

Everglades GCSA Recognizes Tim Hiers's Commitment With Presidents Award for

Lifetime Service

By Darren J. Davis

William T. "Tim" Hiers was one of the recipients of the 2002 Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association Presidents Award for Lifetime Service. Tim, a member of the Everglades GCSA, is the golf course manager at The Old Collier Golf Club in Naples, which opened in September of 2001. Prior to attaining his current position Tim was employed at Colliers Reserve, also in Naples. In line with Tim's prior achievements, it is no surprise that Old Collier was the first designated Audubon International Gold Signature Cooperative Sanctuary. The project is also one of the first new construction projects in the continental United States to use paspalum varieties on the entire golf course.

Tim's commitment to the industry began early in his career. He was the inaugural president of the FGCSA and served in that capacity from 1978 to 1980. This is one reason that receiving the 2002 FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service was special for him. The list of accomplishments and accolades that Tim has compiled is much too long to list here, but some of the highlights include receiving the FGCSA Distinguished Service Award in 1986 as well as the coveted Wreath of Grass Award presented by the Florida Turf Grass Association in 1998.

Nationally, Tim has been recognized by many associations. In 1994 Tim was the recipient of the first John James Audubon Environmental Steward Award, and in 1995 the GCSAA presented Tim with the President's Award for Environmental Stewardship. 1995 was also the year he received the GCSAA

National Environmental Leaders in Golf Award in the private course division.

However the accolades are not what drive Tim. While extremely grateful for each, he is the first to downplay them. Anyone acquainted with Tim is aware that he is extremely humble. Along those lines, Tim has said on numerous occasions that he does not know how anyone that has been in our business for any length of time could possibly have a big ego. He added, "If I had \$5 for every time I felt my job was on the line, or someone wanted me fired, I would be a very wealthy man."

It would be an understatement to say that Tim is passionate about our profession. Those acquainted with him know firsthand that he is intensely committed to improving the image of every golf course superintendent and the industry as a whole.

To Tim, being a golf course superintendent is much more than just a job. Interestingly, golf course management was not the career path that Tim pursued in his youth. Tim's dream was to be a professional golfer. Tim confesses to enrolling in school more to have extra time to practice golf and work on making the PGA Tour. Although he feels he gave the golf pro dream 110-percent effort, in the end he was just not good enough. While he may not have been good enough to compete against Jack Nicklaus or Arnold Palmer, Tim does feel strongly that playing golf well has helped open many doors for him and he also feels it helps give a golf course superintendent instant credibility.

Surprisingly Hiers doesn't necessarily see himself as successful; instead he feels he has been extremely lucky. He points



In 1998, FTGA President David Barnes (left) presented the Wreath of Grass Award to Tim Hiers at the Annual FTGA Turf Conference. Tim's friend and former assistant Matt Taylor looks on. Photo by Joel Jackson.

to the guidance, support and patience others have shown him. He credits people such as Joe Lee, Lloyd Clifton, Bill Cahill, Dan Jones, Ron Hill, Danny Aylwin, John Piersol, Marvin Harvey, Marsh Benson, and Fred Klauk. While wanting to give credit to those who have had a positive impact on his life, Tim is quick to point out that these individuals are only a fraction of those that have had an effect on his success.

One reason for giving credit to these individuals is to reiterate to less experienced superintendents how important it is to treat each and every employee with respect and patience, as you never know the lifelong impact you might be having on an individual. Tim gives particular credit to two of his former employers, Danny Aylwin and Ron Hill who instilled in him the value of making certain you have your priorities in check and to always have patience in others.

In turn, Tim has made an impact on many aspiring golf course superintendents. One such person is Matt Taylor. Matt is currently the superintendent at Royal Poinciana Golf Club in Naples. When asked about Tim, Matt replied, "Tim has been a terrific role model not only for me but our industry as a whole. His influence on me began even prior to meeting him." Matt went on to say, "When I was a student, Tim was one of those larger-than-life people who spoke to our graduating class and I feel blessed to have been under his tutelage while serving as his assistant at Colliers Reserve."

So what does Tim feel are the main factors that make a golf course superintendent successful? According to Tim it is desire, persistence and attitude. He stresses that so much of the job comes down to attitude and how you treat people. He also sees having a sense of humor as a positive thing. While work is not necessar-

ily fun, Tim feels there is no rule that says it can't be!

A newcomer in our profession might make the assumption that someone with as much experience as Tim would have all the answers. While Tim's experience and vast worldly knowledge do make him an extremely valuable asset, Tim is the first to confess that he does not have all the answers.

Tim makes no bones about it that he is never afraid to ask questions. Tim stresses that one of the keys to success in our profession is the ability and willingness to ask questions. In fact, it is common practice for Tim to invite his peers to his golf course and ask them to critique his operation. He urges them to tell him what he *needs* to hear, not necessarily what they think he wants to hear. Tim says he has also learned over the years that one way for him to grow as a person, is to surround himself with people smarter than he.

Having been in the profession as long as he has, Hiers is

well aware that everything is not always peaches and cream. A golf course superintendent is going to have many hardships throughout his career. These hardships, and how one handles them, are what Tim feels help mold a person and often determine the longevity of their career. Tim added, "I have learned most under adversity. In fact, I could write a book on the mistakes I have made!"

Having a good attitude and controlling one's emotions are character traits that Tim credits to his long-time friend, the late Joe Lee, for helping to instill in him. When Tim was employed at a very high-power, high-play club on the east coast, he found he was allowing the pressures of the job and the demands of the membership to increase his irritability. During a visit from Joe Lee, Joe told Tim, "Never let others control your emotions." To this day, Tim says this statement gave him a sense of calm and he has tried to pass on the advice to others.

Tim makes it very clear

that he is in this business after all of these years due to the people, not the turf. He often gives the example of how a fellow golf course superintendent can be your fiercest competitor but that same individual is willing to talk on the phone, visit your golf course, and help you in any way he or she can.

Tim is certainly one of those people who are hard to forget. Those having had the opportunity to hear one of his many presentations or spend time with him, know that he often likes to get his point across using analogies. Bill Davidson, also a former assistant of Tim's explained, "Tim is a master at relating things in the business to a subject totally non-golf-course related. The analogies always make perfect sense, but sometimes you think, 'How in the world did he come up with that?!'"

Bill added his own analogy of Tim. "I would liken Tim's contribution to the industry and his many disciples, including myself, to that of a rudder on a

large ship. Proportionally the rudder (Tim) is a very small part of the ship, yet this extremely small item has the ability to direct the movement and course of a much bigger object. That to me is what Tim has done with his innovative ideas and strong leadership. Although he is only one person, he has had an impact on so many other people in our profession."

Bill confessed that the analogy of the "rudder and the ship" is one that Tim has used to explain other issues to him on multiple occasions.

When questioned, Tim feels the best advice that he could give one of his peers is, "Always treat people well but, even more important, clean up your facility. A clean, organized facility will give outsiders the impression that you really do care!" Tim feels strongly that cleanliness and organization in your facility have more to do with commitment than the size of one's budget. "Commitment" is a word that describes Tim extremely accurately.



Your Sand Man

- Trap Sand
- Top Dressing Sand
- Greens Mix
- Green Divot Sand

All Sands meet U.S.G.A. Specs

E. R. JAHNA INDUSTRIES, Inc.

Lake Wales, FL 33859-0840 • (863) 676-9431

Chapter Round Up Fundraisers, Golf, Seminars Fill Season

Calusa

Samantha Kreisch, association manager reports that superintendent Stewart Bennet from the Alden Pines GC joined host Tim Daniel in a presentation on experiences with paspalum on golf courses at the chapter's April 2003 meeting held at the Crown Colony Golf Club. (See *Tim Daniel's article on Sea Dwarf* on page 52). In May, Samantha represented the chapter at the FGCSA spring board meeting and presented the FGCSA research account with a check for \$2,500. The Calusa GCSA annual meeting and election of officers was in June at the Gateway G.C. hosted by Lane Price. At the annual meeting the chapter presented a \$500 check to Dr. Lee Berndt for the Edison Community College golf operations program.

Central Florida

Tommy Witt, CGCS from GCSAA was the guest speaker at the May meeting at the Orange National Golf Club. Witt's topic was the timetable and requirements of the Professional Development Initiative (PDI)

which will require Class A superintendents to earn education and service points to maintain their "A" status after July 1.

The Central Florida Team of Jimmy Lawrence, Hal Richburg, Mike Gwaltney, and Jerry Yeomans won the Harrell's Cup at the 10th Annual Harrell's Turf Academy at the Westin Innisbrook Resort June 4. This was the first win in the event for our chapter. Our chapter golf championship will be hosted by Hal Richburg at the Victoria Hills G.C. in Deland. The Annual Meeting and Memorial Tournament will be in July at the Lake Nona Club. Brett Harris, superintendent and chapter secretary/treasurer and Web site manager will be our host. The annual Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open will be July 25-27 at Grand Cypress.

Everglades

The 2003 Poa Annuu Classic May 9-11 is history and was a great success. Thanks to Dick Naccarato, host superintendent and The Naples Beach Club Hotel for their outstanding hospitality and service. The Everglades chapter won the team event and South Florida's Seth Strickland took the individual championship by shooting a 3-under 69.

On the business side of things, former GCSAA President Tommy Witt was on hand to present

a career development seminar entitled "Are You Prepared to Say Yes?" It was an informative discussion of all the things one needs to consider when considering a voluntary or even an involuntary job change. Some appealing parts of a new job may not balance out some negative aspects of the change. It needs to be a rational decision and not an emotional one.

The EGCSA made a donation in May to a fund-raiser for one of our members. Scott Ryan, superintendent at Naples Golf Club, has an infant daughter who had to undergo several surgeries and has required special care. His club held a tournament for daughter Sydney to help with some of the family's medical bills. The Everglades GCSA donated \$500, plus another \$500 in memory of Jack Harrell, Sr.

North Florida

Glenn Klauk writes that the North Florida Golf Course Superintendents Chapter held the 11th Annual Mike Richards Memorial Scholarship Tournament April 7 at the prestigious Jacksonville Golf and Country Club. The host golf course superintendent was Greg Tharp and more than 100 players participated in the event, making it a great success. The weather and course conditions were just perfect! Once again the NFGCSA was able to present \$6,000 in

three separate scholarships to turf students in the North Florida area. The three scholarship recipients:

- John Scott, a second-year student at Lake City Community College, received the \$3,000 Mike Richards Scholarship. John currently works with superintendent Andy Maguire at Marsh Creek Country Club in St. Augustine.

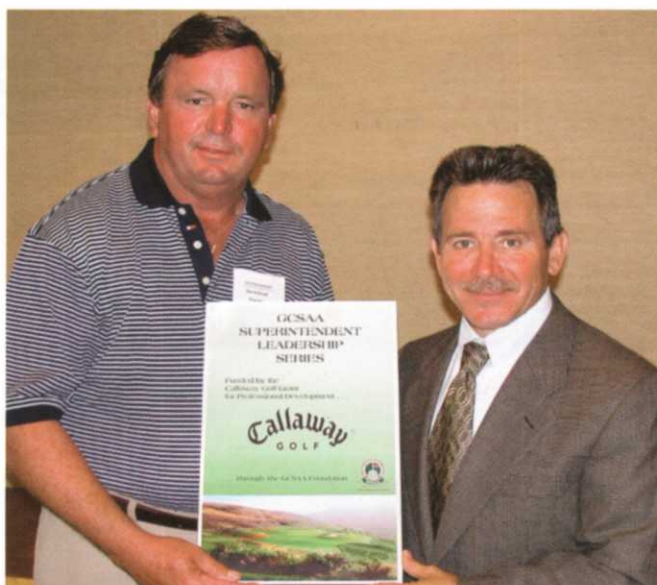
- Jack Newton, a second-year student at Lake City Community College, received one of the Alan MacCurrach scholarships, worth \$1,500. Jack currently is employed at Queens Harbour Country Club, superintendent Jason Wilson.

- Kevin Churchill, a first-year student at Lake City Community College, was the recipient of a second \$1,500 Alan MacCurrach scholarship. Kevin is currently employed at Timauquana Country Club, superintendent Chris Neff.

Kim and Jim Shine initiated the Mike Richards scholarship tournament in 1992 to honor Mike Richards and his dedication to the profession. Mike was the sales manager for Tresca Equipment. 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 with funds now



FGCSA President David Court, CGCS received a \$2,500 check for turf research presented by Calusa GCSA Association Manager Samantha Kriesch at the Spring board meeting in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA President David Court, CGCS welcomes former GCSAA President Tommy Witt, CGCS to Naples. Witt presented a GCSAA Leadership Seminar at the Poa Annuu Classic. Callaway Golf sponsors these seminars to support continuing education. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Seth Strickland shows off the first-place trophy he won by shooting a 69 in the Poa Annuu Classic. Photo by Joel Jackson.

More recently the family of Alan MacCurrach, former PGA Tour agronomist, has joined this memorial event and has been instrumental in promoting the scholarships in memory of Alan and his accomplishments in the golf industry. Alan MacCurrach passed away in 1997 and was the epitome of professionalism and dedication to the "Keeping of the Greens." The NFGCSA has created an annual "Keeper of the Green Award" in his memory.

This year the NFGCSA presented the Alan MacCurrach Keeper of the Green Award to a distinguished honorary member, Harold Jones, director of the Duval County Extension Service. Jones has supported the NFGCSA

totaling approximately \$34,000. The hope is for the Foundation to become self-sustaining to be able to provide continuing financial help to students.

Golf Results

Poa Annuu Classic

Low Gross - SUPERINTENDENTS: 1. Seth Strickland; 2. Mark Henderson; 3. Bob Harper; 4. Mark Hopkins; 5. Steve Bernard. **SUPPLIERS:** 1st Gary Wilhelm; 2nd Dick Bessire; 3rd Chris Miller.

Low Net - SUPERINTENDENTS: 1. Kelly Killpatrick; 2. Greg Lauffer; 3. Jim Vajen; 4. Chuck Rodgers; 5. Glenn Oberlander. **SUPPLIERS:** 1. Mike Rogers; 2. Tod Pflaumer; 3. Jim Glase.

Chapter Team Winner - Everglades Chapter: Rocky Ford, Kelly Killpatrick, Greg Lauffer, and Jim Vajen.

G.C. Horn Endowment Tournament

Overall Winners: Mark Hopkins and Chuck Rogers

Front 9 Scramble: Mark Atwood and Mitch Miller

Back 9 Alternate Shot: Wayne and Kyle Kappauf

Mike Richards Memorial

Low Gross Team: 1. Beverly Davis & Michelle Dufresne; 2. Bill Griffith & Hal Richburg

Low Net Team: 1. Sean Galen & Shawn Sheridan; 2. Paul Salmon & Mike Wilson.

Closest to the Pins: No. 3 Ron Hill, No. 6 Jay McCord, No. 12 Roger Spiwak and No. 17 Hal Richburg

Future of Golf

Five teams tied with scores of 58 (14 under par): The final order was determined by a match of cards:

1. Brook Maxwell, Matt Tacilauskas, Mark Reid, Tom Dodgen
2. Larry Hoskin, Steve Bernard, Tyler Warner, Terry Kennelly
3. Bill Rayside, Steve Pearson, Eric Glasband, Talbott Denny
4. George Kervem, John Spiwak, Matt Turner, Roger Fink
5. Dave Oliver, Eric Burk, Mike Hensen, Gary Callahan
6. Mark Henderson, Karl Schmidt, Jeff Klontz, Pete Brooks

Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic

Pine Barrens: Low Gross: Steve Bernard, Terry Kennelly, Walt McMahon, and Tyler Warner. Low Net: Joel Brownsberger, Steve Hunter, Jerry Sartain, and Bob Schlick.

Rolling Oaks: Low Gross: Doug Bowen, Brian Mortillaro, Jim Roland and Bob Solms. Low Net: Mark Brazinski, John Guion, John Van Vranken and Kevin Wasilewski.

UGLY UGLY UGLY



There's no other way to describe **NEMATODE DAMAGE!**

Hendrix and Dail's new, patented product, **TURFCURE 376™**, controls turf-damaging nematodes with minimal turf damage and little or no chance of run-off or exposure to humans or wildlife. Our patented machine injects **TURFCURE 376™** into the soil beneath the thatch layer with minimal surface disruption.

In today's world of rising environmental concerns and falling inventories of effective compounds, this is a bright spot. We have a proven, labeled, ready-to-go product with a patented, turf friendly machine. *Our staff is ready to help.*



HENDRIX AND DAIL, INC.

7610 US Hwy 41 N., Palmetto, FL 34221
800-726-5215

www.hendrixanddail.com



Harold Jones, Duval County Extension Agent (center) received the Alan MacCurrach Lifetime Achievement Award from the North Florida GCSA at the annual Mike Richards Memorial event. Others pictured from left, David Court, CGCS; Joel Jackson, CGCS; Peggy Jones; Glenn Klauk; and Chris Neff. Photo by Greg Tharp.

over the years with invaluable technical advice and counsel. He has represented our industry with the news media, along with county and state government. With this award, we congratulate Harold for his contributions to the golf industry in North Florida.

Palm Beach

Steve Pearson reports that the 2003 Future of Golf Tournament at The Falls C.C.

went off without a weather hitch this year. There was a brief shower in the morning but it didn't do anything but soften up the greens. The course was fine. There were plenty of prizes and lots of fun.

Danny Miller had a hole-in-one at the 150-yard, No. 3 hole. We will never hear the end of it. He wasn't even in the tournament until Marty Griffin had to drop out because of bad hip. Danny filled his spot. Another



2003 Richards/MacCurrach scholarship winners from left, Kevin Churchill, Jack Newton and John Scott. Greg Tharp (right) was the tournament host and NFGCSA Scholarship Committee chairman. Photo by Joel Jackson.

competitor, John Spiwak, superintendent at Eastpointe GC, knocked it to within 1 inch at the 16th hole with a very difficult pin position. It only played at 135 yards because it was so difficult but it didn't make any difference.

A great buffet followed the tournament as usual. Chipco/Bayer's Brian Maccurrach ran the fundraiser auction package for a bag of Chipco Choice, a case of Revolver, a case of Signature, a

case of Finale and a case of DeltaGard. Host Steve Pearson made the winning bid.

Ridge

Politicians are making news in the Ridge Chapter. Congressman Adam Putnam was the guest speaker at our April meeting at the Mountain Lake GC in Lake Wales. Putnam, the youngest Congressman ever sworn in at the age of 26, gave a legislative update

South Florida Grassing, Inc

Over 35 Years in the Grassing Industry

TifSport

SeaIsle
Certified Seashore Paspalum

Sod, Sprigs and Rolls available

- We provide reworking and planting services for fairways, tees and greens
- Our grass is grown in Hobe Sound on gassed, sand-based soil
- Hydro-mulching, grassing and mulching also available

Tifway 419

TifEagle

Tifdwarf



Certified Producer

Southern Seed Certification Association

(772) 546-4191

www.southfloridagrassing.com

800-483-4279



The Palm Beach Chapter continues to earn scholarship and research funds by working as NBC Sports spotters at the Honda Classic, which was played this year at a new site, the Mirasol CC.

to the group and also recounted the day he spent with President Bush on Air Force One. That day was Sept. 11, 2001. It was an unbelievable insider's look of that infamous and historic day.

Recently a Polk County commissioner came out against

building more golf courses in the county, citing golf as a big water consumer. Chapter representatives along with architect Ron Garl, who is based in Lakeland, contacted the Lakeland Ledger and another commissioner to present the facts of the Florida golf industry

to provide the other side of the story. For a lighter look at the Ridge Chapter read the "Ridge Rules" column on page 64.

Seven Rivers

The recently renamed Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic

held April 21 at World Woods was another success for turf research. See our Thank-You ad in this issue for the names of folks who made it all possible. Our new Champion Sponsors - Golf Ventures, Helena and Jacobsen - combined for a \$25,000 donation to lead the way. A large bulletin board displayed dozens of photos showing the life and times of Jeff Hayden. It was a simple but poignant tribute to our friend. The four-man team scramble event helped raise \$48,000 for turf research.

Buddy Keene reports that the annual meeting is in July. The exact location is still TBA, but it might be at Black Diamond. Buddy will be the new president for the chapter and Rick Watts will more than likely be the new vice president.

Several of the Seven Rivers Courses are participating in a parasitic nematode study with the University of Florida for the control of mole crickets. Between 60-100 courses around the state are supposed to be involved in the study.

UHS brand fertilizers are designed to meet the demanding agronomic needs of any turf professional. These products are built to perform best according to the local needs of the geographies we serve.



good

better



Our UHS Signature Brand Fertilizer "blue line" is comprised of products with the things you'd expect, such as quality and consistency. What sets these fertilizers apart is unique technologies, added performance and unmatched value.

Our premium offering is found in the UHS Signature Brand Fertilizer "green line" bag. These products feature the best nutrient sources available and are manufactured with an uncompromising eye to consistency and performance.

The green bag guarantees ultimate nutritional benefits and turf quality for your fertilizer program.



best

Check with your local UHS rep for more details on our line of outstanding fertilizers
(800) 457-0415 • fax (813) 664-0371

United Horticultural Supply
 www.uhsonline.com



Two tournament volunteers check out the "Life and Times of Jeff Hayden" in a photo display at the Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic held at the World Woods GC. Photo by Joel Jackson.

South Florida

Kelly Cragin writes that in June the SFGCSA will have its annual golf outing at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo. The May meeting was held at the Miccosukee G. & C.C which use to be called Kendale Lakes. Dr. Phil Busey spoke to the association about MSMA and the present studies by different agencies and possible alternatives (such as Revolver) coming out in the near future. Also sharing the education was Dr. Bill Kevin who spoke about wildlife on golf courses including ideas to promote and enhance areas for new wildlife.

The April meeting was held at Hollybrook Golf & Tennis. The speaker was Bruce Adams from the South Florida Water Management District. Bruce gave an informative talk on water issues facing the district how they relate to golf courses

The Annual Turf Expo

and Field Day at IFAS in Ft. Lauderdale raised enough money to donate \$29,000 to the FGCSA for turf research. The check will be presented to the FGCSA at the Summer Board Meeting, July 25 in Orlando.

Suncoast

Sarasota County is in the midst of drafting an ordinance to provide guidelines for the siting, design, construction and maintenance of golf courses. Members of the chapter are sitting on the working group and providing real-world guidance and information for the process.

The first public hearing on the draft is slated for Sept. 10. Golf course owners somehow missed being included in the first stages of the process, but have now formed a coalition of about 30 courses and are bringing their concerns to the attention of county officials.



Golf Ventures, Helena Chemical and Jacobsen took over as Champion Sponsors of the renamed Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic and donated \$25,000 to the Seven Rivers GCSA event that raised \$48,000 for research. From left, Walt McMahon, Debbie Nipper, Don Delaney, David Cheesman and Tournament Chairman Glenn Oberlander. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Treasure Coast

The April meeting was held at the PGA Golf Club Learning Center in St. Lucie. This facility even has different styles of bunkers to teach golfers how to negotiate high and low lips and different bunker materials like sand, native soil and crushed gravel.

At our May meeting, David Besselink from GE Capital Leasing spoke about equipment leasing as an option for clubs. Our chapter's annual superintendent/pro event will be hosted by Bo Estey at his Quail Valley course. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled at outgoing President John Morsut's club, the North Palm Beach C.C.

West Coast

President Jim Sharpe says that his chapter raised nearly \$5,000 for its Benevolence Fund in May at Kirk Sower's

Wentworth GC in Tarpon Springs. Earlier at the April meeting hosted by Eric Joy at Heritage Isles GC, Dr. Monica Elliott of UF/IFAS gave a presentation on *Curvularia* and other current turf disease issues. Superintendent Victoria Richard will host the chapter's annual June meeting and election of officers at her River Hill C.C. in Valrico.

Florida GCSA

The FGCSA BMP Committee convened in Orlando June 27 to address Dr. Mike Thomas's rough draft of the document. Thomas, with the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, has assembled our previous input along with other sections from the Green Industry BMP Manual to give us a framework to attack and remodel to fit our needs.

Each committee member will provide comments and revisions to help shape the best management practices into a final format. The document will go through several versions before it will be suitable for publication. The initial goal is to get it into a draft format suitable for outside review.

Marie Roberts and Samantha Kriesch, association managers for the FGCSA and Calusa Chapter respectively, along with Kyle Sweet vice president of the Everglades GCSA and Joel Jackson, FGCSA director of communications attended the GCSAA Chapter Executives Conference in April (See related story in Industry News)



Congressman Adam Putnam (with tie) spoke about the economy and how he spent the day (Sept. 11, 2001) aboard Air Force One with President Bush at the April Ridge GCSA meeting. Others pictured from left: Steve Ciardullo, Alan Puckett, Bobby Ellis, Mark Hopkins and Jeff Brown. Photo by Joel Jackson.