

# Friday the 13th no ill omen as annual Poa Weekend attracts hundreds to Naples

If you didn't make it to this year's Poa Annua Weekend, you missed one of the great social and business events of the year. Every year hundreds of turf professionals and their families flock to the Naples Beach Club for a weekend full of golf, education, great food and just plain fun!

If this was your first year, I'm sure it won't be your last! And if you didn't make it, talk to someone who did. The event which started over 20 years ago seems to get better and better each year.

This year's Poa Annua started on the very unsettling day of Friday the 13th. Superstition and bad luck were nowhere to be found, however, as the FGCSA Seminar with Dr. Michael Coffman was a huge success. A standing-room-only audience enjoyed an informative and extremely important educational session. Those who attended would have to agree; a valuable lesson was learned by all.

If you missed the seminar, look for the book *Environmentalism* by Dr. M. Coffman

The seminar ended at about 5:30 p.m. and we were all ready for some fellowship and fun. Many opted for a beverage at the pool or a stroll on the beach. Either option seemed appropriate, since the seminar took place only about 50 feet from either place.

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*Photos on pages 12 and 13*

Still others hustled back to their rooms to get ready for dinner and dancing. The Beach Club offers all of the above. The Beach Club also delivers one of the most spectacular sunsets on the planet.

Saturday morning arrives with the ultimate breakfast buffet and the G.C. Horn Memorial Golf Tournament. David Barnes and Dick Naccarato put on one of the most enjoyable tournaments of the year.

But if you think you're having fun, the wife and kids are having a ball across the street soaking up the sun and swimming in the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. When the game is over, get the bathing suit on and spend some time with your loved ones on the beach.

Saturday night approaches and it's time for the famous Poa Annua Banquet. I hope you took a short nap!

Three hundred of your friends, family and colleagues have gathered to share all of the past year's experiences as well as the weekend's events and a few laughs. The band, a magician and comedian all take turns entertaining you as you feast on the bountiful buffet.

My wife Trish said the mahi mahi was the best she had ever tasted and George Bowling set a new records for trips to the buffet table. In between dances and laughs, we eagerly awaited the raffle and drawings. The Beach Club, Marco Marriott and South Seas Plantations all donated fabulous getaway weekends as well as Hidden Acres Nursery donation of a golf bag and putter.

Susan Zeigler was the big winner, as she will be going on Norwegian Cruise Lines for a three-night cruise to the Bahamas, courtesy of the Everglades Chapter. Since she didn't ask me, I assume she'll take her husband. Just outside the banquet room, the waves keep rolling in and the weekend continues.

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Sunday morning hits most of us way too soon as we prepare for the 1994 Poa Annua Classic. Dick Naccarato has his Beach Club layout in championship form and the tournament starts under perfect weather conditions.

As our wives are sleeping in or enjoying their first cup of coffee, we are fighting Dick's tough pin placements and blasting out of traps but having a great time nevertheless. The Everglades superintendents have been working way too hard this spring and fall to keep the coveted cup of Poa Annua.

The Ridge Chapter obviously went to bed early and came to Naples with victory in mind as they walked away with the team championship led by Chuck Rogers winning low net of 65, Ray Cuzzone, Mark Hopkins and Alan Puckett, humbled all the other chapters. Only Steve Ciardullo, a former Everglades president now a mem-

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## 120 attend seminar on environmental leadership

On Friday, May 13, at the Naples Beach Club, about 120 golf course superintendents and other concerned professionals attended a seminar led by Dr. Michael Coffman.

The focus of the seminar centered around the elite leadership in the environmental movement. This leadership probably comprises less than five percent of those people involved in environmental activism.

Dr. Coffman exposed the political

and quasi-religious agenda behind this small but powerful group. They have been very effective in promoting legislation that has had significant impact on our lives, the economy, and amazingly, even to the detriment of the environment, without having to demonstrate any peer-reviewed scientific evidence or proof.

To counteract the emotionalism, extremism, and fanaticism (that incidentally provides good material for the me-

dia), we must fight this battle on a grass roots and local basis. It must be done using the truth, solid scientific evidence and an ongoing commitment to environmental sensitivity and public education relating to our own operations.

If you're concerned about your profession, free enterprise, private property and government growing out of control, please call 207-945-9878 to obtain a copy of Dr. Coffman's book, *Saviors of the Earth?*

## Poa Weekend a professional, social success

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ber of the Ridge Chapter, showed any mercy on the field.

A net 69 on a tough day is a score to be proud of so you can imagine how happy David Oliver of the Treasure Coast Chapter was with his gross 69 good for a four-shot victory over Mark Hopkins. It was Oliver's third victory in

the past four Poa Annuas. Dick Harrell won the Suppliers Division with a solid, even-par 72 followed by Gary Whilhelm. A cookout lunch followed the tournament as wives and children congratulated or consoled their favorite linksters.

It almost seems unrealistic to have so much fun and still make money. Over \$10,000 was raised this year for the turfgrass industry.

Of course, a get together like this takes a lot of hard work and great sponsors. The Naples Beach Club and Dick Naccarato were fabulous as always. The sponsors all deserve our respect, our thanks and our business. On behalf of the Everglades board of directors, it was simply a labor of love for our proud Poa Annua tradition.

## Poll: 87% say current safeguards adequate

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education and certification for users, easier-to-understand labels and pesticides prescribed and applied only by licensed applicators were the most frequently mentioned solutions for preventing misapplication of pest control products.

Almost 50 percent said there is an area

regarding the use of pest control products that should be regulated more to prevent practices that are unsafe or risky. Application methods and homeowner use of pest control products were the most frequently mentioned areas needing to be regulated more.

More than 87 percent said they agree the safeguards already in place are suffi-

cient to ensure safety to the environment, the public, animals or wildlife and actual users of pest control products.

At 41 percent, wearing protective clothing was the most frequently mentioned pest control regulation/practice that contributes the most to the safe use of pest control products. Record keeping also was mentioned frequently.

## Benefield: Are you willing to pay for the real McCoy?

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horror stories from you the superintendent that this work is being done.

And it is up to you the superintendent to assure that the program succeeds. If you don't insist on "certified" sod and sprigs when you rebuild or re-grass your course,

the program is doomed. If you go to non-certified producers because of their lower price you deserve what you get as far as the grass quality goes.

The larger injustice however will be that you will have let down your profession.

You have an obligation to support those programs endorsed by the professional association you belong to which are progressive and of merit. This is one of those programs. It needs your support and help. Don't be penny wise and pound foolish.