



FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson, right, accepts one of three GCSAA Distinguished Service Awards presented in Atlanta by President Mike Wallace, CGCS. Photo by Bruce Matthews.

### Distinguished Service

## GCSAA Honors Florida's Consummate Professional

Joel Jackson, CGCS was in a bind. Actually it was a triple bind.

He had just learned of his selection for a 2003 GCSAA Distinguished Service Award, but after a few moments of basking in the glow of the highest award his profession can bestow, the pit of his stomach began to get heavy.

The weight hung there and the award was presented Feb. 12 at the opening session of the International Golf Course Conference and Show in Atlanta. The DSA presentation followed the 2002 Wreath of Grass Award from the Florida Turfgrass Association by a few months.

"While I treasure the recent awards I have been given," said the FGCSA's director of communication of his season of heavy iron, "the biggest accomplishment or reward has to be perfect strangers coming up to me at meetings and conferences and telling me that they enjoy my columns and articles or that those writings helped them personally with a prob-

lem at work."

And then the pit of his stomach began to feel heavy again. His skin glistened like a New England pond in January and his heart, which has seen more bypasses than the city Los Angeles, began to pound.

Those who know him well can recognize his angst; they can probably visualize the gravity of his situation settling in: Joel Jackson is the editor of the *Florida Green* - the publication that should give the largest coverage to his accomplishment. - and therefore Joel Jackson was going to have to write something good about himself. Or, worse, he would have to ask somebody else to write something good about himself. Or even worse, he would have to abandon the journalistic principles he had absorbed in the past decade and ignore a very important news story.

Jackson, the consummate professional, trudged his way through weekly rounds of meetings, interviews, telephone calls, and deadlines in the course of his job, but the three-headed

## Personal Information

**Originally from:** Tampa

**Family:** Wife Susie (married June 1965), daughter Jennifer - creative director for Ensemble Productions, Los Angeles (past credits - film "Supernova," HBO Miniseries "Band of Brothers")

### Education

Plant High School, Tampa  
University of South Florida, Tampa; BA geology 1964 (charter freshman 1960)  
Southern Mill Creek Turf Boot Camp, Tampa, 1975

### Employment

U.S. Coast Guard officer, 1965-68  
University of South Florida, graduate teaching assistant, 1968-71  
Orange County Schools, eighth grade science teacher, 1971-73  
Golf course architect Bill Dietsch, Miami, field rep, 1972-74  
Lake Buena Vista Club, Walt Disney World, golf course crew, foreman, assistant superintendent, superintendent 1974-88  
Isleworth Country Club, Windermere, golf course superintendent 1988-91  
Osprey Ridge and Magnolia golf courses, Walt Disney World, golf

course superintendent 1991-97  
FGCSA director of communications, 1998-present

### Professional Affiliations

Central Florida GCSA - all offices (president 1985-86)  
Florida GCSA - all offices (president 1989); Distinguished Service Award 1992  
Florida Turfgrass Association - Publications, public relations, and conference committees; Wreath of Grass Award 2002  
GCSAA - Certified Golf Course Superintendent 1985 (Retired 2003); Nominating, conference and show, publications, and government relations committees; 2003 Distinguished Service Award  
USGA - Florida Region Greens Section committee  
International Network of Golf Agriculture Institute of Florida  
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**The Disney Years** - Got to meet and chat with Bob Hope, Joe Thiesman, Byant Gumbel, John Denver, Terry Bradshaw, Michael Jordan, Michael Eisner and lots of good hard-working people.

monster - the *Florida Green* deadline - loomed ever larger as it grew nearer.

As editor, he had led his publication to the GCSAA's top award 10 times in 11 years on the basis of high journalistic principles, which include thoroughness in reporting the news of his franchise. What was he going to do?

"I've decided to run the GCSAA news release along with the official photo of the presentation," Jackson said when his publisher asked how he was going to handle the situation. That would never do, said the publisher, who made other arrangements.

This is a brief profile of the man as seen by an outsider. The facts of his resume are known to most **Florida Green** readers and the highlights are listed here. But what kind of a man earns these kinds of honors? In the end, I come back to the phrase used earlier: he is the consummate professional.

It's not about technical skill and knowledge. It's about taking those things to the phrase we have all come to hate: the next level, which is the heart and attitude with which you apply those skills and knowledge.

"My standing goal always

was to be the best superintendent I could be," he said.

The same could be said about any task he has undertaken. Whether it's as a golf course superintendent, a teacher, a director of communication, a reporter, a naval officer or a day laborer - and Joel Jackson has been all of the above - he would strive to be the best he could be - the consummate professional.

I first met Joel in the fall of 1988 when part-time *Golfweek* columnist Mark Jarrell persuaded me to come talk to the FGCSA board about leaving my job as executive editor of *Golfweek* to become publisher of the *Florida Green*.

Jackson was vice president at the time, publications chairman and the object of Dan Jones's affection to be editor-in-waiting while Dan and his wife, Irene, wound down to retirement. But I don't remember Joel in those first meetings. He did nothing to call attention to himself - a trait, I have learned, that certainly helps define his character.

Of course he probably was absorbed in his job at the time. He had just taken on the responsibility of growing bentgrass greens year-around in Central Florida for none other than Arnold Palmer.

But that was only the beginning. In the next 18 months, while trying to keep a delicate cool-season grass alive in Florida's brutal summer sunshine, Jackson also

- became editor of the Florida Green;
- became president of the Florida GCSA;
- underwent double bypass surgery (his first of three or four cardiac procedures);
- was host to the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show's first-ever visit to Florida.

Oh yes. I think that was about the year that daughter Jennifer entered high school. If not, she was an eighth-grader, which is even worse!

Near the back of this issue is a column by Jim Walker about a mythical "S-Man," a superintendent who is expected to accomplish impossible tasks before breakfast. Those mythical tasks in Walker's cheek pale in comparison to the real-life challenges Jackson faced in 1989-90... and overcame.

But the man not only survived, he thrived even though the bentgrass path was far from smooth and

Jackson ended up returning to Disney in 1991. Still that job with Palmer was the scene of one the highlights of his career.

"Arnold Palmer was playing golf with the CEO of the Nestle Corp. and told me, 'This is the way I always wanted the course to be,'" was the first thing Jackson said in listing his personal memorable moments.

Other highlights included making three treks to Augusta National to learn the secrets of preparing for the Masters. "We watched the evolution of golf course maintenance on the most coveted course in the game," he said.

In 1992, Jackson was awarded the FGCSA's Distinguished Service Award. It was well earned and an honor that most would consider the pinnacle of a career. Joel Jackson was just getting started.

He began writing articles for other publications in addition to the *Florida Green*, and he began attending meetings with regulators, legislative hearings and other organizations in the golf and turfgrass industries. He began writing letters to newspapers, lawmakers, bureaucrats and

golf officials.

Soon Joel Jackson the information-seeker became Joel Jackson the sought-after spokesman for the golf-course-maintenance industry in Florida.

As the physical demands of the job and the stress of maintaining high-profile golf courses increased, another heart procedure convinced Jackson to "retire" so he could begin the career he had been preparing for his entire professional life: communicating the needs of the golf industry to its participants and the people who would regulate it.

He began work as the FGCSA's director of communications in 1998.

"I have always believed in communicating up and down the chain of command to keep everyone informed of what is expected and what is going on," he said. "Now my goals are aimed at taking the message of the golf industry to the legislators, regulators and general public."

Jackson now writes regularly not only for the *Florida*

*Green*, but also for the national publication *Golfdom*, and for his hometown golf publication, *Central Florida Golfer* - defending the industry, challenging its regulators and patiently explaining the complexity of managing vast environmental systems.

When he writes and speaks for internal audiences, however, he preaches professionalism. Listen to the advice he would give the future generation of golf course superintendents:

"If you are bound and determined to become a superintendent, then supplement your agronomic and technical education with business and communication courses, including writing. I guarantee you that dealing with people - owners, committees, general managers, golfers, and your own staff - will be your most difficult task.

"You will have numerous sources for turf-problem solving, including your peers, suppliers, and consultants, but your face-to-face interactions with the people who count at your club will require you to be a good communicator and leader.

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business at your club. It is not sufficient to just run your department. If you understand how everything is connected and the revenues and expenses are in focus, you can make yourself more valuable and even a candidate for general manager if that is in your career path.

Ask questions. Admit mistakes. Always seek ways to improve and don't be shy about writing reports and memos that highlight your learning experiences from peer visits, at monthly chapter meetings and GCSAA conference and show experiences.

"It shows you are on the ball working to improve yourself and the conditions at your club."

From the man who walked the walk before he talked about it.

Larry Kieffer

### Darren J. Davis Wins Second Leo Feser Award

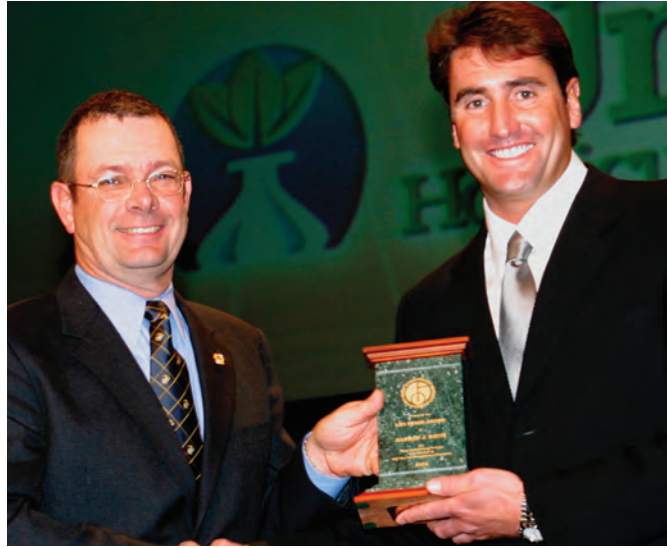
Darren J. Davis, director of golf course operations at Olde Florida

Golf Club, Naples, was presented with the 2002 Leo Feser Award Feb. 12 at the opening session of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 74th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Atlanta. It was marked the second time Davis has won this award.

The Feser Award honors the best superintendent-authored article published in the association's monthly magazine, *Golf Course Management*. The winner receives an all-expenses-paid trip to the conference and show and will have his name engraved on a plaque for display at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kan.

Davis was recognized for his two-part article, "An Olde Florida Course Made New," published in the January and February 2002 issues of GCM. The article discussed the increasing problem of off-type bermudagrass. Because playability was being compromised by the progression of the "off-types," Davis and his staff engineered an aggressive re-grassing project that has been well-received.

Davis is the only two-time winner of the Leo Feser Award. He previously received the award in 1997



Darren Davis, right, from the Olde Florida G.C. in Naples makes history as GCSAA President Mike Wallace presents him with his second GCSAA Leo Feser Award. Photo by Bruce Mathews.

for his article "Sowing the Seeds of Knowledge," published in the December 1996 issue of GCM.

"Darren Davis's article, 'An Olde Florida Course Made New,' is an excellent story that celebrates the

revitalization of the Olde Florida Golf Club," said Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, chairman of the GCSAA publications committee. "Darren is certainly a worthy recipient of GCSAA's Leo Feser Award."

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The award honors the late Leo Feser, a pioneer golf course superintendent and a charter member of GCSAA. Feser is credited with the keeping the association's official publication alive during the Great Depression. For three years, he wrote, edited, assembled and published each issue of the magazine from his home in Wayzata, Minn.

Davis is also a regular contributor to *The Florida Green*. His regular Hands-On feature called "Super Tips" conveys cost-effective and innovative ideas he has discovered on his visits to golf courses across the country and around the world.

Davis's articles may be accessed at <http://www.gcsaa.org/gcm/2002/jan02/01olde.html>  
<http://www.gcsaa.org/gcm/2002/feb02/02olde.html>

### CFGCSA Gives Presidents Award To Leventhal

The Central Florida GCSA rewarded Stuart Leventhal,



Stewart Leventhal, CGCS

CGCS at the Interlachen Country Club for his 20-plus years of participation and support in the central Florida golf industry by selecting him to receive a 2002 FGCSA President's Award for Lifetime Service.

Leventhal, originally from Natick, Mass. moved to Florida at age 5. His father was the general manager at the Wedgefield C.C. when Leventhal was in college and he worked part time on the course while pursuing a degree in criminal justice at the University of Central Florida in the late 1970s. Little did he realize that

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he would return to golf and make a successful career in the fields of green.

As the harsh realities of a criminal justice career set in, Leventhal decided to capitalize on his experience in golf and he began taking ornamental horticulture classes at Valencia Community College to provide him with the basics in agronomy. Armed with this knowledge he landed the superintendent's position at Orlando's city-owned Dubsread golf course, once a stop on the PGA Tour back in the 40s and 50s.

Leventhal says he came of age as a superintendent while at Dubsread. "Golf course architect Lloyd Clifton was a consultant for the city of Orlando when I was at Dubsread. He connected all the dots for me and tied all my practical experiences in the field and all my theoretical education in the classroom together."

After two years at Dubsread, Leventhal took over the reins at the Rolling Hills C. C. in Longwood and got a taste of private-club operations during his three-year stay. In 1985, he was tapped to take over the 10-year-old Interlachen C.C. in Winter Park. Eighteen years later, his lightning-fast greens are a legend in the area.

Leventhal has given back to his profession by serving lengthy terms on the advisory committee for the Mid-Florida Turf Conference and on the board of directors for the Central Florida GCSA. He was president of the chapter for 1991-93. Leventhal also has been a long-time member of the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open Committee, helping to make this one of the premier social/business events of each year. Leventhal, with the generous participation of the Interlachen C.C., has hosted the annual CFGCSA - FTGA Turf Research Fund Raiser, which brings superintendents and club officials together for education and golf each January.

Leventhal is a member of the Central Florida GCSA, the Florida GCSA, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Florida Turfgrass Association.

Congratulations and thanks to Stuart Leventhal, CGCS for his steadfast support of the profession and the golf course industry.

Joel Jackson

## Chapter Round Up Cantwell Event Nets \$50,000

### Calusa

In conjunction with the Everglades GCSA we want to thank everyone who sponsored and participated in the Mike Cantwell Memorial Tournament on January 17th. (See sidebar) We were able to raise \$50,000 for the Cantwell children's educational trust fund.

### Central Florida

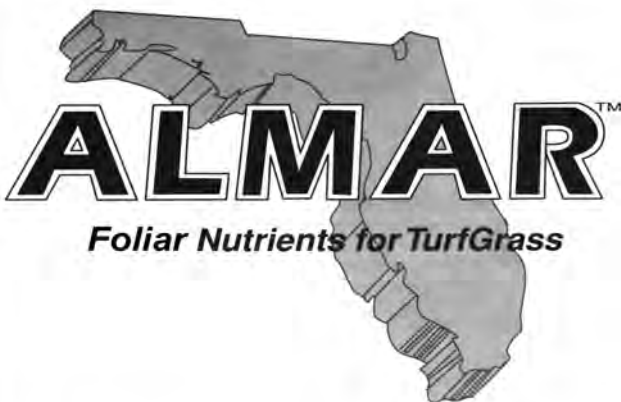
Walt Disney World's Bob Karnes, superintendent of the Bonnet Creek Club was recognized in the February 2003 issue of *Florida Golf Central* magazine for his environmental steward work in getting the Disney courses certified in the ACSP program. Bob was presented with a unique birdhouse by Fort Loudon Designs of Louisville, Tenn.. We are also proud of our hometown boy Joel

Jackson, who was awarded one of the three 2003 GCSAA Distinguished Service Awards at the 74th International Golf Course Conference & Show in Atlanta. The recognition of Joel's long service to the industry was richly deserved.

At our annual Superintendent/Vendor event at the Deltona Hills C.C. in February, we were blown away by the motivational presentation by Jim Cassis. Cassis spent 12 years with the Chicago Bears organization and his speaker's client list reads like a Fortune 500 directory. He was awesome. We're recommending him as a General Session speaker for GCSAA.

### Everglades

We'd like to add our congratulations to our External Vice President Darren Davis for receiving his second Leo Feser Award at the GCSAA Conference in Atlanta. Davis is a proven communicator with his work with EPIC Productions' training videos and his Super Tips articles in the *Florida Green*. We would also like to recognize Scott Whorrall and the Bonita Bay Group



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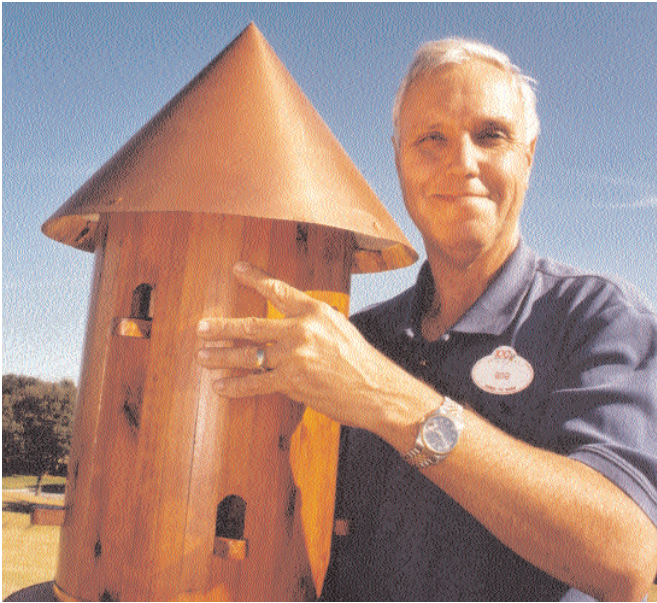
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Florida Golf Central Magazine recognizes Disney Superintendent Bob Karnes for his environmental leadership with new birdhouse for his course. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Scott Whorral (left) from The Club at Mediterra in North Naples accepts the Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for the top National Private Club from GCSAA President Mike Wallace, CGCS. Photo by Joel Jackson.

for being the top-ranked National Private Club in the Environmental Leaders in Golf Award given by GCSAA and *Golf Digest* magazine.

We received a nice thank-you letter from the Children's Home Society for our donations of cash and toys. They informed us that we helped to

feed two families Christmas dinner and the toys valued at \$2,500 made for a Merry Christmas morning for a lot of kids. We are hoping for a big

turnout at our EGCSA Spring Symposium to be held April 25. We have lined up speakers like Dr. Fred Yelverton, Dr. Frank Rossi, Dr. Joe

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The Ridge Invitational Committee, from left: Tom Barnett, Jeff Brown, Clay Marshall, Steve Ciardullo, Chris Clarke, Roy Wilshire and Mark Hopkins. Photo by Joel Jackson

Dipoala, Frank Thomas/ EPA Water Shed Coordinator, and Lake City's John Piersol for a full day of education.

**North Florida**

We had a great turnout at the Duval County Extension Office for the FTGA Regional Seminar in January. At our March meeting we will have a presentation by Carolyn Silvers from the St. Johns River Water Management

District on water issues as we seek to stay current and informed on our number-one resource. We are also busy signing up volunteers to act as TV spotters for NBC Sports for the TPC Championship in late March. On April 7 the Jacksonville G&CC will host the Mike Richards Memorial Tournament. This event raises funds for scholarships for turf students in the memory of two north Florida golf industry leaders - Mike Richards and Alan Maccurach.

**Palm Beach**

The Palm Beach-heavy FGCSA Golf Team No. 1 came in second at the GCSAA Golf Championship in February at Hilton Head, S.C. Congratulations to Mark Henderson, Steve Bernard and Tyler Warner for their fine play. Speaking of golf, the PGA Tour's Honda Classic moves to Palm Beach's Mirasol Club the second week in March and our chapter will once again be working as TV spotters and scorers for NBC Sports. It's a fun way to raise funds and to see the tournament from inside the ropes. We have two other big events coming up in April and June: the Chip Fowkes Memorial at Bocaire G.C. will raise funds for Chip's daughter's college education and the Future of Golf at The Falls C.C. will benefit turf research and junior golf programs.

John Foy, director of the USGA Florida Region Green Section wrote an article on the tough winter weather's effects on area golf courses that was printed in the Palm Beach Post's sports section. Thanks John. The golfers don't always believe us. They have to hear it from an outside

expert! We bid a sad but fond farewell to our President Tyler Warner. Tyler had to turn his gavel over to Pete Powell as he stepped down from his superintendent's job at Addison Reserve to take a position with Golf Ventures.

**Ridge**

FGCSA Director of Communications Joel Jackson had to turn his 10-minute government relations update into a full presentation when our speaker failed to show up at our January meeting at the Lake Region Yacht & Country Club. With questions and input from the audience the session turned into a good discussion of the regulatory and public relations issues facing our industry.

March 3 marked an even dozen Ridge Invitational tournaments that Roy Wilshire, CGCS and the Grasslands C.C. will have hosted. Thanks Roy for helping us raise needed funding for turf research and the local charities we support. This year's champion was Brian Montillaro from The Hamptons C.C. in Auburndale. Brian, a 4 handicapper, had a hot putter as he fired an even-par 72 to win the event.

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**Seven Rivers**

Our leading turf research fundraiser gets a new name and a new Championship Sponsor April 21. In memory of our friend and mentor, Jeff Hayden, the 11-year-old event becomes The Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic, and Golf Ventures, Inc. becomes the Championship Sponsor. We can't say enough thank-you's to Barbaron, Inc. and the Kitchen family for their leadership and generous financial support, which set a new benchmark for corporate funding for turf research in Florida.

At our February chapter meeting, Perry Haley from Harrell's talked about soil aerification and in March at Haile Plantation in Gainesville we will have a health-care expert give us a presentation on wellness management.

**South Florida**

We'd like to congratulate Joe Pantaleo, Indian Creek C.C. and our external vice president and the new FGCSA secretary-treasurer on his great victory as the 2003 GCSAA Golf Championship winner. Joe shot a final-round 74 on the always-tough Harbour Town course to take home



*Brian Montillaro wins the 2003 Ridge Invitational. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

the USGA Traveling Trophy. We have golf on our minds as the PGA Tour rolls into town the first week of March at the (Ford) Doral Open and begins its Florida swing. At our January meeting at Key Biscayne, we were treated to a presentation by Champions Tour (Senior PGA) player Christy O'Connor on life on the Tour and course set-up for a PGA event. O'Connor has won 12 European Senior Tournaments, two British Senior Opens, and two US Senior



*FGCSA Secretary/ Treasurer Joe Pantaleo from the Indian Creek C.C. in Miami is all smiles as he accepts the USGA Traveling Trophy from USGA's Danny Yates for winning the 2003 GCSAA Golf Championship. Photo by Bruce Mathews.*



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## Cantwell Trust Fund Raiser a Big Success

On Nov. 11, members of the Everglades and Calusa Golf Course Superintendents Associations unexpectedly lost a longtime friend and colleague, Mike Cantwell.

To pay our respects to Mike and lend support to his wife Gwen and three children - Jessup 17, Alex 8, and Tracy 7 - the two chapters co-hosted a benefit golf tournament on Jan. 17 at Miromar Lakes Golf and Beach Club and the golf course at Grandezza.

Both golf courses and the local vendors, colleagues and other friends of Mike's rose to the occasion to make the event a huge success. In addition to having a sellout crowd of 250 golfers for the scramble event, paying \$100 a person, vendors were very generous in their support. Hole sponsorships were sold for \$200 each, and a variety of terrific silent auction items and raffle prizes were donated. Items ranged from rounds of golf at a number of the area clubs, golf equipment, vacations and even autographed sports memorabilia.

Both for enjoyment of those who participated and as a fund-raiser, the event was a huge success. The hole sponsorships raised \$12,400; the raffle generated \$4,660 and the silent auction added another \$7,080 to the total. In all, the event raised \$50,000, which was deposited into a trust fund that was established for the future needs of Mike's children.

events. We also got to break in Key Biscayne's brand new TiffEagle greens.

### Suncoast

We held a joint Suncoast GCSA and Equipment Technicians Association meeting Jan. 27 at Jim Svabek's Bradenton C.C.. This superintendent/supplier event was conceived to show our appreciation for all the suppliers who faithfully support our events and programs throughout the year. Suppliers are invited to set up displays on the driving range and bring up to three pieces for demonstrations. Lunch included the now-infamous "Belly Busters" hot dogs and, after golf, we headed down to the maintenance facility

The Grandezza winning team was the twosome of Steve Simpson and Tim Denton and the foursome that took top honors at Miromar were Charlie McMullen, Lee Crosby, Kenyon Kyle and Rob Buege. Each winner was presented a plaque that was donated by the Trophy Case of Fort Myers.

It would be impossible to mention all of those who made the event a success but a special thanks is owed to the management and staff of both golf courses who were gracious enough to donate their facilities, and to Wiley McCall of Emerald Island turf who once again donated his time and money to prepare his famous barbecue dinner for all in attendance. The boards of both associations worked diligently on the event but a special debt of gratitude is owed to Jim Leiseberg, president of the Everglades GCSA and to Samantha Kriesch, executive secretary of the Calusa GCSA, who worked so hard to make the event a huge success.

Contact information for those friends of Mike who may not have been able to contribute previously: The name of the trust fund is Michael J. Cantwell Memorial Trust Fund. The bank is Union Bank & Trust Co., 121 South 13th, Lincoln, NE 68505

The trustee for the fund is Kathy Lahman, 402-476-8681. The branch manager for the bank is Joan Zieger, 402-0323-1670.

*Darren Davis*

for Andy, Mel and Bob's Famous Barbeque, which made the day complete and kicked off our 2003 season in fine form.

We will be hosting our annual Suncoast Scramble at Misty Creek C.C. on March 18. This superintendent/golf pro/club official/supplier team event is the epitome of cooperation across all areas of the golf business. Our President John VanVranken is now hanging his GCS shingle at the Stoney Brook at Heritage Harbor G.C. in Bradenton.

### Treasure Coast

Kevin Downing organized a "Trends in the Club Industry" meeting in February with guest speakers from the Club Managers Association,

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The newly enacted FGCSA Benevolent Fund got a great start with over \$3,000 in donations at the FGCSA Reception in Atlanta. Photo by Joel Jackson.

USGA, and National Golf Foundation, and McGladrey Pullen, a CPA firm. It was an informative session for key decision-makers at golf clubs. The TCGCSA board also voted to donate funds to support the South Fork High School turf program and to donate \$5,000 to the Florida Turfgrass Research Foundation. The board also approved a \$5,000 donation to the Challenger School for disabled children to help with the cost of

landscaping their new playground and pavilion. TCGCSA member Kevin Downing will consult on the design and plant material for this project.

**West Coast**

We had positive feedback from our first Chapter Vendor Day meeting at the USF golf course hosted by superintendent Mike Wilcox in December. We are looking forward

making this an annual event. Our education committee has made a commitment to providing education with pesticide and GCSAA CEUs/points to satisfy pesticide-license renewal and PDI/CGCS requirements. With that in mind, Dr. Lawrence Datnoff, plant pathologist with UF/IFAS spoke about pythium blight on overseeded turf at our January meeting at Crescent Oaks

GC. At our February meeting at Gerald Marquart's Largo G.C., Syngenta's Kevin Wasalewski and Steve Kammerer made a presentation on turf and ornamental diseases with the emphasis on ornamentals. Both presentations earned pesticide CEUs. The meeting at Largo is an annual tradition as Gerald always puts on a fun two-man scramble event at his nine-hole executive course. In March, at Jim Sharpe's Summerfield G.C., the International Sports Turf Research Institute will make a presentation on the properties and physics of soil including aeration and drainage issues.

**Florida GCSA**

The association is very proud of the fact that four FGCSA members won four top national awards at the 2003 GCSAA Conference. They have been mentioned in the various chapter sections above. President David Court, CGCS will be leading a delegation to Tallahassee to meet with key legislators as part of our commitment to reaching out and establishing relationships with lawmakers, media and the general public. Mike Goldie will be arranging appointments with Senate and House leaders to discuss issues facing the golf industry. In a move to encourage new members, the board approved prorating FGCSA dues for the rest of the fiscal year. The FGCSA Reception in Atlanta lived up to its reputation for good food and good fellowship. Marie Roberts estimates that nearly 600 people attended the event. The reception was also the debut of the FGCSA Benevolent Fund which took in more than \$3,000 in donations. The fund was made part of the FGCSA budget in response to the overwhelming need to support members' families in the wake of the unprecedented number of deaths of FGCSA members last year.

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