

*President's Award
for
Lifetime Achievement
1990*

*Carl McKinney
Bud Quandt
Bob Sanderson
Paul Turcotte
Adam Yurigan*



Adam Yurigan

Photo by Kit Bradshaw

BY KIT BRADSHAW

Adam Yurigan has been teaching all of his life.

Through personal example and through years of helping young trainees through the ranks, the winner of the FGCSA's President's Award for Lifetime Service has taught golf course superintendents the value of honesty, hard work and professionalism.

A former caddie who turned professional as a young man and garnered several open championships, Yurigan has been both a golf professional and a golf course superintendent during his career.

"When I got out of the Army in 1945, my wife and I moved from Pennsylvania to Iowa, where I helped to renovate golf courses that had deteriorated during the war years," Yurigan says. "After working with my father-in-law in the auto business for a short time, I decided to return to golf and went to work at the Geneva CC as a pro/superintendent. In those days, if you made \$1,000 a month, it was great pay. The golf courses couldn't afford to have both a golf professional and a superintendent, so I did both jobs. It's a different era now," he says.

It was at Geneva, then later at the All-Vet

Center, Mason City CC and finally at Echo Valley in Des Moines that Yurigan established a program for young superintendent-trainees.

"I had at least three key people on the crew, and I supplemented the crew with high school kids that wanted to get into the business," Yurigan says. "They were able to make money for the summer and they got experience. If they worked hard, they always had a job every summer, as long as they wanted it."

Yurigan stayed at Mason City CC for several years, upgrading the course by installing the first water system in the state and by working to establish the course's reputation. He later went to Echo Valley CC in Des Moines.

Through a friend, Yurigan was hired as the golf course superintendent at Rio Pinar in Orlando, at that time the site of the PGA Tour's Citrus Open.

You'd feel fortunate to cross paths with Adam

"I had a good resume and had a lot of good recommendations — something I think every golf course superintendent should have," Yurigan says.

"One of the things I brought to Rio Pinar was my expertise in bentgrass. In the North, we had bentgrass greens and bluegrass fairways. I was the first person, to my knowledge, to plant bentgrass on Florida greens. Now all the high-class courses in Florida have bentgrass overseeding in the winter," he says.

It was during this time that Yurigan helped found the Central Florida chapter of the FGCSA and served as its first president. "At that time," he says, "Central Florida was a one-horse area. Look at it now!"

Yurigan stayed at Rio Pinar, despite some difficult times with budget and equipment, but in the early 1970s, he heard there might be an opening at John's Island.

"I called Mr. (Lwydd) Ecclestone and asked him about the possibility of working at John's Island, and he hired me shortly after interviewing me. I don't think people

really knew Mr. Ecclestone. He was one of the finest men I've ever worked with. His door was open to me to discuss the course, and he understood that it was important that the golf course superintendent have control of what goes on at that course," Yurigan says.

With Ecclestone's encouragement, Yurigan started the Treasure Coast chapter of the FGCSA and served as that chapter's first president.

Lee Van Valkenburg, now superinten-

dent at Card Sound GC on Key Largo, remembers his days as Yurigan's assistant at John's Island.

"When Adam took over, it was raw," he recalls. "They were using effluent on the courses and, as a result, the ponds were so clogged the birds could walk on them. But the time we left, you couldn't tell the ponds that held the effluent from the other ponds

They had cut our staff, and I was out there, dragging pumps around the course, working until six or seven at night. And there was Adam, manning machinery, right with us, trying to help get the course ready," Van Valkenburg says.

"I feel fortunate to have crossed paths with Adam in my career," he says. "I would not be where I am today if I hadn't worked

for him. He is a real teacher. He makes the assistant superintendents learn everything they can about the course. There isn't a job we didn't learn. He let us feel the pressure of the job, he made us lead our crew and coordinate the work and made us tie these jobs together so that there was a workable plan in maintaining that golf course. We knew he was ultimately responsible for the course, but he guided us, and made us think, and learn and understand everything that was necessary to maintain a golf course. I think sometimes superintendents keep their assistants in the dark. Adam didn't. And because of this, all of us were confident that we knew how to run a course.

"I have never met

a man who was more honest and professional and more ethical than Adam Yurigan," Van Valkenburg says. "Even though he might rub people the wrong way sometimes, he still maintained his integrity. I miss working with him."

Yurigan brought the expertise gained at John's Island to the new course at Hawk's Nest in Vero Beach, serving as an interim superintendent while the course was being constructed. By this time he was in his

Adam Yurigan

Age: 74

Education:

Studied two years at the University of Pittsburgh; additional studies in turfgrass management at Purdue University.

Current Position:

Retired; does some consulting work in turf management and golf course management.

Previous Employment:

Former golf course superintendent at Vero Beach CC, Hawk's Nest, John's Island, Rio Pinar, all in Florida and Mason City and Echo Valley, in Iowa.

Other Employment:

U.S. Army, golf professional.

Professional:

Started both the Central and Treasure Coast chapters of the FGCSA, and served as the first president of each.

Personal:

Married to Elizabeth since 1943. Children: Nancy owns car dealership with her husband in Mason City, Iowa; Pat, of Orlando, is a registered nurse working with lawyers on malpractice investigations; Lori, manager of special marketing at Disney World in Orlando; Mike, assistant golf professional at Isleworth CC in Orlando.

on the property.

"When Hurricane David came through, it took us three days just to clear things up to get around and see the damage — 100-year-old oak trees were uprooted all over the course. It took us 10 days to clear the course so it could be put back after the hurricane hit.

"I can remember one month we had 20 inches of rain and we were trying to get the course ready for the Ladies Western Open.

sixties and he decided to look at doing more consulting and less hands-on golf-course maintenance.

Vero Beach CC requested his services, and again he worked with the club until a superintendent could be found. "I told them they needed time and a young man to bring their course around," Yurigan says. "I established the maintenance program for them, and was able to increase the budget and bring in new machinery to get the course in better shape. Now Roger Welker is in charge of the course and it is in better condition than when I first saw it."

Yurigan says he has been involved with the PGA of America and the GCSAA for more than 20 years. There have been many changes to the industry in his long career.

"Although I never went for my certification as a golf course superintendent — I was too old, I felt — I've told all the young men who worked with me that certification would get them in the door. There are a lot of fine superintendents who don't have certification and are very qualified, but I

think it's a different game now and it's much harder on superintendents than it was when I was younger.

"Members expect you to maintain the course like you do when you have a tournament. You have to work with a lot of different professionals — architects, managers, consultants — and still remind them that you are a professional who knows the course and who is the one that is ultimately responsible for the condition of that course. You need larger budgets and more people to maintain a course and all the equipment in good condition.

"I think that more than anything, a golf course superintendent needs to be truthful with people," Yurigan says. "You have to realize that sometimes it will be difficult and you'll have to fight to get things done right. But if you are good, you don't have to worry about getting another job. When golf course superintendents take a stand on the creation and maintenance of a course and stop worrying about someone else taking their job, they'll be better off." 🦅

Adam Walsh Child Resource Center Benefit Tournament to be played Sept. 14

The South Florida GCSA invites your participation in the Seventh Annual Adam Walsh Child Resource Center Benefit Golf Tournament. The tournament will take place Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Clubs of Inverrary, Lauderhill, Fl.

Enjoy a day of golf, food, beverages and as always spectacular prizes, while supporting an organization dedicated to protecting our greatest asset, our children.

Entry forms will be mailed to members of the Everglades, Palm Beach and South Florida Chapters. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Bob Klitz at 305-733-7551 or Bill Entwistle, Jr. at 305-435-6169. We look forward to seeing our friends from past tournaments and making new ones at this year's tournament.

— David Lottes

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GOLF COURSE RENOVATION

Poa Annua Classic bothered a bit by rain; committee considers moving to earlier date

The 17th Annual Poa Annua Classic weekend was usual in combining business, education, fun and relaxation, but unusual in having to contend with an uncooperative Mother Nature.

Unseasonable morning rain plagued the Poa Annua Classic for the second consecutive year. A dejected tournament committee had to call off the tournament after nine holes due to the wet conditions, and a soggy bunch of golfers was reluctant to leave the damp but beautiful Flamingo Island Club in its debut as the Poa Annua Classic site.

Superintendent Jim Larner, had the course well prepared, but the turf could not withstand the accumulation of several days' worth of rain and remain playable.

Everglades president, Buddy Carmouche, announced that the Poa Annua Committee was considering moving the Classic to the first weekend in May to avoid the beginning of the rainy season.

On Saturday afternoon, the G. C. Horn Memorial Research Tournament held at the Naples Beach Club was also delayed by



Seminar speakers at the 17th annual Poa Annua Classic weekend were (l-r), front row, Steve Pearson, Paul Crawford, Walt McMahon, Lou Conzelmann, Cary Lewis and John Gallagher; back row, Jim Montgomery, Robert Drake, Mark Flock and Dale Kuehner.

rain and lightning, but did complete all 18 holes.

Although the golf competitions may have

been dampened by the wet weather, those in attendance were happy to see the drought-stricken West Coast receive the much needed rain.

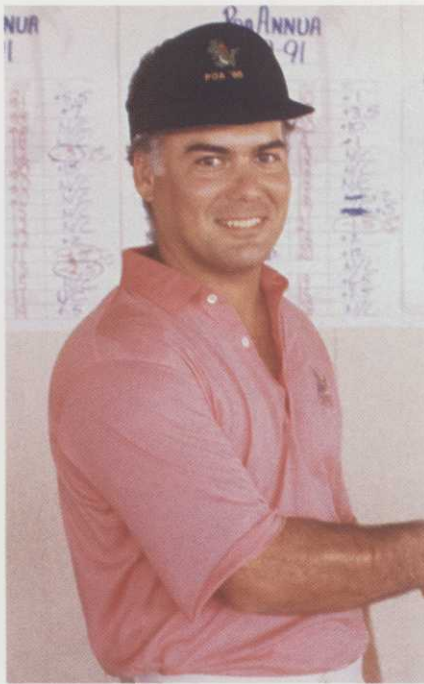
The hard work and preparations by the host Everglades Chapter were not in vain as the cordial atmosphere and gracious hospitality brightened up the weekend. The luau banquet Saturday night combined with the steel drum band gave the weekend a distinct tropical flair.

The Education Committee scored another ace with its seminar, "The Thinking Superintendent" on Sunday morning. A wide range of current critical issues was presented to a capacity crowd of superintendents seeking Continuing Education Credits for their GCSAA certification and for their own personal and professional development.

On Saturday morning the FGCSA Board of Directors held its Spring Board Meeting to conduct the business of the association. President Ray Hansen was pleased to recognize Jeff Hayden as the representative of the Seven Rivers Chapter, the 10th and newest chapter in the state association.



Everglades Chapter Board of Directors are (l-r), Dick McCoy (Windermere CC), Roy Bates (Imperial CC), Secretary-Treasurer Ric Mohr (Palmetto Pines CC), Odell Spainhour (supplier representative, Debra Turf), Mike Mongoven (City of Fort Myers courses), External V.P. Lou Conzelmann (Fiddlesticks CC), V.P. Steve Cairdullo (The Forest CC), Past President Mark Atwood (Bears Paw CC) and President Buddy Carnouche (Hole in the Wall Golf Club).



Dave Oliver won the Superintendent's Division for the third consecutive year.

Poa Annuia Classic Golf Tournament results:

Superintendent Division

Low Gross: 1st David Oliver ,
2nd Lou Conzelmann, 3rd Paul
Bondeson, 4th Larry Livingston.

Low Net: 1st Chuck Rogers, 2nd
Gary Smither, 3rd Jay Gratton, 4th
Ray Cuzzone.

Team Championship

Palm Beach Chapter-Robert
Brumfield, Pat Kearney, Glenn
Klauk and Jerry Redden.

Supplier Division

Low Gross: 1st Morgan Evans,
2nd Keith Longshore, 3rd Glenn
Zakany, 4th Walt Shirey

Low Net: 1st Brad Reano, 2nd
Dick Bessire, 3rd Odell Spainhour,
4th Ted Owens.

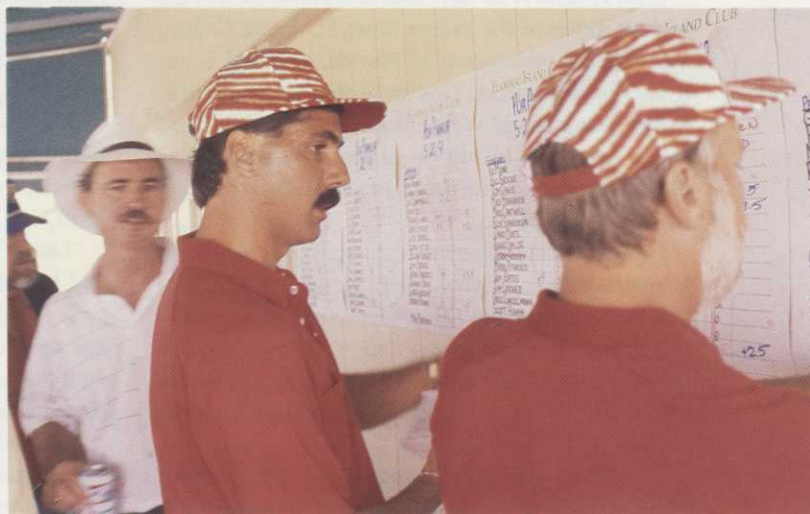


Chuck Rogers was the low net winner with a wide lead over Gary Smither.



The Palm Beach Chapter's minus-10 score took the Chapter Team Championship away from host Everglades Chapter at the Poa Annuia Golf Tournament, May 20. Team members were (l-r) Jerry Redden, Glen Klauk, Pat Kearney and Robert Brumfield.

Mark Henderson watches as Steve Cairdullo and Buddy Carouche post scores



Photos by Joel Jackson



Where golf courses are

John's Island West Golf Course sits on one of the the highest dunes of the Indian River/St. Lucie County area. Unlike other parts of Florida, the land is extremely well drained.

Photos by Kit Bradshaw

BY KIT BRADSHAW

Consider this equation. One golf course equals one permanent habitat preserve. A single golf course becomes a locale where endangered plant life, or even endangered wildlife can thrive.

John Fitzpatrick, executive director of the Archbold Biological Station, near Lake Placid, sees this concept as reality because it's happening at a Vero Beach development called John's Island.

John's Island West Golf Course sits on one of the the highest dunes of the Indian River/St. Lucie County area. Unlike other parts of Florida, the land is extremely well drained. This according to Fitzpatrick, makes John's Island West unique, with ties to ancient North America. He calls the property, "a spectacular example of a coastal scrub, plant and animal community unique to Florida."

He admits the property has changed. After all, there is a golf course there now. "But," he says, "the important thing is that Tom Fazio took a progressive, positive approach to golf course design. He built around the native landscape using its advantages. When you walk on the course, you are walking through what old Florida used to look like."

Tim Hiers, golf course manager at John's Island West, said that to preserve as much of the property as

possible, the construction centered around hand clearing a vast portion of the land. As a result of the careful preparation and the embellishment of wetlands, migratory and wading birds are abundant. Hiers said many other species of wildlife, such as otters and raccoons, call John's Island West home.

Fitzpatrick said the property is "one of the rarest habitats in North America. Every square meter is precious to wildlife. There is a fairly large number of endangered species at John's Island West, and it is now a permanent habitat preserve that also provides recreation and beauty... it is the best example of bridging these two goals together."

In its role as a permanent habitat preserve, John's Island West is part of the biological station's experimental program to save the endangered plant, Lakela's Mint.

"Lakela's Mint is one of the rarest plants on earth, and is native to the yellow sand scrub," Fitzpatrick said. "Unfortunately, most of this yellow sand area has been obliterated by construction along U.S. 1, with just a few small, struggling populations of the plant left in abandoned areas.

"We've brought more than 30 of these plants to John's Island West, hoping the course can become, in a small way, a model of how golf courses can contrib-



designed for wildlife

ute to conservation of nearly extinct species. Our goal is to establish a thriving population of Lakela's Mint, which is becoming increasingly important as potential natural insect repellent."

Many golf courses in Florida, particularly in the agricultural area of Indian River County, are built on old citrus groves. On these properties, sensitive and environmentally aware developers have an opportunity to restore the land to a more natural state.

Fred Loherer, librarian for the biological station, said when a grove is planted, "they remove all the natural vegetation, cut and burn it and then root rake it, so there's no woody plants or shrubs that remain. The drainage is important when they put in a grove, so they create extensive ditches and lower the water table. This lowers the soil and the hydrology of the area. A citrus grove is pretty much as artificial as a lawn is."

Two other golf course communities in Vero Beach, Grand Harbor and the nearly-completed Windsor, are located primarily on extinct citrus groves. Here, the goal was not to maintain the existing landscape, but to restore a portion of the land to its pre-citrus condition.

Windsor will open in November. This Robert Trent Jones Jr. course is on a former grapefruit grove. Ac-

ording to designer Gary Linn, "We are trying to put the land back into better shape than it was before."

For Linn, this assignment provided two important aspects of course design.

When the grapefruit grove was created, a hammock area on this barrier island was virtually eliminated. There is a small triangular piece of hammock that remains, and the Jones design has incorporated this hammock into three of the holes.

"There was a commitment to restore the natural area here," Linn said, "and we are transplanting 60- to 70-foot live oaks, making the native dunes and putting in palm trees to recreate the areas that were denuded when they put in the grapefruit orchard. The environmentalists like it and it's pretty neat for golf use, because it gives instant maturity to the course."

Water retention and filtration are also part of the course design. Water on the property is captured in a series of large lakes, according to Linn, and then moves into the drainage ways with man-made shelves that have been planted. In this way, the plants at the water level of the lakes and along the drainage canals can filter the water before it's discharged into the Indian River.

Water is also an important part of the design of the two Grand Harbor courses, the River Club course and

Water is also an important part of the design of Grand Harbor courses. About 712 acres of the original 895 were citrus groves, and 73 acres were part of a mosquito impoundment system.

Grand Harbor course.

According to Ron Andrews, golf course manager for the complex, 712 acres of the original 895 were citrus groves, and 73 acres were part of a mosquito impoundment system.

To help restore the "old" Florida look to the property, some of the wetlands were preserved, some restored, and new wetlands were created. The mosquito impoundment areas were tied back into the Indian River, and now Andrews uses open-water marsh management to control the mosquito population.

"Historically, these impoundment areas were connected to the Indian River," Andrews said.

"What we did was to open these two impoundments back to the river, remove some of the agricultural sediments and make the areas a viable piece of the Indian River again. It's a new technique, and some of the people were not real sure it would work, but the Indian River Mosquito Control



"There are a fairly large number of endangered species at John's Island West, and it is now a permanent habitat preserve that also provides recreation and beauty... it is the best example of bridging these two goals together." — John Fitzpatrick, biologist

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District says it works about as well as it did when it was impounded. They don't have to use pesticides within the saltwater marshes to control mosquitos, any more than they did when it was impounded."

The open marsh water management system uses the the tidal influences of the Indian River to penetrate all the parts of the marsh, and to insure that there is no isolated puddling that will encourage mosquito propagation. "Then, if you can get the fish there, especially in the early life cycle of the mosquito," Andrews said, "the fish will eat the very young, small mosquito larvae."

Andrews adds, however, that not every impoundment area is a candidate for this type of program.

"For one thing, it is very expensive," he said. "For another, you need some place to put the fill that comes out of the berms that were part of the impoundment areas. In addition, there is a lot of research going on right now about mosquito impoundment areas. The mosquito control districts are looking into the possibility of opening some of these impoundments part of the year. So there are a lot of things to consider concerning mosquito impoundments."

In the process of creating two golf courses at Grand Harbor, 12 acres of wetlands were filled in. Andrews said the areas filled in were not pristine, but were heavily impacted wetlands.

"And," he added, "keep in mind that the citrus grove was not native land, and there was little wildlife on that portion of the property before construction." However, as part of the permitting, 48 acres of wetlands were created to offset the in-filling.

"Basically, we rehabilitated those 73 acres of salt marsh, except for the 12 we filled, created 48 more to add to that; and rehabilitated the whole thing. In addition, we created 74 acres of freshwater wetlands. Doing the wetlands work and integrating it with the golf courses were our biggest challenges."

The River Club course was built on citrus groves, and in creating it, 28 acres of upland lakes were built. At the Grand Harbor course, the impoundments were rehabilitated and freshwater lakes were constructed. All this work has created an environment that attracts fish and birds, Andrews said.

"We filled the marshes with fiddler crab,

snook and a lot of different fish," he said. "In our testing, we've collected a very high number of other fish. If you keep track of the fish, it's a very good way to see the success of a created marsh. Also, I can go out on the course and see a number of birds, such as tri-color herons, ibis, blue herons and wood storks. And there is other wildlife here, such as frogs, snakes, river otters, raccoons and bunnies—we're bunny huggers like everyone else."

"It is expensive to preserve, rehabilitate and create wetlands," Andrews said. "We probably had something in the neighborhood of \$2 million in the saltwater mitigation, and about \$400,000 alone in plants used in the freshwater. In addition, if you take 30 percent of a lake and make it marsh, you lose 30 percent of the fill that could come from the lake. So there is a hidden cost of mitigation, because it makes you use dirt from off the property. The only people who could afford this type of project is a developer. The value, however, is that it lets people know that mitigation can be done successfully."

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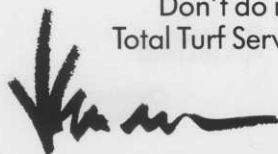
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“When outright preservation of the land is not possible, then the next best scenario is to work with golf courses — courses are open space by their nature — and with residential developers, because they can put money into preserving bits of the native ecosystem.”

The expense of either preserving wetlands and uplands or rehabilitating these properties is extensive, but Fitzpatrick believes that environmentally sensitive development can be valuable in the preservation or restoration of Florida’s lands.

“When outright preservation of the land is not possible, then the next best scenario is to work with golf courses — courses are open space by their nature — and with residential developers, because they can put money into preserving bits of the native ecosystem,” Fitzpatrick said.

“John’s Island West is clearly in the vanguard because they made a special effort to protect pieces of a native system exactly as it used to be. My genuine belief is that golf courses have a real potential for being ecologically important. They are important places for environmentally-minded people who decry any human use of the land. It is possible for development and the environment to live side by side.”

Andrews agrees. “Good golf course superintendents have always been environmentalists,” he said. “We spend a big part of our day on the golf courses. We’ve got to deal with the pests of nature, but we enjoy the good side of nature just as much as the next guy and we work hard to minimize the impact the golf course has. I think that often a golf course doesn’t get enough credit for the positive things it can do for the environment.”

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Two from Florida win GCSAA scholarships

Two of the first 10 GCSAA Legacy Awards for outstanding scholarship have gone to Florida women.

Jennifer Jackson, daughter of Joel Jackson, CGCS, Orlando, and Melissa Marie Sohn, granddaughter of Louis Earl Trapp, Lake Placid, each have received \$1,500 stipends to further their collegiate education.

Legacy Awards, financed by GCSAA Scholarship and Research fund, are available to the children and grandchildren of active and retired GCSAA members.

Candidates must be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution of higher learning with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.00 scale), demonstrate a broad base of interests including community involvement, volunteer activities and outside work, and complete a short essay on his or her parent's (or grandparent's) involvement with the GCSAA.

"The selection committee members were very impressed with the caliber of the candidates, particularly the essays," said Pat Jones, GCSAA director of communications. "These stipends were made solely on the basis of merit under the criteria, not on the basis of need."

The selection committee was comprised entirely of educators and collegiate administrators who had no connection to the GCSAA or the golf course management industry.

Jennifer Jackson will enter Wake Forest University near Winston-Salem, N.C. this

fall as a freshman. Her father, editor of the the Florida Green and past president of the FGCSA, is a superintendent at Walt Disney World.

Melissa Sohn has attended South Florida Community College on a part-time basis during her junior and senior year of high school and is enrolled for the fall term at Troy State University in Alabama.

Thus, although she just graduated from Lake Placid High School, she'll probably carry sophomore hours into Troy State. Sohn's grandfather was superintendent at Dayton (Ohio) CC from 1935 to 1974.

Other GCSAA Legacy Award scholarship winners :

- Mary Flaherty, Berkeley Heights, N.J., daughter of Joseph R. Flaherty, CGCS.
- Amy Jo Miller, Middleton, Wis., daughter of Monroe S. Miller.
- Jennifer Jane Shermer, Folkston, Ga., granddaughter of Edwin T. Mattson.
- Vincent R. Streiff, Middleton, Ohio, son of Thomas R. Streiff III, CGCS.
- Grier Wallace, Unionville, Conn., son of Michael Wallace, CGCS.
- Ian K. Wallace, Unionville, Conn., son of Michael Wallace, CGCS.
- Ty Townsend Webb, Memphis, Tenn., son of Lee Archer Webb, CGCS.
- Laurie Ann Wilcoxon, Stillwater, Okla., daughter of Stephen N. Wilcoxon.



Jennifer Jackson

GCSAA forms service for international members

The GCSAA has formed a new department to develop and implement programs for international members.

Tom Akins, GCSAA director of planning, will head the department and assume the new title of director of planning and international programs.

"International requests for assistance and information have steadily increased over the last several years," Akins said. "We're excited about the opportunity to provide tools for superintendents outside the United States.

"Many countries already have established golf federations and associations that are providing quality professional development for their membership. Our desire is to work cooperatively with those associations, lending our expertise while learning from their unique methods."

Of the more than 10,800 GCSAA members, 734 live and work in 47 different countries outside the U.S.

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