



South Florida Chapter Past President Jim Walker never gave up his love for baseball even though he never made it to "The Show." Much to our benefit, he traded in running bases to running golf courses. In tribute to his leadership, the SFGCSA presented Walker with the FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service.

SFGCSA PRESIDENTS AWARD

It Has Been A Long Road From Night Water Man

An Autobiography

The road leading to my receiving the 2001 FGCSA President's Award from the South Florida GCSA began 31 years ago at the Pecan Valley Country Club in San Antonio, Tex. I was the assistant irrigation technician (night water man) plugging in quick couplers and doing course prep work.

Pecan Valley hosted the PGA Championship in 1968 and it was a great place for a golf hound like me to begin my career. The course was a J. Press Maxwell design and I consider myself lucky to have run or worked at many courses that had great architects.

After Pecan Valley, came the Ocala Golf Club where I worked under Jim Yancey, older brother to PGA great Bert Yancey, the course manager and golf professional. He had hired Jim to be a working superintendent and the experience there was great. Bert hosted tour players Frank Beard and Deane Beamon who came down in the winter and played until the tour started in California each year. Being around those guys gave me much insight on what top players thought were important in course conditioning.

Two and a half years later I left Ocala GC to become the assistant superintendent at the Silver Springs Shores GC also in Ocala. One reason for making the move was that Mel Sligh, the superintendent, was a UF graduate who had studied under Dr. G.C. Horn and had a lot of knowl-

edgeable friends in the area. I drove Mel nuts asking technical questions, but I'm glad I did. About a year later Mel left for the Palma Ceia CC job in Tampa, and there I was, the superintendent of a first-class private club. The course is a Desmond Muirhead track spread out over 250 acres with water and sand everywhere.

In 1976 I went back to San Antonio and worked for Watson Distributing. They were the Jacobsen, Cushman and Ryan distributor for all of Texas. Selling orange and green iron for a couple of years was another learning experience I was happy to have had. While there, San Antonio hosted the GCSAA National Convention and meeting the factory engineers and designers was very educational.

Two years later I returned to Florida and the Miami area where I was born and raised. While growing up in Miami I had played golf and baseball for Hialeah High School. I attended Miami Dade Junior College and Valdosta State College on a baseball scholarship and, in my senior year, I was on the NCAA Division 2A National Championship team. I was MVP for the series going 8 for 11 at the plate with three home runs, a triple and a double. I got looks from the Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox after college, but my fastball was too slow and major league pitching is a world of difference from college ball.

For the past 23 years, I have been the manager or superintendent at various times at the Key Biscayne, Palmetto, Briar Bay and Greynolds Park golf courses for the Miami-Dade County Parks Department. It was also in 1978 that I met Alan Weitzel, my long time friend and sometimes boss. Those 23 years have been interesting to say the least. I'm a Howard Cosell type of guy so politics was never my bag. I give Alan a lot of credit for helping me see the importance of junior golf. Over the years we did a lot of work bringing this wonderful game to kids in South Florida. We also started a golf league which is still going strong 23 years later.

One of the things I'm most proud of is the people who started their golf maintenance careers with me. At Briar Bay they included: Carlos McKeon, Eric Knudsen, Robert Wethy and Susi (Goldstein) Walker. At Greynolds Park a long-haired, skinny kid right out of college named Joe Pantaleo mowed and fertilized his first bermudagrass with me.

With six years to go before retirement, I still enjoy the golf course business. I have served on the South Florida GCSA board since 1994 and was president in 1998 to 2000. Susi and I live in the Kendall area and besides playing golf, I'm an ardent audiophile. While all this golf stuff was going on I was a pretty fair jazz musician whose band played at the American Pavilion during the 1964 World's Fair in New York...but that's another story.

Jim Walker, GCSA Greynolds Golf Course

NFGCSA PRESIDENTS AWARD

Amelia Island's Hill Helped Bring Chapter into FGCSA



Ron Hill, golf course superintendent at the Amelia Island Golf Resort was recognized for his 30 years of service to North Florida golf by the North Florida Chapter. Presenting the FGCSA President's Award to Hill are NFGCSA President Andy Maguire (left) and Vice President Glen Klauk.

Ron Hill was honored on July 19 by the North Florida Golf Course Superintendent's Association for his 30 years of service to golf industry in northeast Florida.

In recognition for that service Hill was presented with the FGCSA's 2001 President's Award for Lifetime Achievement at the chapter's July meeting. Ron is currently the golf course superintendent of Amelia Island Plantation, which is an affiliated division of the Harbour Town Corporation. He has been continuously employed by the Harbour Town Corp. for the past 30 years.

After graduating from Lake City Community College in 1972, Hill began his career in the golf business with Harbour Town. In 1973 he became active in the Florida-Georgia GCSA. By 1976 he had risen to the office of chapter president. He assisted in the transformation of the

Florida-Georgia GCSA into the North Florida chapter of the Florida GCSA in 1979.

In addition to helping develop the local organization, Ron has had many of his assistant superintendents and on-the-job training students go on to become successful leaders in the golf industry over the years. Some of these recognizable names include: Bobby Weed, Tim Hiers, Barry Collett, Bill Griffith and Bruce Blanchard.

Ron has also enjoyed a fairly successful amateur golf career. In 1978 and 1979 he made it to the match play rounds in the United States Amateur Championships. He was the Jacksonville area medalist for the 1979 Amateur qualifier. Other golfing accomplishments include member of several Florida GCSA teams competing in the GCSAA Golf Championships and being on at least one national title team; past winner of the Crowfoot Open; participating in the Gate Senior Tournament in Jacksonville in 1997.

We salute Ron Hill, CGCS for his commitment to education, golf and in promoting the golf industry through his leadership. Congratulations Ron!

*Glen Klauk
Secretary*

North Florida GCSA

FGCSA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Ondo Defends Title in 3-Way Playoff at Southern Dunes



Joe Ondo, CGCS also defending his individual title at the FGCSA Golf Championship by winning a three-way playoff. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Steve Bernard, Joe Pantaleo and Joe Ondo all posted scores of 75 on the windswept Southern Dunes golf course in Haines City as the 6th Annual FGCSA Golf Championship narrowly averted a



The Palm Beach Chapter defended its FGCSA Team Championship at Southern Dunes GC. From left, front row: Steve Bernard and Mark Henderson. Back row: Terry Kennelly, Tyler Warner and Jeff Klontz. Photo by Joel Jackson.

rainout on Sept. 29.

In a sudden-death playoff under threatening skies and falling temperatures, Bernard, from the Adios GC, said "adios" on the first hole of the playoff when he failed to get up and down from just short of the green.

Pantaleo made a routine four and Ondo scrambled from behind the green to save par and force extra holes. The two matched routine pars on the second and third holes. On fourth hole, a par-five into the wind, both players were over the green in three and had long putts after chipping up. Pantaleo's putter, which had made some 30 footers earlier in the day, failed him in the clutch and he three-putted, allowing Ondo to two-putt for a bogey and a victory.

Ondo and the Palm Beach Chapter team both successfully defended their titles as low gross and team champions. The Palm Beach team consisted of Steve Bernard, Mark Henderson, Terry Kennelly, Jeff Klontz, and Tyler Warner. Palm Beach eked out a one-stroke victory over Central Florida.

Ondo's victory secured a spot on the FGCSA team to compete in the GCSAA Golf Championship in February at the World Golf Village in St. Augustine. Joining Ondo on Florida Team No. 1 will be Bob Roessing, the Poa Annu champion; Chris Cartin, winner of the Crowfoot Open and Mark Hopkins with the low average in two of the three qualifying events. Steve Bernard will be the first alternate in the event one of the qualifiers cannot participate. Other prize

winners were first and second low net finishers Chris Clark and John Lammrish.

Only five chapters managed to muster up teams who braved the ominous forecast of stormy weather over the state for the weekend. A stationary front managed to keep most of the rain south of central Florida and the 36 players struggled in the windy conditions and light sporadic drizzle to complete the tournament. Our thanks to superintendent Bayne Calliavet and the folks at Southern Dunes for their assistance and hospitality in hosting our annual championship for the sixth time.

Joel Jackson and
Joe Ondo

SOUTH FLORIDA GCSA

17th Annual Event Raises \$15,000 for Kids in Peril

For the last 16 years, the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association has sponsored a tournament to benefit the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children/Florida. To date, the tournaments had raised more than \$140,000 to support Florida programs. On Oct. 5, the donation increased to more than \$155,000 with the tremendous success of the 17th annual tournament held at Colony West Country Club in Tamarac.

Twenty years ago, the Center began its work out of tragic circumstances, the abduction and

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murder of Adam Walsh. Today the center is part of a national network of nonprofit centers helping thousands of children and their families every year.

"The SFGCSA is one of our charter supporters and partners," said Reve Walsh, co-founder and Board member of NCMEC. "The children in Florida have access to child safety information and programs, and their parents have access to an efficient and effective response team if their child is missing. This would not be possible without the continued loyal support of the SFGCSA"

Players in the tournament enjoyed a day of golf that culminated in an awards presentation. The SFGCSA was presented an award for 17 years of outstanding support from Mike Christiansen, a NCMEC Board member and trustee, and the chairman of the Florida Branch Advisory Board. Colony West Country Club was also presented an award for hosting the tournament for the past five years.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, a private, 501(c) 3 organization, was established in 1984 as a national resource

center on child protection and a clearinghouse for information on child victimization. Since its creation, NCMEC has assisted law enforcement on over 77,000 cases of missing children, and has played a role in the location and recovery of more than 60,000 children.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children/FL Branch is the central point for NCMEC child protection education and prevention. Through September NCMEC/FL received 523 missing-child cases and participated in the recovery and location of 308 children. The organization made 88 presentations to 2,073 children and 322 adults, and eight presentations to 205 law enforcement officers.

*Nancy A. McBride, Director of
Prevention Education
NCME/FL Branch*

**TREASURE COAST GCSA
2001 Blue Pearl
Funds Go to 911
Victims' Families**

The Treasure Coast Golf
Course Superintendents Association

held its annual Blue Pearl Charity Golf Tournament Oct. 1 at the Medalist Golf Club. Once again Nucrane Machinery was the presenting sponsor.

The Blue Pearl has always promoted the preservation of the environment in which we live. The Treasure Coast GCSA has accomplished this goal by supporting the Audubon Program for Schools with the proceeds from the Blue Pearl event.

However, in light of the tragedy which befell our country on Sept. 11, the proceeds in 2001 will be directed toward an entirely different group of children. After a unanimous vote, the board of directors of the TCGCSA decided to donate the proceeds to the "Families of the Victims Fund."

The Treasure Coast GCSA would like to thank all the participants, sponsors and contributors for their generosity in helping us to raise more than \$13,000 during this year's event.

*Barbara Tierney
John's Island Club*

**BLUE PEARL
TOURNAMENT
RESULTS**

GROSS DIVISION

- 1st Place (59): Ken Glover, Jon Mahannah, Paul Bondeson, Steve Ehrbar
- 2nd Place (62): Walt McMahon, Tyler Warner, Steve Bernard, Terry Kennelly
- 3rd Place (63): Roy MacDonald, Mark Henderson, Gary Fischer, Roy Kimberly

NET DIVISION

- 1st Place (56.7): Dale Mitchell, John Swaner, Phil Peterson, Mark Heater
 - 2nd Place (57): Jim Colo, Paul Leffler, Michael Gibson, Mike Maxwell
 - 3rd Place (57.8): Roger Welker, Randy Vaughan, Scott Bell, Craig Baker
- SKILL CONTESTS**
- Long Drive: Terry Kennelly
 - Closet to the Pin: No. 4 David Robinson, No. 8 Mike Monroe, No. 12 Tim Cann, No. 16 Jan Beljan (ace)

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FLORIDA WEST COAST GCSA
**38th Bud Quandt
 Research Benefit
 Event Draws 140**

The 38th Annual Bud Quandt Research and Benefit Tournament was held at the Pasadena Y&CC in St. Petersburg Oct. 22. The turnout was excellent with 140 players participating in a four-person scramble.

The day started with a huge buffet breakfast followed by guest speakers Tim Williams of Gatorland in Kissimmee; Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications and John Foy, director of the USGA's Green Section Florida Region.

Golf was up next followed by a bountiful buffet dinner. After dinner, chapter recognition awards, sponsor gifts, and tournament prizes were presented. The evening was capped by an exciting raffle drawing.

Everyone had a great time and the proceeds will be donated to environmental turf research, All Children's Hospital, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and student scholarships. A special thank-you to all of our loyal sponsors

and the players who helped make this fund raising event such an outstanding success.

*Whit Derrick, GCS
 Feather Sound GC
 Tournament Director*

**GCSAA Recognizes
 Florida
 Superintendents**

Certification: John W. Sibley, Jr. golf course superintendent at Tequesta Country Club has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent by the GCSAA. The on-site inspection of Sibley's golf course operation was conducted by two certified golf course superintendents: Steve Ehrbar, CGCS, Lost Tree Club; and Dan Jones, CGCS, of West Palm Beach, Fla.

Environmental Management Program: Gary Puckett, golf operations manager for Brevard County in Satellite Beach, earned specializations in Integrated Pest Management, and Storage, Disposal and Recycling. Michael J. Swinson, CGCS at the

**SCRAMBLE TOURNAMENT
 TEAM WINNERS**

GROSS DIVISION

- 1st Place (55): Hruby, Powell, Lyerly, DeSears
- 2nd Place (58): Martin, Knotts, Klinger, Wheaton
- 3rd Place (58): Johnson, Reash, Foss, Whiteleather
- 4th Place (60): Danworth, Ginter, Fletcher, Hoffman
- 5th Place (60): Weeks, Morgan, LaGree, Fruthchey

- Luper, MacEwen
- 3rd Place (53.7): Ayer, Rogers, Huellman, Bryant
- 4th Place (54.1): Andretta, Ley, Lampe, Gonsoles
- 5th Place (54.4): Brawley, Hazzard, Baldwin, Corwin

SKILL CONTESTS

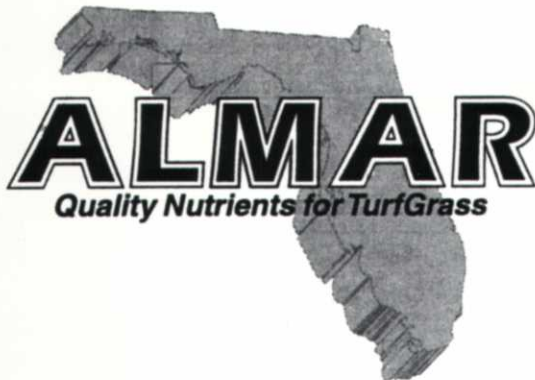
- Closest to the Pin: No. 2 Kevin Vereb, No. 8 Scott Corwin, No. 11 Rick Fletcher, No. 16 Derek Vaughan
- Longest Drive #12: Steve Johnson
- Straightest Drive #13: Mr. Newcamp
- Putting Contest: Bill Blaie and Bill Moore

NET DIVISION

- 1st Place (49.2): Cook, Cook, Harding, Futch
- 2nd Place (52.9): Delaney, Lewis,

World Woods GC in Brooksville, Fla earned specialization in Golf Course Development.
 Tournaments: Scott Welder, golf course superintendent at Disney

World's Magnolia and Palm courses was profiled on the GCSAA website as host of the PGA Tour's National Car Rental Classic tournament in October.



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