



IN THE NEWS

South Florida GCSA Raises another \$22,500 for Missing & Exploited Kids

Joe Pantaleo, Indian Creek CC, shared a thank-you letter from Nancy McBride, of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Foundation, which said in part, "Please accept our sincere appreciation for your gift of \$22,500 through your sponsorship of the SFGCSA 26th Annual M&E Golf Tournament. This brings the total raised by your organization's loyal support to over \$345,000." So many of our chapters have long-term relationships with local charities. Please share your events with us so we can recognize the good work our local chapters do. At last count, golf-related events raised more than \$312 million per year for Florida Charities. Keep up the good work.



Check presentation at the 26th Annual South Florida GCSA M&E Tournament last October. From left, Nancy Sullivan, Nancy McBride of the M&E Foundation and Bryan Singleton, Joe Pantaleo and Lissa Donald-Minus of the SFGCSA.

Meanwhile up in Central Florida, the chapter's annual FTGA Research Tournament was rained out after four or five holes, but the event still raised \$2,750 and the attendees did get to hear Orlando Sentinel golf writer Jeff Shain talk about the state of the game and interesting sidelights in the business of covering golf. Jeff invited everyone to not hesitate to share news about their course renovations and improvements that he can maybe use in his regular column or Downswing Golf Blog.

The Annual Barkley, Bean, Bryant and Friends Golf Pro-Am event was held on Feb. 25 in Lakeland in support of the Lakeland YMCA Par 3 and First Tee Program. These athletes, NBA star Charles Barkley and PGA pros Andy Bean and Brad Byrant have a long track record of supporting this program. Also joining them this year was Lakeland resident and Chicago Bear linebacker Nate Williams.

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Superintendent Mike Giddens with Brad Bryant, Andy Bean and Charles Barkley, from left, at the 2011 Barkley, Bean, Bryant & Friends Pro-Am in Lakeland. Photo by Joel Jackson.



FGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Miller is Florida's most recent GCSAA Certified Golf Course Superintendent. Congratulations. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The YMCA Par 3 course started out as a recreation outlet built by Publix founder George Jenkins for his employees. Eventually, the lighted nine-hole course and range was leased to the YMCA and is a center for family golf, junior golf, adaptive golf, lessons, practice and just plain fun. This course will be the Ridge Chapter's cover story for the summer Florida Green.

Congratulations to Nancy Miller, CGCS. She recently passed her certification test and is now a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

Nancy is the superintendent at the Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club in Port Charlotte. She also is the secretary/treasurer of the Florida GCSA. You may have seen her in several GCSAA golf maintenance videos that have aired on the Golf Channel.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- June 4** Palm Beach GCSA Future of Golf Tournament, The Falls CC
- June 10** Seven Rivers GCSA Annual Meeting & Vendor Appreciation Day, Candler Hill GC
- June 15** Everglades GCSA Vendor Appreciation Day, The Quarry GC
- June 16** Ridge and West Coast GCSA Joint Meeting, Grasslands CC
- June 22** TGCSA Annual Meeting, Bert McCarty, Ph.D., Guest Speaker, Pipers Landing

JULY

- July 4** TGCSA Scholarship Application Deadline
- July 13** Everglades GCSA, Business Meeting & Golf, Wyndemere CC
- July 13** WCGCSA Chapter Meeting, Roundtable Discussion, Cypress Run GC
- July 14** PGCSA Annual Meeting - Eastpointe GC



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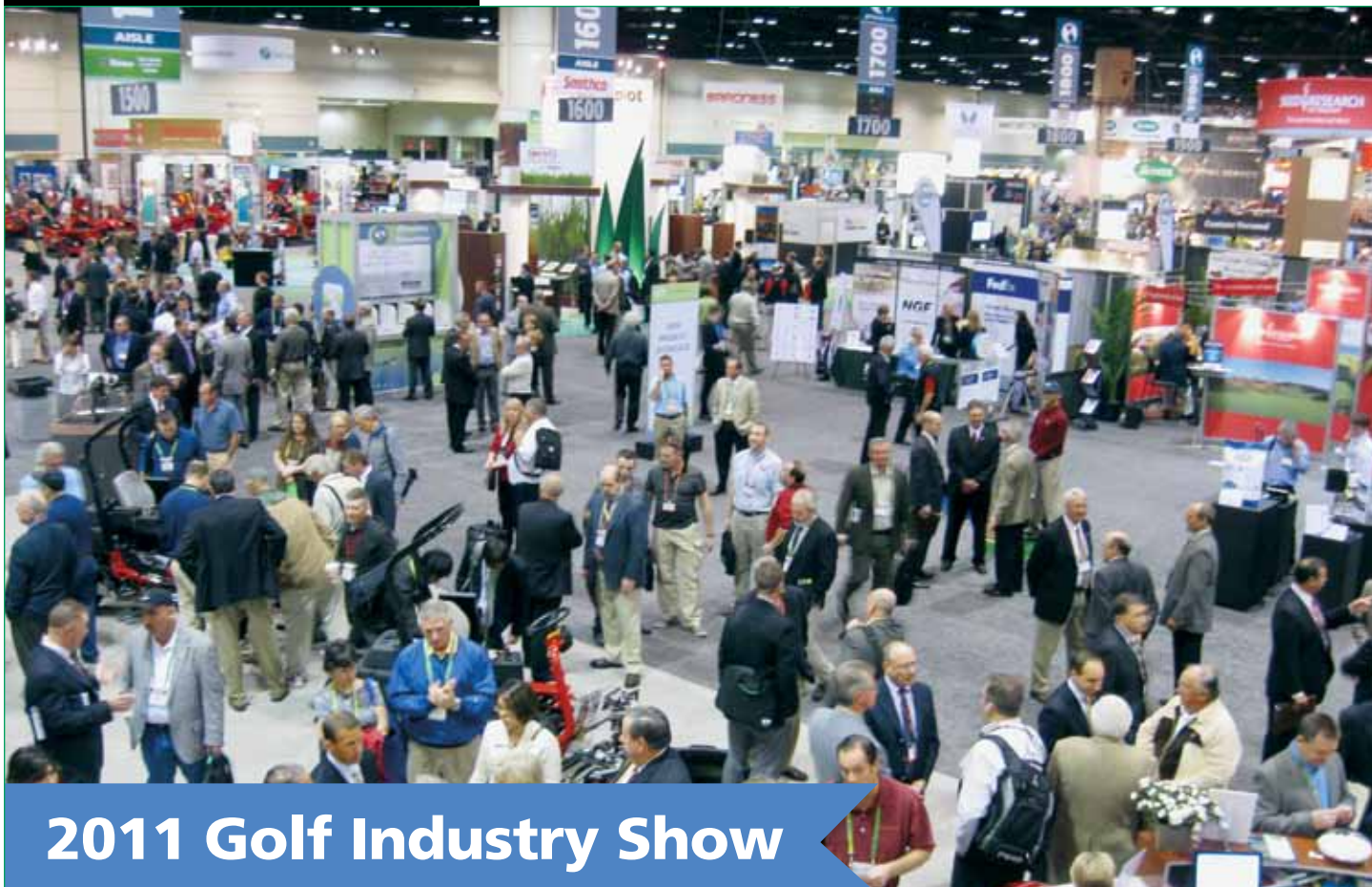
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2011 Golf Industry Show

Neither a Bust Nor a Bonanza

A smaller trade show in Orlando this year was easier to navigate and improved booth visits. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The Greatest Show in Golf came to Orlando this year and by now all the trade publication pundits have given their reviews. It wasn't necessarily a bonanza, but it certainly wasn't a bust either. It was a glimpse into the future of golf. We know it's changing, so it's entirely logical that this show also had a different look and feel.

If you're hung up on numbers, then this year's show didn't get four stars. However if you liked the fact you could get around the trade show easily, quickly and visit more booths because you weren't on a cross-country marathon, then it was a hit. With more than 5,000 seminar seats sold, once again the driving factor of quality continuing education definitely made it a success.

Perhaps the most glaring disconnect this year was the



Florida's own Bob Randquist, CGCS was elected President of the GCSAA at the Annual Meeting Feb. 11. Photo by Joel Jackson

Golf Championship being held in Palm Beach Gardens, when there are plenty of golf courses in the metropolitan Orlando area. This is one area that needs to be addressed to help reduce travel expenses when justifying participation in the GIS experience. The falling number of participants in our industry's national golf championship is a clear signal that changes need to be made in that part of the program, just as the golf industry as a whole needs to evaluate how golf courses operate and recruit new players.

As the host state this year, Florida can be proud that several of its members were honored as Bob Randquist, CGCS was elected President of the GCSAA at the Annual Meeting on Friday, Feb. 11.

Randquist is a 34-year GCSAA member, and has been at Boca Rio Golf Club since 1998. Previously, he was

superintendent at Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa, Okla., for 19 years, where he hosted the 1982 and 1994 PGA Championships, the inaugural 1987 USGA Women's Mid-Amateur Championship and the 1995 and 1996 PGA Tour Championships.

Randquist has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Oklahoma. He serves on the Board of Trustees of The Environmental Institute for Golf, is a member Palm Beach GCSA, and a past president of the Oklahoma GCSA. Randquist is also a member of the Florida Turfgrass Association and the USGA Green Section committee.

Earlier in the week Christopher Flynn and Tom Vlach were co-winners of Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards in the Resort Course Division. Christopher is at the Marriott Grande Vista Resort in Orlando and Tom is at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, home of the PGA Tour's TPC Championship event. Both have done exemplary work at their courses to promote education and outreach about golf's environmental stewardship.

Congratulations to Bob, Christopher and Tom. See you next February at the GIS in Las Vegas.

Tom Vlach (right) from the PGA's TPC Sawgrass G.C. in Ponte Vedra Beach was the other national co-winner in the ELGA Resort Division. Photo courtesy of GCSAA.



Christopher Flynn (right) from the Grande Vista Resort in Orlando accepts his award from GCSAA President Jim Fitzroy as Co-winner of the GCSAA's Environmental Leaders in Golf Award in the Resort Division. Photo courtesy of GCSAA.



Fireworks and Farewells



*From left, Larry Kieffer, Gary Myers, CGCS and Daniel Zelazek at the FGCSA Reception awards ceremony recognizing their combined half a century of service to *The Florida Green* magazine. Photo by Joel Jackson.*

FGCSA Association Manager Jennifer Bryan and FGCSA President Gary Myers, CGCS broke the mold when they planned the 2011 FGCSA Reception at this year's GCSAA Golf Industry Show. FGCSA members and sponsors were treated to one of the best venues we've ever had when we met at Disney's Epcot World Showcase Pavilion on Thursday evening, Feb. 10.

Jennifer arranged bus transportation from the Orange County Convention Center to Epcot and the pavilion was spacious and had seating enough for all – an important consideration after walking the trade show floor all day. Unique decorations and lighting effects coupled with a nice mix of background music made for a very pleasant atmosphere of networking and catching up with friends from around the state.

Our very special guests for the occasion were Larry Kieffer and Daniel Zelazek. Both gentlemen contributed their time and talents to making our magazine *The Florida Green* an outstanding publication over the past few decades. Daniel served as the official photographer for 29 years and Larry has been the publication manager for 22 years. Congratulations and thank you for your service to the Florida GCSA.

Following the awards presentation, the attendees were escorted to a private reserved section on the shore of the World Showcase Lagoon to watch the Epcot fireworks and laser show "Illuminations." It was a glorious ending to a wonderful evening. Many thanks to the generous support of our many sponsors that made this magical evening possible.