

rainy weather, the participants' spirits were bright. After monitoring storm activity, IGM and golf course officials moved the shootout time from mid-afternoon to mid-morning in order to take advantage of the first break in the weather. At 9:00 a.m., 13 participants took their one swing at \$1 million from 175 yards on the par-3 second hole of ChampionsGate's National Course. Unfortunately, no one was able to walk away with the prize. However, Fred Rowe from Heritage Greens in Naples did make a hole-in-one during the qualifying event to win his chance at \$1 million. He was awarded a vacation to Orlando to include:

- Two theme park tickets of choice
- Two nights' hotel accommodations
- A round of golf at ChampionsGate Resort
- A shot at the \$1 million prize

The check presentation was held in Champions Hall in the ChampionsGate clubhouse following the shootout. Scott A. Zakany CGCS, executive vice president of IGM, presented Teri Harris, director of development for the GCSAA Foundation, with the \$10,000 check. Prior to the shootout, Zakany surprised Harris with news that in the event one of the participants made the hole-in-



Scott Zakany, CGCS, IGM executive vice president, presents \$10,000 check to Teri Harris, GCSAA Foundation director of development

one, not only would the winner receive the \$1 Million, but the GCSAA Foundation would also receive an additional \$250,000 donation.

"We wanted to create an added bonus for The Foundation," said Zakany. "The whole idea behind the event was to raise money for the GCSAA Foundation. By taking out the extra insurance policy for the \$250,000, it let the participants be more involved in the cause behind the tournament."

The GCSAA Foundation enhances the game of golf through funding applied research and advanced education in golf course management. Since its inception in 1955, the GCSAA Foundation has provided more than \$2 million in support of numerous research studies and more than 1,200 student scholarships.

Plants of the Year for 2003

In a continuing effort to promote the production, sale and use of superior Florida-grown plants, the Florida Nurserymen & Growers Association has announced the 2003 selections of the Florida Plants of the Year. This program was launched to promote under-utilized, but proven Florida plant material. This effort has led to increased retail and wholesale demand since the program was launched with the 1998 selections.

These proven ornamentals are selected on an annual basis by a group of growers, horticulturists, retailers, landscape professionals and University of Florida faculty. For a plant to be considered a Plant of the Year, plants have good pest resistance, require reasonable care and be fairly easy to propagate and grow. The award-winning plants must also exhibit some superior quality, improved performance or unique characteristic that sets it apart from others in its class.

Here are the details on two; the others will be presented throughout the year.

Common Name: Beautyberry
Botanical Name: *Callicarpa Americana*

Hardiness: Zones 7-10

Mature Height and Spread: 4-7 feet tall and wide

Classification: Native deciduous shrub

Landscape Use: Accent or massed in partial or full shade

Characteristics: The small pinkish white flowers appear at leaf axils and are attractive to butterflies. Showier are the clusters of brilliant violet to magenta fruits that replace them and encircle the stems at 3-6-inch intervals. This deciduous native thrives in shade, but flowers and fruits abundantly in more sun. Stems with berries are good as a cut flower in arrangements.



Beautyberry.
Photo: Stephen Pategas-Hortus Oasis

Common Name: Evergreen Paspalum
Botanical Name: *Paspalum quadrifarium*

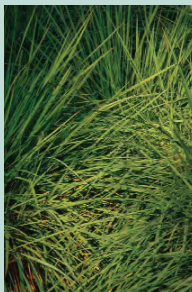
Hardiness: Zones 7-10

Mature Height and Spread: 3-4 feet tall and wide

Classification: Ornamental grass

Landscape Use: Accent, tall groundcover, masses

Characteristics: This attractive bunch grass maintains a dark green color all year and is moderately salt tolerant. Blades are broad when under irrigation and roll up when dry. If grown on the dry side foliage takes on a blue-green appearance. For best results in massing plant four feet apart.



Evergreen Paspalum.
Photo: Stephen Pategas-Hortus Oasis

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