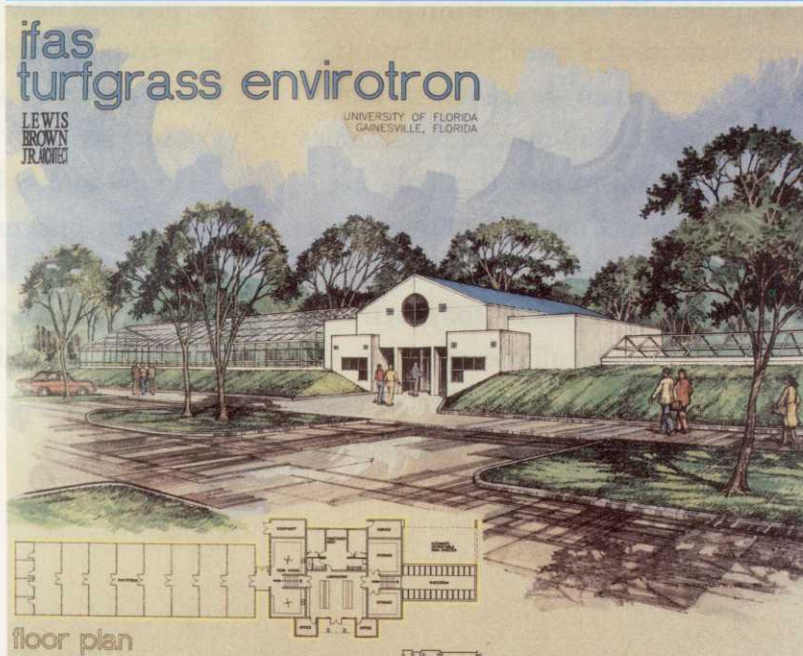
Penn State, Cornell University and the University

CORRECTIONS

Zaun Equipment, Inc., was omitted from the list of Diamond Sponsors of the Crowfoot Classic on Page 5 in the Fall 1990 issue.

The FGCSA's half-acre research green at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center cost \$80,000. A zero was omitted from the value in the President's Message in the Fall 1990 issue.

The Florida Green regrets both typographical errors.



Legislature shortens Envirotron campaign

When the Florida Legislature moved up the starting date of its annual session from April to March, "They cut 30 days off my fund-raising campaign for the Envirotron," said Bob Yount, executive director of the Florida Turfgrass Association. The FTGA must raise its half of the \$700,000 before the Legislature meets.

Keep your eyes out for the game!

of Massachusetts will share one grant while the University of Nebraska, Iowa State and Kansas State will share the other. Both projects involve the fate of pesticides and fertilizers.

Some of the money awarded to the Fort Lauderdale researchers will help pay for maintenance of the research green. Approximately one-fourth of the 20,000-square-foot green was built to USGA specifications. Both USGA-funded research projects will be performed on that portion of the green.

Golf trade group still seeking funds for lobby effort

Why are the Florida Golf Council and better schools dis-

tressingly alike?

Everyone agrees both are needed but not enough people seem willing to pay for them.

"Florida Golf Day," proclaimed for Nov. 17 by then-Gov. Bob Martinez, netted only \$6,000 in seed money for the organization. The minimum goal, thought to be conservative, was \$25,000.

The need for such a trade group is apparent to those who attended a hastily convened but remarkably successful golf summit in November.

All agree that the trade organization should work with legislative representatives and regulatory staff to present the golf industry's views on proposed regulations.

Florida's citrus industry, with \$862 million in receipts,

certainly has its collective voice heard in Tallahassee.

Golf, with direct annual spending of \$1.6 billion and an economic ripple effect of \$5.2 billion, so far has been silent.

Nancy Oliver, interim executive director of the council, is trying to end this silence. To reach those who will form the broad base of support, she and members of the council's board and steering committee are hitting the road.

Regional meetings began in November in Tallahassee and were held throughout December in Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota, Sebring, Fort Myers, Naples and Miami.

The meetings were to inform the public and members of the golf industry about the council's potential impact.

The response has counteracted Oliver's disappointment with the Golf-Day fundraiser.

"After the first two meetings, we had people telling us the organization that is needed," Oliver says. "They are also willing to support us financially, and that's very encouraging. I'm confident the Florida Golf Council can be a success."

Money, obviously, is a key factor in the council's eventual success, but a clear focus is also important.

Ron Safford, director of sports development for the state's Department of Commerce, says the council should go beyond gathering and providing information. Part of the problem is public relations.

"We keep hearing these horror stories... golf courses are

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getting ripped in the press," Safford says. "We need to let people know the industry isn't anti-environment but that those in the golf industry are as concerned about the environment as the public is."

"We as golf course superintendents have been trying to articulate this problem and address it for a decade," says Tim Hiers, golf course manager at John's Island Club in Vero Beach. "We felt that we had the truth about the environmental impact of golf courses. However, the truth isn't going to win if the people don't know about it. And no one has taken the time to disseminate this information. As a result, the negative information gets the publicity. And this has cost us dearly already."

Golf course designer Tom

Fazio says that on one Florida project, the regulations were changed three separate times. It not only took time to conform to the new regulations, but Fazio says it also cost an additional \$150,000.

David Smith, president of Lake Poinsett Development Co., has been involved in the permitting process for nearly five years. His proposed 800-acre residential and golf development on Lake Poinsett and the St. John's River has received the necessary permits from the St. John's Water Management District. But now an environmental group has challenged the permits, and Smith is, at presstime, going into a hearing brought on by this challenge.

Oliver admits that the council is not a panacea. But by pooling its resources, she says,

the industry will have its interests represented with the legislators and the regulators.

Fazio feels that the council should take a page from the environmentalists' success. "If they are going to make the grade, they must have specific agendas and issues they will go after that will build the council into an organization that has clout.

"This is what the environmentalists have done."

USGA to hold two Green Section conferences in Fla.

The USGA Green Section will conduct two Green Section Educational Conferences in Florida this year. The addition

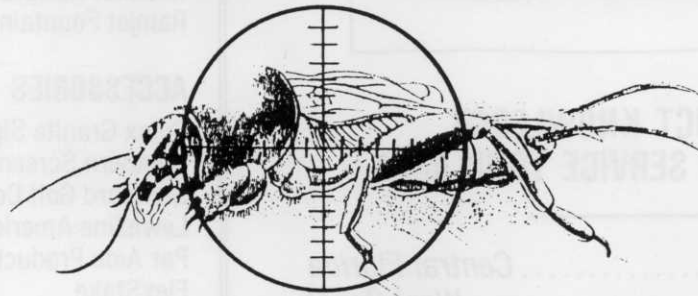
of a second conference was prompted by the growth of USGA Turfgrass Advisory Service subscribers in Central and North Florida.

The first conference will be March 12 at The Royce Hotel (Airport) in West Palm Beach. The second will be two days later at Orange Lake CC in Kissimmee. Both will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Featured speakers will be the same at both conferences:

- Ron Dodson, president, The Audubon Society of New York State, Inc., who will discuss the new USGA-Audubon "Cooperative Sanctuary Systems" program.
- Dr. Bert McCarty, Environmental Horticulture Department, University of Florida, will speak on Inte-

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- Jim Moore, Director, Mid-Continent Region, USGA, will speak on Computers in Golf Course Management.
- Brian Silva, golf course architect, will speak on the history of golf course design. Other topics will include:
- The future of golf course irrigation in Florida
- Fuel and pesticide storage
- The construction and management of USGA spec greens in Florida

CEUs will be given for members of the GCSAA, CMA and PGA. Club officials, managers and golf professionals will benefit from the program, according to the USGA.

Seating at both sessions will be limited. Preference will be given to those who pre-register

by calling Shelly Foy at the USGA Green Section Regional Office in Hobe Sound, at 407-546-2620 or by faxing the names and addresses of those attending to 407-546-GOLF.

Brochures for the Green Section Conference will be mailed in early February.

NGF honors six Fla. public courses

Six Florida golf courses are among 50 across the nation to be honored by the National Golf Foundation for special achievement in public golf. Although the awards recognize efforts in promoting public play, the recipients were quick to credit the role played by su-

perintendents in their efforts.

"The bottom line is, you have to have a course that golfers want to play," said Jerry Comeau, general manager of the St. Clair Shores (Mich.) Golf Club, cited by the NGF as its showcase winner for the variety of programs it offers.

"No matter what you do to get people on your course the first time, you won't get them back unless the superintendent is doing an outstanding job."

Florida courses honored were Melbourne Beach Municipal; Marriott's Orlando World (Layton Overstreet, superintendent); Metro West CC (Steve Sorrell, superintendent), Orlando; Mangrove Bay GC (Marshal Edgren, CGCS, superintendent), St. Petersburg; Twin Brooks GC, St. Peters-

burg; Sandridge GC, Vero Beach.

Lake City CC seeking OJT sites

Students in golf course operations, landscape technology, and turf equipment management at Lake City Community College will be seeking internship sites for summer 1991. The three-month practical field training (May through July) is a mandatory part of the LCCC curriculum.

Firms interested in participating should contact John R. Piersol, chairman; Golf Course Operations/Landscape Technology; Lake City Community College; Rt. 3, Box 7; Lake City, FL 32055; phone 904-752-1822, ext. 225.



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