

Dale Kuehner Gets FGCSA Distinguished Service Award

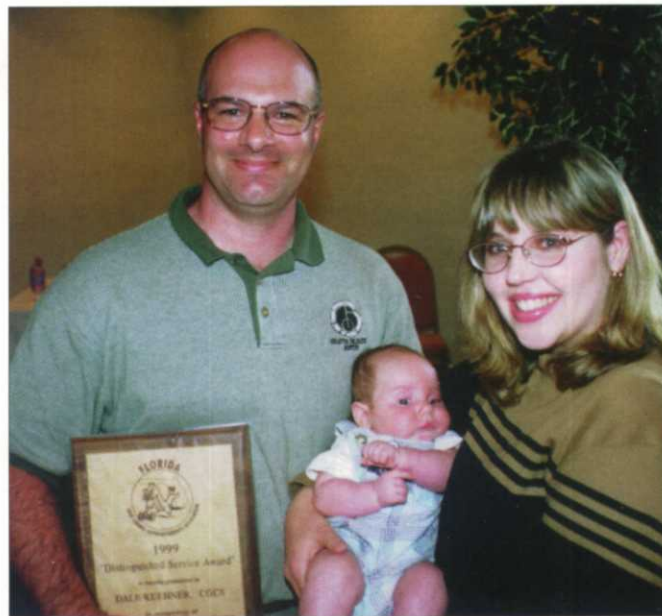
Dale Kuehner, CGCS accepted the 1999 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award at a ceremony held at his own Colony West Country Club Oct. 8. Members of the South Florida GCSA and other FGCSA members were in attendance participating in the SFGCSA's Benefit for Children tournament held annually at Colony West.

This event provided the perfect opportunity for the FGCSA and the South Florida chapter to show its appreciation for all the extra efforts Kuehner has contributed to our associations. He had the opportunity to offer a sincere and emotional acceptance speech at his club, with his family, friends and co-workers present.

Ten years ago Kuehner was invited to join the SFGCSA board of directors. His first illustrious position was the shirt salesman for the SFGCSA chapter. The shirt salesman board appointment is a testing position where the current board members evaluate the patience, perseverance and abilities of the board rookies as they drag the 80-pound shirt boxes from meeting site to meeting site, often selling only one shirt per month. The board members figure that if the new inductee doesn't carp and complain during this 12 months of torture, they just might be able to serve a more valuable role in the future.

After Kuehner's dazzling performance as a shirt salesman (six shirts in six months), he advanced through the SFGCSA board positions of chairman of meeting sites, education, etc. Ray Hansen was president of the SFGCSA about this time and was also serving on the Florida GCSA board. He asked Kuehner to assume the role of external vice president for South Florida. When Dale started attending the state board meetings he quickly became involved in many of the FGCSA committees including research, certification and the biannual membership budget survey.

As Dale expressed his desire to continue his volunteer service in our association, Mark Jarrell, CGCS and Kevin Downing, CGCS asked Dale to serve as FGCSA secretary/treasurer in 1994. Each year the immediate past president is in charge of the nominating committee and consults with current



Dale Kuehner's pride in being named winner of the 1999 FGCSA Distinguished Service Award is surpassed only by the birth of his son Ian. Dale's wife Cindy and Ian were on hand to watch Dale receive the award at the South Florida Missing & Exploited Children's Tournament. Photo by Steve Pearson.

board members and other past presidents to discuss potential candidates from the external vice presidents who appear to be the most active and productive.

Also during this time, Ray Hansen was serving as the Florida voting delegate to the GCSAA and had indicated he would like to step down from this role. Kuehner stepped forward and volunteered to represent the FGCSA at the national level. He is one of the few individuals who has attended all seven of the GCSAA chapter delegates meetings now held annually in September at headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

Now with exposure to national issues and activities Dale became involved in GCSAA committee service. He is currently serving on the membership standards resource group and the professional development initiative. The responsibilities for these committees include four visits to Kansas each year, and a requirement to become very familiar with all the material sent by GCSAA

Dale's Supporters and Mentors

Merl Smith: Toro representative in Pittsburgh. Helped Dale with many technical problems when he worked up North. Taught Dale about turf diseases and convinced him to attend Penn State. Introduced Dale to Tom Fox, golf course superintendent.

Tom Fox: Golf course superintendent. Also pushed Dale into Penn State. Convinced Dale to take his career seriously, and involved Dale in all aspects of golf course maintenance.

Edward Rack: Dale's grandfather. Owned Seven Springs C.C. in Elizabeth, Pa. During Dale's early years (18-24), he would argue with his grandfather about wanting to do things his way. Now Dale realizes grandfather was usually correct most of the time.

Dr. Joe Duich: Penn State University. Convinced Dale to work with his family and not strike out on his own. Dale's patience paid off when the family purchases Colony West.

Ray Hansen and Paul Crawford: Assisted Dale in his development through his roles in the SFGCSA, FGCSA and GCSAA.



Why Young Superintendents Should Get Involved

1. This will force them to meet other superintendents and develop relationships.
2. The interactions with other superintendents will be a tremendous learning experience in picking up many tips, ideas and problem solutions.
3. Association responsibilities will force you to grow and develop in many areas, particularly in public speaking and running meetings.
4. Get the big picture of the industry. There's more to it than growing turf on the greens.
5. Develop a support group of peers you can turn to for turf problems, vendor information or job search support if you lose your position.
6. No matter how good you think you are, sometime you will need to turn to someone for support or advice.
7. Our associations need volunteers. Many have done it before you. Now it's your turn!

so you can provide input and make comments and adjustments to the program. Kuehner's service to our

association and to the industry has been supported by his wife Cindy, his family and his assistant superintend-

dent, Gary Chaney. Kuehner's commitments result in many days away from the property and his family, including his six-month-old son, Ian. What motivates him to continue to be so involved, even after 10 years of dedicated service?

At the local, state and national levels, the driving force for Kuehner appears to be the camaraderie and support he receives from his fellow superintendents. He once referred to the "good old days" when the South Florida board consisted of Ron Wright, CGCS (now in Mobile, Ala.), Mark Richard, CGCS (now in Ft. Walton Beach), Al Ross, CGCS, Bill McKee, Steve Kuhn, Ed Miller, Bill Entwhistle, Jr., Joe Panteleo, Jim Lindsay, CGCS

(now in South Carolina), Kelly Cragin, and yours truly.

During our board meetings or over dinner after a monthly chapter meeting, the secrets of growing quality turfgrass, the challenges of balancing careers and families, and the current events of the month were discussed with laughter and understanding that can only be shared by those who have a common career.

Fast forward to last October. Kuehner was overwhelmed and shocked when he was presented the Distinguished Service Award. He felt that the DSA was reserved for people at the end of their careers.

With only 10 years of board service to date, Kuehner is hoping to

13th Annual SFGCSA Exposition and IFAS Turfgrass Field Day

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NOTE: This year's event will include special Concurrent Sessions for Mechanics, Spray Techs and irrigation Techs provided by the turf equipment companies sponsoring the Equipment Demonstration. Discounted admission will be offered to all golf courses whose crew members accompany their superintendents at the Exposition. Call the FGCSA office at 1-800-732-6053 for registraion information.

continue to lend his support to the FGCSA. He had a hard time describing his emotions about winning the award. He is a quiet person who enjoys working behind the scenes, and out of the limelight. His involvement at all levels forced him to become a better speaker, and to be more comfortable when addressing large groups. But his actions speak louder than words!

Kuehner's service and support of his associations will continue, but the birth of his son has him enjoying the special feelings of fatherhood. He says he has adapted well to the schedule changes that come with parenthood, and he describes Ian's easy going

disposition with much love, affection and wonderment.

Kuehner used to get excited about a new Rain Bird irrigation program to play with; now it's Ian's photo on his computer screen saver. Dad can't quit smiling about the tours Ian takes with him on the golf course and Cindy's dressing Ian up in little reindeer antlers for the holidays. It's going to be a special holiday season in the Kuehner household this year!

Dale, thank you for your many years of support and energy you have dedicated to the local, state, and national superintendent associations. If the rest of us could make a commitment that was 10 percent of yours, we would have more

volunteers than we could possibly use. Thanks, Dale, and congratulations!

*BOB KLITZ, CGCS
General Manager
Orangebrook G.C.*

EVERGLADES GCSA

Dale Walters Recognized with President's Award.

Dale Walters is an Ohio buckeye who took root in Florida 24 years ago.

As a 12-year-old lad in Dayton, Ohio, Dale somehow made the connection between his youthful lawn mowing jobs and his growing love of golf. When college time rolled around, he enrolled in Ohio State, but transferred into the Lake City Community College Golf

1999 FGCSA President's Award Winners

- Paul Hickman
- Dave Hollar
- Steve Pearson
- Al Ross
- Dale Walters

Course Operations program to finish his training since Ohio State did not have a similar program at the time. He graduated from Lake City in 1975.

Nearing graduation at Lake City, Walters saw an article in *Golf Digest* magazine talking about the John's Island Club putting in another 18 holes. He took a

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Everglades Past President Dale Walters, left, is presented a 1999 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service by Gary Grigg at the EGCSA September meeting. Photo by Joel Jackson

chance and submitted his resume and landed the job. The following year Dale moved to Naples, FL to assume the duties of superintendent of the Moorings Country Club. In 1991, Dale moved to the Royal Palm CC where he remains today.

When asked about those people who had the biggest influences on his career Dale responded, "Dr. (Gene) Nutter from Lake City

certainly was the biggest academic influence in learning the business. Superintendents Charlie Jarrell and Bubba Luke were early mentors who gave me a job, let me do my job and gave me good advice on how to deal with people. I would have to also give credit to all of my past green committee chairmen (about 20 of them) who influenced me for the good, the bad and the ugly."

Gary Grigg named for GCSAA DSA

Florida's own Gary Grigg, CGCS, MG of the Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples has been named as the recipient of GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award for 2000. He will be presented this prestigious award during the opening ceremony of the 71st International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans Feb. 16.

Grigg served as president of the GCSAA in 1995. He didn't retire from association service when he moved to Florida. He is currently serving as the external vice president of the Everglades GCSA, and he is still active on GCSAA committees. Congratulations to Gary from all of his Florida friends and peers, and thanks for all the time and effort spent to make the golf course superintendents profession and associations just a little better.

Walters became involved in the Everglades GCSA and the Golf Course Superintendents Association, volunteering his time to serve on committees and the board of directors of the EGCSA. He completed his CGCS certification in 1986.

Walters is a past president of the Everglades GCSA and served as the chapter delegate to GCSAA for three years. He has been a speaker at two GCSAA International Conferences and he is currently serving on the GCSAA Information Services Committee. He has also taught turf management classes at Edison Community College on Disease Identification and Introduction to the Golf Course Industry.

About his personal work and life philosophies Walters says, "I'm still a work in progress. I pray for rain then I pray for rain to stop. I pray for the bugs and disease to go away and I pray for the crew to show up for work. I also pray for the members to be happy. My faith is an influence on everything I do or say and how I manage my life, my work and my family."

As far as memorable moments go Dale reverts to his buckeye beginnings. He says, "The best moments are when Ohio State beats Michigan, which doesn't happen often enough." He quickly adds that among his most treasured memories were the 11 days he spent with his wife touring England, Scotland and Wales.

Walters has been married to his wife Connie for 29 years and has four children, Carrie Hope (24); Amanda

Faith (20); Joshua (13) and Charity Grace (12). Dale says his hobbies and interests include watching Josh catch fish while he doesn't and being active in his church.

JOEL D. JACKSON, CGCS
FGCSA Director of Communications

GCSAA REGIONAL SEMINARS

Regional Seminars Wrap Up 1999 Education Calendar

As 1999 came to a close, three FGCSA Affiliated Chapters held GCSAA Regional Seminars to provide continuing education credits for Florida superintendents seeking certification or recertification.

The FGCSA works with the local chapters to coordinate the dates and seminar selections to avoid schedule and topic conflicts.

The South Florida Chapter held a seminar in July at the Orangebrook GC in Hollywood. Dr. Charles Peacock presented a program on "Protecting Natural Resources on Golf Courses." Then in September in Orlando, the Central Florida Chapter presented "Human Resource Management" with longtime GCSAA faculty member, Dr. Bree Hayes. The North Florida Chapter in Jacksonville finished off the series of regional seminars in November with a program on "Integrated Disease Management for Bermudagrass Golf Courses." presented by University of Florida turf pathologist, Dr. Monica Elliott.

These eight-hour, college-level presentations are worth .7 CEUs each for the attendees who must attain a



Dr. Bree Hayes, popular GCSAA seminar instructor, conducts a one-day seminar on Human Resource Management in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

minimum of 10 continuing education credits in a five-year period since their last certification. Seven of the ten units must be tested programs and the attendees must pass written exams at the end of the seminar. The remaining three units can be from attendance of other local education which have been approved in advance for professional develop-

ment (PDU) credit by the GCSAA.

GEOFF COGGAN, CGCS Education Chairman

FGCSA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Central Florida Chapter Sweeps State Golf Titles

The Central Florida Chapter swept the 1999 FGCSA Golf Championship

by taking all the top spots in the individual and team events this year at the Southern Dunes GC in Haines City Oct. 4.

Ten teams from eight

chapters participated, making this the largest turnout so far for the four-year-old event. Teams consist of five players with the four lowest scores being counted.



Central Florida superintendents dominated the 1999 FGCSA Golf Championship. From left, Chris Cartin took low medalist honors and led Kevin Rotti, Joel Brownsberger, Jim Lawrence, and Hal Richburg(not pictured) to Team Low Gross victory. Photo by Joel Jackson.



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Chris Cartin from Deltona Hills GC shot a 74 over the rolling, windswept course for the low round of the day and earned a spot on the Florida No. 1 team competing in the GCSAA Golf Championships to be held in Mobile, Ala. in February 2000. Cartin joins Mark Hopkins, Poinciana GC, winner of the Poa Annua Classic and Hal Richburg, CGCS, Heathrow CC, winner of the Crowfoot Open. The fourth spot, determined by the superintendent with the low average in two out of three of the above events, was claimed by Joe Ondo, CGCS, Winter Pines GC.

The Central Florida Team No. 1 of Joel Brownsberger, Chris Cartin, Jim Lawrence



1999 Blue Pearl Committee heads up event at The Medalist Club that earned \$17,200 for turf and environmental programs for Martin County schools. From left, Steve Keller, Bo Estey, Barbara Tierney, Bobby Ellis, Greg Pheneger, Roy McDonald, Bill Lanthier and Craig Weyandt. Photo by Joel Jackson.

and Hal Richburg and Kevin Rotti took won the low gross division by three shots over Central Florida Team No. 2 made up of Buck Buckner, Joe Ondo, Chad Sartain and Barry Shuman. By virtue of their strong second-place

finish, Central Florida Team No. 2 captured the Low Net honors.

The FGCSA Golf Committee would like to thank host superintendent Bayne Caillavet and Southern Dunes head golf professional

Eddie Frye for helping make this another great event.

JOE ONDO, CGCS
FGCSA Golf Chairman

TREASURE COAST GCSA

Blue Pearl Dodges Floyd, Beats Harvey to the Punch

Postponed by Hurricane Floyd and just beating Tropical Storm Harvey to the punch, the 1999 Treasure Coast Blue Pearl Tournament managed to fulfill its mission on Oct. 4 at Greg Norman's Medalist Club in Hobe Sound.

Begun as a fund raiser for the Audubon Sanctuary Program for local schools, the success of the event has expanded the beneficiaries to include a new turf program

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From left: Nancy McBride and Mike Christiansen of the Florida Branch of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children receive a check for \$14,000 from South Florida GCSA members Bryan Singleton, Bill McKee, Dale Kuehner, Jim Goins, Bill Enwhistle, Jr., and Bob Klitz. Photo by Steve Pearson.

at South Fork High School. This year TCGCSA President Greg Pheneger was able to present a check for \$10,000 to Southridge as well as a check for \$7,200 for the ACSP program.

The Treasure Coast wishes to thank host superintendent Tim Rappach and the entire staff of The Medalist Club for the excellent condition of the course and the impeccable service and operation of the event.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS
Dir. of Communications

SOUTH FLORIDA GCSA

15th Annual Event Raises \$14,000 to Benefit Children

The 15th Annual SFGCSA Benefit for Children's tournament was held at the Colony West C.C. in Tamarac Oct. 8.

Another fun and financially successful event was enjoyed despite the relentless rains of this year's tropical season. Even though the golf had to be canceled after nine holes, the food and festivities continued which included a presentation by Nancy McBride and Mike

Christiansen of the Florida Branch of the Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

They reported that due in part to the loyal support by the SFGCSA and others:

135-170 cases are reviewed every month

257 child recoveries were performed in 1999 through September

76 educational presentations were made to 2,038 people

42 training sessions were performed with 1,180 law enforcement officers

Child safety literature and materials were developed and distributed.

This year's contribution from the SFGCSA tournament came to \$14,000. This brings the total contributions to the M & E Children's Center to \$125,000 over the history of the event.

BOB KLITZ, CGCS
SFGCSA M&E Committee

WEST COAST GCSA

36th Quandt Event Aids Research and Education Funds

The 36th Annual Bud Quandt Turfgrass Research and Benefit



Tim Williams, public relations director for Gatorland, discussed gator management on golf courses at the 1999 West Coast Bud Quandt Turf & Benefit Tournament. Photo by Cary Lewis.

Tournament came off without a hitch on Oct. 11 at the Pasadena Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg.

The primary fund-raising event for the West Coast GCSA provides monies for turf research, scholarships and donations to benefit local charities.

The day-long event includes a welcome breakfast buffet at registration, a business meeting and educational session, a four-

man scramble tournament followed by an awards ceremony and reception.

University of Florida IFAS Turf Coordinator Dr. John Cisar was on hand to update the audience on IFAS personnel changes and research projects to the turf program. Tim Williams, public relations director of Gatorland in Kissimmee talked about facts, myths and safety issues when dealing with alligators on golf courses. The bottom line is there are ways to manage alligators on your property without resorting to trapping and removal.

The golf tournament followed the meeting and the team of Duane Van Etten, Mark Wheaton, John Robertson and Jim Ahern took low gross honors with a 55. The low net winner was the team of Roger Hruby, Steve Lyerly, Johnny Nevill and Chip Powell. Skill contest winners were: Closest to the Pin No. 2 Terry Teats, No. 8 Bill Moore, No. 11 Buddy Carmouche and No. 16 Alan Niblett. Long Drive - S. M. Johnson. Accurate Drive - Bob Ley. Putting



University of Florida's IFAS Turf Coordinator, Dr. John Cisar gave an update on turf projects and personnel during the business meeting at the West Coast GCSA Bud Quandt Tournament. Photo by Cary Lewis.



contest - Ryan Willis.

West Coast President Dale Reash would like to pay special thanks to Gerald Marquardt, superintendent of Largo Municipal GC, for selling a record high \$1,400 worth of raffle tickets to help raise money for the event.

CARY LEWIS, CGCS
FGCSA Vice President



Chapter leaders for the newly formed Calusa GCSA, from left. Front row: Ed Stalnos (membership chairman), Joe Boe, president and Tim Price (supplier liason). Back Row: Rick Mohr (golf & education chairman), Greg Laue (secretary/treasurer) and John Stach, (vice president). Not pictured Mike Mongoven (external vice president). Photo by Joel Jackson.



Calusa GCSA President Joe Boe, left, presents FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson with a check for \$1,000 for the FGCSA Research Fund at the inaugural Calusa Su-Pro-Liers Turkey Shoot. Photo by Rick Mohr.

CALUSA GCSA

Su-Pro-Liers Trade Turkeys for Turf Research

The FGCSA's newest chapter, the Calusa GCSA, hosted its first fundraiser for turf research on Nov. 11 at the Heritage Palms Golf Club in Ft. Myers.

Called the Calusa Su-

Pro-Liers Turkey Shoot, the three-man scramble format teams up a superintendent with a golf pro from his club and a turf supplier who

services the region. Teams were selected by suppliers blind-drawing the superintendent/pro twosome from each club.

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contests were presented gift certificates for turkeys from Publix supermarkets.

Low gross and net winners received gift certificates for golf merchandise from the Heritage Palms pro shop.

This inaugural event was attended by nearly 40 people and consisted of golf, lunch and an awards reception.

Though they have been in existence less than a year, the Calusa Chapter has joined the quest for turf research and education by donating \$1,000 to the FGCSA Research Fund and \$500 to the Edison Community College Turf Program.

*JOEL JACKSON, CGCS
Dir. of Communications*

CENTRAL FLORIDA GCSA

Disney Employee Receives Burgess Scholarship

Five years ago the Central Florida GCSA began the Danny Burgess Memorial Scholarship Tournament to honor the 30-year-old superintendent of Windermere C.C. in west Orange County, who was killed in a boating accident in 1994.

The CFGCSA, working with the Windermere C.C. staff and members, commemorates Burgess' memory with a tournament which raises money for scholarships for students at Lake City Community College's Golf and Landscape Operations Program or the Westside



Aspiring golf course superintendent Ricky Craig received a \$1,500 Danny Burgess Memorial Scholarship from the Central Florida GCSA to attend the Lake City Community College Golf Operations A.S. degree program. Photo by Joel Jackson.

VoTech Turf Technician program in Ocoee.

This year, Ricky Davis of Center Hill was the recipient of a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Lake City. Davis learned basic horticulture



This bronze plaque rests at the foot of a live oak tree on the first tee of the Windermere Country Club. Photo by Joel Jackson

skills in the landscape/nursery business, but has been working the past couple of years for Scott Welder at Disney's Magnolia and Palm golf courses to qualify for the LCCC Golf Course Operations program.

*JOEL JACKSON, CGCS
Dir. of Communications*

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