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The association's goal is to create a string of Parks across the country by challenging other superintendent chapters to host Blue Flag Tournaments to raise money for schools.

Blue Flag Tournaments are an excellent way for superintendents to connect with their peers in their own state, region, or country. The Blue Flag Tournaments and the Blue Flag School Program.

The Blue Flag Tournaments are a great way to raise money for schools. The tournaments are held every year in a variety of ways. Some are held in the form of a golf tournament, while others are held in the form of a fundraising event. A total of 144 Blue Flag Tournaments were held in 2003. The Blue Flag Tournaments are a great way to raise money for schools. The tournaments are held every year in a variety of ways. Some are held in the form of a golf tournament, while others are held in the form of a fundraising event. A total of 144 Blue Flag Tournaments were held in 2003.

I have had the pleasure of working with the Blue Flag Tournaments and the Blue Flag School Program. It is a wonderful model for all superintendents chapters across the country.

Being involved in the Blue Flag Tournaments is truly a rewarding experience. My wife and I have had a great time participating in the Blue Flag Tournaments. It is an opportunity to be active in your own community and help children learn about their environment.

Thank you for your support. I hope you will continue to support the Blue Flag Tournaments and the Blue Flag School Program. We are looking forward to a successful future for the Blue Flag Tournaments and the Blue Flag School Program. We are looking forward to a successful future for the Blue Flag Tournaments and the Blue Flag School Program.

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The association's goal is to create a String of Pearls across the country by challenging other superintendent chapters to host Blue Pearl Tournaments to raise money for schools.

EPIC Productions was on hand to film interviews with those involved in the Blue Pearl Tournament and the Audubon School Program.

The Blue Pearl 97 tournament was a huge success. The tournament field was sold out a couple of weeks before the event. A total of 144 golfers tested their skills against Loblolly Pines Golf Club and Fred Hinkle's challenging hole locations. For this four-man scramble, winning scores of 53 and 54.5 were posted in the gross and net divisions.

I have had the pleasure of working directly with the TCGCSA and the Blue Pearl Tournament for the past three years. What they have accomplished, working with local schools and the Audubon School Program, is a wonderful model for all superintendent chapters across the country.

"Being involved in the Blue Pearl tournament is truly a rewarding experience," says Bill Lanthier, CGCS, Mariner Sands Country Club. "It is an opportunity to be active in your community and help children learn more about their environment."

Current TCGCSA President Dick Gray says, "Have you ever seen a picture of this planet taken from a satellite? It looks like a blue pearl floating in a sea of black. One of our chores is to polish the pearl. Clean it up, restore it. We are hosts; we are guests; we are company, and we need to behave accordingly."



(Back to front) GCSAA Director Ken Mangum, CGCS; Lee Mangum, Audubon International; and Rod McWhirter, Rain Bird, Inc. help a kindergarden class plant a butterfly garden during a tour of the Hobe Sound Elementary School. Photo by Shelly Foy.

The TCGCSA has published *The Blue Pearl Primer*, a three-page document describing the Blue Pearl Tournament and its philosophy. The members encourage every chapter to get involved with the

Audubon School Program and host a Blue Pearl of their own to raise money for local schools. For a copy of this document, call Bill Lanthier at 561-283-3644.



Rob Kloska, center, demonstrates his computere-controlled irrigation system to a group of fifth graders during a tour of the Jupiter Island Golf Club as part of the Blue Pearl weekend activities. Photo by Shelly Foy



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1997 Poa Annua Classic combines business meeting with outstanding seminar, golf and entertainment

The 1997 Poa Annua Classic weekend was a combination of business and pleasure for those who participated. The weekend began on Friday, May 16 with an 8 a.m. continental breakfast board meeting of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association to discuss association business and ongoing projects.

After committee chairman reports, FTGA President Roy Bates gave an update on the independent peer review of IFAS and the Turf Coordinator selection progress. Darren Davis previewed the almost finalized version of the new FGCSA video. The board devoted the rest of the morning to the budget worksheet for next year.

In the brief transition period between the morning board meeting and the afternoon education seminar, the first meeting of the FGCSA Past Presidents Advisory Council took place to organize and define its mission and purpose. The Council is being formed as a resource group primarily for incoming boards to help provide continuity and support when needed.

The members of the group will be available to assist on committees and answer any questions the current board may have. Since each past president has



The FGCSA Board Meeting gets an early start Friday morning to address association business. Unfortunately, not all chapters were represented. Photo by Joel Jackson.



President Dale Kuehner, center, is flanked by past presidents, from left, Paul Crawford, Joel Jackson, Tom Burrows and Scott Bell. They met to discuss formation of the Past Presidents' Advisory Council.

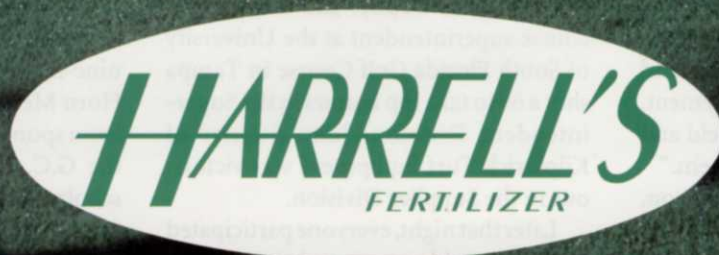


Seminar speaker Dr. Tom Morgan told the crowd that news is big business and not always the search for truth. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Superintendents seeking CEUs and information learn how to deal with the media and prepare for interviews at this year's Poa Seminar. Photo by Joel Jackson.

served at least four years on the board and in many cases remains active in local chapters and on FTGA and GCSAA committees, the council is seeking to organize all that service and leadership experience to provide a ready resource to the officers and directors of the association.

The year's seminar, "Crisis Spokesperson Training," was presented by Dr. Tom Morgan, a former radio broadcaster and university professor of mass communications. Dr. Morgan presented a very illuminating yet somewhat dark picture of the news media in today's visually oriented society.

Statements like "News is what I say it is!" and "Don't let facts get in the way of a story!" and "Reality doesn't matter; it's what the Great Public thinks!" were sobering thoughts to digest.

Dr. Morgan cited examples from Hitler to Madison Avenue to prove his points. Since news has become big business, Dr. Morgan then gave numerous tips on how to get organized and handle yourself in an interview if you must be the spokesperson in a given situation.

The moral of the seminar was that turf and agribusiness interests need to have a definite plan and hopefully trained spokespersons who can deal with the media. Dr. Morgan said, "Issues management is cheaper, more effective and more rewarding than crisis management. Get ahead of the issues in your field and position them where you want them."

After a day of business and education, it was time for friendly competition on the links Saturday morning as individuals and chapter teams vied for victory.



Receiving the Poa Annuu trophy for the Everglades Chapter were, from left, Wayne Kappauf; Terry Woods, EGCSA president; Dan Surman; and Nat Hubbard. Team members not pictured were Roy Bates and Scott Hamm. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Jim Torba, GCS of the Univrsity of South Florida course in Tampa shot a 69 to win the Superintendent Division. Photo by Joel Jackson.

The overcast skies threatened rain, but spared the field and the Poa Annuu tournament was completed on schedule.

The host Everglades Chapter took the coveted team trophy. Jim Torba, golf course superintendent at the University of South Florida Golf Course in Tampa shot a 69 to take top honors in the Superintendent Division. John Swaner of Kilpatrick Turf Equipment was victorious in the Supplier Division.

Later that night, everyone participated in the annual banquet and awards ceremony. Entertainment for the evening

was the annual Naples Jazzfest held this year under the stars on the Naples Beach Club Hotel grounds.

On Sunday morning, the final event of the weekend was held as 50 two-man teams played a nine-hole scramble and a nine-hole alternate shot event in the G.C. Horn Memorial Tournament. Proceeds from sponsorships and entry fees go into the G.C. Horn Endowment Fund for scholarships and research funding in tribute to one of Florida's leading turf pioneers, Dr. Granville C. Horn.

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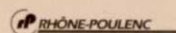


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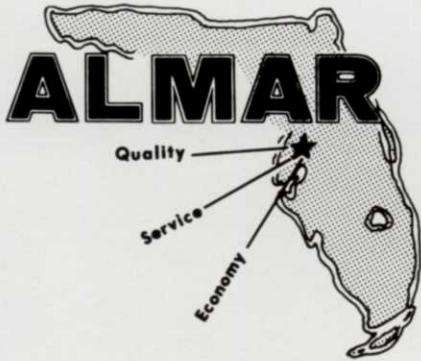


John Swaner took low gross honors in the Supplier Division. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Contestants warm up Sunday morning for the G. C. Horn Memorial Tournament which raises money for turf student scholarships. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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