



Joe Ondo, CGCS, left, receives his FGCSA Distinguished Service Award from FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS, at the 2000 Crowfoot Open banquet in August. Photo by Stuart Leventhal.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

FGCSA Honors Joe Ondo's Years of Service

I haven't checked the Guinness Book of Records, but I can go by my own eyewitness experience to verify that Joe Ondo, CGCS has one of the longest-running records of service and FGCSA Board Meeting attendance of any active superintendent.

In recognition of his devotion and dedicated service to his peers through his board service and committee work, Ondo was selected as the recipient of the FGCSA's Distinguished Service Award for 2000. The award was presented at the 24th Annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open last August at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando.

Ondo wasn't out to set any records. He only volunteered his time and energy because he loves this business and the

game of golf and he respects the pioneering work done by those who paved the way for the rest of us.

After an unprecedented 14 years as the external vice president for the Central Florida chapter, Ondo then rotated through the chairs of the state association becoming the 17th FGCSA president in 1997. Ten years prior

to that, Ondo had served two terms as the president of the Central Florida chapter from 1985 to 1987. For the past 10 years he has chaired the FGCSA golf committee, coordinating the selection of the FGCSA's No. 1 team to represent the state at the annual GCSAA Golf Championship.

Ondo's quiet, unassuming manner belies the passion which he harbors for his profession and the game of golf. He is an avid reader and collector of books not only on turf management but also on course design and histories of the profession and the game itself. Those who have competed against him on the course how consistent his swing and his temperament are under fire.

Because he plays a lot of amateur golf in the central Florida area, Ondo gets asked a lot of questions from golfers about their courses and their superintendent's methods. Ondo politely tells them that it wouldn't be ethical for him to second

guess his peer's decisions and he steers them around to the fact that they need to talk to their own superintendent instead of asking a stranger about their courses.

Ondo is a consistent contributor to The Florida Green sharing his hands-on experiences at the Winter Pines Golf Club where he has been the superintendent since 1979. He praises the work of his tight-knit crew of eight that helps him keep the course in great shape even under the pressure of more than 85,000 rounds a year.

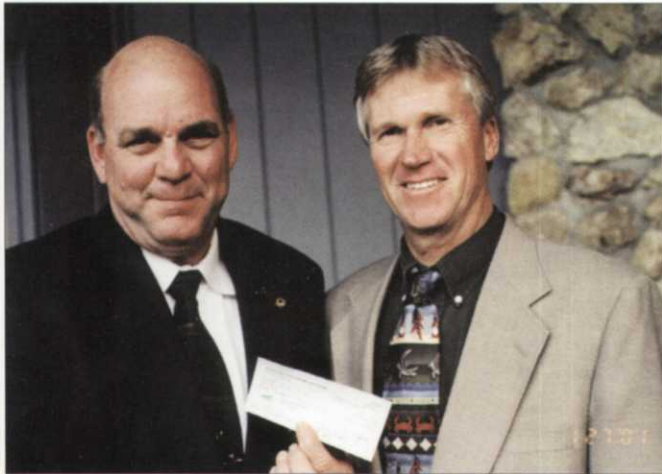
Ondo also appreciates the strong working relationship with his owner Ed McMillin and the Club President and General Manager Jon McMillian. Along with Head Golf Professional John Pohira, this team consistently provides an outstanding public golf facility to Orlando area residents.

I offer my own personal congratulations to my long time friend and golf partner for many a G. C. Horn Memorial Tournament.



The Gang's All Here... Finally

Timing is everything! During our cover story visit for the Winter issue, the Olde Hickory G&CC maintenance staff was too busy to stop for a photo session. Superintendent John Stach sent in this picture to be sure the staff got it's well deserved recognition for a job well done. Photo by John Stach.



Everglades GCSA Research Donation

FGCSA President Cary Lewis, CGCS, left, accepts a \$4,000 check for the FGCSA Turf Research Fund presented by Everglades Chapter External Vice President Dale Walters, CGCS at the FGCSA winter board meeting in Orlando. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Smokin' Joe you're a great guy, a true professional superintendent and one heck of a golfer. Thank you for

your very distinguished service to all of us in the profession.

JOEL JACKSON, CGCS

GCSAA CONFERENCE & SHOW

Dallas No Hit But Conference a Big Winner for All

As a GCSAA conference and show site, Dallas was not a big hit. The cold, wet weather and conference center construction did not help matters, nor did the spread-out nature of the hotels and strange street

grid system help in getting around. Some people reported different taxi fares to and from the same locations depending on the time of day.

But we did not come for the tourist attractions and sightseeing, we came to participate in our industry's biggest event of the year, and by all accounts that part of the trip was successful for everyone. This 72nd

GCSAA Distinguished Service Award Winners

"With this award you have put a turtle on a fence post. A turtle can't get up there by himself." - Dr. Euel Coates, Mississippi State University.

"I believe the GCSAA has helped to provide the training and leadership for us to provide the best playing conditions ever in golf." - L. W. Sonny Dubose, CGCS.

"A round of golf is like music that can refresh your soul." - Arthur P. Weber

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**Keynote speaker
Retired U. S. Army General
H. Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr.**

On golf: "When I lived on the right side of the Cheval golf course in Tampa I collected 1900 golf balls in my yard. When I lived on the left side of the course at Saddlebrook I collected 600 golf balls. I concluded that 2/3 of the golfers in the world must slice."

Stormin' Norman's Keys to Leadership

"The circumstances of your birth have nothing at all with a person's ability to lead; it is what you perceive about yourself that is important to leadership."

The single most important ingredient of leadership is character."

"You don't have to be loved to be a leader, you must be respected."

"The challenge of leadership is to get people to willingly do what they ordinarily would not do on their own."

"Delegate authority not responsibility."

"Goals are only meaningful if everyone understands the objective and the role they must play in obtaining it."

"Failure is contagious. Success is infectious."

"Give yourself and others the latitude to learn (make mistakes)."

"You can forget all these principles if you only remember these two rules. Here are the two secrets to 21st century leadership. Rule 13: When placed in command, take charge. Rule 14: Do what's right."



Retired U. S. Army General Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr. was the keynote speaker at the GCSAA Conference's Opening Session on Wednesday night. Photo by Joel Jackson.

International Conference and Show also kicked off a year-long celebration of the 75th anniversary of the GCSAA. An extra effort was made to have a multitude of historic displays set up in various areas of the Dallas

Convention Center to give everyone a nostalgic look at the history of the profession and the association. I give the GCSAA staff an A for effort.

The first thing many people saw after getting off

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A series of historic displays throughout the convention center showed the evolution of golf course equipment and affiliated chapter publications. The FGCSA had a prominent display of milestone issues of the Green Sheet and The Florida Green and its parent publication the South Florida Green. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the shuttle buses was the walkway to the classrooms festooned with banners hanging over the aisle. Each banner bore the name of a

GCSAA affiliated chapter and its founding date. I understand each chapter will be presented with its banner to mark the anni-



Mark Black, CGCS, Quail West G&CC (center) was the moderator for the Southern Grasses Forum at the GCSAA Conference in Dallas. Bob Randquist, CGCS of Boca Rio GC (left) and Matt Taylor, GCS, Royal Poinciana Club (right) presented their programs for TifEagle and Champion ultradwarfs at the forum. Photo by Joel Jackson.

versary. Beyond the legends and milestones depicted around the convention center there are a full slate

of activities including a \$75 dues special that will run most of the year to attract new members.



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Perhaps more history was made at the annual meeting where the much-ballyhooed PDI passed with a 75% approval vote. Some are calling it a mandate. We will now await the implementation and the changes it will bring.

While FGCSA members

were in classes, the staff was attending a day and a half of programs designed to inform and assist chapter managers and newsletter editors conduct the mundane mechanics of association business. From media awareness, tax issues and government relations we

got tips, ideas and contacts to help us help the association.

After several long days of classes and meetings, nearly 500 Florida superintendents, suppliers and guests gathered at the Hyatt Hotel near the convention center on Thursday night for the traditional FGCSA Reception to touch base and catch up with friends from around the state. The food, drink and camaraderie were enjoyed by all.

and Landscape Operations alumni was another huge success. The event is annually averaging over \$10,000 in proceeds which is matched by state funds and goes for scholarships and program enhancements at Lake City.

This year's sell-out event at The Colony G&CC had to endure a rare frost delay in Bonita Springs on Jan. 6, which was part of the longlasting cold spell that gripped the state this winter.

But the ice and the players thawed out to have a great day for a good cause. John Piersol, chairman of the GLO program at Lake City was on hand to personally thank all the sponsors and participants in



The expert crowd counters from the Hyatt Hotel in Dallas told us we had around 450 guests at the FGCSA Reception on Thursday night. Photo by Joel Jackson.

CHAPTER ROUNDUP

**Lake City Alums
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The LCCC Alumni Committee celebrated 9 years of successful fund raising for the Lake City Community College Golf Operations program. From the left: John Piersol, Lake City; Garry Higgins, Host superintendent; Glenn Zakany, Co-Chairman; Scott Hamm, Diamond Sponsors; David Fry, Co-Chairman; John Johnson, Gold Sponsors & Resort Packages; Mike Smith, Registration and Roy Bates, Raffle Prizes and Photo Gifts. Not pictured: Odell Spainhour and Dick Bessire, Raffle Prizes and Scoring. Photo by Joel Jackson.

this key fund raiser for the school.

Winners included: A Flight: 1st-Glenn Zakany & Jim Osburn; 2nd-John Lammrish & Glen Andrews; 3rd-Chip Powell & George Eisler; 4th-Dave Resch & Mike Dillinger. 5th-Scott VanDane & Jim Glass and 6th- Dick Bessire & Lou Conzelmann. B Flight: 1st-Dave Gibbons & Jim Phleps; 2nd-Ron Demis & Chuck Whitman; 3rd-Mike Outen & Kyle Tapp; 4th-Scott Lovecchio & Garry Callahan; 5th-Kyle Kenyan & Matt Taylor; and 6th-Rinn Neymeyed & Milo Seipi.

CENTRAL FLORIDA

Leventhal Honored for Event Support

At the 13th Annual FTGA Turf Research Tournament at the Interlachen C. C. in Winter Park., Central Florida GCSA President John Kopack presented host superintendent Stuart

Leventhal of the Interlachen C. C. in Winter Park with a plaque of appreciation for hosting the event all these years. Interlachen donates the use of the golf course for the event and only charges the food at cost to help maximize the proceeds of the event. The generosity of Interlachen has helped the Central Florida chapter raise over \$50,000 in research funds over the past 12 years.

Dr. Terril Nell, chairman of the Ornamental Horticulture Dept. at the



New UF/IFAS Nematologist Dr. Billy Crow discusses management practices for nematode control on Florida golf courses at the all-day January 29th IFAS seminar held at the Naples Beach Club and sponsored by the Everglades GCSA. Photo by Bob Toski.



Flight winners of the frost-delayed LCCC Alumni Endowment Tournament at The Colony G&CC in January were, from left, B Flight - David Gibbons and Jim Phelps. A Flight - Glenn Zakany and Jim Osburn. Photo by Joel Jackson.

University of Florida was the guest speaker and gave the audience of superintendents and club officials a brief overview of current and proposed future research projects at the Gainesville, Milton, Belle Glade and Ft. Lauderdale research and education centers.

Winners: 1st Flight: Low Gross-Chris Cartin & Matt Janeczko; Low Net-Jim Wells & Stan Cooke. 2nd Flight: Low Gross-Tom Diggins & Doc Gray; Low Net-Bob Uppenkamp & Sean Stankos. 3rd Flight: Low Gross-Chris Collins & Brad Lattimer; Low Net-Cary Lewis & Russ Bond.

EVERGLADES

IFAS Seminar Draws 85

Matt Taylor, GCS of the Royal Poinciana Club was the organizer for the Everglades GCSA-sponsored IFAS seminar held Jan. 29 at the Naples Beach Club. Taylor reported that 85 superintendents attended the program, which featured presentations by six UF faculty members: Dr. Phil Busey, weed management; Dr. Monica Elliot, disease management; Dr. John Cisar, research update of FTGA projects; Dr. Billy Crow, nematode management; Dr. Laurie Trenholm, paspalums; and Dr. Brian Scully, turfgrass breeding program.

Three days earlier at the FGCSA winter board meeting in Orlando, Everglades External Vice President Dale Walters, CGCS presented a check for \$4,000 for the FGCSA's turf research account. Education and research: it's what we're all about.