



2002 Memorial scholarship winners from left: Dennis Swander, Blaine Ellerbe, and John Llanos attend golf operations programs at Lake City and Daytona Beach Community Colleges and work for local superintendents. Photo by Joel Jackson.



20-year military veterans and Alan MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award winners honored by North Florida Chapter from left: Art Cape, "Capt." Dick Johnson, "Crash" Hall and Robbie Robbins. Photo by Joel Jackson.

North Florida GCSA

Past and Present Honored at 10th Annual Richards Memorial

The North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Chapter held its Tenth Annual Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament April 1 at the prestigious Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. The host golf course superintendent was Greg Tharp and more 100 players participated in the event making it a great success.

Kim and Jim Shine initiated the Mike Richards scholarship tournament in 1992 to honor Richards' dedication to the profession. Over the past nine years, the NFGCSA has awarded \$48,000 in scholarships to deserving turf students in the North Florida area. A Mike Richards Foundation has been established that has funds totaling approximately \$31,000. The hope for this event is for the Foundation to become self-sustaining so as to be able to provide

financial help to students. The family of Alan MacCurrach has also been instrumental in promoting the scholarship fund in memory of Alan and his accomplishments in the golf field.

Three separate scholarships totaling \$6,000 were awarded at the tournament. In addition, \$2500 will be added to the Mike Richards Foundation.

Blaine Ellerbe, a student at Lake City Community College, was the recipient of the \$3,000 Mike Richards Scholarship. Ellerbe currently works with Tharp at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club.

John Llanos, a first-year student at Daytona Beach Community College was the recipient of the Alan MacCurrach scholarship. He received a check for \$1,500. Llanos currently is employed at Plantation Country Club,



Barbaron executives, from left Ron Kitchen, Sr., Terry Lagree, and Ron Kitchen, Jr. show off the 10-year collection of mementos highlighting their support of the Envirotron Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Superintendent Kevin Cavanaugh.

Dennis Swander, a fourth-semester student at Lake City Community College, also was the recipient of a \$1500 Alan MacCurrach scholarship. Swander is currently employed at San Jose Country Club, Superintendent Clayton Estes, CGCS

After the tournament, the board of directors of the NFGCSA presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to four distinguished past members. The recipients were chosen by the Historical Committee, chaired by Tom Cowan. The award itself is named the Alan MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of a person who demonstrated the true meaning of lifetime achievement.

MacCurrach died in 1997 and was the epitome of professionalism and dedication to the "Keeping of the Greens."

The awards were presented to Robbie Robbins, Dick Johnson, Crash Hall and Art Cape. Each of these men served at least 20 years in the military and started their golf course careers after leaving the military. We extend our congratulations to these special men.

Glen Klauk, GCS
Pablo Creek Club

Seven Rivers GCSA

Envirotron Classic Fundraising Total Nears Half Million

With this year's record participation of 340 golfers in the 10th Annual Envirotron Classic on April 15 at the World Woods Golf Club near Brooksville, the Seven Rivers GCSA has raised more than \$400,000 for turf research projects and equipment at the University of Florida.

Barbaron, Inc, a golf course design and construction firm, once again led the donations as the Champion Sponsor with a check for \$13,500. In recognition for their long-term and generous support of the event, the Seven Rivers Chapter presented Barbaron officials with a large framed case containing mementos highlighting the ten years of the event.

A delegation of key members of the UF/IFAS administration and faculty led by IFAS Vice President Dr. Mike Martin was on hand to personally thank the Seven Rivers Chapter, sponsors and participants for their unflinching support for the IFAS mission in turf research.

Hats off to the following

Seven Rivers members for their time and effort: tournament chairman Glenn Oberlander, SRGCSA President Bob Marrino, Stuart Bozeman, Dan Green, Jeff Hayden, Perry Haley, David Hoggard, Mike Hummel, Mark Kann, Buddy Keene, Earl King, Sonny Kirkland, Chris Leahy, Reed Orr, Mike Swinson, Vance Trapnell, Derek Vaughn and Rick Watts.

Suncoast GCSA

President's Death Adds Sad Postscript to 2002 Scramble

The 2002 Suncoast Scramble had a tragic postscript as long-time Misty Creek CC superintendent and tournament host Tom Crawford died less than two months after the 2002 event held at his former club March 19. Crawford announced his resignation from Misty Creek at this year's event, and he was looking forward to some new career challenges to grow as a multi-course manager. Crawford was also the Suncoast Chapter President.



Tom Crawford (center) doing what he did best - serving his profession. Crawford presented \$2,500 checks John VanVranken (left) and Don Benham for the Florida Golf Economic Impact Study and FTGA Research Foundation at the 2002 Suncoast Scramble. Photo by Joel Jackson.

A trust fund has been set up for the education of his two children. The FGCSA and other local chapters have already donated or pledged to donate to this fund. Any other chapter, club or individual who would like to help the family and honor Crawford's service to our profession may send their contributions to Kasey and Kirby Crawford, c/o David W. Clark, Esq., 24 Thurston

Drive, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418.

Life must go on and the Suncoast Scramble's 20-year history and rich tradition of service to the local and state golf industry and programs will continue enriched by Tom Crawford's contributions.

South Florida GCSA

Turf Expo Sets Attendance Record, Raises \$22,500

Amid the rumors and state

budget cuts affecting IFAS, the South Florida GCSA's Turf Expo set an attendance record of more than 500 people on March 21, at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. Mounting pressure on the University of Florida to take a severe look at research center facilities, missions and productivity has put the Ft. Lauderdale REC in an unwanted spotlight and on a list of possible closings or at the least contractions.

This scenario did not deter the enthusiastic crowd of turf managers and technicians, who toured turf plots for research updates, watched



FGCSA President Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG (left) accepts a \$22,500 check from South Florida GCSA President Jim Goins, CGCS. The funds are the proceeds from the annual Turf Expo held at the UF/IFAS Ft. Lauderdale REC and FGCSA's Otto Schmeisser Research Green. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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equipment demonstrations, visited the mini-trade show, and attended educational sessions including UF nematologist Dr. Billy Crow's presentation on life after Nemacur.

After all the bills were paid, Jim Goins, CGCS, president of the South Florida GCSA, presented FGCSA President Geoff Coggan, CGCS, MG a check for \$22,500 for turf research two months later at the 2002 Poa Annuia Classic in Naples.

Ridge GCSA

Ondo Wins Event, Research, Charities Major Beneficiaries

Chilly winds couldn't dampen the success of the 2002 Ridge Invitational held at the Grasslands C.C. in Lakeland on March 4. Host superintendent Roy Wilshire, CGCS and his staff had the course in great shape for the event, which once again raised much-needed turf research dollars. The Ridge Chapter also supports several Polk County charities and youth sports and guidance programs with proceeds from the event.



Joe Ondo, CGCS captured the top spot in the 2002 Ridge Invitational. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Central Florida's Joe Ondo, CGCS took medalist honors to extend his winning streak in the Ridge backyard. Ondo also won the FGCSA Championship in Haines City last fall. During the post-tournament chicken-

and-ribs barbecue dinner, FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS gave the attendees an update on government relations issues including the pending phase out of Nemacur.

Everglades GCSA

Informal Challenge Gave Birth to Major Social Event

Officially, the event known as the Poa Annuia Classic is 27 years old. In reality the event could claim to be 34 since Stan Clark suggested the Everglades GCSA challenge the South Florida GCSA to a friendly golf match back in 1970, and Dwight Wilson suggested a bucket of Poa Annuia be used the mock trophy.

In 1972 Doc Anderson threw a roast pig on the spit and served up some corn and ribs for the hungry golfers. In 1975 the Poa Annuia name stuck and since 1980 and the FGCSA formation it has become a statewide event for those willing to trek to the Naples Beach Club every spring.

The Poa has become as much a social event as it is education, business and golf with families tagging along with superintendents and enjoying the beach while dad/mom attend board meetings, seminars or compete in the Poa Annuia Classic and G.C. Horn Endowment tournaments. It has been fun watching the kids grow up over the years. Of course once they reach the upper teens, it's not cool to hang with the old folks, so it was great to see some new faces as others discover the ambience, fun and camaraderie of the event.

South Florida's Bob Harper from The Emerald Hills Club shot a 70 to take first place in the Poa Annuia. Joe Ondo, CGCS from the Winter Pines GC in Central Florida continued his streak of great golf, finishing one shot back in second place. The rest of the top five included Tyler Warner, Steve Bernard and Joe Pantaleo, all familiar names when it comes to shooting around par golf.

The host Everglades Chapter won the team trophy with the net scores of Mike Dillinger, David Dore-Smith, Scott Hamm and Greg Lauffer.



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SPOTLIGHT



FGCSA Education Chairman John Lammrish welcomes Dr. Max Utsler from the University of Kansas as the presenter for the half-day GCSAA seminar on Media Relations. Photo by Joel Jackson.



2002 Poa Annuu Classic's top golfers from left, Tyler Warner (third), Bob Harper (first), Joe Pantaleo (fifth), and Joe Ondo, CGCS (second). Not pictured - Steve Bernard (fourth). Harper becomes the first person to qualify for the Florida Team in the 2003 GCSAA Golf Championship to be held at Hilton Head, SC. Photo by Robert Toski.



Superintendent Craig Weyandt operates the camera while Dr. Max Utsler from the University of Kansas, center, puts superintendent Greg Maze through a mock TV interview during his *The Golf Course Superintendent and the Media* seminar at the Poa Annuu. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Friday morning at the Poa 45 superintendents attended a half-day GCSAA seminar titled "The Golf Course Superintendent and the Media" presented by Dr. Max Utsler, a communications professor from the University of Kansas. A veteran of print, radio and

television media, Dr. Utsler used a variety of real life examples and role-playing situations to show superintendents the role of the media, the importance of being public relations savvy and the mechanics of working with the media.