

FGCSA welcomes turf world to Palm Beach



The Breakers Hotel and Golf Course was the site of the week-long conference.

400 attend International Turfgrass Research Conference; two Floridians named to leadership positions

BY DR. GEORGE SNYDER

IFAS

Fort Lauderdale Research Center

For the first time ever, Florida hosted the International Turfgrass Research Conference, which was held at the Breakers Resort in Palm Beach, July 18-24. This seventh international conference, sponsored by the International Turfgrass Society, had been held in the USA only once before. Other conference sites have been in England, Germany, France, Canada, and Japan.

Four hundred turfgrass scientists and practitioners representing 24 countries were in attendance for this week-long event. Over 150 papers dealing with all phases of turfgrass production and maintenance were presented. Of particular interest were discussions of pesticide and nutrient fate, quantification of surface characteristics of sports fields, and a critical review of xeriscaping.

In addition to the presentation of scientific papers, a mid-week tour was held to acquaint the participants with turfgrass in south Florida. Visits were made to golf courses, athletic fields, equestrian

facilities, and to the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. A pre-conference tour visited the research facilities in Gainesville. Fifty-eight spouses participated in a week-long program of activities ranging from a croquet tournament to a tour of south Florida tropical gardens. Social events, which provided time for the participants to get to know each other on an informal basis, included a welcoming dinner, a beach party, and a banquet.

The Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association provided a lot of support for the conference. To help promote the event, the FGCSA assisted with a booth at the last two Golf Course Superintendents Association of America expositions. The FGCSA took the lead in soliciting golf superintendents in Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade counties who provided gratis rounds of golf for ITRC participants. FGCSA Executive Secretary Marie Roberts assisted with the ITRC registration. And several Palm Beach county courses hosted visits as part of two of the conference mid-week tours.

Although the ITRC moves on to an-

other country, and probably won't be back in the USA for many years, several Floridians will continue to play key roles in the International Turfgrass Society. At the 1993 conference, Dr. John Cisar, turfgrass water specialist at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center, was elected to the ITS board of directors. Dr. George Snyder, professor of soil and water science at the Everglades Research and Education Center, was appointed ITS treasurer for the next four years. Anyone interested in ITS membership should contact Dr. Snyder. The next ITRC is being hosted in 1997 by Australia and New Zealand. It's not too early to be making plans to attend!

NOTE: *All of the papers presented at the conference are included in the 1021-page International Turfgrass Society Research Journal, Volume 7, which is available for \$65.00 from Dr. R.E. Schmidt, VPI & SU, Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0404 (Tel. 703-231-9796). Dr. George H. Snyder has some copies available locally (Tel. 407-996-3062).*