



# Chapter Fundraisers Bring Big Bucks

## USGA Road Show Draws Crowds to Fla.

**A**pril brought another twin billing of USGA Regional Conferences to Florida. Once again the successful sites of Orlando and West Palm Beach were used to reach to most amount of people. There were approximately 100 superintendents, golf professionals and club managers in attendance at each location.

It was good to see Roger Harvie of the USGA Southeast Region office hosting the meetings. Roger recently underwent an angioplasty to correct a blocked artery that was causing him some problems. Glad to see him back

in action and as feisty and fun as ever.

The conferences as usual were well stocked with expert speakers on a variety of topics to make everyone more aware of the science of golf course conditioning:

- Dr. John Cisar, UF - Nitrate Leaching
- Chris Hartwiger, USGA - Preparing for a Tournament
- John Foy, USGA - Putting Green Construction
- Matt Nelson, USGA - Understanding Organic Products

Better ways to manage golf course impacts on the environment were discussed by:

- Joellen Zeh, Audubon International - Environmental Planning
- Tom Stone, NaturGolf - Identifying and Enhancing Ecosystems

Education in turf research grants and employment law issues were presented by:

- Dr. Kimberly Erusha, USGA - USGA Grant Programs
- Stuart Charlson, West Coast Employers Association - Looking to the Future

Television personality Peter Kessler of the Golf Channel was the kickoff speaker with the offbeat topic, "The Man Who Almost Killed Arnie and Jack!" Kessler has one of those great voices like John Facenda who used to narrate all those NFL highlight films. Kessler told of two incidents involving Arnie and Jack where he was instrumental in almost doing bodily harm to both of them. Quite by accident of course.

Kessler went on to praise those present for their roles in providing the service and preparation of golf's facilities and playing fields.

Attendees to these USGA conferences earn professional continuing education credits as class A golf professionals and certified golf course superintendents.

### RIDGE INVITATIONAL

## Fund-Raiser Players Test Nike Tour Sunday Pin Spots

**M**arch First did come in like a lion at the Grasslands C. C. in Lakeland. A full field of contestants teed it up on a breezy Monday morning to battle par and balky golf swings in the name of turf research



Southpaw golfer Buck Buckner, superintendent of the Isleworth C.C. took low gross honors at the 8th Annual Ridge Invitational played at the Grasslands C.C. in Lakeland. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and to help the Ridge GCSA support local charities.

Golfers were treated or tortured by the pin locations served up by host superintendent Roy Wilshire, CGCS. Roy used the Sunday locations from the Nike tour event, The Lakeland Classic, which he had hosted only a few weeks before. The secret to winning on the windswept course was to play it backwards, and that's what lefthanded superintendent Buck Buckner from the Isleworth County Club in Windermere did.

For the scoring challenged, there was the 100-foot-plus putting contest and Ray Cuzzone and Roy Wilshire had their stock cars on display. One lucky raffle winner got a couple of laps around the parking lot with Ray and a day at the Richard Petty Race Experi-



Peter Kessler (left) of the Golf Channel was billed as "The Man Who Almost Killed Arnie and Jack" at the USGA Regional Conference held in Orlando this past April. Roger Harvie of the USGA's Southeastern Regional office hosted the event. Photo by Joel Jackson.





ence at Disney World. David Pursell of Pursell Industries was on hand and donated one of his coveted golf legend drawings of Ken Venturi to the post-game raffle.

The crowd enjoyed a barbecue dinner of ribs and chicken to complete the day. Good fun, good food, good cause thanks to the efforts of Tom Barnett, Jeff Brown, Steve Ciardullo, Ray Cuzzone, Mark Hopkins, Bob Wagner and host Roy Wilshire.

SOUTH FLORIDA TURF EXPO

**S. Florida Expo Attendance Hits Record Level**

Following on the heels of the GCSAA Conference and Show in February, South Florida President Jim Walker was visibly concerned about the turnout and support for the 12th Annual Turf Expo in Fort Lauderdale.

The event scheduled for March 11 was running behind on commitments and registrations as the days

...funds from this event comprise almost 50 percent of the support for the turf technician assigned to maintain the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green located at the University of Florida's IFAS Research and Education Center.



*Hats off to these gentlemen for putting on another outstanding South Florida Turf Expo. From left: Jim Walker, president of the South Florida GCSA and superintendent of the Palmetto G.C. in Miami; Marcus Prevatte, former turf technician at the Research and Education Center – now assistant superintendent at Indian Creek C.C.; and Dr. John Cisar, IFAS turf coordinator for the University of Florida. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

dwindled down to the deadline. Walker's fears evaporated as 11th-hour calls from vendors came in and walk-in registrations pushed the attendance to new levels.

Walker was rightly concerned since funds from this event comprise almost 50 percent of the support for the turf technician assigned to maintain the FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green located at the University of Florida's IFAS Research and Education Center. In addition to keeping the research green and turf plots maintained to "real world" conditions, the technician also assists the turf faculty with their various research projects. The remaining portion of the technician's salary comes from annual donations from the other 10 FGCSA chapters, who are encouraged to include this as a line item expense in their yearly budget plans. At the Poa Annuia Classic in

Naples this past May, Walker proudly presented a check for \$24,000 to the FGCSA for the Research Green Fund.

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**Highlight of this year's Expo had to be the blue ribbon panel of ultradwarf experts: Dr. Al Dudeck, U. of Fla. (Floradwarf); Barry Koonsman, Thomas Brothers Turf (MiniVerde); Mike Brown, Coastal Turf (Champion); Dr. Wayne Hanna, USDA (TifEagle); Rob Kloska, Jupiter Island Club (UTEP Trials); and Matt Fancher, Tiburon C.C. (Floradwarf).**

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A special thank-you to Ray Carruthers and Emerald Isle Turf for donating the food and beverages, which helped tremendously in making the event a financial success. This year's Expo was also the curtain call for 10-year veteran technician, Marcus Prevatte, who accepted an assistant superintendent's position with Joe Pantaleo at the Indian Creek C. C. on North Miami Beach. Two months after the Expo, a South Florida GCSA search committee hired former superintendent Gary Pederson to be the new technician.

SUNCOAST SCRAMBLE

**Comedy Team Puts FUN in SGCSA Fund-Raiser**

On March 23 the 1999 Suncoast Scramble celebrated 17 years of fund-raising by the Suncoast GCSA chapter. This year another full field flocked to the unique format of pairing a superintendent with his golf professional, a club official or influential member and a supplier.





Suncoast GCSA President Troy Smith (left) presents FGCSA Director of Communications, Joel Jackson with a check for \$2,500 for the FGCSA Research Fund at the 1999 Suncoast Scramble held at the Misty Creek C.C. in Sarasota. Photo by Tom Hilferty.

This format provides a great venue for all facets of the superintendent's business world to get together for some fun and informal education and networking.

The day's events included an abbreviated Suncoast Chapter business meeting, a guest speaker, a catered lunch, comedy entertainment with a golf flavor by Les McCurdy and his band of comics, a golf tournament and all capped off with an awards reception at the end of the day. The proceeds from this local event provide funds to support local charities and junior golf programs in the Bradenton-Sarasota area. In addition, the Suncoast Chapter presented a check for \$2,500 for the FGCSA Research Fund.

NORTH FLA'S RICHARDS MEMORIAL

### Melnyk Praises Superintendents as Professionals

Every April the Jacksonville area golf commu-

nity rallies to honor the memory of two leaders in our business, Mike Richards and Alan MacCurrach. Richards was a sales manager for Tresca Industries and MacCurrach was an agronomist for the PGA Tour. The event was started seven years ago in Mike's memory and was expanded to include homage to Alan after his passing three years ago.

This year three Lake City Community College students were awarded scholarships. Wayne Durkee, a third-year student in the golf course operations program was awarded the \$3,000 Mike Richards Scholarship. Durkee also holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Flagler College. Durkee credits his association with superintendents Frank Sabarro (Sawgrass CC) and Tom List (Ocean City G&YC) as having a tremendous influence on



Steve Melnyk, second from left, presented Alan MacCurrach and Mike Richards scholarships to Kyle Tapp, David Younger and Matt Durkee all Lake City Golf Operations students. Melnyk, an ABC Sports golf announcer and former PGA Tour player, was also the keynote speaker at the Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament at the Jacksonville Golf & Country Club. Photo by Joel Jackson

his commitment to the industry and respect for the environment.

David Younger and Kyle Tapp were each presented with a \$1,500 Alan MacCurrach scholarship. Younger is also a third-year student in the LCCC golf course operation program and currently holds a 3.8 GPA.

Younger cites gaining valuable experience in his chosen field under the tutelage of North Florida superintendents David Lowe (The Plantation CC) and David Amirault (Deerwood CC).

Tapp will graduate from Lake City's turf equipment managers program in May. Building on a strong mechanical background, he plans to seek a career in golf course operations where he can apply his collective experience. Tapp garnered high praise from his instructors in the TEM program.

The event was held at the Jacksonville Golf and Country Club under the guidance of host superintendent Greg Tharp and

golf professional Chip Dutton. The course and service were exemplary. The kudos for the planning and implementation of the event go to the outstanding committee of Kim Shine, Jim Shine, Tom Brennan, Clayton Estes, Kelli Bohn, Steve Richards and Paul Hamrick.

Keynote speaker was former Gator golfer and PGA Tour star Steve Melnyk. Melnyk is currently an announcer for ABC Sports and also is active in golf course design. Melnyk had high praise for the superintendent profession in general and special kinship with the Jacksonville area association. He helped present the scholarships after the tournament and urged the recipients to stay in the area if possible and to be active in the profession.

SEVEN RIVERS ENVIROTRON CLASSIC

### Biggest Fund-Raiser For Turf Research Keeps Growing

This event just keeps getting bigger and





The Seven Rivers GCSA, in conjunction with the Florida Turfgrass Association, awarded \$72,000 from Envirotron Classic proceeds to the University of Florida for a three-year light/shade study on putting greens. On hand for the presentation are, from left, Scott Wahlin, CGCS, president of the FTGA; Mike Swinson, CGCS, president of the Seven Rivers GCSA and Dr. Grady Miller of UF. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Dr. Jerry Sartain, also received a grant of \$26,000 from the Envirotron Classic Research fund to continue his turf fertility studies at the University of Florida. Scott Wahlin, CGCS, left and Mike Swinson, CGCS, make the presentation on behalf of the FTGA and the Seven Rivers GCSA. Photo by Joel Jackson.

### From UF President John Lombardi...

I want to thank you for your efforts on behalf of the University of Florida earlier this year. I am humbled and inspired by your support throughout the difficult period we experienced. Your hard work during this time is a tribute to the love many share for the university, and you have my sincere gratitude.

As you are all aware, turfgrass plays an important and vital role in the state of Florida and the nation. Turfgrass is among the top environmental resources we have today, from providing a safe and comfortable setting for athletics, as well as a lush, attractive carpet for home lawns, business, and educational institutions.

The Envirotron Research Laboratory at the University of Florida provides scientists with a first-rate facility through which to study the entire turfgrass system and develop new growth and and maintenance procedures. At the University of Florida we feel that 1999 will bring positive results from new and innovative ideas and concepts as well as a positive movement forward with administration changes. Your support of the Envirotron Golf Classic will help perpetuate this progress. We greatly appreciate your effort for this tournament.

I am as ever committed to the University of Florida, and look forward with excitement to the future.

All of us at the University appreciate your generous investment of time and effort. The University of Florida is fortunate to count you as a friend and supporter.

Sincerely yours,  
John Lombardi

by golf construction company, Barbaron, Inc., the Champion Sponsor, the 1999 event topped the \$50,000 mark in proceeds.

The Seven Rivers Chapter goes about their daily work quietly and each year throws a blockbuster event that pumps much needed funding into the University of Florida. The hard work that goes into this event and the superb results did not go unrecognized by Dr. John Lombardi, president of the University of

Florida. A letter from Lombardi to the Seven Rivers Chapter Lombardi accompanies this article

### 29TH ANNUAL POA ANNUA CLASSIC

## Naples Gathering Becoming FGCSA Family Reunion

Over the years we have watched the Naples Beach Club grow and renovate as we make our way each May to Naples for business, golf, education, networking and



No event just happens! Key members of this year's successful Poa Annuu Classic weekend included (l-r): Odell Spainhour, Jim Osburn, Steve Durand and Mike Smith. Photo by Joel Jackson.





## History of the Poa Annua

The Everglades Chapter of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was two years old when it invited the the South Florida Chapter over to Marco Island for a casual get-together. It was 1970 and Stan Clark along with a few other superintendents decided to set up a golf match after the meeting. Things went pretty well and the following year Dwight Wilson suggested that a bucket of Poa annua be given as a gag prize to the winners of the golf match. Since then "Poa" has been associated with the annual meeting.

Around 1972, Doc Anderson offered to supply a meal at the meeting. He left nothing out. Roast pig, sweet corn, ribs, and almost anything anyone wanted was served up barbecue style. In 1975 the get-together was officially dubbed the Poa Annua Golf Classic. As it continued to grow, other chapters were invited and the location of the event was changed to other courses like Lehigh, Mirror Lakes, and Oxbow. It was while the tournament was at Mirror Lakes that the FGCSA Board of Directors decided to have one of it's biannual business meetings at the Poa Annua Classic.

The event was held for several years at the Oxbow GC until 1980, when a permanent home was found at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. The Poa Annua Classic has matured into one of the most enjoyable events of the year. We wish to thank all those you have helped make the Poa Annua Golf Classic what it is today.

*Bob Sanderson, CGCS  
Heron's Glen GC*



*After all the strokes were counted, Mark Hopkins (left) had the fewest and won Low Gross honors. Presenting Mark with his trophy clock and gift certificate are (l-r) Steve Durand, Everglades GCSA Treasurer and Jim Osburn Poa Tournament Chairman. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Dr. Rick Brandenburg of North Carolina State University gave a two hour presentation on the latest Mole Cricket research and management techniques during the FGCSA Educational Seminar at the 1999 Poa Annua Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.*



*Professor of Distinction, Dr. George Snyder of the University of Florida rounded out the four hour educational program with a presentation on the value of chemical and physical soil testing and their relevancy in managing turfgrass. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

some family fun and relaxation. Many of the staff are old friends. This year was no exception as a large construction project is under way to modernize the pro shop and Brasserie restaurant into a conference center, spa and new restaurant and golf and tennis facilities.

But the beachside amenities were in full swing and well utilized as the FGCSA spring board meeting, education seminar, and traditional Poa Annua Luau, complete with roasted pig took place on Friday, May 14th. In the Board

meeting, officers and directors met Don Benham of the Florida Turfgrass Association as Don outlined his grass roots fundraising plan. The board also spent the better part of the meeting working on the details for the 1999-2000 budget to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in August.

After lunch, Dr. Rick Brandenburg, entomologist from North Carolina State University spoke on "Effective Mole Cricket Management." Dr. Brandenburg said, "The key to effective





Team honors were captured by the host Everglades Chapter. Members of the winning team with the four lowest net scores were (l-r): David Fry, Rick Tatum, Roy Bates and standing in for Scott Hamm is Jim Osburn, Tournament Chairman. Photo by Joel Jackson.

management of any pest is knowledge of their biology and ecology. Recent research has provided a clearer picture of the mole cricket and its ability to escape our best control efforts." Brandenburg went on to discuss the various products and control programs that

are being used. Dr. George Snyder, a professor of soil and water science from the University of Florida gave a presentation on "The Value of Soil Testing." Snyder who has been with the university since 1967 is most currently working on developing and

conducting research to investigate nutritional problems of warm season grasses and to examine the fate of pesticides in turfgrass soils. Dr. Snyder's presentation included several laboratory demonstrations of various soil-testing techniques.

On Saturday the Poa Annuum Golf Tournament was played on the newly renovated and partially remodeled Naples Beach Hotel's golf course. The first, ninth and tenth holes have been redesigned to accommodate the new clubhouse and conference center expansion. Perennial contender and past champion Mark Hopkins once again put together a sub-par round to take the individual championship. Mark has now earned the first spot on the 2000 FGCSA golf team to compete in

Alabama next February at the GCSAA Golf Championship. Team honors went to the host Everglades Chapter. With the most golfers to choose from, they found four low netters to capture the trophy and keep the bucket of *Poa annua* at home. Team members were the unlikely quartet of Roy Bates, David Fry, Scott Hamm and Rick Tatum. These guys have been playing too much golf!

It was great to see the families of some of the regulars. Kids growing up. Now driving the family to the Poa. And even better was to meet some new faces and see how much they enjoyed this weekend get away. I had to smile as they all said, "I didn't how great this was. We will definitely be back next year." And that how the traditions live on. Long live the Poa!

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS



FGCSA President Mike Perham, CGCS, left, accepts a check for \$24,000 from South Florida Chapter President Jim Walker at the Spring Board meeting in Naples, FL. The funds came from the 1999 South Florida Turf Expo and will be used to maintain the FGCSA Research Green in Fort Lauderdale. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA President Mike Perham, CGCS, left, presents Paul Crawford with an award recognizing his five years of service as the business manager of the Florida Green. Paul is stepping down and Mike will assume his duties to help oversee the operation of the magazine. Photo by Joel Jackson.