

'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.

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

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

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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