



From left: Crowfoot Open champ Chris Cartin, Poa Annua Classic winner Jim Torba, and perennial contender Mark Henderson congratulate Joe Pantaleo on his victory at the 1997 FGCSA Golf Championship at Southern Dunes. Photo by Joe Ondo.

Palm Beach, Pantaleo win FGCSA titles

Seven out of ten chapters sent teams to the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City on Saturday, Sept. 20 to vie for the Second FGCSA Team Championship. The Palm Beach Chapter won this year's event by one stroke over the South Florida Chapter. Members of the winning team were Mark Henderson, Steve Bernard, Jack Callahan, Jeff Klontz and Glen Landgraf.

Joe Pantaleo and the South Florida Chapter got some satisfaction as Joe won the low gross honors with a score of 75. The South Florida team placed first in the Low Net division.

With his victory, Joe earned a spot on the FGCSA team competing at Anaheim in the 1998 GCSAA Golf Championship. Also winning a spot on the FGCSA Team for Anaheim was Mark Hopkins for having the low average score in two out of three of the qualifying events.

Taking second place in the Low Gross division was Buck Buckner in a match of

cards with Roy McDonald after both shot a score of 76. Bob Harper won the individual Low Net honors with a net score of 69. Bill Griffith took second place in the Net division.

Congratulations to Marty Clark with the shot of the day, a hole-in-one on #14.

Host superintendent Bayne Caillavet had everything in great shape for our second event and General Manager, Denny Snyder and his staff made us feel right at home with a great lunch and help with the scoring.

Hope to see even more chapters participate next year!

Joe Ondo, CGCS

1998 State Team

FGCSA State Team for the 1998 GCSAA Golf Championship

Jim Torba, GCS, University of South Florida GC, Winner 1997 Poa Annua Classic

Chris Cartin, AGCS, Alaqua CC, Winner 1997 Crowfoot Open

Joe Pantaleo, GCS, Indian Creek CC, Winner FGCSA Golf Championship

Mark Hopkins, GCS, Sun 'N' Lake GC, Low Average

Devil Rays' liaison speaks at Quandt event

Once again the annual Bud Quandt Tournament turned out to be a great success on a very enjoyable day. The full field of 148 shared in the pleasure of playing Pasadena Yacht & C.C. Superintendent Jason Richards and his staff had the course in excellent condition as expected.

Dr. Jerry Sartain from the University of Florida started the day with some very informative research updates on projects that are in progress. He was followed by Orestes Destrade who is the director of community development for the new professional baseball team in the Bay Area, the Devil Rays. He spoke of the development of the organization and his role as community liaison to help spread the word about this new team and develop charitable activities for the organization.

The golf tournament followed with a very competitive field. Congratulations to the low gross and low net winners.

This Is the West Coast's big fund-raiser for turfgrass research, scholarships and other charities. It would not be so successful without the help of our sponsors

We would also like to extend our thanks to the many patron sponsors, individual players for their support, and the Pasadena Yacht & CC for being such gracious hosts.

*- Dale Reash, CGCS
Countryside C.C.*

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Troy Futch

Net

Buddy Carmouche
Bob Ley
Anthony Lambert
Gil Gonsalves

*Spotlight continues
on page 14*



Back row from left: Bob Klitz, Bill McKee, David Lottes and Bryan Singleton look on as SFGCSA President Bill Entwistle (right) presents Nancy McBride, Executive Director of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children a check for \$12,000 raised at this year's event.

SFGCSA raises \$12,000 for missing kids

The South Florida GCSA held its 13th Annual Benefit Tournament for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at the Colony West CC in November.

Dale Kuehner, CGCS and the staff at Colony West went above and beyond the call of duty to assure the success of the event. The course conditions were excellent for the

players and they responded as \$12,000 was raised for this worthy cause.

Thanks to the following six individuals for volunteering their days off to assist in coordinating the tournament: Lisa Miller, Richard Levy, Angela McCommon, Bob Wilcox, Susan Denny and Tom McCulley.

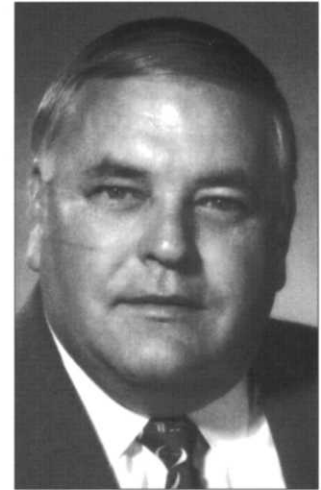
We would also like to thank Rayside Truck & Trailer for providing 400 hot dogs for the tournament.

The committee would

like to thank all our volunteers, participants, Birdie and Eagle Sponsors for their continuing support.

Special recognition goes to Bill Entwistle, Jr., who will not let this event die. Year after year, Bill pushes the other committee members to volunteer, organize and dedicate their time.

Without Bill, there would be no annual event.
*Bob Klitz, CGCS
Orangebrook GC*



Whit Collins

Noted labor consultant Collins dies

1997 has turned out to be a year of infamy as we lost of another key member of our turf management fraternity this past fall. Although he wasn't a superintendent, inventor or a turf researcher, Whit Collins was a familiar figure at many of our local and regional seminars.

He taught us the do's and don'ts of the of being a legally compliant employer with his trademark, dead pan, dry sense

of humor that had the audiences laughing and learning the convoluted world of OSHA, ERA, and ADA. We have lost a good friend to our business.

Superintendent Ron Andrews of Grand Harbour G.C. writes, "From a personal point of view, I have always been able to get Whit on the phone in a very timely manner. He spoke often, not only to superintendent groups but also to other employers. The West Coast Employers Association has been very helpful to my clubs over the years and offers a newsletter and personal phone consulta-

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tions as part of their basic membership package, but they also are known for their supervisor training sessions and seminars. All in all, I have found them to be a very worthwhile service.”

Andrews continues, “I will miss talking to and listening to Whit but it is nice to know that the work he helped to start will continue.

“I think we would be providing a service to Florida superintendents to acknowledge Whit’s contributions to our education and our clubs, and to let them know that the WCEA will continue.”

Whit was the president and founder of the WCEA, which serves over 600 member companies in employer and labor relations.

He moved to Florida with 15 years of experience as director of employee relations with the Purolator Corporation and six years as human resource manager with Black and Decker Corporation.

He also taught high school for two years in North Carolina as well as serving as guidance counselor.

Whit received his B.A. degrees in economics and business administration from Methodist College in Fayetteville, N.C. and his graduate degree in counseling from North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Whit is survived by his wife, Jerri and daughters, Candice and Whitney.

Alan Weitzel: South Florida’s Mister Golf!

BY JIM WALKER

*Manager, Superintendent
Palmetto Golf Course*

There are some people I have met who were born with silver spoons in their mouths. However, Alan Weitzel, who is this year’s recipient of the Presidents Award, was born with a cup cutter in one hand and a trap rake in the other.

The eldest of five children, he was born in Caledonia, N.Y. to Robert and Josephine Weitzel, who still own and operate Caledonia Country Club just outside Rochester.

Growing up as part of the maintenance crew and having started playing golf at eight years of age, Alan has had a life-long love affair with the game.

During high school at Caledonia Mumford Central, Alan played football, basketball and golf. He attended Cornell University and graduated with a B.S. in business administration and a minor in turfgrass science.

While at Cornell, he met Jacquie, his wife of 24 years, who was attending Ithaca College. Alan and Jacquie have two sons. Matthew (20) who is a junior at Miami of Ohio, majoring in biochemistry and preparing for medical school, and Todd (16), who is a junior at Miami Palmetto Senior High School. Matthew has the distinction of being the first



Alan Weitzel, tournament director of the Palmetto Jr. Open he founded 20 years ago, presents young Victor Billskoog with a trophy at this year’s event.

person from South Florida to receive a Legacy Scholarship from the GCSAA. Like Alan, Matthew and Todd are avid golfers who grew up in junior golf programs, most of which Alan founded and ran.

Alan moved to Miami in 1972. His first job was as a front desk clerk at the Doral Hotel. About a year later, he became the assistant personal director.

In February 1974, Alan began his career with Dade County, when he was hired as the general manager of Crooked Creek Golf Course. In 1977, Alan was appointed the division head of all five county courses. They include Key Biscayne, site of the Royal Caribbean Classic Senior Tour event and Palmetto Golf Course, an 18-hole Dick Wilson-

designed championship facility.

Departmental reorganization in 1982 left Alan with two courses to run, Palmetto and Briar Bay, a nine-hole precision layout designed by Bruce Devlin and Robert Von Hagge. Additionally, Alan assumed responsibility for an entire district of parks covering 36 square miles in South Dade County.

In 1983, Alan formed Southern Golf Appraisals, a company with an eye on the quickly growing consulting market. With partner Dave Lottes, their first client was former Miami Dolphin quarterback Earl Morrall, who owned Arrowhead Country Club. They are currently the management team for Eco Golf Course, Holly-



wood Beach Golf Course, and Orange Brook Golf Course.

Alan began his involvement with the South Florida Superintendents Association in 1975. During his 10 years on the South Florida board of directors, Alan served in every capacity. During his presidency, the Palm Beach Chapter was formed, as was the state association. He sat on the first state board and was involved with the formation of the Otto Schmeisser Research Green at the IFAS Station in Ft. Lauderdale. He was also involved with the South Florida Green Magazine, started by Mike Barger and later edited by Dan Jones, becoming the statewide Florida Green magazine we know today.

During Alan's involve-

ment with the South Florida Chapter, his path crossed many other superintendents. Among them are Paul Turcotte, Dick Blake, Fred Klauk, Dick Lemmel, Dan Jones, Brad Kocher, Neil Kalin, Dave Lottes, and Bill McKee.

When asked about his time with Alan on the South Florida board, Bill McKee said, "Alan has been a key figure in the success of the South Florida Chapter. No one has given as much time and effort. Besides his hard work, Alan always had a good sense of humor and made being on the board with him a lot of fun. One of the things I remember most is how he could speak endlessly on state and national news and issues. No one has ever done more to make the South Florida

Chapter the successful association it is today."

Alan's long and dedicated involvement with the South Florida and State Associations was obviously more than enough to have him receive the Presidents Award this year, but his participation and promotion of junior golf is just as impressive.

He founded the Palmetto Jr. Golf Association in 1977, which is one of the largest, most successful and longest-running groups in South Florida. Still going strong 20 years later, this group is still touched by Alan's hand, providing camps, clinics, and tournaments to South Florida children. In 1979, the inaugural Palmetto Junior Open was held at Palmetto and Briar Bay for children 3-and-under to 17

years of age. This annual event is still continuing with Alan as Tournament Director.

In 1981 he helped form the Doral Ryder Pitch, Putt and Drive competition. In 1997 when the Ryder Corporation withdrew its sponsorship of the program and it looked as if the event's 16th year would be its last, Alan, with the help of John Kiskinis, recruited Supreme International, parent company of Munsingwear, to put up the \$50,000.00 required to keep the tournament alive.

Alan created the Dade County Youth Fair Tournaments in 1992, which also continue today. Also in 1992, Alan breathed life into yet another junior program. Seeing a need for underprivileged, inner-city

George Elliott of Addison Reserve Uses Georgia Grass on His Greens

Here's Why!

"I first visited Millhaven Plantation when I had to renovate the greens at Mayacoo Lakes Country Club back in 1993. I was very impressed with the quality of their Tifdwarf and had them send me down a batch of sample sprigs. The samples looked good, so I ordered 3,000 bushels of sprigs to renovate 18 greens. We hydro-sprigged those greens and were playing on them in less than 7 weeks. Here at Addison Reserve we already have 18 greens in place, and we're putting in another 9 - all certified Tifdwarf from Millhaven. We also used Millhaven's Tifway on most of our fairways. I think the entire course looks and plays great."

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children to have golfing opportunities, he won the support of the County Park Department and Black Women in Sports Association to fund a year-round golfing camp at Goulds Park in South Dade. He did all of this long before the "Tiger craze" became fashionable.

Alan's promotion of Junior Golf will never wane. He feels very strongly that Junior Golf is the cornerstone of golf's future success everywhere in the world.

If it sounds like I know Alan well and admire and respect him, you are correct. He hired me in 1978 to manage Key Biscayne, and from 1980 to 1990, I was his assistant, supervising golf and park maintenance operations. Like many others, I have learned some valuable lessons from him. I am proud to call him a true friend, and was honored to have had the opportunity to tell you about some of the major contributions he has made to the game we all love and earn our living through.

This quiet man with a dry, quick sense of humor, has touched so many lives through his twenty years of unselfish, dedicated commitment to the game in South Florida, it would take a book to list all he has accomplished. There no doubt that all of us in the profession owe Alan a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done and will continue to do in the future.

Cheers, Alan! Lets hoist a frosty mug to the game we love, your continued work, success and health.

Gary Grigg wins 1997 Distinguished Service Award

BY MIKE MONGOVEN, CGCS

Ft. Myers C. C.

The FGCSA Distinguished Service Award was established in 1985 as a prestigious form of recognition for a deserving FGCSA superintendent. It is presented to a member who has performed outstanding achievements as a golf course superintendent. All three words — "Distinguished," "Service," and "Award" — have meaning for Gary Grigg.

Distinguished is certainly a word you can use to describe Grigg. He was president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, 1995-96. He has been a Certified Golf Course Superintendent since 1977 and has been recertified 4 times. His work at GCSAA has extended to 15 different committees. The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association certified him as a Master Greenkeeper in 1997. He is one of only 14 Master Greenkeepers in the world.

Service is really the most significant word of Distinguished Service Award that describes Gary. A review of Gary's life reveals that service is not only a function of his professional life, but his entire life.

He grew up in a small community with many relatives. The area had a high Mormon population. The environment was like an extended family where everyone helped everyone



Gary Grigg recipient of the FGCSA's 1997 Distinguished Service Award with his wife, Coleen and grandson, Alec.

else. Gary has continued this credo throughout all aspects of his life. Awards of many different types have been associated with Gary and courses he has worked for. The list of award-winning courses he has helped build and grow in include some of the best-known on golf's "Top 100" lists. He ranks his service (43 years) to the Boy Scouts of America and the Mormon Church (LDS) as his most enjoyable.

Two of his sons — Jared and Aaron — became Eagle Scouts. Gary enjoys the fundamental principles and ideals taught by Scouting. He is grounded in family values and community spirit stressed by his church.

His service to fellow golf course superintendents started in 1970 as a board member of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents. Gary has served continuously as a director or officer of a golf course superintendents association for 27 consecutive years. He credits the "heritage of service" with which he was raised by his parents. Service to others was a virtue which was regarded highly by his parents.

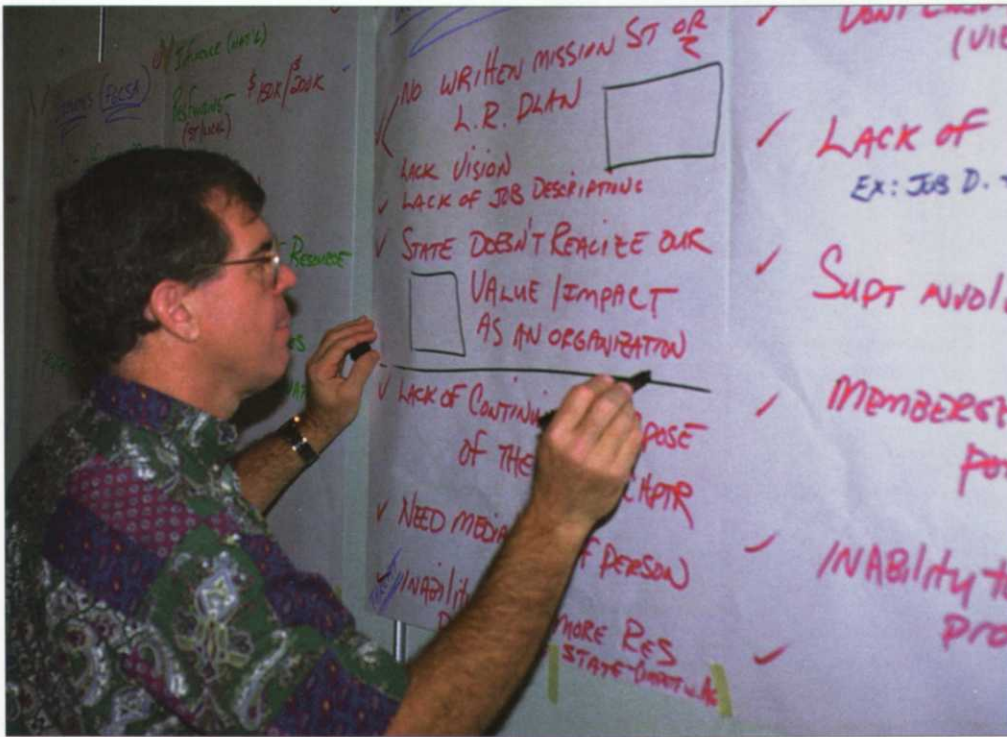
While on the GCSAA board of directors he served with 18 different men for 9 years. He most enjoyed the camaraderie and the opportunity he had to meet people within our profession and allied organizations around the world.

While serving as president, he represented our profession, and the GCSAA membership.

Gary attributes much of his success to the support he has been given by his wife, Coleen, and their children Jared, Aaron, Jill, and Ryan. He has witnessed the requirements to succeed as a golf course superintendent shift to business knowledge with an emphasis on communication skills.

Golf course superintendents must be able to sell themselves and their value. The future of golf, according to Gary, is in the hands of the plant breeders. The demand for grasses that require less water & fertility, handle more salt, and become more hardy, will only grow.

Gary Grigg is very deserving of the FGCSA's highest award. His service to our profession has truly been distinguished.



GCSAA's Joe O'Brien reviews the list of strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for the FGCSA during the recent FGCSA Planning Session. Photo by Joel Jackson.

GCSAA official helps FGCSA Board chart plan for future

On Saturday, Nov. 8, the full board of officers and directors of the FGCSA and the board of the Everglades GCSA met at the Grenelefe Resort in Haines City to participate in a strategic planning session to examine the present operation of the FGCSA and to chart a plan for the future.

The Everglades group was there to see how to apply the process to their own chapter's operation.

Joe O'Brien, Chief Operating Officer of the GCSAA, was the session facilitator. O'Brien has extensive association management experience from his years with the PGA of America and his current role with the GCSAA. This

service and assistance is free to any chapter upon request.

After introductions the group defined an agenda for the meeting:

Purpose:

- Analyze FGCSA organization, operation and it's interaction with local chapters.
- Create a mission statement.
- Develop a plan.
- Set goals/objectives (change)

- Create framework for decisions

Format:

- Open discussion
- Full recording of proceedings

Rules:

- Participate
- Listen/Understand
- Think creatively

O'Brien asked the group to list the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities of the FGCSA. Forty-six items or issues were listed

under the above categories. After these were discussed or explained, each person got to cast three votes to identify what they felt were the key issues for the FGCSA to address for the rest of the session. The top vote getters became objectives for analysis and action planning:

1. Examine and discuss FGCSA & FTGA relationship.
2. Enhance involvement and promotion of FGCSA and local chapters to the golfers, employers and the industry.
3. Find new sources of income for FGCSA and local chapters (decrease vendor support) "Try not to go to the well so often!"
4. Improve the way information is shared among chapters.
5. Enhance the relationship between FGCSA and local chapters in these areas:
 - Conduct planned/announced committee meetings
 - Long range plan for fundraising & spending
 - Local chapter repre-



Darren Davis reports on the action plan his team wrote for one of the key objectives identified by the group. Photo by Joel Jackson.



- Public financial statement
 - Committee meeting minutes published/shared with externals
6. Improve education/general participation, involvement and benefit awareness by superintendents.
 7. Ease transition of state/chapter officers
 8. Document the FGCSA or chapters appropriately with the following:
 - SOPs
 - Committee job descriptions
 - Staff job descriptions
 - Standardize accounts
 - Audit chapter statements
 9. Hire a staff person to manage the magazine/newsletter/PR on a businesslike more profitable basis.

The group was then broken out into small teams and assigned these topics to analyze. The group then reassembled and each team reported out on their objective. Each analysis had the following format:

- State Objective
- List problems affecting objective
- List action steps to be taken
 - Designate responsible person or group
 - Set completion date or time frame
 - Estimate costs
 - Estimate risks

The discussions ended with the subject of hiring another staff person to aid the FGCSA in meeting the goals and objectives identified by the planning process.

Joel Jackson, current editor of the *Florida Green* magazine announced that he was taking early retirement from the Walt Disney Company at the end of this year, and he is interested in being considered for this possible staff position.

The officers were charged with preparing a job description for this position to present to the external vice presidents for discussion with the local chapters.

This matter will be discussed again for action at the Winter board meeting in January.

Darren Davis wins GCSAA's Feser Award

Darren Davis, superintendent at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, will be presented with the 1998 Leo Feser Award at the opening session of the GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show in Anaheim, Calif. Feb. 4.

The annual GCSAA award honors the most outstanding superintendent-authored article to be published in the association's monthly magazine, *Golf Course Management*. Articles eligible for the 1998 award were published between November 1996 and October 1997, and written by Class AA, A, or B members. The winner's name is engraved on a plaque for display at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

GCSAA's Publications Committee selected Davis' article, titles "Sowing the



Darren Davis

Seeds of Knowledge," which was published in the December 1996 issue of *GCM*. The piece provided methods by which superintendents can teach school children about environmental principles.

Davis said he was encouraged to write the article because golf course superintendents are the people most responsible for educating the public about the environmental benefits of golf courses.

"I have made an attempt to educate as many people as I can on the benefits that a golf course provides," Davis said. "It's a subject I feel strongly about, and have consequently given many school tours at Olde Florida and have gone to many classrooms to give slide presentations. One of my goals was to help fellow superintendents understand the value of this task."

A GCSAA member for eight years and a graduate of Penn State's turfgrass management program, Davis has been at Olde Florida since 1992. He has also served as an apprentice

superintendent at Augusta National and assistant superintendent at The Loxahatchee Club in Jupiter.

"It is definitely an honor to have been chosen the recipient of this year's Leo Feser Award," said Davis. "I also feel fortunate to be in a profession that allows me to do many of the things I enjoy doing, and that I'm at a club whose owners have allowed and encouraged me to do these things."

Davis, who took journalism classes in high school and photography classes in college, is the third Florida superintendent to win the Feser Award. Dan Jones, CGCS, superintendent at The Banyan Club in West Palm Beach, received the third annual award in 1978. Jerry Redden, CGCS, now with Professional Turf Maintenance in Tequesta, won the award in 1984.

Jones and Redden both have served as president of the FGCSA. Davis is FGCSA secretary/treasurer. Jones and the late Tom Mascaro founded *The South Florida Green* in 1973, which became *The Florida Green* in 1980.

The award honors Leo Feser, a pioneer golf course superintendent and a charter member of GCSAA. Feser is credited with keeping the association's official publication alive during the Great Depression. For three years, he wrote, edited, assembled and published each issue of the magazine from his home in Wayzata, Minn. Jones did the same thing for the *(South) Florida Green* from 1976 to 1990.