

## Chapter Round Up Education, Golf, Fundraisers Top Winter Events

### Calusa

USGA Agronomist Todd Lowe was the speaker at our January meeting at the Coral Oaks GC hosted



FGCSA Past President David Court, CGCS, left, presented Mike Perham, CGCS with his FGCSA Presidents Award at the FGCSA Reception in San Diego. Photo by Joel Jackson.

by Joe Boe. Todd's topic was "Cultural Practices and Overseeding." We didn't have a meeting in February due to the GCSAA Conference. Art McCoy, CGS will host our March "Yellow Ball" golf outing at the Deep Creek G.C. in Port Charlotte.

### Central Florida

Guest speaker Tim Hiers' talk on the Future of Golf gave the 60-person audience at the Interlachen C.C. in Winter Park a take-home list of improvements that any club can make to

their facility to make it more economical and environmentally friendly. The occasion was the 16th Annual Central Florida/FTGA Turf Research Tournament. Host superintendent Stuart Leventhal, CGCS reported that not counting this event's proceeds, the tournament had contributed over \$60,000 to the FTGA. After a sumptuous buffet

lunch, the 30 two-man teams made up of a superintendent and either golf pro, general manager or other club official battled stormy skies and one rain shower and the always-testy tournament set up, but the round was completed.

The Winter Pines GC team of Joe Ondo, CGCS and head pro John Pohira took low gross honors in the First Flight with a 67. Last year's winners Pat Murphy and Tom Dirschel from Orlando's Northshore G.C. took the low net prize. The Second Flight prizes went to Barry Shuman and Tony



The Ridge Chapter has founded an annual \$1,000 turf student scholarship at Florida Southern College in the name of Jack Harrell, Sr. Chapter officers shown here, from left: Clay Marshall, Roy Wilshire, Jeff Brown, Alan Puckett and Mark Hopkins. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Host Superintendent Roy Wilshire, CGCS, left, congratulates Joe Ondo, CGCS for his low round of 77 at the Jack Harrell, Sr. Memorial Invitational. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Jack Harrell, Jr., left, receives an original pencil portrait of his father drawn by David Pursell. Tim Orton presented the picture on behalf of Pursell Industries. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Johnson (low gross) of the Timacuan C.C. in Longwood and host Stu Leventhal and his GM Tom Powell took low net. In the Third Flight Gene Stys and John Raycroft from the Indian River C.C. won low gross and John Kress and Mike Dunnington from the Alaqua C.C. took low net honors.

Bay Hill Superintendent John Anderson has the course ready for the Bay Hill Invitational PGA tour event. Meanwhile chapter members are eagerly awaiting the chance to "Hike the Hill" inside the tournament ropes as spotters for NBC Sports as the Florida swing of the PGA Tour continues.

### Everglades

The FTGA Southwest Florida Regional Seminar in conjunction with EGCSA had more than 200 golf course and landscape attendees at the January 22nd TECO Arena event. Congratulations to the following mem-

bers: Jason Brod, Raptor Bay Golf Club, Bonita Springs for being recognized as a Merit Winner by GCSAA for the 2004 Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards and Greg Maze, CGCS and Twin Eagles Golf & CC for once again hosting the ACE Group Classic Champions Tour Event in early February. Congratulations are also in order for Hal Akins, Bonita Bay Club and Tim Larson, Stonebridge G.C. for recently achieving Certified Golf Course Superintendent status.

The chapter is hosting a sunset cruise aboard the "Naples Princess" in March. Thanks to our generous event sponsors, all guests attend the event at no cost and enjoy a beautiful social atmosphere along the Naples waterways. Our Annual Spring Symposium is scheduled for April 8 at the Naples Beach & Golf Club in Naples. Guest speakers from around

the country will be presenting at the event as well as two of Southwest Florida's leading superintendents, Mark Black, CGCS, and Darren Davis.

#### North Florida

March will be busy for us as we hold our 12th Annual Mike Richards Memorial Tournament hosted by Greg Tharp at the Jacksonville G&CC. The proceeds from this event, also supported by the family of PGA Tour agronomist Alan McCurrach, helps to fund scholarships for turf students each year. A week after that event several of our chapter members will get to slip inside the ropes at the TPC Championship and work with NBC Sports as spotters for the TV broadcast. Superintendent Fred Klauk and his staff do an outstanding job of preparing the PGA Tour's home course for this "fifth major" each year.

#### Palm Beach

Mike Perham, CGCS was presented his Presidents Award for Lifetime Service during the FGCSA Reception in San Diego. Congratulations and thanks for your service to our associations. Bob Randquist, CGCS of the Boca Rio C.C. served as chairman of a "Current Issues in Golf" Forum at the GCSAA Conference in San Diego. As the PGA Tour moves north from Miami, Superintendent Tad Altman is getting his Mirasol Club ready for their second Honda Classic and the chapter is ready to pitch in once again as spotters for NBC Sports coverage of the event.

#### Ridge

Joe Ondo, CGCS won our Jack Harrell, Sr. Memorial Ridge Invitational at the Grasslands C.C. in Lakeland. Thanks to host superintendent Roy Wilshire, CGCS for a job well done. The course should have been called the Glasslands, since the greens putted like glass. During the awards dinner after the tournament, Tim Orton, representing David

Pursell of Pursell Technologies, presented Jack Harrell, Jr. with an original pencil sketch of his father Jack Harrell, Sr. in honor of all that "Senior" stood for as a family, community and industry leader. Our chapter also has founded a scholarship in Mr. Harrell's name for turf students attending Florida Southern College in Lakeland.

#### Seven Rivers

Congratulations to John Cunningham, CGCS, at Black Diamond Ranch and Barry Greenwalt, CGCS of One Source at The Villages. Both gentlemen just became certified recently. By the time you read this, we will have hosted another annual Jeff Hayden Envirotron Classic at the World Woods G.C. where we hope to have another successful event for raising funds for the University of Florida's turf research programs.

#### South Florida

Congratulations to Carlos McKeon, the host superintendent for the Royal Caribbean PGA Champions Tour event held in January at his Key Biscayne course. As Sam Urso, GCS at Doral prepares for the 2004 Ford Championship at Doral in March, our chapter has been asked to provide 18 spotters and scorers for four days of the NBC telecast of the PGA Tour's Doral Tournament. Superintendents Jim and Suzi Walker have volunteered to coordinate with the network production crew.

We are looking forward to joining with UF/IFAS to host the 17th Annual South Florida Turf Expo at the Ft. Lauderdale Research Center on March 18th. The event has been approved for .35 GCSAA education points and consists of research updates, equipment demonstrations and a mini trade show and turf education workshops. The funds raised at this event are used to support a technician to maintain the turf plots to actual golf course conditions to make the research more meaningful in the real world.



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**Suncoast**

Congratulations to recently certified Mark Johnson, CGCS at the TPC at Prestancia. Thanks to Gary Smither and the Misty Creek CC for hosting the 22nd Annual Suncoast Scramble. The purpose of this event is to inform, educate and promote a strong professional bond among the members of the golf industry in our area. The tournament format is a four-man scramble. Each team is made up of a superintendent, golf professional, club manager or official and a supplier.

**Treasure Coast**

Great golf by our chapter defeated "The Boys from Palm Beach" at our December joint-chapter meeting at Rob Kloska's Jupiter Island Club. Thanks for hosting this event for the third time in the past five years. We brought home the Cavanaugh & Wagner Trophy in the Ryder-Cup-format match. In January Dr. Bob

Carrow from UGA was our speaker on "Nutrient Uptake From Root Absorption." Chapter President Roy McDonald hosted the meeting at the Hobe Sound GC. We will have a golf outing in March and then gear up for another joint meeting with the Palm Beach GCSA on April 12th with our annual meeting of superintendents, pros and managers at the PGA Golf Club. And our big fundraiser, The Blue Pearl, will be held at Loblolly Pines May 24.

**West Coast**

Congratulations to Tom DeChant at Hunters Green CC for passing the requirements to become a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

**Florida GCSA**

Florida's golf team of Bob Harper, Seth Strickland, Steve Bernard, and Joe Pantaleo placed second at the GCSAA Golf Championship in San Diego. The

guys report that reading the breaks and putting on the greens at Maderas and Del Mar National was their undoing. Wait til next year!

Joel Jackson, CGCS

Retired was a presenter at a "Current Issues in Golf" session in San Diego titled "Proactive Approaches to Dealing with Drought." The panel presentation dealt not only with turf stresses but also how to work with regulators and legislators during water shortages and restrictions.

FGCSA-sponsored

research projects at the University of Florida by Dr. Billy Crow, nematologist and Dr. Lawrence Datnoff, plant pathologist received matching funds from the GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf. The announcement was made at the conference and show in San Diego.

Check out the Official Business section for a report on FGCSA's 2004 Capitol Hill visit with state legislators.


**2003 Presidents Award  
North Florida  
Honors Clayton  
Estes for Service**

*By Tom Cowan*

The recipient of the President's Award for 2003 from the North Florida GCSA is Clayton Estes, CGCS. Estes is a past president of the North Florida Chapter and is currently serving as external vice president rep-



*Clayton Estes, North Florida GCSA Presidents Award for 2003.*



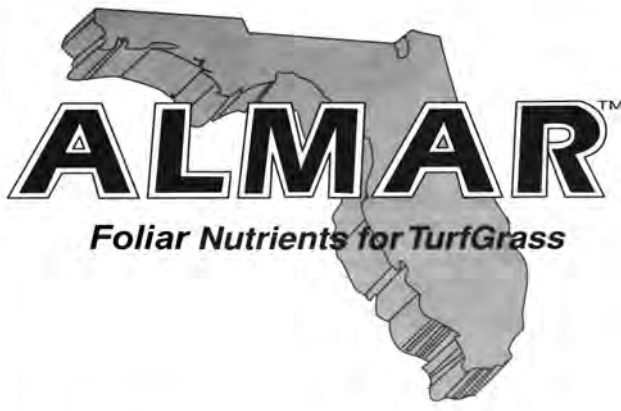
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representing the NFGCSA on the Florida GCSA board of directors. Over the years he has donated many volunteer hours on behalf his local chapter.

If you have ever had the pleasure of meeting Estes, you'll quickly be put at ease by his broad smile, slow-talking, easy-going demeanor. It is his genuine concern for others that has put him at the top of the list with many of his professional peers. He is a loyal and faithful friend to many.

As an employer, Estes takes the time to get to know each of his employees. He is very visible to his club members at San Jose Club, where he has served as superintendent for 24 years. He is an active church member, and currently an elder at the Lakewood Presbyterian Church.

Husband to Joanne and father to Jimmy, Clayton has always been a dedicated family man. Jimmy is a former member of the Army's 82nd Airborne and soon to be fire-

fighter/EMT in Tampa. He was scheduled to be married in March, as the Florida Green went to press.

You might say that the primary reason for his selection as the recipient of the President's Award is his strong sense of commitment to his community. Estes was instrumental in establishing the annual "Keeper of the Green Award" that honors a member of the North Florida turf community at the Mike Richards Memorial Tournament held each spring.

He was also one of the organizers of the annual past presidents' golf outing and dinner. He has hosted this event every year since its inception, and this past Christmas he also hosted the chapter's annual Christmas tournament, which was dedicated in honor of one of his veteran crew members Scott Strickland. Scott died tragically in an automobile accident and the chapter made the event a fundraiser for a college scholarship for Scott's son, Brian.

In an age when every eye is turned towards our nation's President and every spoken word and action is reported and analyzed - one's individual integrity is paramount to the day-to-day operation of our country. Because of his enduring commitment to the community which he serves every day, and the unselfish manner in which he does it, the members of the North Florida GCSA are proud to honor Clayton Estes for his devotion to family, friends, profession and community.

**2003 Presidents Award  
Suncoast Founder  
Jim Svabek Retires  
with Honors**

*By Renze Berg*

There is so much to say about Jim Svabek. After serving as the president of the West Coast

GCSA, he helped found the Suncoast Golf Course Superintendents Association in 1976. He is a past president and the only newsletter editor we have ever had. Svabek was the superintendent at the Bradenton C.C. from 1967 until his retirement in October. He has probably hosted more meetings and events such as our annual Superintendent/Vendor Day than any other Suncoast member.

Jim has been a great mentor for me over the past six years. He has taught me everything I know about being a superintendent. He has also been an inspiration to me in life and has been the type of superintendent I am hoping to become. I know Svabek will stay busy, because he can't sit still for too long. That's why he's working part-time for Bob Gwodz at the Sara Bay C.C. where he can continue to share his knowledge with others.

We are going to miss Jim



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On the occasion of his retirement, Jim Svabek (center) received a 2003 FGCSA Presidents Award for Lifetime Service from Suncoast Past President John VanVranken, left, and President Bob Gwodz at the annual Superintendent/Vendor Meeting held at the Bradenton Country Club

Svabek in our day-to-day routine, but we will see him from time to time since he lives across the street from our golf course. Jim, enjoy yourself and have a great retirement. This 2003 President's Award is just our way of saying thanks again for more than three decades of service to your local chapters and your profession.

**Richards/MacCurrach Students, First Tee, ACSP All Benefit from Memorial**

The North Florida Chapter held another successful Mike Richards/Alan MacCurrach Memorial Tournament at the Jacksonville Golf



From left, North Florida GCSA President Andy MacGuire with scholarship winners Roger Hale and Tim Lyons. Photo by Joel Jackson.

& Country Club in March. Host Superintendent Greg Tharp and staff had the greens rolling tournament speed and the blooming azaleas made for a Masters-like feeling.

This year Lake City students Roger Hale and Tim Lyons each picked up a \$2,000 scholarship to help with their education expenses. Roger is working at The Slammer and The

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Super volunteer Paul Hamrick, left, is presented with the 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award by Jay McCord. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Squire course in St. Augustine and will graduate this May. Tim works at Marsh Landing and is a second-year student.

The NFGCSA also donated funds to the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and to the First Tee Program of St. Johns County. First Tee

Coordinator Elliot Levercombe and one of the First Tee participants, Andrew Taylor, were on hand to receive the donation. Young Andrew gave a poignant thank you speech highlighting what the First Tee has meant to him and the others in the pro-



At the podium, 13-year-old Andrew Taylor tells the audience how important the First Tee program is in his life. Looking on: Andy MacGuire, NFGCSA president, left, and Elliot Levercombe, First Tee coordinator. Photo by Joel Jackson.

gram. He especially cited the mentoring and positive influence the program has had on his education and outlook on life.

Long-time NFGCSA member and super volunteer, Paul

Hamrick, was presented with the Alan MacCarrach Lifetime Achievement Award for his consistent and persistent service to the chapter, as he jumped in and helped to run so many of the association's events.

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*This was my view every day on the shuttle bus from my hotel on Shelter Island to the convention center. We saw every type of vessel in the bay: yachts, sailboats, tuna boats, freighters, cruise ships and aircraft carriers.*

# Apology From Sportscaster Brings Down the House



*The newly expanded convention center is to the left. The towering palms and bougainvillea bushes welcomed us to downtown San Diego across the street.*



*From left: IGM's Greg Plotner and Scott Zakany presented GCSAA CEO Steve Mona with a check for \$7,500 for the Environmental Institute for Golf. The money was the proceeds from the 2003 IGM Hole-in-One Shoot Out.*

## GCSAA's 75th International Golf Course Conference & Show in San Diego

This was perhaps the most idyllic setting the conference and show

has ever had. The weather was perfect. The harbor views were spectacular. The location and transportation was flawless and there was even a PGA Tour event going on at the same time to visit if you could find a spare moment in the jam-packed week of activities.

The weeklong schedule of activities concluded with the presentation of the association's highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, to highly regarded golf-course architect Rees Jones. But the real surprise was at the

In addition, Mark J. Woodward, certified golf course superintendent at Dobson Ranch and Riverview golf courses in Mesa, Ariz., was elected GCSAA president. Overall attendance for the Conference and Show was 19,317, up 1,153 from last year's total of 18,164 in Atlanta. There were approximately 6,200 qualified buyers (those who make purchase decisions at a golf facility), up from the 6,045 in Atlanta. Education seminar attendance reached 6,780, again surpassing the 6,295 figure of last year. A total of 684 exhibitors covered 240,000 square feet of floor space, down slightly from the 701 exhibitors and 245,200 square feet of floor space last year.



*CBS Sports announcer Jim Nantz, the voice of the Masters, pledged to do a better job of telling the story of golf maintenance during tournament broadcasts during his presentation at the Opening Session in San Diego. Photo by Bruce Mathews.*

Opening Session as CBS Sports announcer Jim Nantz brought down the house with a pledge to do a better job of telling the golf maintenance story during golf broadcasts. He promptly followed up that promise with praiseworthy comments during the Saturday and Sunday broadcasts of the Buick Invitational at Torrey Pines.

GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show is the world's largest golf course management conference/trade show, with attendance averaging more than 20,000 per year over the past nine events. Last year, according to *Tradeshow Week* magazine, GCSAA's trade show ranked



*This was the view from my room at the Bay Club Hotel and Marina*

84th among the top 200 tradeshows (there are more than 4,500 trade shows in the U.S. annually).

GCSAA's 76th International Golf Course Conference and Show will take on a new format, appearing next year as the Golf Industry Show. It will combine the trade shows hosted by GCSAA and the National Golf Course Owners Association. Both associations will operate separate education conferences that will run concurrently with the trade show. The 2005 Golf Industry Show is set for Feb. 10-12 in Orlando, with the GCSAA education conference Feb. 7 - 12 and the NCGOA education conference Feb. 8 - 12. I think this union will help get owners more involved in the issues facing the golf business.

My good friend, Monroe S. Miller, golf course superintendent at Blackhawk Country Club in Madison, Wis., for the past 30 years, was presented the Green Section Award from the United States Golf Association at its education session. The award is given annually by a panel of experts in the turfgrass field and recognizes distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass.

Gordon LaFontaine, Danny H. Quast, CGCS, and Gordon C. Witteveen were selected as recipients of the GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award. LaFontaine, known for his leadership in Michigan turfgrass affairs has worked with the Florida Turfgrass Association during an independent review of the IFAS program at the University of Florida and Gordon



*Scott Bell, Red Stick GC, left, and Gary Morgan of UHS agree on weed control.*



*From left: Jay McCord, John Foy and Greg Pheneger catch up with each other at the FGCSA Reception. Around 400 Floridians got together at the Wyndham Emerald Plaza to nosh on shrimp cocktail, see old friends and meet new ones.*



*Kim Shine, Windsor Parke GC in Jacksonville was checking out tee signs at the trade show.*



*I flagged down Steve Ciardullo, Mountain Lake CC, for a snapshot while he cruised the show.*



*I spied a couple of our IFAS Turf cohorts, Dr. George Snyder, left, and Dr. John Cisar at the Milorganite booth.*



*A lot of us were away from home on Valentines Day. Hey, I got lonely.*

Witteveen, a well known author, columnist and Canadian superintendent, is a member of the Florida West

Coast GCSA. He winters in Tarpon Springs and visits area courses and

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