

# 1995 GCSAA Golf Championship delights all

BY JOE ONDO

The 1995 GCSAA Golf Championship was played in Monterey, California, and in partnership with the Toro Company, was a huge success.

In addition to the full rain suit, shirt, hat and other tee prizes, each player also received complimentary continental breakfast each day and a 19th hole reception after golf was finished. If anyone played in this year's tournament and was not satisfied, he or she must have had a bad golf week.

The tournament was played at five courses in the Monterey area in some of the best weather Monterey and the GCSAA have had in years. Temperatures were in the high 70s to low 80s all week for this event.

The championship division played Poppy Hills and the

Bayonet Course at Fort Ord. In the team competition, Carolina's A Team was the gross point winner, with Georgia second and Florida finishing ninth.

Congratulations are in order to Todd Barker from Utah for firing a great 144 total and a 7 shot win in individual competition over Paul Jeff and Mike Wilson. Low for Florida were Mark Hopkins and Joe Pantaleo, who finished tied for 14th overall.

In addition to everything else, Toro has also donated \$1,000 in the name of tournament winner Todd Barker and \$500 in the name of the low gross Carolina team and low net Midwest team to the GCSAA Scholarship and Research Foundation.

Toro also donated \$100 for every low gross and low net winner in their respective flights.

Congratulations to GCSAA and Toro for a fantastic event.

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saying that everyone was in the North Hall. All I know is that when I worked the Florida booth on Friday, we were in a Side Hall and hardly anybody could find us! We weren't being discriminated against. All the Allied Associations like USGA, NGF, BIGGA, etc were in there along with the main GCSAA booths. It was just out of the main flow of traffic.

### Florida Host Booth

In case you didn't know, the GCSAA 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show will be in Orlando February 5-12, 1996. We handed out a lot of Florida Green copies, FGCSA lapel pins and Orlando activity brochures supplied by the Chamber of Commerce. We played a continuous video on Orlando, gave out lists of Central Florida golf courses accepting GCSAA tee times next February, and answered all sorts of questions in general.

For my boss if he reads this, every time somebody talked about bringing the family, I tried to sell them on staying at Disney. I told them we had a wide price range of accommodations and a shuttle that runs to the Convention Center. I was right about the shuttle wasn't I?

And just who gave freely of their time to work the booth Friday, Saturday, and Sunday? You'll find their pictures in the photo collages. For Marie Roberts our Association Manager, boy those California guys next door were really envious of our planning, organization, and all the goodies! Nice job, Marie!

### FGCSA Reception

While we are leaders in many areas, it took us awhile to finally start scheduling a formal reception at the national conference. This year was our 5th. We started out in a small hotel suite in Las Vegas in 1991. Now we have the hot ticket on Friday night. Many of the other associations, notably the Wisconsin GCSA in partnership with Milorganite, have been doing it for years. It gives everyone a specific time and place to get together and compare notes when we're all far from home. It's a great idea. We also

invite industry leaders and GCSAA candidates to stop by so we can get to know them better. As you can see from our "thank you" ad, we aren't doing it alone. We have a lot of partners that help to make it a success.

### Philanthropy

The FGCSA renewed its annual membership in GCSAA's Platinum Tee Club when Scott Bell handed GCSAA President Joe Baidy a check for \$5,000 for the GCSAA Foundation. The O. J. Noer Foundation also received a check from Scott for \$500 as we continue to support their highly successful research efforts.

### Night Life

Honey, after the classes were over, after the Moscone Center doors were closed and locked, we all went back to our respective hotel rooms and studied our notes and read trade magazines. Once or twice I turned on the PBS channel and watched the Frugal Gourmet and Yanni at the Acropolis.

I heard rumors that some people rode cable cars to Fisherman's Wharf and Chinatown and dined at lavish restaurants. Some even went to a place called Club Oz high atop the Westin St. Francis hotel and danced the night away. I don't know if that's true, but I know I wasn't in Kansas anymore!

### Summary

Another conference has come and gone. New experiences. New memories. I'm glad I got to go. I know how fortunate I am to be able to go. I'd like to think that I'm a better because of the experience. Perhaps a little wiser, maybe more tolerant of shortcomings, certainly more excited about the future. But, I'd like to think that I deserved to go, that I had earned the privilege to represent my club and my association because of what I do the other 51 weeks of the year. That doesn't apply to just me. It applies to every man and woman who bears the title and responsibility of a Golf Course Superintendent.

*See you in Orlando in 1996!*