

'Big Show' Keeps Getting Bigger and Better

World of Golf Comes Together in Orlando

The conference slogan, "Where the world of golf comes together," rang true as more than 23,000 attendees gathered in Orlando to partake of the wide variety of educational opportunities afforded at GCSAA's 70th International Conference and Show. With all of golf's major allied associations in attendance, it truly is a melting pot of ideas and information.

It was a heartfelt "thank you" speech that Dan Jones gave as he accepted his 1999 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at the Opening Session. What a marvelous gentleman and what a tremendous leader he is for the FGCSA.

And who would have guessed that Barbara Bush would turn out to be a stand-up comedienne? Mrs. Bush did a great job as the keynote speaker at the Opening Session and had the audience in stitches a couple of times with her comments and quips.

It was great to see all of the heads of the major golf associations together on the dais of the Golf, Government and Environment General Session. Jim Fingerling of the Club Managers Association gets my vote for making the most cogent statement when he implored the audience to put aside the prejudices of old golf pro, club manager and superintendent stereo-



GCSAA President George Renault, III, CGCS (left) presents Dan Jones, CGCS with a 1999 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award during the Opening Session of the 70th International Conference and Show. GCSAA Photo.



Matt Taylor of Bonita Bay East accepts the 1999 GCSAA Environmental Stewardship Award for Private Clubs during the Golf, Government and Environment General Session in Orlando. GCSAA Photo.



Gary Grigg, CGCS, MG was perhaps the busiest FGCSA member at the conference. Grigg taught two 1 day seminars; gave the invocation at the Opening Ceremony; ran the annual meeting elections and joined with other past presidents to greet 127 new trade show exhibitors. GCSAA Photo



Kevin Downing, CGCS of the Willoughby G.C. in Stuart, FL talked about having written standards for golf course maintenance during the Innovative Superintendents Session early Saturday morning. GCSAA Photo.

types and work together for all of golf. Alas, I found most of the questions to the panel preconceived and formulaic rather than the spontaneity we expected from audience submissions.

Maybe there were too many old stereotype questions submitted?

The Greens & Grassroots Forum for anyone interested yielded an FQPA Action Kit for chapters to

use to keep hammering away at Congress and the EPA over implementation and tolerance reassessments. I hate to be pessimistic, but the panel discussion between Allen



Joel Jackson, CGCS, Editor of the Florida Green (second from the right) picked up the Category 5, Best Overall Award in the 1999 GCSAA Newsletter Editors Contest. He joins other chapter winners at the Chapter Editors Forum in Orlando: (left to right) Michael Simpson, CGCS, Tee to Green (Louisiana-Mississippi GCSA); Ken Krausz, CGCS, The Greener Side (GCSA of New Jersey); Fred Opperman, On Course (Midwest Assoc. of GCS); Karen White, Through The Green (Georgia GCSA); and Monroe Miller, CGCS, The Grass Roots (Wisconsin GCSA). GCSAA photo.

said about the Orange County Convention Center is that it is certainly big enough to hold our event... and several others at the same time. I did a lot of walking, but for a desk rider like me these days that wasn't a bad thing. The only real knock I had on the conference education was the background noise I kept hearing: it sounded as if a convention center worker had to be rolling the same rumbling cart outside every room I was in. The only other distraction was the double-ended rooms in the 300 section where people tried to enter behind the speaker after the class or meeting had started.

The show size was overwhelming and didn't

James of RISE and Mike Farrar of EPA didn't reveal

any new insights on how things are going, except

slower. One thing that can be

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GCSAA Field Seminar

Clockwise from top left: Tom Schlick, CGCS talks about the Faldo Golf Institute; Frank Cone and John Lammrish tell about course construction and Floradwarf greens at The Legends; Jon Strantz takes the group on a tour of Disney's Wide World of Sports; Dr. Al Dudueck shows off fairway bermudagrass trials at Grand Cypress; and Tom Alex explains the maintenance complex operations at Grand Cypress. Photos by Joel Jackson

get my full attention since my focus is no longer on managing turf. I spent most of my spare time in the Media Room or the GCSAA



Mark Black of the Quail West C.C. in Naples spoke on training new employees at the Friday morning Innovative Superintendent Session. GCSAA photo.

Services Area networking with staff and asking questions. I know it's a sore point, but I would really like to see this area in the center of the show and not located in Siberia like it is every year. They have some good information available to members and the Member Services area deserves a more prominent location. It was obvious that the suppliers were happy with a good turnout on Friday and Saturday. Sunday was predictably slower as people started heading back home for work on Monday.

Friday night the Florida GCSA held its annual

reception and it was a big bash with more than 1,400 in attendance. Entertainment was provided by the Dueling Pianos and they roasted several members of the audience throughout the night. Impresario Paul Crawford put on another spectacular event with the help of the Kilpatrick Turf Company, celebrating their 40th anniversary, as a presenting sponsor. Many thanks to Kilpatrick and the Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors for helping us celebrate the conference and show.

As the "host" chapter of the event, several of our Florida GCSA members

acquitted themselves well in helping to make this a successful week. Take a look at the photos in this section to see some of your peers that gave of their time and efforts during the conference. Next year we go to the Big Easy!

JOEL JACKSON

GCSAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Good Weather, Great Courses Challenge 700-plus

More than 700 players competed in the GCSAA Golf Championship on five courses on Florida's West Coast and, for the first time in four years, the field



Clockwise from top left: Master of Ceremonies Paul Crawford put together another awesome FGCSA Reception at Orlando; Guests of honor were Dan and Irene Jones; Marie Roberts and FGCSA Board Members Joe Ondo, CGCS; Geoff Coggan, CGCS, Craig Weyandt; Steve Pearson, CGCS and Roy Wilshire, CGCS volunteered to greet reception guests; Wild and wacky entertainment by the Dueling Pianos. Photos by Joel Jackson.



Many thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, The Kilpatrick Company and all the Platinum, Gold and Silver Sponsors shown here for making the 1999 FGCSA Reception possible. Photo by Joel Jackson.



didn't have to contend with bad weather except for a fog delay one morning.

This year's tournament courses were The Copperhead, Island and Hawk's Run courses at the Westin Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs and the Pine Barrens and Rolling Oaks courses at World Wood Golf Club in Brooksville along with Southern Woods Golf Club in Homosassa Springs. With the GCSAA Conference and Show coming to Orlando every three years now, the golf committee is trying to offer the players a variety of venues.

Scores for Florida's #1 team: Buck Buckner (151); Jim Torba and Chris Cartin (152); Joe Pantaleo (153) and Joe Ondo (156). All these

players were in the top 20 scores. The low gross team was the #1 Team from the Midwest Association of GCSA from Illinois. Chandler Masters, playing out of Henderson, Nev., won the individual low gross title with a 145 and a three-shot margin over defending champion Al Pondel.

The GCSAA Championship, in partnership with the Toro Company, gets better each year. Tee prizes, breakfast each day, 19th hole receptions daily, the victory banquet and great golf courses are included in your entry fee. If you have never played in this event, try it once to see if you don't agree with me that it is worth the money. Plan now to play in Mobile, Ala. next year when

the GCSAA Conference and Show is in New Orleans.

*JOE ONDO, CGCSA
FGCSA Golf Chairman*

PRESIDENTS AWARD, PBGCSA

Stanley Carr Retires After 30 years at Gulfstream

Thirty years ago Stanley Carr, a graduate of Glasgow Technical School, was appointed superintendent of the Gulfstream Golf Club. Nothing so unusual about that except Carr was an electrical engineer by trade and was in charge of the clubhouse.

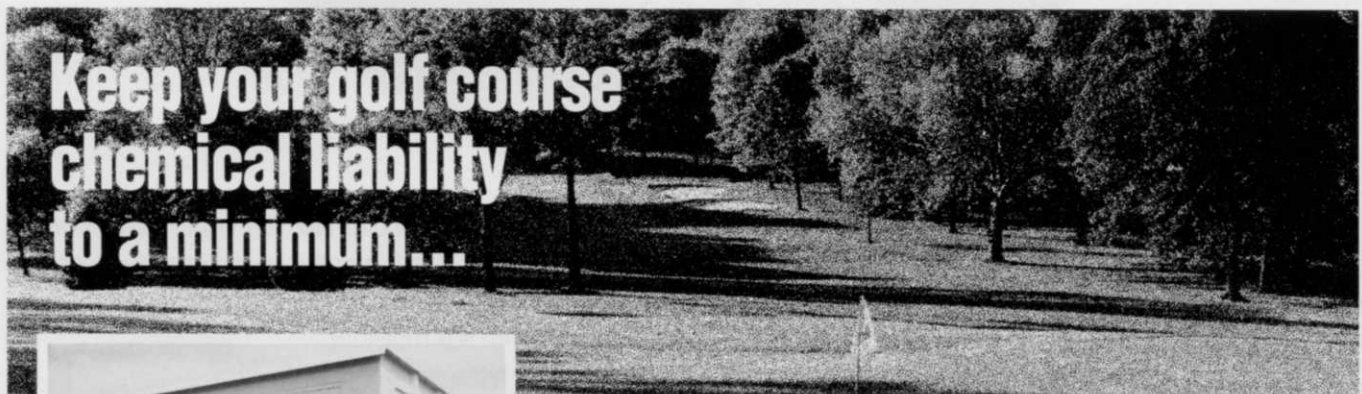
But Carr was also a thorough and creative professional in the conduct of his business and that caught the eye of the

1998 FGCSA Presidents Awards

- *Jim Callaghan*
- *Stanley Carr*
- *Dwight Wilson*

members.

Carr came to Gulfstream from the Bethesda Hospital in Boynton Beach where he was employed in the engineering department. He took the hospital job after he immigrated to the United States in 1963 from his native Scotland. His early years after school were spent as an apprentice electrical engineer aboard luxury ocean liners like the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, the Franconia, the



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France and the S.S. United States. In 1969, he heard about the opening for a maintenance engineer at Gulfstream, and was hired to take care of the building and the adjacent grounds.

After a few years of that assignment and improving the landscape around the club, which had been sadly neglected, the club president asked Carr if he would take over management of the golf course as well. Like a true Scotsman, Carr negotiated the \$2.85 per hour offer up to \$3.00 per hour and accepted the position. Thus began the Stanley Carr years at Gulfstream.

Carr began learning turf management through the school of hard knocks, but he had lots of help, which he

gratefully acknowledged.

"The club hired Hans Schmeisser as a consultant who would come by daily in the beginning to show me the basics," he said. "Then there was Dr. Max Brown and through him I met Tom Mascaro and it seemed like every couple of weeks we would all sit down and have an informal meeting and talk about turf and the golf course and how things were going.

"And there were others who helped teach me the ways of bermudagrass and golf course operations like Jimmy Blackledge, Karl Smith and even Laurie Auchterlonie of St. Andrews. I also took Max Brown's turf management class at Broward Community College like so many other

superintendents of that era.

"Even Joe Lee, the golf course architect became a friend and advisor. He was always a friend to the superintendents. I am deeply indebted to them for their help."

With such rare longevity at one club, I asked Carr what were some of the secrets to his success.

"I would tell each new green chairman two things. One, I can't give you a problem-free golf course all the time. It's just impossible. Two, I want to feel safe in disagreeing with you if I believe it's in the best interest of the golf course. If we agree on everything, then they don't need one of us.

"Create a 'we' atmosphere at your club. Make

sure you keep your chairmen advised of what you're doing and be sure and ask their opinions on issues.

"Take care of business. If you are scheduled to go to a meeting or conference and conditions at the course are shaky, stay home and tend to business. It's not a good image for the captain to be gone if the ship has sprung a leak. Or as Hans Schmeisser used to say, 'If the cows need milking, you can't go.' I once flew back from a SE Turf Conference in Alabama when I got word that we had been flooded by a storm and the pumps weren't working. The club president and green chairman found me working on the problem when they assumed I was out of town.

"Maintain a high profile



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After 30 years at the Gulfstream G. C. and receiving his 1998 Presidents Award from the Palm Beach Chapter, Stanley retired to the DeLand, FL area to grow orchids and play the bag pipes. Photo by Joel Jackson.

or high visibility, especially at a private club. Members want to feel that 'their' superintendent is on the job. I made time each day during our season to ride through the course and let the members see me walking greens and making notes, whether those notes were critical or not. I talked to groups and answered any questions they might have. I have seen top-notch superintendents who put in lots of hours at their clubs get fired because they just weren't visible or didn't communicate effectively."

- "Cultivate working relationships with outside experts. USGA, IFAS, county agents, etc. Invite them for a tour of your course during the good times and have

lunch with them and introduce them to your green chairman or board members. Then when you ask them back to consult on a problem, they are not just strangers brought in to defend the superintendent.

- "When disciplining an employee, appeal to their feelings, not their intellect. People need to be motivated not managed. Acknowledge the good things they do but let them know how disappointed you are with their poor performance.

- "Remember, a superintendent's job is 70 percent working with people: employees, management, members, and committees. The other 30 percent is growing grass, so develop

sufficient communications skills.

- "When you go to meetings and conferences be sure and bring back information to share with your green committee. Make a report and talk about the new regulations and equipment and how it will affect your course or your responsibilities. It will help them understand the value of your continuing education."

I asked Carr what he thought the major advancements in turf management were in his career. He didn't have to think long to come up with two rather quickly:

- "Automated irrigation systems has to rank right up there as one of the top improvements in turf

management. I can remember trying to find our night water man out on the course running only one or two heads at a time. The system was so poorly designed. Being able to apply water when and where you needed it was a major breakthrough."

"The other area I think has to be the superintendent's image. We have become executives. The superintendents has the most responsibility of any member of the team at a club because he is in charge of the most significant asset. We have to keep more records and attend more meetings and be managers instead of doers as in the old days.

"Therefore it is important that we dress the part. That means coat and tie for committee meetings and it means rain suits and rubber boots during a storm. I am troubled when I see young people in the business coming to meetings in tee shirts and sneakers with shirt tails hanging out."

By taking care of business and conducting himself as a professional, Carr was able to retire comfortably to DeLand, where he and his wife purchased five acres. They plan to take two months to tour the U.S. and Canada this spring, traveling over an estimated 12,000 miles. This summer Carr will attend a Scottish bagpiping school in North Carolina and then they will spend a month in Europe visiting old friends.

Carr has a fine orchid collection and he meets with a Scottish pipe band once a week at Stetson University. He hopes to do a little side work playing his bagpipes at



county club and golf association events.

Carr did play at a GCSAA Conference the year that Mel Lucas was president and he met President Gerald Ford. Ford shook his hand and said, "We beat the hell out of you during the War of Independence, but you got even. You gave us golf!"

And Scotland also gave us Stanley Carr, a gentleman and a true professional in our business.

JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS

PRESIDENTS AWARD EGCSA

Wilson Took Early FGCSA from Shoe Boxes to Computers

When Dwight Wilson was president of a loose threesome of local chapters in the 1970s he carried the association's business in a shoe box. By the end of his tenure he had doubled the association because he had to use two shoe boxes to hold everything.

This past September, Wilson was presented the Presidents Award for his pioneering service to the profession at the Everglades Chapter meeting in Naples. President Mike Mongoven, CGCS made the presentation.

Wilson spent a lot of time traveling among the three chapters: South Florida, Everglades and West Coast. Long before fax machines and computers, he pioneered the association in Florida.

Dwight grew up in Palm Beach County where he spent a lot of time in and around the Jupiter inlet. He attended the University of Florida, where he studied agriculture



Dwight Wilson, left, received his 1998 FGCSA President's award from Mike Mongoven, CGCS at an Everglades chapter meeting last fall. Photo by Bill Kilpatrick.

and entomology until the Korean War robbed him of his last year of college. While in the service, he met his wife Christa when he was stationed in Germany.

After the war he returned to Florida but was unable to complete his degree. He went to work with his father who had a garden supply and spray business. Eventually they expanded the business to grassing bermudagrass lawns. This started to go well and someone suggested that the Ormond bermudagrass that they were planting would work well on golf courses. They started planting golf courses with bermuda.

If you work on a course

built in the late 50s to mid-60s you may be on a course planted by Dwight. Jupiter Island and Rio Mar in Vero Beach are two beachside examples of his work. In 1966, Dwight did some work at the South Seas Plantation on Captiva Island. The developer liked his work so much that he convinced Dwight to stick around to manage the course. Dwight planted the golf course on a sandbar then stayed around to manage that sandbar for 17 years. He lived on the course and raised his two children on Captiva. What a spot for kids to grow up!

While at South Seas Plantation, he hooked up

with Bob Sanderson to start the Everglades Chapter. He held all of the offices and eventually presided over the state association.

In 1983 Dwight helped to build and grow in Hideaway G.C. in Fort Myers. Dwight eventually retired from the Hideaway after years of battling Tifway II on his greens. Dwight relaxed by sailing his boat in the Gulf and continues to do so in retirement. He has a couple of grandchildren who visit. He is really enjoying his retirement and when he is not sailing he is playing his guitar, gardening or traveling. The Wilsons like to return to Europe and Germany to see his wife's family.

Dwight saw our industry and association grow from infancy to this huge business that it has become. He has seen grass change from common to Ormond to Tifway. He has seen the FGCSA grow from a shoe box to what we have today.

SCOTT BELL

NIKE TOUR FLORIDA CLASSIC

Hosting Tour Event is a Winner for Gainesville C. C.

Hosting the Nike Tour's Florida Classic this past February turned out to be a win-win situation for all parties involved. The Nike Tour got a superbly conditioned golf course to play and Gainesville C. C. got some long overdue improvements.

Superintendent Buddy Keene learned last October that his course would be hosting the event this

February. Soon after, the Nike Tour officials made some recommendations that they felt would help the club host the event. Upgrading the irrigation system was high on the list, and Keene and his crew spent a busy couple of months getting the new system installed.

"It was hectic," said Keene, "But we pulled it off. The only glitch was we had some defective gaskets in some of the tee fittings and they leaked. The manufacturer stood by the product and got them replaced labor and all, but it was nerve wracking with the clock winding down toward the tournament. We got it all finished by December and we've had a month to clean things up."

Another big gain for Keene's operation was the purchase of two lightweight fairway mowers.

"We had been surviving with a 7-gang, pull-behind unit, which worked great in dry weather. But we have some pretty heavy soils and when it gets wet we couldn't mow. We definitely need these new units to mow the fairways when conditions got softer."

The Gainesville C.C. board and members as well as the community were behind this event 110 percent. More than 700 volunteers turned out to help run the tournament. Keene applauds the open-minded and proactive attitude of the members.

"They went out and got this event and have supported everything necessary to make it happen," he said. "But beyond that, they have

also wholeheartedly supported my involvement and board work in the Florida GCSA and the FTGA. They are hosting the FTGA Golf Tournament during the Conference and Show in August."

Keene and his crew have maintained a hectic pace all fall and winter. In addition to installing the new irrigation system, a couple of new tees had to be built to lengthen some holes, and a couple of poorly draining bunkers were repaired with new drain lines. On top of all that, Keene had to oversee fairways and roughs for the first time in his seven years at the club.

Cooperation for this event also included some of Keene's suppliers and neighboring superintendents.

"I have to give a big thank-you to a lot of people who helped us out. One of our biggest needs was crew transportation vehicles during the course setup and preparation. Joe Holden over at Haile Plantation, Rick Watts at Oak Run/Royal Oaks, the University of Florida and Tresca loaned us vehicles and equipment.

"Special thanks to Jeff Hayden and Don Delaney of Golf Ventures. They really came through with some extra equipment and parts support in a pinch. We also had volunteer workers on the crew like Brian Schaffer of West End G.C. and two students from the University of Florida and one from Lake City."

The event is also being televised and Keene and his crew had to make room for

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Gainesville C.C. Superintendent Buddy Keene (left) goes over Thursday course conditions for the Florida Classic with head Nike Tour official John Slater. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the TV production trailers and support vehicles in his small maintenance area.

"The folks from the Golf Channel have been just great. They have taken great care not to tear up the golf course as they lay out the cables and set up the TV towers behind the greens. They carry everything by hand from the cart path to the location. They also feed us pretty well and we sure appreciate that with our split work day schedule.

"This whole experience has been good for the club. It has taken our maintenance up a notch, but of course now we have to hold this level. The whole process has been quite a learning experience to see what we could accomplish

when challenged."

Everyone including Nike Tournament Official John Slater had high praise for Keene and his crew and all they have accomplished.

"The course is in great shape," said Slater. You can't even tell that they have been through a major construction effort getting ready for this event. Last night we had over an inch of rain, and Buddy and his staff worked really hard to get the course ready for today's round. Because of their hard work in overcoming those extra difficulties we're going to start and finish on time today."

A lot of work by a lot of people went in to hosting the Florida Classic this year in Gainesville and by all

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accounts everybody came away a winner. Congratulations to Buddy Keene, the members of the Gainesville C. C. and the city of Gainesville for displaying such great support for golf.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

LAKE CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

\$1 Million-plus Endowment Keeps GLO Glowing

On Jan. 8, the 7th Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Golf Tournament was held at the Pelican Sound Golf and River Club in Estero.

What is the LCCC Endowment and why should an overflow crowd of golf course superintendents and industry partners get together to support a small, rural community college in North Florida? The following is a brief history of the strong bond that has developed over 32 years between the golf industry and Lake City.

In 1967, Lake City Community College started two new programs: Golf Course Operations and Landscape Operations (now called Landscape Technology by state mandate). These programs were developed with strong industry input, and an industry advisory committee has met every six months on campus for the past 32 years to review and critique the LCCC programs which now include Turf Equipment Management; Irrigation Management; and Forest Management beside GCO and LT. The Forest Management does have a separate



Pelican Sound Superintendent Randy Korf, left, and his assistant, J. W. Stidham got lots of well-deserved praise for the excellent course playing conditions for the LCCC event. Photo by Joel Jackson

advisory committee as production forestry is quite different from the other agronomy/horticulture based programs.

Faculty and staff on the LCCC campus began to call the division in which these programs existed "GLO" for Golf/Landscape Operations. The GLO name stuck even as the Division grew to include other programs.

In the late 80s, the GLO Industry Advisory Committee began talking about raising supplemental funds for these specialty programs to assure that scholarship and program enhancement funds were always available for students and the teaching faculty. This industry concern was typical of the tremendous golf and landscape industry support the programs have always enjoyed

It was the GLO-IAC members who initiated the GLO Endowment Fund with the Lake City Community College Foundation. Their concept was to raise significant dollars and use the earnings to supplement support for the GLO programs. Although it was an ambitious concept for a small community college with only education to sell, it was the right thing to do to assure the continued long-term success of the GLO programs which, over time, have developed a national and international reputation for quality education.

Thus, the GLO endowment was born. The alumni were quick to respond. Pledges big and small added to give the endowment concept real credibility, and industry partners also

generously responded. Key golf alumni took a leadership role in organizing various golf tournaments as fund raisers, and the S.W. Florida superintendents developed this concept into a continuing annual event.

Another big boost to the GLO endowment is state matching money for community college endowments. For every three dollars raised, the state will match with two dollars. Thus a \$10,000 contribution becomes \$16,000 with a state match. Mike Lee, foundation director for the past two and a half years, works hard to take maximum advantage of the state matching funds.

In 1997, the GLO endowment received a large estate gift which, when fully state-matched, will produce a scholarship fund of around \$450,000. Five percent of the endowed funds are used every year to produce a steady stream of income for the endowment's two main purposes: scholarships and program enhancements.

With alumni and industry gifts, proceeds from special events like the Annual Lake City Community College Endowment Golf Tournament, and the estate gift coupled with state matching money, the GLO endowment recently passed the \$1 million mark. Thanks a million to all who helped the college reach this economic milestone for the GLO programs.

Many students have applied for and received scholarships from the endowed funds, and more money will become avail-



From left, John Piersol and Mike Lee from Lake City Community College are seen here with the 7th Annual LCCC Endowment Tournament Committee: John Johnston; Dick Bessire; Glen Zakany; Scott Hamm; David Fry and Mike Smith. Not pictured Odell Spainhour. Photo by Joel Jackson.

able to GLO students as the large estate gift gets matched and produces the 5 percent earnings.

Endowment earnings are also made available to faculty to buy teaching aids or to take advantage of professional development education if regular budget funds are insufficient. Raised funds are also used to purchase promotional items for recruiting and to respond in a businesslike manner when industry reps come to campus for seminars, etc.

The college is very fortunate that so many industry people are willing to share their expertise with the students for no fee, so it is nice for the faculty to be able to treat our guests to a lunch.

As the endowment fund grows, the faculty will be

able to consider new ways to invest endowment earnings in the golf, landscape, turf equipment and new irrigation programs. Such supplemental funding will assure that scholarships and program enhancement funds are available to keep the Lake City programs strong allowing the college to produce the trained professionals that the ever-changing golf and landscape industry demand.

JOHN R. PIERSOL, CHAIRMAN
Division of Golf/
Landscape/ Forestry

PALM BEACH GCSA SERVICE PROJECT

**Chapter Provides
Holiday Gifts for
Seriously Ill Kids**

Superintendent associations can demonstrate community service and

responsibility in more ways than environmental stewardship.

The Palm Beach Chapter took community involvement very seriously by

providing holiday gifts to children in the pediatric oncology unit of the Richard and Pat Johnson Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Ms. Helen Hoffberg, Data Manager of the Pediatric Oncology Group, wrote these comments to Jeffrey and Denise Klontz after the 1998 Christmas holidays:

"On behalf of the pediatric oncology patients and staff, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Palm Beach Golf Course Superintendents Association for all the holiday gifts for our patients. These gifts were distributed to the children in the Pediatric Oncology Unit during the holidays and the smiles on the children's faces were incredible.

I want to thank you for your commitment to the Richard and Pat Johnson Children's Hospital at St. Mary's Medical Center. Many, many thanks for your continued support."



Patients and staff in the Pediatric Oncology Group of the Richard and Pat Johnson Children's Hospital were all smiles after receiving holiday gifts from the Palm Beach Chapter.